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September 12, 2018

Former Hale Farm & Village Director, Siegfried Buerling Recognized by Akron Garden Club.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Bath, Ohio - Siegfried Buerling received *the Club Historic Preservation Commendation* from the Garden Club of America's local chapter, the Akron Garden Club on August 27, 2018.

The citation reads: "To Siegfried Buerling in recognition and appreciation for leadership in preservation and restoration efforts within Hale Farm & Village, the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad and Cuyahoga Valley National Park."

The establishment of the Hale Homestead began in 1810 when Jonathan Hale purchased 500 acres from the Connecticut Land Company for land located in the Cuyahoga Valley. Four generations of Hales farmed the valley as New Englanders did. The Hales and Hammonds are credited with founding the 200 year old Township of Bath. Clara Belle Richie, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Hale bequeathed the remainder of her heritage property to the Western Reserve Historical Society in 1956. It was her wish for, "Hale Farm is to be established as a museum so that the greatest number of persons might learn about the history and culture of the Western Reserve."

In the early days as The Hale Homestead, the mission was humble to entertain youngsters and adults with programs detailing our agricultural and cultural history. We thank ladies of the community; Catherine Rand, Corky Gutter and Jean Gleason for maintaining the farm as the Historical Society defined their concept for the interpretation of the property. If it was to indeed detail life in the early 1800's, more than a farm was needed. Consequentially a Village was conceived.

Hale Farm & Village | 2686 Oak Hill Rd· Peninsula, Ohio 44264 | P.O. Box 296 Bath, Ohio 44210
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Hale Homestead became Hale Farm & Village. At this time Siegfried Buerling was hired as a custodian for the Western Reserve's properties. He created the Village Square by moving oak saplings from the nearby forest. The Village homes were moved in total, some in sections, some whole, by careful engineering. The Mary Ann Sears Swetland memorial Meetinghouse (Church) and its steeple came a few years later as did the Wade Law office. The Herrick House, the only all stone structure in the village, came stone by numbered stone, reassembled on site and the interior completed with period appropriate decor.

To get visitors to the Farm & Village and assist in the development of the resources for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Siegfried helped to transform the Railroad that had connected Cleveland with Akron into the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. This enhanced his relationship to the Park and its' subsequent Superintendents who treasured his friendship, knowledge and convivial "can-do" attitude.

More importantly than all the buildings, Siegfried helped young people on his staff to build careers in knowledgeable, sustainable restoration practices. One "graduate" became a Department Director at Williamsburg, Virginia; a young woman went on to Programming for National Capital Parks, The Mall in Washington D.C. and another Hale Farm Gardener/Farmer became First Director of the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia.

"It is with great pride that we congratulate Mr. Siegfried Burling on this award and honor his commitment to preservation in the Western Reserve," acknowledges Jason Klein, Director of Hale Farm & Village.

Caption: Siegfried Burling 2018 recipient of the "Club Historic Preservation Commendation" from the Garden Club of America's local chapter, the Akron Garden Club.

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Hale Farm & Village, a living history museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society, is located on 90 acres in Bath, Ohio with 32 historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens, farming and early American craft and trade demonstrations. The location is open for a summer season June – August, Wednesday – Sunday; weekends only September and October; and signature events or educational programming during other times. Visit www.halefarm.org or call (330) 666-3711 for seasonal hours, program listings, rental information, and to become a member. This year marks Hale Farm & Village's 60th anniversary as a museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Northeast Ohio's premier storyteller based on its vast collection of the tangible history of Northeast Ohio. It is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. It presents the lives and activities of 19th-Century settlers through historic Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio. WRHS offers a wealth of resources to research your family heritage at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle, Cleveland.

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