



LOCATION:

St. Thomas Church
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

VISITING HOURS:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

CONTACT AND COMMENTS:

(513) 248-1777
tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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tphistoricalsociety.org

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Treasurer: Marcia Moyer
Secretary: Katy Chisom

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WHITE SQUIRREL EVENT ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

The 'Day of the White Squirrel' is getting closer! We hope you will join us Saturday, May 17, 2025 on the Village Green for our White Squirrel event, which will include a family scavenger hunt and an art exhibit.

We would like to invite all white squirrel enthusiasts to submit a piece of white squirrel themed artwork for the exhibit. Any medium is welcome - paintings, sculpture, photography, fiber art, baking, music - your inspiration is all that is needed. Just let us know if you would like to participate so that we can provide space to display your creation. If you would like to donate your art, it will be included in a fund-raising auction benefiting both the Terrace Park Historical Society and Kindervelt #76.

If you would like to participate, you can fill out the form on our website: <https://tphistoricalsociety.org>, or you can leave us a message at (513) 248-1777.

TPHS & KINDERVELT 76 PRESENT

Community Scavenger Hunt & Picnic

SAT 17 MAY

SCAVENGER HUNT: 8AM - 12PM

PICNIC & ART AUCTION: 1PM-4PM

Enjoy a scavenger hunt around Terrace Park learning about locations, buildings and items that contribute to the tapestry of the Village. Spend the afternoon picnicking on the Green, enjoying small plates and drinks while viewing beautiful art created by local residents.

For more info: tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com



ELM AVENUE TUNNEL



'Robinson's Tunnel' circa 1900

We recently received an inquiry from one of our residents asking for some background on the Elm Avenue tunnel. To our surprise, there was nothing in our archives on the subject. We assume that the tunnel dates to around 1853 when the Little Miami Railroad was built through Terrace Park, but we found no definitive proof. The tunnel is massive and obviously built to last, but there is no visible date or inscription.

If anyone has any information about this iconic landmark, please let us know.

OUR LATEST LIFETIME MEMBERS

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our most recent Lifetime Members:

Shawn Crowley, Tricia DiMichele, Scott and Fiona Ehrnschwender, Breck and Mindy Weigel, Rich and Patty Beyersdorfer, Katy and Christopher Chisom, Michael and Amy Fitzgibbons, Bill & Marty Graf Jr., Pam Leming Lenz, Craig & Debbie Mann, Jim & Antoinette Rauth, and Becky Todd.

Your contributions are much appreciated and are essential to our continued mission to preserve the history of Terrace Park.

'DAFFYNITIONS'

(From the Terrace Park High School Bulldog newspaper, January 1957)

Hors d'ouvrs: A ham sandwich cut into 40 pieces.

Man: What a boy becomes when he stops asking his father for a larger allowance and starts asking him for a loan.

Advice: Talking to a person whose mind is already made up.

Dime: A dollar with taxes taken out.

Nylons: Sheer today and gone tomorrow.

Harp: A nude piano.

Corpuscles: Lovers in vein.

Gold-digger: A girl who breaks dates by going out with them.

Chivalry: The inclination of a man to protect a girl from everyone but himself.

Bore: One who is here today and here tomorrow.

Denial: A river in Egypt.

WHITE SQUIRREL IN MUSEUM

(By Wes Cowan, from the Dec. 1994 issue of the Village Views)

On the rainy afternoon of Nov. 27, an albino squirrel, who has been a familiar and beloved sight to the residents surrounding the Village Green, was struck by an automobile and killed near the corner of Park and Elm. Park Avenue resident Wes Cowan, Curator of Archaeology, and Director of Special Projects at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, retrieved the squirrel's body, and its skin and skeleton have been added to the museum's mammalogy collections. An examination of the squirrel by museum scientists revealed it to be a robust male, although his diminutive sexual organs suggest he was incapable of breeding with others of his kind. His passing is mourned by Terrace Park residents.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During the month of February, we entertained visitors of all ages with stories from the history of Terrace Park and the Robinson Circus. On February 18, Sylvia Stirsman gave a tour to members of the Indian Hill Welcomers Walking Club, who decided that a walk through our gallery and museum would be more appealing than walking around in the cold outdoors. Then, the following week, we introduced Terrace Park Daisy Troop 4671 to the history of their neighborhood and stories about the famous circus elephants that once roamed our streets.



TPHS President, Laurie Baird with the Terrace Park Daisy Troop



Sylvia Stirsman with the Terrace Park Daisy Troop

Lastly, Horizon Church in Newtown invited our organization to join them at the Barn in Mariemont for an educational evening program. Laurie Baird spoke on the history of Terrace Park, and members of the Mariemont Preservation Foundation spoke on the history of Mariemont.

