

# Keepers of the Past

Goshen Twp. Historical Society P.O. Box 671, 1843 SR 28, Goshen OH 45122 (513) 575-1027 GoshenHistory@gmail.com



## President's Message

Throughout the summer we will be issuing a call to members and non-members alike to volunteer in a variety of areas to support various upcoming GTHS events.

The Nomination Committee will be seeking recommendations in July for elected officers for the 2018-2020 term. Those interested in working on this committee or suggesting a nominee should contact Jim Poe.

Calling all crafters! In late August we will begin planning the assortment of "upcycled" crafts and repurposed vintage collectibles to be sold at our Holly Fair table in November. This was an extremely successful fundraiser for us last year. Watch our web site and the museum street sign for more information. Our first meeting will be informational, followed by collective craft nights, however most activities can be done at home. This is a great opportunity for students, seniors, families and others to support the GHTS in a

## Elected Officers 2016

President – Linda Wasson  
Vice President – Andrew Evans  
Recording Secretary- Edna Rhoades  
Corresponding Secretary – Nina Ross King  
Treasurer – Rick Kneipp

## Board Members at Large

Gerald Ross  
Dave Beck  
Audrey Koch  
Sandy Graham

## Appointive Offices

Director – Rick Rhoades  
Historian – Jim Koch  
Librarians – Susan Barnette and Tina McDerman  
Advisor – Jim Poe  
School Liaison – Valerie Zackerman  
Membership – Laura Bradley

## Internet Marketing Statistics Update

GoshenHistory.org site stats March-June 2017:

- Average visitors per month: 142
- Unique (new) visitors, avg per month: 132

Goshen Historical Society on Facebook

- Our Facebook page links an average of 29 users per month to our web site.
- Posts about the recent Grassy Run Historical Arts encampment at the cabin were each viewed by over 2000 FB users.
- Within 15 minutes of posting live streaming video at the cabin during a Sunday open house, we had over 300 FB views and more than 20 requests for additional information, to which we responded within the hour via a second video on Facebook.

*Continued on page 2*

creative way.

If you know of a student who needs community service hours, we have a variety of activities and projects available, including library support, data entry in our museum software, docent/tour guide at the museum or log cabin, and more.

Writers needed! We are seeking volunteers to research and write brief biographies of notable Goshen citizens for our web site. We also need articles on historic subjects for our newsletter. If you would like to assist in this project, please email [goshenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:goshenhistory@gmail.com).

Our last museum exhibit for 2017 will be a presentation of dollhouses. If you have a dollhouse you would like to loan for this exhibit for the month of November, please email [GoshenHistory@gmail.com](mailto:GoshenHistory@gmail.com).

Please find time to visit the museum and the log cabin on open house days (dates on page 5). Thanks to all our members for your continued support.

Warmest regards.

**Linda Wasson**

President, Goshen Township Historical Society



## Member Notes

**Memorial.** The GTHS lost a valued member when Art Snider passed away May 29, 2017 at the age of 89. Until recently, Art served as the Parliamentarian on our Board of Trustees and a trusted advisor. Art was a United States Marine Corp veteran, a member of Butlerville Masonic Lodge No. 135 F & AM, the Goshen OES No. 382, the Goshen High School Alumni Association, Marine Corps League and the Genealogical Society of Clermont County, and was a former Goshen Township Trustee. Art was a lifelong resident of Goshen. Art will be remembered for his many years of devoted service to both his country and his community.

**Cook Farm Outbuilding Update.** Construction continues on the working blacksmith shop on the site of the former carriage house. The foundation is now complete and the new building has begun to take shape. When finished, the building will include the blacksmith shop and a livery separated by a breezeway. The livery will also be a multi-purpose space adaptable for other events. We have already received donations of blacksmith tools and vintage horse tack for this new building. Thanks to Jamie Geier who is leading this project.

**Thank you!** to member Janet Olige for the donation of antique darning tools. Janet graciously donated darners that belonged to her mother. A hundred years ago there was always a steady supply of darning in the family mending bag. Slipped inside a stocking or sock with a hole in, the "egg" or darner made it easier to stitch a neat repair. These items are currently on display at the museum.





## **New Exhibit: Celebrating Ohio Author Mildred Wirt Benson, The Woman Behind Nancy Drew**

If the name Mildred Augustine Wirt Benson doesn't resonate, it's not because she didn't write much. To be sure, Benson was a prolific writer, having penned well over 100 juvenile series books between 1927 and 1959. Under contract with a syndicate for much of her career, she wrote many of these titles under pseudonyms. Benson's fame is cloaked by the fictitious Carolyn Keene, a name used by Benson – and as many as five others – to write the original 56 Nancy Drew stories.

