

The Zoar Star

A Publication of the Zoar Community Association

SUMMER 2014

www.historiczoarvillage.com

The ZCA Mission

To preserve, interpret, and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Society of Separatists and historic Zoar Village through education, activities, and events that promote both the legacy of the Society and the present Zoar community.

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Artifact of the Month

This item is found in the Zoar Dairy. The first person to email zoarinfo@historiczoarvillage.com with the correct answer will receive a family 4 pack of tickets to Werktag on July 6.



Zoar Garden Tour and Symposium to Feature Laura Deeter, "The Garden Hoe"



As part of the "Beyond the Fences of Zoar" Garden Tour and Symposium on Saturday, June 21, Laura Deeter, PhD (AKA "The Garden Hoe") will present a keynote address of "It's Your Garden" at 3 p.m. in the Historic Zoar Church.

Deeter received her PhD in horticulture from The Ohio State University and is currently an Associate Professor in the field at the Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster. She travels extensively around the country speaking on a variety of garden topics.

In addition to the symposium, the "Beyond the Fences of Zoar" Garden Tour includes tours of ten private and three public gardens open to visitors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Master gardeners and horticulturalists will share their expertise at a special mini-seminars throughout the day, covering topics such as perennials, roses, miniature gardens, trees, organic gardening and

rain gardens. A variety of garden vendors and artisans will display their wares in the Main Zoar Garden, and the village's historical buildings will be open for tours throughout the day.

Attendees can enter to win gardening items and gift baskets in the main garden's silent auction.

Tickets for this special event are \$15 per person and include access to all gardens, the symposium, vendors and historical buildings. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling 330-874-2646 or 1-800-262-6195, and will also be available for on-site purchase the day of the event. In addition, premium tickets that include a catered luncheon in the Zoar School House are available for \$32 with advance reservation only.

All event proceeds are used in the preservation of Historic Zoar Village's buildings and heritage.

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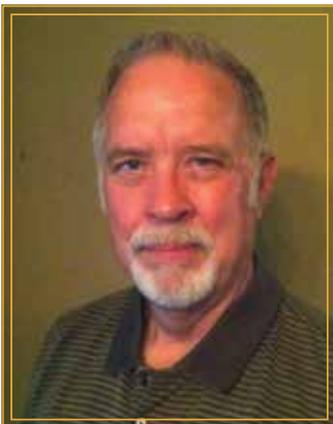
January-March: Closed
April & May: Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
June-September: Wed. - Sat. 11-4; Sun. 12-4
October: Sat. 11-4, Sun. 12-4
November & December: Closed

Zoar Store Retail Hours:

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

Meet the Board:

Bill Bjork



Bill Bjork is the Dog Fest and BA Dash chairman for the ZCA Board. He is also involved in Zoar Town Council.

Bill and his wife, Kathie, moved to House #21 in Zoar, the Tanner's House, three years ago. Bill enjoys gardening and fix up projects around the house.

Formerly, Bill worked for leading manufacturers of office products and imaging products. He retired as VP of R & D at Clover Technologies. Originally from Chicago, Bill and Kathie lived in Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Dayton, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Chicago, Illinois before moving to Zoar. They have a daughter, Tania, and three grandsons, Cameron, Jackson, and Alex.

*Welcome to Our
New Members*

Shelly Crowe

Elaine Domin

John Lonsak

Tom & Charlene Good

Martha A. Simon

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WRITES HISTORY OF ZOAR



Paige Hamsher lives in Canton, Ohio and is a sophomore at Glenoak High School. She is 15 years old. Her favorite things include reading, watching movies, and learning new things. She learned more about Zoar by attending the Speaker Series and soon realized that the Zoarite's story demonstrated this year's Ohio History Day theme which is Rights and Responsibilities in

history. Paige is grateful to all of those who contributed information and sources that helped her write her paper.

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic program for elementary and secondary school students.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide participate in the NHD contest. Students choose historical topics related to a theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, oral history interviews and historic sites. After analyzing and interpreting their sources and drawing conclusions about their topics' significance in history, students present their work in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances and documentaries. These products are entered into competitions in the spring at local, state and national levels where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators. The program culminates in the Kenneth E. Behring National Contest each June held at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Paige received honorable mention at the Ohio History Day competition. In the next three issues of the Zoar Star, you'll find Paige's paper about Zoar.

Today if you are traveling on State Route 212 through the Tuscarawas Valley in Ohio, you will pass grassy fields, wooded forests, bodies of water, and countless other wonders of nature. Eventually you will happen upon what seems like a quaint little town full of houses and buildings that appear to contain hundreds of years worth of history through their doors. This village is, and has since 1817, been known as Zoar. It holds the story of a group of people who were labeled as Separatists and emigrated from a small kingdom in Germany called Württemberg in 1817 ("Zoar: An Ohio Experiment in Communalism" 13). These Separatists, later christened as Zoarites, would go on to make one of the longest lasting Communal Societies in the United States (Buescher 18). The people of Zoar fought for their religious rights, and exhibited the ultimate sacrifice and responsibility by forming a Communal system in the 19th century.

