



Crosby Township Historical Society Newsletter

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2019

The Singing Bridge

Bridges are always an essential structure in towns and cities that are divided by waterways. It was no different for the hamlet of New Baltimore. In order to cross over to Colerain Township, it was necessary for them to have a bridge that spanned the Great Miami River. Proposals for a stone and wood bridge were received by the president and directors of the Blue Rock and New Baltimore Bridge Company in September of 1836. In 1864 the existing bridge (possibly a covered bridge) was burned down by Morgan’s Raiders. A local news article from 1898 stated that the New Baltimore bridge had washed away by a recent flood. County commissioners “hustled” to create a new bridge. In 1913 another flood took that bridge.

In its place the Brackett Construction Company of Cincinnati built a single span, truss-style metal bridge which was open for use the following year. It measured 460 foot between its seventeen panels with a height of seventy-one feet. The cost was \$56,990. The bridge was closed in 1983 for complete rehabilitation and painting, which included replacing the wooden deck with a metal grate floor. Because of the sound vehicles made crossing over the grate, it became known as the “singing bridge”. The Parker-Through-Truss design bridge served the community for eighty-five years. Time deemed the bridge unsafe for heavy traffic. By 1999 it could only hold five tons. In 2001 the bridge was closed to traffic and on October 11, 2006 it was torn down.

At a cost of \$3.5 million, a 600 foot bridge was constructed directly across from Blue Rock Road to replace the “singing bridge”. The new location was better suited for straight-through traffic. This bridge consisted of a reinforced concrete deck supported by pre-stressed concrete beams on a reinforced concrete drill shaft substructure. The weight limit is 40 tons. This structure was dedicated by count officials in 2001. Local residents were present to observe the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



“Singing Bridge” under construction

The Society made a request to the Hamilton County Engineer’s Office to have (continued)

Programs 2019

October

**Appalachian
Trail Journey**

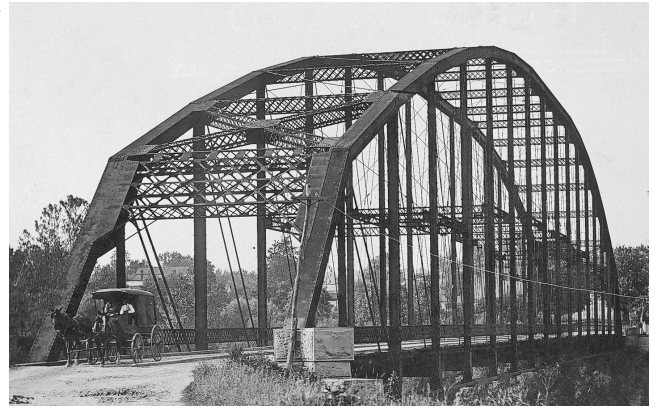
November

**Native
Americans of the
Miami Valley**

December

**Annual
Christmas Party
and
Ben and Gerry
Price & Friends**

the plaque from the “singing bridge” donated to us so that we can proudly display it in our museum. The request was gladly approved and we will be receiving it soon.



The “Singing Bridge” completed

3RD ANNUAL

PASSPORT TO THE PAST

On Saturday, June 29 between two and five o'clock, our Society participated in the third annual Passport to the Past. This event showcased historical buildings in Crosby and Harrison Townships. In Crosby, the Passmore log cabin, Fernald Feed and Materials Production Center, and the Whitewater Shaker Village were open to visitors. Fernald offered special guided tours. The Old Town Hall was not on the list this year due to renovations. In Harrison, the Othniel Looker Home and Harrison Village Historical Society Museum were open. At the log cabin, Bill and Shirlee Morgan, Diane Packard, and Sonny Corson greeted people as they entered to view the cabin's artifacts. A computer presentation was available to show the progress of the cabin being torn down and rebuilt.

Thank You!!!

There are many people behind the scenes that help to make our meetings run smoothly. We would like to recognize a few of them here for a job well done. Among them is Vickie Brech, Hospitality Committee leader, who organizes our refreshments for each meeting, including setting up tables, decorations, and ordering supplies. Also, a thank you to those members who have volunteered to help her prepare our refreshments. The food is always delicious and plentiful. If you need to contact Vickie, her number is 738-3195.

