



Keepers of the Past

Goshen Twp. Historical Society P.O. Box 671, 1843 SR 28, Goshen OH 45122 (513) 575-1027 GoshenHistory@gmail.com



Goshen Twp Historical Society Board of Trustees 2021

Elected Officers

Andrew Evans – President
Scott Chasteen - Vice President
Edna Rhoades - Secretary
Tina McDerma - Treasurer

Board Members at Large

Sandy Graham
Peggy Teyssier
George West

Appointed Officers

Rick Rhoades - Director
Gerald Ross - Historian
Tina McDerma – Librarian
Rick Kniepp - Cook Farm Manager
Nina Ross King - Museum Curator
Jim Poe - Advisor, Facebook Admin
Linda Wasson - Advisor, Webmaster, Newsletter
Valerie Zackerman - School Liaison
Membership – open (help needed)

This newsletter is published thanks to the corporate
sponsorship of John H. Evans Funeral Home.

Update: Access to GTHS Properties

COVID19 Protocols for GTHS Properties

The Anchorage, our museum on SR 28, and the Cook Log Cabin at the Goshen Heritage Center are open by appointment only for small groups. Masks are required for entry and visitors are asked to limit surface touches as much as possible. Donations are strongly encouraged as we remind everyone that, with the exception of the annual cemetery walk, the GTHS was forced to cancel all fundraising events for 2020 due to the pandemic. We hope all who visit us in person and online will support us with a donation.



The Goshen School of Blacksmithing remains open with classes already underway for 2021. Scheduled classes can be found on the homepage calendar at GoshenHistory.org. Information on classes in session, scheduled, or still in the planning stage can be found at GoshenHistory.org/BlacksmithShop or on Facebook at GTHS School of Blacksmithing. The public is welcome to observe blacksmithing events from outside the shop; please observe social distancing and wear a mask.



Board of Trustees Update

Last Meeting Nov 9, 2020

Perry Thacker, manager of the Cincinnati Red Stockings vintage baseball club, joined the board meeting to discuss holding a game in summer 2021. Items of discussion included assembling an opposing team of local Goshen talent, ticket sales, advertising, sponsorship, fundraising for the GTHS, door prizes, and refreshment options.

The GTHS submission for the Connect Clermont Grant was denied. We had hoped the grant would fund installation of electric service at the Goshen Heritage Center for the Cook Cabin, bank barn, and the Goshen Historical Society School of Blacksmithing, all currently powered by a single generator. The estimated cost is \$10,000. Peggy Teyssier and Linda Wasson have volunteered to write the submission for another grant opportunity. We continue to seek donations toward this project.

Diana Phillips, long time member/volunteer and member of the Goshen Herb Society, will chair a plant sale fundraiser in 2021, profits to benefit the GTHS. Diana also decorated the log cabin in December and managed our "Photos with Santa" event. Diana did a spectacular job, festooning the cabin with natural sprigs, sprays and wreaths, and decking the Christmas tree with dried oranges, gingerbread men, and strings of popcorn. Special thanks to Jan Anderson for supplying the beautiful greenery for the décor. Steve Bauer served as Santa and he was amazing – his costume (the beard was real!), his gift of "gold" coins for the children (a onetime pass for naughty behavior), and his marvelous rapport with the little ones. In keeping with social distancing, Santa was seated in a large rocker at one end of the fireplace and the children were seated in little rockers (courtesy of Diana) on the other end of the fireplace, and Santa read to them and, of course, heard their Christmas list wishes. Professional photographer Sarah Oliver offered several affordable photo packages for those who came for family photos. 20% of the profits

from the purchase of photo packages were given to the GTHS. Sarah donated her services. This is definitely an event we want to repeat in 2021.

The sign in front of the Anchorage on SR 28 is in desperate need of repair or replacement. This sign is a key source of advertising and communication for the GTHS. The cost to replace the current sign with a lighted, 2-sided, roadside version is estimated at \$1,000. Although critical, this is not currently a budgeted item. We will be seeking private donations for a replacement sign.

The Board is also exploring the cost of engaging historical videographer Satolli Glassmeyer (History in Your Own Backyard) to video our cemetery tour. Satolli previously produced videos for the Cook Log Cabin and the Anchorage, and has created thousands of short videos of historic sites throughout the Tristate. A video of the cemetery tour could be featured seasonally on our website and Facebook page for those who cannot make it to the live event, or if inclement weather impacts the tour date.

The blacksmith shop, now officially the GTHS School of Blacksmithing, continues to outperform expectations thanks to the tireless efforts of our resident blacksmith Jamie Gier. Jamie has already scheduled classes for the first quarter of 2021 with a variety of subjects and skilled instructors. He has also partnered with the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Northeast-Milford. The hotel is graciously offering a discounted rate for those enrolled in blacksmith courses. A percentage of all proceeds from the blacksmith classes, after supplies and expenses, is returned to the GTHS.

