

TRACKER

Tracking Our Past and Present for the Future



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TREASURES OF TERRACE PARK SERIES CONTINUES THIS SEPTEMBER

Enter Terrace Park from western Elm Avenue and you'll pass through a tunnel that's more than 150 years old. Enter from the east side of Elm and you'll pass a stately building that's nearly 120 years old.

These two ends of Elm Avenue – and Circus Place high above this longest of village streets – are destination points for the historical society's second annual "Treasures of Terrace Park" program Sept. 20.

From the railroad tunnel that influenced village growth, to the Baptist Church that's now the Community Building, and the Robinson Circus that wintered here in the early 1900s, there's a lot to learn – and love – about Terrace Park. Offering information from personal research

and private collections will be Susan Abernethy Frank, former TPHS president who grew up in Terrace Park and raised her own family here; Laurie Baird, immediate past president of TPHS and assistant fiscal officer for the Village of Terrace Park; and Lynn Nelson, longtime village resident whose great-aunt was a member of the Robinsons' executive staff.

The program, held at the Community Building, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be offered at 3:30 p.m., followed at 4 p.m. by the presentations.

Last year's "treasures" were the log cabin, village green, St. Thomas Church and Little Miami River.

"This program was so well received last year, we knew it needed to be an annual



COMMUNITY BUILDING,
circa 1890 –
Presented
by Laurie Baird



ROBINSON CIRCUS,
early 1900s – Presented
by Lynn Nelson



THE TUNNEL,
circa 1853 –
Presented by
Susan Abernethy
Frank

offering," said Lorrie Hill, TPHS president. "This year's program promises to be entertaining, educational and even surprising. Guests will leave with a greater appreciation for what makes Terrace Park such a special place."

Can You Help?

Thanks to the generosity of Dawn Harden and Beverly Cooke, the Terrace Park Historical Society is offering a new collection of Terrace Park Elementary School yearbooks for public review. To complete the set, TPHS is in need of the following volumes: 1991-92; 1992-93; 1993-94; 1995-96; 1999-2000; 2001-02; 2002-03. If you can help, call the TPHS office at 248-1777.

WARM MEMORIES KEEPSAKE COVERLET UNVEILED LABOR DAY

The history and uniqueness of Terrace Park has been captured in a keepsake coverlet commissioned by the historical society. It will be unveiled – and order forms distributed – at the community's Labor Day festivities on the village green.

Sketches of 10 community icons and significant information about each are

woven into the coverlet.

Featured are: Terrace Park School, 1913; Community House, 1890; Log Cabin, 1936; St. Thomas Church, 1907, and Covalt Station site, 1789; Elm Avenue Tunnel, 1853; also the Little Miami River, Robinson Circus elephant, village green gazebo, the school's bulldog mascot and the village's famous white squirrel.

Designed in Pennsylvania and woven in the Carolinas, the coverlet is 48- by 68- inches in size and available in cranberry red, hunter green, Williamsburg blue, navy blue or black on a natural background. It is priced at \$45 for Terrace Park Historical Society members and \$50 for non-members.

CHARMING ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVE



Each of the 12 charms on the bracelet is engraved with the name of a classmate.

Mary Lou Rawnsley Ecyke of Raleigh, N.C., has given TPHS memorabilia from her years at Terrace Park High School, 1945-49. Included are a friendship bracelet of 12 engraved silver charms on a ribbon; a Quill & Scroll Club

pin; a Junior Classical League (Latin club) medallion; three varsity sports charms for basketball, volleyball and field hockey; and a Girls Athletic Association medallion.

"Unfortunately, I was not able to gather specific

information about the charms during conversations with my classmates at our recent 60th reunion as to how the exchanging of them began, by whom and during what time frame," Mary Lou wrote in the letter that accompanied her gifts. "I recall buying mine at the Milford Jewelry Store."

The names on the charms she donated are: Mary K. (Kahle), Dale (Sontag), Caroline (Close), Elroy (Bourgraf), June (Sommers), Ann (Rathkamp), Jerry (Busken), Liffy Ann (Elizabeth Martin), Margaret (Clennin), Nancy (Lynch), Flach (Douglas) and Mrs. Calvert (Betty Jane).

