

◆ The Village Log ◆

Volume 4, Issue 6

January/ February 2001

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

FEB 9,10,11

BEGINNERS

TREKKERS

CONFERENCE

FEB. 13-
TRUSTEES
MEETING

FEB. 14-
HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY!

FEB. 25-
MAPLE SYRUP
TOURS &
BRUNCH

FEB 27-
TRUSTEES
MEETING

MARCH 13-
TRUSTEES
MEETING

MARCH 17-
HAPPY ST.
PATRICK'S DAY!

MARCH 27-
TRUSTEES
MEETING

APRIL 7-
MEMBERSHIP
DAY!!!!

APRIL 10-
TRUSTEES
MEETING

Attention!! We are loosing the Village!!

The Heart of the Matter

By Kevin Hurt

I have often wondered exactly what the small group of folks had in mind when they began this experiment some 28 years ago. What did they see in that decrepit old house and barn frame? I have learned that the last thing they thought about was constructing more buildings, until the Army Corps of Engineers made the suggestion. When the Elam Smoke House was complete, they were probably more than eager to tackle the Elam House itself. This sparked a surge of construction that is unequaled by any known all volunteer organization. Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village was born. Since its birth as a single farm, it has grown into mostly an empty village, sort of a ghost town that comes to life now and then. Is this what they envisioned?

About a month or so after I arrived, Don Richards gave me a smidgen of insight into the minds of the founders. He said he knew the founders would build this place and eventually another group would come along and bring it to life. Well, Don, I think I can safely say that it isn't dead. I thought it had been brought to life by all the new members, and some old, who love living history. These folks come out and occupy the Village from time to time, but right now, as I look out my windows, it looks dead. We are in the dead of winter, and all of these houses are cold. It is said that the heart of every home is the hearth. In all of these houses, the light has gone out. It looks dead, but a more accurate analogy is that it is just paralyzed. The brains are still working but the body isn't doing very much.

More about the brains and body in a bit, but one anatomical feature that is just as important is the blood. What is the blood of an organization? It is money, pure and simple. Regardless of what the brains think and the body does, neither can function without the blood. In all organisms, blood is constantly being made and destroyed. And, of course, the larger the organism grows, the more blood it needs. So now you're asking how is the blood of Pioneer Village? Lets look at the lab report.

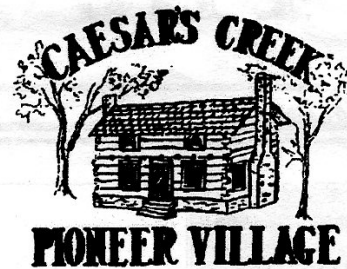
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Trustees and Officers

Larry Burns, President	(01 — 03)
T. Michael Thompson, Vice President	(01 — 03)
Burnett Butterworth, Trustee	(00 — 02)
Don Richards, Trustee	(01 — 03)
Keith Hankey, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Shelly Pickrell, Trustee	(00 — 02)
Don Dunkelberger, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Greg Knapik, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Kevin Hurt, Administrator	
Jennifer Hurt, Acting Secretary	
Jesse Mains, Program Director	



Have an article?

Send it to: Lynn Jany

664 Hidden Valley Ct.

Fairborn, Ohio 45324

PioneerVillageCC@aol.com

This newsletter is published monthly
by Lynn Jany.

Or to: 3999 Pioneer Village Rd.

