

A look back at Blue Ash History...

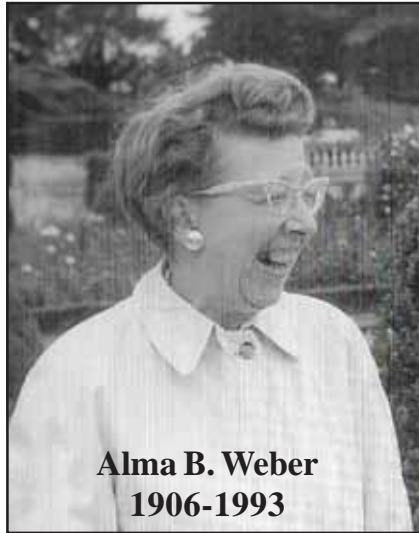
Alma B. Weber was the daughter of Louis Weber, owner of Weber's Grocery Store in the early 1920s. She was a teacher at Blue Ash School, after operating a kindergarten class in her home. She was a prolific writer and often submitted articles to various local newspapers. This is one of those articles.

What Did You Do For Fun?

"If you lived in Blue Ash in the early 1920s, what did you do for fun? There were no sidewalks, except one block on Highland between Cooper and Perry Road, and it was so broken and uneven that roller skating was out of the question. The streets were unpaved so bicycling was discouraging, too. Few residents owned automobiles and the most fun they offered was going for a ride. Moving picture theaters were just beginning to appear but there were none in BlueAsh. The closest was in Pleasant Ridge.

There was just one church in Blue Ash and besides ministering to our spiritual needs it provided lots of fun by way of picnics, church suppers, entertainment, games, and opportunities for lots of laughter. But we did have a winning baseball team which had loyal support from its proud backers.

Then there was my father's grocery store which was heated by a pot-bellied stove behind which several retired gentlemen staked out seating claims where they gathered every day to chat, swap stories, laugh a lot, and tease my sister Mary unmercifully. One day she got so desperate she picked up an overripe tomato, hurled it at her tormentor and hit him squarely in the face. Our father shouted to her in no uncertain terms that he would not tolerate that behavior, but the victim, tomato juice dripping from



**Alma B. Weber
1906-1993**

his nose and chin, stepped between them protesting "Let the chld alone - I had it coming to me." That story was told for a long time. After all, laughter is the accompaniment of fun so that brief incident which occurred some 60 years ago is still calling forth laughter and fun.

The wife of one of the men who sought warmth and fellowship behind the stove died. He behaved well, gave her a proper funeral and then went home and put on his

biggest, oldest, sloppiest shoes, went out into the yard and found a mud puddle in which he waded until his shoes had picked up a generous covering of mud. Back in his home he tramped through every room upstairs and down, leaving trail of mud behind him. Neighbors had often murmured about her nagging. You can guess what was one of her chief complaints!

A new minister came to Blue Ash Presbyterian. His name was Earl Short but he asked to be called Shorty. He was greatly admired for his splendid ministry and for his keen humor. One night when the officers had assembled, Shorty said, "Gentleman, (there was no women officers at that time) I want you to come with me to study a matter which needs your appraisal." He took them to the Manse and up the stairs to the bathroom. Now you must know that running water and sewerage were

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then one of Blue Ash's most modern improvements and very few houses had built-in bathrooms. Generally they were simply tucked in wherever space permitted, often a part of a cupboard or a corner of a bedroom. In the Manse the bathroom had been so installed. Shorty invited the first man to be seated and then a second and so on through the entire group of Elders. When each has his turn,

Shorty asked, "How will you report of the meeting?" One man replied, "I couldn't get my knee under the wash stand." Continuing reports followed the same pattern until the last man said, "We will have to enlarge the bathroom." They did.

But I still have a question. Do you still wonder what we did for fun?"

A Big THANK YOU...

...to everyone who attended our Carpenter's Run Cemetery event on November 6. Members of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution honored four soldiers buried there with a granite plaque in front of each grave. The program began with explanations of the various uniforms and weapons used by the soldiers, followed by a demonstration of firing the muskets. After the presentation of the various flags and wreaths depicting the participating chapters, the event ended with the playing of Taps by SAR member Gordon Stokely, Jr.



John Enems
2/19/1755-1/2/1821



Francis Nichols
6/17/1765-9/30/1808



Price Thompson
3/20/1756-3/1/1842



Nicholas Johnston
2/14/1764-12/24/1821

We were delighted to learn that a member of the audience was a descendent of one of the soldiers we were honoring! Francis Nichols (1765-1808) is the 5th great-grandfather of Elizabeth Zajac, who attended the event with her father.



The plaque installed in front of the four graves



Emcee demonstrates the various uniforms



Muskets firing 21 gun salute



Taps played by Gordon Stokely Jr.



Elizabeth Zajac and her father, James Bingham, direct descendents of Francis Nichols



Participants included members of the Cincinnati Chapter, as well as other regional chapters

A special thank you to Callie Fisher, Programming & Event Marketing Assistant, Parks & Recreation Department, City of Blue Ash for her help!

We have GOOD NEWS!....

Extermination has been done, restoration has been completed, and the Historic Hunt House is officially habitable again! You can see from the pictures that the damage was extensive, and every precaution has been taken to insure that it won't happen again. We hope to be able to move furniture, files, and displays back in sometime in January.



Damaged floor joist



Temporary supports going up in basement

Damage to floor of sunroom



...and we have BETTER NEWS!

We are now able to go back to our Open House plans for 2022, as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday April 9, 1:00-4:00 | Celebrate the 36th Anniversary of the formation of the Blue Ash Historical Society |
| Saturday, July 16, 1:00-4:00 | Our annual Civil War program, speaker TBA |
| Saturday, October 8, 1:00-4:00 | Welcome Fall! |
| Saturday, December 10, 1:00-4:00 | Victorian Christmas |

We can't wait to see our guests again, and hope you will save these dates, stop by and say hello!



This beautiful blue spruce tree was recently planted in the rear yard of the Hunt House in memory of long-time Blue Ash resident and Historical Society member Judy Kuethe, who passed away on September 5, 2021. We will miss her presence always, but look forward to watching the tree grow knowing how much she loved her work at the Hunt House and all things nature.

Rest in peace, our dear friend.