

SURVEYOR

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2025

Anderson Township Historical Society



Rooted in History, Growing Community

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Genealogy: Kenny Burck

Urban Farm: Diane Hamm

President's Message - Dani Speigel



In March we held our election of officers and trustees. I want to thank everyone who attended our dinner at the Patriot Center; it was a delicious meal. We had several people submit proxies for the elections which helped us achieve the number of votes we needed to elect the nominees. I would like to congratulate Mr. Chris Cunningham on his election as our new trustee. Chris is the manager of Clough Crossings Bistro Restaurant and is a graduate of Turpin High School. Chris has expressed his love of history and is very excited to bring his knowledge and experience to our board. He will be sharing a garden plot at the Urban Farm this year, so if you see Chris working at the farm, please introduce yourself.

As spring weather arrives, so do so many projects for ATHS and the Urban Farm. The chimney restoration project will commence in mid-April and will require about six weeks to finish. We are still in need of additional funds to help complete this project. If you have not done so already, please consider donating to help us complete this project. Please make sure to note that your donation is for the Chimney Fund. Send donations to ATHS, P. O. Box 30174, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230.

Dani Speigel, President



New Officers and Trustees, left to right: Susan Abel, Vice President; David Vogel, Trustee; Allan Greer, Trustee; Dani Speigel, President; Lyn Scheper, Recording Secretary; Robert Hayes, Trustee; Chris Cunningham, Trustee; Daryl Meyerrenke, Trustee; Bob King, Treasurer

For over fifty years, the Miller-Leuser Log House has been the main AHS focus and attraction. In 2012, Janet Heywood spent a great deal of time researching the families of the Log House and prepared a paper that included both the family histories and an amazing group of photographs. The document was not widely distributed. The Research Team has recently rediscovered the document and is presenting it to the membership in the Surveyor, in three installments.

The research team asked me to introduce the paper to you. Janet Heywood was a lifelong friend and Anderson classmate. Our mothers were very close starting with their meeting at Anderson High School in the 1930's. Janet was next-level intelligent and dedicated her life to research and education. During my time at AHS, she became my sounding board and source for anything factual about the Society. I hope you will enjoy this look into the history of the Log House and its families. ~ Don Perry

MILLER-LEUSER LOG HOUSE AND ITS FAMILIES

by Janet Heywood

MILLER - LEUSER LOG HOUSE	
RESIDENTS/OWNERS	
1796	Ichabod Benton Miller 
1836	Tabitha Noble 
1867	John Corbly 
1867	Nathan Perry 
1879	Nicholas Wolf 
1879	Martin Jung (Young) 
1907	Joseph Leuser 
1923	Lawrence Leuser Lawrence and Emma lived in the house from 1910 to 1969. 
1971	Anderson Township Historical Society

Let's take a look at over 216 years of the Log House and the families who have lived there.

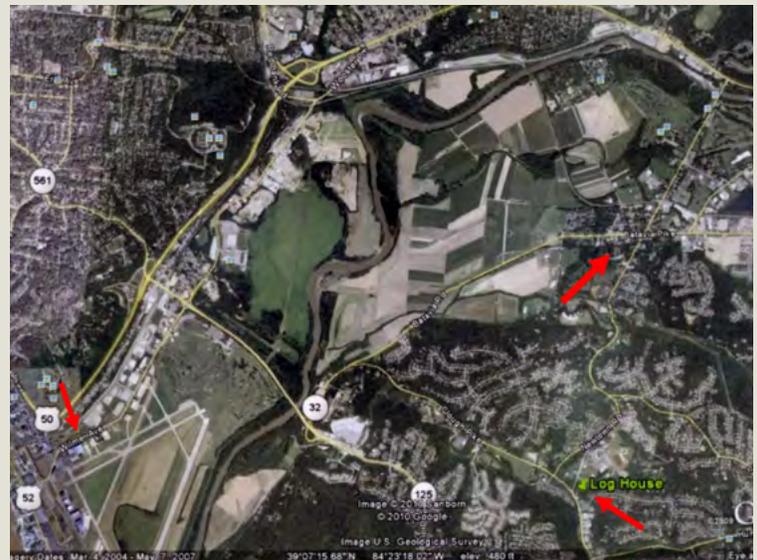
You probably have seen the framed list that names the owners and residents of the Log House – five families including two generations

of the Leuser family and two men who bought the property then resold it very quickly. Ichabod Miller who built it; the Noble family who lived there probably 40 years or more; the Perrys who stayed for 12 years; the Youngs who owned it for 28 years and the Leusers – two generations – who were there for 62 years. We have these families to thank for their care of this remarkable building. I tried to count the children who called it home and estimated more than 30 that we know of. The Nobles seem to have had the biggest crowd – perhaps a dozen people living in the house at one time.

