



*July
August
September, 2019*

A look back at Blue Ash History...

This is Part 2 of our series on historic homes in Blue Ash. Several of these properties were included in “*The Historic Inventory of Hamilton County, An Historic Survey of 42 Suburban Communities*” prepared by The Miami Purchase Association and authorized by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners in 1991. These properties have been marked with a *



4752 Alpine, built in 1890. 2-story home of frame and siding construction consists of 2,361 square feet, features 9 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, partial basement, 2 fireplaces, open front porch, wood deck and attached garage, situated on a lot 100 x 188. The adjoining lot is included and measures approximately 65 x 206 feet.

9522 Conklin, built in 1890. 2-story, 2 bedroom, 1 bath home of frame and siding construction consists of 1,224 square feet and features full basement, open front porch, enclosed porch and detached garage.



***9544 Conklin, built in 1902.** “The building’s significance as a modest example of late Queen Anne architecture is enhanced by its possible association with John Conklin, a farmer and real estate dealer in Blue Ash. Surveyed in 1886, the property was dedicated as John Conklin’s subdivision in 1890.”

9545 Conklin, built in 1900. This one-story frame and siding home has 4 rooms, 1 bedroom and 1 bath, consisting of 1,131 square feet situated on a lot 50 x 275. It features a partial basement, central, patio with canopy, and detached garage.



***9561 Conklin, built in 1888.** The two-story frame and siding house is approximately 2,780 square feet, has 4 bedrooms, 1 full and 2 half baths, and is situated on 1.009 acres. This house is significant because of its association with developer John Conklin. In 1914 the property belonged to Sophia Hilsinger, widow of Jacob Hilsinger, a bookkeeper and founder of the Blue Ash Building and Loan.

4619 Cooper, built in 1890. This is a 2-story frame house with 4 bedrooms, 1 full and 2 half baths, approximately 1,700 square feet, situated on an irregular lot 63 x 225. It features a partial basement, two open porches and a utility shed.



4625 Cooper, built in 1880. This one-story frame and siding home has 3 bedrooms and 1 full bath, consisting of 1,500 square feet, situated on a lot 131 x 148 feet. It features a partial basement, open front porch, enclosed side porch and a utility shed.

Throughout the year we'll feature some of the other interesting properties in Blue Ash, including several homes built in the mid to late 1800s that are still occupied today and have been designated "Historic Homes in Blue Ash" by the Blue Ash Historical Society.



“Think Spring” was the theme of our April open house, and this colorful table was a perfect example! Guests received a flowering plant, and one lucky visitor won the beautiful hanging basket full of purple, yellow and white petunias.

It was a beautiful spring day, perfect for a “walk-about”. BAHS President Tom Bell and former resident of the house led a tour of the lawn and discussed how the landscaping looked when he lived there.



Cubs Scouts Visit Hunt House

On Saturday, April 20, BAHS president Tom Bell had the pleasure of touring the Hunt House with Cub Scout Troop 151 from Montgomery. The boys and their families enjoyed hearing about the history of the house and seeing how things were in the “good old days.”



Save the Dates! Don't miss future Open Houses:

Saturday, July 13, 1:00-4:00, annual Civil War theme, featuring General Lew Wallace (see page 4)

Saturday, October 12, Airport comes to Blue Ash

Saturday, December 7, Victorian Christmas



Blue Ash Historical Society

presents

General Lew Wallace

July 13, 2019, 1:30

Hunt House, 4364 Hunt Road



Portrayed by Mr. Bernie O'Bryan
Civil War Museum, Ft. Wright, KY.



General Lew Wallace was a local boy who received an irregular formal education. Still, he rose to highest rank in the Civil War. His quick actions saved Cincinnati and Washington, DC from Confederate attack. He formed the first African American army units in the paid service and established the first Freeman's Bureau to assist freed slaves with support and training. Noted as a Renaissance man as architect, sculptor, painter, inventor, businessman, soldier, speaker, lawyer and most famously writer of Ben-Hur and other stories, plays, poetry and even military manuals. He served on the two most famous trials of the Civil War era (Lincoln Assassination, Andersonville Prison commander). He put down the New Mexico Lincoln County war, brought in Billy the Kid and was close friends with the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. His family were equally over achievers leaving a lasting legacy. During his lifetime he was one of the world's most famous people.

Bernie O'Bryan has played General Lew Wallace in the nationally televised '90s film "Lew Wallace: Shiloh Soldier, Ben-Hur Bard" and on many stages and events. He also has appeared in the film "Levi Coffin" as a slave master, a soldier in several films ("Perryville", "Where the River Bends" and in a new documentary on "U.S. Grant". Other characters Bernie brings to life include: Blind Confederate Stovepipe Johnson, 1864 Vice Presidential candidate from Cincinnati "George Hunt Pendleton" who opposed President Lincoln, Judge and military advisor Joshua Hall Bates and Medal of Honor recipient in 1899 Captain Bernard B Byrne for his action during the Philippine Insurrection.



He also has been active in community theater and the last several years played several villains in the St. John's Passion Play (which has been performed annually for 102 years so far). When not "acting up", Bernie is a researcher and writer, especially biographies. He has published writing on Confederate General Henry Heth, General Lew Wallace, the Sixth Regiment during the Spanish American War and Philippine Insurrection and other topics. He serves on the Board of the James A. Ramage Civil War Museum, Fort Wright, Kentucky, offices in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and several national offices for the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans, a founding member of the Mid States Living History Association and is active in Holy Cross Church of Covington, Kentucky. He lives with his family in Covington, Kentucky.