

Brunswick Area Historical Society Membership Meeting February 29, 2024

Present: Carl Bilski, president; Dave Goodyear, emeritus; Nola Lowther, recording secretary; trustees: Linda Scarcella, Cindy Kintop, Gary Fuller; members: Ed Kelly, Patty Fuller, Brian Ousley, Kristy Piper, Bonnie Beineke, Joe Scarcella.

Program: The program was videorecorded by Joe Scarcella to be placed on the YouTube channel and/or website. The program was arranged by Linda Scarcella.

Pat Nichols from the Parma Area Historical Society presented some Parma history and information about their organization.

History highlights: Much like Brunswick, Parma was part of the Connecticut Western Reserve, settled in 1816 by Benajah Fay from Massachusetts. He was a businessman who opened an inn at Ridge and Pearl. Other settlers gradually traveled from New York and other Eastern areas. Parma was named by people from Parma NY or perhaps those with association to Parma Italy. By 1870 300 families had put down roots featuring a town with 9 school districts.

The Henniger house from 1850, located at the top of Broadview Road, is the oldest remaining house. It was recently restored.

Parma was an agricultural area until post WWII when industry burgeoned, and many houses were built to accommodate workers.

The historical society is located at Stearns Homestead, the last working farm in Parma. The 1850s farm includes 2 houses, outbuildings and 100 live animals. The animals are managed by 4-H clubs and animal care programs at Tri C college. The city owns the property and pays for the utilities. The all-volunteer society was formed in 1972 and has 7 board members and 200 members. Funding derives from dues, donations, special events, a gift shop, and cabin rental.

Pat brought many artifacts for the audience to examine.

Membership meeting: Dave Goodyear presided with information on the following items....

Sam Boyer and Carol Foote's elementary history classes has dates scheduled at all Brunswick public schools and St. Ambrose. They are preparing several new volunteers to assist them.

The Gazebo project needs donations. The donation button is located on the website.

The new webmaster volunteer is Joyce Osowski.

Katie Georgekopolous is requesting to be on the lookout for additional vendors for Sunday at the Farm which commences in early June.

Judy Galo is doing well during her medical leave. Best wishes.

No membership meeting will be held in March due to the Easter Holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Nola Benjamin Lowther, recording secretary