

The Bexley Historical Society



Historical Herald

February 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

As most are aware, the Caretaker's Cottage by the pool has been renovated and is now our official home. We have on display several artifacts, pictures, and memorabilia. This home has all come together because of ambitious volunteers and generous donors. I send my sincere "Thank you" to each and everyone who made a contribution to this effort. We are excited to have our own building to showcase Bexley's rich heritage!

We now have a full Board of Trustees, and they are making immediate contributions to BHS. With their varied backgrounds and interests, I see this organization accomplishing many objectives for the coming year. We are finally at a point where multiple goals are achievable because of the efforts of many, versus the few. Some of our opportunities in 2008 are:

Building Doctor Program

Regular BHS Cottage Museum hours

Bexley Centennial Celebration

Jeffrey Mansion rehabilitation

Bexley centennial history publication

Ice Cream Social

Pancake Breakfast


Improved BHS communication through the use of technology

Please let us know if you can lend a hand with any of these activities. To make these activities successful, we need your support. Our lofty goal of getting the cottage operational in 2007 has been met and now we look forward to achieving more this year. Get involved. Make a difference.

Last, I would like to personally thank William Hoyer for his support and work as a BHS Trustee. Bill has eagerly served this organization and has recently been



President David Baker and son, Kris, repairing the cottage

awarded the designation of Trustee Emeritus. Congratulations, Bill, your contributions have been greatly appreciated! 

David Baker
President
BHS

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Bexley is 100 in 2008. Please contribute your memories to the upcoming Bexley historical publication. Forms enclosed.*
- *The Historical Society Museum is now open. Stop by and check it out.*



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY GOES HIGH TECH

The Bexley Historical Society is expanding its technical capabilities. The City has graciously provided us with space on its website, so we now have a web page. We now own the domain name bexleyhistory.org, so you can reach our site using the Internet address www.bexleyhistory.org.

Doug Wittig and Mark Epstein are working on enhancing the site's design and adding information and photos.

The City also installed new phone service to the Caretaker's Cottage as part of the telephone upgrade for all City facilities. We have a new phone number (559-4360), as well as the same voice mail capabilities as City offices. This means that people can phone us at the cottage and we can retrieve messages from any location, ensuring that we do not miss calls and can provide prompt replies to public inquiries. Also, our

new email address is info@bexleyhistory.org.

Soon, we will have additional documents and images on our website and an enhanced email system. All of these changes will allow the society to better meet our mission by reaching more people with more information about Bexley's history in more innovative ways. ☞

With Special Thanks to:

Mozart's Bakery
European Piano Café



Chase Bank One
National City
The First Bexley Bank



Bexley Monk
Bob Evans
Kroger
The Top
White Castle



AmTrust Bank
Donatos
Fifth Third Bank
Starbucks Coffee
Wendy's

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST "THANK YOU"

The Bexley Historical Society, in conjunction with the Bexley Recreation Department, hosted a successful Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 8, 2007. This 'All You Can Eat' event was well attended, with everyone enjoying the music provided by Ray Pauken and his group, the miniature train that Chris Myers set-up around the tree, and the good food.

Due to generous gifts from Mozart's Bakery and The First Bexley Bank, a raffle was held. Phil Page won the \$100 Certificate of Deposit provided by The First Bexley Bank and there were twenty other winners of \$5.00 gift cards from Mozart's Bakery.

Sheila Straub has been an outstanding supporter of the Pancake Breakfast these last sev-

eral years for which the historical society is quite appreciative. And last, but surely not least, we say a big "Thank You" to the community for coming each year to Jeffrey Mansion and the Pancake Breakfast. ☞

THE COTTAGE MUSEUM IS OPEN

The first exhibits are now in place at the Caretaker's Cottage at the Jeffrey Mansion Estate, near the new Bexley swimming pool. Here you can experience the stories of early Bexley schools, transportation and several families and their homes. The pictures and artifacts recall three styles of

homes and furnishings: Colonial, Victorian, and Arts and Crafts—the later being the era of the cottage. Your enthusiastic board of trustees and over 30 volunteers and the City have worked together to create a gathering place of old fashioned gracious hospitality and inspired remembering. Treat yourself, your family and friends to an adventure with memories. Come visit us. ☞



Before



After

THE BUILDING DOCTORS ARE COMING ON APRIL 24

This spring the Bexley Historical Society, the City of Bexley, and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office will sponsor a Building Doctor Clinic for old-building owners in Bexley. Mariangela Pfister and Mark Epstein, who work at the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, will be the featured doctors. Mark is also a historical society trustee and Bexley resident.