A CHILLING REMINDER OF THE PAST

Woodland Scene of Mystic visit as 1500 Knights of Klu Klux Klan are quizzed. Weird ceremonies staged near Terrace Park in glare of 500 encircling autos.

(From The Cincinnati Enquirer, June 18, 1921)

Beneath a glowing full moon, aided by the concentrated glare of headlights of 500 automobiles and accompanied by the occasional chirp of an inquisitive cricket, 1500 selected residents of Cincinnati and surrounding Cincinnati, gathered in a grove on Wooster Pike near Terrace Park, late last night to witness the birth of the Knights of the Klu Klux Klan in Cincinnati.

Shortly before 8 o'clock an automobile was seen to stop at a gate which gave entrance to a large woodland on the south side of Wooster Pike, a few hundred yards from Plainville Pike. An American flag was on the windshield.

Hardly had this been done than automobiles by the scores, loaded to capacity, pulled in at the gate and, with a nod from a sentry stationed before the portal, drove into the thicket. For nearly a quarter of an hour, the procession continued, each machine aligning so that a perfect semicircle was formed, with at least 500 cars within the gate.

While the cars were being driven into the enclosure under the immense trees, sentries were at various road intersections directing cars to the spot where soon the acceptance of applications in the new secret order was to take place. Only those recognized by the sentries as neophytes were admitted within the gate. Others were warned that they must remain without the fence. In the meantime, machines loaded with serious visaged and determined men continued to stream into the grove.

By this time, farmers, their wives and children who live in the district were becoming curious at the mysterious actions of the men and many were wont to investigate but were told to continue about their own affairs.

Soon there was a sharp blast on the whistle and the announcement was passed by word of mouth that all applicants for membership must form about the center of the enclosure where instructions soon were given by the Chief of Staff of the Grand Wizard of the Knights of the Klu Klux Klan.

White robes and the 'cross of fire' characterizing the ritual were absent from the session last night because, it was explained later, the men who were present have not been fully naturalized in the organization. This ceremonial is to take place in the middle of next month at another secret wooded spot in the vicinity of Cincinnati.

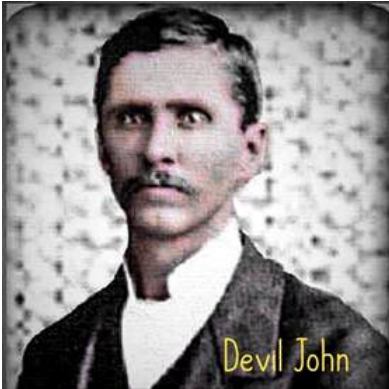
FIRE HYDRANT PAINTING - MAY 1976

Does anyone remember these colorful fire hydrants? They were painted by Terrace Park residents for a contest during the Bicentennial. We wonder how long they lasted or if any of them are still visible in the Village.



DEVIL JOHN WRIGHT

(Excerpts from the 'Appalachian Memory Keepers' website)



Remember the 'Circus Giant' story from our last issue? Believe it or not, the giant, Martin Van Buren Bates, had a nephew, John Wright, who also performed with the Robinson Circus. A talented sharpshooter and horseback rider, he became famous for doing a flip off the back of his horse while firing his pistols at bottles placed on barrels. His stint in the circus took him all over the world, even performing for Queen Victoria as a horseback acrobat.

However, his life after the circus was even more exiting. Wright returned to Appalachia and tried farming and

settling down, but it didn't take. In the years after the Civil war, the law of the land in Appalachia was simple: there wasn't any. So, Wright found his calling. He served as Sheriff of Wise County, Virginia and was also a Pinkerton detective agent. It was from these many years as a 'keeper of the 'peace and bounty hunter than he gained the nickname of 'Devil John.'

While Wright was a 'Peace' officer, he engaged in many a shoot-out. 'Some killin's had to be done in them days after the war. I always gave horse thieves, murderers and rapists a chance to come in peacefully'. But when they raised their guns and fired first, it was Wright who fired the last shot.

According to one of his great-great nephews, Steve Robinson, "All told, John had six wives and fathered over 30 children (often with multiple wives in the same year). It was quite the joke to the family and to the community at large that John had 'A wife for every mountain top'. But no one told that to John's Face. "

Because of John's restless libido, his blood has been spread all over the south east of the United States and many claim him in their lineage and rightly so. John wasn't ashamed of his polygamy and he was a staunch protector of every one of his children.

Devil John would continue his rambling, killing ways well into his early seventies. He was a known drinker and gambler and loved to make his own brandy, which he deemed the only good thing that an apple was for. But he also was a lover of his wives and children and took good care of the workers who tended his lands. John also was a lukewarm man of the Christian faith.

