
FOUNDER'S NEWS



**A.B. Graham Center
view from U.S. Rte. 36**

The A.B. Graham Center and Fitness Zone Mission is to provide the surrounding rural communities of Miami and Champaign Counties a place to meet, socialize and conduct business while at the same time recognizing the significant work of A.B. Graham, the founder of 4-H Clubs of America.



The year is 1868, the tragic wounds and fires of the American Civil War still burn as reconstruction slowly continues across the south. Our president Andrew Johnson is in the middle of an impeachment trial, and former President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis is on trial for Treason against the United States. Many state constitutional conventions in the south are rebuilding their governing bodies.

As Andrew Johnson fights to preserve his leadership as President of the United States of America, A.B. Graham was born March 13, 1868, in Champaign County, Ohio. This child would be known by all, as the founder of 4-H. His legacy lives on with incredible numbers of youth, volunteers, and alumni. As of 2020 Ohio State University statistics show membership at 90,807 youth, and 18,394 volunteers in Ohio alone! Nationally 4-H has a membership of nearly 6 million participants.

Our local communities have held high regard for this man of education, and has honored his achievements in many ways.

- Springfield Ohio has named the old Clark County courthouse where A.B. held the first Boy's and Girl's Club meeting 'The A.B. Graham Building'.
- St. Paris Ohio, the local school district was named A.B. Graham Local Schools in 1957.
- But here, the A.B. Graham Center provides a location, and a museum that truly honors the man and the community that he never totally left. As you walk through the halls of the grand old building, you are walking in the footsteps of A.B. Graham. His presence was a normal thing throughout his life, no matter how far away he was he always took the time to come back "home". He would judge art shows, give lengthy speeches for the children, and then visit family and friends in the community.

Upcoming Events

January 15 Bingo and Concessions 7pm

January 14, 21, 28, February 4. Line dancing

Classes 7-8:30 pm \$5 admission

February 19. Lasagna dinner \$10 meal

Garlic Bread Salad, Applesauce 5pm-7pm

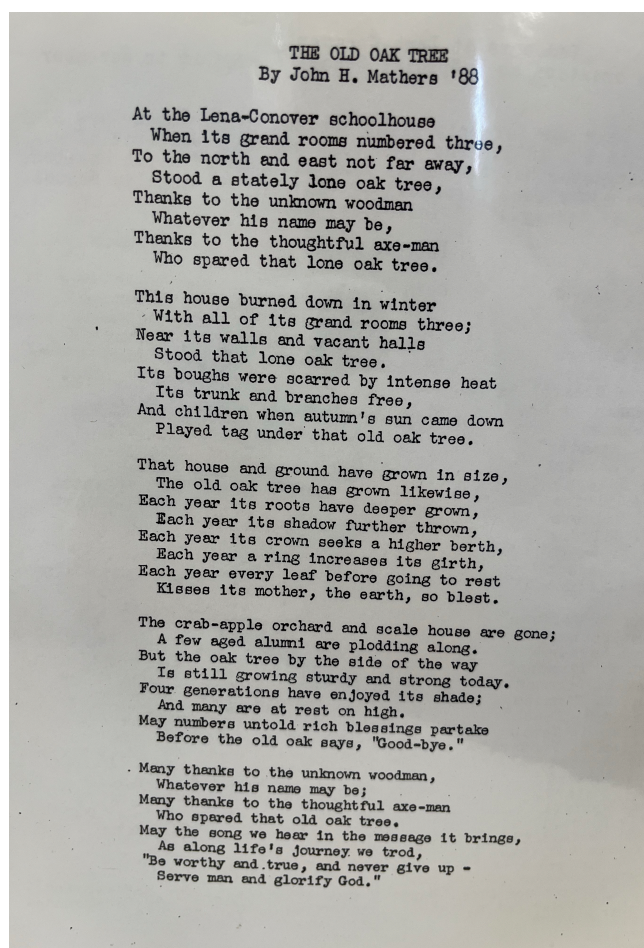
Bingo begins at 7pm

March 5 Pancake Breakfast 7-10:30 am \$10

March 13 1868 A.B. GRAHAM'S 154TH BIRTHDAY

March 19 Bingo and Concessions 7pm

****Line dance classes- This class is for all age groups, and skill levels.***



Above Poem Written
by alumni John H.
Mathers. Class of
1888

A.B. Graham fondly
spoke of the tree in
one of his numerous
writings, which can be
found in the
Community room in
the Museum.

Congratulations 2021 Scholarship recipients. Rylee Puthoff Miami County,
Connor Smock Shelby County, Emily Cecil Shelby County
February 1, 2022 Scholarship applications will be available!!