Ichabod Benton Miller rests in the Pioneer Cemetery of Columbia – where he was buried in 1839 in his 75th year – a true pioneer.



Here's a google view of Miller's local Ohio neighborhood – here is the Pioneer Cemetery of the settlement called Columbia started in 1788 by Benjamin Stites – Columbia itself is under Lunken airport – the lowlands and Little Miami River have changed in the 200 years.



continued next page

As the crow flies about 3.5 miles away here's today's fish hatchery in Newtown – Miller worked with his father-in-law Aaron Mercer to lay out Mercersburg as Newtown was once called in 1792 and here's the Log House about 1.5 miles away where Miller built his home probably in 1795 even though he did not officially own the land till the next year.

We know some details of Miller's coming west.

Young surveyor Ichabod Benton Miller, born in New Jersey in 1764, began his journey to "Kaintucky" on October 4, 1789. He kept a journal, noting travel conditions along the way. He reached Limestone (Maysville) on November 18th after the "fatigunest time I ever saw." He visited the small settlements along the Ohio throughout 1790-1791, often returning to Columbia.

1792 Jan. 10th: Married Sarah Mercer.

April 16th: Moved from Columbia to Mercersburg (now Newtown) Aug 23rd: Moved from the station. Last of Nov. – very sick.

Nov. 16th: David Mercer Miller born (at Columbia)

1795 Feb. 13th: Moved from Columbia to my own place.

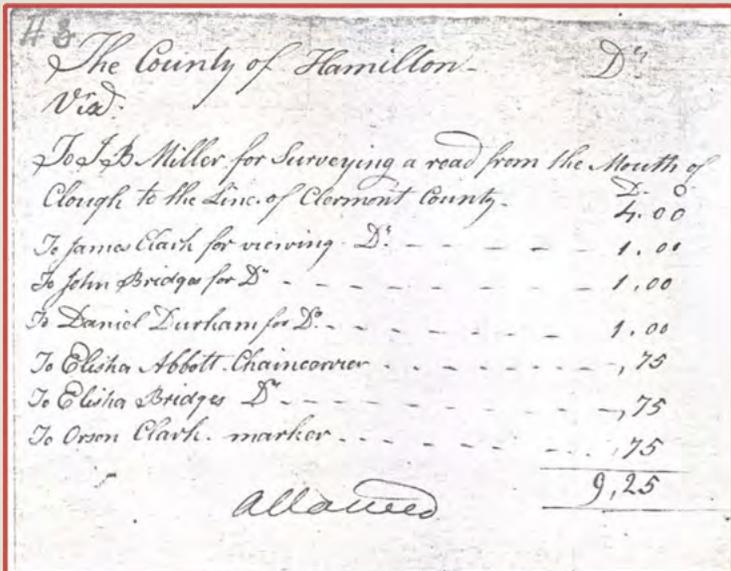
~ transcribed by Rev. John Shane.

In 1793 Miller surveyed a 600-acre parcel that ran between the Little Miami and Clough Creek Valley. Miller purchased 440 acres of this stretching north



of Clough Creek, in a deed dated April 2, 1796. He had built his log house on that land. He paid \$0.50 an acre. Over the next 5 years Ichabod and Sarah had four more children.

Miller was a Justice of the Peace of Anderson Township and county commissioner 1799 to 1802. He surveyed several of the roads in the township. In 1803 he bought 200 acres that fronted on the Ohio River and built a larger house there for his growing family.



Here's Miller's bill for surveying a road (6 miles long) from the mouth of Clough to the line of Clermont County, November 1805.

On December 31, 1836, for \$300 Ichabod Miller conveyed 15 acres to Tabitha Noble. The Log House was located on this 15 acres and the Noble family was living there.

Tabitha Pardue Noble (1788–1866) and her husband James came to Ohio by 1820; lived in the Log House by 1826; raised 10 children there. She owned it from 1836 to 1867.

