

THE BEXLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Historical Herald



The Historical Society Museum and Office

“... to preserve items relevant to the Bexley Community ...”

The Bexley Historical Society’s mission, in part, is “to preserve items relevant to the heritage of the Bexley community.” It’s fitting that this dedicated group of volunteers saved a historic 1920s home within “inches” of demolition, thanks in part to a swimming pool.

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of the David H. Madison Community Swimming Pool. When the old pool was razed, the architects and construction workers used the caretaker’s cottage on Jeffrey Mansion grounds as their office. The plan was to demolish the long-vacant structure after completion of the pool. Meanwhile, the Bexley Historical Society had functioned out of a small room in city hall with files, photos and artifacts stored in various places in city hall and Jeffrey Mansion. With Jeffrey Mansion requiring that storage space for its own use, the Bexley Historical



Society needed a new home. Barbara Hysell, then president of the Society, approached Mayor Madison with the idea of moving into the Jeffrey Mansion caretaker’s cottage. Bexley Historical Society Founder and Cottage Director Edie May Herrel spoke to City Council, who approved the decision to lease the cottage to the Historical Society.

The Historical Society appreciates that Mayor Madison and Barbara Hysell had the foresight to see the potential of the property. Through many donations of time and materials, volunteers made much needed repairs and upgrades to

the structure. The society welcomed their first visitors on July 4, 2006 at an Open House.

However, as all owners of older homes know, the work is never done. Recently the City of Bexley made several improvements to the building. They removed overgrown shrubbery from the west side of the house and replanted the area. The mailbox was cemented into place and board member Glenn Soden painted it. The back porch was upgraded with new low-rise concrete steps and a hand railing. Plans are under way by the Society to remove and replace rotten wood cornices, repair the front porch, and re-glaze some windows. As the Bexley Historical Society celebrates 10 years in its current home, the Board thanks all those who have helped save and improve the cottage.

Renovations to Restore Drexel Theatre to Art Deco Splendor

New Neighborhood Houses Open on Christmas Day



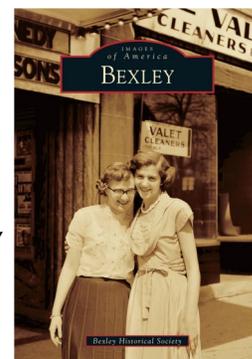
Drexel Theatre
Columbus Dispatch
December 24, 1937

● The Drexel, newest of the W. C. Chesbrough chain of suburban theaters, is to have its formal opening Christmas afternoon. First film to be shown will be "One Mile from Heaven." On Sunday the screen program will be topped by Irene Dunne in "The Awful Truth."

Later this summer, when patrons of the Drexel Theatre can visit again, they will walk up under the glow of replaced neon marquee lights and colored lights behind the glass block, while looking up to the rehabbed original ceiling. As they enter, they will step onto original terrazzo flooring. As they proceed, they can order concessions from a new counter fitting the Art Deco style of the building. These are highlights among the many renovations the Friends of the Drexel group are undertaking. The Drexel was built in 1937 and was renovated in 1981 and 1991. It was listed to the National Register of

Historical Places in 2015, which allowed the theatre to apply for historic tax credits. Additional support for the renovation came from local citizens, the Bexley Community Foundation, Franklin County, the City of Bexley and the State of Ohio.

One of Bexley’s landmarks, the Drexel Theatre, is featured on the cover of *Images of America / Bexley*. The book may be purchased at the historical society, book stores and at Amazon.com.



Bexley Celebrates Life of Robert Hutchins “Tad” Jeffrey II

Perhaps no family is as synonymous with Bexley as the Jeffreys. On February 13, 2016, the community lost a prominent life-long resident when Tad Jeffrey passed away. Born on June 23, 1929, Tad attended Bexley’s Cassingham Elementary school and graduated in 1947 from Columbus Academy.



Tad’s 6th birthday party

After graduating from Williams College, earning his MBA from Harvard Business School, and serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, Tad and his beloved wife, Nancy Kittredge Jeffrey returned to Columbus to join the family business, Jeffrey Manufacturing Company, of which he eventually became President. Later, the Jeffrey Company became a private investment company, from which he retired in 2000. Tad and Nancy raised their four children in Bexley, where members of the Jeffrey family have lived for over 110 years.



