



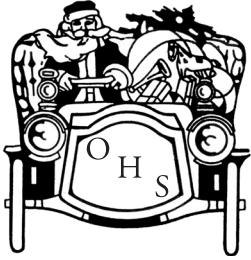
1947 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45419

OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Issue 3

Winter 2011



Holiday Dates to Remember

December 11th
1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.
Holidays at the Homestead

December 19th - 22nd
9:00a.m. - Noon
Santa's Workshop at the Homestead

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The Beginnings of Oakwood

The Oakwood Historical Society hosted its newest neighborhood walking tour in September with an estimated 300 people attending this outdoor activity. The tour featured the original Town of Oakwood, exploring the years from 1872 to 1908, the year the City of Oakwood was incorporated.

In 1872 four men purchased and platted 78+ acres of rural farmland in Van Buren Township. They built roads, toppled trees, and extended the horse-drawn streetcar into their new Town of Oakwood. They convinced Dayton church builder, Joseph Peters, to build a house on speculation, but development in Oakwood stalled. Few people were willing to move so far out of Dayton. The four investors had to rebuy the speculation home, and Peters moved back downtown. An early Dayton biographer called Oakwood "a failure." Three of the four investors lost their money and died before the electric streetcar ignited growth and development in Oakwood around 1900.

The neighborhood starts at the Five Points Intersection (Far Hills, Oakwood, and Thruston Avenues) and extends to Park Avenue along Harman and Oakwood Avenues. On the tour Adults and children enjoyed hands-on activities including writing with quills and vintage games. The booklet for this self-guided tour is available by emailing info@oakwoodhistory.org.

As expressed in "Acknowledgements" in this issue, the society is grateful to the City of Oakwood, businesses, organizations and individuals for making this program one of the most successful of the year for our society.



Volunteers Susan Nielson & Mychaelyn Michalec on Harman Avenue

--Mackensie Wittmer

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Please get involved...

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Message from the President

This year has been another active one for your Oakwood Historical Society.

The Wine Tasting has become an annual event in Oakwood and a great way to unwind and socialize after That Day in May activities. The Open House programs were revised and expanded into themed events with tours of the Long-Romspert Homestead. These included a tribute to the 1930s era this past spring and a classic car show on the lawn in the summer. Both were very well-received by the many guests who attended. A conventional Open House was held in the fall and our annual Holidays at the Homestead is a tradition which closes out the year's activities in a warm fashion. Children's programs continued throughout the year with many youngsters learning about American life in another time.

A new walking tour booklet, *The Town of Oakwood*, was developed which highlights the earliest development of our city. Its debut event was one of the best attended in the society's history with an estimated 300 guests taking the self-guided tour on a beautiful September Sunday afternoon. A Family Photograph fundraising session in October exceeded all expectations as 17 families took advantage of the Homestead's many vintage settings to have their portraits professionally taken.

Improvements to the Long-Romspert Homestead property continued to help preserve and maintain one of Oakwood's premier landmarks. Honeysuckle removal, tree trimming and gardening enhanced the Homestead's "curb appeal", but this year's biggest outdoors project was the painting of the 1890s carriage house and the 1920s garage, both located toward the rear of the property and expertly done as an Eagle Scout project.

Of course, none of the programs and projects could have been accomplished without the cooperation, dedication and interest of the many people and organizations that support our efforts. Please read further in this issue for a list of those for whom the society is greatly appreciative.

As my term comes to an end, I would like to personally thank the membership and all the other board members who have made this year so interesting and easy for me. It has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to serving further on the board in other capacities.

Very sincerely,
Mark W. Risley



Scouting in Oakwood: Request for Information



Readers of this newsletter frequently find references to the Boy Scouts and projects they are working on around the Homestead. Scouting has had a roller coaster existence in Oakwood with highs and lows tied to the enthusiasm of parents as much as to that of the young people. I have attempted to find a pattern to the ups and downs of the various organizations, but cannot locate a point person or an historian for any of the groups to complete this research topic.

The society needs more information about all scouting groups: which groups were sponsored by which churches, when groups were formed, and who were the leaders. If you have any information especially between the years of 1950 through 2000, please contact me by email hebbling1@gmail.com or leave a message at the historical society, 299-3739, and I will return your call.