The program will begin with a free seminar on Thursday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m., at the Jeffrey Mansion. This presentation, open to all old-building owners in the region, will focus on guidelines for renovation projects and advice for solving problems typical to buildings dating from 1800 to 1958. This talk will address painting, care of

wood floors, masonry, and other issues.

The next day, April 25, Mariangela and Mark will be available to visit buildings in Bexley that are at least 50 years old, providing advice by appointment to owners on specific technical or design problems. The site visits are free, but are limited to the first 10 people who request them. The Building Doctors look at all types of old buildings, including houses, churches, businesses, and schools. Among the most common problems that warrant on-site consultations are peeling paint, wet basements, crumbling masonry, remodeling, and additions

The Building Doctor is a program of the Ohio Historic

Preservation Office, a unit of the Ohio Historical Society. Each clinic is co-sponsored by a local partner. For Bexley, this will be the Bexley Historical Society and the City of Bexley.

Registration for the seminar and site visits is free and will begin in early March. At that time, you can register at www.building-doctor.org or by calling 1-800-499-2470. For more information, contact Mark Epstein or Nancy Beck at 559-4360 or info@bexleyhistory.org



THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN WITH A FREE SEMINAR ON APRIL 24, AT 7:00 P.M., AT THE JEFFREY MANSION, OPEN TO ALL OLD-BUILDING OWNERS IN THE AREA.

PACK 166 VISITS THE MUSEUM

The boys from Cub Scout Tiger Cubs, Pack 166 and their mothers enjoyed an evening at the historical society's museum. They especially liked the Tinker Toys and images of Bexley classrooms from years past. The boys readily identified the early 1900's lunch box and the large wooden tool box which traveled on a Conestoga wagon over the Alum Creek bridge on the National Road circa 1833.

The Tiger Cubs were intrigued by the stereopticon, which somehow became the "Scary Octopus." Society

members Edie Mae Herrel, Barbara Hysell and Nancy Beck had fun telling the boys

about school and travel from long ago.



Edie Mae Herrel and Scouts



Barbara Hysell and Nancy Beck with Scouts

BEXLEY HISTORICAL PUBLICATION

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ASKING ALL MEMBERS OF THE BEXLEY COMMUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE IMAGES AND MEMORIES.

This year the City of Bexley marks its centennial. To help celebrate this auspicious occasion, the Bexley Historical Society will produce a book focusing on what makes our community so special. The publication will be a lavishly illustrated volume that recounts the history of the community, its people, and its institutions. Filled with photographs and drawings, the book will also contain text authored by various contributors that explains how Bexley developed into the unique place it is today.

The coffee-table quality hardcover will expand on and update *Bexley Images*, which was published by Edie Mae Hamilton Herrel and Lavada Kuhn Hogg in 1978. The new book is planned to be larger in size and scope.


The new book will cover Bexley's history from the prehistoric people who occupied the banks of Alum Creek, through the arrival of European settlers in the nineteenth century, and its growth into a City in the

twentieth century. It will be divided into several sections, covering early history, transportation, education, churches and synagogues, businesses, government, celebrations and Events, and families and homes. Articles and historic images will elaborate on each topic. This will include pairings of "now and then" photographs to show how Bexley has changed through the years.

The book will highlight the heart and soul of Bexley—its people and families. They are what makes Bexley a special place to live, learn, laugh, labor, and love. The book will be about ordinary people, as well citizens who have made notable contributions to the region and even the nation and the world. These leaders will be profiled, but there will also be stories about (and sometimes by) people who may only be known locally but whose contributions to the community are a large part of what makes Bexley special. Together, these stories and accompanying photos will give a taste of

life in Bexley over the last century.

While the Bexley Historical Society has a considerable archive of photographs and documents, much more material is needed to make our history complete. So, the historical society is asking all members of the Bexley community, past and present, to help with this project by contributing images and memories. Volunteers will research, write, edit and design the book.

