



1947 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45419  
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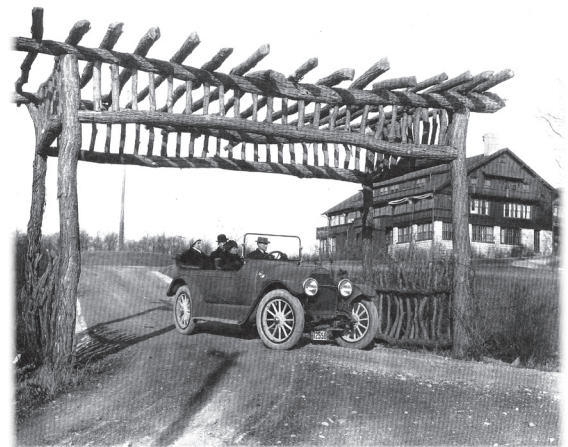
## Hills & Dales Park - John H. Patterson Cont'd - Vol. 2

--Harry Ebeling

In the previous issue we were tracing the founding and development of Hills & Dales, the wonderful park that enhances south Dayton and is our neighbor to the west. Starting in 1906, Mr. Patterson began buying property west and south of Dorothy Lane initially for his personal pleasure in horseback riding. Soon this venture developed into a plan to acquire several hundred acres with the idea of improving it and sharing it with the Dayton community. The map on page 5 of this edition of the *Historian* shows how Mr. Patterson's land acquisitions ultimately grew to what we now know as Hills & Dales Park. Most readers can identify with traveling Patterson Blvd. through the area, viewing the Patterson Monument, picnicking, sledding and marveling at nature at its rustic best.

One feature that many people remember is the network of "Adirondack" style picnic shelters (sometimes referred to as "legal lean-tos") that were available to families and groups for weekend get-togethers. They could be rented for a nominal amount with a small deposit to assure that they would be surrendered in clean and undamaged condition and including the clean pans and utensils with which they had been furnished, ready for use again. There was a park patrolman who continually checked on conditions on horseback. Many of these shelter sites remain today, with names such as White Oak, Adirondack, Paw Paw, Red Bud, Maple Vale, Pond Ridge and Round Camp. Gone now is Inspiration Point, located at the top of Oak Knoll Drive, and Half Way House, behind the Patterson Monument. (A wonderfully preserved original shelter was recently donated to Carillon Park by Irv Bieser in memory of his sister, in whose back yard it sat.)

Referring to the map dated 1911 by the Olmsted Bros. (donated by John Gray, and which hangs in the Oakwood Historical Society Homestead Museum Room), one can see how Hills & Dales gradually developed south of the Kramer property which became Dayton Country Club. As you follow Kramer Rd. south, it intersects with a proposed "Runnymede Ave." (sp.) which eventually became Runnymede Rd. The bottom of this large area is defined by a still-existing road in Kettering known as Waving Willow, which now runs off West Schantz next to Lytle Lane. This area is identified as belonging to Mrs. E.P.T. Houk and George Mead. Without getting into the weeds in this discussion, it is interesting to point out how streets have changed directions and names, i.e. Waving Willow was cut off as it wound through Community Golf Course, then was renamed Thornhill in Oakwood. Also note that "Wayne's Pass," the continuation of Southern Blvd., never was established. The map misspells Houk Rd (now Oakwood Ave.) as "Houck."



*Story continues on Page 4*

**THE OAKWOOD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 2015 -

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## Message from the President

The Long-Romspert Homestead House Museum at 1947 Far Hills Avenue is one of Oakwood's best-known landmarks. Built in 1864, it was expanded and updated around 1920. Among its many rooms and outbuildings can be found four (4!) kitchens which depict the history of domestic food preparation from a primitive hearth in the summer kitchen to the modern electrical appliances in the 1920s side of the main house. "The Homestead" is decorated to represent the furnishings of the eras in which it has existed. The Oakwood Historical Society maintains it, not only as a museum, but in the atmosphere of a comfortable home to all who visit.

