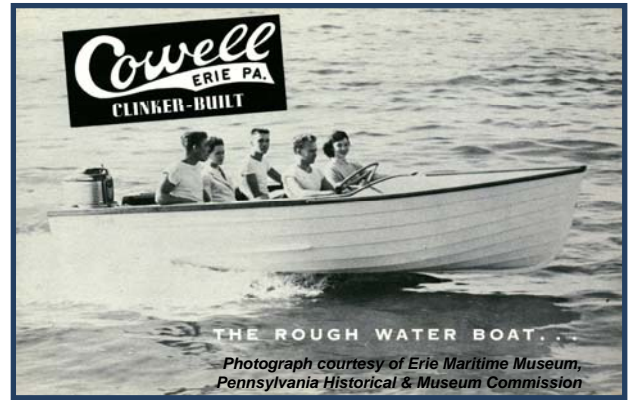




Harborcreek Historical Society
 5661 Buffalo Road
 P.O. Box 121
 Harborcreek, PA 16421
 T: 814.899.4447
 E: harborcreekhistory@gmail.com
 www.harborcreekhistory.org

**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10 am – 2 pm
 Thursday 4 – 7 pm**



THE HARBOR VIEW

The Future of Our Past is in Your Hands



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If you'd like to request to receive newsletters electronically, send a current email address to harborcreekhistory@gmail.com.

Historical Marker Dedication

May 20, 2017 • 10 am at Shades Beach

You're invited to join the Harborcreek Historical Society and Harborcreek Township in dedicating a new historical marker at Shades Beach. The marker, which was funded in part by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, celebrates the history of Harborcreek's shoreline.

Guest speakers for the dedication include Honey Stempka, Founder and CEO of Undo Undone and Project Manager for the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary Designation, and Jeanette Schnars, Executive Director of the Regional Science Consortium and member of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Shipwreck Survey Team (P.A.S.S.T.). Together, they will talk about recent efforts to identify, survey and document shipwrecks in PA waters.

"The Harborcreek Shoreline" historic marker is the third marker of its kind produced by the Harborcreek Historical Society and installed on Harborcreek Township property. In May 2014, "Fighting for Peanuts: The Gauge War" was placed in Road Side Park, which is located on Buffalo Road across from the Township Building. An interpretive panel highlighting the history of Gospel Hill Burial Ground, which is located next to Behrend College's Logan House on Station Road, was dedicated in May 2015.

Inside this issue...

Veterans Tribute	...Page 2
Business Spotlight	...Page 3
Welch's Items Donated	...Page 3
History of Shades Beach	...Page 5
Indiana Shipwreck	...Page 6
Little Free Library Added	...Page 6

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Save the Date

Gifford-Blanchfield House Dedication

Be sure to mark your calendar for the official opening and dedication of the newly rehabilitated Gifford-Blanchfield House on **Saturday, July 15, 2017 at 10 am**. The event will be hosted by Harborcreek Township, Harborcreek Historical Society and the Blanchfield family. Additional information will be posted to the Harborcreek Historical Society's Facebook page and website as we get closer to the date.

Gifts to the Society

Thank you to those who gave extra dollars with your membership renewals!

The Society began the Memorial Gifts program a decade ago, and many members have given to the organization in recognition of a loved one, a classmate or a family celebration. We invite you to consider making a donation "In Memory," "In Honor" or "On the Occasion" of a person or event that is important to you.

Veterans Tribute: Veterans We've Lost by Sherri Towell

Monday, May 29, 2017 is Memorial Day. It's a federal holiday honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. The following individuals were not lost while enlisted. Thankfully, each one returned safely home to their family and friends after serving honorably. They are Harborcreek veterans who have passed away since the 2016 Memorial Day commemoration. We thank them, posthumously, for their service.