Tabitha Pardue Noble (see image above)
James Noble (abt. 1785-abt. 1833) married Tabitha

Pardue (1788-1866) in 1808 in North Carolina. By 1826 they & their seven children were living in the Log House. Three more children were born there, including Martha (1829-1896), who married Samuel Merrell in 1854. They had a daughter Sarah who married

John Mathews – their daughter Ivy Pearl Mathews married George Burck and a few generations later

ATHS member KENNY BURCK, who is Tabitha & James Noble's great-great-greatgrandson, was born.

See the 1847 map (below) on which the land and house of Mrs. Noble is shown. The only *Mrs.* I could find on the map.



Map from 1847 showing Mrs. Noble's property.

See our next issue for more of
“MILLER-LEUSER LOG HOUSE AND ITS FAMILIES”

The **Property Committee** has been working on repairing and updating the Equipment Shed/Annex building. This building will have new lighting, ceiling and walls. Some structural repairs also had to be completed. The goal is to have work completed by May 1st in preparation for tours. The committee has also been working on the kitchen of the Farm House/Browne House so it can be used for various activities on the Urban Farm.

We are beginning work on the gardens around the Log House so we will be ready for our *29th Annual Spring Plant Sale* and the *Anderson Township History and Garden Tour*. With these two popular events occurring at the Log House area this year, we are in need of some assistance caring for the gardens. You are always welcome to come and pull weeds and to remove plant and leaf debris in the various areas. Mulching will also be needed.



Spring Plant Sale

Saturday May 10th Sunday May 11th
 10:00-4:00 12:00-4:00



Geraniums * Perennials * Impatiens * Annuals
 Petunias * House Plants * Begonias
 Hanging Baskets * Assorted Vegetables

Log House
 6550 Clough Pike
 Cincinnati, OH 45244

The **29th Annual Plant Sale** will occur at the Log House this year on **Saturday, May 10** and on **Sunday, May 11**. Available will be annual and perennial plants as well as vegetables. We would appreciate donations of perennial plants as well as other garden items and equipment. Volunteers are needed for the sale; please contact Ann if you are able to help.

The **Anderson Township History and Garden Tour** is being held on **Sunday, June 8**. The Log House area and the Urban Farm are participating. We will offer tours around the property and will be serving lemonade and cookies. Help will be needed this day to make this event another success. *We could use some homemade cookies for this event.*

I would love to hear from our members who want to volunteer to assist with any of these activities.

~ Ann King, akc7526@gmail.com

Urban Farm

We're gearing up for a wonderful summer (and fall) of events at the Urban Farm! Don't miss our Music On The Farm series running July - September this year. Details are in the final stages of unfurling, so we'll be updating you via socials soon. That being said, we can confirm that BluMillion, The Loaded Goat Food Truck, some great bluegrass pickers and other farm favorites (hint, hint), will be in attendance. So dig those lawn chairs out of your garage, prep your coolers, and get ready for an amazing summer of toe-tapping fun! Stay tuned – more info coming in the next few weeks!!!

Music On The Farm will run from 6pm - 9:30pm on the following Saturdays:

- July 19th
- August 16th
- September 20th

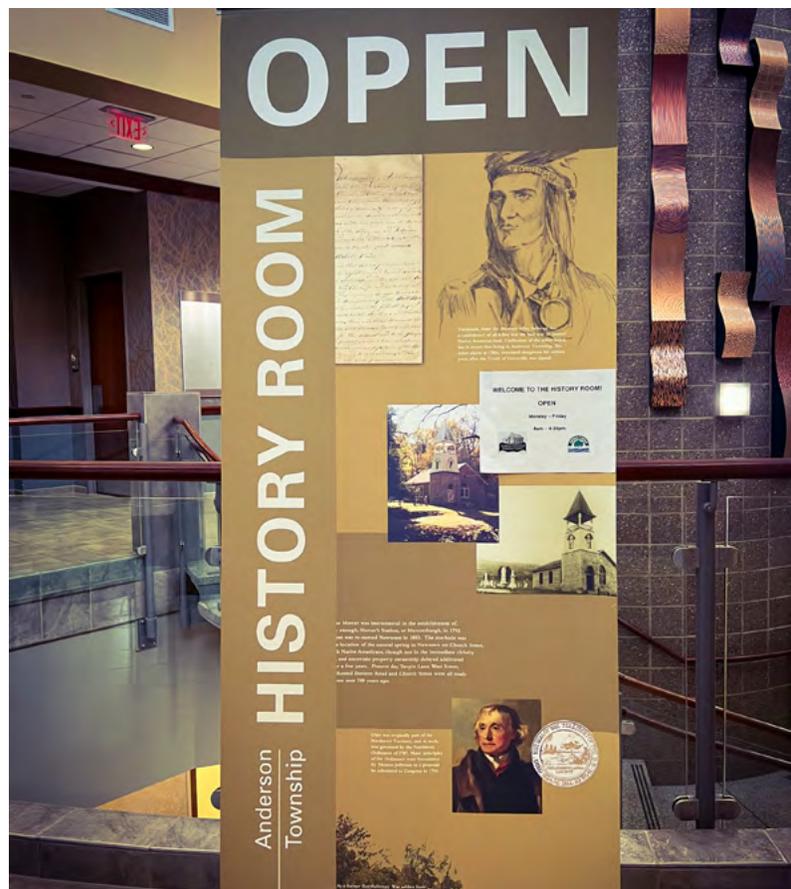
On November 1st, we'll be hosting our annual **Harvest Fair and Holiday Market** featuring local artisans, fall activities, great music and delectable food as usual!!! Farm fun for the whole family and a jump on your holiday shopping — what a combination!