But that all changed in March of 1925 when his first wife, Mattie, passed away. This seemed to change Devil John and he began to go to church more regularly and on a warm morning on July 24th, 1929, Devil John finally decided to shed the skin of his former life and became a man of God. In Fairview, Virginia on that July morning, he was baptized in front of over 2000 people. Most people came because they loved John. But there were those who came just out of curiosity to see if it would really happen and even others who were sworn enemies of Devil John to see if they could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

If you are interested in more information, there are many online resources, as well as a biography, 'Devil John Wright' by Phillip Kent Church, one of his great-great grandchildren, available on Amazon. You can find the source for this article at: <https://appalachianmemorykeepers.org/stories/appalachias-own-devil-john-wright/>

DEVIL JOHN WRIGHT: His Life and Times



Revised Edition

Philip Kent Church

TERRACE PARK STORIES AND MEMORABILIA

If you know of an interesting Terrace Park story, please let us know. Items such as pictures, paintings, newspaper articles, and other documents are always of value. We can photograph them if you would prefer to keep the originals.

THE SCHMID CONCRETE MASONS



The Schmid stamp on a Terrace Park sidewalk located on the corner of Yale and Harvard.

This picture of the Schmid concrete masons appeared on the back of a postcard dated October 29, 1913. The photo was taken in front of the Terrace Park School where the men were working at the time. From left to right, the men pictured are Albert Schmid, Frank Uhl, and Albert's son Frank Schmid.

The Schmid's were responsible for many of the sidewalks in Terrace Park. Their sidewalks can be identified by the "Schmid" stamp.

VULGARITY ON THE TRAIN

(From the Cincinnati Enquirer, October 19, 1901)

Language used by a young swell upon railroad train reeked of vulgarity, arrested and taken before Squire Dumont.

"Walter Roucher, a young fellow living at Terrace Park is thinking of purchasing a gag to wear while riding on railroad trains. For Wally's late experience with the stern arm of the law will no doubt teach him to strictly observe the old saying, "silence is golden", and hereafter, "mum" will be the word with him.

Young Roucher was incontinently dragged before the bar of justice at Squire Dumont's court and pleaded guilty to using improper and vulgar language in the presence of females. Among the passengers that boarded the Pennsylvania accomodation train at Terrace Park one morning during the early part of last week, were three scions of prominent families of that village. Young Roucher was one of them.

The three launched into an animated discussion of a football game and Roucher indulged in some expressions which it is said caused ladies to gaze at him with wonder and amaze. The matter was reported to Captain Stuff of the Pennsylvania Railroad Police and he immediately swore out a warrant before Squire Dumont for the arrest of the young man.

Constables Timberlake and Critchell made the arrest and Roucher pleaded guilty and begged to have the matter kept from publicity. The matter has created quite a sensation in Terrace Park society circles where the young man's family is well known.

This is probably the first arrest ever made in this part of the country under the section of the Statute 1026 which provides that "any person who utters or uses any obscene or licentious language or words in the presence or hearing of any female shall be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both".

(Editor's note: We couldn't find any references to a 'Squire Dumont' and welcome any information you might have on this person.)

Terrace Park Historical Society
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

HOW TO DONATE TO THE TPHS ENDOWMENT FUND



The Terrace Park Historical Society is the beneficiary of an endowment fund, held in the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, which will provide annual benefits to the Historical Society in perpetuity. Gifts to the Fund can be sent to:

Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Attention: Laura Menge
720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, OH 45202

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation website can be linked to from the front page of our website:

tphistoricalociety.org All gifts to the Fund are irrevocable. If you have any questions regarding gifts to the

Fund please contact us at (513) 248-1777 or tphistoricalociety@gmail.com. Gifts to the Fund are charitable contributions and are generally tax deductible. You should consult with your own tax advisor as to the specific tax impact for your situation.

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support. To our Lifetime members - Thank you for your very generous contributions - you have already donated substantially to our organization. To our other members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile.

You can use the following form to join or renew your membership through December 2025. For online membership, visit tphistoricalociety.org/membership.

Membership Form - Mail to: The Terrace Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Yes! I want to support the Terrace Park Historical Society with a 2025 membership. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership level:

☐ Corporate/Patron(\$100) ☐ Heritage(\$50) ☐ Family(\$25) ☐ Individual (\$15) ☐ Lifetime (\$1000 Payable over 4 years) ☐ Donation

Your Name: _____ (As you would like it to appear in our records)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ (We send very few, and only important email notices)

Thank you - we appreciate your help!

The Terrace Park Historical Society is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3)

Tax Identification Number: 51093908