To fully understand why the Separatists emigrated to America from Germany, one must go back to the Reformation. There was somewhat of a revolution in religion. Lutheranism was founded, which would become the State religion of Germany, and many other "anti-Romish sects" were formed (Randall 2). Many different forms of faith and religion came into existence, especially in Württemberg. "About 1670, a minister by the name of Spener introduced Pietism into the German Lutheran Church, a movement which was essentially a reaction from the cold, dry-as-dust dogmatism which had come to characterize Lutheranism" (Nixon 2). The practice of Pietism increased considerably throughout the coming decades. Similar to how Pietism broke off from Lutheranism, a different religion was sprouted by a new group of people who called themselves "Separatists" because they were separating from the State Church of Germany (Holshoy 4). They aimed to create a new religion, one that would coincide with what they truly believed in.

These happenings made their rulers unhappy, particularly because the Separatists rejected certain practices including "baptism, confirmation, and other ordinances of the established church of the land" (Fernandez 2). They refused to send their children to school because schools were run by the Württemberg government, and they also refused to enlist in the army. The men refused to remove their hats as a sign of respect because they believed everyone was equal in stature. For these acts, the people were "flogged and imprisoned in jails where there were no beds and they were half-starved" (Morhart 11). At one point Napoleon Bonaparte, who was ruler of Württemberg at the time, came to visit one of the Separatists named Johannes Breymaier in prison. Breymaier refused to take his hat off (Nixon 8).

With the help of leaders and members, especially a wise man by the name of Joseph Bäuml, the "Separatist Principles" were published in 1816 (Nixon 13). The government wasn't happy about this. It went after the group now with a vengeance. As a result, the Separatists tried to move to a different part of Württemberg to escape persecution, but that did not help. They were forced to emigrate.

One could possibly argue, "Why would the Separatists go to this measure instead of giving into the government and converting?" This was never an option for them. Their religion was all that they had, and they would never betray themselves or their beliefs for anything. They would fight for their religious rights throughout the remainder of their existence. And so, plans were made. "Their persecutions had attracted

continued from page 3

the attention of some English Quakers, who aided them to emigrate, and with kindly forethought sent in advance to them to certain Quakers in Philadelphia a sum of money, amounting to eighteen for each person of the company, with which their Philadelphia friends provided for them on their landing” (Nordhoff 74). Had it not been for the generosity of the Quakers, the Separatists never would have been able to make their journey because many Separatists had no money of any kind. The person chosen to head the group was Joseph Bäumlner. They finally departed in April of 1817. The voyage was treacherous because of sickness, but they persevered and on August 14, 1817, the group landed in Philadelphia (“Zoar: An Ohio Experiment in Communalism” 15).

Upon arriving, the Quakers took the Separatists in as their own. They provided them with all that they needed, but the Separatists were still hungry to have a community for themselves. Joseph Bimeler (changed from Bäumlner) contacted a merchant by the name of Godfrey Haga (Holshoy 16). “Mr. Bimeler effected a purchase from Godfrey Haga of 5,500 acres...It was bought on credit for \$16,500 payable as follows: \$5,000 in 1828, \$5,000 in 1829 and \$5,000 in 1830” (Smith 6). This purchase was located in Ohio and lay along the Tuscarawas River. The transaction was only in Bimeler’s name, but each member knew that the amount of

land they owned would be based on how much responsibility they could take on for the community (Mansfield 644). The Quakers lent the Separatists money for the down payment. In October of 1817, Bimeler and some of the able-bodied members journeyed to the new spot to build homes for the remainder of the group. “The Separatists found the land they had bought heavily wooded with oak, hickory, chestnut and maple” (Nixon 22). They were astounded by the beauty of the area. There were expansive woods in every direction and natural springs. Constance Fenimore Woolson described it as “undulating seas of verdure, now plunging into narrow, dusky glades, where the road seemed lost amidst the wild underbrush, and squirrels stared at us with their with their bushy tails uplifted in astonishment” (282). The Separatists decided to start making their village at the top of a slope in case the river were to overflow in the spring. They also chose this spot because it reminded them of their homeland (Morhart 15). They named their new home Zoar, after the town where Lot sought protection in Genesis 19: 20-22 (Buescher 32). The first house was completed on December 1, 1817. The rest of the group that stayed in Philadelphia had to scrounge up what money they had, but they would arrive sporadically throughout the coming spring.

To be continued in the Fall newsletter.

Zoar Hosts Watercolor Class for Aspiring Artists

Historic Zoar Village continues its adult education series with a watercolor class scheduled from June 26 through July 31. This six-week session meets every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Historic Zoar Schoolhouse, and is instructed by watercolor artist Jack Fetzer of Canton.

The class presents new techniques students can begin to master through paintings of buildings in Zoar. Participants are led through the basics of materials, layout and design. This class is structured for people who have some watercolor experience, but beginners are also welcome.

The cost of \$60 includes all instruction. Students are required to purchase materials on their own.



Space for the class is limited and reservations are required. To reserve a space, call 330-874-2646 or 1-800-262-6195.

