



1947 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45419  
(937) 299-3793

## Moving Up – The Hill

--Harrison Stamm Gowdy & Tom Morrow

*This issue of the newsletter provides a wonderful overview of the development of our city as told by Harrison in collaboration with Tom, local historian of transportation in Dayton. The e-mail exchanges between these two researchers revealed a friendly debate on “what if’s” in the development. Tom says growth was made possible because developers built transit lines; our very own researcher maintains the city was already established in 1913 and in a major growth phase. No matter, they both agreed on this story to document our rich history. Putting it all together in a visual is the map prepared by Mackensie; it shows when areas became part of the city and when transit was established in our city. Enjoy!*

### Inside

President’s Message	2
Through the Decades	4
Looking Back	6
Special Exhibit	6
Programs & Events	7

While all of Dayton continues to remember the Centennial of the Great Flood, we now move forward and look at Oakwood in 1913 and how it developed through the 1920s.

While the disastrous flood may have provided further impetus for settlement in Oakwood, high ground or not, the city was well launched and would have developed in the manner it did anyway. It was ideally located just outside the city to attract wealthy citizens to move away from the dirty city into a new type of living, “a suburb.” Many Dayton community leaders moved to this area south of the city (including Dayton’s most famous J.H. Patterson and the Wright family.) Oakwood had already incorporated itself (1908) and built a modern school; by 1913, it had a working library and a city marshal and the Schantz Park addition was well underway.

Transportation was – and still is today – a key factor in development and, according to old documents and oral histories, Oakwood had a horse-drawn streetcar during the last part of the 19th century. It served the original Town of Oakwood (1872) and ran along Oakwood Avenue from the Five Points intersection to Park Avenue.



Schantz Plat in 1913 looking west down Volusia Ave.

By 1913, large tracts of land were already being surveyed and platted by eager investors. The problem was how to move up the hill and beyond.

Throughout the United States, mechanized transportation was changing the way people lived. It permitted residential areas to be built away from the city center. Our city founders knew a streetcar line was essential for development, and in February 1875, the Oakwood Street Railway Company was chartered with Gabriel B. Harman (one of the four initial investors in the Town of Oakwood) as Treasurer. The Oakwood Street Railway Company went bankrupt in 1876 and was sold at auction to Charles B. Clegg and others. In 1895, the Treasurer of the Oakwood Street Railway, Harrie P. Clegg, who was the son and heir of Charles B. Clegg, the President of Oakwood Street Railway, purchased a home on Oakwood Avenue.

Continued on page 3



**2013  
OAKWOOD HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

***Officers***

**- President -**

*Linda Pearson*

**- Vice President & Secretary -**

*Lisa Kell*

**- Treasurer -**

*Debra Schenk*

**- Assistant Treasurer -**

*Harrison Stamm Gowdy*

**- Business Manager -**

*Harry Ebeling\**

***Directors***

*Martha Haley*

*Jacqueline Housel*

*Alex Heckman*

*Leah Konicki*

*Mark Risley\**

*Mackensie Wittmer\**

*\*Past President*

## Message from the President

It is exciting to have spring finally arrive and with it a chance to move along with some new projects.

The first quarter of the year has passed by quickly with several programs that went well. We were delighted to hear Tom Morrow at the Wright Library to discuss the history of public trolleys and buses in this area, and you will read more about transit in the main article in this issue. The children's programs about Log Cabins over the public school's February vacation were well received. We were delighted to partner with Ashley's Pastry Shop to mix the dough for 28 gingerbread log cabins for the program. The Board met in Open Session at the end of February to discuss and vote on updated bylaws for the historical society. The new bylaws, updated from the 2005 version, were unanimously approved. We are very pleased to finish this year-long process.

We have started the spring season with a new driveway, courtesy of a Boy Scout Eagle project completed by Anthony Anderson of Troop 101 in Oakwood. The new gravel is a darker color and blends in so well that it looks like it has always been there. No more splashing as we use the driveway after a rainstorm! Our children's garden program will have the joy of more space and raised beds, courtesy of another Eagle project. See the children's garden update for more details.

With the entire Dayton region, we are also remembering the centennial of the flood. In March at Wright Library, Mark Risley presented "The Great Flood of 1913," which he will repeat for other organizations. We have loaned images for other groups for their exhibits.

Due to lack of staffing, we are taking a hiatus from the Spring History Open House this year. We hope it will be back next year. In the meantime, don't forget our 5th Annual Wine Tasting, to be held on That Day in May. It is a lovely relaxing event, and the attendees often linger long into the evening enjoying the convivial spirit of the homestead and grounds.

