



The
Oakwood
Historical Society

— Make History With Us —

Historian

Preserving the past, present, and future of the Oakwood Community • Winter 2015

Message from the President

—Mark Risley

This edition's message is a little long, but it's worth recapping 2015 which has proven to be another active and productive year here at The Oakwood Historical Society.

I am ending a 2 year term as president, and, although my name has been on many Society events and programs, it's only because I have been in that position. The organization is, actually, administered by a full Board of Trustees that has masterfully managed, maintained and directed the Society through its many functions, programs and events.

This year, we have been honored, more than ever, with a Board whose members have a "can do" attitude toward the goals and accomplishments of the Society. They are listed below along with their contributions and accomplishments for the Society



Treasurer Carol Vinings and Assistant Treasurer Leigh Turben have managed our finances to ensure stability in that area. Carol is also establishing a Budget Plan for 2016.

As Business Manager, Linda Pearson has kept an overall view of the needs and requirements of the organization as well as managing inquiries and other concerns. Linda also organized and managed the *Annual Family Photo Shoot* fundraiser in September which has become a well-received event at The Long-Romsperth Homestead House Museum. Linda managed over twenty sessions for the Children's Gardening Program in which eighteen local youths learned how to plant, nourish, harvest and prepare their own food from our Kitchen Garden behind the house.



In addition to all of that, Linda helped organize several youth programs to the advantage of the Homestead. She was able to form a Senior High School Student Volunteer crew to clean the Homestead and to clean out the Carriage House, and Linda attracted a Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project to clean out and revamp an original coal bin at the Homestead. Both the Carriage House and old coal bin can now be used effectively for storage.



Inside

President's Message 2

Far Hills Speaker Series 6

Announcements 7



Volume 3 Issue 4 - 2015

Website: www.oakwoodhistory.org

E-mail: info@oakwoodhistory.org

1947 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45419
(937) 299-3793

THE OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 2015 -

Officers

- **President** -
Mark Risley

- **Vice President** -
*Position Available

- **Treasurer** -
Carol Vinings

- **Assistant Treasurer** -
Leigh Turben

- **Business Manager** -
Linda Pearson

- **Secretary** -
Donna Rosebaum

Directors

Nicole Crawford
Harry Ebeling
Harrison Gowdy
Karin Harris
Carol Holm
Susan Marra
Phyllis Miller
Donna Rosebaum
David Schmidt
Aaron Willhoite
Mackensie Wittmer


Message from the President (cont.)

Donna Rosenbaum Cooper stepped into the position of Secretary early in the year and documented the monthly meetings. She has also provided valuable input from her previous experiences with organizations such as ours. Going forth, Donna has offered to formulate a future marketing plan to help the Society continue its growth into a modern, viable community asset.

Harrison Gowdy and Mackensie Wittmer have continued to manage and coordinate school programs and other projects. Their planning and participation on behalf of the Society in the *Wright at Home* event centered on Hawthorne Hill has helped establish it into a new Oakwood tradition. They were also essential in organizing the nominations for the 2015 Board. Mackensie has maintained the Society's Facebook and Twitter pages, as well. They will be moving off of the Board next year, but will continue to offer their expertise as active volunteers in Society programs and tasks.

Harry Ebeling and Aaron Willhoite have managed our archives and helped with specific inquiries from citizens seeking information on Oakwood and Dayton history. Along with 2016 President Carol Holm, Harry has also provided legal advice where needed.

Come join The Oakwood Historical Society's
A Taste of Wine and Cheese



Spring Wine Pairings
May 16 4-7 p.m.
Long-Ronspert Homestead
1947 Far Hills Ave, Oakwood, OH
Tickets \$22/person

Join us for a lovely evening of wine, light food, and friends following a day with the family at the "1st Day in May" celebration.

Arroyo Wine will be presenting and pouring your wines, while you enjoy a variety of sweet and savory gourmet breads selected to pair with them.

Purchase tickets online at www.oakwoodhistory.org or contact Linda Pearson at events@oakwoodhistory.org or (937) 299-3793. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Park off grounds and walk in. Handicap parking only.

Poster Design provided by Lisa Hill at Hill & Design. © 2015. Any2Me. Open Studio. Lisa Hill/artist.com * 937.294.1000


Carol also chaired our *A Taste of Wine and Cheese* event in May. This has become an Oakwood tradition that continues to grow in popularity.

David A. Schmidt has added an increased dimension to the Board as a researcher and writer. He has also participated in the *Far Hills Speaker Series* as a presenter. I, personally, know that David's inquisitive research has involved trudging through woods along old railroad lines and exploring old trails and long abandoned shelter sites in Hills and Dales Park.

