



The
Oakwood
Historical Society

— *Make History With Us* —

The Historian

Preserving the past, present, and future of the Oakwood Community • Winter 2021



Letter from the President

It is hard to believe that it is now the end of 2021 and I am approaching the end of my 2020-2021 term with The Oakwood Historical Society. The Society started 2021 with a great push against Covid and experienced huge successes thanks to a dedicated team of Board members, Committee members, volunteers, amazing speakers and presentations and, most importantly, our membership. At the end of December, I will hand over the reins of the Presidency to President-Elect, Debra Edwards. Debra has already begun organizing and planning for the 2022 year. We will no doubt have some new and enthusiastic members joining the Board along with some of the current Board Members continuing their term. I know it will be another exciting year for The Oakwood Historical Society under Debra's direction, as we will be looking forward to celebrating the Community's 150th year since being plated.

I want to thank the Board and membership for selecting me to serve as President for the 2021 organization year. It is always with a bit of sadness that one has to say goodbye to a position and the people who made that possible. This is an amazing organization with such intelligent and wonderful members and to be lucky enough to have served as your President will be one of the most rewarding endeavors I have had the opportunity to undertake. It truly was one of the highlights of my volunteer career. I look forward to seeing the great things that this group of committed people will accomplish.

I cannot thank the Board of Directors enough for their hard work in handling all of the challenges that we faced throughout this year. It is this entire Board, and their contributions to the organization, which make The Oakwood Historical Society what it is today. It has been an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure working alongside these hardworking, dedicated, and talented members of the 2021 Board of Directors:

Debra Edwards, President-Elect. The Oakwood Historical Society will be in good hands as I pass the reigns over to Debra. Thank you, Debra, for your support and engaging ideas throughout the year!

Stuart McAllister, Vice President. Stuart brought a great deal of energy and love for history with him to TOHS. He is the one to thank for all of the "yesses" when asked to volunteer for our 2021 events. Thank you, Stuart!

Laura Bettinger, Treasurer. Thank you for coming on the Board a few years back and taking on the challenging role of Treasurer. This is a very time-consuming position that manages the assets of the Organization and I appreciate all that you do. Laura is also our social media guru! Thank you, Laura!

Debra Schenk, Assistant Treasurer. Thank you for returning to the Board and agreeing to bring your insight to this role and for offering anecdotes as needed. Much appreciated, Debbie!

Karen Bartley, Secretary. Karen has captured the minutes and decisions for all of our Board Meetings. Karen is also working on Harry Ebeling's scrapbook and has treated it with love and reverence. All done with a smile and a great attitude. Job well done, Karen!

Leigh Turben, Donor Services. Leigh is most likely the first person you see at our monthly meetings. She is always coming up with unique and interesting ideas to move the organization forward. Leigh, a long-term board member, has held nearly

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**THE
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HISTORICAL
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every job with TOHS. Thank you, Leigh!

Linda Pearson, Education Coordinator of the Board. Linda has been an amazing support to me. Her years with the Board, the positions that she served in, and her knowledge of The Oakwood Historical Society were invaluable. I wish you all the best in your next adventure. Thank you, Linda!

Barbara Miller, CRM Administrator. We see many of Barb's contributions through the regular emails, newsletters and membership reminders that are sent out on behalf of the Organization. Thank you, Barb, for your dedication every month!

Larry Bilderback, Property Manager. Larry has done a fantastic job coordinating the property's many needs in addition to building a list of vendor relationships. His can-do attitude and kind personality has been a godsend to TOHS. Thank you, Larry!

I would also like to highlight our steadfast Committee Members.

Donna Rosenbaum, Far Hills Speaker Series Coordinator. Donna has organized all of the amazing monthly speakers. She coordinated and collaborated with Wright Memorial Public Library and managed to find a bevy of interesting speakers and relatable topics. Donna is a valuable Committee Member who also provided input at our Board meetings. Job well done. Thank you, Donna!