Finally, we have two openings on the Board of Directors, which we need to fill. Both are due to members whose lives have become too busy for them to be able to participate on the Board any longer. We will be advertising for applications in the near future and hope those of you who are reading this will consider joining the historical society at a new level. Watch for details on our website, via email, and in the Oakwood Register. Your participation at every level is what makes the historical society a good community partner for the City of Oakwood.



Linda Pearson

## Moving Up – The Hill *Continued*

The Clegg's purchase of 622 Oakwood Avenue was very symbolic of the family's commitment to the development of Oakwood. Charles Clegg converted the original horse-drawn Oakwood streetcars to electric and was a controlling member of several other street railways throughout the city and region of Dayton. Clegg knew to have growth, transit needed to be available.

Access to Oakwood prior to 1915 was made possible by the horse car and then electric streetcar on Brown Street and Oakwood Avenue to Five Points. To extend further south (up the hill) for open space and fresh country air at the end of the day, transportation would have to reach along Lebanon Turnpike, which became Far Hills Avenue.



*Dayton - Oakwood, Ohio*

**BETTER THAN 100% INCREASE**

Do you know that the population of Oakwood doubled in the last two years?

Do you know that men who are in a position to know, say, "that Oakwood will have 25,000 population in the next ten years"?

Do you know that this marvelous increase in population will have a wonderful effect on real estate values?

**Will this increase mean anything to you?**

**It will not unless you own some Oakwood real estate.**

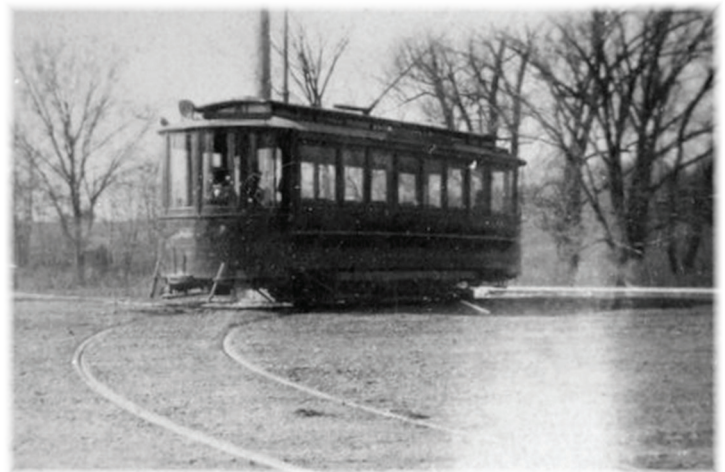
We offer our Park Hill lots as being the one best buy in all Oakwood today. This is not an idle statement, but a plain declaration of facts. All improvements in and paid for; liberal loans guaranteed. A beautiful illustrated booklet upon request. Our automobiles are at your service.

**SPAITE-WRIGHT REALTY CO.**  
DEVELOPERS

SIXTH FLOOR U. B. BUILDING      AFTER FEB. 1, 1916, 136 S. MAIN ST., GROUND FLOOR

In April 1915, the Spait-Wright Realty Company petitioned the Oakwood City Council for a franchise to extend the streetcar from Five Points to Monterey Avenue. Prior to widespread auto ownership (post 1920s), housing developers built transit lines in order to sell homes. In developing Park Hill (an area east of Far Hills), Spait-Wright knew that car-less home buyers would need close available transit to get to downtown Dayton. Thus, before Spait-Wright started construction, they needed approval from the city council to extend the streetcar.

This approval led to Oakwood's boom, which can be clearly illustrated in its census numbers. In the 1920s, the census reports Oakwood had a population of 1,473 and in 1930 the number rose to 6,496. New homes sprung up all around. Home developers had access to less expensive materials and could construct high quality modern homes more quickly at less expensive rates. Meanwhile, automobiles became popular and affordable, providing impetus to a small commercial district on Park Avenue within Oakwood itself. In 1922, Ake's Village Store, the first grocery store, opened. It offered in-store service as well as grocery delivery by Model T. Kroger's, Oakwood's first chain store, opened in 1923, and was soon joined by such stores as a bakery, butcher shop, beauty and barber shops, drug store, hat cleaner and blocker, sandwich shop and a dry cleaner. Oakwood seemed to offer the best of both worlds – the services and proximity of the city with the healthful, rejuvenating green space and fresh air of the country.

