



Brown Township, Franklin County

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BROWN TOWNSHIP DEPOT

According to an article in the Northwest Historical Society's newsletter, there once was a train station near Buck and Sons Landscaping in Brown Township. It was known as Bronson Station located "one half mile west of Baldwin Free Pike (Baldwin Rd)." In remembrance of a time gone by, the trustees are considering constructing a replica of Bronson Station within the Homestead Park. This project would not be complete without old photographs of Brown Township residents (circa late 1800s) and possible other memorabilia to place inside. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.

UPDATES

Annexation Reform

Our state senators have returned to Columbus after their holiday break. Please remind them how important H.B. 36, the annexation reform bill, is to townships. Sen. Bruce Johnson and Sen. Gene Watts may be reached at 466-8842.

Trash District

Submitted by Ron Williams

The trustees have received some favorable response to the creation of a trash district. Of the residents who responded, all view a single hauler as positive as long as service remained the same and recycling was a part of the package. One obstacle Brown Township faces is the low number of homes (approx. 700) within the 22 square miles of area. This limits the amount of the reduction in the monthly bill. Instead of the substantial savings of a \$7.00 monthly bill, it may cost \$12.00/month. This creates a need for more input from our residents. Please fill in the survey on page 5 and send it to the township office.

ELEMENTS OF BROWN TOWNSHIP HISTORY

by Raymond K. Bradley, a community historian

Perhaps, there are a few "Old Timers" left in Brown Township who remember that my mother purchased Huggett School shortly after it was closed in the spring of 1931. This was not too long after my father died. It was at that time the Board of Education of Brown Local School District decided they had best close the 3 one-room schools still operating in Brown. Those schools were: Huggett School for grades 1 & 2, Wales School for grades 3, 4 & 5, and McCoy School for grades 6,7 & 8. During the spring and summer of 1931, a new Brown Elementary was built on the site where Wales school had stood.

Wales School had been erected in 1906 using bricks made of concrete. This gave it a grayish, white color. I have a couple of those bricks that I would gladly lend to an appropriate display. I also have a

1911 school picture (following this article) of all 21 students. This might be a good time to solicit our readers for school and community pictures of those early days. We could copy any that you might wish returned. Any artifacts or memorabilia of historical significance could be displayed for all to enjoy. Youngsters seem to thrive on knowing more about the early history of our township.

Wales School was razed in the spring of 1931 to make way for a new four-room consolidated elementary school complete with indoor plumbing and a central heating system, plus an auditorium with a stage. I remember vividly how Mr. Lawrence Hayes (principal and 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teacher) on the first day into the new school, took all the boys down to the boys toilet and made sure they all knew how to use a flush toilet and the urinal, and how to wash their hands. Only one or two students in the entire school had a bathroom in their own home. In fact, the farm family with who Mr. Hayes boarded didn't have one.

Back to the white school building where I attended 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. It had one doorway leading directly into the back of the classroom. There were shelves for lunch boxes and hooks for coats and caps along the back wall. There was a coal stove and a table at the north side for the water dispenser. Our water was carried in every day in a bucket from the Trapp farm about a quarter of a mile to the east. At least two boys and sometimes 3-4 "helpers", would walk down the gravel road to bring back the water in an open bucket. What a wonderful time to discuss the important issues of life like "where did the baby born this morning to the Barrett family come from", and "how long does it take to make a baby anyway?" A great deal of misinformation went to make up our versions of sex education.

There were, perhaps, 6 rows of seats facing the platform at the front of the room where Mrs. Krohn, and later Mrs. George, occupied the teachers desk with a slate black board behind her. The 3rd graders were seated in their rows at the north side of the room. The 4th graders in the middle rows and the 5th graders were in the south rows. Each class recited its lesson in each subject in turn throughout the day.

There were distinct advantages to the 3 grades per room system. The younger students could listen in as the older grades recited, and the older grades could listen to the younger grades and review and consolidated their understanding of a particular subject. An example of this process comes to mind. I've always been a history buff. As a 3rd and 4th grader, I used to listen to the 5th grade history lesson. When it came time for the 5th grade test, I prevailed on Mrs. George to let me take their test too. She relented, and so I took the test. During the recess (the 15-minute break in the afternoon), she graded the papers and wrote the scores on the blackboard. When we came in from recess, there was my name (a lowly underclassman) leading the list. How proud I was, but I'm not sure it did much to increase my popularity with the 5th graders.

Be assured there were white one-room schools, and while they were primitive by today's standards, there was a lot of learning and growing up going on inside.

In a later issue I hope to tell what prompted me to write the following, which is on display in our school.

"Brown Elementary has a long tradition of parental and community involvement. Education has been held in the highest esteem since the district's beginnings, when youngsters trudged through the elements over dirt roads, attending one-room schools to get that much sought-after diploma. Today, children find it easier to attend, but the goal of a good education is still an integral part of who we are as a community.. we're justly proud of our school."

A NEW MASTER PLAN

Controversy over the proposed Borror Development along Leppert and Scioto-Darby has spurred a revisit to Hilliard's master plan. The trustees were notified they could appoint one person to represent the township on the planning committee. A trustee could not be appointed. The trustees are pleased to announce Joe Martin was selected to serve as our representative. Please let Joe know your concerns regarding Hilliard's expansion into Brown Township. He may be reached in the evenings at 870-9601. We thank all of you who expressed an interest in serving.

TRANSIENT VENDORS

Transient vendors have been a problem for some residents in Brown Township. One is not sure whether the goods being offered are real or bogus, and possibly a front to gain entry into a home. A resolution (95-15) has been established to authorize the clerk to regulate any and all transient vendors. A transient vendor, being defined as a "person who opens a temporary business for the sale of goods", must register with the clerk which includes a fee of \$75.00 for a period of 90 days. This does not include businesses already located in the township or organization such as Girl Scouts, Music Boosters, etc. Failure to show a registration to any resident inquiring should be cause for alarm. The sheriff may be reached at 462-3333.

BROWN TOWNSHIP TRASH DISTRICT SURVEY

If your bill would only be reduced by \$5.00 or less, would you still favor a single hauler?
_____ Yes _____ No

If you had a problem with service, who should handle it?
_____ the Township _____ the Hauler

My current hauler is _____ BFI _____ Rumpke _____ Laidlaw _____ Johnson

I am _____ very satisfied _____ satisfied _____ not satisfied with my current hauler.

I _____ am _____ willing _____ to _____ pay _____ extra _____ for _____ recycling:
_____ Yes _____ No

If _____ Yes, _____ how _____ much?
_____ \$3.00/month _____ \$2.00/month