As with any large, older structure, constant maintenance is always required to keep "The Homestead" looking its best. Whether it's plumbing issues, peeling paint, a loose board, removing poison ivy, chasing off "critters"...well, it's always "something."

Scout and youth programs help in providing the much-needed labor for some of our projects. Volunteers of all types are a great way to help keep costs under control.

The flower gardens are meticulously maintained by our longtime expert, Jamie Sheehan. She is able to keep the property in bloom with a wide variety of floral colors throughout the growing season, making "The Homestead" seem to rise from beds of nature's best. The kitchen vegetable garden is lovingly tended through children's programs as they learn how food was planted, grown, cultivated and prepared in earlier times.

The lawn is mowed regularly in the warmer months and snow removal is done as needed to maintain access, even when "The Homestead" is at rest in the winter. A board member keeps fallen limbs picked up and can even be found, occasionally, splitting wood "the old-fashioned way" out behind the carriage house.

The Oakwood Historical Society takes pride in making "The Homestead" an attractive vision of history along our city's busiest thoroughfare. Funding from memberships, book & gift sales, events, donations and endowments help in keeping Oakwood's "home of history" alive. All of this is not possible without the generosity of the members, volunteers and those who attend our many programs and events. With a heartfelt "Thank You," we never forget from where our support comes.

*Mark W. Risley*

## Prairie Style

Prairie is an indigenous American style attributed to renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The design of these homes emphasizes the horizontal aspects by applying a hipped roof, broad overhanging eaves, long banded windows and other features reminiscent of America's broad prairies. Often, these homes seem to rise naturally from their sites. It is said that Wright was inspired by the broad plains of Illinois. This design provided the foundation for later styles such as Ranch and Mid-Century Modern which often highlight a horizontal design element.

Prairie is considered one of the designs associated with the American Arts & Crafts Period and was originally popular for only two decades, from 1900-1920. Recently, however, there has been a revival in the style for residential and commercial designs.



**Get more info on our  
website or give us a call!**

[www.oakwoodhistory.org](http://www.oakwoodhistory.org)  
937.299.3793

## The “Far Hills Speaker Series” Lineup Announced for 2015

Mark your calendars and save the dates as The Oakwood Historical Society and Wright Memorial Public Library announce the 2015 lineup of programs and speakers for their “Far Hills Speaker Series.” Each program takes place on a Sunday, starts at 2:00 PM, runs 60 to 90 minutes in length and is held in Wright Library’s lower level conference room. This year, there is another wide variety of intriguing topics and engaging speakers.

**Visit [www.oakwoodhistory.org](http://www.oakwoodhistory.org) for more details on the programs and their presenters!**

**Date: Sunday March 15, 2015 at 2 pm**

Speaker: Mr. Mark W. Risley, President, The Oakwood Historical Society

Title: The Classic Architecture of Oakwood

The program is designed to raise awareness and appreciation of Oakwood’s architecture. We will look at some of Oakwood’s well-preserved homes and public buildings representing the best of the 20th century architecture in America and a brief history behind a few of those residences.

**Date: Sunday April 12, 2015 at 2 pm**

Speaker: Mr. Timothy R. Gaffney

Title: The Dayton Flight Factory: The Wright Brothers and the Birth of Aviation

Dayton, Ohio, was the hometown of the Wright brothers and the place where they transformed childhood curiosity into world-changing science, technology and industry. Dayton is where they invented, developed and commercialized the airplane. Today, you can stroll through the Wright brothers’ neighborhood, see the original 1905 Wright Flyer III and walk the prairie where they flew it. A project to restore the Wright brothers’ factory—the first American factory built to produce airplanes—will complete the picture. The Dayton Flight Factory uses historical research and today’s aviation heritage sites to retell the story of the Wright brothers from a hometown perspective.