Mildred, born in Iowa, lived and worked in Toledo, Ohio until her death at age 96, where she ghostwrote 23 of the first 30 Nancy Drew mysteries. Despite the commercial success of Nancy Drew (it has sold 80 million copies in 17 languages), Mildred reached old age before she was finally recognized as the writer who established the original Nancy Drew character and the formula that kept the teen detective ageless and popular.

Mildred enrolled in graduate school at the University of Iowa and in 1927 she became the university's first woman to earn a master's degree in journalism. Around that time she received her first book plot from a publisher she had met in New York. Edward Stratemeyer was hiring a stable of anonymous writers to feed his production of inexpensive paperbacks. He recognized Mildred's talent and hired her to revive the faltering "Ruth Fielding" series. In the early 1900s, Stratemeyer broke ground in the publishing business by slashing book prices in half and selling them in paperback for 50 cents. The demand for adventure-filled series was so high that he created a "book mill"

staffed by house writers. In the 1920s American girls began rejecting the dull and old-fashioned characters that had dominated fiction. The culture was ripe for literary escapism that offered thrilling plots and fearless, independent characters. Mildred's style was refreshing and new. The "Ruth Fielding" series bounced back, and Mildred launched her career as a teen serial writer.

The Hardy Boys was such a hit with young male readers that Edward Stratemeyer seized the opportunity to create a female counterpart. He named the character Nancy Drew and turned her over to Mildred, who molded the teen detective into a sports car-driving girl with a feisty attitude and street smarts. Mildred was paid \$125 a book, signing away all rights to royalties.

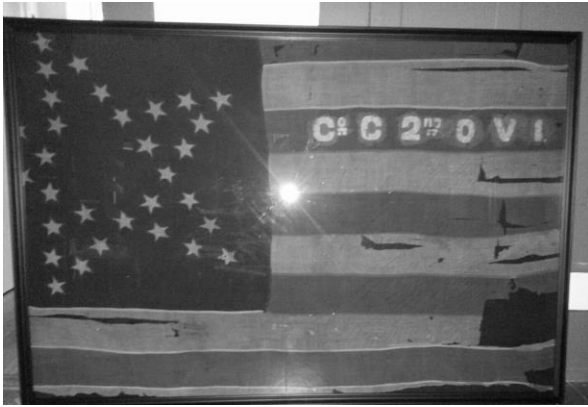
Provided with only brief outlines, Mildred created a heroine for whom countless adventures were in store. In 1930 *Nancy Drew and the Secret of the Old Clock* was sent to print under the pen name Carolyn Keene. It was an instant success, and Mildred found the steady writing work she'd been seeking. What's more, girls' book heroines everywhere were transformed into more aggressive, independent and confident characters.

Mildred wrote dozens more books, both on her own and for syndicates. Under her own name, Mildred A. Wirt, she authored the Ruth Darrow stories about a girl pilot, and the Penny Parker books, which were published from 1939 to 1947. One year, Mildred wrote 13 books, all the while working full-time as a newspaper reporter.

All told, Mildred wrote 130 books. "Writing is a way of life for me," she said in a 2001 interview with the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "It's like getting up and having breakfast." She wrote her last column on May 30, 2002. Later that day Mildred was taken to the hospital and died. She was 96.

**Visit the museum to see a special collection of Nancy Drew books from 1930-1950 and learn more about Mildred Wirt Benson and the Stratemeyer Syndicate.**

## The Flag of Second Regiment Infantry Goshen Company C



This Regiment was organized at Camp Dennison, Ohio from July 17, 1861 to September 20, 1861 to serve for three years. The original members (except veterans) were mustered out October 10, 1864 by reason of expiration of term of service; the veterans and recruits were transferred to the Eighteenth Veteran Infantry Regiment on October 31, 1864.

