Historic Zoar Saved from Levee Breaching

Village residents, elected officials and historical organizations are reacting with relief to the news that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers no longer is considering breaching the Zoar Levee as an option to deal with problems with the flood-control structure.

“The Zoar Community Association is gratified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that preservation of Zoar is most important and that the Zoar Levee will be addressed and recertified. We appreciate the good working relationship we have had with the USACE project team as well as the support from elected officials at all levels, the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition.

“To know that Historic Zoar Village will remain intact for future generations is great news. On behalf of the Village of Zoar, I want to thank the thousands of people who have contacted the Corps in support of saving our historic community. The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated Historic Zoar a National Treasure, which elevated our campaign to the national level and gave us a prominence that was needed. The Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Preservation Office, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition, and others also gave support. I also want to thank all our county, state, and federal elected officials who supported saving Historic Zoar, especially Congressman Bob Gibbs for his tremendous effort.”

STEPHANIE MEEKS, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TimesReporterNov 22, 2013

King Cholera Reigns in Zoar

Perhaps you have heard the “ghost story” of the cholera epidemic. A canal boat captain dropped off a mysterious stranger at the Canal Inn. The Separatists cared for the ill man until his death. Two weeks later, a woman, claiming to be the man’s wife, demanded that the Separatists return her husband’s possessions to her. The Separatists explained that they had not disturbed the man’s clothing and they

continued on page 3
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Like us on Facebook! Search for Zoar Community Association. There are currently 1,532 Followers!
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Site Hours for Tours:
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April & May: Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
June-September: Wed. - Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
October: Sat. 11-4, Sun. 12-4
November & December: Closed

Zoar Store Retail Hours:
January & February: Closed
March: Fri., Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-5
April-December: Wed. - Sat. 10-5; Sun. 12-5

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Meet the Board  Mark Gaynor

Mark Gaynor is the Vice President of the Zoar Community Association and the Chairperson of the Zoar Civil War Reenactment. He lives in the Weaving Haus in Zoar where he runs his businesses Indian River Graphics, Weaving Haus Antiques, and D-Day Quartermaster.

Gaynor is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He is also involved in the 51st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. B., Inc., a Civil War Reenactment Group, and serves as their Field Commander as a Captain. In addition, he is a founding member of the World War II Reenactment Group 101st Airborne, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, Baker Company.

Mark is married to Kristin Gaynor of Zoar and is the father of two, Abigail and one expected in March.

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Congratulations to Mark & Kristy on the recent birth of their son Daniel.

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State Representative Al Landis provided an Ohio flag for the schoolhouse flagpole.
buried him with all he possessed. The woman left and found a hired man then returned to Zoar and asked to disinter her husband’s body. With two members of the community, the hired man dug up the body, the woman found the valuables, mainly a cash sum, and then they reinterred the body. She paid the hired man and offered a sum to the Separatists, which they refused. The next morning, the first case of cholera appeared in Zoar. The hired man and woman both succumbed to the disease, just miles from Zoar.

What is cholera? In 1832, cholera was a scourge of the unclean and intemperate. Today, we know that the bacterium vibrio cholerae, motile and comma shaped, causes the disease by spreading along any pathway that leads to the digestive tract. The bacteria attach to the absorptive cells of the small intestine and make the cells become porous, releasing water, sodium, potassium, and glucose. This causes diarrhea and severe dehydration. The knowledge of what the bacteria did at a cellular level led to the creation of oral rehydration solution to replace the loss of glucose, sodium chloride, potassium, and lactate in the body. The discovery of the cholera bacteria is most often credited to Robert Koch in 1883, who ‘chased’ cholera epidemics seeking the bacteria, but his research was not possible without Louis Pasteur’s discovery of bacteria in the 1860s, and also the germ theories of both John Snow during the 1852 cholera epidemic in London, and Filippo Pacini in an 1854 epidemic in Italy.