-- Harry Ebeling

Carriage House and Garage Restoration Begins

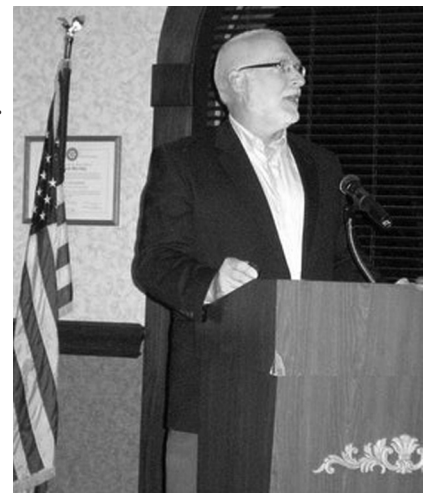
This past summer, restoration was started on the Long-Romspert Homestead's 1890s carriage house and 1920s garage with the exteriors being repainted. Boy Scout Tyler Reynolds conducted the painting as an Eagle Scout project with the help of his fellow scouts, friends and family. Sherwin-Williams Paints at 3050 Far Hills Avenue generously donated the paint for this project. Later, the garage doors were restored to improve their appearance and functionality.



The results are astounding as the completion of these projects enhances the ambiance and originality of the Homestead property. There are future plans to make these outbuildings into display facilities in which the history of transportation from the horse-drawn carriage to early automobiles can be exhibited.

Ohio Civil War Prison Camp Featured at Event

The 2011 Oakwood Historical Society's annual Founders Day Dinner was held at the Dayton Country Club on November 16th. Outgoing president, Mark Risley, addressed the gathering with a brief summary of this year's highlights and accomplishments after which the election for the 2012 officers and board was held. Following the election, Oakwood historian, Harry Ebeling, introduced the evening's keynote speaker, Prof. David R. Bush, who gave a compelling presentation of life in the Civil War era Union prisoner-of-war camp at Johnson's Island near Sandusky, Ohio. His book, *I Fear I Shall Never Leave This Island*, is an intriguing account of how Confederate officers were held captive as told through their letters.



(See Civil War on page 4)

**2011
OAKWOOD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers

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- **Vice President** -

Linda Pearson

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Phyllis N. Miller

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Jacquie Housel

Alex Heckman

Leah Konicki

Joan Milligan

Carolyn Noonan

Mackensie Wittmer

Mark Risley

Advisor

Phyllis N. Miller

(Civil War cont.)

On display were the Andersonville Confederate Prison lithograph, which was donated to the society by the late Emil Miller, and the original 1863 discharge papers of Howard Forrer, one of the famous "Squirrel Hunters" of the Civil War and member of the Oakwood family after which Forrer Road and Forrer Boulevard are named.

The society's Founders Day Dinner is held every November in appreciation of its dedicated supporters and for the election of the next year's officers and board.

Schantz Double on National Register

You never stop studying history! We recently discovered a fact we should have known, but our society was just getting established in 1980 and hadn't yet made connections with local historians. That's why we were surprised to learn from an old video presentation by UD professor Loren Gannon that Oakwood has THREE places on the National Register of Historic Places: Hawthorne Hill, the Long-Romspert Homestead, and the familiar double at 314-316 East Schantz Avenue.

Loren Gannon worked for the Montgomery County Historical Society in the late 1970s. Gannon had approved the preparation of an application by Carolyn Beaugard, an intern, to place the well-known Schantz double on the register. The application, in the files of Dayton History, describes the basis for approval, and a letter from the Ohio Preservation Office to the then owner, John McKee, advises of this act as approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board; the letter is dated April 8, 1980.

The application states in part that the house, ca. 1895, "is a textbook example of Queen Anne Architecture. It is typical of its era in its massing of variegated planes, Eastlake woodwork, and attention to decorative detail. In an excellent state of preservation, the house is also significant as the home of a notable Daytonian. Together, its architecture and history make the Adam Schantz, Sr. house one of the showplaces of Dayton."



Unfortunately, Beaugard didn't have the benefit of more recent Schantz family history that tells of the house at 430 East Schantz Avenue. This house was the actual residence of Adam Schantz, Sr., who built the double for the use of his many children as they were married and before they established their own homes. Nevertheless, our city has three homes on the National Register and the beautiful double is now in the hands of new owners who are carefully restoring it.

