

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861

40 Years of Collaboration - Historical Society and Village Council

The Indian Hill Historical Society was started as a collaboration between the Village Council and residents. In 1973 Mayor Truxton Emerson and Council were trying to find a use for the Little Red Schoolhouse. His wife, Tyler Emerson volunteered and founded the Indian Hill Museum Association, now known as the Indian Hill Historical Society. Tyler Emerson had strong support from Council. Throughout four decades, the organization has partnered with Council on a variety of projects.



Buckingham Lodge

Mrs. Emerson, the first President, assembled a 15 person Board of Trustees and garnered support from 100 founders who contributed funds to restore the Little Red Schoolhouse. Andy Hauck Sr. was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the structure. The group used the Schoolhouse for educational and historical programs and exhibits designed to augment community cohesion, and it continues to do so today.

In the 1980s, Council decided that it did not want to continue renting the Bonnell farmhouse at 8650 Camargo Road. The house was deteriorating and Council considered razing it. A combined effort of the Historical Society and Council saved it from demolition. Council provided the funds (\$35,000) initially budgeted to bulldoze the house, and a Historical Society fund drive (along with a few neighbors and friends) matched that amount. The renovation work (supervised by Jim Ewell) took two years. The building -known as Buckingham Lodge – is current-

ly the office of the Historical Society. It is a repository for Village memorabilia; it contains the Hauck Library and is a gathering place for citizens.

In 1995, The Historical Society and Council partnered again for the celebration of Indian Hill's Bicentennial Anniversary. A Village flag was created, a marvelous Fourth of July parade and celebration occurred, and the Bicentennial Sculpture at Stephan Field was constructed. Paid for with Village funds, the three limestone panels depict the history of the Village in an artistic fashion. The sculptor consulted with the Historical Society in selecting imagery for the slabs. The Society also designed tee shirts and pins for the celebratory event.

In 2003 the Village generously provided funds for the renovation of the Little Red Schoolhouse. The addition to the historic structure featured a state- of- the- art and greatly expanded kitchen, a pantry, two new restrooms, a coat closet, additional storage space, and a handicapped ramp. This gift from Council was a salute to the Historical Society's importance in the community as it worked to fulfill its mission of "Keeping Indian Hill's past and present alive for the future".

The Society and the Village continue to collaborate in several ways. The *Indian Hill Bulletin* contains 2 pages devoted to the Society in each edition. The exterior maintenance of Buckingham Lodge and the Little Red Schoolhouse is managed by the Public Works Department. Since 2000, a Preservation Committee has worked with Village personnel to monitor house demolitions. And most recently, the Historical Society provided the data for the plaque at Rheinstrom Park.

Hopefully the Village Council and the Indian Hill Historical Society will continue their productive partnership well into the future.



Bicentennial Sculpture