



The Pulse of the Hill



St. Anne's Hill Historic District News

<http://www.stannahill.org>

HISTORY OF HOME CONNECTS PEOPLE TODAY

JOE DIERKERS

Johann Frederick Conrad Eickmann died in his home at 22 La Belle Street on March 28, 1900. Visitation & Funeral Services were conducted there by Pastor Mueller of the German Lutheran church. Conrad was buried at Woodland Cemetery. The home on La Belle was the one he built for him & his family in 1853, just a few years after immigrating from Germany. On March 28, 2008, 108 years to the day after Conrad's death, Barb & I closed on the purchase of that same home.

Conrad was born in the Principality of Lippe-Schaumburg in the Kingdom of Saxony in 1822, well before the unification of Germany. With Dorothy, his wife, and Frederick, his 2 year old son, he sailed from Bremen in 1847, landing in New York City and located in Dayton. He became a naturalized citizen in 1852. Conrad and Dorothy raised five children in the La Belle house.

The earliest reference to Conrad I found was O'Dell's Dayton Directory of 1850. He lived on Jones Street and was listed as a laborer. He purchased the lot on La Belle in 1853 from Thomas J. S. Smith, who platted the area. Its tax value in 1853 was \$90. The next year the tax value had increased to \$400 suggesting that the house had been completed by then. The Williams Directories for the 1850s thru the 1880s show Conrad living at 4 La Belle then 20 La Belle then 22 La Belle. I assume that all of these were the same house with changing numbers due to new homes being added to the street. Perhaps it was just reporting errors as were the several incorrect spellings of his last name (e.g. Eichman, Eckman, Eickman).

The Williams Directories listed Conrad as the owner of a Bakery on Richard Street (next street past McLain) and as a Gunsmith. However, Conrad's naturalization certificate indicated that Conrad was a carpenter, so I want to believe that he built the house himself, using skills learned in Germany. The solid condition of the main structure today, speaks well for the quality of his craftsmanship. The walls are still strong and true; the windows and doors as square as the day they were installed. The foundation of dry laid limestone is still solid. The framework is a combination of post & beam and platform construction methods. Mortise & tenon joints and wooden pegs are found throughout.

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GARDEN TOUR SLATED FOR JUNE 26TH...VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Calling all gardeners!! Spring is right around the corner and that means Garden Tour!! St. Anne's annual Garden Tour will be held on Saturday June 26th, 2010. The tour committee is currently seeking homeowners wishing to showcase their yards for this fabulous event. Please contact John See at 461- 1940 or Mary Jo DuPree at 830-2475 to volunteer.

Neighborhood Calendar	
Mar. 2	GM Meeting
Mar. 13	Lasagna Cookoff
April 6	GM Meeting
May 4	GM Meeting
June 1	GM Meeting
June 19	Trash & Treasure
June 26	Garden Tour

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Based upon the 1887 Sanborn maps, the house had a different footprint then than it does now. It appears that the original main entry was on the side facing north since there was no front porch originally. That side door is still there but unused. It is likely that the original street side of the house had 6 windows and no door as would have been appropriate for the "Greek Revival" style that was popular in the 1850s. The map shows a single story room at the rear of the home, now a kitchen. This part of the house is old, but I don't believe it was part of the original house. Sometime later but before 1918 (the next Sanborn map) the family expanded the house again by adding a second floor above the kitchen & an adjacent rear porch. Also, a front porch was added about this time. Upon Conrad's death, the house passed to his children. Two of his daughters, Mary & Eleanora, neither of whom ever appeared to have married, lived there until their deaths: Mary in 1910 and Eleanora in 1932.

After Mary's death, the house was duplexed, and Eleanora lived upstairs where she took in seamstress work. I suspect that this is also when the addition to the second floor was accomplished based on a jump in tax value in 1912 (\$1,210 to \$2,280). It appears that she rented the lower unit out to many tenants over the years. Harry Fries was the first tenant identified by the Williams Directory (1915). Upon her death in 1932, the property passed to the next generation of the Eickman family. The family sold the property in 1945. Conrad has family still living in Dayton, and I've had the pleasure of talking with his Great-Grand Daughter-in-Law, Jeanne Eickman. She has sent me some genealogy information and is looking for some pictures to share. Not surprisingly, the family knew nothing about the house on La Belle.

