



SWISS COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

History of Swiss settlers in the Bluffton-Pandora, Ohio community

The Schumacher Homestead, located at 8350 Bixel Road, Bluffton, offers a glimpse into the lives of Swiss immigrants in Allen and Putnam counties during the mid 19th century. The house built in 1843 by Christian and Barbara (Luginbuhl) Schumacher is the second oldest frame house of the Swiss Settlement. When visitors come to the homestead they will see the restored house, summer kitchen, workshop, and barn—which are filled with original and period items—as well as the garden. The second generation owner of the house, Peter Schumacher lived here with his wife Elizabeth and their 16 children, who all lived to have families averaging 10 children. That's a lot of grandchildren!

Today, plans are underway to begin reconstruction of the 1860's Peter Bixel/Basinger barn, also part of the Schumacher family. This barn was taken down 2 miles south of the homestead and will be repurposed as the new Heritage Center.

The Heritage Center will have a large meeting room, textile room, children's area, genealogy area, restrooms, and function as a museum/educational center.



The focus of the Heritage Center is to have:



- A strong educational outreach to children and school groups with interactive learning
- A venue for extensive demonstrations of early activities and techniques
- A site where artifacts of the early settlers can be studied, preserved, and displayed

Plans are to begin building this summer and be completed in late 2024.

To make a donation to the Swiss Community Historical Society's Heritage Center or for more information, go to our website: www.swisshistorical.org

Contact: President, Gary Wetherill 419-819-8268 or Capital Campaign Chair, Julie Stratton 419-302-0369