--Harry Ebeling

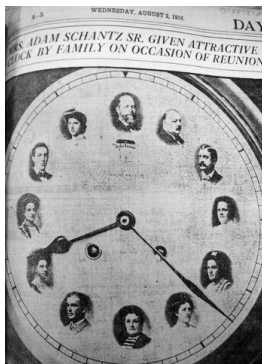


Schantz Family Heirloom

Among our favorite mementos in the archives is a clipping about a family reunion held in 1916 on the 72nd birthday of Adam Schantz, Sr.'s widow, Theresa. The event was held at Waldruhe Park on Springboro Pike; the memento was given to the City of Dayton by Adam Schantz II in 1917.

Her 10 children created a beautiful artistic bronze clock as a memento of the occasion. The founder's picture is at the 12-o'clock position and Mrs. Schantz's picture is at the 6-o'clock position with the 10 children shown around the dial at the other positions and in order of their birth.

Adam II reviewed the administration of the estate of the founder of the family and was recognized by the 44 members present for his stewardship. Even the out-of-town children and grandchildren were present, illustrating the affection the family had for this wonderful lady. The picture of the clock taken from the Dayton Daily News is difficult to reproduce, but the memento certainly shows her loving family her loving influence which continued until her death in 1928.



--Harry Ebeling



Queen Anne Style

Queen Anne is an architecture style popular from 1880 to 1905 and most often associated with the Victorian Period. This classic style features irregular floor plans and roof shapes, bay windows and differing exterior wall textures usually incorporating a combination of clap board and shingle treatments. The most prominent feature of the Queen Anne is a turret accent. At the turn of the last century, these substantial wood-framed homes were usually festooned in bright colors such as pink, blue, yellow or purple. Homes restored in these colors today are known as



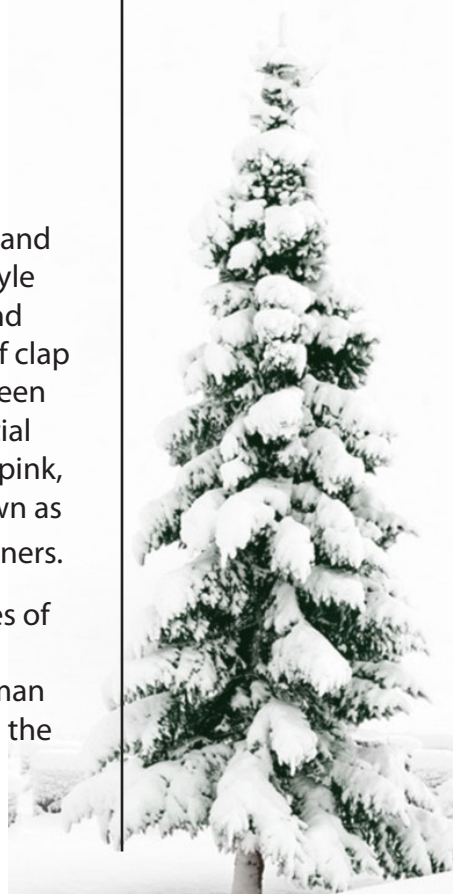
"Painted Ladies" by their proud owners.

Oakwood has several fine examples of Queen Anne homes in the original Town of Oakwood area along Harman and Oakwood Avenues and also in the Schantz Park Historic District.



Snowbirds:

If you receive a newsletter, please send us a note with instructions to either forward it or hold it until you return. We are charged for any returned mail. Thanks!



Children's Programs

Our children's garden program (Seasons in the Garden) held several sessions per month as the harvest season progressed. By August, we had tomato vines growing higher than the picket fence and loaded with fruits! In September, we were fortunate to have a beekeeper come talk to us about bees and show how his equipment helps him take good care of his hives. We tasted honey on the comb, and paired it with home-baked bread. Our last session was in mid-October, with a large harvest of tomatoes, peppers, chard, and potatoes. All 12 children were able to take home an abundance of veggies.