Name	Date of Death	Branch
Astemborski, Aloisius	6/5/2016	US Army
Bennett Jr, Arthur C	1/3/2017	US Army
Benson, James Oscar	4/20/2017	US Army
Bernat, Edward John	6/2/2016	US Army
Brancket, William Charles	12/31/2016	US Air Force
Brochey, Floyd D	9/14/2016	US Navy Reserves
Bronson, Floyd Ellsworth	4/17/2017	US Navy
Butler, David M	6/11/2016	US Navy
Cash, Stephen Joseph	8/27/2016	US Army
Cessna, Glenn R	6/15/2016	US Maritime Service
Chichester, Warren R	7/24/2016	US Navy
Connolly, Sean Patrick	4/25/2016	US Army Nat Guard
Corey, Charles R	11/16/2016	US Army
Corey, William F	1/27/2017	US Army
Cyterski, Norbert Adam	12/29/2016	US Army
Flick, Lawrence E	3/13/20107	US Navy
Irwin, Robert Bruce	2/6/2017	US Air Force
King, Olyn Williams	7/12/2016	US Air Force
Kuhar, Edward H	10/1/2016	US Army
Laird, Bernard J	7/11/2016	US Army
Learn, Eugene M	9/6/2016	US Navy
Lewis, William R	2/18/2017	US Army
Maille, Howard John	12/4/2016	US Army
Nelson, LeMoyné R	9/26/2016	US Air Force
Nesgoda, John W	10/8/2016	US Air Force
Nowakowski, Casimir	1/12/2017	US Army Corps of Eng
Pallotto, LeRoy A	4/2/2017	US Army
Piazza, Floyd	3/27/2017	US Army
Piechocki, John V	7/20/2016	US Army
Pinczewski, Arthur E	2/22/2017	US Army
Ross, Donald L	2/25/2017	US Navy
Saur, David C	4/13/2017	US Navy
Schultz, John A	1/5/2017	US Army
Sherwood, Louis I	2/10/2017	US Army Reserves
Smith Jr, Larry E	4/2/2017	US Army
Thompson, Henry Loyd	10/10/2016	US Army
Thomas Jr, William G	1/4/2017	US Army
Warren Sr, George D	5/4/2016	US Marines
Weidner, Harland LeRoy	9/28/2016	US Army
Williams, William R	6/16/2016	US Air Force
Witford, Donald	6/17/2016	US Navy
Witherow, Ronald James	5/30/2016	US Air Force
Yost, James	11/22/2016	US Army

Business Spotlight by Cam Stadtmueller

John Zipp Signs

Each of us has a unique talent, and John Zipp's is doing free-handed lettering. His career began in the early 1960s when he started working with Dan Pomorski. In the years that followed, he subcontracted with multiple local sign businesses and worked on projects that required hand-lettering or numbering.

Harborcreek Historical Society is grateful to John for creating the moveable outdoor signs that we use during special events. Although he is semi-retired, you can still contact him for outdoor or indoor signs by visiting his shop at 8715 Belle Road in Harborcreek or calling (814) 899-2248.



Johnston's Evergreen Nursery, Inc.

Johnston's is located in southern Harborcreek Township, and the nursery extends into Greene Township. This multi-generation business is overseen by John and Gary and nine family members who work in various areas of the nursery. It was started in 1953 by Richard and Jean Johnston, and, over time, the land area of the nursery has increased from 30 to about 450 acres. The plants, shrubs, trees and landscaping products are so numerous that we encourage you to visit the grounds in-person or peruse their products on their website.

Why buy local plants? There are many reasons, and the most logical is that a nursery product which is begun and raised in our climate, during our growing season with local soil composition, will thrive in your garden area. You can tour their garden center or nursery on Wales Road or at www.johnstonplants.com

More Than Flowers

Robin Yourkonis recently closed her business after furnishing the local area with beautiful floral arrangements for more than 16 years. Her business was a sponsor of our newsletters since 2001, and we appreciate her many years of support.

Robin was also involved in many community activities. She was part of the former Harborcreek Chamber of Commerce and Harborfest celebration. Funds from Harborfest were used to install the Bicentennial Garden along Buffalo Road in front of our Municipal Building in 2003. Robin, Peg Billig and Supervisor Donna Mindek were instrumental in the planning and development of this beautiful garden.

Thank you to More Than Flowers for their service to our community.

