

On this site they had a barn; now they do again

The Clark County Park District has sought for more than a decade to replace the demolished Hertzler barn.

By Samantha Sommer
Staff Writer

Barbara Jackson has seen too many barns razed, instead of raised.

"It's nice to see a barn going back up," the Springfield resident said. "I've seen so many of them torn down."

She came with family to watch the raising of a 19th-century barn on Saturday at the Hertzler House at George Rogers Clark Park.

The Hertzler barn dates to the 1850s. It was demolished a century later by the state when it owned the park, leaving the stone foundation.

The Clark County Park District has sought for more than a decade to replace it, district Commissioner Tim DeVore said.

The \$17 million National Trail Parks and Recreation District's capital campaign included \$200,000 for the project. A new barn proved too expensive.

The district found the Chamberlin family barn on a farm near the Dayton Mall in Montgomery County that is

slated for development.

Lynn Chamberlin Miller donated the barn, which she said is in excellent condition.

"We had centuries of history that needed to be saved," Miller said.

It is of a similar era, size and style to the Hertzler barn.

Timber framers took it apart piece by piece last year and then spent the past three weeks repairing and assembling the barn.

It contains logs that were 400 years old back in the 1850s.

"It's old forest timber," DeVore said. "It really brings back that Ohio had huge timbers readily available."

On Saturday, the Millers and Hertzler descendants drove in the first pegs, followed by volunteers and donors.

Then a crew of more than 50 people, led by members of the Timber Framers Guild, hand-raised the structure. They used pulleys, ropes and pike — long wooden poles with metal points used to push and hold up the timbers.

That effort shows volunteers can work together, DeVore said.

The barn will get a new roof and siding, possibly by winter. It will be used for storage and education.

It is important to preserve barns because of their place in American her-



Bob Anderson of Marysville, wearing a Revolutionary War uniform, pulls on a rope to help raise the barn.

itage, said Rudy Christian of Christian and Son timber framers.

"It's every one of our jobs to take care of these buildings," he said.

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More than 50 people, led by members of the Timber Framers Guild hand-raise a portion of the barn.



The Timber Framers Guild led a crew that hand-raised a barn at George Rogers Clark Park on Saturday.

Staff photos by Marshall Gorby