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# THE CURATOR

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The Newsletter of the Brunswick Area Historical Society

January 2017

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## From the Notebooks...

*Among the many treasures in the artifacts held by the Brunswick Area Historical Society, we found two composition notebooks with the handwritten minutes of the Brunswick High School alumni association. Ironically, there is no formal alumni organization now, but there was one, starting in 1910. These are the first eight years – all written or transcribed by Vera Chidsey.*

*(There were a few names or words I was unable to interpret—‘Sam’ Boyer)*

### From the notebooks of the Brunswick Alumni Association

The first annual banquet was held in the town hall, 1910.  
Pres., Harry Vaughn; Secy., Ruth Miner.

The second annual banquet was held in the town hall, 1911.  
Pres. Harry Vaughn; Sec’y, Fannie(?) Hogue.

The third annual banquet was held in the town hall May 29,k  
1912. Officers as follows: Pres. Edward Gibbs; Secy, Mrs. L.  
W. Vaughn; Treas. Mrs. C. H. Damon.  
Motion was made and carried to invite the Board of  
Education to the banquets.

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Notebook
- 1 A Home for Butterflies
- 2 Year in Review
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 Stop on the Freedom Train
- 4 Join our Membership

## A Home for Butterflies

By ‘Sam’ Boyer

*Around the world, people view the butterfly as representing endurance, change, hope, and life.*

It was early Dec. 6 when four men from NLCI Property Management volunteered their time to remove the unwanted stumps and growth in a garden at the farm. The plan was to prepare an old garden for a new use – a butterfly garden.

Scott Ballash, John Alvaro, Buntura Martinez and Bryan Billman used axe and shovels to remove the stubborn roots from the ground and then placed cardboard across the circular garden followed by a truckload of mulch, which the company also donated to the nonprofit organization.

The garden is a project of a new seedling chapter of Wild Ones, a native plant organization that works towards educating the public on the importance of native plants and encouraging their use in local landscapes. The chapter teamed up with the Brunswick area Girl Scouts, Brunswick Area Historical Society, City of Brunswick and the Rocky River Watershed Council to plant this pollinator garden.



**NLCI Volunteers clear the way for the new garden**

*continued on page 3*

The fourth annual banquet of the B.H.S. was held May 10<sup>th</sup> 1913. Pres. Earl Hadlock; Vice Pres., C. H. Damon; Sec'y., Mrs. L.W. Vaughn; Treas. H.O. Tibbitts.

Resolution adopted: Mrs. Damon offered the following resolution which was adopted. Mr. President. It seems to me that this alumni association should do all in its power to improve the high school and with this in mind I offer the following:

Resolved that, the alumni association hereby endorse the plan of a first grade high school for Brunswick and further that we pledge our support to any effort which may be made to bring about this result.

Adjourned to meet next year.

Fifth annual banquet held June 13, 1914. Pres. Earl Hadlock; Vice pres. Ralph Strong; Sec'y, Mrs. L.W. Vaughn; Treas. Harry Vaughn.

The sixth annual banquet held May 29, 1915. Pres. Ralph Strong; Vice Pres. Ray Ferriman; Sec'y. Mrs. L. W. Vaughn; Treas. Harry Vaughn.

Committee to be appointed by the President for decorating, alumni song and refreshments.

The seventh annual banquet held May 27, 1916. Pres. Ralph Strong; Vice Pres. Carroll Damon; sec'y. Mrs. L. W. Vaughn; treas. Harry Vaughn.

Executive committee to be appointed by president.

**(Above copied from old record by Vera Chidsey)**

The eighth annual alumni banquet of the Brunswick High School was held May 19, 1917. About 60 guests sat down to a bountiful supper and were entertained with music and appropriate speeches. The class of 1917 was presented by Miss Simmons and welcomed as members of the association by Ralph Strong.

Officers are Carroll Damon, president; Clair Cadnum, vice pres.; Arthur Barber, treas.; Vera Chidsey, sec'y.

During the year that has passed, there are these are deceased from our members:

1. William Cook, class of 1900
2. Raymond Moody, class of 1909
3. Ruth Miner, class of 1912.

All of whom are sincerely mourned.

The joys of reunion were somewhat saddened by the rapidly approaching war cloud and the knowledge that several of our members were already facing hardships and danger. However, we are exceedingly proud of our war record and of the boys who have answered their countries call. We are sorry they cannot be with us in person as they are in spirit. We have with us a goodly number about to enter the service. Our prayers and best wishes go with them.

