

BEGINNING THE GARDEN

The garden at the Bellbrook Historical Museum began when Sue realized that her days were limited. Even though she and Bus had established gardens with their iris in Montgomery, Alabama and Dayton, Ohio, there was nothing in our own community.

The Bellbrook Garden Club agreed that such an important part of local horticultural history should be preserved for future generations.

The Club approached the Historical Society with the concept; and was met with overwhelming support. And so the work began.

As with most gardens, the original design was modified many times, but always retained its circular shape. It measures 20 feet in diameter. One of the first concerns was the slope of the land; would that lend itself to good gardening practices? It does enhance the view; the garden as a whole is visible at a glance.

The bed preparation began with killing and removing the existing weedy lawn; and roto tilling by several husbands was truly appreciated. They are an invaluable asset and resource of brawn (and brain) to our club!

Upon closer inspection, one can see the separate sections. The center is anchored by a large stone, discovered when club member Marsha Bartlett and husband Dwight were digging across the road. The Emphrian Bumgardner house, known as the Carriage Maker's House, was being restored by them. Since they wanted the stone removed and we needed a centerpiece for the garden, it solved both problems.



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The walkway bisecting the front of the garden and leading to the plaque is made of stone from foundation of the original cabin. And the short wall surrounding the garden is of creekstone, from life members Jean and Harry Butler's creek. Many members assisted with the chore of hauling them from this low-lying waterway, and had the sore muscles to show for their efforts!

Once the hardscaping was in place, the plant material could be installed. Some of the rhizomes were planted in the fall of 1995; others were added the following spring and early summer.

Around the outside of the stone wall there is a mulch bed, which makes it easier for the City of Bellbrook grounds crews to mow. It also protects the wall from possible damage by their machinery. Between the mulch and the wall, we plant annuals to keep seasonal color.

Digging at Wright's on Spahr Road.