For the last day, we stripped the dried leaves off herbs we had cut and hung to dry in September and used them to season sauce for delicious homemade pizza. Every bit was gone by the end of the session! The children worked very hard and pulled all the spent plants and weeds up as well as all the supports, leaving us with a bare garden until spring. As usual, our last session was a bit of a party for the children and their families as we served homemade ice cream and lemon thyme herb cake (baked into the shape of garden insects!)



We are now working hard to prepare our holiday programs for children. This year the theme will be Santa's Workshop. We have found directions for some simple toys that children made and played with during the latter part of the 1800's. We will make a different toy each day, as well as baking a different special cookie each day. The dates are Monday through Thursday mornings, December 19 to 22, right after school holiday break begins. Parents will be able to sign their children up for one or multiple mornings according to their schedules. We will be looking for volunteers to help us run these programs, so you if you or a teenager in your family would like to help out, please let us know!

Visit our website, www.oakwoodhistory.org, to see photos of Seasons in the Garden and for detailed information about Santa's Workshop.

Summer Open House/Car Show a Success!

On August 28th, the Oakwood Historical Society presented its Summer Open House to include a first-time-ever car show, "Classics on the Lawn". In association with the British Transportation Museum and many area car clubs and owners, nearly 30 of the area's finest Jaguar, Triumph, Lotus, MG, Mini Cooper and Morgan automobiles were displayed on the grounds of the Long-Romspert Homestead on Far Hills Ave. A rare, original 1937 Alvis Open Touring Car was also featured. Upwards of 150 guests enjoyed the cars, tours of the Homestead, its gardens and a lunch provided by Oakwood's own Central Perc Café. The society hopes to make this car show an annual event.



Acknowledgments

As the year draws to a close, it is also a time to reflect upon and express our heartfelt appreciation to those who gave an extra effort this year to assist in keeping the society a viable part of our city.

First and foremost, we thank the leaders and citizens of the City of Oakwood for your support. You truly recognize the importance of having a community resource such as the society.

We also want to express our gratitude for the many organizations that have supported our programs, including the Oakwood Safety Department, Oakwood Public Works, Oakwood City Schools, the Oakwood Community Center, the Oakwood Rotary Foundation, Oakwood MOMs, Wright Library, Academic Decathlon team, Dayton History and the British Transportation Museum.

Oakwood area businesses are always generous in their response: Ashley's Bakery, Battagaglia's Upholstery Co., Central Perc Café, Dorothy Lane Market, Logos@Work, Select Start Coffee House, Sherwin-Williams Paints, Shurman's Barber Shop, Starbucks, *The Oakwood Register*, and the *Dayton Daily News*.

Individuals have also donated in many unique ways to support the society. Our thanks to John and MJ Gray, John and Barb Moriates, Ron and Linda Versic, Ed and Evie Herrman, Mike and Rose Morgan, Phyllis and Kent Miller, Jo and Larry Bilderback, Officer Ron Wilson, Officer George Williams, Jamie Sheehan, Carol Collins, Lance Winkler, Vicki Auditore, Dee Dee Nagel, Margaret Peters, Laura Baumer, Bill Neal, Ross McCardle, Jamie Timmer, Dion Myers, Sarah Pearson, Jonathon Pearson, Zach Kell, Caleb Kell, Tyler Reynolds and his Eagle Scout crew, Herbert Sizek, Ethan Kissock, Colleen Gabriel, Alexandra Morris, John Ostendorf, Peter Stroble, Dick Smith, Gary Brown, Tere Grilliot, Jessica McCann, Erin Miller, Mychaelyn Michalec, Dan Michalec, Susan Usechak, Katlyn Delong, Coral Gabriel, Scott Gowdy, Elliot and Emery Gowdy, Chad Cannon, Jim Erwin, Donna Howell, Pelagia Benin, Erika Meitzner, Heather Brooks, Joe Battagaglia, Darren Kall, and Josh Turner.

A very sincere thank you goes to all of the Oakwood Historical Society members who support the society through their dues and their interest and to all of the guests who attended our many programs. You make it all possible.

Thank You!



**THE OAKWOOD
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E-mail:
info@oakwoodhistory.org



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The Oakwood Historical Society Membership Form

Membership Categories (Please Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult	\$20.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring	\$50.00
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Date _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Business/Organization (if applicable): _____

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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