



Harborcreek Historical Society

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Census records have been very useful in creating a series of ethnic-themed exhibits in the Gifford-Blanchfield House. The current exhibit focuses on immigrants from England, Scotland, and Wales who settled in Harborcreek.

THE HARBOR VIEW



The Future of Our Past is in Your Hands



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Harborcreek's High Flying Hero - Part Two The Astronaut and the Science Teacher

By Cam Stadtmueller and Chuck Arnold

Note from author: Clark School science teacher Chuck Arnold and astronaut Paul Weitz developed a friendship when they met in 1973; it lasted until Paul's death in 2017. Mr. Arnold graciously accepted our invitation to talk about his friendship with Weitz, which had a lasting impact on the 5th and 6th grade students at Clark School.

The decades-long friendship between astronaut Paul J. Weitz and Clark School science teacher Chuck Arnold started with Homecoming. The Homecoming Committee for Harbor Creek High School invited Weitz, a member of the Class of 1949, to return to his alma mater October 5-7, 1973 after he had piloted Skylab 2 (SL-2) for its first manned flight the summer prior (May 25 - June 22, 1973).



Before Weitz's arrival, plans were proposed for Mr. Arnold to conduct fundraising and purchase gifts for their guest speaker. Chuck chose archery and fishing equipment from Erie Sports Store. On Friday, October 5, 1973 Mr. Arnold met Weitz for the first time. That day, he escorted Weitz to all four HCSD schools. Each school held an assembly for Weitz where he spoke to students about his space travel and future space flights. One student at each school presented Paul with a gift for his sporting pleasure.

8th grader Richie Passerotti gifted Paul Weitz an archery bow during the Jr. High School assembly.

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In Memory of her grandparents Ed and Anna Maryan

Thank you to those who have given extra with membership renewals and/or through the donation box!

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.

Harborcreek Military Honor Roll

May 2017 – April 2018

by Sherri Towell

Name	DOD	Branch
Abramczk, Chester L	11/30/2017	US Army
Ahlgim Jr, Fred E	9/21/2017	US Navy
Allen, Walter H	6/9/2017	US Air Force
Antalek, John S	10/15/2017	US Navy
Beamish, Jack B	8/24/2017	US Marines
Brubaker, Hough Hampton	11/22/2017	US Army
Bruce, Joseph G	12/18/2017	US Navy
Caylor, Jeffrey Vernon	11/25/2017	US Army
Crawford, Anne Patricia	6/22/2017	US Army Nurse
Diest, John W	5/28/2017	US Air Force
Dill, Thomas William	3/18/2018	US Army
Doerr, Lawrence Howard	1/3/2018	US Army
Douthett, Merle	7/21/2017	US Army
Froehlich Jr, Joseph C	5/17/2017	US Army
Gonda, Luke Anthony	7/3/2017	US Marines
Harvey, Edward	11/19/2017	
Hill, Clifford H	5/19/2017	Air Force
Hogue, Martin Louis	2/20/2018	US Air Force
Hornchenko, Peter	6/25/2017	US Army
Keser, Roger A	6/22/2017	US Navy
Konzel Sr, Nicholas	7/15/2017	US Navy
Kruszewski, Thomas S	7/22/2017	US Navy
Lipinski, Stanley A	12/5/2017	US Army
Marsh MD, Robert James	5/27/2017	US Army
Nier Jr, Charles L	8/4/2017	US Navy
Noble, William Harry	11/1/2017	US Army
Oliver, John M	10/7/2017	US Marines
Ostroski, John	9/24/2017	US Navy
Peters Jr, Dale Allen	6/23/2017	US Air Force
Petrusch Sr, Frederic E	3/20/2018	US Air Force
Price, Wayne M	11/28/2017	US Army Air Force
Riler, John G	5/1/2017	Army Air Corps
Rose, Gary R	4/7/2018	
Sheridan, James P	9/8/2017	US Army
Shiel, David C	5/26/2017	US Army
Sopow Jr, Walter John	10/15/2017	US Marines
Stoner, Gerald R	2/8/2018	US Army/Air Force
Swift, Robert N	10/27/2017	US Army Air Corps
Testi, Thomas	9/10/2017	
Victory, Paul J	6/17/2017	US Army

You're invited... by Louise Smerick

To visit us on Thursday evenings. Stop in 4:00 – 7:00 pm to see what's new in exhibits, especially the ethnic-themed displays. Maybe you would like to add to one of the society's major archives projects: the Vintage Marriage Album or the Harborcreek Veterans Records.