The following is a list of battles in which the Regiment bore an honorable part:

West Liberty, Kentucky - October 23, 1861  
 Piketown, Kentucky - November 9, 1861  
 Bridgeport, AL - April 29, 1862  
 Perryville, Kentucky - October 8, 1862  
 Stone River, Tennessee - December 31, 1862  
 Rosecran's Campaign, TN - June 23-30, 1863  
 Chickamauga, GA - September 19-20, 1863  
 Lookout Mt. Tennessee - November 24, 1863  
 Mission Ridge, Tennessee - November 25, 1863  
 Ringgold, Georgia - November 27, 1863  
 Buzzard Roost & Tunnel Hill, GA - February 24-25, 1864  
 Rocky Face Ridge, Georgia - February 25-27, 1864  
 Resaca, Georgia - May 13-16, 1864  
 Peach Tree Creek, Georgia - July 20, 1864

Following is a list of the men of Goshen Company C. Not only are many notable Goshen families represented, but several family members served together.

| LAST NAME   | FIRST NAME   | AGE | RANK           |
|-------------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| ADAMS       | James        | 31  | Sergeant       |
| AGNEW       | James        | 19  | Private        |
| APPLEGATE   | Oliver H.P.  | 20  | Sergeant       |
| BARR        | John T.      | 18  | Corporal       |
| BINKLEY     | Oliver       | 19  | Private        |
| CLOUSER     | William B.   | 18  | Private        |
| CODDINGTON  | Franklin     | 18  | Private        |
| COMBS       | Robert       | 25  | Private        |
| CONNETT     | Thomas J.    | 21  | Private        |
| CONRAD      | William      | 31  | Private        |
| CRAMER      | Alexander    | 22  | Private        |
| CRAMER      | Charles      | 18  | Private        |
| CRAMER      | Peroise      | 18  | Private        |
| CRAMER      | Richard      | 19  | Private        |
| CRAMER      | Thomas J.    | 19  | Private        |
| DEWITT      | Daniel W.    | 22  | 2nd Lieutenant |
| DUDLEY      | Columbus J.  | 22  | Sergeant       |
| DUDLEY      | Moses M.     | 18  | Private        |
| DWINELL     | Ariston      | 19  | Private        |
| EMERY       | John B.      | 20  | 1st Lieutenant |
| FERREE      | Daniel       | 25  | Private        |
| FERREE      | Richard      | 25  | Private        |
| FIRST       | Abner        | 23  | Private        |
| FISHER      | Albert       | 19  | Private        |
| FISHER      | Jacob        | 38  | Private        |
| FLORA       | James M.     | 44  | Private        |
| FOX         | James H.     | 25  | Corporal       |
| FRYBARGER   | Lawrence G.  | 19  | 1st Sergeant   |
| GASKILL     | Emanuel      | 18  | Private        |
| GASKILL     | Joseph       | 42  | Private        |
| GASKILL     | Melvin J.    | 24  | Private        |
| GASKILL     | Silas G.     | 20  | Private        |
| GASKILL     | Wilson       | 18  | Private        |
| GATCH       | Conduce B    | 20  | Private        |
| GATCH       | John L.      | 19  | Private        |
| GLENN       | William C.   | 18  | Private        |
| GOODPASTURE | William C.   | 18  | Private        |
| HALL        | Philip A.    | 24  | Sergeant       |
| HARLEMAN    | Edwin        | 33  | Private        |
| HARRIS      | Solomon S.   | 23  | Private        |
| HENRY       | William E.   | 19  | Private        |
| HILL        | Lafayette M. | 19  | Private        |
| HILL        | Moses        | 18  | Private        |
| HUFFMAN     | Amos         | 20  | Corporal       |

