

The Clifford Township Historical Society Newsletter

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The CTHS has been proud to write their annual newsletter to keep everyone up to date on all the accomplishments and future plans of the Society. The year 2018 presented many challenges.

A freak downdraft, possibly a tornado, ravaged the Children's Garden on election day in May. Twenty eight huge trees came crashing down. Projects that should have been completed during the summer had to be put on hold until all of the debris was cleared and repairs were made. Damage included the dinosaur mural being ruined and the entire length of fence on the west side of the garden being crushed. The willow tunnel that was growing nicely was obliterated, as were grape vines that were growing around the igloo frame. The bluestone maze was buried under broken limbs.

Brandon Freely repainted the dinosaur mural and Jerry Lewandowski and Mark Wilmot repaired the mural frame. Volunteers of all ages helped rake pine needles and pick up thousands of sticks and limbs. Karen and Mike Prestys loaded and hauled debris while Ray Swingle, Mark Wilmot, and Larry Wilson cut up the fallen trees. With the help of 24 wonderful volunteers, all the damage was cleaned up and repairs were made in time for the first Fall Park in early September. Township insurance helped with some of the expenses of the recovery.

Despite the setbacks, two major additions to the Children's Garden were accomplished in the few rain free but extremely hot days in July. A log cabin representing the home of Clifford's first settler, Adam Miller, was erected. Thanks to Tom and Pat Williamson, Jordan Knapp, Jeremy Bean, Mark Wilmot, and Jerry Lewandowski for working in the extreme heat to make this addition to the Garden happen. Another generous donation from Adams Cable Service covered the cost of materials for the cabin. Weeks later when the ground dried up a bit, a gravel path that guides visitors to all areas of the Garden was added. A grant from the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, funded by DCNR, covered half of the cost of this project. Molinaro Paving also helped with a donation of time and equipment. Hopefully, funds will be available this year to pave the path to make walking easier for grandparents and toddlers and provide a hard surface for wheeled transport such as baby carriages, bikes, and roller skates.

A large sign hand painted by Emma Demark identifies the Garden. Several more signs that provide historical information were added to the Native American Village and Miller homestead making the Garden fun as well as educational for all ages.

We hope that more progress will be made at the Garden this year. Planned projects include a barn at the Miller homestead, more historical signs and carving of the tree stumps near the parking area. We are very proud of this unique community project and we hope your entire family enjoys the Garden.

The extreme wet weather last year prevented the Hoover School from receiving a fresh coat of paint. We will try again this summer to get that done. The Cider Mill project also



Children's Garden storm damage and cleanup



Pioneer Adam Miller's Log Cabin

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Baby Dinosaurs hatching at the Children's Garden

suffered from the sour weather. An engine to run the press was purchased at an Amish farm auction last spring. With a little luck and cooperation from Mother Nature, this season will see the engine installed and progress can continue toward making the press operational.

The next few months will be spent inside the Museum of Local History adding pictures and upgrading the Civil War items now on display. Stop in to see all we have to offer in the Museum which is open the third Sunday each month 1 to 4 pm and each election day 9 am to 7 pm. If you haven't visited the Museum or our other venues yet, we guarantee you will be impressed!

The Hoover School and Baptist Church will again be open to the public the third Sunday of each month, May through October, 1 to 4 pm. The Agriculture Museum at the Clifford Volunteer Fire Company picnic grounds will again be open July 25, 26, 27, adding to the attractions at the picnic.



Early Milking Machine at Agriculture Museum