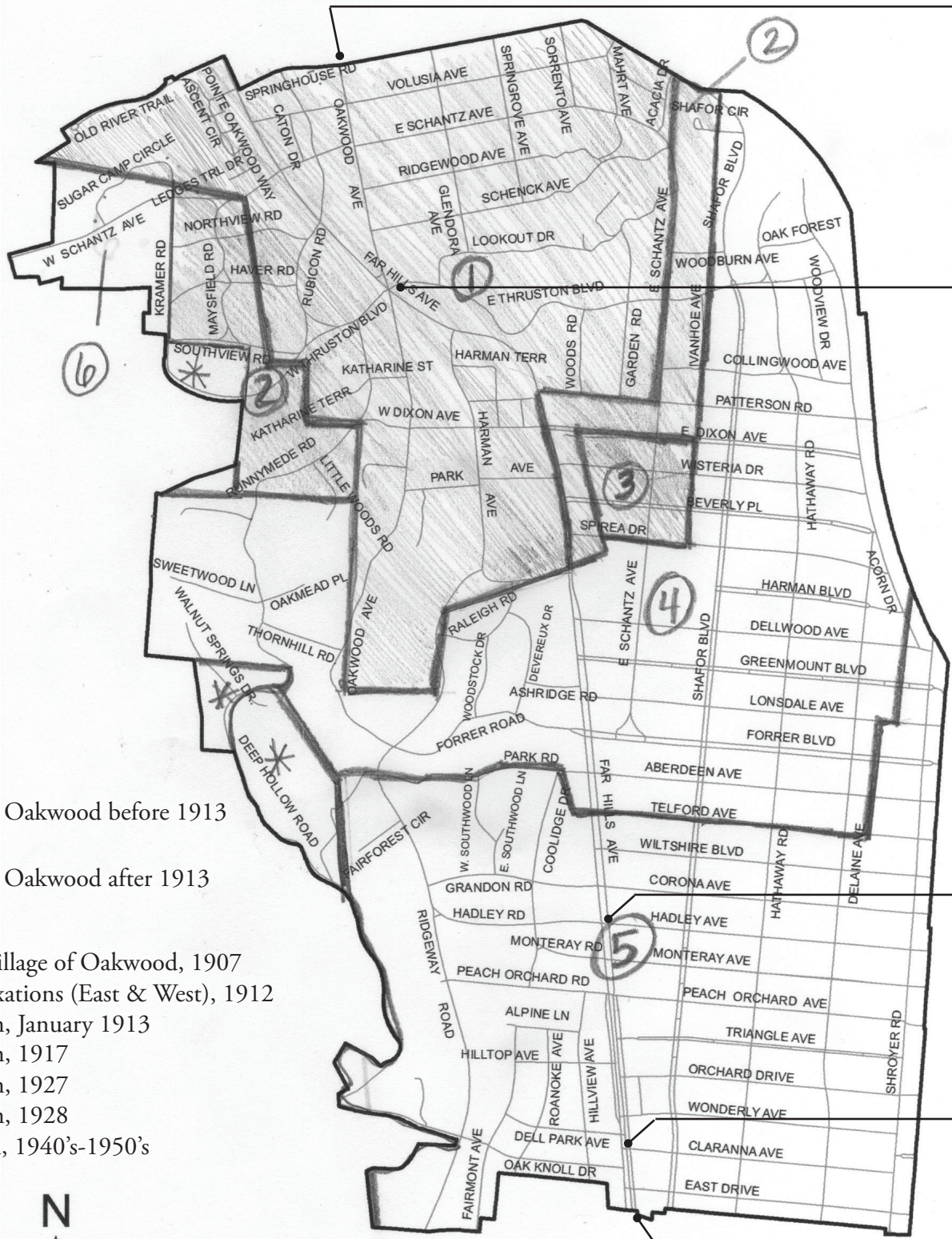


*Tom Morrow is an Oakwood resident, local historian and expert on transportation in the Dayton area. He was our featured speaker at our Annual Dinner in November and again at Wright Memorial Library in February. His presentations are a don't miss. For more information about Tom, visit his website at <http://www.daytontrolleys.net> and <http://www.trolleybuses.net>*

# Oakwood Through the Decades

--Mackensie Wittmer

## CITY OF OAKWOOD



- Platted Oakwood before 1913
- Platted Oakwood after 1913

- 1. Original Village of Oakwood, 1907
- 2. First Annexations (East & West), 1912
- 3. Annexation, January 1913
- 4. Annexation, 1917
- 5. Annexation, 1927
- 6. Annexation, 1928
- \* Annexation, 1940's-1950's



