



CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

MARCH-APRIL 2024

Beef & Noodle DINNER

Annual Fundraising Event

The Historical Society will host it's annual Beef & Noodle Dinner at the Cridersville Elementary School on May 2, 2024 from 4:30-6:30 PM. We have been holding this event since the 1990s. It has been one of our most important fund raisers every year.

This classic American meal includes a healthy portion of beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, apple sauce, a slice of home-style bread, beverage, and a selection from our amazing dessert buffet. Cost is \$12. Carry out orders are available.

The event will be held in the cafeteria at the Cridersville Elementary. The cafeteria has plenty of comfortable seating. It is a great opportunity to visit with friends and family. The historical society will also bring a traveling exhibit from the museum.



On March 18, 2024 the Cridersville Historical Society hosted a special presentation entitled "Building A New Home In The Wilderness". Its focus was on the pioneer families who came to the region in the 1830s. CHS Member, Greg Myers, was the presenter.

The presentation explained how the first pioneer families began to arrive after the departure of the Shawnee in 1833. The first land purchase was made by George Delong in 1834 for \$1.25 per acre. He bought the land without seeing it. His land is now the site of Cridersville Elementary School and the Otterbein Retirement Community.



GEORGE
DELONG

The program also outlined the expedition, lead by Daniel Bowsher and his brother Benjamine, in 1836 from southern Ohio to Shawnee Township. This began the process to build new homes in the wilderness.

The historical society brought artifacts from its collection relating to the pioneer families including the 1829 Bowsher family Bible, a section of the Bowsher log home built in 1836, and original 1830s documents from the Delong family.



Artifacts from the Cridersville Local History Museum brought to the presentation at the Otterbein Community Room.

Preserving Our Past For Future Generations

WIGWAM EXHIBIT

The Historical Society hosted a special exhibit of the winning Cridersville Fourth Grade wigwam, teepee, and long house models. The winners were selected by a "Peoples Choice" vote during the Christmas on Main Street open house at the elementary school in December 2023.



Our special exhibit was held on the weekend of February 24-25. The winning

models were on display throughout the weekend.

Each student received a framed Certificate of Merit from the historical society.

We believe this was an excellent way for us to commend the students on their good work and interest in local history.

Our strong partnership with the staff at Cridersville Elementary School is a real asset in our goal to inspire local students to develop a life-long interest and understanding of history.



Our *Young Historians Club* has been on the move again. In January, club members made a field trip to the Logan County History Center in Bellefontaine. As a result of the Board of Education recognizing the YHC Club as an official school activity, the field trip was scheduled during the school day. This enabled us to make the trip to one of the region's largest museums. YHC members learned more about the third Shawnee Reservation in Logan County at Lewistown. They also toured the exhibits about one-room schools, early farming methods, and the



museum's Transportation Center. It was a great trip focused on regional history.



In February, the YHC members came to our local museum for a detailed tour. They focused on the Shawnee, Pioneers, Criders, Coming of the Railroad, the Oil Boom, and the Great Fire of 1918. It was another great opportunity to learn about local history.



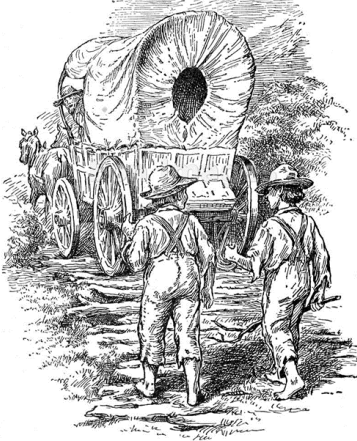
2024 Young Historians Club visits the Logan County History Center

There is a lot to discover from our local history!

Our Young Historians Club enables our student members to enjoy the fun of history.

PIONEER FAMILIES ARRIVE

A LOCAL HISTORY PERSPECTIVE



The first land purchase in the area was made in 1834. George Delong purchased 80 acres at \$1.25 per acre at a government land sale in Piqua, Ohio. George lived in Ross County south of Columbus. He had bought the land without seeing it.

In 1835, Daniel Bowsher and his younger brother Benjamine made a trip on horseback through this area. The brothers were so impressed with what they found they purchased 160 acres.



In the spring of 1836, Daniel and Benjamine, along with Jacob Delong (George Delong's father), lead an expedition of 27 people from Ross and Pickaway Counties to pioneer this area. They came by trails and pushed through thick forests until they reached Shawnee Township.

They discovered that it was an area of swamps, thick forests, and abundant wildlife. A few members of the group found it too wild and returned home without unloading. The others were convinced the plentiful deer, wild turkeys and other game more than compensated for the hard work of clearing and draining the land and building new homes and farms in the wilderness.