Tad and photo of his grandfather, Robert Hutchins Jeffrey Bexley Historical Society

The Jeffrey Mansion, one of the hubs of the town, was built in 1903-1905 by Tad’s grandfather, Robert Hutchins Jeffrey, who was instrumental in founding Bexley in 1908. The family donated the home, known as Kelvedon, and its 34 acres of surrounding park land to Bexley in 1941. The Bexley Historical Society, located on this land, benefitted from Tad’s interest in history. In the late 1800s, on what is now Wolfe Park, a farmer discovered artifacts from the Adena people who lived along Alum Creek as far back as 1 A.D.

The Ohio History Connection, held the items until the Bexley Historical Society could provide a secure display area. Tad and Nancy Jeffrey, along with Jill Jeffrey Kingsley and Joseph A. Jeffrey, Jr., funded the construction of the display so that visitors may view the Adena artifacts.



Nancy and Tad at Donors’ Reception, 2012

Tad Jeffrey worked to improve his community. In Bexley specifically, Tad participated in a group that built and operated the Bexley pool. His passion for education called him to serve on the boards of Capital University, Columbus Academy, and Columbus School for Girls. A recent, generous donation by the Jeffreys helped fund new athletic and arts centers at CSG. Tad also served on the Board of Directors of the Bexley Community Foundation. He will be missed, but Tad’s involvement will continue to shape many of the things that make Bexley great.

Interview With Dr. Janet Bez Ebert

Janet Bez Ebert, a 1953 graduate of Bexley High School went on to earn a B.S. in 1958, M.S. in 1962, and Ph.D in 1973 from O.S.U. Her degrees were in music education with minors in several areas. Now retired, she had a very distinguished career in music education. During the time Janet was an undergrad at O.S.U., women were not a part of the marching band, but she was in the Concert Band. She was TBDBITL Alumni Club, Inc.(OSU Marching Band) secretary, 1972—1993 and has served as the organization’s Historian from 1993 to present.

Janet said, “I will be forever grateful that I lived my entire youth in the Bexley community.” She treasures her life-long friendships.



L to R:
Janet Bez,
Ann Williams,
Lois Lewin,
Katherine Schreier

May 1948

Following WWII, Janet’s mother, at the request of German relatives, sent CARE packages and tucked in a copy

of the photo, Janet and three of her friends with their sports equipment. She identified the girls as a Lutheran, one from an atheist family, a Jew, and a Catholic and stated, “This is how we do things in America—a togetherness in our community.”



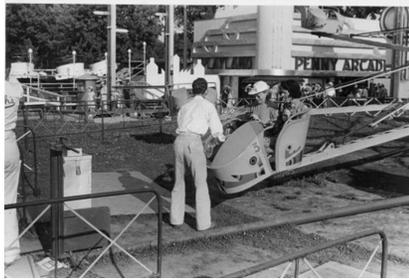
Ann Williams Grooms, Kathy Schreier Garber, Janet Bez Ebert, and Lois Lewin Daniels
March 1978

Summer Fun In Bygone Years



Bexley Historical Society Photo Collection

These children photographed c.1915 in front of the Village of Bexley Mayor Frank Holtzman's home (s/w corner of Parkview Ave.at Bryden Rd.) as they await their turn for a ride on the donkey. Summer-time birthday party entertainment might include a visit from this patient animal. But more often the enterprising owner of a donkey would take it through a neighborhood and charge a small fee for rides and a photograph.



Bexley Historical Society Photo Collection

Norwood's Amusement Park was located on the south side of East Main Street and ran just west of where Alum Creek Drive is now. The park came into existence in the late 1940s and was demolished in 1965. Alum Creek Drive did not exist at this time or location. The demolition of the park was related in no small part to the building of the freeway.



Bexley Historical Society Photo Collection

Swimming, visiting with friends, playing a game of bridge, or having a sandwich and Coke were all part of the summer-time activities at the Tavernell Swimming Club which opened in Bexley c. 1929.