Symptoms of cholera include diarrhea, acute spasmodic vomiting, and painful cramps that lead to severe dehydration and cyanosis (the appearance of a blue or purple coloration of the skin or mucous membranes due to the tissues near the skin surface being low on oxygen), and drawn and puckered skin. Cholera appeared with no warning and you could wake up well and be dead before bedtime. Treatment in the 1830s was more harmful than helpful. Doctors used calomel, with a poisonous mercury base, as a cathartic to accelerate defecation – which we know today contributed to the electrolyte imbalance and dehydration. Other remedies included plugging the rectum with beeswax or oilecloth to halt diarrhea, tobacco smoke enemas, electric shock, and bloodletting.

Cholera is endemic to the Lower Ganges River region of Asia, in what is today northeast India. Cholera first appeared in India in 1563. The disease began its journey to a worldwide plague in 1817 when it began to spread along trade routes to Eastern Europe. In 1831, the disease spread to first Russia, and then to much of Western Europe, including the British Isles, by 1832. Cholera also begins to appear in North America in 1832, becoming epidemic in large cities like New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Cleveland. And, thanks to the Ohio and Erie Canal, small hamlets like Canal Dover also felt the sting of cholera. Places like New York and Philadelphia attempted to quarantine ships coming in from Europe to stop the spread of the disease, but the potential for damaging monetary losses by slowing trade made quarantine hard to enforce. In addition, immigrants would dock in Canada and make their way south into the United States, often into large cities. The epidemic reached Cleveland from a ship docked in Quebec and 64 people died from June–October 1832.

The Zoar Separatists were fortunate not to feel the epidemic in 1832, since the disease appeared in Dover among canal passengers. In most cases, the epidemic did NOT reach inland towns until 1834 – the year cholera reigned in Zoar. And the reign of King Cholera was terrible, as 50+ people, or one third of the community, succumbed to the disease.

The ghost story of the mysterious stranger is one account of how the disease came to Zoar, but other accounts tell us how the epidemic affected the village. Alexander Gunn relates one account in his ”Hermitage–Zoar Notebook,”

Michael, the Nestor of Zoar, has a reverent memory for Beimler, the old King of the Zoars. He tells how, when the cholera devastated the village, he would fearlessly go about ministering to the sick. He seemed to have a charmed life, for neither disease nor accident had power to quench his daunts less spirit. Michael’s wife died miserably of cholera, and he, with one other only, buried her, without ceremony, as soon as life had departed. He attributes his immunity from the disease to an injection administered by a woman seven years older than he, whom afterward he married. One Notter he saw driving a four-horse team, at three o’clock one afternoon, perfectly well. Early next morning, at the cemetery, burying the dead, he asked, “Who is this?” and it was Notter. He died during the night. When one was taken with the deadly symptoms, a box was sent straightway to the house, and when breath left him he was hurried to the grave.

Another account, from a Dr. Coleman of New Philadelphia, lists the number of deaths at 56, all occurring between August 5 and September 23, 1834, and describes the deaths as too rapid for the preparation of coffins. Rough, wooden boxes were hastily nailed together by the community carpenters. The Separatists were surely terrified by both the symptoms of the disease and both the speed and frequency of death.

Is the story of the mysterious stranger true? Did his dead body spread cholera through Zoar?

The short answer is no – according to the World Health Organization, “Epidemics have never arisen from a dead body.”
So how did cholera spread to and through Zoar? Probably by the most common route, even today: contaminated water. The Canton Repository tracked reports of cholera in the summer of 1834 and reported that several cases were reported in canal travelers through Zoar. Besides the man who stayed at the Canal Inn, another person perished of cholera on a canal boat and the canalbers dumped the body on the towpath. It is most likely that any of these victims of cholera contaminated a common water source in Zoar and the disease spread. How the water source was contaminated—probably a poorly placed outhouse, or someone who defecated directly into a water source. The other possibility is that the Separatists purchased contaminated produce, although this seems less likely because the community raised most of their own produce.