Signs are to be erected at the Goshen Heritage Center, particularly at the Cook Log Cabin to deter professional photographers from using the grounds without permission. Recent unauthorized photography has impeded already scheduled events and created concern regarding respectful use of the historic site.



From the Archives...

The Dayton Herald. Fri, Aug 24, 1928

Frank Hoggatt of Goshen Scores 97 to Cop Second Highest Trap Shoot Honor

**Illinois man is second with 96 score;
Miss Fencil leads women in trap event.**

Vandalia, O., Aug. 24. — The little village of Goshen, Ohio, down in Clermont County, celebrated last night the victory of its trap shooting schoolmaster, who came here yesterday to show some of the best shots in the United States, Canada, and the Canal Zone just how the boys of Goshen break them at their Saturday afternoon shots.

Frank B. Hoggatt, Superintendent of Schools of Goshen, came through to a triumphant victory yesterday afternoon in the preliminary handicap when he broke 97 targets from the seventeen-yard line and won next to the highest title the Amateur Trap Shooting Association bestows.

Next to the Grand American itself, marksmen prefer to win the Preliminary Handicap, for it is identical in nature to the Premier Shoot. Hoggatt, accompanied by a score of Goshen boys, who take off each afternoon to shoot targets thrown by an old-fashioned hand trap, came to the tournament with the avowed intention of showing the good shots a thing or two. And just as he teaches Latin, arithmetic, and geography in the high school of Goshen, Hoggatt taught the best shots in the world a thing or two about how to break clay targets.

Immediately after completing his string of 10 targets, Hoggatt left for Goshen to be at the bedside of his wife who is seriously ill. "I'll be back Friday for the Grand American," he remarked to several of his companions who remained over.

In cash, Hoggatt won more than the Grand American itself. He copped \$400 as the prize for the shoot and through the Ford cash purse system he received an additional \$625, making a grand total of \$1025 for the

day, just about as much as his post of school superintendent of Goshen pay for a year. The Grand American carries a cash value of \$1,000 in gold, Frigidaire award, and the Bennett Gates trophy.

Yesterday was the first tournament Hoggatt ever participated in. His average for 500 registered targets, shot at over the Goshen traps, was 84 out of 100.

Hoggatt stated that trapshooting is the one big sport in Goshen. "There's about 192 people in Goshen, and I believe 191 of them are trap shooters," Hoggatt jokingly remarked as he left for his hometown.

W. Fahrenkrug, of Bunker Hill, Illinois, shooting from the 18-yard mark, appeared a certain winner with a score of 96 until Hoggatt came through on one of the late squads with his tally of 97 targets.



Frank B. Hoggatt, Goshen, O.



GTHS School of Blacksmithing Update

I would like to thank everyone who attended classes, came to an open shop day, or helped on a workday in 2020. We got a lot done this year! For 2021 we are looking forward to the return of our regular instructors Roy Adams, Brian and Ed Brazeal, Joe Seabolt, and Joe McGee, along with Frank and Joe House. I have been speaking with several other instructors as well to expand areas of study for 2021. Classes in development include: Create a Garden Bench, Drifting a Striking Anvil & Hammer Techniques, Using the 60 Degree V Block, Intermediate Knife Making, Blade Makers Gas Forge, more courses with the House Brothers, Tongs & Tooling, and multiple axe classes. We will again be holding Open Shop Days. Dates, when set, will be posted on the calendar on the homepage of www.GoshenHistory.org, as well as our Facebook page GTHS School of Blacksmithing.



Elmer Roush would like to lead a week long class here. He is well known for his axes and carved hammers. Now is the time to offer input as to whether folks feel a week long class would be of interest and preferred areas of study. I am also exploring bringing in instructors from Europe! If you

have a suggestion, please let me know by emailing GthsSchoolOfBlacksmithing@gmail.com.

We will be ordering materials to make striking anvils to Brian Brazeal's specs. Steel will be cut to length and legs mitered. I do not have an exact price at this time, but the more we buy the less they cost. If you want a set, please let me know.

We also have butcher block brushes, Kevlar gloves, Industrial Borax and bagged coal for sale. Purchasing consumable items from our school, helps us better equip the facility. On a side note, Bubby Hardy has equipment for sale since he will be moving this spring.

The GTHS is applying for a grant to have electric installed to the buildings at the Goshen Heritage Center, which includes the GTHS School of Blacksmithing. In the meantime, I am looking for someone to ramrod upgrading the wiring in the pole barn, as well as securing volunteers for a couple of workdays to get this done. We are also planning to expand the building with areas for bench work, storage, and welding. This would double the size of the school and allow us to host a greater variety of activities. Joe McGee has the plans drawn up and we will be working on a financial proposal as we work towards making this a reality.