TPHS welcomes donations! Contact any board member for more information.

NEW LEGAL COUNSEL

Steve Holmes, former member of Terrace Park Village Council and vice president of Cors & Bassett, is succeeding his longtime friend, mentor and former colleague, Ken Bassett, as legal counsel for the Terrace Park Historical Society. Steve, who lives at 602 Miami

Ave. with his wife Christy and their six children, is regularly identified by Cincy Business Magazine as one of Cincinnati's leading lawyers in the area of general business law. He also volunteers his legal services for the American Classical Music Hall of



Steve Holmes

Fame and serves on the board of Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Little Miami Railroad reached Terrace Park and Milford by Dec. 14,

1841

- The name **Terrace Park** appears on a map as early as ...

1877

- At its peak in the early

1900s

Robinson Circus was the biggest in the country!

- **1909**

L.W. Conkling's grocery store was at the corner of Terrace Place and Harvard Avenue.

- Mail home delivery began in

1931

- Four outhouses were still in use until

1941

when Village Council declared them closed.

- The Swim Club was formed in

1956

- Circus performers practiced on the open porches of

732

Miami Avenue.

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCES

Ken Bassett and Stan Brown, members of the Terrace Park Historical Society's original board of trustees and among the organization's earliest

recently elected trustee emeritus.

It is with sadness and appreciation that TPHS remembers these two founders and extends

condolences to Ken's wife of 48 years, Polly, his sons Gary and Glenn, and grandsons Mac, Sam and Tucker; and Stan's children Jody Huneke and Connie Doherty, and grandchildren Brian and Lisa Huneke and Colin, Kevin, Erin and

Megan Doherty.

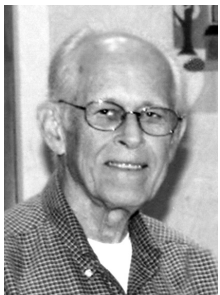
Here are excerpts from Ken's memorial service that have been added to the TPHS archive:

"Few can practice law for a year, much less a lifetime, and not make enemies in the legal profession. Ken did that. Few can live up to Christian values and principles in their personal lives, much less every day of a competitive

profession like the practice of law. Ken did that. Few can go through life with remarkable grace, complete integrity and the love and admiration of everyone with whom they came in contact. Ken Bassett did that."

"If all attorneys were like Ken Bassett, there would be no lawyer jokes."

Eulogies from Stan's memorial service will be added to the archive as well. A retired optometrist and WWII Navy veteran, Stan was remembered for his keen mind, his membership in several local historical societies and nature conservation groups; his involvement with swimming that ranged from coaching Terrace Park children to becoming a three-time Olympic swimming official; his love for tennis, skiing, collecting antique tools and spending time with his grandchildren.



Stan Brown



Ken Bassett

lifetime members, are fondly remembered for their dedication to the Terrace Park Historical Society.

Ken died April 17 and Stan died July 19. They were active in TPHS activities from 2001 until shortly before their passing. Ken volunteered his services as the historical society's legal counsel and Stan, who served in a variety of board capacities, was

The Terrace Park Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation organized to collect, maintain and store historical papers, documents and artifacts pertaining to the Village of Terrace Park and to educate about its history. There are four general meetings a year. The Tracker, our newsletter, will come out before each of these meetings.

STUDENTS SHOWCASE TERRACE PARK HISTORY

With funding from the Terrace Park Historical Society, fourth-grade students at Terrace Park Elementary School have completed two projects that tell the story



Shelley Komrska and Melissa Rupe, right, art teachers at Terrace Park Elementary School, guided their students through the educational and artistic endeavor.

of the people, places and events that have shaped their hometown.

Inspired by a field trip to the Freedom Center, where the students saw Aminah Robinson's quilt depicting her hometown, they began research for their own mixed-media creation. Art teachers Melissa Rupe and Shelley Komrska helped each student create a "piece of the past" for the quilted mural that uses natural materials such as twigs for the log

cabin and pebbles for St. Thomas Church. Another teacher, Mary Kay Kroeger, helped the students turn their research into a directory that features a picture of each "square" and a statement about its historical significance.

