

History of OSBA compiled by Jim Thompson

The Ohio State Beekeepers Association was started in the year 1888 when some beekeepers got together and had a meeting. However there is some confusion as to where and when the first meeting actually took place. One notation mentions that the first meeting took place in Toledo. Research shows that the **Ohio State Bee-keepers' Convention** was held January 11, 1888 in Columbus, Ohio and not in Toledo. At this meeting, Dr. G. L. Tinker read an essay "The Sectional Brood Chamber", Mr. H. R. Boardman's Wintering Procedure entitled "How Shall We Winter Our Bees?" was presented, and A. J. Cook spoke on "Honey Plants".

It was announced in 1888 that A. I. Root would create a display called the "Centennial Honey Exhibit" in Columbus and a building 36' x 60' would be erected for the display. The display would be exhibited from September 4, 1888 to October 19, 1888.

In 1911, the **second** meeting of the Ohio Beekeepers met in Cincinnati at the Grand Hotel in Halls No. 1 and 2, February 16 and 17th. The Secretary was Henry Reddert. Charles H. Weber spoke on "Shipping Comb Honey to Market"

Mr. Chalon Fowls - "How to Increase the Demand for Honey by Building up Trade at the Groceries." He was promoting a product called Honey Butter which was defined as granulated honey in brick form. Professor N. E. Shaw spoke on "The Foul-brood Situation in Ohio". He had a chart of the state which showed about 1/3 of the state infected. It is interesting to note that this was the first year for inspection and that the state had appropriated \$2000. for the inspection work. E. R. Root spoke on "Modern Methods of Extracted Honey" and "American Foulbrood Differentiated from European Foulbrood". Mr. J. G. Creighton told of the "Foulbrood in and around Cincinnati" area. E. R. Root spoke of "The Value of Bees in Fertilizing Fruit-blossoms".

It is interesting to notice the changes over the years. The name of the organization varied. It was known as: Ohio State Bee-keepers, Ohio Beekeepers' Association, and Ohio State Beekeepers' Association. The position of Secretary and Treasurer started out as two separate offices then were combined and then separated again. The meetings were initially annual meetings then they went to two meetings per year and currently there are three meetings per year. The early meeting was called the winter meeting or convention and was usually two days in length. It was usually the meeting where officers were elected and the first day was for starting beekeepers or novices and the second day was for commercial beekeepers. The summer meetings were usually called field days and became more of a social event rather than serious beekeeping. The early meetings would draw 250 to 300 people compared to the 100 people today. Very little advertising was done to encourage beekeepers to come to the meetings and the advertising that was done came only days before the meetings. There was a lot of interaction with local and other state organizations where joint meetings were held. One time it was mentioned that attendance was dropping off at the winter meetings but was very good at the summer (field) meetings. The field meetings were usually three days in length and many times were in the middle of the week. There was very little effort to have the meetings in various parts of the state. The majority of the meetings were held in either Columbus or Medina. If the meetings were held at other locations, they were held near a commercial beekeepers operation.

The first state apiarists report was August 15, 1911 and was 16 pages long and showed the quantities and locations of EFB and AFB present in the state.