

A LITHOPOLIS HONEYFEST TRIBUTE  
to OHIO PIONEERS in  
BEEKEEPING & HONEY BEES

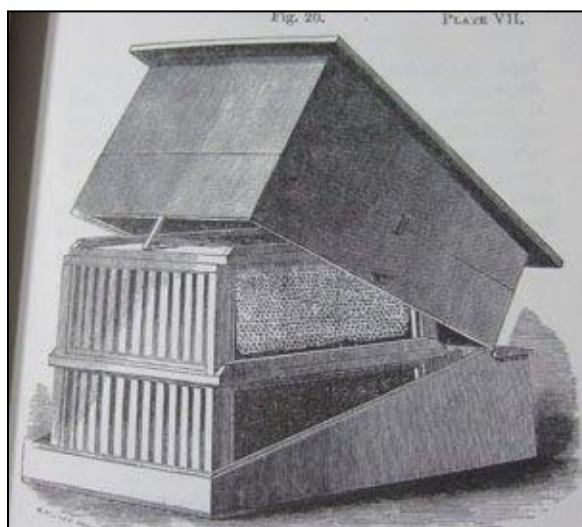
REV. LORENZO LORRAINE LANGSTROTH, Y.D.S.

Dec. 25, 1810-Oct. 6, 1895

Made his home as a beekeeper in Oxford, OH  
*Patented the first moveable-frame, top-opening  
hive box used all over the world today.*



**Modern beekeeping began in 1851** with the development of the Langstroth hive, the invention of Reverend L. L. Langstroth. Rev. Langstroth was originally from Philadelphia and graduated with high honors from Yale Divinity School in 1831. Apiarist, clergyman and teacher, Langstroth took up beekeeping to distract himself from episodes of depression. Considered by many as the “Father of American Beekeeping,” he revolutionized the beekeeping industry by discovering “bee space.” His patent of Oct. 5, 1852, adopted a 3/8” space between the side bars of a frame and hive wall, and also reserved rights to use the distance of 1/2” between top-bars and inner cover, the latter of which represents a gap larger than optimal. He found that, by leaving this approximately bee-sized space between the top of the frames holding the honeycomb and the flat coverboard above, he was able to easily remove the coverboard. If space was left less than 1/4,” the bees filled it with propolis; when a larger space was left of more than 3/8,” the bees filled it with comb. **Langstroth** also found that several communicating hive boxes can be stacked one above another, and that the queen can be confined to the lowest, or brood, chamber by means of a queen excluder. In this way, the upper chambers can be reached only by the worker bees and therefore contain only honey-comb. This made hive inspection and many other management practices possible and turned the art of beekeeping into a full-scale industry. Langstroth spent many years attempting to defend his patent without success, but never earned any royalties because the patent was easily and widely infringed. He wrote that “... *the chief peculiarity in my hive was the facility with which they could be removed without enraging the bees .... I could dispense with natural swarming, and yet multiply colonies with greater rapidity and certainty than by the common methods ... feeble colonies could be strengthened, and those which had lost their queen furnished with the means of obtaining another. ... If I suspected that anything was wrong with a hive, I could quickly ascertain its true condition and apply the proper remedies.*”



Langstroth Hive

**In 1858,** Langstroth made Oxford, OH, his residence. The site was 10 acres and an ideal place to keep bees. Langstroth planted a row of linden trees along the street and apple trees throughout. He sowed buckwheat and clover seed, using one acre of ground filled with flowers that bees like best, calling it his honey garden. The home where he lived from 1858 to 1887 was built in 1856 and is now called Langstroth Cottage; it is designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, it is in use by Miami University of Ohio. Dr. Langstroth authored *The Hive and the Honey Bee* (1853) and *Langstroth on the Honey Bee: A Bee-Keepers' Manual* (1860). Source: Wikipedia