

SURVEYOR

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ATHS President's Letter



Welcome to our summer edition. There has been so excitement going on at ATHS! Our plant sale was a huge success. Thank you to all who helped make this the best year ever. Ann King, you did it again!



You may have noticed some major changes in the landscape on the hill from the lower to upper property. Students from Live Oaks spent several days helping to clear the hillside of honeysuckle and removing some trees. Our own David Vogel also did much of the work and Scott Kissel (one of our amazing gardeners) was a great help as well. The goal is to clear enough of the hillside to build steps from the lower property to the upper property. We are making plans with the Live Oaks students and staff to start this project in the fall of this year. The students also repaired the walkway between the Hunter Building and the parking lot to the Log House. It was a safety concern for all that walked along the path. We are



very grateful for all their help and look forward to many more projects in the future.

We had a great time participating in the Anderson Township 4th of July Parade. Our floats were amazing! It was great to see all who helped make our floats the best of the parade. It is wonderful to see everyone working together.

Music on the Farm is in full swing this summer. We are grateful to Forcht Bank for sponsoring our music series. Please let your family and friends know about the free concerts from 7pm to 10pm. The dates are July 10th, July 24th, August 7th and August 21st.

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We recently introduced some new additions to the Log House and Urban Farm. At the Log House a new "Little Library" that looks like the Log House. Books are available to everyone. There are books for children and adults, you can borrow a book or take one and leave one. The Urban Farm



also has a new "Little Library" that looks exactly like the barn. Stop by and see the amazing additions. Thank you to the people who made this happen.

The Urban Farm water issue has come to an end. The Libbee Group placed water lines from the Browne house to the barn, gardens and Hornschmeier

house. The cistern at the barn leaks about 1000 gallons of water per week and would cost about \$40,000 to add a new cistern, which is cost prohibitive. The new water lines will solve the water issue and will not be cost prohibitive. The ATHS Board approved this project at their May meeting, and the vote went out to the membership for approval. There was a unanimous vote to proceed with the project. I want to thank everyone that responded so quickly to move this project forward.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you soon.

Dani Spiegel

Anderson Township's Parade Celebrates America 250!

For the fifth time out of the last five times, ATHS participated in the Anderson Township 4th of July parade and have won **Best Float** in the parade.

A massive THANK YOU to Daryl Meyerrenke who had the brainchild of the flatboat and saw it through production. David Vogel for his help and for the use of his facility, and to Jill Greer and Connie Rosenfeldt for their creative genius in making the flatboat look very authentic. Lastly, thank you to all who participated and helped in painting and decorating. We hope you had fun. Your help and support was invaluable.



The Farm is Blooming... and It's About to Come Alive with Music!

There is so much happening at the Anderson Township Historical Society Urban Farm, and we couldn't be more excited to share it with our community!

Our gardens are absolutely thriving this summer! Thanks to the incredible dedication of our community gardeners, the flowers are bursting with color, the vegetables are flourishing, and every corner of the farm is looking healthy, vibrant, and beautiful. It's truly a joy to walk through the gardens and see the results of so much hard work.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our gardeners, not only for the love and care they put into their own garden plots, but also for rolling up their sleeves during our Helping Hands Saturdays. Your willingness to work together is what makes this farm such a special place. It truly is a community effort, and it shows!

To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary and the Fourth of July, our gardeners filled the farm with patriotic spirit during our annual decorating contest. The creativity was simply amazing, making the gardens even more fun for visitors to enjoy. Congratulations to our winners!

First Place: Tim & Kathy Cassidy

Second Place: Chris & Diane Seeman

Third Place: Sharon Sanker for her adorable patriotic "250" scarecrow

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the gardens such a festive and inspiring place as we celebrate this historic milestone for our beautiful country.



Now... get ready, because the farm is about to COME ALIVE!

Our Music on the Farm Summer Concert Series kicks off **Friday, July 10**, and we believe this is our best concert season yet! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of **Forcht Bank**, we've assembled an outstanding lineup of talented musicians that we're proud to bring to our community – **FREE OF CHARGE!** Many of these performers have shared the stage with nationally known artists or have performed on some of the country's biggest stages, and now they'll be performing right here in the beautiful setting of our Urban Farm.

We simply couldn't offer this incredible concert series without the support of Forcht Bank. Their commitment to our community has made these evenings possible, and we are sincerely grateful for their partnership.