Besides being the Assistant Treasurer, Leigh Turben has worn several other hats, as well. As Membership Chair, she has ensured that our ranks have increased considerably. She was assisted by Barb Miller in this effort. Leigh has also worked with Wright Memorial Public Library to manage the aforementioned *Far Hills Speaker Series*, ensuring these presentations are interesting and attractive to a large number of attendees. This year, Leigh also collaborated with Woodland Cemetery on behalf of the Society to present *Discover Woodland Days: A Walking Tour* historic walk which highlighted several Oakwood residents who are interred there.



101 Years at
Hawthorn Hill!



WRIGHT at HOME
Presented By:

DAYTON HISTORY &
THE OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sunday, April 26, 2015
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Experience Hawthorn Hill!
Discover the Giants of Industry who visited Hawthorn Hill and those who lived nearby.

TICKETS: \$20 per adult - day of
\$15 per adult in advance and OHS and Dayton History Members
\$5 per child - ages 4-12 (FREE - ages 3 and under)

PARKING: Oakwood Municipal Lot and along Park Avenue

For more information • 937-293-2841 • www.daytonhistory.org

Get more info on our
website or give us a call!
www.oakwoodhistory.org
937.299.3793

Message from the President *(cont.)*

Nicole Crawford has handled much of the publicity for our programs and events by establishing communications with media outlets and providing them with announcements and promotions for our many programs and events. She has also assisted in the many events held by the Society.

Phyllis Miller has also contributed her talents and expertise in keeping up the classic appearance of interior of the Homestead, as well as assisting in the children's programs.

Rounding out the full Board, members Karin Harris and Susan Marra have also provided support and input for our programs, events and organizational tasks.

Though not on the Board, Lisa Kell and her son, Zach, edit and publish our *Historian* newsletter, providing news and interesting articles to the membership. The feedback is always positive in regard to its content and layout.

Another important volunteer has been Joan Milligan who has served as Webmaster for our web site,

www.oakwoodhistory.org

She is responsible for keeping it updated and giving it a colorful and professional appearance.

Gardener extraordinaire Jamie Sheehan continues to tend the flower gardens surrounding The Long-Romspert Homestead to ensure its colorful appearance in the warmer months.



Don't let the cold keep you in

Come join The Oakwood Historical Society for its Far Hills Speaker Series at Wright Memorial Library

Sunday February 8th
2:00pm

Come to Wright Memorial Library on Sunday, February 8th at 2:00pm to enjoy:

Boulders, Bedrock, and Brewing Water: How Local Geology has Influenced the History of Oakwood and the Surrounding Area

by Dr. David Schmidt, Director of Undergraduate Programs in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wright State University. The presentation addresses the bedrock geology of this area and its use in Oakwood, local quarrying history and its link to the D.L.&C. Railroad, Rubicon Creek, the 1913 Flood, the glacial geology of this area, the significance of local ground and surface water, and how these geologic topics relate to some of the people, places, and things that are part of Oakwood's history.



Programs and events have dominated the year's activities. The previously mentioned *Far Hills Speaker Series* provided 6 programs of an historical nature which were informative, well-prepared and often entertaining. The topics ranged from the incredible geology of the area to Dayton's rich contributions of inventions to the world.

The Society teamed up with Dayton History to present the *Wright at Home* event. As they provided tours of the Wright home, "Hawthorn Hill," the Society provided a walking tour of the immediate area highlighting Orville Wright's fascinating and famous neighbors from the worlds of invention and business. Who knew that one of them invented "Cheez-Its" snack crackers?

As mentioned before, *A Taste of Wine and Cheese* has become the traditional adult occasion after the events of *That Day in May*. Every year, new ideas help keep this event fresh, interesting and refreshing in terms of spring wines. Tours of the Homestead top off this event as eighty guests enjoyed the visual aspect of a home from another time.

Message from the President *(cont.)*

In August, our 5th annual *Classics on the Lawn* car show and open house was an event that yearly gains in popularity among local vintage and special interest car owners. From brass cars of the early 20th century to sleek, modern exotics, the lawn of the Homestead is colorfully accented with the finest in local “rolling sculpture.” Last year, twenty-five rare and beautiful automobiles participated. This year, that number increased to forty. Again, visitors enjoyed the interior of the house as well.



Last year, Mackensie Wittmer formed a crew to gather and transport old blueprints donated by the City to the Homestead. In August, Linda Pearson and I catalogued these drawings and, in September, sold them at a booth at Oakwood’s Farmer’s Market. We were able to raise \$180 thus far and sales are ongoing.