If you are interested in getting involved, please email Emma at: events@andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org
See ya'll there!!!

ATHS is once again participating in “**History to Schools**” — a township-sponsored program for second graders in Forest Hills Schools. Students enjoy a tour of the history room, experience sitting in an old-fashioned school desk, and studying a display of artifacts depicting “Then and Now.” After the six-day program ATHS will have been introduced to 460 families. What an outreach!!! Thanks to these volunteers for sharing their love of history: Don and Sharon Perry, Cindy Brandyberry, Linda Magee, Nancy Meyer, Lyn Scheper, Diane Schneider, Bob King, Connie Crowe, Carol Hawkins, and Mary Lou Van Eman.

The History Room is found on the lower level of the Anderson Center and is open weekdays from 8 AM until 4:30 PM, or by appointment. Visit it and learn all about our area's history!



ATHS Urban Farm Activities



The annual Spring Brunch brought together new and returning gardeners to celebrate the start of a new growing season.

It was a beautiful spring day with a great turnout and delicious food. Pam Murphy and Garden Committee members did a wonderful job of

organizing, decorating and making all the farmers feel welcome. All plots are currently rented, with a waiting list for next growing season. For inquiries about the Urban Farm gardens, please email:

urbanfarm@andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org



Upcoming Events at the Urban Farm:

4-H Summer Program: This free program will take place in June and July. For more information please visit the QR code:

Girl Scouts Event: At the end of April the Girl Scouts will be painting pots to be sold at the annual plant sale in May.

Anderson Township History and Garden Tour: The Urban Farm is a stop on the annual Anderson Township History and Garden Tour on June 8th. We look forward to sharing our charming and vibrant place that blends history, community and nature. For more information about the tour, please visit: <https://andersontownshipoh.gov/> (The flyer listing details about all of the tour sites will be available online after May 16th).

ATHS / Great Oaks Joint Venture Project: The Anderson Township Historical Society is proud to partner with the Great Oaks Work-Based Learning Program. Through this exciting collaboration, students will gain valuable hands-on experience in a supportive, real-world environment while earning their required learning hours.

Our initial projects will launch soon at the Urban Farm, and we look forward to welcoming students as they contribute to meaningful work within our community. We're thrilled to be part of this incredible opportunity to mentor the next generation of skilled trades through the Great Oaks program.

These events offer great opportunities to engage with the community and enjoy the farm's activities. If you need more details, feel free to ask at: urbanfarm@andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org



The Urban Farm is pleased to partner with The Ohio State Extension's 4-H program for our third summer program. Space is limited, so please register soon!



Come Grow with 4-H!

Kids 8-12 are invited to garden with 4-H at the Anderson Urban Farm!
Do you enjoy gardening or want to learn? Join Hamilton County 4-H this summer at the Anderson Urban Farm.

Youth will learn about:
Growing vegetables
Planting seeds
Composting
Ohio native plants
Tasting what you grow
Nature Crafts
And More!

Where: Anderson Urban Farm
2550 Bartels Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45244

When: June 17, June 24, July 15, July 22

Time: 10am to 11:30am

Cost: FREE!

Register: [Go.osu.edu/AUF2025](https://go.osu.edu/AUF2025)



Seeking a Few Good Chicken Tenders!