A condensed concert schedule accompanies this article, but there's so much more to discover! We encourage everyone to visit the Anderson Township Historical Society Facebook page, the Anderson Township Historical Society Urban Farm Facebook page, or the Events page at athsociety.com for complete concert information look for the articles featuring the light blue **Music on the Farm Summer Concert Series** banner across the top. There you will find a brief bio on each group with a small glimpse of their musical history. As each concert approaches, you'll also find a special concert poster highlighting our next featured band.

Bring your lawn chairs, your family & friends, and experience an unforgettable evening under the stars. There's nothing quite like listening to outstanding live music surrounded by the beauty

and peaceful atmosphere of the farm. Concerts are held every other Friday through August. I hope you can join us!

To close out the season, we're adding something brand new and extra special, our very first **Patriotic Community Picnic** on **Saturday, September 12**. Because of the picnic festivities, this will be the only concert held on a **Saturday**.

The picnic begins at **5:00 p.m.**, followed by a concert at **7:00**

p.m. featuring the outstanding band, **BluMillion**. The **Anderson Township Historical Society Urban Farm** will provide the meat, and we invite everyone to bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share as we gather together to celebrate community, friendship, and America's 250th Anniversary.

We hope you'll join us for our incredible Music On The Farm Summer Concert Series! Can't wait to see you at the farm!

~ DON'T MISS OUR NEW SEASON OF ~

MUSIC ON THE FARM

2550 Bartels Rd.
All Concerts 7-10 PM
(Next to Turpin High School)
★
FREE ADMISSION
★
Series Sponsored By
Forcht Bank

JULY 10TH	"THE LEGENDARY" HAYMARKET RIOT — BEATLES TRIBUTE —	
JULY 24TH	JAGWAGON	
AUGUST 7TH	Another Colour PAUL & GRACE — SUNSET SIP & STROLL —	
AUGUST 21ST	THE MARTY CONNOR BAND	
SEPTEMBER 12TH	★ <i>Patriotic</i> ★ OLD-FASHIONED	COMMUNITY PICNIC & CONCERT ★ <i>FEATURING</i> ★ BluMillion

Here's to a summer filled with great music, good friends, and good! and wonderful memories!

Anderson Township Historical Society
★ HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US! ★

ATHS Urban Farm

Hosting Cub Scout Pack #405

In early spring, we were excited to welcome Cub Scout Pack #405 from Forest Hills to the farm for their “Ready, Set, Grow” theme. The scouts visited on two occasions to learn more about where our food comes from through firsthand experiences.

- The scouts planted their own lettuce seeds and learned how vegetables begin their growing cycle.
- They explored the life cycle of chickens and gained a better understanding of how chickens contribute to food production.

We all had a wonderful time and appreciated the opportunity to help the scouts learn through meaningful, farm-based activities.



Third Graders Tour the Log House

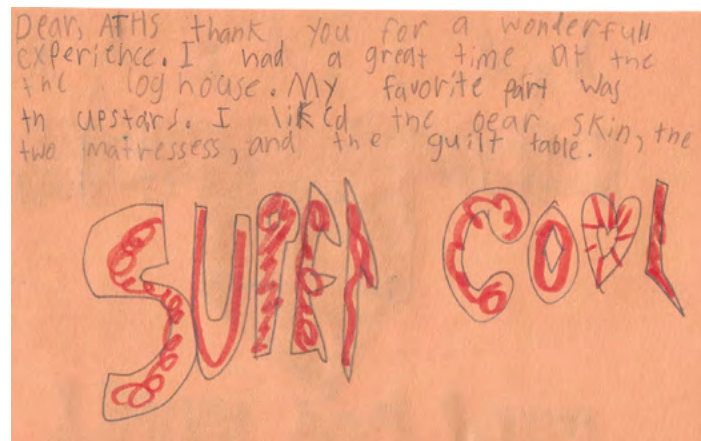
On Friday, May 15, 2026, 101 Mercer Elementary Third Graders, 32 parents, and 5 teachers walked down the hill to visit our historical corner. We were ready! Don Perry introduced the welcome video & told about

snipping green beans in front of the fireplace. Sandy Russell explained Icabod Benton Miller's surveying instruments and why a bathtub is hanging on the wall. Connie Crowe & Melissa Oakley heard gasps as they pointed out

the two seats in the outhouse. Valerie Ratchford read the historical marker then pointed out the cabin design. Diane Schneider, as the timekeeper, rang the bell when it was time to move to the next station.

