

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE
VOL. IX Issue 7
July 1984

HEIGHWAY MOVE NEEDS HELP ²⁰¹⁰

The latest building to be included in the Village, the Heighway house, will be dismantled and brought to the barn on August 11 and 12, for storage until crews can get around to re-erecting it. As usual, many hands will make light work.

In the case of this building many hands will be required, for, among buildings brought to the Village, it is unique in several ways.

It is the oldest building and probably more fragile than many others. In fact, it may be the oldest building in southwestern Ohio, 1793 being the date tentatively agreed upon by historians.

It is in extremely poor condition, since it has never had the protective covering of added-on-later siding, as all the other Village buildings have had. Cement has been added to the lower logs, and these may not be anything but veneers of logs visible from the inside. It has stood abandoned for nearly a decade without roof or protection of any kind since it burned in the late 60's or early 70's. Damage from the fire completely destroyed the top floor and the rear and badly charred much of the remainder.

This house is located in the most difficult location of all the buildings that have been tackled, on the fairly steep hillside and back behind other buildings. It is overgrown with trees and brush that will require preliminary work.

As many volunteer men as possible will be needed. Those interested in this project, please meet at the location

known as "three bridges", at Lower Springboro Road and Rt. 42, at 9 A.M. Saturday, August 11. Bring equipment such as pry bars, chains, hammers, trucks, etc., and bug repellent might also be included.

STAGE GETS BOARD SEATS

The CETA employees, under the direction of Jim Merrick, have been hard at work so far this summer and have accomplished much in the few short weeks they have been on the grounds.

The first job tackled and the one presently finished is the construction of seating and board benches for stage audiences. Merrick estimates that about 150 people can now sit down for stage performances. The group is currently working on the Elam smokehouse, having put sound replacement logs in the front and mudded the inside logs. Soon the job will be completed by mudding the outside as well. The front logs, never very sound, were nothing but pulp.

In addition, the CETA crew has been mowing grounds, moving rocks, helping volunteers, policing the grounds, and preparing for and cleaning up for the Civil War re-enactment.

GATES MADE FOR GREEN FENCE

Gates have been constructed for the various openings around the Village green by volunteers and CETA employees. Several were hung by Harold Smart one weekend he was on the grounds volunteering work needed.

The new gates will enable those who bring horses in for festivals to turn them loose for pasture over the night in the Green.

THIS EWE IS FOR YOU TOO

The Village has its first farm animal. Recently, a neighbor girl, Kathy Ross, brought her 4-H lamb she had raised in and gave her to the Village. Trained to a lead, the sheep can be seen busily mowing grass someplace in the Village, and it is a big hit with the visitors, mainly the younger set.

The Merricks have taken her under their care and tether her in their yard at night. She came with a tail but lost it in an accident, so the veterinarian took care of her. She goes by the name of "Samantha."

HOUSE BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE ²⁰¹⁰

Charley Hill, a young man from the Xenia area, is presently working on the Collett house, under contract from the trustees to get that building under a roof and closed in by the end of the summer. Two tiers of top logs were put down and the ceiling joists were laid in, and the logs were put back up. A second floor is being put on as of this writing. Paul Crane did the log lifting work when he had his backhoe on the grounds.

Burnett Butterworth and George Wall have built a foundation and framing for the first floor and framed the windows and doors. Stairs are being constructed.

NEW WORKERS WELCOMED

Members were pleased to welcome the McKinneys from Westchester near Cincinnati, who brought their camper and helped about the Village in preparation for the Civil War re-enactment.

CONFEDERATES WIN AGAIN

Rebels and Yanks met to hurl insults, blank volleys, noise and gunpower at each other across the Village green at the Civil War re-enactment held July 21 and 22.

After the battle on Saturday, in the evening they camped together in the Village ate together from the common pot full of chicken and noodles prepared by Linda Lee, and on Sunday morning devoured pancakes and sausage cooked by Village volunteers at the barbecue building.

Separate encampments were maintained on opposite sides of the Green, however, with campfires, flags and pickets.

Two battles, one on Saturday and another on Sunday, were fought with much gun powder and the roar of cannon. As in actual life, the Confederates under Morgan fled on after defeating the Union forces and stealing horses and equipment.

The weatherman cooperated, even though there was rain all Friday afternoon.

Visitors were quite light Saturday. Sunday saw perhaps three times as many. Gate receipts ran just under a thousand dollars for both days. Food sales were low and the store did a good business. Some craftsmen

were on the grounds and there were also a few demonstrators from the Village. The weavers were active at the Githens house both days.

Total receipts for the Village for the two days were approximately \$3,400.00. Though it was an expensive weekend for the Village, as one trustee said, "We wouldn't have had any income from it at all if we had not had the event." The activities can be termed a success without qualification toward the restoration. Personnel involved were nearly double that of last year.

Very much evident this year was the distaff side of the forces, with their hoop skirts, satin finery and bonnets imported from Philadelphia. The ladies held a dress contest Saturday afternoon near the Elam house.

MEMBERS ATTEND BLUE JACKET

A group of Villagers recently attended the outdoor dramatization of Blue Jacket, near Xenia. Several met for dinner at Ye Olde Mill Inn in Waynesville.

JUST PUTTYING AROUND

Orrin Schaal has been glazing windows that were either broken or missing due to accidents. Thanks, Orrin

WALKWAY NOW COMPLETE 2015

Only a few days before the Civil War, the pedestrian pathway around the green was completed by Paul Crane with his backhoe and truckloads of gravel from the pit at Melvin in Clinton County.

The section running from the Tollhouse to the Lukens barn was put in and the entire pathway was re-covered with crushed stone to make a fine and appealing walkway to make all the surfaces uniform and easy for walking.

About 120 tons of stone were purchased for the operation.

This completes a project begun several years ago to make a pathway around the Village so that visitors can make the circuit to see all the buildings, entering at the Tollhouse and exiting to the parking lot near the Meeting house. Together with the fence around the green, the pathway ties the various buildings into a cohesive whole.

ROOFS GET COAT OF PAINT

The Lukens barn and sorghum shed roofs now have a complete and new coat of paint, recently applied by Charley Hill. Hill also repaired leaks.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL IS COMING SEPT. 15 & 16.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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