**Date: Sunday May 3, 2015 at 2 pm**

Speaker: Mr. Jim Charters

Title: Dayton Inventions

Inventors from Dayton are responsible for a wide range of ideas that have changed the world. At one time Dayton was known as the City of a Thousand Factories. James Ritty’s invention of the cash register led to NCR. Kettering’s automobile self-starter led to Delco. Thomas Midgley’s leaded gasoline led (no pun intended) to Ethyl Corporation. And the Wright Brothers’ airplane...well, that led to nearly everything else. Many creative minds from Dayton shaped the world we live in today.

**Date: Sunday September 13, 2015 at 2 pm**

Speaker: Ms. Angelina Hoschouer

Title: History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder

This presentation will keep you on the edge of your seat as tales of Dayton’s own bank robbers, counterfeiters and murderers are told. Who confessed on their deathbed of murdering pretty 18 year old Christine Kett? Did Rose Shafor really dress up as a man to help her lover commit a crime? Who killed Julius Kruse? And was the “Cincinnati Ripper” living in Dayton? These stories and more are told in this chilling presentation of Dayton’s darker side.

**Date: Sunday November 8, 2015 at 2 pm**

Speaker: Mr. Mark Risley

Title: The Great Flood of 1913

Explores Dayton before the flood, the causes of the flood, the rescue/recovery efforts and the long-term results of the area’s response.

## Beginning of Hills & Dales - *Cont*

By 1907, Mr. Patterson was heavily into work on the roads and development of Hills & Dales, as evidenced by a letter from Mr. Freudenberger, the National Cash Register Company's landscape gardener, to Olmstead Brothers saying that he had been forced to reduce his workforce by about half and might have to do more. He had received a telegram instructing him to cut expenses – he was down to twelve men and four teams at Hills & Dales and about the same number at the factory. This represents a financial crisis NCR was having which corrected itself quickly, but indicates Patterson's continuing concern for the project, even in financial hard times.

John H. purchased the O'Neil, Silzel and Coleman farms on the hill on the north side of what is now Dorothy Lane in 1907, then set aside 16 acres of it for what is now Patterson Blvd., at the bottom of Oak Knoll. Here he erected "The Old Barn Club." Originally an officer's club and agents school and designed by Louis Lott in the Swiss chalet style, he converted it after about five years to his notion of an affordable private club, much like a country club, for office and factory workers who could attend parties, music events, dances and even rent rooms for overnight stays. Meals were served on weekends, and this helped encourage folks to stay and enjoy the out-of-doors. In his Will, John H. instructed his son and daughter to maintain the club until it was no longer desirable, which they did until it burned down in the late 1920s.