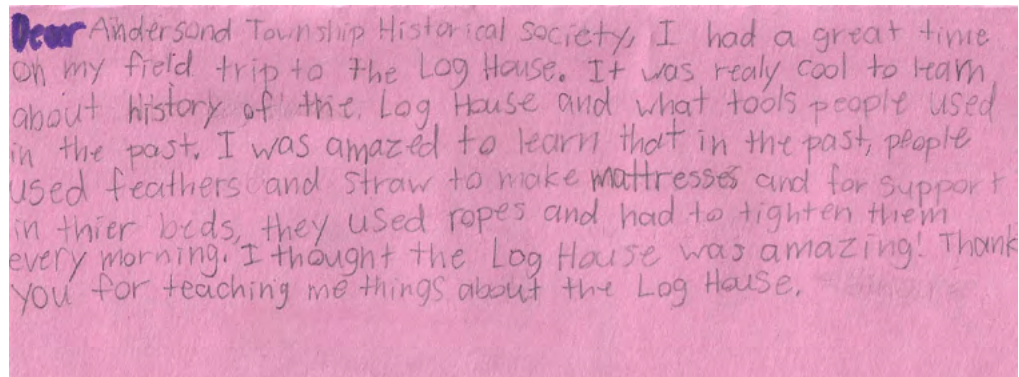
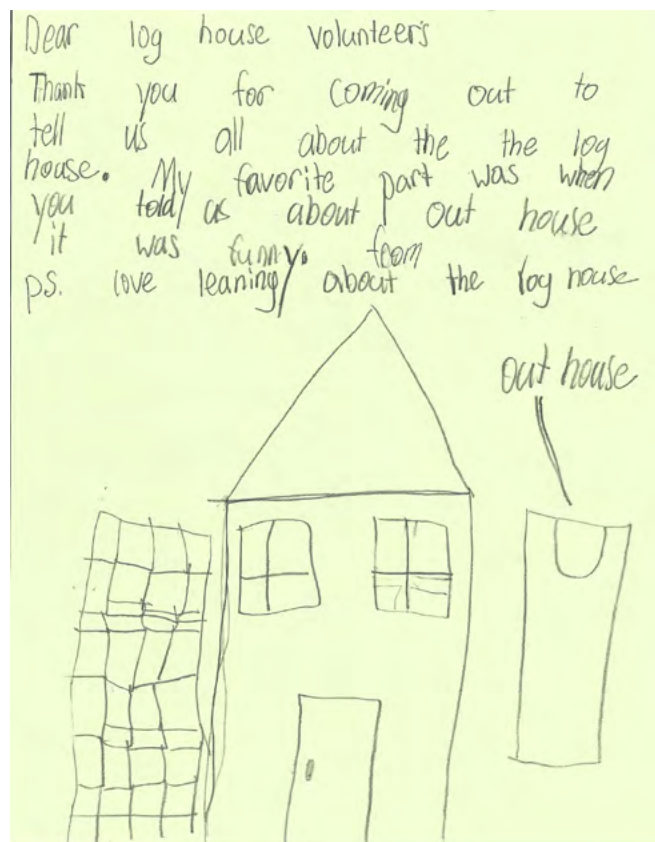
All students listened intently and seemed to enjoy the visit. One child said he was excited to check "visit a log cabin" off his bucket list.

Two third graders have returned with their families to a Sunday Open House. Several children mentioned they had visited before as they brought their families through during the plant sale and garden tour. What an outreach!



the tools in the wagon shed. Cindy Brandyberry explained the icebox and laundry items. Mary Lou Van Eman asked the students to squeeze the feather mattress and the straw mattress on the rope bed. Can you feel the difference?

Linda Magee was in the cellar discussing food needed to survive in the wilderness. Lyn Scheper encouraged students to rock the baby while peeling potatoes or



CHECK OUT SOME LITTLE-KNOWN TREASURES AT THE ATHS RESEARCH CENTER

Sunday, Aug. 16, 1-4pm.

Plan to visit the Log House and then check out the Research Center, which is located in the brick house adjacent to the historic Log House, 6550 Clough Pike.

We have historic records, but we also have some very unique items on display.