To use the Gifford-Blanchfield House for meetings. The house can accommodate groups of 15 or less. Schedule your meeting by contacting us at (814) 899-4447 or harborcreekhistory@gmail.com

To enjoy the outdoors by picnicking at one of the new tables built by Christopher Wright for his 2017 Eagle Project. The grounds are open sunrise to sunset, and the site is carry in/carry out.

Quest students visit

By Cam Stadtmueller

Harbor Creek High School Gifted Support teacher Mrs. LaFuria brought three students from the district's Quest Program to the Gifford-Blanchfield House on March 1st. Students toured the exhibits and archives. In the Reading Room, Cam Stadtmueller showed them copies of primary sources which the society has photocopied and placed in notebooks for easy access, such as the 1911 Mail Route Book, the Joseph Y. Moorhead Diary 1911-1918, and scrapbooks filled with 19th century newspaper clippings.

The group spent the final hour of the field trip on a school van with Nancy Brown, who narrated a driving tour of the east side of the township. Students were shown the former home of Klein School principal Edith Klein, several Moorhead homes, and historic houses in Harborcreek Village.

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Quest students visit *(Continued from Page 2)*



The students had a wonderful educational experience on Thursday afternoon, on our trip to the Harborcreek Historical Society. Each student involved in the trip has a special interest in history. We loved our time together and the learning was very valuable to all of us as community members. Thank you, again for allowing us to explore the new building and the area in which we live. It was time very well spent.

Elaine LaFuria
Gifted Support Teacher
Harbor Creek School District

Your nationality by Brenda Weaver

In the exhibit room at the Gifford-Blanchfield House is a display featuring ethnic groups which have settled in the township. With increased migration to the United States in the early 1800s, different nationalities began making Harborcreek Township their new home. They came for the plentiful forests, fertile farm land and swift flowing streams.

Are you interested in knowing which family was the first of your nationality to be listed in census records? Brenda Weaver has researched and assembled three notebooks containing census records. The present exhibit features British immigrants from England, Scotland and Wales. Another notebook contains Eastern European groups from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Russia. And the third holds census records for Italy and Ireland. Two more displays are planned; one for Western European nationalities and another with Scandinavian countries.

Can you add any information for your family? Talk with our members, who will be there when you visit or send to harborcreekhistory@gmail.com



Gospel Hill Burial Ground tree chosen by Jane Ingold

The Penn State Master Gardeners searched Erie County for trees that were old, unusual or historic and chose 15 to be part of “**2018 Scavenger Hunt for Trees.**” Our own Gospel Hill Burial Ground has one of the selected trees. The Gardeners have placed a hard plaque on each tree with its scientific name and contest entry number.

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Office Hours

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



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Gospel Hill Burial Ground tree chosen *(Continued from Page 3)*

Begin your adventure on May 1st by picking up a brochure at the Harborcreek Township Municipal Building (reception desk at south entrance) or Chamber of Commerce on Main Street in North East, or contact cruth7830@gmail.com Read the clues and decide which 10 trees (or more) will be your quest. Record each tree's identification number on the contest entry page of your brochure and follow the entry instructions. The Hunt continues until September 1st.

Of Course, there will be winners; ten (10) completed entries will be drawn to receive a shrub or tree. But most of all, you win as you drive areas of Erie County, where nature has brought forth beautiful unique trees for your enjoyment.

Athletic Hall of Fame inductees by Cam Stadtmueller

Every two years, the Harbor Creek High School Athletic Hall of Fame "recognizes individuals and teams who have brought distinction, honor, and excellence" to high school sports throughout the decades. This past September, the fourth group of individuals was recognized for their contributions as players and coaches.



Dale Claypoole HCS D 1972-1998 Teacher and 1972-2012 Coach

Dale became associated with soccer in 1985 when he was named as HCSD's first head girls soccer coach. During the next 23 seasons, Dale led the Lady Huskies to nine Erie County League/Region girls soccer titles and HC's first girls soccer District 10 championship title in 2011, with a school record of 20 team victories that season. Dale also coached multiple community soccer clubs, such as YMCA, Erie Youth Soccer Association, Erie Strikers Soccer Club, and HC Soccer Club. Prior to focusing on soccer, he was an assistant football coach and an assistant track and field coach for 15 seasons.

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

Athletic Hall of Fame inductees *(Continued from Page 4)*



Sarah (Roseto) King Class of 1997

Sarah brought girls sports teams into the spotlight during her high school years. She was an outstanding athlete earning varsity letters in volleyball, basketball and softball. During her senior year, she was a key Huskie in Harbor Creek's winning of the 1996 Erie County League championship title and the school's first District 10 championship title in volleyball. Sarah stood out as a volleyball player and was recognized as the 1st Team All-County Individual in 1995 and 1996, and 1st Team All-District honors in 1996. Sarah received Honorable Mention All-State volleyball (1996) and in basketball Honorable Mention All-County (1995) and 2nd Team All-County (1996). During her college years, she was a two-year starter in volleyball and four-year starter in softball for the Edinboro University Fighting Scots. Today, Sarah works with student athletes in our community as a basketball coach and Little League softball coach.