Tom Morrow, Webmaster. Tom has been an asset and I do not have enough words to describe how many things Tom has "made happen" with and for TOHS. Tom took care of the Organization's website and spearheaded our transition to Dropbox. The Board now has a place where we can store/share information and manage our Organization's records, as we should. It is wonderful to have a place to find the most current information on what is happening with TOHS. This just scratches the surface of the long list of projects Tom has completed. Thank you, Tom!

Kent Miller, Newsletter Designer. Kent has offered his time and talent in designing our quarterly newsletter and getting it to print in a timely manner. Kent has also been an intricate part in producing our tour booklets. Thank you, Kent!

Sara Dinwoodie – Newsletter Coordinator. Sara has assisted with our newsletters in both September and December. Sara has grabbed the torch and will be our full-fledged newsletter coordinator beginning in our 2022 year.

Phyllis Miller, Design Consultant. Phyllis has been a fixture with The Oakwood Historical Society for more than 20 years. Phyllis's talent and eye to detail keep our old house in showroom shape, from the paint on the walls to the drapes on the windows. Phyllis also creates our pen-and-ink drawings for the Holiday at Home Tours. Thanks, Phyllis!

Carol Holm, Display Coordinator. Carol has held many positions within the organization and currently manages our display windows as well as our seasonal sign changes at TOHS. Thanks Carol!

You all made my job easy!

Finally, I cannot close out the year without offering congratulations to Debra Edwards as she steps into her new position as President on the Board of The Oakwood Historical Society. So proud to see one of our esteemed members move into a position on the Board at the top level of our organization.

As always, if you have ideas, comments or feedback, the Board wants to hear from you. Send us email at info@oakwoodhistory.org.

Thanks again,

Tiffany Rubin
President

Cooking During the Early Years of Van Buren Township and at the Long-Romsperst Homestead

Before Oakwood was a town, this area of Montgomery County was known as Van Buren Township. There were many early farms; those from the 1860's included the land purchased by Henry Long, the first owner and builder of the Long-Romsperst Homestead. His farmland consisted of parts of southeast Oakwood, as well as the land where the Oakwood Historical Society is now located. The roads were dirt or gravel, and there were no utilities such as water/sewer, electricity, phones, or natural gas.

The Oakwood Historical Society has been able to maintain and interpret some of the early kitchens used by the occupants. These kitchens include the Summer Kitchen, located in an outbuilding, which has one of the largest open-hearth fireplaces in this part of Ohio, and three different interior kitchens: the original Winter Kitchen, the 1908 Kitchen, and the 1920's Kitchen, each showing how equipment and floor plans changed over the years. However, what about the food that would have been prepared in these kitchens?

The Historical Society has been given cookbooks, both printed and handwritten, which can point us to the types of foods eaten and how they were prepared using wood or coal fires in an open fireplace or in a cast iron stove. Different kinds of food preservation are also mentioned in these books.

The Society has been gifted two copies of a cookbook called the Presbyterian Cook Book, compiled by the Ladies of the First Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio, and first published in Dayton in 1873. The books are 1873 and 1879 editions, both have disintegrating bindings, and their old, acidic paper is now brown and crumbling in spots. However, apparently, the knowledge they contained was worthwhile as their owners and descendants kept them for over 140 years!

The Presbyterian Cookbook was a very popular book and was in its 10th edition by 1886. In fact, it was considered such a classic that it was reprinted in 2018 via Forgotten Books and is available now as a Classic Reprint on Amazon. However, the originals contain bound-in lined blank pages where the owner could write additional recipes to personalize the cookbook. In addition, both of the originals have glued-in newspaper clippings with instructions for many things including cleaning solutions, as well as preservation and health care recipes.

Due to the nature of the stoves of the time, the recipes do not give any heat levels, temperatures or amounts of cooking time. Directions were very simple as it was assumed the reader/user already knew how to cook!

Below are a few of the complete recipes found in the book: Note some interesting greens being cooked, and an interesting garnish. In addition, read how the shortening was made back then!

Baked Squash. Cut in squares, leaving on the rind, and bake in the oven like sweet potatoes.