Waynesville, OH 45068.

klimerbear@your-net.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and purpose of the Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village Association, a non-profit organization, are as follows:

1. To preserve, restore, and maintain the historic structures of Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village.
(Preservation Function)
2. To foster, educate and promote a deeper understanding of Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village and its significance to the history of the Southwestern Ohio Frontier during its settlement from 1793-1812. This shall be done by means of research, exhibits, interpretive programs, primitive farming and any other appropriate educational techniques. Also included in this function is a provision for special events that will educate the public. However, these events will not change the permanent historic site. (Education Function)
3. To establish and maintain collections of objects, furnishings, books, documents and illustrations relating to the history of the settling of the Southwestern Ohio Frontier from 1793-1812. (Collection Function)

I arrived here at the end of 1997. This is as good a place to start, because the numbers are quite similar back to 1994. The cash flow of the annual budget increased from \$52,000 to \$111,000. This is an astonishing 113.5% increase in just 36 months. This indicates tremendous growth. The factors that lead to this growth is simply fund raising. Regardless of the mission, non-profit corporations rely on fund raising. Not just some non-profits, all non-profits. Many of you have never considered yourselves to be involved in fund raising, but you are. Your membership dues are actually annual donations given to an annual fund. And your volunteer work at festivals is actually gifts in kind given during fundraisers. What you are doing is giving to a non-profit. What you are doing is adding to the blood of the organism-ization. Just as individual cells make up blood, individual dollars (both cash and in-kind) combine to form a cash flow.

How much blood did the membership contribute this year and what was the impact? Donations from members totaled more than \$10,000 in 2000. This is a increase of 268% over 1998. These donations came from you, the members. In addition, your average donation rose by 550%, from an average of \$48.82 in 1997 to \$317.11 in 2000. **This is simply fantastic.** This does not include the countless hours of volunteer time that several members have made. Adding to this the fact that grants have increased by 840% since 1998, the fund raising side of the blood production is doing quite well. This is how a successful non-profit operates.

On the other hand, the white count is going down. These are the funds that are being generated by the fundraisers, i.e., events and festivals. Looking back to 1994 through 1997, the events were generating an average of about \$45,000. I am not completely sure of the accounting on these figures, but I am certain of the numbers for 1998 through 2000. The events generated \$15,000 in 1998, \$6,314 in 1999, and \$13,900 in 2000. These numbers include funds that were raised to support some of the programs. Ideally, fundraisers should not be dependent on fund raising to generate revenue. When the grants and donations are removed from the figures, we have these numbers: \$10,076, \$3,814, and \$5,772 respectively. This indicates a 43% decline in revenue. To say this is anemic would be a serious understatement. Considering the organizations cash flow is well over \$100,000 a year and is increasing, changes have to be made.

Currently, the brains (the staff and the Board of Trustees) are trying to come up with ways to generate other income. The only alternative to festivals and events is the daily market. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Caesar Creek State Park, Pioneer Village receives more than **60,000 visitors** each year. Only about 5,000 of these people came to our events. This leaves a vast market untapped. The only reasonable solution to this dilemma is to open the Village to the public and charge a reasonable admission fee every day that we possibly can.

How can this happen and what if it does? Let's suppose that our government friends are very optimistic about our visitation numbers. Say that only half of their visitation numbers would result in a paid visit to Pioneer Village. This would result in **30,000 visitors**. **If each of those visitors paid an average of \$4 per person, \$120,000 in revenue would be generated. Could this cover expenses, YOU BET!** This would require the Village to be open EVERY DAY. Right now, it is impossible. Our volunteers could not carry that kind of a load. We also lack the person-power staff wise.

To start this process, you, the **volunteers are needed**. We need you to come to the Village on a regular basis. Instead of putting our eggs in festival baskets, we gather them each and every weekend. We carry them in aprons, shirttails, petticoats, breechclouts, and anything else we can think of. The idea is to occupy the Village every weekend and not just once a month. If all the volunteers rotate on and off weekends, the system should work pretty well. I'll let Jesse work out the details on this for you.

At the last board meeting, I told Don R. that volunteers built Pioneer Village and that it still is based on volunteers. In biological terms, the brains need the body to wake up not just once a month, but at least every weekend. This just might work. My head tells me that when my body gets moving, my blood starts flowing better.

I'll see you at the Village.