| LAST NAME  | FIRST NAME   | AGE | RANK           |
|------------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| LEEVEER    | Henry C.     | 19  | Private        |
| LEEVEER    | Hiram B.     | 21  | Corporal       |
| LEEVEER    | John         | 44  | Private        |
| MALOTT     | William      | 33  | Private        |
| MARKLAND   | Sherwood B.  | 23  | Private        |
| MCCARTHY   | Cornelius    | 20  | Private        |
| MCCORMICK  | Amos R.      | 22  | Private        |
| MCCORMICK  | George M.    | 19  | Corporal       |
| MCLAUGHLIN | Charles N.   | 21  | Private        |
| MCLAUGHLIN | Milton J.    | 19  | Private        |
| MERCHANT   | Isaac C.     | 23  | Corporal       |
| MILLER     | William      | 24  | Private        |
| MORRIS     | Aaron        | 25  | Private        |
| MORRIS     | Preston      | 18  | Private        |
| MORROW     | George       | 20  | Private        |
| MOUNT      | Franklin     | 20  | Private        |
| OLIVER     | William      | 19  | Private        |
| PALMER     | Benjamin     | 31  | Private        |
| PHILLHOUSE | Andrew J.    | 19  | Private        |
| POWELL     | Alexander    | 18  | Private        |
| PRAY       | John W.      | 17  | Private        |
| RANDALL    | Cyrus D.     | 23  | Private        |
| RANDALL    | John         | 31  | Wagoner        |
| RANDALL    | John D.      | 44  | Private        |
| RANDALL    | William S.B. | 28  | Captain        |
| RAPP       | David        | 22  | Private        |
| RAPP       | David L.     | 18  | Private        |
| REEDER     | George       | 25  | Private        |
| RHODEN     | William H.   | 23  | Private        |
| RINGER     | Bradford     | 18  | Corporal       |
| RINGER     | William H.   | 22  | Private        |
| ROSS       | Geroge W.    | 18  | Private        |
| ROSS       | William      | 18  | Private        |
| RUST       | Thomas J.    | 31  | Private        |
| SCHOOLEY   | John         | 23  | Private        |
| SCHOOLEY   | Nelson       | 21  | Sergeant       |
| SELLS      | Philip A.    | 29  | Private        |
| SHAW       | Robert A.    | 27  | Private        |
| SHIELDS    | Thomas       | 42  | Private        |
| SHOUGH     | Henry P.     | 20  | Corporal       |
| SMITH      | Michael      | 25  | Private        |
| SOUTH      | Thomas       | 21  | Private        |
| SPENCER    | David        | 23  | Private        |
| STWEART    | Thomas       | 31  | Private        |
| THACKER    | William B.   | 24  | Private        |
| THACKER    | William      | 21  | 2nd Lieutenant |

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME  | AGE | RANK     |
|-----------|-------------|-----|----------|
| HUGHES    | George W.   | 18  | Private  |
| HUNT      | Robert      | 20  | Musician |
| JOHNSON   | Cyrus C.    | 31  | Private  |
| JONES     | John        | 19  | Corporal |
| KELSEY    | Franklin c. | 25  | Sergeant |
| KEMP      | Ellison     | 34  | Private  |
| KEMPF     | Francic J.  | 24  | Private  |
| LOSEY     | Lewis L.    | 21  | Private  |
| TRUMP     | John B.     | 20  | Private  |
| WHITE     | Jackson     | 28  | Private  |
| WHITE     | Oscar       | 18  | Private  |
| WILES     | George B.   | 20  | Private  |
| WILLIAMS  | Joseph      | 26  | Corporal |



### Upcoming events

**Sunday July 16** Goshen Log Cabin open 1-3pm, located next to Goshen High School, 6707 Goshen Rd.

**Wednesday July 26** Membership meeting. 7pm in the Community Room at Goshen High School. Program with guest speaker, followed by light refreshments.

**Wednesday Aug 2** Historical Museum open from 6-8 pm. The GTHS Museum is located at 1843 State Route 28, next to the fire station.

**Monday Aug 14** GTHS Board of Trustees Meeting, 7pm at the museum.

**Sunday Aug 20** Goshen Log Cabin open 1-3pm, located next to Goshen High School, 6707 Goshen Rd.

**Wednesday Aug 23** Membership meeting. 7pm in the Community Room at Goshen High School. Program with guest speaker, followed by light refreshments.

**For a complete list of meetings and events, visit [GoshenHistory.org](http://GoshenHistory.org)**

## What Makes a Neighborhood or Home Worthy of a Historic Designation?

By Terry Sheridan  
Reprinted from HouseLogic.com

Your home and neighborhood may be old, but that doesn't mean they're historic. To earn historic designations, you have to research what makes them unique and historically relevant.

Research the answers to these three questions to figure out if your home or neighborhood will qualify for a historic designation:

1. What did your home or neighborhood do in history besides exist?

Structures generally are considered historic if they're at least 50 years old. But old age alone won't get your home a designation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation offers a guide for researching the history of your home. The more historical facts you can dig up, the more likely you are to get a designation. Did anyone famous live there? Was your home or community the site of a historic event? Some newer structures qualify for designation if they're associated with major events, such as the Memphis, Tenn., motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

If you're dead set on proving your home or community deserves special status, just keep in mind the research will take at least five hours a week for a couple of months.

2. How unique is the architecture?

Your home doesn't have to be a one-of-a-kind Frank Lloyd Wright design to earn a designation. An uncommon architectural style is considered educational. Kentucky, for example, once was full of log cabins. Now, the few that remain offer insight into 19th century life.