It's that time of year when we recruit new friends to volunteer to become involved in our Chicken Program at the Urban Farm. Our small flock of hens is tended by a team of volunteers comprised of families and individuals of all ages from the community. Would you like to join the fun? The commitment is not huge, and it gives you the



barn. We hope you will join us! If all goes according to plan, we will have a few new chicks for you to meet!

Please RSVP for the training session by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/4lMb3v1>

If you have questions please email us at: athschickens@gmail.com



opportunity to learn more about taking care of chickens without owning them yourself. Some kids even read to their poultry pals! If you are lucky, the hens will lay a few eggs for you to take home on the days you choose to volunteer. The training session for the upcoming year is scheduled for Thursday, May 1st at 7 PM at the Urban Farm



Chimney Rehabilitation Project Update

We are pleased to report that the ATHS Log House chimney rehabilitation project began on April 14th. A little over a year ago, in March 2024, ATHS received a generous BIG CHECK grant from the Ohio History Connection. After several unexpected delays, the project was bid in December and an award was made to American Facade, a local Northern Kentucky restoration contractor. The anticipated duration of the project is four weeks with a completion date no later than June 1st. The project addresses weatherproofing the exterior of the stone chimney by removing defective mortar between

the stones and replacing them with historically accurate mortar. The interior firebox and smoke chamber of the fireplace will undergo the same process. The outcome will deliver a structurally sound, bright and clean weatherproofed exterior and a safe, functional fireplace that ensures continued longevity to our 230 year-old historic log house.

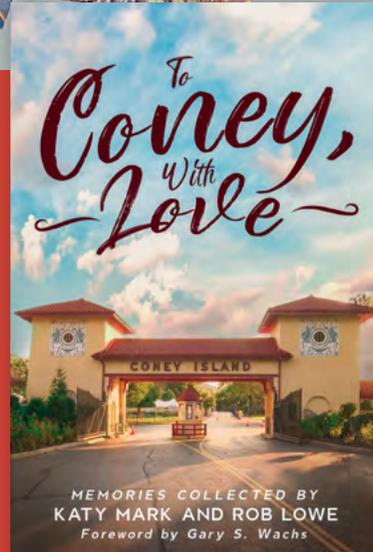
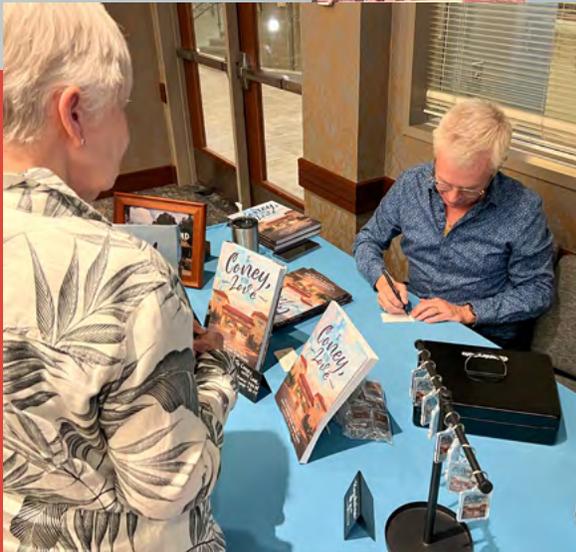


A Nod to Coney

At the April AHS Members Meeting plenty of folks strolled down Memory Lane as Rob Lowe, one of the authors of *To Coney, With Love*, shared cherished memories of growing up on the shores of Sunlite Pool. To purchase copies of the book, chock full of photos and testimonials, please see options below:

Local customers can request a signed copy, and might be able to request local delivery by visiting: info@BritonPublishing.com

Or, the book is available through other online markets.



New Exhibits in the Research Center

The Research Center team has SO much to share with the community! Each week the Center is open to the public on Tuesdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, and beginning in May through October will be open the first and third Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 PM. Come and witness the team's hard work for yourself; ATHS has a wealth of treasures to share.

One of the newest additions is a collection of photographs and artifacts from Mt. Washington's earlier days. Take a look at the 1920s blueprint to see if your neighborhood is depicted.



The team continues to add donations to the Coney Island exhibit. Retiring fireman Jeff Weber gifted several pieces of firefighting memorabilia from his decades of service in our community that will



eventually be displayed. Additions to the archaeology collection are now on display. A new military-themed section shares items from our ATHS archives plus additional items recently donated by members Bob and Ann King. Supporter Colonel Todd Mayer, who oversees the Friends of Hillcrest Cemetery – another gem that reflects the deep history of our area – has also lent military items for the exhibit.

