

The TRACKER

Terrace Park Historical Society

Vol. III No. 2

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future

April 2004



Sunday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m.
Community House

Early Life and the Buildings of the Terrace Park Area

with
Carol C. Cole



Early Personalities of the Terrace Park Area



Abraham Covalt

On January 1, 1789 this brave Revolutionary War captain started down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh bringing his wife, ten children, 40 other people and livestock. They came to the mouth of the Little Miami River and then up the river to settle near the present day St. Thomas Church. There they established the large fortified Covalt Station in what was hostile territory.

Within a little more than a year five of the settlers had been killed, including Abraham, Jr. Abraham Covalt was also ambushed and shot while cutting wood and he and a companion were scalped. The station was abandoned in 1792 and the last 50 acres of Covalt property was sold in 1796.

Stones from the fort were used to build the house at 601 Wooster.



Jacob Traber

This man was credited with giving Terrace Park its name. Traber was a Cincinnati businessman, who owned a commission house on the Public Landing. However, his home was in Camden City, perhaps near the present Drewry Farm Lane on the north side of Wooster Pike.

Tradition credits Traber with holding a naming contest for the community growing around the intersections of the Pike and Indian Hill Road in the 1870's. No one entered to claim the prize of a sewing machine, so Traber suggested the name himself.

History does not record if he used the sewing machine to stitch his own fashionable suit for the first performance of the May Festival in 1873. Nor does history record whether Traber's vineyard on the slopes of Indian Hill produced vintage wine.



John Smith

A Baptist preacher from Pennsylvania, Smith brought his family to the newly formed Columbia Township in 1791. He purchased 420 acres of land along what is now Elm Road, and became a prosperous farmer and gristmill owner. He worked to promote Ohio statehood, and in 1803 became one of Ohio's first two senators. Smith entertained Aaron Burr at his log house, which is incorporated into the home now owned by the Lindells. Not long after, Burr and Smith were indicted for conspiring to seize and colonize Mexico. Burr was tried for treason, but acquitted. Smith was never tried, but resigned his seat in the Senate in 1807 after impeachment attempts failed. The notoriety forced him into bankruptcy. He died a broken man in Louisiana.

Officers

Carol C. Cole.....President
Betsy Holloway.....V.Pres.
Carol B. Cole.....Treasurer
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Helen Barnett Stan Brown
Leslie Jones John Rockaway
Bill Holloway

Pat Henley.....Editor

TPHS memberships are for the calendar year—\$15 single, \$25 family. Pay to Carol B. Cole, 725 Wooster Pk.

The TPHS is appreciative to Ricki Schmidt, former resident, who made a memorial gift to the Society in memory of Bonnie and Ellis Rawnsley and David Rawnsley.

Donations were also received from Eliza and Bruce Brown, Mickey Davis and The United States of America. Leslie Jones gave a new vacuum cleaner for the office.

Around and About TPHS

Society officers and board discussed the concept of a "charrette" at their last meeting. This heady idea will be explained to the membership at the at the May 2 meeting.

Volunteers are needed to continue the program of collecting oral histories. How nice it would be to have recorded memories from residents of long ago, and not-so-long ago. Let's get more, now.

Want to be a member of a committee to research ideas for future TPHS programs? Raise your hand for immediate acceptance.

The power of the internet: www.tphistoricalociety.org

receives the most interesting hits--e.g.: UC students assigned to discover "what events shaped Terrace Park's history", authors wanting information about our Sears and Gunnison houses, a couple of Covalt descendents seeking further data and providing facts about that family, comments about Ellis Rawnsley's A Place Called Terrace Park.

NOT IN TERRACE PARK

Have you ever visited **Promont** in next-door Milford? Built in 1865, it became the home of John Pattison, Ohio's 43rd governor, who purchased it in 1905. It is maintained and operated by the Milford Historical Society and is open weekends.

Adena, near Chillicothe, was the home of Thomas Worthington, one of Ohio's first U. S. senators. John Smith was the other. This beautiful country estate, designed in 1806 by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the U. S. Capitol building, reopened in 2003 after extensive renovation. The restored gardens and vineyards which the Worthingtons cultivated in the early 1800's, plus a museum and educational center, make the Adena State Memorial site an interesting destination for a day trip from Terrace Park.

The Tracker

327 Rugby Avenue
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Who Built That?
Find Out
May 2