3. Does the neighborhood match your home?

It's easier to get a historic designation for your home than a historic designation for the whole neighborhood. But your home's historic designation also depends on what the surrounding area is like, so you'll need to dig up the history of your neighborhood, too.

Is your home's architectural style or historical significance unique, or do neighboring homes share it? Do nearby houses have historic designations? A whole block of Victorians will have a better chance of winning designation than a single Victorian surrounded by 1970s tract housing.

*Visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation at [SavingPlaces.org](http://SavingPlaces.org) for helpful articles and tools on researching your home's history.*

*The Goshen Twp Historical Society encourages owners of older homes to submit their house histories to us for our historical reference library. A Historic House History Research Form is available on our web site [www.GoshenHistory.org](http://www.GoshenHistory.org)*



## Terms and Titles

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation.

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, just over 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction.

## Cabins Versus Houses

Excerpts from the essay *The Pioneer Log House in Kentucky* by William J. Macintire

The log cabin is as much an image as it is a building. It evokes thoughts of maple syrup and the American frontier. It is an important setting in the stories of real and fictional people such as Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Boone, and Uncle Tom. Perhaps because of this, people give the log cabin a status no other type of house enjoys. Demolitions of 200-year-old houses suddenly stop when logs are discovered. The reality is more complex than the popular image of the log cabin in a small clearing.

The pioneers often distinguished cabins from houses. The difference is in quality of the building. A cabin is actually a type of house: it's a smaller, cruder, more temporary one. "Improvement cabins" were built for the purpose of staking claim to a piece of land, and sometimes were not inhabited at all. Cabins were not necessarily log buildings, although log construction was strongly associated with the term by the early 1800s. Thaddeus Harris, a travel writer, noted in 1803 that "the temporary buildings of the first settlers are called cabins." He explained that cabins "are built with unhewn logs, the interstices between which are stopped with rails, calked with moss or straw, and daubed with mud." In contrast, according to Harris, "if the logs be hewed; if the interstices be stopped with stone, and neatly plastered; and the roof composed of shingles nicely laid on, it is called a log house."

As soon as possible, the homesteaders built a more substantial structure with hewn logs and a wood floor. This house could be improved in the coming years through additions of siding, windows, interior plaster, and enlargements such as a porch, lean-to, ell, (ells are rear additions perpendicular to the main building). Where very early log houses do survive to the present, they are usually enclosed within the later additions of a larger house or even a barn.

The popular image of the settler building a house with an ax and no nails probably has its origins in the crude first cabins. The typical house, however, required the labors of a professional builder, and

possibly a mason as well. These builders used an extensive array of tools, and manufactured articles such as nails, glass, hardware, and bricks. Period records of professional builders are scant, but we know that pioneers set up varying professional trades as soon as possible. Builders looking for work saw the fast-growing frontier as a land of opportunity, as did the farmers looking for quality land. The best evidence of the building profession is in the buildings themselves. The average farmer did not have the skills or the tools needed to make a window sash, join a mantle, dovetail corner joints, or frame a staircase, so he turned to the skills of carpenters and masons.

One of the features that distinguished a cabin from a house was the foundation. The simplest foundation was just log sills laid flat on the ground, or, somewhat better, on a single course of flat stones. Such a low foundation was called for when there was a dirt floor, as in an improvement cabin. Better quality houses had sills raised on wooden blocks or stone piers, with wood flooring inside, laid on wood joists. The best foundations were of continuous masonry, usually of stone, and sometimes included a basement for food storage. Higher foundations kept the house drier and freer from pests. Stone could be either dry laid, like stone fences, or mortared.

Owners of log cabins and houses had the choice of leaving the logs exposed or covering them with siding. There was a lot of labor and expense involved, but benefits of siding included lowered maintenance needs and a warmer interior. There is evidence that siding had a status value as well. People felt that log houses were more attractive when covered. Siding, in fact, helped to distinguish the house from the cabin.

The frontier period was a relatively short period of time, a half century from earliest exploration to statehood, and only about 25 years of homesteading. The cabins and houses that remain are important reminders of that story as they help us to understand both the truths and the myths of the log cabin.



Goshen, OH 45122  
PO Box 671  
Goshen Twp. Historical Society

**Visit. Explore. Learn. Share.**

**Goshen Twp. Historical Society**



**Goshen Log Cabin at  
Cook Farm**



**Historical Museum  
“The Anchorage”**



**www.GoshenHistory.org**