Collection of Welch's Memorabilia Donated by Cam Stadtmueller

In the 1950s, invitations were sent out to grape growers in our area to attend the annual Welch's meeting where leadership spoke about the yearly progress of the harvest and grape crop. At each meeting, the National Grape Co-operative chose a commemorative item to be presented to each grower by management. Over the years, many of these items have become valuable collectables and growers' families cherish them. Local grape grower Carol Szklenski Laughlin recently donated some of her Welch's collection to the Harborcreek Historical Society.

(Continued on Page 4)

Office Hours

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Please call or email to schedule an appointment with our volunteers.
Research inquiries welcome.



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1.

1. Wendell August Forge Concave Tray: The early vineyard harvest scene on this dish, with Thomas B. Welch on the left and his son, Charles E. Welch, on the right, is a reminder of the historic nature of Welch's. The elder Welch was the first to make grape juice in 1869 and in doing so, was responsible for the development of the fruit juice industry as we know it today. Additionally, the grower-members who founded National Grape Co-operative, which purchased Welch's in 1953, had the foresight to organize the agribusiness that continues to serve the needs of members, employees and consumers alike.



3.

2. Welch's Delivery Truck Bank: This toy model of trucks that took products to market is a 1931 Hawkeye produced by Ertl Toys.



2.

3. Welch's Tray: Featured on the tray is the cover of Welch's Magazine "The National Drink," dated January 1914.



4.

4. Welch Sparkling Red or White Juice Cocktail: Look for these in your favorite grocery store. The plastic covers have a seasonal scene or the normal Welch label. Some have flavors such as Sangria, Mango Bellini, Pina Colada and, of course, American Concord.

HARBORCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Knowledge Park, 5451 Merwin Lane, Erie, PA • 814.899.4447 • harborcreekhistory@gmail.com

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STAN'S GARDEN CENTER	899-5424	5001 BUFFALO ROAD

Your business could be listed here as a sponsor. Please contact us to learn more.

*Businesses which have been a Society sponsor for ten years or more.

Shades Beach, Harborcreek Township Park by Cam Stadtmueller

A visit to Shades Beach Park has special memories for all: a picnic, playground fun, hiking to the top of the cliff, launching a fishing or pleasure boat or walking along the sandy beach and swimming in Lake Erie. As of May 20, 2017 visitors can add a new experience of learning about Harborcreek's shoreline from Four Mile to Twelve Mile Creeks, when Harborcreek Historical Society installs a marker displaying a wide variety of shoreline information. Some areas of interest describe eight offshore shipwrecks along with their names and locations, a short history of rum running, the Shaw School, popular Lake Erie fish, a few points of interest along the shoreline and a timeline history of Shades Beach.

One Man's Decision to Share...

Earl Shade owned a vast amount of acreage along East Lake Road, which stretched northward to the shores of Lake Erie. He chose 27 acres from which the area residents and vacationers could access his property for recreational activities. In 1942 Earl began construction of a boat livery at Eight Mile Creek. It used a system of slings that loaded a boat into a cradle, which gravity rolled down iron rails into the water. After a pleasure ride or a fishing expedition, the returning 20 foot or smaller boat would float into the cradle and be drawn out of the water by a winch. The slings would reposition the boat on to the owner's trailer.

In 1954 Earl sold the livery business to Floyd McLallen, who opened a lunch counter on the second story of the livery. Earl continued to manage the picnic grounds, dance pavilion and rental cottages, two of which are privately owned today.

The popularity of the park increased in the 1950s and 60s. People traveled north from the 6900 block of East Lake Road on to a narrow dirt road named Shades Beach Road. The road went down the embankment, across a flat area where the dance pavilion and picnic area were and then down a gentle slope to the beach. In the 1970s Erie County Parks Department approached Earl Shade with an offer to purchase the area. Federal funding was available for government agencies to preserve green space and public access to shoreline and inland recreational areas. The goals of Project 70 were in keeping with Earl Shade's dream to share his private property with the public, to preserve access for all.

Erie County Parks Department had various public parks around the county and found that funding and managing them was becoming a burden on the county taxpayers and the county budget. In the mid-1980s Erie County contacted each township in which a park was located and negotiated for that township to acquire the said property. Thus Harborcreek Township obtained the property in 1983. By 1990 our township purchased property along the east boundary of the park and constructed a safer access road at the intersection of East Lake and Bartlett Roads. Internal park roads were widened and a large parking lot was paved near the picnic groves. In 2003 funds from Harborfest were used to construct a picnic pavilion with seating for 350 people along with an attached kitchen. The installation of a children's playground added to the popularity of the park.