Also in September, we received a call from the family of local architect Joseph Hirsch who had passed away earlier in the year. They wanted to donate his blueprints and drawings to an archive for study and conservation. It took four full afternoons to carefully

remove over one thousand blueprints, drawings and documents from the family home on Spirea Avenue. Additionally, plans were found from other prominent area architects Ellasson Smith and Louis Lott, with at least one blueprint dating back one hundred years. A crew of Board members was organized to help move the collection to the Homestead. Obviously, this collection is way beyond our capabilities, so it has been turned over to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives Department whose members are excited to receive it. In a project estimated to take several years, they will catalogue and digitize the collection for future study by students and historians.

The *Annual Family Photo Shoot* in October attracted many families and individuals (some with pets) to have their photographs professionally taken by photographer Betty Cochran. These photos are perfect for holiday cards or wall portraits and this program, too, has become a tradition for those wanting a visual history of their families.

Discover Woodland Days: A Walking Tour was new for us this year and established in partnership with Dayton’s historic Woodland Cemetery. Several Society members acted as the reincarnates of former Oakwood residents interred at Woodland and presented the stories of their lives. With around one hundred seventy-five attendees, the cemetery has requested a repeat of this event annually.



Yours truly served as Grounds and Facilities Chair, ensuring the Homestead is properly maintained in a manner to provide a venue for our events, programs and tours in a museum setting. Additionally, besides two *Far Hills Speaker Series* presentations, I also gave seventeen other outreach programs, all in the name of The Oakwood Historical Society. Most (twelve) were presented for The University of Dayton Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, but also for the Centerville / Washington Township Historical Society, Riverside Historical Society, Southminster Presbyterian Church, The Arabic Club and Dayton History at Carillon Park.

Carol Holm also hosted our Annual Meeting for members where the year was reviewed and the 2016 Board of Trustees was elected. David A. Schmidt gave an excellent program titled, *Dayton, Ohio: The Quintessential Home Front During the Great War*. It was well-attended and the informative program was perfect for the setting at the historical St. Paul's Episcopal Church on West Dixon Avenue.

Holidays at the Homestead is the perfect way to close out the year and enjoy The Long-Romspert Homestead House Museum in decorations for the season. This is also a Society and community tradition which garners positive responses from all who attend. Join us on Sunday, December 13, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Homestead.

The proceeds from the sale of the property at 1945 Far Hills in 2014 have been placed in a trust with the Dayton Foundation. Disbursements from this fund will allow for the financial stability of The Oakwood Historical Society for some time to come. Membership dues, donations and the sale of printed materials also go a long way to ensure The Long-Romspert Homestead House Museum is properly maintained as one of Oakwood's premier landmarks along Far Hills Avenue.



The efforts and contributions of The Oakwood Historical Society in collecting and maintaining the history of Oakwood have made it a well-established community and regional asset. The many successes of 2015 have paved a golden path for the future of the Society going forth into 2016.

None of this is possible without the support of the membership, community and many volunteers who embrace the mission, events and programs of an organization with which past, current and future Boards have been entrusted. For this, we are truly grateful. Thank you!

Mark W. Esley



A Very Special "Thank You" to our Youth Volunteers in 2015

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and they often help in so many ways to keep the Homestead's historical identity in the community. We thank them all, but it is particularly heartening when Oakwood's youth step forward to accomplish some of our more labor-intensive projects.

Eagle Scout Project Participants (Coal Bin Renovation):

Robbie Keller, Ben Keller, Jared Dunn, Caleb Dunn, Andrew Toussaint, Logan Connally, Will Arcola, Sam Sidhu and Peter Salisbury.

Senior High Volunteer Project Participants (Homestead Cleaning and Carriage House Clean-Out):

Jackson Higgins, Logan Shafer, Christina Huelsman, Noah Wagner, Nathan Erbe and Cameron Mackintosh.

OHS Committees

Please get involved...