Greens. Boil beet-tops, turnip-tops, spinach, cabbage-sprouts, poke-sprouts, dandelion and lamb's quarters in salted water until they are tender; drain in a colander [sic], pressing hard. Serve them garnished with hard-boiled eggs cut in slices.

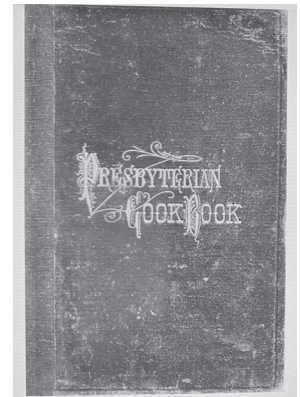
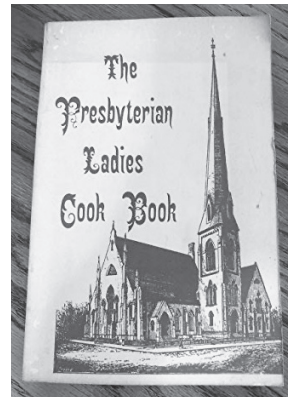
In addition, to celebrate the fall season, here is Pumpkin Pie!

Pumpkin Pie. To one pint of stewed pumpkin take one quart of milk, a pinch of salt, six eggs. Ginger and grated lemon or nutmeg are good spices for the pies. (Note: a different recipe suggests adding sugar with the spices)

Pastry. One and a quarter pounds of flour; one pound of shortening (two-thirds butter and one-third lard); wet sufficiently with cold water and mix with a knife, stirring as little as possible. This quantity will make five pies.

This article is the first in a series of articles on cooking in the latter part of the 1800's.

Linda Pearson



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Early History of The Oakwood Register

By Dana Winkler Whitney-Steinke

The Oakwood Register

To tell the story of The Oakwood Register, it is necessary to begin with the story of the Skywrighter

when in 1961 Ralph H. Winkler moved to Dayton from Columbus, with his young family having established the Skywrighter as the weekly newspaper for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Wink, my dad, was raised in Upper Arlington—a suburb much like Oakwood. His father, J. Homer Winkler, was a chemical engineer who worked for Battelle Memorial Institute. He was an expert on the printing process and lectured on the subject at various engineering clubs throughout the country. Dad's interest in printing and journalism was largely due to my grandfather.

After high school Wink attended Oberlin College and graduated with degrees in Journalism and Economics. He then served in the U.S. Army as a radio broadcaster for the troops in West Berlin after the Berlin Wall was built at the end of WWII and the start of the Cold War.

Upon returning to civilian life in Columbus in 1956, he became the editor of the Tri-Village News while also working at a local radio station. It was at this station that he met his future wife, Dolores "Do," as she was proof-reading his copy. They hit it off immediately, were married shortly thereafter, and the adventure began.

The idea of starting a weekly publication for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base occurred to Dad in the late 1950s as he considered other ventures. He envisioned a small, military newspaper in Fairborn, Ohio, called the Skywrighter—a weekly newspaper especially for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. When his proposal was well-received by the Base, he was thrilled and ready to move on it. The Base would manage all editorial content, while all other aspects of the publication would be handled by The Winkler Company.

It was clear, however, that this venture would require the rest of us in the Winkler family—wife Dolores "Do", 4-year-old son Lance and 1-year-old daughter Dana—to move to the Dayton area. We planned to settle in Oakwood.

The Skywrighter took off, pardon the pun. Readers took to the novice newspaper as if it were a local version of Stars and Stripes. Every Friday morning a huge truckload of newspapers rolled through the Base dropping bundles at each building as servicemen eagerly awaited. Readership and circulation grew as the Base population ultimately reached 35,000. This partnership continued for 30 years under a series of contracts that required a bidding process every few years.