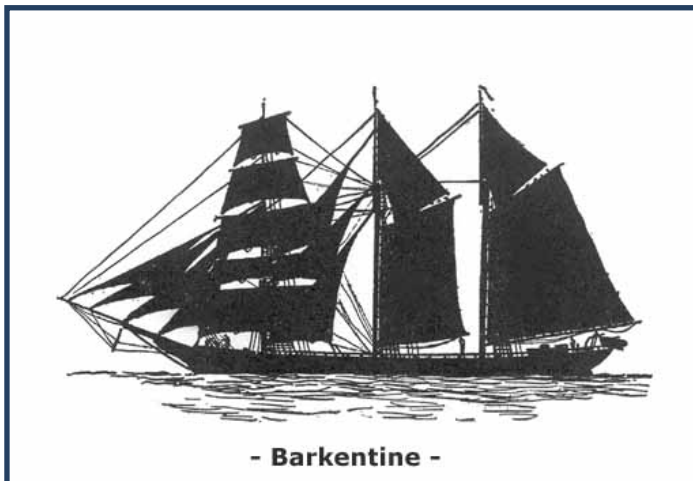


The old boat livery was demolished in 1993 and public launching of fishing and pleasure craft returned to the park with the 2007 opening of a stone breakwater and launching ramps in a "safe harbor" enclosure. The powerful action of Lake Erie gradually revealed problems with the small marina and it was redesigned and improved in 2012 by the contracted builders. The Harborcreek Township workers maintain the launching area and the facilities in the park for your recreational pleasure.

Photograph: Shades Beach Boat Livery, c. 1983. From the collections of the Harborcreek Historical Society.

“The Harborcreek Shoreline” Historical Marker

The new historical marker placed at Shades Beach identifies the shipwrecks that are located just offshore of Harborcreek Township. One of them is the barkentine *Indiana*.



INDIANA

North of Eight Mile Creek (Shades Beach) in 90 feet of water lies the remains of the *Indiana*. The 19th Century sail powered ship was en route from Buffalo, NY to Cleveland, OH with 25 cords of curbing & flagging stone, a very special type that had been carved from the Niagara Gorge. On Saturday, September 24, 1870 the *Indiana* was approximately 10 miles east of the Erie Harbor when a strong storm hindered the sailing ship. It began to leak at 10 am. Twelve hours later, the crew safely abandoned, the *Indiana* “nosed” into Lake Erie, bow first to the bottom.

Twenty-first century divers observing the wreck have reported that curbing and flagging stones remain below and above deck today, hence the popular name “the stone wreck.” The broken masts and bow sprint are nearby the wreck as well as the ship’s stove. The capstan and rigging winch for this three-masted, 136-foot-long barkentine are still in place.

Credits: *Drawing of a Barkentine from <http://www.keyshistory.org/ASS-Amer-Sail-Ships.html>. Information from Erie Wrecks East, Georgann & Michael Watcher, Avon Lake, OH, 2000.*

A Little Free Library is Coming to the Gifford-Blanchfield House

A Little Free Library will be located on the Gifford-Blanchfield property near our parking lot. The weatherproof box will encourage reading by offering free books. There will be no fees or library cards needed. Anyone will be able to take a hardback or paperback book from the box, and, if possible, they will be asked to leave a book for the next person who visits the Little Free Library. The project is sponsored by Sandy Sagala and her husband. Thank you, Sandy, for introducing this popular national project to our area!

Little Free Library is a national nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world. Through Little Free Libraries, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.



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Seeking Guest Writers

Would you like to share your historical interest or family lore about Harborcreek Township with the readers of ***The Harbor View***? We welcome submissions from guest writers for each issue. They are usually one page in length and may contain photographs or other graphics. Please contact the Society via email at harborcreekhistory@gmail.com or call (814) 899-4447 if you have a story you’d like to see printed. We look forward to hearing from you.