Columbus Jewish Historical Society
Herb Topy Collection

In 1943, the Tavernell was sold and the complex became known as the Excelsior Club. Above is the swim team c. mid-1950s. The Excelsior was in operation until the property was sold in 1968. A large apartment building now occupies the land at 509 North Cassady Avenue.

Annual Ice Cream Social

Bexley Historical looks forward to seeing you on July 4th on Capital's Main Street lawn. We will again sell products from Johnson's Real Ice Cream.



Bexley Historical Society Volunteer

Nicole Matchneer Eshelbrenner, a recent transplant to Bexley, enjoys raising her two children only a few blocks from where her grandparents were raised and where they raised her father and aunt. She graduated from Columbus Academy in 2000 and from Washington University in St. Louis in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish. Before becoming a mom, she worked in Public Affairs at Abbott Nutrition and at a small public relations firm in New York City. Now, she is a freelance writer and co-chairs an alumni group that interviews local students who want to attend Washington University. She loves strolling past beautiful homes on the same sidewalks that other families have walked on for generations.

Editor's Note: Nicole's writing skills were put to use on the two front page articles and the Robert "Tad" Jeffrey article on page 2.



Nicole and daughter Violet

Museum Visitors

The Rocky Fork Ramblers recently spent an enjoyable afternoon touring the Bexley Historical Society Museum.



Bexley Historical Society
P.O. Box 9285
Bexley, OH 43209



Bexley Historical Society Museum
at the
Jeffrey Estate Caretaker's Cottage

Bexley Historical Society
2080 Clifton Avenue / Bexley, OH 43209

Hours

First Thursday of Each Month

10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Second Monday of Each Month

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

First Sunday of Each Month March - October

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Also open by appointment / 614-559-4360

info@bexleyhistory.org
www.bexleyhistory.org
501 (c) (3) Organization

Jeffrey Mansion Display

Photos from the historical society's collection along with several pieces of Edie Mae Herrel's drawings are on display at the Jeffrey Mansion. Of special interest are photos of Robert and Alice Jeffrey along with their children both inside the residence and on the porch. Included in the display is the home of Maurice S. and Mary Ellen Connors (78 North Parkview), the grandparents of Barbara Drugan. "Miss Barbara" was a highly respected kindergarten teacher in the Bexley schools. Another home shown and referred to as the Daugherty Mansion at 46 North Parkview became the headquarters of Major General Henry Axline during the mobilization of troops for the Spanish-American War.

Annual Meeting—Monday, June 13, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Bexley Historical Society 2080 Clifton Avenue

Presented by Nominating Committee & Accepted by Board for Membership Vote

Officers

President: Michael Kilbourne Treasurer: Scott McKinley

Vice-president: Dr. Walter Buchsieb Secretary: Glenn Soden

Trustees

Mark Epstein, Lori Ann Feibel, David Madison, Connie Ostrove, Scott McKinley

To be voted upon: Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure to replace Roberts Rules of Order (Bexley Historical Society Constitution IX Conduct of Business)

Mission Statement

The Bexley Historical Society is an educational association. It seeks to promote interest and pride in the historical development of the community and in the accomplishments of its citizenry. It endeavors to research, assemble, preserve, and publish a valuable storehouse of materials including artifacts, memorabilia, photographs, and genealogical records relevant to the heritage of the Bexley community.

Board of Trustees

Michael Kilbourne, President Dr. Walter Buchsieb, Vice-president
Scott McKinley, Treasurer Glenn Soden, Secretary

Nancy Beck, Mark Epstein, Glenn Estapa, Lori Ann Feibel,
Amy Goldstein, David Madison, Connie Ostrove, Ron Robins, Stanley Yenkin
Advisors: Ed Hamblin, Edie Mae Herrel/Founder & Cottage Director
Ex-Officio: Cindy Lindsay, Bexley Public Library

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Per Year / Per Household:

General Membership \$25.00 Senior Citizen: \$15.00

Supporting \$50.00 Patron \$100.00

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Make checks payable to: Bexley Historical Society
Mail to: P.O.Box 9285 / Bexley, OH 43209
Thank You For Your Support