

The Bexley Historical Society



June 2008

Historical Herald

Volume 31, Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

It has been a busy winter and spring for the Bexley Historical Society. We have enjoyed giving various groups private tours of the renovated cottage and the many artifacts we display. BHS, in conjunction with the Ohio Historical Society and the City of Bexley, recently sponsored and hosted a well-attended program on maintaining and rehabilitating older houses called Building Doctor. In addition, we are currently gathering content in order to publish a book about Bexley's history. The hardbound book will be large in size and will be filled with various historic pictures of Bexley. Also, we have begun the process of updating technology at BHS.

With proper hardware and software, we will now be able to archive documents and images more effectively and keep track of our holdings electronically. Last, the BHS has been very active in supporting the preservation of the Jeffrey Mansion and the planning of Bexley's Centennial Celebration.

I am proud of the progress this board has been making. It's an exciting time, so please let us know if you would be interested in helping us out on a particular project. Get involved – make a difference! ☞

David Baker
President
BHS



Spanish American War dress uniform cap, gift of Dr. Robert Black Cross.

ANNUAL MEETING

We will hold our Annual Meeting on June 9th at the Jeffrey Mansion Caretaker's Cottage at 5:15 P.M. A review of the previous year's activities and highlights will be presented. In addition, the Board of Trustees will vote on candidates nominated to fill three seats. The Nomi-

nation Committee has provided the following people to be considered: Barbara Houser, Chris Pedon, and Carol Rich.

If others are interested in serving as a trustee, they must be present at the June 9th meeting and ask that their

name be added to the slate of nominees. A vote by ballot for the three positions would then be needed to decide the new trustees. Hope to see you there. ☞

HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual Bexley Historical Society Meeting, June 9, 5:15 P.M.
- Annual July 4th Ice Cream Social. Check our website for time and location.
- Exhibits of historical photos and items at Graeter's and the Bexley Public Library.
- Our new website: www.bexleyhistory.org.



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COTTAGE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Jodie May Davis, Bexley High class of '47, sent this picture of the

Tours of our museum. Researching. The Building Doctor program. Discovering new information. Organizing files, photos, and artifacts. Designing and mounting displays at Graeter's, the library, and our cottage museum. Interviewing and videotaping Bexley residents. These are some of the activities, as seen in some of the photos in this newsletter, that your Board of Trustees and member volunteers are working on.

If you are already a Society member and would like to help, please call or email. Also, please encourage your friends to join. You can find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter and on our website (bexleyhistory.org).

Bexley Centennial Publication

Our greatest challenge is gathering information, photos and funding for the creation and publication of a book commemorating Bexley's Centennial. This will be a hardcover coffee-table quality publication about our community's history.

Each of you is a very important part of Bexley's heritage and we are anxious to record and preserve your memories and enriching stories. We would like to hear from you, so we are asking everyone to please fill out the story forms from our website (or call us for forms) and mail them with clear original photos to the Bexley Historical Society. We are working on a deadline, so please don't delay. ☞

Edie Mae Herrel
Cottage Director

ORGANIZING OUR COLLECTION



Wentz Pharmacy, 1950.

Do you want to know more about what's at the Bexley Historical Society?

Making our valuable resources available to the community, both inside and outside the museum, is an important goal of the Society. To enable us to organize our collection, we are investigating the purchase of

specialized museum software. This software would allow the museum catalog to display video, audio, digital images, documents, and web links, in addition to basic catalog information.

We hope to obtain a grant for this project, which involves organizing our archives (letters, photos, furniture, and memorabilia), cataloging the hold-

ings, and providing for their preservation. Students, historians, and residents will be then able to search the Bexley Historical Society archives and find items related to Bexley people, events, institutions, as well as historical artifacts.

Watch for more information as this project takes shape! ☞

EAGLE SCOUT HISTORICAL PROJECT

This story was contributed by Matt Taylor, Eagle Scout.

An Eagle Scout project is designed to display many attributes of an Eagle candidate. They should be able to display leadership and perseverance. The project itself needs to take many hours to complete. It is not uncommon for there to be

a combined total of 100 hours spent on a project. When the project is completed, it shows that the candidate has learned the lessons of scouting.

My project involved filming interviews with veterans telling stories about their years in the armed forces. I picked this project because I have had relatives

in the service, and I felt that it would be good for the community to have something documenting these stories. Filming the interviews was an eye opening experience for me. ☞



THE DOCTORS MADE HOUSE CALLS

On April 24th and 25th, the Bexley Historical Society and the City of Bexley sponsored a Building Doctor clinic put on by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Ohio Historical Society. The Thursday evening seminar brought 62 people from the Bexley area to the Jeffrey Mansion to see a presentation by the preservation office's Mariangela Pfister and Mark Epstein on how old building owners can investigate and solve prob-

lems with their properties. On Friday Pfister and Epstein (who is also a Bexley Historical Society trustee) made consultation visits to ten homes to help owners with various issues, including cracked plaster and insect damage.

The Bexley event kicked off the preservation office's 30th Building Doctor season. Based on attendance, participant feedback, and the quality of the site visits, it proved to be an auspicious start for the 2008 series.

The clinic also was a great way to help mark Bexley's centennial year.

Special thanks go to the City of Bexley, particularly the Recreation Department, City Council, and Mayor John Brennan. With their help, the historical society was able to make this a successful event. ☞



BHS President David Baker greets Building Doctor Mariangela Pfister of the Ohio Historical Society.

A BIG STEP!

On Tuesday, May 13, 2008, the Bexley City Council took a big step—but only the first of many—to having a self-sustaining Jeffrey Mansion building and grounds. The Council voted to accept the master plan proposed by the Jeffrey Mansion Commission.

The commission spent over a year listening to suggestions and concerns, then prepared

plans to meet the objective of improving the utilization of the mansion and grounds. With the annual maintenance expenses estimated at \$400,000, the desire is to create a self-sustaining facility that will be a special attraction for the people of this community, both young and old.

City Council President Matt Lampke indicated that the next

step will be to create a mansion board and define their authority. The Bexley Historical Society wishes the best to the people who participate in this endeavor, and hopes that the process continues to a quick and final conclusion. ☞



Partnering with the Bexley Education and Bexley High students to videotape Bexley alumni interviews.

CAMP BUSHNELL AT THE LIBRARY

This May the Bexley Historical Society installed a display of memorabilia about Camp Bushnell in the first floor showcase at the Bexley Public Library. Some of the exhibited items are a replica of the camp's regimental flag, artwork depicting the camp, and a first-person account of a visit to this camp. The memories were related by a Mr. McAllister in the early

1970s at one of our Reminiscing Parties. He told of being a young boy in 1898, when his father took him to see Camp Bushnell. ☞



Camp Bushnell at the Bexley Circle, Spanish American War gathering of the Ohio National Guard, 1898.

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



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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

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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.