Equipment update: We have purchased 2 more anvils that just need to be picked up and transported to the school. Butch Sheely is holding a Hay Budden that came from a shop in Michigan after the owner passed away. Rusty Nitsch is holding a Columbian that is in mint condition. Larkin Davidson donated two pedestal grinders.

As always, thanks for your support of the GTHS School of Blacksmithing!

Jamie Gier
GTHS Resident Blacksmith



Presidential Inauguration Trivia

President Barack Obama used two Bibles for his swearing in: one owned by Abraham Lincoln and the other owned by Martin Luther King Jr.

Shortest inaugural address: George Washington, just 135 words

The first inaugural ball was held in 1809 in honor of James Madison.

First inauguration to be held outdoors – James Monroe, 1817

First time a poet participated in the inaugural ceremony – Robert Frost at the 1961 inauguration of John F. Kennedy

First President to walk in the parade after the inauguration ceremony – Jimmy Carter, 1977

First inauguration to be photographed – James Buchanan, 1857

Weather highs and lows – Ronald Reagan's 1981 inauguration was the warmest on record at 55 degrees. His 1985 inauguration was the coldest on record at 7 degrees.

First inauguration to be televised – Harry S. Truman, in 1949

Highest attendance – Barak Obama, 2009

First inauguration on the Capitol's East Portico – Andrew Jackson, 1829. A total of 34 inaugurations have been held there, making it the most popular inauguration site.



Remembering Victor, the Wrestling Bear & Goshen's Own "Tuffy" Truesdell

Written by David Pincus
Deadspin, 02.27.2014



On Apr. 2, 1975, at halftime of an ABA game between the Utah Stars and the Indiana Pacers, an Alaskan brown bear came out onto the court to wrestle some people and entertain the Indiana crowd. The creature's name was Victor—or, rather, Victor the Wrestling Bear.

Chet Coppock, the sports director at local CBS affiliate WISH-TV, was Victor's opponent that night. He wanted to give the interspecies bout more juice, so he came onto the court in a wrestling outfit pro wrestler Dick the Bruiser had given him, with a pair of Flash Gordon-esque "slave girls" at his side to emphasize his role as the heel. Victor, sporting a weight advantage of at least a quarter-ton, won easily. The crowd loved it.

Victor was rarely unsuccessful in wrestling. He was de-clawed, de-fanged, fitted with a muzzle and drugged, but he could still throw down anyone who stood before him, and he knew a few professional moves to boot. Victor was often listed as being eight feet tall and 650 pounds wide, although those figures varied greatly over the years. A 1970 feature in Sports Illustrated listed him at six foot, 450; two years earlier, the Milwaukee Sentinel had him pegged at 527 pounds; in the '80's, some outlets had him at 800 pounds. However much he weighed, it was more than enough to make him an unbeatable wrestling opponent. Most of his matches barely lasted a minute, and when he finished, Victor would race over to his owner, Tuffy Truesdell, and receive a fresh bottle of Coke, which he would inhale in a manner of seconds.



Victor's gift was not kept hidden from the public. Truesdell drove across the country, displaying him at sports shows and county fairs and asking crowds if anyone wanted to tangle with him. If no one wanted to get in the ring with Victor, Truesdell would wrestle the bear himself; if there was a volunteer, Truesdell would serve as the referee. Of course, anyone who challenged the behemoth first had to sign a waiver that Truesdell could not be held legally responsible for what happened. As noted in Sports Illustrated's piece on Victor: "It costs Tuffy about 5% of his gross to obtain various types of insurance, but it is financially impossible for him to afford the premiums he would have to pay to actually insure the people who choose to climb into the ring and take on Victor. You wrestle him at your own risk."

You might think that would have been enough of a disincentive, but the bear wrestled thousands—possibly tens of thousands—of people from the time he was born in the early '60's. Search "Victor the Bear" or "Victor the Wrestling Bear" and you'll come across accounts of dozens of people trying to hold their own against him, many of them famous. Clint Eastwood and Lee Marvin, who appeared with Victor in the movie Paint Your Wagon, allegedly did it; so too did then-SI writer Frank Deford ("He pinned me in about eight seconds"); there was NFL coach Rod Marinelli and football players Dick Butkus, Jim LeClair and Vince Papale, who walked away from his match with six stitches. ("That was probably the most stupid thing I've done"); there were wrestlers, including Rowdy Roddy.