## Year in Review

Since the Historical Society took over maintenance responsibilities from the City of Brunswick nearly five years ago, much progress has been made. The museum has been restored and reopened and the final, first round of renovations were completed this year, namely focusing on the Barn. A new metal roof was installed this year, and the barn was stained in its familiar dark red, helping to preserve the wood siding for years to come. Minor updates and replacement of rotted wood siding on some of the outbuildings was completed.

Our Farmer's Market has grown into a destination, and a regular stop for many community members on a quiet Sunday afternoon. We have dozens of regular vendors, and many new offerings are to be found each and every week. From fresh produce, to handmade soap, craft items and even Tupperware to keep your treasures fresh, it's all here every Sunday from 11am-2pm in the spring and summer.

Once again, we were an official stop on the Medina County Fall Foliage Tour and hundreds of visitors stopped by to visit the property and enjoy a quick bite of lunch in the barn. It was a great event to draw attention to our weekly Farmer's Market for folks traveling from the four corners of the county.

Our most successful event last year was by far the Annual Country Pumpkin Festival. Only in its third year, we saw literally thousands and thousands of visitors over the two day event. The vendors were pleased and we were able to use this as a major fundraiser to help keep Heritage Farm a home for our community's history.

Thanks to Roy Grumbling Masonry, the first phase of our 2017 project is complete, as the foundation of the chicken coop has been repaired. Next, we'll be cleaning up and restoring the interior.

### Bring a log cabin to Heritage Farm

We have the chance to bring an 1856 log cabin to Heritage Farm if we can raise enough money to do so. The two-story cabin has already been dismantled and waiting for a new home. It was once on the Underground Railroad, so it fits right into the community, which had at least two stops on the path to freedom for slaves. It was also a command post during the Civil War and illustrates early settlement in Ohio.

If you would like to donate to this fund, please include a note with your membership dues or sponsorship, which you'll find on Page 4 of the newsletter. We have just a year to accomplish our goal and hope to raise \$85,000 to bring it here and rebuild it.

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February 23, 7pm** – Membership Meeting at Goodyear’s Big Barn, 691 Pearl, featuring a presentation on Party Lines and the good old days of early telephone service

**March 23, 7pm** – Membership Meeting at Goodyear’s Big Barn, featuring a presentation on the Brunswick Youth Club, former BYC Members welcome!

**April 29, Noon-1:30pm** (check website for updates) Native Americans in Medina County History, presented by John Burke and Leadership Medina County

**June 10 – Crafts in the Park, 10am-4pm** A special craft fair to mark the opening day of the Farmer’s Market. Vendors needed, for info, please email [underthebigtopgourmetshoppe@yahoo.com](mailto:underthebigtopgourmetshoppe@yahoo.com)

**June 10 – October 14** – Farmer’s Market at Heritage Farm, 4613 Laurel Road, each **Sunday, 11am-2pm**, fresh produce, crafts and other goodies

**October 14 & 15, 10am-4pm**, Country Pumpkin Festival at Heritage Farm...our biggest event of the year. Two full days of crafts, kids events, museum tours and more. We had nearly 20,000 visitors last year, help us beat that attendance this year! Vendors needed, contact Ben at [underthebigtopgourmetshoppe@yahoo.com](mailto:underthebigtopgourmetshoppe@yahoo.com) for info.

**TBA** – A Victorian Tea with special guest, William Hixson, nationally known floral designer who will speak on the Victorian Era.

Please visit our official website at [www.brunswickhistory.com](http://www.brunswickhistory.com) to keep up to date with any schedule changes or additions to our offerings throughout the year. You can also follow us on facebook!

*The Historical Society is currently working to digitize its collection so that all those who are interested can access the information on the Internet. Volunteers are working to scan or transcribe a massive collection, so keep watching our website, [www.brunswickhistory.com](http://www.brunswickhistory.com) for news about when the first information becomes available.*

Jordyn Stoll, vice president of the Wild Ones Chapter, said that the planting includes seeds donated by the City of Brunswick and milkweed plants donated by Brunswick Farmers Market vendor Sandy Barczyk. Other plants will be purchased with money raised from the sale of milkweed plants by Barczyk and peonies removed from the garden by Girl Scouts of Troop 90502 and their parents.

Starting as a one-man lawn service in 1984, NLCI has grown to full-service landscaping, property management and supply company with a fleet of more than 25 trucks and 12 crews serving four counties. Stoll thanked the men who did the work and Roger Nair, owner of the firm, for their generosity. For information, visit [nlciproertymanagement.com/](http://nlciproertymanagement.com/)

Heritage Farm at 4613 Laurel Road is part of a 32-acre park owned by the City of Brunswick. The buildings on the front 4.5 acres are leased by the Brunswick Area Historical Society as a way to preserve the farming history of the community. It includes a farmhouse museum, barn, equipment shed and other buildings.