The Society of Separatists of Zoar were fortunate not to contract the disease before August. The northern climate meant any epidemic disease would not survive the first frost, unlike New Orleans, where bacterial diseases can become endemic. If it had started in June, it is probable that more people would have perished. The first frost, probably in late September, killed the bacterium in the contaminated water source and ended the epidemic. Cholera never appeared in Zoar again, although epidemics occurred in the United States frequently throughout the 1850s.

**FREE Admission to all Visitors During Historic Zoar Village’s First Annual Dog Fest, May 3-4**

Festivities feature Buckeye Dock Dogs and other incredible canines

Historic Zoar Village welcomes visitors with free admission to its museum complex during the First Annual Dog Fest, held May 3 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days.

“This unique event brings two worlds together—learning about the Zoarites and their role in our history, and the excitement of watching working and competition dogs demonstrate their talent and intelligence,” says Jenny Donato, site manager. “It’s a one-of-a-kind opportunity for people to get out and enjoy what Zoar has to offer.”

**Dog Fest Activities**

Amazing pooches will demonstrate their abilities in agility, obstacle course runs, and sheep and duck herding. In addition, Buckeye Dock Dogs will host a canine aquatic competition on both days.

Dock dogs compete in three categories: Big Air, which measures the distance a dog can jump to retrieve a toy thrown in the water; Extreme Vertical, which measures the height a dog can jump to reach a bumper suspended in the air; and Speed Retrieve, a time-based competition to see who can retrieve a bumper the fastest. The public is welcome as spectators at all events.

**Additional activities include:**

The Tuscarawas County Humane Society will host prettiest female dog, most handsome dog, smallest dog, largest dog, canine and human look alike contest and more family fun events in the Historic Garden area. A pet parade will take place on Sunday.

**Free Admission to Historic Zoar Village and Speaker Series**

Visitors can gain free access on both days to all museum buildings, which will be manned by costumed volunteers and demonstrators.

In addition, the “Saturdays in Zoar” Free Speaker Series continues on May 3 at 1 p.m. in the Zoar School House with a presentation by Terry Miller, author of “The Covered Bridges of Tuscarawas County” and “America’s Covered Bridges.”

All human visitors are welcome inside Zoar’s historic buildings. Canine visitors are free to walk the outside grounds only.
What could be better than old fashioned wagon rides, home tours, music, shopping, a camel and food topped off with a candlelit evening. Our appreciation to Darin Good and his committee for another great event.

Donna Gardner, Chairman of the contest, reported over 20 doorways in Zoar were beautifully decorated and judged during the 2013 Christmas in Zoar event. Decorated doorways included private homes, local shops, restaurants, and OHS buildings. Judges included Donna Gardner, Pauline Kassermann-Winesburg, Wynette Harris, and Ralph Krause. Thank you Donna for heading up this committee once again.

1st place: The Keeping Room B&B
Rick and Diane Geis

2nd place: Darin and Kim Good

3nd place: Whitemyer Advertising

Other wreaths from the contest

ZCA Wants to Know:

Are you interested in a trip to visit Old Economy and Harmony, PA? Old Economy and Harmony were Separatist communities founded by the Harmony Society under the leadership of George Rapp. In addition to being Separatists, the Harmony society were also communal. The people of Zoar frequently communicated by letter with the Harmony Separatists. ZCA is considering planning a trip to visit these sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania this fall. If you would participate in this two-day, behind the scenes trip, please let us know! Send an email to zoarinfo@historiczoarvillage.com or call 800-262-6195. Once we have determined interest, we will decide whether to plan the trip.

Good News for Zoar!

The governor’s recently released capital bill for the biennium July 2014 to June 2016 includes a line item of $500,000 for the completion of the Bimeler House. Additionally, OHS’s capital plan in the same period has funding for exhibit development in the Number One House, exterior preservation and painting of the Zoar Hotel, and exterior preservation work for the Garden House.