The quilt was unveiled and, along with the book, presented to the community during a recent open house at the school. It will hang in the school's front entrance. Among attendees were Verneida Britton from the Freedom Center, who praised the children and teachers for their creative and engaging work; and TPHS board members



Steve Early, center, who helped coordinate the quilt and directory project for the Terrace Park Historical Society, reads Skyler Barton's information about the "store where you could buy ice cream" that once operated along Terrace Place. He is joined by her parents and his neighbors, Deborah and Sean Barton.



Bobby Dennerll, son of Lisa and Dave Dennerll, used twigs to create his rendition of the Terrace Park's landmark Log Cabin. He selected the site for his square because he enjoys Boy Scouts and says, "I really like being at the Log Cabin."



A closer look at Bobby Dennerll's Log Cabin square. Elaine Fening, local artist, oversaw the sewing together of the squares.

Susan Abernethy Frank and Steve Early, who coordinated the project.

The TPHS contribution was made possible through the Scripps Howard Foundation's volunteer grant program that supports E. W. Scripps Company employees' volunteer work. Sue Porter, a Scripps employee, is a member of the TPHS board.

ARCHIVIST FOLLOWS HER PASSION

The Terrace Park Historical Society has a new board member and archivist. Kim Newton, who resides at 809 Park Avenue with her husband, Jim Goodwin, and their twin sons Jake and Gordon, was an archivist for the historical society in her former community, Canfield, in northern Ohio. When relocating to Cincinnati, she



Kim Newton

carefully researched where she might continue doing this type of work. "It was between Wyoming and Terrace Park," Kim recalls, adding that she and her family are thrilled with their decision. Kim, who was elected to the TPHS board in May, has already brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the organization.

GEHRIG HONORED AT TPHS REUNION

Terrace Park Historical Society congratulates John Gehrig, who has been named the 2009 Terrace Park High School Alumnus of the Year.

After graduation from TPHS in 1954 he earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 1958 and a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1963. He practiced law in Cincinnati for 19 years before moving to Florida, where he earned a master's degree in international law from the University of Miami. Until

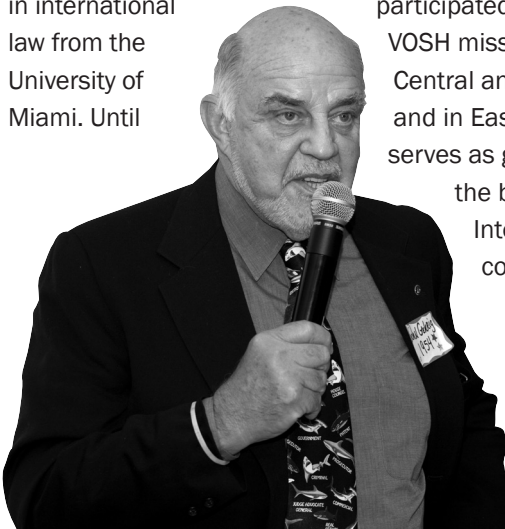
his retirement from public life in 1990, he served as county attorney for Orange County, Fla. Since then, he has maintained a small private practice in the fields of probate and real estate law.

In addition to a remarkable professional career, John has distinguished himself the past 14 years as an ardent supporter of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH), a medical mission trip sponsor. He has participated in about 25 VOSH missions, mostly to Central and South America and in Eastern Europe. He serves as general counsel to the board of VOSH/International and is co-founder of VOSH/

Florida. He's even become an accredited optician so that he can be increasingly useful on the three mission trips he averages every year. In recent years, John has been helping to create permanent clinics and sustainable eye care in Nicaragua.

John is an active Rotarian and an elder at Winter Park Presbyterian Church in suburban Orlando.