1870's: Horsecar Line to Park Ave



1895: Electrified horsecar to Five Points



A Beautiful "Near-to-Nature" Homesite Section of Which all Dayton is Proud

# PARK HILL IN OAKWOOD VILLAGE

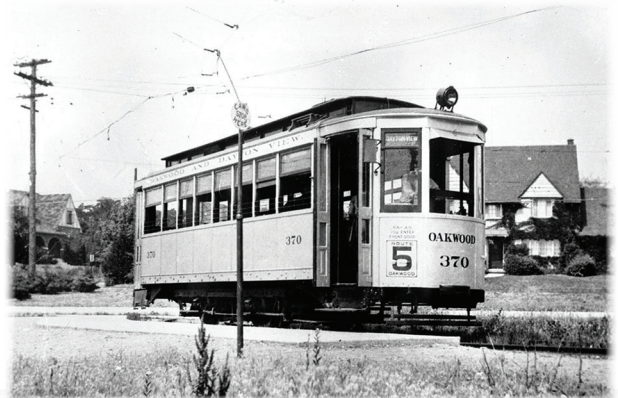
Up where the birds sing—up where you can enjoy the hot summer days in the shade of stately forest trees—up where you can live the simple life and yet have every city convenience at your finger tips.

All improvements are installed and the reliable four-minute Oakwood car service assures you of excellent transportation.

1915: Hadley Ave. line extension



1936: Conversion to trolley bus



1949: Line extension

## OHS Committees

Please get involved...

### Archives & Acquisitions

Harry Ebeling  
293-0611  
hebeling@aol.com

### Cataloging

Lisa Kell  
299-2267  
charybdismom@yahoo.com

### Education

Linda Pearson  
648-9702  
lindapinoh@gmail.com  
&

Lisa Kell  
299-2267  
charybdismom@yahoo.com

### Events

Board members (by event)

### Facilities/Grounds

Mark Risley  
294-2537  
therisleys@ameritech.net

### Facilities/Interior

Phyllis N. Miller, consultant

### Membership

Harrison Stamm Gowdy  
643-4075  
stammgowdy@sbcglobal.net

### Newsletter

Martha Haley  
294-3731  
marthahaley@att.net  
&  
Zachary Kell  
pixelshiftdesign@live.com

### Research & Outreach

Harrison Stamm Gowdy  
643-4075  
stammgowdy@sbcglobal.net  
&

Mackensie Wittmer  
291-2831  
mwittmer@gmail.com

### Website

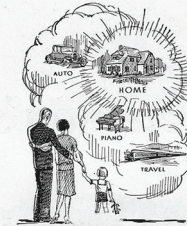
Joan Milligan  
479-1000  
milligan\_joan@yahoo.com  
&  
Mackensie Wittmer  
291-2831  
mwittmer@gmail.com

## A Quick Look Back at 1913

- How many people could you “put up” in your house? After the flood, Oakwood residents took in family members, friends, and strangers. One home in Oakwood had 17 additional people living there for several days!
- The aftermath of the flood in Oakwood encouraged a discussion about ideology. The Oakwood Village Record devoted a lot of space to the discussion of what it meant to be a developing suburban city? These articles stressed the importance of a community-minded development. A city that works together in harmony for the common good and not individualism that was seen as leading characteristic of a country town.
- Oakwood Schools closed for a week during the aftermath of the flood. They reopened on April 1, 1913, with only two or three pupils present. The boys and girls of the school were busy working on flood relief. The boys with bicycles did errands in every direction. Several served as messengers at the NCR relief station. The girls looked after the younger children leaving their mothers free to work for the refugees.
- I want to visit! Did you know that in 1913 Oakwood homes did not have street numbers? In May 1913, the Oakwood Efficiency League came before city council with a request to establish a system of street numbering in Oakwood. No longer was an address like “fifth house from the loop on the west side of the street” enough!
- EAT LOCAL! These words are everywhere today, but so too were they in 1913. After the flood there was a huge push for Oakwood families to reduce their impact on the local food supply by establishing their own backyard gardens. These gardens could be tended by the family or children and, to encourage more gardens, prizes of seeds and shovels were given in a local writing contest in April 1913. By the summer months monetary prizes were given to local gardens for various reasons including – garden planning, general upkeep, improvement this season, backyards and alleys, and the care of vacant lots.

### Oakwood Homes—Reasonable Terms

Exceptionally well built and carefully planned, six-room strictly modern homes.