Since 1945 the property has had about 15 ownership changes, and, it seems, very little maintenance. A current neighbor on La Belle lived in the upper unit in the 1970s. The house was still heated by space heaters at that time. Barb and I have converted the property back to a single family home and hope to complete enough remodeling to move in by March 28th, 2011.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**SUSAN GRAY**

Its snowing as I write this, but Channel 7's Jamie Simpson promises that by the end of the weekend we'll have warmer temperatures and rain. Honestly, I'd rather have the snow. I know you probably think I'm crazy, but give me a white blanket covering the brown dead lawn and icicles draping from the eaves any day over the bone chilling damp rain that comes with near-freezing temperatures any day. I believe this snowy weather brings out the best in people. Get your car stuck? Someone seems to magically appear to help you push it out of that drift. Neighbors are helping each other with shoveling duties and spreading ice melter. At the grocery store people are more willing to help the elderly navigate the icy parking lot back to their cars. As cold and miserable as this weather can make us, it also brings out a compassionate, helpful side in many. Isn't that what a community is?

Another byproduct of the weather is sitting at the window, gazing out over that frozen expanse and dreaming about what it will look like in June. Martha Chatfield has already put the word out that she'd like cuttings from your garden if you have any to spare this spring. Shade plants, please, because very little sunlight makes it to her tiny patch of yard. This prompted Cate Renner to respond with advice on shade plants and container gardening. How fun to read about springtime when its gray and cold outside. And getting advice from a professional like Cate - for free! Jim Latham sent a message the other day inviting us all to participate in the Air Force Marathon. Another activity its fun to dream about as we pull on our long johns and snow boots for the trek to the car. From what I understand you don't have to be a marathon runner, or even a serious athlete, to participate.

Personally, I'm looking forward to March's Lasagne Cookoff, to get out and see as many of you as I can. This opens the season for Hill activities that include litter cleanups, Trash & Treasure, alley sweep(s), PPD's and spring's biggest event, the Garden Tour. Mary Jo Dupree is this year's tour chairman, and she's organizing committees now. If you want to be involved, give her a call. Her number appears on the back of this newsletter. Maureen Barry has agreed to once again chair the neighborhood-wide sale event known as Trash & Treasure. She's already put out some messages reminding us to get our basements and attics cleaned out while its too cold to do any gardening. Trash & Treasure will be held Saturday, June 19. Garden Tour is slated for Saturday, June 26. Mark both of these days on your calendar, and plan to participate. You'll be glad you did!

FOR MY CHOCOLATE VALENTINE,

REBECCA MANGER

For the last 10 years or so I have been able to walk out my front door on Valentine's Day to find a bag of Ester Price chocolates hanging from the knob. This would also occur on other holiday as well, so it was always crazy to me that somehow I would still be surprised every time I continued to get chocolates from my Chocolate Valentine. Even after I married my Husband Valentine, my Chocolate Valentine continued to leave these sweet morsels at my door. Did my Husband Valentine mind that I received Chocolates from another? No, I would wake up on Valentine's Day and he would say, "I bet there are Ester Price Chocolates at the front door for you!"

This year, I moved to another state. This year, on Valentine's Day we left our condo and I realized that there would be no more Valentine Chocolates to be left at my door. Even if my Chocolate Valentine wanted to travel, he likely would not be able to get through security to hang the Chocolates on the door. This year, I decided to send my Chocolate Valentine a card. I wanted my Chocolate Valentine to know that I thought of him on Valentine's Day and that I missed the Chocolates that he often left at my door.

