



1947 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45419

April 2012 Open House: Scouting in Oakwood

Scouting in Oakwood is the theme for our history-related open house this spring. The Boy Scouts celebrated its 100th year of scouting not long ago, and this year the Girl Scouts are celebrating its centennial. With events happening on a national level, society board members thought the first open house of the season is the perfect time to celebrate *all* scouting in our community! We are still gathering the numbers, but know many Oakwood youth are involved in scouting today learning skills for responsible citizenship, character development, practical life skills, service to others, and leadership that will serve them well in their adult lives.

We have contacted scouting organizations in our area and are assembling an assortment of memorabilia for the event, including a set of vintage Girl Scout uniforms to be worn as part of a fashion show, and several individuals have offered to loan us other heritage uniforms and items for display. We are now searching for more items to fill out our presentations so if you or a family member has some heirloom scouting items, please contact us to discuss loaning them for the celebration. If you have old stories about scouting in Oakwood, we'd love to hear them too!



Designed by Juliette Low, the sole emblem of the Girl Scouts of the USA from 1912 until 1976



Juliette Gordon Low (center), with two Girl Scouts.

In addition to the fashion show and displays of uniforms and scouting memorabilia, we will also have some scouting demonstrations available for visitor participation. So come and enjoy seeing our vintage scouting displays while meeting some of our present day Oakwood Scouts! Save the Date and Time: Sunday afternoon, April 15, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Long-Romspert Homestead.

To offer to loan us some items or share your stories, please contact Linda Pearson at 648-9702 or by e-mail lindapinoh@gmail.com.

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2012
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Message from the President

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012! Observant readers will notice we're back to publishing our news quarterly to share more information in a more timely manner.

A good beginning may be to simply say I am honored to serve as this year's president of The Oakwood Historical Society. While not an Oakwood native, I've served on the society board for four years and have been conducting the children's programs here for five years. Even as taking on the role of president, I also co-chair the education committee and the children's programs are still with me. I have had the pleasure of working closely with long-time board members Harry, Mark, Harrison, and Mackensie.

The first few months each year are typically fairly quiet at the Homestead as the board does its planning for the new year. We have taken advantage of the lull to begin updating our mission statement and bylaws and have had working sessions with more planned throughout the year.

In the meantime, the schedule of spring activities is taking shape. As you read through this newsletter note the upcoming activities: the children's garden program, several lectures at the library, an adult wine tasting and a community-wide open house which we hope will appeal to all ages. Please jot these events down on your calendar so they don't slip past you, and be sure to read about how a special tax deduction can help us.

The Spring Open house, to be held on Sunday afternoon April 15 this year, has become the annual History Open House. This is a chance to see local history being researched and organized by the Historical Society. Last year we presented *Life in the 1930's* with the marvelous participation of the Oakwood High School Academic Decathlon team. This year the topic is *Scouting in Oakwood*. Board members are currently searching for artifacts that we can put on display, interviewing people for local history, and searching old records for information that will provide an overview of scouting since the first troop began here in the 1920s.

As an all-volunteer organization with a board of very busy involved community members, we do a good job of offering activities for all levels. Please continue to be involved *with* us. Attend events, renew your membership, bring some friends on board, and help out when you can. We appreciate all the support you give!



Linda Pearson

Committee Reports

Archives & Acquisitions

Through the generosity of John and MJ Gray, the society has acquired the original plat map (dated June 1912) from the Olmsted Brothers of Hills and Dales and surrounding areas. It will be restored and framed for display. From Pete Rife, we also received another map (from 1933) that shows some of the area west of Far Hills, but also the development of the old Shroyer Farm land. He also brought photographs that have been scanned for our archives. The society has started to receive boxes of Ethel Romsper's possessions deaccessioned from Dayton History. A subcommittee will begin cataloging each item beginning in the summer under Lisa Kell's direction.