In addition to his wife Carla, family members who attended the June 12 TPHS alumni event were his brother Michael Gehrig and his wife, Barbara; his sisters Mary Kipp and her husband, George, and Anne Hissett and her husband, Dean; his daughter Melissa Luken from Dansville, Mich., and her husband, Walt; grandsons Walt and Colin Luken; and his niece, Jennifer Dronsfield, and her husband, Steven, and daughter, Rachael.



John Gehrig

SPECIAL GIFTS

The Terrace Park Historical Society is always happy to accept memorial or honorary donations. To recognize a friend, family member, neighbor or colleague in this way, make your check payable to TPHS and mail it with notification instructions to the historical society at P.O. Box 3, Terrace Park, OH 45174. An acknowledgement of your thoughtful gift will be sent to the individual(s) at the address you provide and you'll receive a receipt suitable for IRS filing.

Donations received recently were from Susan and John Frank in memory of Boots Duesing and Ken Bassett.

Visitors welcome!

The Terrace Park Historical Society maintains the archives of the society at its office in the old education building of St. Thomas Church at 100 Miami Avenue, Terrace Park. The archives are typically open 1-4 on Thursdays and are available at other times by appointment. Call Kim Newton at 239-6568.

PLAQUES AVAILABLE

It's never too late for owners of Terrace Park homes built in 1920 or before to order historic home plaques from the Terrace Park Historical Society.

Since the program was introduced in mid-2008, personalized bronze plaques have been ordered for 60 of Terrace Park's 119 eligible homes. The cost is \$250 for TPHS members and \$275 for non-members. Contact Lorrie Hill, plaque program committee chair, at 831-7775 to learn if your house is eligible or to place an order in time for holiday gift-giving.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



LESLIE JONES
625 MYRTLE
AVENUE,
TERRACE PARK

Background: Leslie grew up in Terrace Park and was a member of the first class of local students to graduate from newly consolidated Mariemont High School in 1958. She retired from office management at

Western Southern Life Insurance in 1996 and started volunteering for TPHS five years later when it was founded. She is at TPHS offices every Thursday for 5-6 hours, except during the annual membership

campaign when she is there even longer. Though she'll happily do whatever job comes her way, Leslie's specialty is accessioning – the recording and filing of archival items.

Why do you volunteer?

"It's something I can do to help the community."

What's the most unusual donation you've seen? "The old shoes found in the walls when houses are renovated are unusual. They are typically from the 1800s."

Do you have a favorite item? "Helen Barnett donated her grandmother's cookbooks from the early 1900s. We cook a lot differently today."

What would you say to a potential volunteer? "Try it! You'll probably have fun."

FROM FRESH AIR TO STEPPING STONES

The Terrace Park Historical Society turned the spotlight on the Fresh Air Farm at its April 26 public forum. Among those who offered information about the farm, which was founded in 1884 on the site now known as Stepping Stones, were: from left – Bonnie Cahill, Vickie Shively, Ralph Vilardo and Marie Harrington, who were summertime guests at the farm as children; Kristina Redmond, a student at Northern Kentucky University who is studying the farm as a research project; and Carol Cole, a local historian.



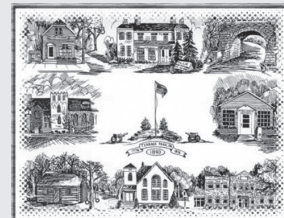
The 20-acre working farm offered two-week retreats for mothers and their children as a way to escape the city's heat and pollution. The farm-grown food and day trips to the Cincinnati Zoo, Coney Island as well as

excursions on the Little Miami Railroad are among favorite Fresh Air memories. The site transitioned to Stepping Stones, a recreation center specializing in services for handicapped individuals, in the early 1960s.

TPHS e-Store

Items may be purchased by visiting the TPHS office on Thursdays from 1-4 p.m., at any meeting of the society, or by writing Meghan Mills, Terrace Park Historical Society P.O. Box 3, Terrace Park, OH 45174. Members receive a discount.