On Valentine's Day, My Mom Valentine sent me an email and said that my Valentine from her would be delayed until the 16th due to the weather. My Mom Valentine told me she was sending me Graeter's Ice Cream. The 16th came and Dayton had more snow. My Graeter's Ice Cream shipped on the 16th and would now arrive on the 17th. Today, I woke up and found a door hanger that said I had a package in the office. I was surprised that my Graeter's would have come before 8am. The man in the office went to find my package only to pull out a box from the refrigerator that I knew was not big enough for ice cream. He handed me the box and the return address said Ester Price. I said, "No way!" I knew that this could only be from my Chocolate Valentine. I couldn't even wait to get back to the condo before opening the box. Inside were my chocolates with a note that said, "Hope this made it to your doorknob," and was signed by Fred, My Chocolate Valentine.

Thank you, Fred Bremer, for being such a great Valentine. You brought joy to my heart and made my day. Again, I was surprised.

Your Atlanta Valentine,

Rebecca Manger



*It's time for the Lasagna
cook-off...you could be the
next winner!*

Neighbors save the date!! St. Anne's March social will be the annual Lasagna Cook-off!! You don't want to miss this social!! Great food, great conversation and of course the best lasagna

wins the coveted golden spatula!!

Saturday March 13, 2010 at 6:30PM

Hosted by Lee Smithson

Watch for your flyer and hope to see you all there!!

* There is no charge for this social*

GREAT HOMES AVAILABLE RIGHT HERE ON THE HILL!



241 Henry Street
Listed at \$99,700

This house could be a show stopper...city view, 2600+ square feet of living space and the best neighbors around! Renovate this old home into your new one today! Call J & H Real Estate Professionals at 937-222-5885 for more information.



1428 E. Fourth Street
Listed at \$134,900



212 S. Dutoit Street
Listed at \$29,000



1443 E. Fourth Street
Listed at \$132,500

MORE HOMES FOR SALE:

Homes for Sale as of 2/20/10

- 1428 E. Fourth Street, \$134,900
- 1443 E. Fourth Street, \$132,500
- 18 Potomac Street, \$129,900
- 241 Henry Street, \$99,700
- 133 High Street, \$98,500
- 143 Henry Street, \$27,000 (Rehab)

Check DABR.com for details!

These homes are gorgeous! For more information on the above 3 homes, call Mike Martin with Kamela & Co. at 974-2494

NEIGHBORHOOD MAGAZINE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

If you didn't already know, St. Anne's Hill has a Magazine Exchange Program. You simply put your address on the back of your magazines that you've already read and place them in a basket on your front porch. Most of us use the free address labels you get in the mail.

About once a week your magazines will disappear (thank you P. Crain) and a new set of magazines will arrive. When you are finished reading them just add your name to the back cover and place them back in your basket.

This is a great program. For the price of your magazine subscription you get to read many other magazines for free. Some of the magazines circulating around are: Martha Stewart's Living, Parents, Gourmet, Everyday with Rachel Ray, National Geographic, Better Homes and Gardens, The Week, Good Housekeeping, Food & Wine, and many more.

If you are interesting in joining the Magazine Exchange Program please contact Heather Kardeen at oceanluna@sbcglobal.net with your name and address. We will be more than happy to add you to St. Anne's Hill Magazine Exchange Program. Happy Reading!