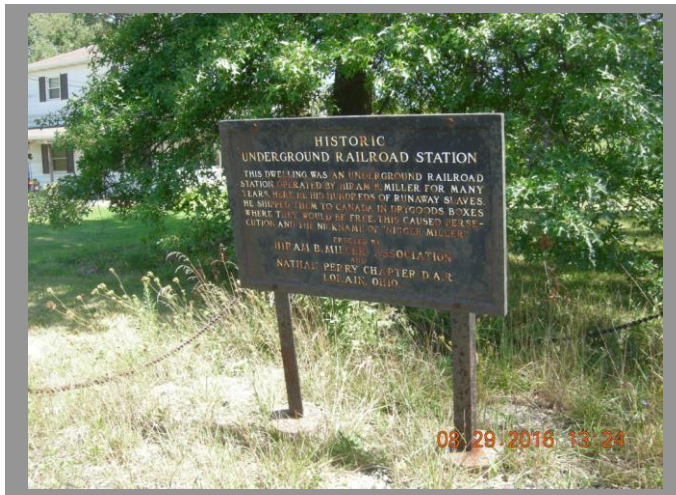
For information about the Brunswick Area Historical Society, visit [www.brunswickhistory.com/](http://www.brunswickhistory.com/) or to be included in emails about the society, email [brunswickareahistory@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickareahistory@gmail.com).

### Children’s Garden coming soon!

If you’ve seen the stakes in the ground at Heritage Farm in front of the old white outhouse, keep watching. The Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District with the help of the City of Brunswick, National Junior Honor Society of Edwards and Visintainer Middle Schools, Boy Scout Noah Toth, the Valley City Garden Club and others, will be building a children’s garden there.

The site used to be the kitchen garden for the farm that was turned back to grass because it had been neglected for a long time. Now, it will be transformed into four different historic gardens, especially geared toward children. A rain garden, raised garden, three sisters garden and a formal garden are all set to be planted this spring.

We’re looking forward to helping children learn more about gardening and especially where their food comes from. If you’re interested in the garden project, you can contact Elizabeth Schnabel from the Medina County Soil and Water District, at [eschnabel@medinaco.org](mailto:eschnabel@medinaco.org).



*The Marker as it stood near Laurel and W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street*

## Stop on the Freedom Train

The historic Hiram Miller underground railroad marker on the Hinckley side north of Laurel Road will soon be in a permanent home at the Brunswick Area Historical Society.

It had been a part of the landscape since 1948 when a 12-foot square piece of land was deeded to the Medina County Historical Society. The bronze plate was cast in 1931 to commemorate Miller's help to more than 1,000 runaway slaves. In recent years, the deed passed to Hinckley Township and then to the Hinckley Historical Society who learned that it could not be insured. Luckily, Hinckley Historical Society President, Charles Gibson, is part of our new Historical Societies of Medina County organization and offered it to the Brunswick Area Historical Society.

As Hiram is buried in Townline Cemetery, Brunswick is the next most logical place for it. Thanks to member, Dave Chidsey, the heavy plaque was pulled from the ground with his tow truck and Dave took it to another BAHS member, Carl Bilski (the Sandman) who has cleaned and repaired it and then will bring it to Heritage Farm.

It's a great way to teach about the Underground Railroad. If you want to know more about Miller and his local ties, go to the Brunswick Area Historical Society site: [usgarchives.net/oh/medina/info/pg75.htm](http://usgarchives.net/oh/medina/info/pg75.htm)

Volunteers are always needed for tasks such as cleaning, light maintenance, concession stand help during the Farmer's Market and other tasks that are sure to fit your personal skills. To volunteer, please contact us...

The Brunswick Area Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 714  
 Brunswick, OH 44212  
 or call (330) 441-0292  
 or email [brunswickareahistory@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickareahistory@gmail.com)

Heritage Farm is located at 4613 Laurel Road

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS!

The Brunswick Area Historical Society is relies solely on the generosity of our membership and fundraisers to continue our mission of preserving the history associated with our area. Your support of our many events throughout the year, and our weekly farmer's market during the summer months helps us to maintain the structures and archives for generations to come. Please consider becoming a member today. A variety of levels are available to fit your needs, and each and every donation goes entirely to our mission, there are no paid staff members, we rely 100% on the efforts of our volunteers.

*Please return the form to the right, along with your check to*

**Brunswick Area Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 714**

**Brunswick, OH 44212**

- ┆ INDIVIDUAL (under 65) \$20
- ┆ STUDENT/SENIOR 65+ \$10
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