Kevin Hurt

Village Administrator

Harvest festival 2000

By Jesse Mains

I would like to extend a hearty "Thank You!" to all the members and Volunteers who made the first Pioneer Harvest 1800 such a success. For a first time event, we had a good turnout, blessed with fair weather. The gate brought in \$5,948, subtracting ad costs & supplies, it netted \$3,264.77. Our visitors tended to come and stay the better part of the day visiting the various demonstrations in the Village; Shelley Pickrell demonstrated Spinning Wool and Flax, Lynn & Michael Jany made Apple Butter, Della & Kevin Hurt demonstrated Soap making & Small Beer while touching on period farming, Jan Campbell & Steve guided kids in Dipping Candles, Greg Knapik and Roy & Jean McDonald discussed weaving back in the Githens House. Charlotte Wilkie showed kids what school was like in the Schoolhouse. Mike Thompson & Co. discussed furniture making in the never-ending battle to convince our public that everything wasn't made outta' sticks, Wayne Milton & crew demonstrated Natural Dyeing and Wayne helped in the Kitchen – on a broken leg – again! Mike T. and Tony Lawson demonstrated pressing Apple Cider in spite of the kamikaze yellow jackets, I think we all got stung a time or two. Don Richards once again made Hominy while Mic showed folks how to dry foods for preservation. Roy & Carolyn Clark showed the Elam House, and helped in the Kitchen – they also toiled many tiresome hours at the Gate along with Greg K., Mike T., and Butch Hauri. Thanks guys.

The Bullskin was once again open for business, with Larry & Crew once again giving a fine glimpse into early Ohio social life (not to mention cooking up some fine vittles). Keith Hankey gave a fine demonstration of Flax Processing in the Lukens House, riveting the attention of public and Village Members alike. And last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank Bonnie Hankey for running the Gift Shop (we brought in around \$1200), Terry Perkins for helping me get messages & supplies around, Jennifer Hurt for running the Kitchen, and Jim Wheeler for maintaining our Bathrooms.

From my perspective it was a very educational and rewarding event, and one more along the lines of what we can offer the public that they don't see in our area. For the amount of Volunteers & House Parents here, we certainly got a lot accomplished, once again,
Thank You All!!!!

Christmas Candlelight Tour & Work Days

December 2 & 3, 2000

Many, many thanks to those who gave their time and effort to make our tour a success, especially those of you who walked with the groups! The weather was bitter and windy, yet our hearts were warm! The comments from our visitors were ones of fascination at the lively stories told in our home and the fine job of decorating the homes in a period manner.

The covered dish gathering at the Bullskin displayed wonderful food!! A grand thanks to those of you cooked and worked hard to make it a success.....for those of you who just stuffed your faces and brought nothing.....Shame on you!! Apologies to the others who finally finished their work in their homes to find the food almost gone, even though they contributed to the meal. Time to think of others not just ourselves.

Work Day...Jesse would like to extend a special thanks to John Jones, Don Dunkelberger, Jim Wheeler, and Michael Jany for working in the cold air on the Harkrader Barn and to Lynn Jany for feeding us and keeping the coffee hot for us on Saturday and Sunday. Special thanks to Michael For working all day Sunday.

Maple Syrup 2/20/15 Maple Syrup Tours & Brunch; Feb. 25, 2001

Jesse Main

It's that time of year again! Frank and Linda Lee have tapped the better part of the trees and we have collected around 30 gallons of sap (50 gal. sap = 1 gal. syrup). The trees have not really begun to run yet, once the ground thaws out to release the moisture to the roots and the weather warms the "run" will begin in earnest. Once it starts there will be plenty of work to do hauling sap and boiling down the syrup, so if anyone is interested in helping give me or Frank a call and we'll update you on how it's going – once we're running full-bore c'mon out and help! Syruping is a great learning experience for anyone and is great fun to boot.