Forms to provide the historical society with information about people, as well as stories and images included with this newsletter. You can also pick up forms at the Bexley Public Library, Bexley City Hall, and the Bexley Historical Society office at the Caretaker's Cottage. You can also download forms from our website. 

PLEASE USE THE FORMS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER TO PROVIDE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH STORIES, INFORMATION ABOUT PEOPLE, AND IMAGES OF BEXLEY'S PAST FOR THE BOOK PROJECT.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BEXLEY VILLAGE

This history of Bexley Village is from Bexley Images by Edith Mae Hamilton Herrel and Lavada Kuhn Hogg (Copyright 1978, Bexley Historical Society)

By 1906, the area north of Town Street, now Bryden Road, continued to develop as an exclusive residential community of prominent Central Ohio families led by R.H. Jeffrey, who later became Mayor of Columbus. They established rigid building restrictions which are credited with the character of the area's subsequent growth. At the same time, residents in the [Capital] university area established the Pleasant Ridge Improvement Association. Its founders pledged to organize and develop the flourishing community by building roads and cinder sidewalks, installing lights, encouraging residents to plant trees and inducing "desirable people to

buy property and locate in the community." The Pleasant Ridge Improvement Association also pioneered the first street lighting system in the community. A Capital University submitted the lowest of the bids which ranged from two dollars to ninety-five cents to install each of the sixteen gas lamps.

Barely a year after starting the association, the founders decided to incorporate as a village the area south of Town Street (now Bryden Road). This would have left the Jeffrey community to shift for itself as each area lacked sufficient population to incorporate separately and both were unwilling to be absorbed by Columbus. Talk of combining the two groups soon began. On a day early in the summer of 1908, 144 representatives of the two communities met on the terrace of

Mr. Jeffrey's mansion and agreed to unite forces. There was much disagreement, however, over a name for the proposed village. The southern contingent proposed the name Pleasantridge while the northern group had other suggestions. The dispute was resolved when Colonel Lincoln Kilbourne . . . came upon the name Bexley, a parish near his family's home in the County of Kent, England. The name met with almost immediate approval.

In August, 1908, the first Bexley village council . . . met in the University's Recitation Hall. With Frank P. Holtzman as Mayor, [they] passed ordinances prohibiting . . . cattle to graze on village property, outlawed intoxication, assault and the discharging of firearms and banned slaughter houses from the area. ☞

IN AUGUST,
1908, BEXLEY
VILLAGE
COUNCIL MET IN
THE
UNIVERSITY'S
RECITATION
HALL.

COTTAGE GOINGS ON



Ready to move in



Trustees meet



Open for business

The Bexley Historical Society

Museum at the Jeffrey Estate
Caretaker's Cottage
Open second Monday of each month
6:30 P.M.—8:00 P.M.
and by appointment

2080 Clifton Ave.
Bexley, Ohio 43209
614.559.4360



info@bexleyhistory.org
www.bexleyhistory.org



Mission Statement

The Bexley Historical Society is an educational association. It seeks to promote interest and pride in the historical development of the community and in the accomplishments of its citizenry. It endeavors to research, assemble, preserve and publish a valuable storehouse of materials including artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, and genealogical records relevant to the heritage of the Bexley community.

Board of Trustees

David Baker, President
Gary Seckel, Treasurer
Nancy Beck, Secretary

Lisa Baas, Robert Duffy, Mark Epstein, JoAnn Hanners, James Harris, Barbara Hysell, Michael Kilbourne, Greg Margulies, Connie Ostrove, Ron Robins, Doug Wittig

Trustees Emeritus

William Hoyer, Eleanor Schaefer

Advisors

Ed Hamblin, Advisor
Edie Mae Herrel, Founder and Cottage Director

A 501(c)(3) Organization

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BEXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Senior Citizen \$15.00

General Membership \$25.00

Supporting \$50.00

Patron \$100.00

Name _____

Address _____ Year Home Built _____

Telephone No. _____ Email _____

Maiden name or family names with generations in Bexley* _____

I have a photo or other Bexley memorabilia to share* _____

I would like information about volunteering opportunities _____

*If needed, please use a separate sheet of paper to include your information

Make checks payable to: The Bexley Historical Society
Mail to: P.O. Box 9285, Columbus, Ohio 43209

Thank you for your support.