Facilities/Grounds

A long list of repairs and issues was prepared and submitted to board members. The highest priority item is the removal of an additional tree and the stump from the one that fell on January 1st. I will also assist Phyllis, if needed, to correct the source of the water issue and to determine if she has other items to be added to the maintenance list.

Facilities/Interior

I talked to Command Roofing about the water problem (to prevent further damage to the interior of the Homestead); an inspection of the chimney area is required. Longer term and once the cataloging of Ethel's possession is complete, I will begin determining which original pieces are appropriate for display.

Research & Outreach

Mackensie and I met to select the next neighborhood for a walking tour with ongoing meetings for research and writing of materials. No firm date has been identified, but most likely it will be in September.

Spanish Mission Revival Architecture

California was the birthplace of the Spanish Revival design styles as architects turned to its regional Hispanic heritage for inspiration. The earliest examples were built in the 1890s in the American southwest, but, by 1900, homes of this style were found throughout the United States influenced by architects and national builders' magazines.

These fanciful houses feature stucco walls, a low-pitched tile roof with little or no overhang, and an arched entryway. They are rich in architectural details through the application of shaped parapet roofs, triple arched or quatrefoil windows, carved wooden doors, and decorative tile applied to a fountain and/or courtyard. A bell tower-like feature further defines the style as Spanish Mission and the application of various decorative details borrowed from the entire history of Spanish architecture is considered Spanish Eclectic in style.



Spanish Eclectic Style



Spanish-inspired architecture reached its zenith in the 1920s and 1930s, but the design can still be found applied to contemporary homes today.

--Mark Risley

Spanish Mission Architecture

Homestead Loses Tree to High Winds

On New Year's Day, high winds toppled an 85-foot maple tree in front of the Homestead closing southbound Far Hills Avenue and bringing down RTA trolley lines and telephone wires. The tree fell around noon; there were no injuries, and, despite the holiday, emergency response teams soon arrived from the City of Oakwood, Miami Valley RTA, AT&T and American Forestry Services. By 4:30 p.m., the tree was mostly removed, RTA lines were being restrung and traffic was again moving smoothly down Far Hills.



Because the loss of this tree weakened the root system of the adjacent tree which was also estimated to be 100 years old, it was later necessary to have that tree removed as well.

Scouting in Oakwood: The Boy Scouts

Scouting has had a roller coaster existence in Oakwood with highs and lows tied to the enthusiasm of the parents as much as to that of the young people. I have tried, but have found no pattern in the ups and downs of the various organizations. I also haven't found a point person, at least not still living, so without finding an historian for any of the groups let me venture to relate some personal reflections and information I've found in my research. The wonderful sketches are reproduced from a facsimile of the first Boy Scout handbook, published in 1911, found in the University of Dayton rare book room.

--Harry Ebeling



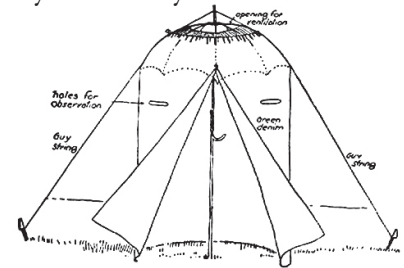
Ready for the hike

Boy Scouts began in Oakwood on January 7, 1920, with the organization of Troop 13 sponsored by the high school. As a matter of fact, the troop was a leader in its development in the Miami Valley. Little was reported for several years until St. Paul's Episcopal Church registered Troop 1 with Sheldon Robinson as its Scoutmaster. It prospered through the Depression and War and in 1953 celebrated its 25th anniversary with two troops and an Explorer Post.

I remember being a Cub Scout and Boy Scout in the Pack and Troop sponsored by St. Paul's in the 40's. We met in the church basement (before the construction of Rike Hall); our Scoutmaster was Bill Lane who lived next door at the corner of Harman and Dixon Avenues.

Some fathers were involved, but because of World War II leadership was scarce. One of the memorable leaders was Kaye Fish who was of Native American heritage. He had all the Indian regalia and could dress in costume for special events. Another parent was Don Nesbitt before he went into the Navy. Older boys who were leaders were Ross Sawtelle and Jack Ward.