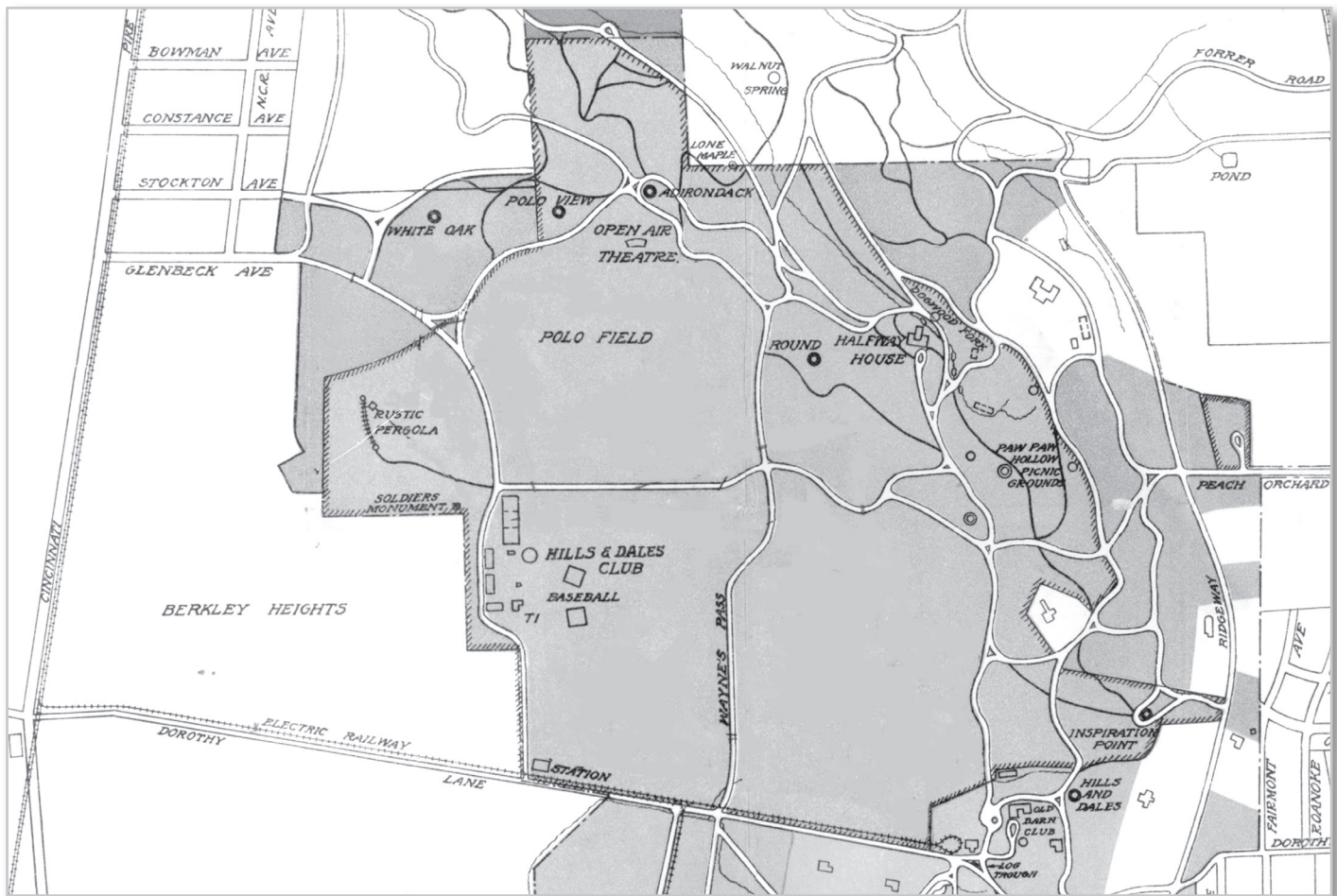
In 1912-13 Mr. Patterson, NCR and twenty-eight of the company's executives were sued by the federal government for business practices which were alleged to violate the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. This was a very lengthy and threatening trial which resulted in a verdict of Guilty with jail terms for most of the defendants, including Hugh Chalmers and Thomas J. Watson, former employees. The sentence was pronounced in early 1913, but was later appealed. In March 1913, Dayton experienced the Great Flood, which changed everything for Patterson, the City of Dayton and NCR. The story of his marshalling everyone and everything available to save the city and its work force doesn't need to be repeated. Many important people came to the support of Patterson for his incredible efforts, and by the time the appeal was heard and the decision rendered, overturning the verdict in 1915, it was a new era.

With all that was going on in this period, Mr. Patterson continued to help in the planning of Hills & Dales. There is one letter of over ten pages to Charlton Putnam in 1916 regarding Hills & Dales and access to it with many paragraphs of specific instructions such as the acquisition of the Weller farm on the south side of Dorothy Lane at Far Hills Ave. (124 acres) for his children, including his personal supervision of establishing bridle paths, the extension of the traction line out Dorothy Lane to The Old Barn Club, and many other interests. And there were many other long letters with plenty of instructions. One cannot help but wonder how he kept so many balls in the air during such stressful times.