Featured Item:
Posters - \$10.00



tphistoricalsociety.org/store.html

Other items:

- Coverlet
- Note cards
- DVDs
- Books

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Aug. 15** – Greater Milford Area Historical Society hosts **vintage baseball game**; Cincinnati Buckeyes vs. Wyandotte Ghostriders; 2 p.m. at Milford Riverside Ball Field. The Buckeyes formed nearly 140 years ago, predating Red Stockings (now known as Cincinnati Reds).
- **Aug. 16** – Cincinnati Preservation Association presents **“Architreks” tour of St. Francis Xavier Church**, 607 Sycamore St., downtown Cincinnati. Meet at 2 p.m. at Contemporary Arts Center, 22 E. Sixth St. Gothic Revival church dates back to 1840.
- **Sept. 12** – Greater Milford Area Historical Society hosts **4th Annual Art Affaire**, noon to 5 p.m. at Promont House Museum. Local artists show and sell their creations.
- **Sept. 20** – TPHS fall program, **“Treasures of Terrace Park,”** Community Building, 3:30 p.m. refreshments followed at 4 by presentations. Free and open to the public.
- **Oct. 17-18** – House tour, Wallace Woods Historic District, Covington. **Candlelight tour** on 17th from 6-9 p.m.; 18th from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets \$15. Info: www.wallacewoods.org.
- **Oct. 30** - Deadline to submit proposals to the Cincinnati Preservation Association for the restoration and use of Hauck House, a Cincinnati landmark on Dayton Street's once-famous “Millionaire's Row.”

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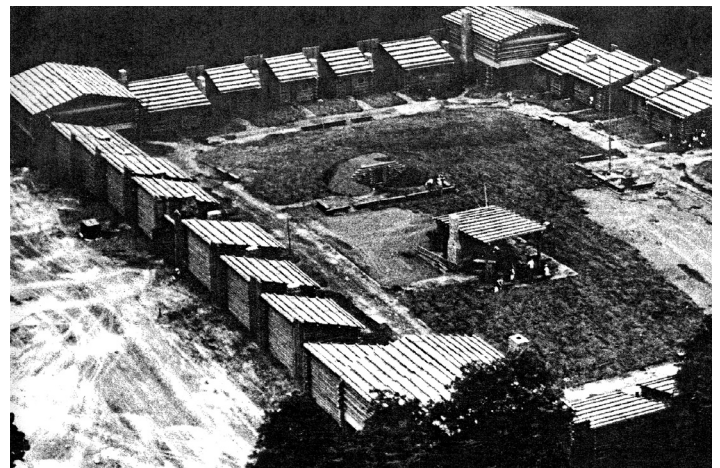
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FROM THE ARCHIVE

THE STORY OF THE LOG FORT

An 85-page history of St. Thomas Episcopal Church from 1876-1976 is among the hundreds of items available for public review at the Terrace Park Historical Society's archive, located in the lower-level of the church, 100 Miami Ave. The TPHS office and archive are open Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. or by calling Kim Newton, archivist, at 239-6568 to make an appointment.

This photo from the centennial publication is accompanied by the following information: "White settlers and Indians fought and died for possession of the ground on which St. Thomas Church now stands. A small band of pioneers built a log fort on the triangle of level ground bounded on one side by the ravine through which runs what is now known as Redbird Creek, once Mill Creek, and on another by the slope leading to the (Little Miami) river – about



on the line of the present Miami Avenue. No plan or sketch of the fort seems to be in existence, and it fell into disuse not long after Gen. "Mad Anthony" Wayne routed the Indian tribes in the Battle of Fallen Timbers late in 1794 and forced them westward under terms of the Treaty of Greenville. But a blockhouse near the first St. Thomas rectory ... remained until about the turn of the century ...

"The modern history of what is now Terrace Park opens on Jan. 1, 1788. On that day,

Capt. Abraham Covalt and 44 others – men, women and children – left Pittsburgh by flatboat to make new homes in what was Indian country. They poled and floated down the Ohio, becoming stranded on river ice on one occasion, reached the mouth of the Little Miami on Jan. 19 and pitched tents there for a week while the men of the party pushed upriver and threw up a temporary log structure near where the church now stands."