Although this bill and OHS funding still need to be passed by the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, Representative Al Landis has indicated that the bill should sail pretty smoothly through the legislature. Just in case, keep your fingers crossed! This is great news and will position Zoar very nicely for the upcoming bicentennial.
APRIL

Speaker Series
Saturday, April 5, 1p-2p – FREE
Meet at the Zoar School House. Spend an hour with Civil War Doctor Mary Edwards. Brought to life by Debra Conner, learn what life was like for a woman in medicine in the 1860s.

Opening Day
Saturday, April 5, 11a-4p – $8/adult, $4/child. FREE Day for Residents of Carroll, Cuyahoga, Stark, Summit, and Tuscarawas Counties.
The first day of the season for tours of the Zoar historic house museums. Costumed guides will demonstrate 19th century life.

Weaving Class
Friday, April 11, 10a-5p – $65
Learn to weave on a two harness floor loom $65 per person includes all instruction, materials and supplies. Each student will take a completed project home. Classes fill quickly, so call 330-874-3011 to make your reservation.

Beginning Blacksmithing Class
Saturday, April 26, 8a-5p – $125
Learn the basics of blacksmithing as you forge a hook and a nail. This class features plenty of time at the anvil while you discover the history of smithing. Limited to four apprentices, reservations required.

Western Reserve Carriages
Sunday, May 11 – FREE
Travel back in time as you watch carriages of bygone eras traverse the streets of Zoar. The Western Reserve Carriage Club will drive their collection of traps, carriages and carts on Mother’s Day Sunday May 11th if the weather is nice.

WEAVING CLASS
Friday, April 11, 10a-5p – $65
Learn to weave on a two harness floor loom $65 per person includes all instruction, materials and supplies. Each student will take a completed project home. Classes fill quickly, so call 330-874-3011 to make your reservation.

Beginning Blacksmithing Class
Saturday, April 29, 8a-5p – $100
Learn the basics of blacksmithing as you forge a hook and a nail. This class features plenty of time at the anvil while you discover the history of smithing. Limited to four apprentices, reservations required.

Intermediate Blacksmithing Class
Saturday, May 24, 8a-5p – $125
Must have completed the Beginning Blacksmithing Class to register. Students will spend all day at the forge working on a project to take home. Project may include, leaf work, fullering, horseshoes, fire poker or rake, paper towel or bathroom tissue holder. Please bring a sack lunch. Cost is $125/participant. Reservations required by calling 330-874-3011.

JUNE

Speaker Series
Saturday, June 7, 1p-2p. – FREE
Meet at Zoar School House. Former Zoar Site Manager, Kathy Fernandez, will give a presentation titled “Summer Visitor: Constance Fenimore Cooper and Zoar.” Cooper visited Zoar every summer from her home in Cleveland, Ohio and kept several journals about her time in Zoar.

Weaving Class
Friday, April 11, 10a-5p – $65
Learn to weave on a two harness floor loom $65 per person includes all instruction, materials and supplies. Each student will take a completed project home. Classes fill quickly, so call 330-874-3011 to make your reservation.

Beginning Blacksmithing Class
Saturday, June 14, 8a-5p – $100
Learn the basics of blacksmithing as you forge a hook and a nail. This class features plenty of time at the anvil while you discover the history of smithing. Limited to four apprentices, reservations required.
Welcome to Our New Members and Donors

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Thank You to Our Sponsors
Historic Zoar Village’s April 5 Opening Day features Civil War Doctor Mary Edwards, the only woman to serve as a physician’s surgeon assistant in the Union Army. Spend an hour with Debra Conner as she portrays this colorful character. Held in the Historic School House from 1pm-2pm. All museum buildings and demonstrations are free on opening day. Watch as bread is baked in the ovens in the bakery, the blacksmith hammers out nails, and the women dip beeswax candles.