As we know, Mr. Patterson gave Hills & Dales Park consisting of 294 acres to the City of Dayton in 1918, as soon as he felt that the City could and would maintain it. This was only after Dayton had established a City Manager form of government at his insistence, which he thought was necessary. He accompanied the gift with \$3,000 for each of three years, with the City's guarantee of providing \$5,000 a year to support the park for maintenance.

Meanwhile, Patterson's company had turned its production to war time needs, and had contributed to the huge effort that U.S. industry made to supply the needs of WW I and defense. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Miami River Flood Control, now The Miami Conservancy District. When local advocacy was needed for the establishment of the air field that was to become Wright Field, Patterson and the company were there to support it. In 1922, however, John H. Patterson died, and his son Frederick became president of the National Cash Register Company, thus starting a whole new era in the Patterson legacy.

We now remember John H. Patterson and Hills & Dales as we pass through the park on Patterson Blvd. and see the impressive statue of him astride his favorite horse, Spinner. The site was dedicated in 1918, with a big celebration with over 20,000 people in attendance. The statue was commissioned using voluntary public contributions and dedicated in 1928. Created in metal and bronze and standing over 16 feet tall, it bears the inscription: "My Best Investments are in Humanity." Thank you, Mr. Patterson.



## Attention!

Do you have memories of time spent in Hills & Dales Park? Did you sled, picnic, explore or just relax there? The Oakwood Historical Society is interested in your reminiscences! Send us an email or a letter and tell us of your memories made in Hills & Dales so we can better document how this wonderful park has been enjoyed by Oakwood residents through the decades. Thank you!

**OHS Committees**

Please get involved...

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**Children's Programs**

--Linda Pearson &amp; Lisa Kell

While still in the thrall of winter weather, we are now planning our spring and summer children's programs.

Our ever-popular children's garden program, *Seasons in the Garden*, will begin March 22 with sessions scheduled every two weeks; it will run until mid October. We cover planting, harvesting, food preparation & preservation, putting the garden to bed for winter and many other topics. If interested, watch for the details to be posted soon on our webpage, [Oakwoodhistory.org](http://Oakwoodhistory.org), along with sign-up instructions. As with all our programs, the number of students is limited, so please sign up early!

Advance Notice of the Children's Summer Programs: For those parents who look far ahead to enroll their children in summer activities, the dates of our summer history programs will be as follows: the week of July 13 will be for boys, and July 20 will be for girls. Check our website for details in the weeks to come.

We are looking for adult volunteers to help us with the two weeks of summer programming for the children. If interested, contact Linda Pearson at [lindapinoh@gmail.com](mailto:lindapinoh@gmail.com) for more information. Join us and help make history come alive for the children!

**A warm welcome to our newest 2015 Board Members!**

**Aaron Willhoite:** As a twenty-nine year resident of the Kettering Oakwood area I've always been fascinated by the area's rich history. Only in the past three years have I pursued my interest in local history. Curt Dalton's great website Dayton History Books Online can be credited with cultivating this great interest. I've read voraciously on the subject, with my main interest being Hills & Dales and the surrounding area. My ultimate goal is to publish a volume on the history of Hills & Dales. In my studies I stumbled upon The Oakwood Historical Society and thought it might be a good start for my research. After meeting Mackenzie Wittmer at the Wright at Home Tour she opened my eyes to how important local historical societies are to the community. Not only do they preserve the past but continue the traditions our forefathers pioneered. My goal is to bring ideas to the table that will help the Society strive to be the conscience of the community so everyone can enjoy Oakwood's history. This little village on the hill is steeped in such meaningful history, and I'm privileged to be a board member of this fine society and in company of such great people. Thank you!

**Donna Rosenbaum:** I'm a native Daytonian who graduated from Wittenberg in the Honors program with a degree in biology but a keen interest in archeology, geography and urban studies. I have done graduate work and have an MBA from Wright State University. I've lived in Oakwood for the past almost 8 years. I have been active in the community from most of my adult life as a volunteer and board member of many nonprofit organizations. I am a 1999 graduate of Leadership Dayton and received their award as Community Volunteer of the year.