The Program Committee, Shirlee Morgan, Kelly Doty, and Judy Fritsch, have done a fantastic job planning and contacting speakers and/or entertainment for 2019. They have chosen a wide range of subjects for us to enjoy from well-informed and prepared speakers. We appreciate all of the time and effort that they have invested.

Our Callers on the Communications Committee, Mike Minges, Cliff Guard, and Judy Fritsch, are faithful each month phoning our members to remind them of our meeting dates, time, and speakers. They also report to us who among our membership that is ill or have had surgery. We can't do all of this work without the commitment of these loyal volunteers.

On the morning of Saturday, July 20, Duane and volunteers met at the Old Town Hall to expose the south side of the foundation to see if there was any damage to that portion of the sill plate similar to that on the north side. Extensive damage was found. The south side was then re-covered. Currently we believe, in order to repair the foundation, the following will need to occur: the inside floor will need to be removed to get to the interior sill plate; the ends of the floor joists will need to be cut where they sit on the sill plate; they will need to be braced on the building side that will be slightly elevated to remove the old sill plate and be replaced with a new one; and then the floor joists will need to be re-attached to the new sill plate. Little other work can be accomplished on the building until this is done. Because of these delicate procedures and safety concerns, it was decided by the board members to get quotes from experienced contractors to do the work and present the information to the township trustees.



Disintegrating sill plate

Passmore Log Cabin Work

From time to time the log cabin must have work done on it to keep it in tact. We keep a watchful eye on any repairs that are needed. Recently Zack Curry, an exterminator, was hired to spray around the log cabin for pests. Since we are a non-profit organization, he donated the job. He has also agreed to donate his work to spray the Old Town Hall.

In the fall, other work will be done by our volunteers. This will include having some new shakes added to the roof. Then the roof and the logs will be cleaned with the help of a lift and Duane's power washer. Following that, volunteers will coat



the roof and logs with a wood preserver. Plans are on the drawing board to wire electric from the fire house to the cabin. This will give us easier access for lighting the cabin or for any other use where electric is required.



Vertical boards holding up walls and roof that have disintegrated above sill plate

Crosby Township History Book Reprint

Issues of the Memorial Edition of Stanley McClure's *History of Crosby Township* are no longer available. The Board has decided to cleanup the master copy, including photos, before reprinting more to sell. If you have any copies of the photos in the book that can be scanned and returned or know of anyone else who has some, please contact Melba Guard, 367-2186.

~ Sales Corner ~

Crosby Township Bicentennial History
\$15 plus shipping

Stanley McClure's Crosby Township Cemetery Transcriptions Collection
\$5 plus shipping

Back Issues of the Newsletter 50 cents

Passmore Log Cabin Reconstruction CD
\$5 plus shipping

Officers:

President.....Melba Guard.....367-2186

Vice President.... Tony Torres.....581-9337

Secretary..... Shirlee Morgan...367-9671

Treasurer..... Chuck Heis.....738-4343

Trustee.....Mike Minges.....367-0172

Trustee.....Duane Singleton..319-4166

Trustee.....David Roessler...638-9265

News Editor.....Karen Klaene.....922-3379

kklaene@fuse.net

CTHS Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday at **7:00** p.m., March through December in the Crosby Township Senior Center, 8910 Willey Road. Meetings are open to the public.

Our Purpose...to encourage the preservation of historic structures and sites; identify, collect, and preserve literary, graphic and artefactual materials significant to prehistoric and historic cultures, schools, churches, businesses, and families of Crosby Township; to increase community awareness and appreciation of this heritage through documentation, educational programs and other public events; and to assist persons interested in this history by making our collected cultural resources available for study.

2019 Membership Dues

Single \$10.00

Family (3 or more in same house) \$15.00

Life Member \$100.00

Please mail dues to: Chuck Heis, Crosby Township Historical Society, Inc., 8910 Willey Road, Harrison, Ohio 45030

Crosby Township Historical Society

8910 Willey Road

Harrison, Ohio 45030-9774