

◆ The Village Log ◆

Volume 4, Issue 5

November/December 2000

MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

DEC. 2 & 3 -
WORK ON
HARKRAKER
BARN

DEC. 2 -
CHRISTMAS
CANDLELIGHT
TOUR

DEC. 12 -
TRUSTEES
MEETING

DEC. 25 -
MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

DEC. 26 -
NO MEETING

JAN. 1, 2001
HAPPY NEW
YEAR!!!!

JAN. 9 -
TRUSTEES
MEETING

JAN. 23 -
TRUSTEES
MEETING

FEB. 13 -
TRUSTEES
MEETING

FEB. 14 -
HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY!

FEB. 25 -
MAPLE SYRUP
TOURS &
BRUNCH

Happy Solstice!! Merry Christmas!!! Or yes Virginia It was a Pagan Holiday!!!

by Lynn Jany

As Christianity spread, it appropriated many pagan symbols, most of which are no longer seen as metaphors. Pagan Romans brought evergreens into their homes for Solstice celebrations. Like the Solstices promise of Spring-time, evergreens symbolized immortality--they don't turn brown in winter. These became the Christmas trees of Europe and connect to the immortality promised by Christ. Christmas tree ornaments are stand-ins for the apples Northern European pagans tied to trees to remind themselves that summer would return. The pagans also placed candles in the branches of their trees, similar to the Hanukkah menorah and harken back to the Solstice bonfires and Yule logs of everyone from the Ancient Egyptians and Greeks to the Druids and the Norsemen. The Christmas tree is far more pagan than Christian and directly tied to the Solstice--although it also echoes the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden and the Cross, but those interpretations came later, as justifications for these obviously pagan symbols. The use of holly and mistletoe are similar borrowings from pagan Solstice festivals.

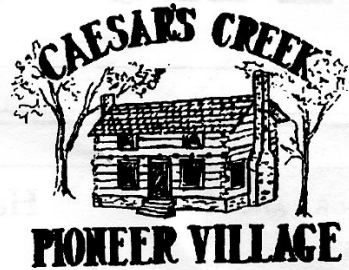
So too, has the character known as Santa Claus been merged into the Christian celebration. Many pagan cultures had a character who would visit at the Solstice to bring gifts. A Yule elf with magical reindeer was one such being, clothed in the traditional red, black, and white costume--the colors of life, death and rebirth. "Old Nick" was a Danish sea God and the early Christian bishop, Saint Nicholas, was attributed a power over storms and possessed a magic cauldron to resurrect the dead (a power both very pagan and also Christ-like). The visitor came at night and left gold coins in stockings and shoes. In the Netherlands, he was called Sinter Klaas--a name later Anglicized to Santa Claus. The Danish gift-bringer known as Julemanden has elves as helpers, arrives in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and sports a sack of goodies on his back. Most famously portrayed in Clement

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Trustees and Officers

Larry Burns, President	(00 — 02)
Shelley Pickrell, Vice President	(00 — 02)
Burnett Butterworth, Trustee	(00 — 02)
Don Richards, Trustee	(98 — 00)
Keith Hankey, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Mike Thompson, Trustee	(00 — 02)
Don Dunkelberger, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Greg Knapik, Trustee	(99 — 01)
Kevin Hurt, Administrator	
Jennifer Hurt, Acting Secretary	



Have an article?

Send it to: Lynn Jany

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Fairborn, Ohio 45324
PioneerVillageCC@aol.com

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Or to: 3999 Pioneer Village Rd.
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I

Internet

Visit us at:

www.webteamone.com/ccpv/

Typed, computer disk, e-mail,
or handwritten clearly. Please include
your name and an evening telephone
number.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