ZOAR SUMMER CAMP SERIES TEACHES KIDS ABOUT EARLY LIFE IN OHIO

Children ages five to 12 can learn how different life was in the early 1800s at one of Historic Zoar Village's Summer Camps, scheduled for July 8-11 and July 15-18. Campers have an opportunity to explore history, stretch their imaginations and nurture their talents by participating in a variety of lessons and activities.

The program includes doing laundry in an iron kettle, exploring how plants grow in the garden, learning about the areas first Native Americans and pioneers, and making an art project to take home.



July 8-11: Half-day Camp for Grades K-3

Younger children can attend the half-day camp on July 8-11 from 9 a.m. until noon. The cost is \$15 per day for the first child and \$10 per day for each additional child. It includes a healthy snack, t-shirt, and all activities, including:

- Materials and instruction for an art project
- Hands-on laundry demonstrations
- Tour of the Zoar Garden and Greenhouse
- Exploration of what was located in the area before the Zoarites settled in the area

All-day Camp for Grades 4-7: July 15-18

Older children can attend the all-day camp on July 15-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$35 per day for the first child and \$30 per day for each additional child. Parents are asked to provide a packed lunch. The cost includes a healthy snack, t-shirt, and all activities, including:

- Materials and instruction for a watercolor painting project
- Hands-on laundry demonstrations and a tour of village laundries
- A hands-on garden planning exercise with the help of the Zoar gardener
- A lesson about wigwams, log cabins and the famous pioneers who were the first Europeans in Tuscarawas County

**Registration is required for both camps.
Reservations can be made by calling
330-874-3011 or 800-262-6195.**

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 Please consider this a pledge and bill me at this date ___/___/2013.



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Please Charge My Credit Card Immediately Monthly

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Upcoming Events

JUNE

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.

Beyond the Fences of Zoar: Garden Tours and Symposiums

Saturday, June 21, 9a-5p

Tour private and public gardens and learn more about gardening in unique symposiums. Shop for garden accessories in the fair in the main garden and enter the raffle for other unique items. Reserve a place at the limited seating luncheon in the historic school house for light lunch and a silent auction. Cost for luncheon and garden tour, \$32, reservations required. Tour only, \$15, tickets may be purchased the day of the event.



Intermediate Blacksmithing Class

Saturday, June 28, 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. Reservations required by calling 330-874-3011.

JULY

Zoar Store Open for Shopping and Tours

Friday, July 5, 11a-4p

Speaker Series

Saturday, July 5, 1-2p – FREE

Milann Daugherty will discuss her book, *Your Affectionate Son*, a collection of letters from a Civil War soldier. Daugherty found the letters of her great-great-uncle in a box in a dresser drawer. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Meet at the Zoar Church!



Werktag Family Fun Day

Sunday, July 6, 12-4p – \$8/
adult, \$4/child

Werktag, German for “work day,” gives families the chance to experience 1850s life in Zoar. There are hands-on activities in all the museum buildings, a farm animal petting zoo, and a scavenger hunt!

Half Day Summer Camp

Tuesday-Friday, July 8-11, 9a-12p – \$15/day first child, \$10/day additional children.

Reservations required by calling 330-874-3011.

All Day Summer Camp

Tuesday-Friday, July 15-18, 9a-3p – \$35/day first child, \$30/day additional children.

Reservations required by calling 330-874-3011.

AUGUST

Speaker Series

Saturday, August 2, 1-2p – FREE

Meet at the Zoar Church. Meet Fanny Crosby, the blind authoress of several beloved hymns including: *Nearer my God to Thee*, *Blessed Assurance*, *Rescue the Perishing*, *Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior*, and *Draw Me Nearer*. This lecture includes the performance of several hymns. Raylene Hlavaty brings Fanny Crosby to life through words and song.



Annual Harvest Festival & Antique Show

Saturday, August 2, 10a-6p; Sunday, August 3, 10a-5p. – \$8/adult. Children 12 and under FREE

Celebrate bringing in the last load of the harvest at the 41st Annual Harvest Festival and Antique Show. Peruse the booths of over sixty high-quality antiques dealers and see period craftspeople demonstration their skills. Enjoy the juried craft show and the art show, exhibit, and sale. Tour the scenic village including all the historic house museums. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride plus food and more fun!

Beginning Blacksmithing Class

Saturday, August 23, 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, August 30, 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. Reservations required by calling 330-874-3011.

2014 Dog Fest and Dock Dog Competition

Thanks to all who supported our new Dog Fest and Dock Dogs Event! Buckeye Dock Dogs was a great partner organization and we were thrilled with the turnout of dogs and humans. Save the dates for the 2015 Dog Fest and Dock Dog Competition, June 13 and 14, 2015.





ZOAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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*The Zoar Star is published quarterly by
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**Werktag Family Fun
Day is July 6, 12-4**

**Remember ZCA
members always receive
free admission!**

Werktag means "work day" in German, but with many hands to help, 19th century tasks are a breeze! Try woodworking, butter churning, laundry, cooking, gardening, baking, and tinsmithing! Experience the blacksmith shop and finish the day off with old fashioned toys and games.

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