Featured items:



Assortment of **vintage tins**

Botanical Prints: created by Alexander Keith Johnston (1804-1871), a lecturer in Botany Edinburgh, Scotland, a cartographer and map maker. Used for classroom purposes.

Donated by Dr. John Patzwald (2008)

(3) prints in our collection: Fruits, Honey Bee, The Flower Poster (another chart on display in the History Room at the Anderson Center)



Display of **Coney Island:** postcard collection, books, artifacts

Display of historic **Mt. Washington**

Vintage **children's books**

Vintage **greeting cards** (we would welcome more cards for our collection)

Vintage **handkerchiefs**



The Tin Can

The Historical Society's Research Center has a collection of vintage cans that tells a much more expansive story than I was aware of. I had collected vintage tin cans for a number of years, always an interesting, reasonably priced item available in most antique store or at fleas markets. Our tin can collection will be featured as a lesser known collection at the Research Center on August 16th from 1-4 PM. To pique your interest this is a brief history of 'Tins'.

Modernization of the can began as a military necessity. In 1795, Napoleon, who is quoted as saying, "An army marches on its stomach" offered 12,000 Francs or

\$300,000 to anyone who could develop a reliable food preservation method. In 1809, Nicolas Appert known as the 'father of canning' claimed the prize with a method of sealing food in glass jars and then heating them.

Shortly afterwards Englishman, Peter Durand, introduced tin canisters. This is the origin of the word 'canning'. The tin cans were sturdier than glass and were easier to ship. By 1812, Robert Ayers and Thomas Kennett patented the tin pleated can in the United States.

The rapid growth of the canning industry from 1884 -1920 was in response to the needs of market demands. Initially the cans were covered with paper to identify the contents. Marketers expanded attractive labels for consumer appeal.

In 1884, the Sommers Brothers developed the lithographic print process on tin plate sheets. Lithography enabled the creation of custom decorative containers, replacing the paper labels. The Sommers Brothers Tinware Factory, later the American Canning Company was a massive factory built in Brooklyn, New York. The items in the Historical Society collection exist as a result of this lithographic process. Our collection also has several sealed cans that were used in WW II and VIETNAM - Donated by Bob King.

A comic foot note, the can opener evolved from a fifty year gap where consumers had to use a hammer and chisel to pierce the thick tin cans. To improve upon this crude method, inventors developed various tools ranging from a simple bayonet and sickle to today's rotary wheel.

'Necessity is the mother of invention.'



References:

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Canning Manufacturers Institute



The First, First Lady's Garden

This year as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, it is fitting that we gardeners also celebrate Martha Washington, the first "First lady".

The Urban Farm's raised bed #5 garden, is honoring her dedication to Mt. Vernon's 'kitchen garden'. It has been planted with heritage seeds from Mt. Vernon. There is a sign designating the garden with pictures of Martha and Mt. Vernon.

Heritage or heirloom seeds are open-pollinated plant varieties passed down through generations. The best characteristic of an heritage seed is that 'it is true to

form' meaning that seeds saved from a harvest will grow exactly the same plant next season.

Martha was an avid gardener who planted a kitchen garden which produced vegetable staples such as carrots, lettuce, peas, beans, kale and cucumbers. The kitchen garden supplied vegetables for the Washingtons and their house staff. Martha also oversaw larger gardens that produced food year-round for Mt. Vernon winter use. Its abundance was made possible by the enslaved people that worked the land.



Major Projects for ATHS

There are some urgent projects for the Research Center that need immediate attention. The rear wall in the storage room has a horizontal crack and is leaking water especially during heavy rains. The crack came from the hillside behind the house putting pressure on the rear wall. Both issues are going to be expensive. The Board has decided to hire a structural engineer and/or a civil engineer to evaluate the problems and make recommendations to permanently fix these problems. Once we have some solutions, we will explain to the membership the suggested solutions. In the next few months, please look for emails about the progress and the costs. We greatly appreciate your support.

Property News

The ATHS 28th Spring Plant Sale was held on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, and it was a tremendous success! The sale generated a profit of \$7,011, the highest amount we have ever raised from this event.

I would like to thank all of the Gardeners and ATHS members for their help with this outstanding fundraiser. Many of the Gardeners traveled us to acquire the wonderful plants. We also purchased many red, white, and blue plants to help honor the USA's birthday, and they were very popular!