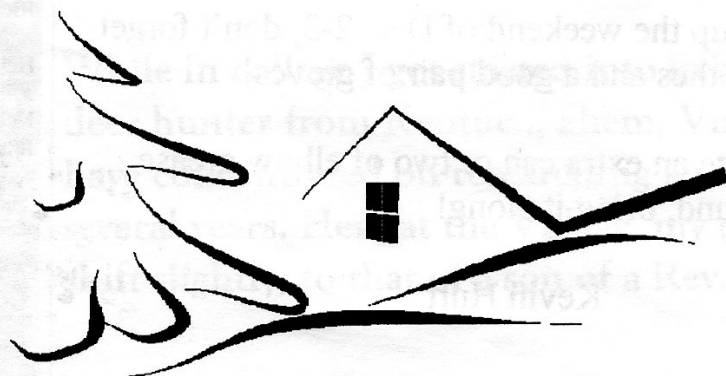
1. To preserve, restore, and maintain the historic structures of Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village.
(Preservation Function)
2. To foster, educate and promote a deeper understanding of Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village and its significance to the history of the Southwestern Ohio Frontier during its settlement 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)

Happy Solstice continued.....

Moore's 1822 poem "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," popularly known as "The Night Before Christmas," Santa Claus appears totally of pagan origin. Charles Dickens' "Ghost of Christmas Present" from his "Christmas Carol" story is clearly another version of this Santa character--right down to his jolly laughter. Some people bemoan the modern celebration of Santa Claus and gift giving as straying from "what Christmas is all about." To them, Santa Claus is an interloper crashing the celebration of the birth of Christ. But if you see the two as manifestations of the Winter Solstice, they are very closely related. Like the return of the Sun, both Santa and Jesus Christ are gift givers with miraculous powers whose coming is hoped for and celebrated every year at the Solstice. Christ was considered the son of God, but also God, himself. Traditionally, God and Santa Claus are both depicted as wise old men with white beards who know if people have been bad or good and judge them--dispensing or withholding gifts. Those gifts could be a toy, another good harvest, or life after death. If you are bad, Santa Claus brings you a lump of coal. If you lead a bad life, the Catholic God sends you to Hell, the land of coal. But don't fret, because, doesn't coal produce light when lit? And light is what the holiday is really all about--a light of redemption, another chance. In ancient societies, light meant life--without it there was none.

The light symbolized the afterlife, Heaven, Valhalla, Nirvana, Happy Hunting Grounds, even reincarnation. Today, people who have had near-death experiences report seeing a bright light. The Winter Solstice marks the re-birth of the Sun. The return of light means there is always hope. And our celebrations validate faith. Believing in Santa Claus is no child's deception, no more so than believing in God is an adult's deception. They are both articles of faith. The shared message of the solstice festivals of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa--that life will go on--is more universal than their Jewish, Christian, or African origins would lead you to believe. As long as there are children, there will be a Santa Claus. As long as there are people, there will be a God. And as long as there is a Winter Solstice there is the promise of life renewed. The Winter Solstice festival is the worlds greatest holiday, a celestial celebration. From cavemen to spacemen, it's been the same festive occasion. So have a happy Solstice! Don't belittle it. This is what we've really been celebrating all along.

Blessing to you all and your friends and Families!!!



Attention Volunteers!!

Work Weekend, December 2-3

Thanks to a grant from DP&L, we have a chance to do some much needed work on the Harkrader Barn, in order to make it more suitable for use as a working building, and further enable us to properly care for livestock here at the Village.

In a nutshell, here's what we'd like to get accomplished;

1. Install rain gutters around back entrance.
2. Create a drainage ditch from back of barn to the hollow.
3. Run trench for electrical hookup in barn
4. Run trench to barn for water access in barn.

Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we can get some work done over the weekend. **YES**, we know this is the same weekend as the Christmas Candlelight tour, but we plan on working during the day on Saturday and Sunday and quitting well before we need to get ready for the tour, which is from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Sat.

So, when you come up the weekend of Dec. 2-3, don't forget those warm work clothes and a good pair of gloves!

P.S.- If you have an extra can or two of elbow grease just laying around, bring it along!