A warm welcome to our newest 2015 Board Members! (cont.)

**David Schmidt**, also known as “PaPa” and “Uncle Davey,” is a lifelong resident of the south Dayton area. He grew up exploring the (then) undeveloped landscape of west Kettering and puzzling over its rocks and fossils. This interest in geology led him to complete his B.S. and M.S. at Wright State University and his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University, where his dissertation research focused on the paleontology and sedimentary geology of Ohio and Indiana. He is Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wright State University, where he recruits and advises undergraduate students, manages adjunct faculty, supervises student research, coordinates internships, and performs other administrative services. An avid runner, David has an extensive collection of t-shirts and medals from various organized races. While running, he keeps his mind occupied by observing the landscape and mulling over the history of Oakwood and the surrounding area. David’s outdoor adventures have included scrambling up mountains in Wyoming and Montana, canoeing past wary moose in Idaho, crawling through wild caves in Kentucky, and SCUBA diving off the edge of the continental shelf in the Bahamas. His favorite expression is: “What’s the worst that could happen?”

## 2015 Calendar of Events

**March 15, 2 p.m. - Far Hills Speaker Series** – The Classic Architecture of Oakwood, Mark W. Risley, Wright Memorial Public Library

**April 12, 2 p.m. - Far Hills Speaker Series** – The Dayton Flight Factory, Timothy R. Gaffney, Wright Memorial Public Library

**March 22\* - October - Children’s Gardening Program** – Hands-on fun for children of all ages, Long-Romspert Homestead. *\*Please note new starting date!*

**April 26 - Wright at Home** – Tour of Hawthorn Hill and Walking Tour of Historic Oakwood - Join Dayton History and The Oakwood Historical Society on Sunday, April 26th from 12-5 for a special tour of Hawthorn Hill and a walking tour along Park and Harman Avenues to learn more about the industrialists that came to visit the Wright Brothers and the men that wanted to be neighbors with them. All tickets must be purchased in advance from Dayton History. Please call 937-293-2841 to purchase your tickets.

**May 3, 2 p.m. - Far Hills Speaker Series** – Dayton Inventions, Jim Charters, Wright Public Memorial Library

**May 16, 4 - 7 p.m. - A Taste of Wine and Cheese, Long-Romspert Homestead** – Relax with fine wines, good food and great conversation

**July 13 - 17 - “Good Old Summertime” Boys’ Camp**

**July 20 - 24 - “Good Old Summertime” Girls’ Camp** – Where your children experience the past: crafts, games, foods and fun, Long-Romspert Homestead

**August 23, Noon - 4 p.m. - Classics on the Lawn** – Our annual car show – Bigger and better every year, Long-Romspert Homestead

**September 13, 2 p.m. - Far Hills Speaker Series** – History, Mystery, Mayhem and Murder, Angelina Hoschouer, Wright Public Memorial Library

**September 27 & October 4 - Annual Photo Shoot** – Sign up for your 20-minute session with local photographer Betty Cochran, Long-Romspert Homestead

**October 4, Noon and 4 p.m. - Woodland Days’ Walk** – Stroll though the historic garden cemetery, and meet some of the famous and infamous people who have made Woodland Cemetery their final resting place

**November 8, 2 p.m. - Far Hills Speaker Series** – The Great Flood of 1913, Mark W. Risley, Wright Public Memorial Library

**December 13 - Holiday at the Homestead** – Enjoy vintage holiday decorations, hands-on crafts, and festive food and drink, Long-Romspert Homestead

**THE OAKWOOD  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

1947 Far Hills Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45419

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL**

*Please Renew Your Membership!*

**The Oakwood Historical Society Membership Form**

**Membership Categories (Please Check One)**

_____ Individual	\$25.00
_____ Family	\$35.00
_____ Business	\$50.00
_____ Bronze	\$75.00
_____ Silver	\$100.00
_____ Gold	\$200.00

\*\$5 Discount:  Student  Senior  Active Military

Date \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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