Archives & Aquisitions

Harry Ebeling
293-0611
hebeling@aol.com

Education

Linda Pearson
648-9702
lindapinoh@gmail.com
&

Lisa Kell
charybdismom@yahoo.com

Events

Board members (by event)

Facilities/Grounds

Mark Risley
294-2537
therisleys@ameritech.net

Facilities/Interior

Phyllis N. Miller, consultant

Membership

Leigh Turben
lturben@woh.rr.com

Newsletter

Lisa Kell
charybdismom@yahoo.com
&
Zachary Kell
farhillsdesign@gmail.com

Publicity

Nicole Crawford
305-0221
nclcrawford@yahoo.com

Research & Outreach

Harrison Stamm Gowdy
643-4075
stammgowdy@sbcglobal.net
&

Mackensie Wittmer
291-2831
mwittmer@gmail.com

Website

Joan Milligan
479-1000
milligan_joan@yahoo.com
&
Mackensie Wittmer
291-2831
mwittmer@gmail.com

The 2016 Far Hills Speaker Series Announced:

The Far Hills Speaker Series is held in partnership with Wright Memorial Public Library and is held on Sundays at 2:00 PM in the library's downstairs meeting room. The programs are free, open to the public and cover a variety of interesting topics. The series expands from 6 presentations in 2015 to 8 in 2016, held throughout the year.

January 10: *The Craftsman Home* with Mark W. Risley.

February 21: *The Old Barn Club and the Golden Age of Hills and Dales Park* with David A. Schmidt.

March 13: *Charles F. Kettering Research Laboratory; Ridgeleigh Terrace, Yellow Springs and Beyond* with Chuck Johnson.

April 17: *The Other Assassination Attempt: Fanny Seward and the Night of Horrors* with Trudy Krisher.

May 15: *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Normandy Farm: The Story of Richard H. Grant, Sr.* with Jerry Strange.

September 11: *Looking Towards the Future of Dayton as a River City* with representatives of the Ohio's Great Corridor Association, Leslie King of UD Rivers Institute and Amy Dingle of Five Rivers MetroParks.

October 16: *Following Famous Footsteps: A Century of Noteworthy Visitors to Hawthorn Hill* with Alex Heckman of Dayton History.

November 6: *The Classic Architecture of Oakwood* with Mark W. Risley.

The Oakwood Historical Society Announces its 2016 Board of Trustees:**Executive Board:**

President: Carol Holm

Vice President: Brian Mettling

Treasurer: Carol Vinings

Assistant Treasurer: Leigh Turben

Business Manager: Linda Pearson

Secretary: Donna Rosenbaum Cooper

At-Large Board Members:

Nicole Crawford

Harry Ebeling

Phyllis Miller

Mark W. Risley

David A. Schmidt

Save the Dates

Here are just few upcoming events for 2016.

May 21: *A Taste of Wine and Cheese* - Wine Tasting and Long-Romspert Homestead Tour.

August 21: *Classics on the Lawn* - Car Show and Open House.

December: *Holidays at the Homestead* - Open House.

Webmaster Wanted!

If you've visited our website www.oakwoodhistory.org you have noticed how professional and informative it is. This is due to the efforts of Mackensie Wittmer who set it up some time back, and to Joan Milligan who has been maintaining it for the past several years. Joan is moving on and The Oakwood Historical Society is looking for a new webmaster.

If you think you may be interested, please send an email to Joan at info@oakwoodhistory.org. This is a great way to hone your digital social media skills and enhance your resume.

Holidays at the Homestead

Join The Oakwood Historical Society for our *Holidays at the Homestead* Open House on Sunday, December 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at The Long-Romspert Homestead, 1947 Far Hills Avenue. Come one, come all and enjoy traditional holiday decorations, treats and music.

It's a great way to spend an old-fashioned, traditional holiday afternoon before Oakwood's *Holiday Tree Lighting and Luminaria Night* event that evening.

Due to limited parking, guests are encouraged to park on side streets or enjoy a seasonal walk to the Homestead. Handicapped parking is available behind the Homestead. We hope to see you on **Sunday, December 13th!**

Newsletter Update

We are pleased to announce that The Oakwood Historical Society continues to grow; however, the cost of mailing *Historian* to our entire database is becoming very costly. In the past, we have typically sent newsletters to all members, past and present, but effective January 1, 2016, we will only be sending our newsletters to current members. As a past member you will continue to receive our email updates and event announcements, but this may be your last newsletter. If you aren't sure if you are paid for this year, please feel free to call our Membership Chair, Leigh Turben, at (937) 293-1494; she will be able to give you your current status.

We appreciate and thank all of our members, and hope you will remain members for a long time. Your memberships and donations allow The Oakwood Historical Society to continue our support and educational programs and events for the community. You may renew using the form included on this newsletter or by going to our website www.oakwoodhistory.org. Thank you, again, for your support!



"The Oakwood Store"



CAROL J. HOLM
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Dayton, Ohio



Park Avenue Antiques



**FERNEDING
INSURANCE**



**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: _____

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