While the newspaper was a huge success, putting together a weekly publication before the age of computers was a very hands-on experience. Large cardboard grids were set up on slant boards where copy and photos were cut with precision and pasted down with wax and rollers. X-ACTO knives, border tape, metal straight-edge rulers, clip art, and half-tone photos were the tools of the trade in those days. Completed grids were stacked neatly in a large flat box and hand-carried to a printing company near Ludlow Avenue and Stewart Street in downtown Dayton.

The original office of The Winkler Company was in a tiny bedroom on the second floor of their home on 15 W. Hadley Road. When the 500-seat Far Hills Theatre, located just down the street at Far Hills Avenue and Wonderly Avenue, closed in 1965, Dad bought the building. He and Bob Mills transformed the

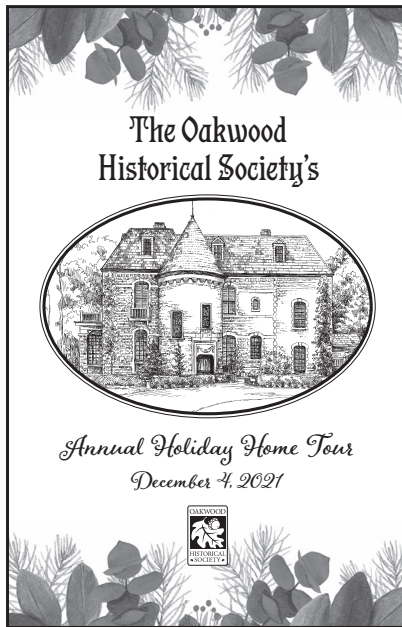
movie theatre into a family-friendly venue and changed the name to Cinema South. More importantly, on the second floor was a large corner office space next to the projection room and small private balcony. Here, there was plenty of room to spread out and do the production work required for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's weekly newspaper.

When Wink sold Cinema South in 1970, the Skywrighter office moved to a building across the street, then down the street on Far Hills Avenue, and finally in 1982 to a little brown, shingled house at 435 Patterson Road. Formerly an art gallery, this office space was ideal as it was already set up with workstations for framing. With the addition of a darkroom and two giant typesetting machines, the transition was seamless.

As fate would have it, Wink died suddenly in 1987, requiring the entire family to step in and involve themselves with the day-to-day activities of the business. Upon looking through Wink's files, we were pleasantly surprised to find a full-sized cardboard prototype of The Oakwood Register masthead. It made sense that he would have gone so far as to design a masthead as he had mentioned more than once that Oakwood needed its own newspaper. So, when the Skywrighter contract was not renewed four years later, the masthead had already been conceived, and everything in the business was set to transition to this new venture—a weekly newspaper especially for Oakwood—The Oakwood Register.

With Do at the helm, son Lance as editor, and daughter Dana in sales, the first newspaper was published and presented, with rate card in hand, to businesses and readers throughout the community. The Oakwood Register was warmly welcomed by local businesses and residents, and it has grown to be a source of great information and entertainment as well as a cherished asset to the community.

In the age of electronic media and the consolidation of the newspaper industry, The Oakwood Register continues to flourish as a free independent newspaper.



Our Third Annual Holiday Home Tour Returns

Our annual Holiday Home Tour returns this year on Saturday, December 4 – showcasing five beautiful and historically significant homes in our Schantz Park District, plus the original Frederick Patterson home.

We'd like to thank our incredible Oakwood homeowners who graciously opened their doors to welcome the community inside their lovely homes, and the parishioners and staff of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior for sharing their historic Frederic Beck Patterson home.

We also want to recognize the considerable contributions of Society and community members who volunteered their time and many talents in the researching, planning and organizing of this tour.

And to our donors for their continued support of The Oakwood Historical Society, especially Laura Bettinger of Coldwell Banker Heritage for her sponsorship of this event.

This popular community event is the Oakwood Historical Society's largest fundraiser of the year and it would not be a success without the involvement of many. Thank you to all!

You Now Have the Option to Receive *The Historian* Electronically

The Society's new customer relations management (CRM) software program makes it possible for members to receive their newsletter, *The Historian*, through email. Members who prefer to receive a digital newsletter may contact the Society at membership@oakwoodhistory.org or call (937) 299-3793 and leave their name and email address.