The weekend of the Tour, Carol Fassig from the Nature Center will have school groups in to see the process on Saturday. Sunday will be our Tour and Brunch, where we will demonstrate tapping the trees down to the finished product in the Maple Shed. If any of you re-enactor types are interested, I would like to demonstrate how it would have been done circa 1800, with wooden spiles (that's the "thingy" driven into the sapwood), bark or wooden buckets and boiling the sap down in a copper or iron kettle. We could even set up a "sugar camp" in the woods. Frank & I are still talking this over, just throwing the idea out there to see if anyone's interested, I don't have time to do that all by myself.

Hours for the Tour are; 11am to 2pm, tours begin on the hour and last 45 minutes. The brunch will be served throughout this time period.

Tollhouse

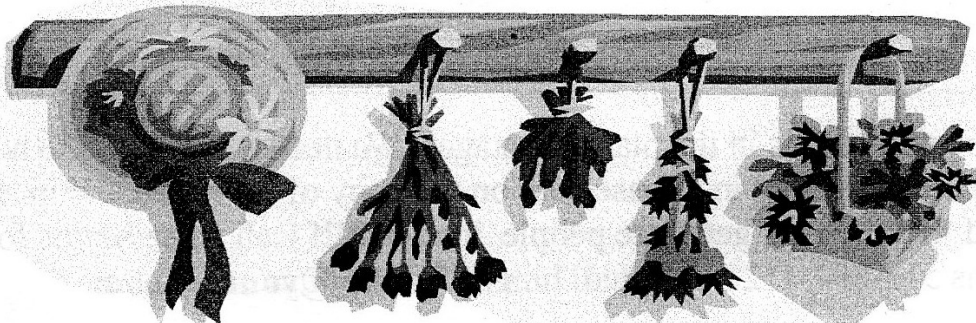
Jesse Main

Here's the idea;

Since the Gift Shop has been moved to the "General Store", and in keeping with the idea of using the Tollhouse as an Orientation center, I would like to expand on that a little and showcase some of the artifacts we have here at Pioneer Village.

What I am working on is setting up a Timeline Display of goods and tools spanning the entire time period of the houses, from 1793 to 1864. Kevin and I have moved three display cases into the Toll House already. In a nutshell; one case will display items from 1793 to 1812, our time-frame, to cover the Early Settlement period. The second, items from 1812 to around 1840, showing the beginnings of mass-produced goods, political & societal changes, &c..., the last case will have goods from 1840 to 1864 like pre-made machine sewn clothing, kerosene lamps, &c... We have a large table to set up as an "island" in the middle of the room. On this I'd like to put the mini-scale cabin and modify it somewhat to demonstrate construction techniques and the uses of siding on houses. Hopefully this can be done effectively enough to interest the visitors and give them some insight and background on what we do here and the challenges we face in preserving these irreplaceable buildings.

The Village owns many original items we could display- the Timeline theme would allow us to utilize some of the "later" pieces not appropriate for our timeframe of 1793-1812. In addition to these, we could use some original and reproduction pieces from our Members. They would be marked "courtesy of", I am going to provide a circa 1805-10 Ohio made rifle for the early case. Of course, security is an issue, and one we can easily address. What I'll do is figure out what will fit in the cases and make a list of artifacts, then see what we can come up with. I would appreciate some feedback from you all on this idea.



NEWSFLASH!!!!!!

Jesse Mains

WHAT?; We are implementing a new schedule and style of programs on a trial basis in June and September of 2001. We will be open **every** weekend these two months, with members in period dress demonstrating skills and lifestyles of the period of 1793-1812, with some cabins open and occupied. (With the goal of being open every day.)

WHY?; We are not making enough on festivals to cover our operating costs. The Board of Trustees looked at the numbers, (**see page 1 & 3**) and we discussed dropping most of the Festivals. The only ones **cancelled** are the **Spring Social Dance** (not open to public) and the **Celtic Festival** in September. The **Olde Tyme Music Festival** is still going to happen in June. Considering the number of tourists that drop by and walk around only to see locked buildings, we will offer quality living history demonstrations and tours of the houses on these weekends in order to tap this resource.