**BUY THE HOME FIRST!**

— DRIVE OUT TODAY —

Look over the large building lots and inspect the many beautiful homes, now being built in Far Hills East Plat, located between Triangle Avenue and East Drive, one square beyond the end of the Oakwood carline to the paved street on the east side of Far Hills Avenue or phone Garfield 829 for appointment.

EDE REALTY COMPANY

PHONE GARFIELD 829.

304 KEITH BUILDING



## Society Loans Dayton Art Institute Rare Flood Prints

-- Mark Risley

To help commemorate the centennial of The Great Flood of 1913, The Oakwood Historical Society has loaned the Dayton Art Institute three vintage, original photographs of the disaster from its collection. One print (of Fourth and Main Streets) is so rare that it has not been found in any other archives. The society is pleased to share these prints with the public through the DAI exhibit and has given access to these prints to other historical collections. The DAI exhibit, “Storm, Watershed & Riverbank,” runs through May 5th and is an excellent display of the flood and its effects.



Fourth & Main Kuhns Building – 1913



Fourth & Main Kuhns Building – Today

## Wright Memorial Library: Next Steps for Historic Designation

-- Leah Konicki

Work continues with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office on National Register status for Wright Memorial Library. The library is celebrating 100 years in Oakwood and the current building, built in 1939, has just been recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is a National Parks Service program that recognizes historic buildings, structures, sites, and districts throughout the United States. The library will be only one of four properties in Oakwood to receive the honor of being individually recognized. The next step in listing the building in the National Register is to complete the official nomination form, a process which can take nearly a year to complete. In the end, we hope to celebrate the history of our library with the community.



## Summer Children's Programs at the Homestead

-- Lisa Kell and Linda Pearson

The summer children's historical programs this year will be held in June immediately after school is out, from June 10 to 14. Following along with the winter class theme of Log Cabins, we will be returning to Pioneer Times for the first time in 5 years. There will be a variety of crafts, food preparation, and games appropriate to that time period, all updated for this new program. Children in Grades 1 to 3 will meet mornings from 9 a.m. to noon; children in Grades 4 to 6 will attend afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 for members and \$70 for non-members.

Visit the website [www.oakwoodhistory.org](http://www.oakwoodhistory.org) for more information.

## It's Time to Garden!

-- Linda Pearson

The popular children's gardening program Seasons in the Garden is gearing up for the new growing season. Last fall our garden was enlarged, thanks to an Eagle Scout project led by Zach Wolcott, an Oakwood Boy Scout. As a result, we have some new raised beds so the plants can spread out a bit. (Some of you may have seen the squash/tomato tunnel in last year's garden. The plants grew so big they merged into one large conglomeration of arched plants and only the children could fit into the tunnel to harvest!)

Lisa Kell has taken some "gardening for children" classes this winter and has been inspired to offer more classes and increase the variety of topics we can cover. We will be holding classes approximately twice a month with some Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We hope this will help with some scheduling conflicts.

For details including registration information, visit [www.oakwoodhistory.org](http://www.oakwoodhistory.org) or contact Linda at [lindapinoh@gmail.com](mailto:lindapinoh@gmail.com) or 648-9102.



## Save the Date: Wine Tasting

**May 18, Saturday, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Mingle with friends and relax after That Day in May festivities. Our annual fundraiser is from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Homestead. We're celebrating our 5th year hosting this popular event and we hope to celebrate with you. Ticket information will be published on our website, [www.oakwoodhistory.org](http://www.oakwoodhistory.org), and in *The Oakwood Register*.

*This issue of the newsletter sponsored by*

asphalt & concrete  
**Houser**  
 937-223-9207 • 800-319-1114  
[www.houserasphaltconcrete.com](http://www.houserasphaltconcrete.com)

**THE OAKWOOD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

1947 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45419



**Change service Requested  
Dated Material**

***Please Renew Your Membership!***

***The Oakwood Historical Society Membership Form***

**Membership Categories (Please Check One)**

_____ Student _____	\$10.00
_____ Individual Adult _____	\$20.00
_____ Family _____	\$30.00
_____ Business _____	\$30.00
_____ Sponsoring _____	\$50.00
_____ Sustaining _____	\$100.00
_____ Patron _____	\$200.00

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The information that you submit will be used only by The Oakwood Historical Society and will not be given or sold to outside parties. Please make check payable to: The Oakwood Historical Society, and mail to: 1947 Far Hills Ave. Dayton, OH 45419