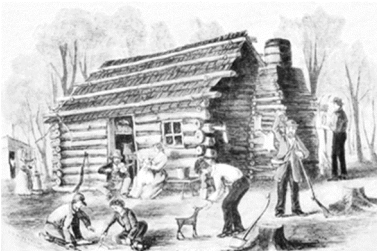
When the Bowsher families came, their first task was to build their log homes. They lived in a log hut built by the Shawnee while they were building their cabins. There was also an apple orchard near the hut. It was thought to have been planted by Johnny Appleseed. They continued to clear more trees to create fields for their crops.



Benjamine & Elizabeth Bowsher
Elizabeth was the sister of George Delong

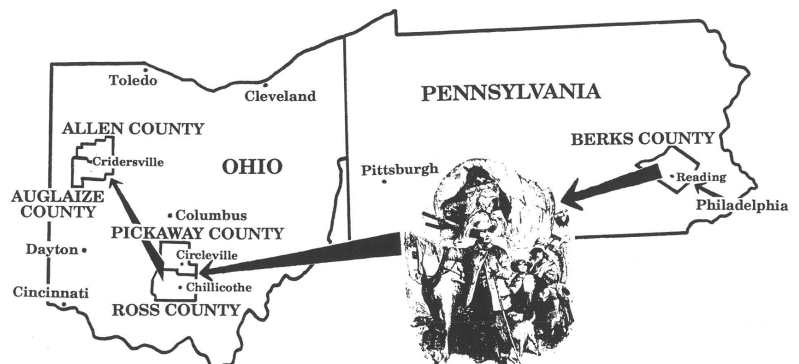
The Bowshers chose the site for their new homes due to plentiful game in the woods and the abundance of sugar maple trees for making maple syrup. They also liked it because the Little Hog Creek ran through the corner of the site. It provided a ready source of water for their families.

As the pioneers built their homes, between each homestead were still thick forests with few roads. The closest towns were small and had been established before the Shawnee departure— St. Marys (1823), Lima (1832), and Wapakoneta (1833).



Travel to these towns was difficult. Because of the isolation, the pioneer families had to be self

sufficient. They grew their own food, made their clothes, and continued chopping down more trees to expand their farm fields. Pioneer life was hard work!



This map shows the migration of the ancestors of the pioneer families of Cridersville. Upon emigrating from Europe, they first settled in Pennsylvania between 1712 and 1755. The next generation pioneered southern Ohio from 1801 to 1810. With the departure of the Shawnee, the next generation began arriving in western Ohio.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14
Opening Day at the Museum
for the 2024 Season
1-4PM

April 28
Museum Open House
1-4PM

May 2
Beef & Noodle Dinner
Cridersville Elementary School
4-6:30 PM

OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Greg Myers, President

_____ Vice President

We are seeking to fill this position. If you
are interested, please call Greg Myers at
419-733-0568

Lisa Lowry, Treasurer

Melanie Kloucek, Secretary

Board of Trustees:

Lori Bellman

Jerry Dicus

Luann Everett

Frank Valenti

MUSEUM HOURS

Second and Fourth Sunday

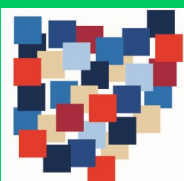
April through October

1:00 PM—4:00 PM

Special tours can be arranged
throughout the year by calling
419-645-4782



Learn more on our
Facebook page



MEMBER
**OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE**
Inspire. Connect. Educate.



VETERAN RECOGNITION PROJECTS

WALL OF HONOR

The Historical Society is planning a new exhibit honoring local veterans. Names of veterans will be included on brass plaques. Local families are encouraged to send their information to the Society to include in this project. There is no charge to participate. To add your veteran information, contact Lori Bellman at 419-234-6550.

VETERAN BANNERS

The Historical Society has concluded its round-one initiative to create Veteran Banners for local families. The banners are made of 20"x30" heavy vinyl printed on both sides with a heavy steel stake. Cost for the banners is \$175.

The Society plans to invite banner purchasers to bring their banners to special events at Legacy Park—Memorial Day, the Fireman's Jamboree, and Veterans Day—for display along with American Flags around the park's semicircular sidewalk. These will be exciting temporary events to honor our local veterans.

If you would like to order a banner in the second-round of this project, please contact Lori Bellman at 419-234-6550.

—BECOME A MEMBER—

Our mission is to save our local heritage for future generations. We do this through exhibits at our museums, our special public education programs, and our activities with local students.

**It is important work and it is fun.
We invite you to join us in the fun.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual — \$10 Student — \$5
Dual Membership — \$20 per couple
Patron Levels — \$50, \$100, or \$250
Corporate Levels — \$100 or \$250

Please make membership payments to:

Cridersville Historical Society, P.O. Box 2444, Cridersville, Ohio 45806

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111 W. Sugar Street
P.O. Box 2444
Cridersville, Ohio 45806

Preserving Our Past For Future Generations