HOW?; As Program Director, I will be responsible for scheduling Volunteers to staff the Village on these weekends. Tentative hours are 10-5. We will need 2 people in the Tollhouse (it will be our "gate"), 2 people in the Kitchen, someone in the Gift Shop, and at least 3 people to demonstrate in/around the cabins. This is a "skeleton crew" of 8 people in addition to myself. We could utilize 12-15 volunteers easily and occupy them all. Also, all jobs will not require Period clothing, i.e. Kitchen, Tollhouse, & Gift Shop. However, many of us have extra clothing for those members who have none.

IDEAS; We can currently offer good, period appropriate and documentable demos of blacksmithing, soap & candle making, tanning hides (give me a call Tony L.), spinning, sewing, leather work, cooking, monetary systems, and social life.

Some things would need materials/set-up to get them "right", i.e. farming, furniture making, cabin construction (hewing logs, making clapboards & shingles), smoking meat, food preservation, splitting rails/fence building, etc....

I hope you guys can all see what I'm getting at here; there is a lot we can offer the public besides a simple tour of the Village. We can show them a memorable experience through the commitment and expertise of our membership, and **every single member has something to contribute to that experience.**

Membership Day

Our membership day is in the planning stages. We need suggestions to help us know the topics you are interested in. Please pass on the copy of the membership application to family and friends. Lets get more people involved!!! Call Jesse Mains for info and suggestions 513-897-1120 or e-mail him at **Jmains@yournet.com**

♦♦♦NOTICES♦♦♦

Spin Off!!

Bring your spinning and/or knitting to Shelly's house from 2pm—5/6pm
On Sunday Feb. 18, 2001 and Sunday March 18, 2001. If you are just
learning this is a great way for you to gain experience. RSVP to
s.mcclanahan@inetmail.att.net or 513-933-9952
Pot luck refreshments!!

Hear ye, Hear Ye!

We are pleased to announce the Third Annual Sam Brady Conference,
April 27—29, 2001!!! For info call or e-mail Frontier Resources,
(270) 432-4796 e-mail: frontier@scrtc.com.

Remember Greenup Day is Coming!!!

We need all the elbow grease that you have available. If you haven't volunteered in
awhile now is a good time to get out in the fresh air...get rid of cabin fever and give
back to the village! Just like your own backyards and lawns, ours is in need of TLC.
Please help us look good...April 21st....Greenup day!!

Village Membership

Please remember to send your Village Membership
applications and renewals to Kevin Hurt.

All checks should be made to Caesar's Creek
Pioneer Village.
\$25.00 = 1 year membership

Questions, email Kevin at :
Klimerbear@yournet.com

Wanted: Apprentice

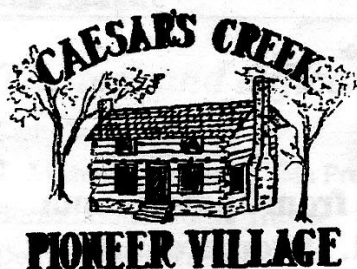
Where: The School House

Looking for someone to help Charlotte to conduct
school at scheduled times during each festival.
Each school session will last between 20 and 30
minutes.

Call Charlotte Wilkie for information
513-591-2926.

HOUSE PARENT WAITING LIST

Wayne Milton
David Graves
Kevin Graves
Tony Lawson
Jim Nunke
Michael & Lynn Jany



3999 Pioneer Village Rd.
Waynesville, OH 45068
(513) 897 - 1120



Maple Syrup Tours & Brunch

February 25, 2001

Come visit the Village as the sap master boils Down the sap to make maple syrup. You can help him tap the trees and gather sap. Then feast on the syrup made here at the Village.

Tours are 45 minutes long.

The tours begin at 11am, noon, 1pm and 2pm.

Brunch

Will be served 11am to 2pm.

For those who cannot read the size of print in this publication, a larger print version of the text is available by writing
Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village
3999 Pioneer Village Road,
Waynesville, OH 45068,
or calling (513) 897- 1120.