By the time we reached ninth grade, it wasn't considered cool to be in the scouts, and most of my friends dropped out. I stayed with it for a while, becoming Boy Scout leader for a den of Cub Scouts headed by Mr. Dave Dietrick.



Bird blind

Clippings files from *The Oak Leaf*, *The Oakwood Press*, and the *Kettering-Oakwood Times* drop little gems of activities through the years. A story from 1925 tells of Scoutmaster A.W. Henzell leading a weekend with 30 boys at Camp Cricket Holler. A favorite of mine is a clipping from 1940 showing Troop 101 with Bill Yeck, Ray Tischer, Nick Davis, Don Stutson and Tom Routsong. In 1956, a group of Eagle Scouts canoed down the Manistee River in Michigan lead by Harvey Brickley; the group included Barry Gilbert and Doug Payne. An article from 1958 shows pictures of scouts running the city with John Hocker taking over the Court from Judge Howell and another boy getting a night stick from Chief Leon Lynch. An article in 1959 shows Troop 11 listening to Scoutmaster Bob Reemelin. President of the Scouts, Dan Schryver is shown looking at a framed copy of the charter. In 1963, Troop 233 at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior held a Court of Honor for Bob Hermann, Harry Price and John Shively. In 1965 a group of Explorer Scouts went to Philmont, NM, lead by Charles Marshall, Sr.



Improvised stretcher

By 1971, scouting had lost its magic; the church sponsored units were folded as a casualty of the Vietnam War. There is a long gap in the clipping file when Thelma Yakura of Wright Library stopped saving them, but fast forward to 1981 when an article appears about Oakwood students David Stratis and Marc Rasor (of Kettering Troops 236 and 215 respectively) were awarded Eagle Scout recognition.

Scouting in Oakwood: The Boy Scouts (Continued)

In 1986 St. Paul's was again involved celebrating Scout Sunday and recognizing founder Lord Baden Powell, an Anglican Priest. In 1987, an Eagle Scout project renovated the Spring House at the Long-Romsper Homestead; it is documented in our files with pictures, including a Muth Brothers crane lifting the Spring House while its foundation was repaired.

A favorite clipping from 2001 is a group picture from 1940 showing Troop 101. Donated by advertising executive Bill Yeck, the photo shows Ray Tischer, Nick Davis, Bob Knee, Don Stutson, and Tom Routsong among others. In May 2004, a long story in Far Hills Living featured 10 Oakwood students from Troop 101 who attained Eagle Scout rank; the Scoutmaster was Jim Ryckman. In 2005, Eric Arntz of Troop 320 attained Eagle Scout rank.



Arm carry

Today, the Boy Scout troops in Oakwood continue their tradition of service providing invaluable support with projects around the house and grounds of the Homestead.

Future articles will explore the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, and we would like to have more information about all scouting groups: which groups were sponsored by which churches, when groups were formed and who were the leaders.

The Book of Mottoes

NCR Tribute to John H. Patterson

A small (5" x 8") pamphlet printed by NCR in memory of its founder turned up in our archives. Published in the 1920s after Patterson's death, the booklet recalls the practice of placing sayings on the sides of the buildings. How many of you remember seeing them as you went downtown? Part of the introduction is copied below followed by a few examples of the mottoes.

The custom of placing mottoes in prominent places throughout the factory and office buildings has been in effect ever since the Company began business in 1884. The mottoes are printed on cards measuring 28" x 22". Most of them are placed in double frames so that the mottoes are visible from both sides. These frames are hung from the ceiling, at convenient intervals, in the center aisle of each floor throughout the plant.

The mottoes are changed frequently, by moving the frames from floor to floor, until they have completed the circuit of the entire factory. There are about two hundred mottoes in circulation.

Character is made by many actions –
and it may be lost by a single one.