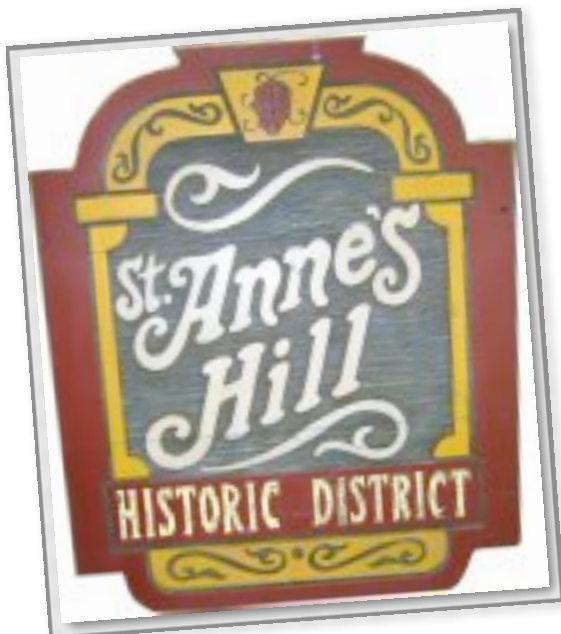
DSPS ANNOUNCES SPRING SHOW

Dayton Society of Painters and Sculptors (DSPS) invites all St. Anne residents, friends and family to the free Gold Palette Art Show at 48 High Street Gallery open from March 7-March 21; gallery hours limited to Saturday and Sunday 1-5 PM for this free exhibition. Opening reception to be held on Sunday, March 7 from 1-5 PM.

All art featured in this show is award winning art. To become a DSPS Gold Palette member and exhibit in this show, the artist must have won a Best of Show or First, Second or Third Place in a DSPS juried show. Jean Bruckner, the show chair noted, "There are 85 DSPS members eligible to exhibit this year."



48 High Street, from an oil painting by Gerald Page, DSPS president 1973-75, DSPS collection



CALLING ALL AMATEUR HISTORIANS...

Do you know the history of your house? Your street? Your block? Do you have a ghost story? Are you a Muth Brother, A Dutoit or a Bremer? We would love to hear from you. The newsletter committee is asking for article submissions of your stories...from rental to rehab, life on the Hill circa 1890, 1950, and today.... We will be taking submissions and sharing them in our newsletter throughout the year.

To submit, simply email me directly, John Edinger at jedinger44@hotmail.com with your article of 400 words or less. If you have a longer article, maybe we can serialize it over several months.

Thank you very much...we can't wait to share your stories!

St. Anne's Hill Historic Society
P.O. Box 34
Dayton, OH 45401

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ST. ANNE'S HILL- *DAYTON'S FAVORITE HILL*

MARCH 2010

Important Telephone Numbers

S.E. Priority Board	333-7373
Housing Inspection	333-3948
Supervisor, Jim Tredinnick	333-3918
City of Dayton Planning Department,	
Brian Inderrieden	333-3679
S.E. Zoning	333-3887
Landmarks Committee	333-3683
Sewer Maintenance	333-4915
Water Billing	333-3550
Bulk Waste Pickup	333-4833
Sidewalk/Curb Repair	333-3853
Animal Control (vicious dogs)	898-4457
Rodent Control	333-3915
Abandoned Vehicles	333-1085
Vacant Lot/Weeds	333-4843
Street Cleaning	333-4808
Street Lights	333-3850
Traffic Signs	333-4075
Park Maintenance	333-5300
Police	333-COPS
District 1	333-1290
District 2	333-7440
Drug Hotline	333-7440
Truancy Hotline	542-3228
Weed & Seed Hotline	461-WEED
Water Distribution	333-4900

Officers

Susan Gray, President
222-4381

John Edinger, Vice President
838-0681

Walt Colvin, Treasurer
222-7928

Chris Sidner, Secretary
369-9762

Board Members

Jim Deweese 234-4861

Steve Kardeen 277-2784

Keith Klein 223-5818

Jack Milliff 443-0499

John See 461-1940

St. Anne's Hill Historic Society

Membership:
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Alley Cleanup:
Fred Bremer 586-0268

Archives Committee:
Susan Gray 222-4381

Grants Committee:
Leah Turnbull 252-5061

Housing/Inspection Liason:
Glenna Rogers 223-7061

PDI Representative:
Mary Jo Dupree 830-2475

Parks & Greenway:
Jim Deweese 234-4861

Marketing: Keith Klein 223-5818

Newsletter:
John Edinger 838-0681

SEPB: Barry Fought 586-0916

Social:
Mary Jo Dupree 830-2475

Sunshine:
Sandy Sweetnich 222-0524