Kevin Hurt

HOUSE PARENTS

Bullskin Inn -
Don and Suzie
Dunkelberger and
Larry and Mary
Ellen Burns

Collett House -
Mike Smith, Stan
Wallace, and
Shelley Pickrell

Elam House -
Carol & Roy Clark

Friends Meeting
House -
Jerry Zorns

Furnas House -
Village Hostel

Githens House -
Roy and Jean
McDonald and
Greg and Pat
Knapik

Harrias House -
Village Office

Rhoads/Hatfield
House -
Glen and Helen
Rhoads

Hawkins House -
Right Side: Jan
Campbell
Left Side: Mic
Richards

Heighway Cabin -
John Hoff, Neil
Kelly, Bob
Reynolds, Randy
Sweet, and Scott
Thornberry

Lukens House -
Tom Riehle, Keith
and Bonnie Hankey

Mills-Taylor
Saddlebag House -
Left Side: Mike
Thompson
Right Side: Wayne
Milton

Schoolhouse -
Charlotte Wilkie

Toll House -
Village Museum

Blacksmith Shop -
Jack E. Bender

Elam
Smokehouse -
Jim Wheeler and
Dorothy Corkhill

Lacy Springhouse -
Don Richards

The Herb Garden
Shed - Mic
Richards

Village Kitchen -
Jennifer Hurt

Other Buildings:

Anderson Corn
Crib, Bailey
Gazebo, Barbecue
Building,
Harkrader Barn,
Henpeck Coop,
Lukens Barn,
Maggie's Coop,
Meeting House
Shed, Outdoor
Oven, Outdoor
Stage, Scales
Building, Sorghum/
Maple Syrup
Buildings, Storer
Shed, The Head
Shed, Wood
Storage Building,
Zoar Building.

Greetings From Your *Program Director*

For those of you that don't know me yet, allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Jesse Mains and I'm from Kentucky. To be slightly more specific, from just south of Augusta, in Bracken County. I grew up working and running the woods on my families tobacco farm, which has recently been sold. I grew up fishing and hunting with my cousins on the Ohio River and in the woods of Bracken and Mason counties.

After high school I attended Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, graduating with a B.S. Degree in Recreation and Park Administration/ Outdoor Education Option, with a Minor in Emergency Medical Care.

During and after college I have worked at several camps in the area, most notably YMCA Camp Kern, as a Teen Out-Trips Leader and Naturalist in their Outdoor Education Program.

While in college I got started into living history, and being a deer hunter from Kentuc..., ahem, Virginia, that's what I have concentrated on researching and portraying for the last several years. Here at the Village my portrayal will have to shift slightly, to that of a son of a Rev. War

veteran from Virginia, and a farmer. So I guess you could say I'm "settling down".

The Village has hired me in the past to help with certain events and I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work developing programs in such a wonderful place, with so much real history behind it, and great potential to become a premier "living history" site as well.

Hopefully we'll get there soon.

Jesse.....a warm welcome from all of us!!!

◆◆◆NOTICES◆◆◆

Dear Members,

I would like to start a classified section of our newsletter. Ads can only be placed if they pertain to our Village. Such as period clothing, extra fabric to sell or trade, period house wares to sell or trade and help wanted. Others that can be placed are for services.....sewing, spinning and instruction. Any additional ideas are welcome but we don't want to get carried away with outside things. Sorry, so if you are unsure just send it on to me and I will let you know.

Lynn Jany

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

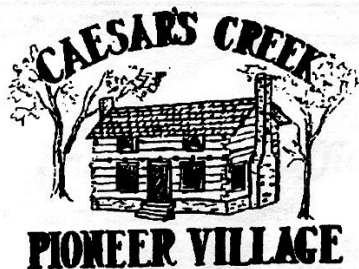
Looking for someone to help Charlotte to conduct school at scheduled times during each festival. Each school session will last between 20 and 30 minutes.

Call Charlotte Wilkie for information
513-591-2926.

HOUSE PARENT WAITING LIST

Carolyn Slattery
Lana Chambers
Wayne Milton
Lynn and Michael Jany

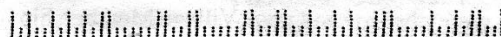
For corrections or to be added to the list,
please contact Kevin at 513-897-1120.



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



45036+1344



Christmas Candlelight Tour
Saturday, December 2, 2000
5 pm to 8 pm

Come enjoy a visit to a pioneer settlement
As they celebrate as it was 200 years ago.

The cabins are decorated with greenery
and are cozy, while the residents are quite
pleasant to talk with. Before you leave,
you must visit the Bullskin Inn, which is
filled with Christmas cheer from days
gone by!

Happy Holidays!

**Members....bring a covered dish and
please join us afterwards
for a good meal, fine drink and to toast
each other in friendship!**

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.