Local Oakwood Band Making Waves

A band comprised of four Oakwood residents and a Kettering resident are making waves both at home and abroad.

Oakwood residents Matt Housh (guitar, bass, vocals), Billy Howard (keyboards), Dominic Manns (guitar, bass), and Bobby Rubin (vocals), along with Kettering resident Kellen Brown (drums) make-up Rude Scholar, whose music can best be described as an eclectic mix of 80s New Wave, punk, and 90s alternative. Fans have likened the band's sound to REM, Joy Division, and the Violent Femmes.

Rude Scholar is celebrating their first anniversary with the pending release of two cover singles for the UK record label

The Specialized Project. The compilation album Viva: Songs of Freedom will see the band's punk rendition of the traditional Cuban song, "Guantanamera." On a separate release called Specialized: A Modern Take on Specials Classics, the band covers the 90s hit "Fearful," by the iconic ska band, The Specials. The band is currently shooting a music video for "Fearful" at locations in Oakwood and Dayton.

Covers, however, are a rarity for Rude Scholar. The band has written roughly 12 original songs that they rehearse in Rubin's Oakwood basement-turned-recording studio each week. Next up for the band is to get these songs into production for an album release, expected sometime in late 2022.

Housh, Howard, Manns, and Brown have all had successful stints performing with previous bands.

For singer/songwriter Rubin, who has written songs for numerous other bands, including "Dorian's Going Grey" by The Skapones (which reached number 6 in the UK ska/reggae charts last year), this is his first stint in a band.

Rude Scholar's next local show is on Monday, December 6 at Nowhere in Particular Cabinet of Curiosities, a Kettering brewery located on Wilmington Pike. The show begins at 9:00 p.m.



*The Oakwood Historical Society
would like to thank all of our members, volunteers
and the entire local community for your support in 2021.
We look forward to an exciting New Year filled
with opportunities to learn about, discover, and
celebrate Oakwood and its history.*

Meet the Secretary: Karen Bartley

Karen became involved in the Historical Society just a couple of years ago. She taught history at the university level for many years and was skeptical of local and amateur historical groups due to unfruitful efforts with other organizations. Fortunately, she found TOHS much more to her liking! The members are active, knowledgeable, and engaged in significant research on the community.

Even though her parents were very interested in history and organized all family vacations around historical sites, Karen never envisioned herself pursuing the field. In fact, she went to college and earned a degree in agronomy because she loved being on her grandmother's farm. While working as an advisor to farmers in Northeast Ohio, she also worked with a youth program for high-school-aged students. That success led her to consider teaching as a career, so she returned to college as an education major focusing on biology. Fate intervened—a history professor took her aside one day and asked what her life goals were. When he learned that she hoped to teach high school biology, he encouraged her to consider a career in history at the college level. That led to scholarships that allowed her to earn a doctorate degree from Kent State University.

Consequently, for the last 25 years, Karen has taught history (and English!) in several universities, including one in Brazil. She settled at University of Dayton and loved living in the town where her parents, who had moved frequently during her childhood, had established themselves. It was a “coming home” that she never expected. Working at UD (teaching world history, US history courses, and classes on US social history) was a great experience. She reluctantly retired due to the Covid epidemic but is pleased to have more time to devote to her other interests—gardening, hiking, and sewing. Gardening is a passion as strong as history is! Karen moved to Oakwood in 2013 when she and her fiancé purchased a home in the community. As a newcomer to Oakwood, she offers a fresh look at TOHS activities because she has no history to influence her understanding of what is happening (or what has happened!). Board members and participants in the programs have given her an extraordinary view of the community as well as education on the background of many significant programs. She is currently working on a revised version of Harry Ebeling's, *An Oakwood Scrapbook* so that it can be republished (hopefully) in 2022 when the community celebrates 150 years since its founding in 1872.



CAROL J. HOLM
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Dayton, Ohio



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