The Gardeners who care for the Log House area gardens did a fabulous job preparing for both the 28th Spring Plant Sale and the Anderson Township Garden and History Tour. They are Eric, Monti, Kelly, Lisa, Sheri, Suzi, Diane, Nancy, Valerie, Gwen, and Ann. Thank you to all of them for their hard work and dedication!

The ATHS Property Group is currently working on repairs to parts of the chimney at the Research Center. The roof was also inspected and, thankfully, was found to be in good condition.

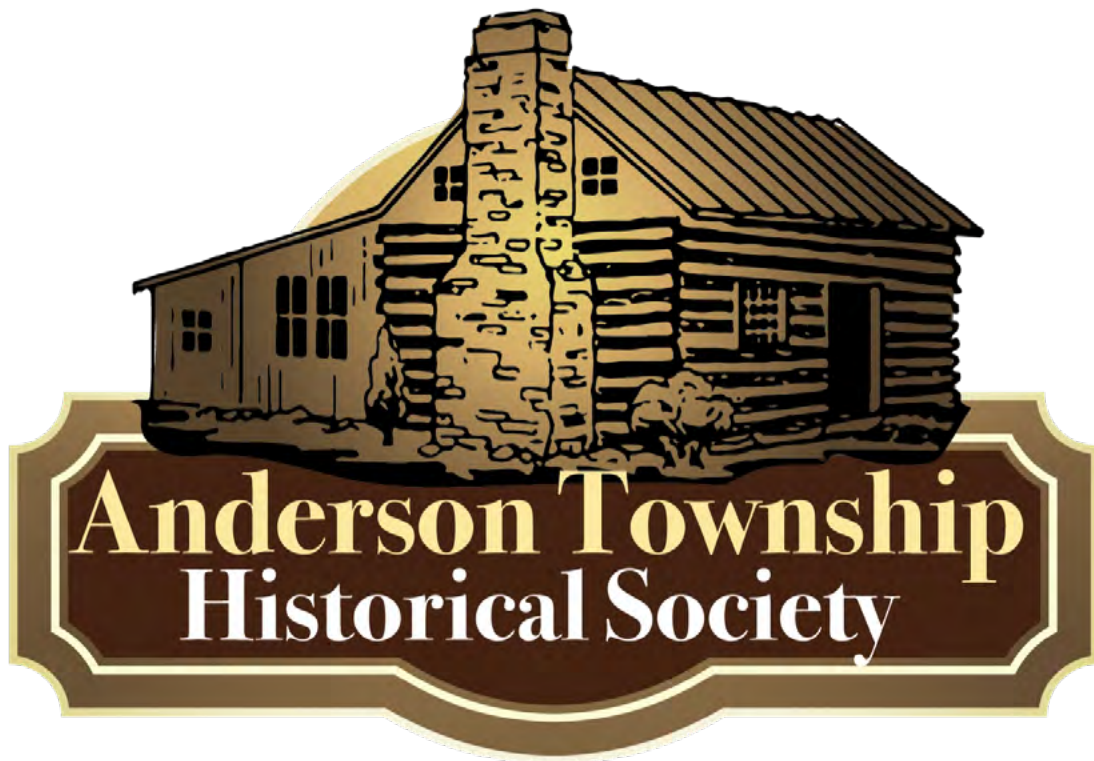
ATHS Publications Now Available Online

The Anderson Township Historical Society is pleased to share that many of our publications are now available for purchase through the ATHS website. These books, maps, postcards, and historical resources help preserve and share the rich history of Anderson Township, Mt. Washington, the Little Miami River area, local railways, historic homes, and more.

The online shop currently includes 18 items, with prices ranging from \$3 to \$20. Featured publications include Anderson Township:

Images of America, Historic Homes of Anderson Township, Anderson Township Tales, Now and Then in Anderson Township, the Log House Cookbook, railway history volumes, historic maps, postcard packs, and several other local history publications.

Purchasing these items is a wonderful way to learn more about our community's past while also supporting ATHS and its mission to preserve local history for future generations. To view the available publications, visit the ATHS website at athsociety.org/shop.



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. [athociety.org/donate](https://www.athociety.org/donate)

Membership Announcements

ATHS Welcomes New Members

Andrew Fischer
Robert Hutchinson
David Jones
Corinne Lindner
Sarah Radke

Ann Russell
Cori Seif
Ginny and Bob Verdin
Guy Wolf and Jane Misiewicz

Membership Rates

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

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