The record Victor amassed over the course of his career was probably quite impressive, though no one will ever know what it actually was, as the one offered by Truesdell was apocryphal and changed radically over the years. George Ellison of Smoky Mountain News recalled seeing a poster that ("with a little exaggeration") claimed his record was 2000-0-1, and that's one of the more conservative estimates. In 1981, the Associated Press had Victor at 10,000-0; in 1977, the UPI reported that he was 15,000-0; in the 1970 feature on him by Sports Illustrated, Truesdell had the audacity to claim that Victor was 50,000-0-1. The tale of the tie changed over the years too. At one time, it supposedly came from pro wrestler Don Leo Jonathan, then from pro wrestler Moe Baker. In later years, it was said that a professional football player ran around the ring for so long that Victor eventually just laid down. In truth, Victor met defeat a handful of times, but those victories were either disregarded by Truesdell or outright invalidated.

If Truesdell was protective of Victor's record, it was because he depended on the bear to make a living, and an undefeated force of nature, a creature so dominant that no human could ever dream of bringing down, is an easier attraction to sell than a bear that only wins most of the time.

Truesdell, from Goshen, Ohio, knew a thing or two about wrestling. He earned the nickname "Tuffy"

when, at age 6, he overwhelmed a bully who was picking on him—in Frank Deford's 1970 piece, he noted that Truesdell despised his real first name, "Adolphus"—and went on to become a middleweight belt holder. Eventually, Truesdell discovered that it was more lucrative for him to wrestle animals than other human beings, so he decided to wrangle up some four-legged opponents to take on the road with him. Only, it wasn't bears he was gathering... it was alligators. Long before he entered the bear racket, Truesdell dabbled in wrestling that was even more dangerous. Truesdell decided to give up that living after a particularly nasty run-in with "Rodney the Wrestling Alligator," who left him with 40 stitches.

He shifted his attention to bears and scooped up an orphaned bear in northern Ontario. Named Victor, he became one of the family, and when he was big enough to wrestle, Truesdell took him on the road with him. Eventually, the bear got more famous than he was, and Truesdell decided to stock up on bears, raising and training them on a farm he purchased in Pleasant Plain, Ohio. He even stocked up on the number of "Victors" he had, and it's at this point that the linear narrative of Victor the Bear gets a bit complicated. Victor was really two or three bears—at least.

The first Victor died of a heart attack at the age of 17, in the mid-'70's. "We almost left the business then," Truesdell's wife Lee recalled to the *Sylvia Herald & Ruralite* in 1985. "Tuffy was so hurt by Victor's death." Even so, they stayed in the business. Victor II assumed his predecessor's namesake and kept the act alive, improbable win-loss record and all: Victor the Bear was wrestling people well into the '80's. But his act didn't age as gracefully as he did. Society was becoming more sympathetic to animals, and more concerned about their living conditions. People were now looking at Victor, with his muzzle and his removed fangs and his removed claws, and wondering if the bear was actually living a good life. Sue Pressman, a director at the Humane Society of the United States, stated in 1981 that Victor was "being exploited in the most obnoxious way possible."

1981 was a bad year for Victor the Wrestling Bear. After thousands and thousands of matches with nary a single serious injury, two finally occurred within a few weeks of each other. A 24-year-old came away with a fractured ankle and damaged cartilage and ligaments after Victor started wailing on him for no explicable reason. And then there was the more serious incident. In September, an Army corporal by the name of Charles G. Smith was wrestling Victor when his left hand managed to slip inside Victor's muzzle. The bear chomped down with his back teeth and bit most of his left pinky finger clean off. Smith sued Truesdell and won; Truesdell didn't even show up to court. Victor lost his wrestling license in Virginia, several venues turned him away when a request was made to accommodate him, and protesters picketed against his treatment, but because Victor wasn't being physically mistreated, and because the people he was wrestling were volunteers, the federal government claimed it lacked the legal authority to end his wrestling career. It was just as well, since Victor's career didn't last much longer anyway. Tuffy Truesdell died at the age of 84 on Mar. 30, 2001. His tombstone is emblazoned with the image of a smiling bear.

These days Victor and Tuffy are little more than a nostalgic memory. Maybe humans shouldn't be in the business of making grizzly bears wrestle other humans. As awful as it was that Victor bit off an Army corporal's finger, it did serve as a reminder that Victor, as docile as he was, was still a wild animal.

A wild animal that was *really* good at wrestling people.



Goshen Twp. Historical Society
PO Box 671
Goshen, OH 45122

Visit. Explore. Learn. Share.

Goshen Twp. Historical Society



**The Log Cabin & The GTHS
School of Blacksmithing,
Goshen Heritage Center**
6767 Goshen Rd. Goshen OH
(next to Goshen High School)



**Historical Society Museum
“The Anchorage”**
1843 St Rt 28, Goshen OH



www.GoshenHistory.org
Facebook@ Goshen History,
Memories of Goshen, or
GTHS School of Blacksmithing