Coming soon in 2025 are displays of Newtown, The Log House, The Country Store and early tins.



From Treasurer Bob King

Please make welcome the following new members:

Bob and Sharon Sanker

Mary Sheehan

Guy Wolf and Jane Misiewicz

Also: This is a gentle reminder that if you are an annual dues member, the current dues are due May 1, 2025. Please get your payments in. Thank you to those who have already paid.

We are seeking a person or persons to assist Bob King with the Treasurer's position. If you are interested, please contact Dani Speigel at 513-405-8089.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Ruhlman Family for their loss of Dr. Peter Ruhlman.

Activities for the next three months:

May 7th - ATHS Membership Meeting at Anderson Township Center

May 10th & 11th - Plant Sale at the Log House

May 21st - ATHS Board Meeting at Anderson Township Center

June 1st - Archaeologists arrive

June 4th - ATHS Membership Meeting at Anderson Township Center

June 8th - Anderson Township History and Garden Tour

June 18th - ATHS Board Meeting at Anderson Township Center

June 23rd - Picnic with Archaeologists at the Urban Farm

Wish List

No gift is too small or too large.

The Research Center can always use white copy paper.

The chickens would enjoy Tractor Supply gift cards to help supply purchases such as layer feed, pine shavings, and scratch. Cash gifts to the Veterinary Fund are welcomed, too!

Hand soap and paper towels come in handy at the farm.

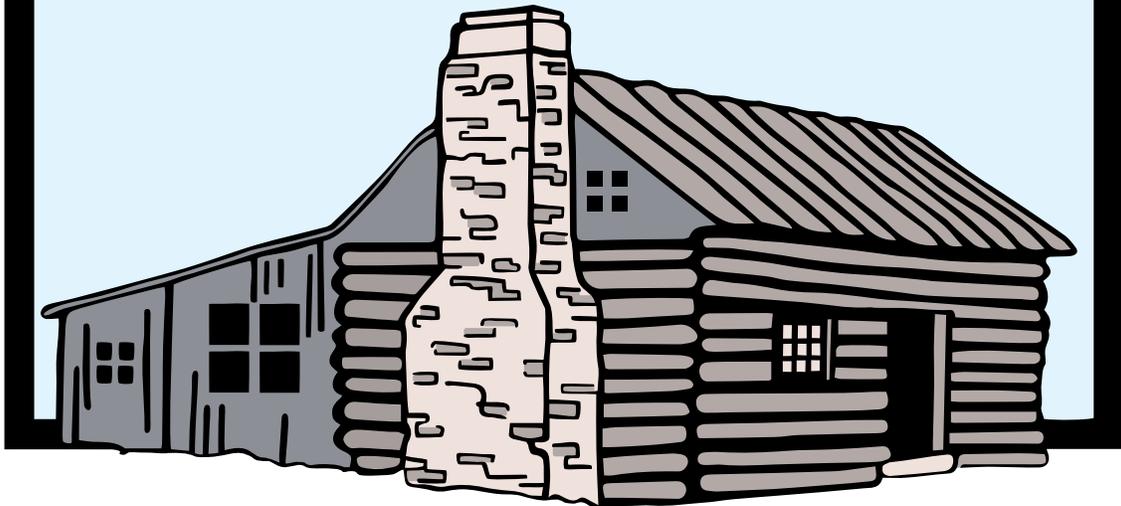
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If you would like to enjoy past editions of the SURVEYOR, you may access them by visiting the website below.

Link to archives of Surveyor:

<https://andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org/surveyor/>

Anderson Township Historical Society



Rooted in History, Growing Community

Membership Information

Your dues help support our work to preserve the history of Anderson Township and develop the Urban Farm. Membership includes monthly meetings with speakers, and discounted admission to programs and classes. ATHS annual dues are due May 1st. Please send your check to ATHS at the address listed below. You can also pay via PayPal on our website. Please put "dues" in the comment section. <https://andersonurbanfarm.com/donatetoday/>

Membership Announcements

Bob King, Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who renewed your memberships. We appreciate your continued support.

Membership Rates

Single: \$25
Couple: \$40
Lifetime Single: \$150
Lifetime Couple: \$250

P.O. Box 30174
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Contact us at 513-231-2114
www.andersontownshiphistoricalsociety.org
<https://andersonurbanfarm.com>

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