Tomorrow is unborn, yesterday is
dead, today is yours. W.C. Hunter

To cultivate kindness is a great part
of the business of life. Samuel Johnson

Because the goal is distant, is that any
reason why we should not march towards it? Hugo

Hold on; hold fast; hold out.

Your Tax Refund Can Help!



Have you read about the new Ohio tax refund check-off? For those of you who haven't yet filed your Ohio returns, here's the good news. If you get a tax refund from the state you may donate a portion of it to the Ohio Historical Society.¹ These dollars, estimated to be around \$200,000, will be used to support local history-related projects throughout Ohio through grants for which The Oakwood Historical Society will be eligible!

There is, of course, another way to help us preserve and promote the rich history of our city – through your Oakwood Historical Society membership. If you haven't yet renewed, please take a few minutes to fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it and your check to The Oakwood Historical Society, 1947 Far Hills Ave, Dayton, OH 45419. Remember - membership is tax deductible!

¹The box is labeled "NEW – Ohio Historical Society" and you can find it at line #25d on your Ohio Form IT1040; line #18d on Ohio Form IT1040-EZ, or line 13d-4 of the TeleFile worksheet.)

Save the Dates

April 15, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Homestead, "Celebrating Scouting"

Join in a celebration of scouting in Oakwood and see how scouting has changed. All are welcome: current scouts, former scouts, future scouts, and everyone who knows one!



April 22, 2:00 p.m., Wright Library¹, "The Thunderstorm"

Wright Library presents "The Thunderstorm." Mark Risley, past president of The Oakwood Historical Society, draws on his commercial aviation weather background to present an educational, in-depth look at these magnificent and powerful atmospheric giants. The presentation includes their causes and development, a dissection of a thunderstorm cell, and storm safety. ¹

May 19, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., the Homestead, Wine Tasting

Mingle with friends and share a glass of wine after That Day in May festivities. Ticket information will be published in *The Oakwood Register*.

May 20, 2:00 p.m., Wright Library, "The Classic Architecture of Oakwood"

Wright Library hosts Mark Risley and his popular photographic presentation of classic architecture in Oakwood. See some of Oakwood's remarkable and incredibly preserved homes and hear about architectural styles and details.

¹Seating at the library is limited. Visit the Wright Library website, www.wright.lib.oh.us, or watch *The Oakwood Register* for registration information.



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A New Year of Children's Programs Begins

Planning for this year's children's programs is well underway. The purpose of the programs is to provide a historical reference for the children in our community in a fun learning environment. Last year, the volunteer team ran 30 days of programs!

The first program, Seasons in the Garden, provides hands-on learning from planting through harvesting. Since our garden is small accommodating only a dozen children, this program is only offered to our in-house mailing list. If your child has been involved in any of our programs in the past, you are on our e-mail list and will be getting an email when it is time to register. If you are not on our email list, but want to be notified, please contact Linda Pearson at lindapinoh@gmail.com right away, so you will get the notification. (Be sure to read the accompanying story about preparing the garden. There are some things we don't let the children do!)

Work has also begun on our children's summer programs that include activities related to a specific time period. The programs vary from year to year so children can attend consecutive years and learn different aspects of growing up in early Oakwood. Details of these programs will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

--Linda Pearson and Lisa Kell

Tending the Garden

Being president of the Oakwood Historical Society isn't always as prestigious as it sounds. The Homestead's kitchen garden needs preparation for the colder months and this past December was no exception when a load of "natural fertilizer" was donated by Dayton Metro Park's riding stables. Then president and Grounds and Facilities chair, Mark Risley spread the "by-product" evenly over the garden, then covered it with a layer of autumn leaves to ensure it properly assimilated into the garden soil. Risley stated, "Those who have attended some of my programs know that I'm pretty good at shoveling this stuff."



"Road Apples" anyone?



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Please Renew Your Membership!

The Oakwood Historical Society Membership Form

Membership Categories (Please Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100.00
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Date _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Spouse: _____

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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