The Astronaut and the Science Teacher *(Continued from Page 1)*

Casual conversations between the astronaut and the science teacher led to Weitz taking an active interest in the "learn by doing" approach, which Mr. Arnold built into his science labs for the Clark School fifth and sixth graders. In the years that followed, Paul was interested in learning the results of such labs as "Model Rocketry" and "The Lunar Colony."

Science Lab Lesson Plan: THE LUNAR COLONY

Introduction: You are assuming the role of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of your own Packaging Research Company. Your company has been selected by NASA to develop a method of protecting valuable research material that is to be dropped onto the moon's surface by an Orbiter Space Craft. Data pertaining to gravitational pull, lunar winds, surface temperature, and lunar soil composition will be completed by the scientific research equipment. Your role, as CEO is vital to the success of the lunar mission! Your company must develop and successfully "test" packaging methods that will provide a successful drop of delicate instruments onto the surface of the moon. Keep in mind that there is no atmosphere on the moon which would outlaw any devices that might slow your drop. This would include streamers, parachutes, or any fixed-wing glider-like apparatus to slow down the fall rate of the box. The box must be free falling to be accepted.

PROBLEM: To protect a delicate object (raw egg) from breaking when packed in a small box and released from a height of a one story building.

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain a small cardboard box similar in size to a shoebox.
2. Ask your mother if you can "borrow" 3-4 raw eggs to use for experimental purposes.
3. Develop a packaging plan that will soften the landing so your egg will not break.
4. Tape the box shut to prevent packaging contents from escaping when impacting ground.
5. Collect research data following several drops from a second story window.

Bring your completed box to science class prepared to be dropped from the roof of the school. Name on outside of box. Due date will be announced.

"The Lunar Colony" challenged students' choice of packaging material to preserve raw eggs from breaking when dropped from the Clark School roof. Students could revise their packaging before the next step, when Mr. Arnold went up in a plane and jettisoned the packaged eggs from an altitude of 400 feet while flying over Moorhead Air Park. Later, the location was changed to the Mountain Airport near Wattsburg, which had a concrete landing surface rather than grass. After receiving the results from this science lab, Weitz shared them with his fellow astronauts.

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The Astronaut and the Science Teacher *(Continued from Page 5)*

As the United States Space Program continued its missions, Weitz was instrumental in asking fellow astronauts to send their official photo to be displayed in Mr. Arnold's class room. These photos included an inscription to Mr. Arnold and often words of inspiration to the Clark School students. They learned about each mission's purpose, the participating astronauts, and what outcome might be expected from the onboard experiments in the payload bay.

Outstanding in the memorabilia that Weitz presented to Mr. Arnold are framed commemoratives featuring the Skylab Mission patch STS-6, photos of lift off & landing for the Challenger Shuttle and a 3" by 5" American flag which orbited for five days in space on the shuttle. Weitz personalized it with the inscription "To Chuck, A really great science teacher and a faithful booster of our exploration in space. PJ" April 4-9, 1983. On a similar Skylab collage Weitz wrote "To Chuck, With thanks and appreciation for your years of faithful support and giving your kids something to think about and grow on. Paul"

Harborcreek's High Flying Hero had a "down to earth" personality; he enjoyed the curiosity of the Clark School students. Whenever he was home to visit with family, Weitz would stop in to see Mr. Arnold's Clark School classes. He mingling with the students and answered their questions about space exploration after the flights of Skylab in 1973 and Challenger Space Shuttle in 1983. Many asked about Weitz's daily living experiences in a weightless atmosphere and were delighted to learn that he was the first astronaut to have his hair cut while living in Skylab!



1. Helen Arnold taught Weitz mathematics before he graduated in 1949. She was a member of the committee that organized a downtown parade, dinner, and stadium dedication during the 1973 Homecoming. Look for more details about the Homecoming event in a future newsletter.

2. On commemorative plaque given to Ms. Arnold, Weitz wrote, "To Helen, With sincere appreciation for keeping us, your students, pointed in the right direction and many thanks for leading the space booster parade."

3. Weitz visited with Clark School science students in April 1984. L-R: Chrissy Arnold, Paul Weitz, Pete Stadtmueller, and Stacy Langer.



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.