



# The Tavern Log

*A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society*

February 2013

Volume XXII Issue 1

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The Tavern Log is published six times  
a year by the Society for its members.

### Submit material to:

Editor, The Tavern Log  
Miamisburg Historical Society  
P.O. Box 774  
Miamisburg, OH 45343  
or via e-mail to  
dewarrick@sbcglobal.net

The Tavern Log reserves the right to edit  
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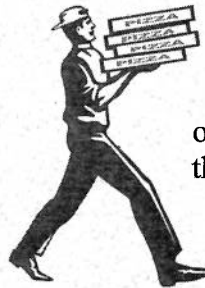
### BOARD MEETINGS

Held the third Thursday of each month at  
6:00 pm at the Market Square Building.

E-Mail Address: MHSociety@att.net  
Phone: (937)859-5000

Website: [www.miamisburghistory.org](http://www.miamisburghistory.org)  
Webmaster: Jay Robinson

## Don't Miss Our February General Program "Old Photos and Free Pizza"



Our first program of the new year features a presentation of old photos from 'days gone by' in the Burg. We top off the evening with FREE PIZZA from Ron's. This is the fourth year we've warmed up the winter season with this program, which always features new and different photos in addition to those old favorites from previous shows. Ron McLaughlin never fails to put together a great show that will be narrated by Mayor Dick Church.

In addition to the show, we'll also be introducing for the first time John O'Gorman's recently published book on the 1913 Flood. Copies will be available for sale at our February and March General Meetings. Details of the book are on page 6 of this newsletter.

**Market Square Building • Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 pm**  
**Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium** (handicapped accessible)

Don't miss this year's Old Photos and Pizza Program. It's bound to bring back memories and a few laughs about daily life in our town. After the program, the huge supply of hot pizzas will be delivered by Ron's from right across the street, and you're guaranteed to get your fill. Come early and grab a seat, as this fun program draws a larger attendance each successive year.

## 1913 Flood Anniversary in March

By now, I'm sure you've noticed that the entire Miami Valley area is gearing up for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the 1913 Flood. This devastating event, which ravaged our town on March 25, 1913, took down both bridges in Miamisburg and overtook our entire downtown business and residential area.

Don't miss the displays and activities that are planned as we take this occasion to go back and revisit the flood. Carol O'Connell, Flood Commemoration Chair, outlines on page 2 of this newsletter, all the events and activities that are planned in connection with the anniversary of the flood.

## A Tribute to the 1913 Flood

By Carol O'Connell, Flood Commemoration Chair

With additional information by Joe Stanton,  
Vice President and Program Chair



### **FEBRUARY: Flood Level Signs**

Beginning in February, flood level signs will be placed on selected buildings by the Parks and Recreation crew. Eight additional businesses and organizations have been added since our last newsletter. They are as follows:

A Taste of Wine, Baver & Bookwalter, Bullwinkles, Chapman Financial Services, Lawyers Building, Kincaid Excavating and Paving, The Little House of Stitches and Trinity United Church of Christ.

### **MARCH 25 thru JUNE 9: 1913 Flood Memorabilia Exhibit**

Be sure to stop in at the Market Square Building to view the 1913 Flood Memorabilia Exhibit. Larry Suttman and Gary Petticrew are collecting items to place in the showcases and will display photos showing the destruction of the flood in Miamisburg.

### **MARCH 28: Historical Society General Program 7:00 pm, Market Square Building**

The program, "The Great 1913 Flood" will be hosted by Carol O'Connell with able assistants Larry Suttman, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Diane Warrick and Judy Wuerstl. The Great Flood occurred one hundred years ago on March 25, 1913. The PowerPoint presentation follows along with a letter that was written by Ida Eck to her sister immediately after the flood. It will bring to life the tragic experiences, the survivors and the devastation of the flood. This was the worst disaster that ever occurred to Miamisburg and other towns and cities along the Great Miami River. Refreshments will be served following the program.

John O'Gorman has written a book that chronicles events of the Great Flood. Copies will be available for purchase. He plans to be there to sign them.

***This is a MUST SEE program and book. Don't miss it!***

### **JUNE 9: Spotlight on the River**

Mark your calendar for the final tribute on June 9. Boaters are invited to launch their boats at the Linden Avenue landing and take a leisurely 2.5 mile cruise on the river to Rice Field. Boaters will then disembark and return to town for many activities which include the following:

- Hop on the mini-bus and take a narrated ride of the flood sites. A guide will relate the history of the buildings and who the occupants are today.
- Step in the Market Square Building and view the exhibit - your last chance.
- View DVDs of the *History of Miamisburg* and a documentary of *The Flood in the Miami Valley*.
- Enjoy entertainment at the bandstand with music of the early 1900s, such as *Shine on Harvest Moon*, *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, *Peg O' My Heart*.
- See old boats on display along Miami Avenue at Riverfront Park.
- Board the University of Dayton RiverMobile - a learning studio focusing on our region's water resources.
- Visit vendors along the way and meet author John O'Gorman, who will sign a copy of his recently published book, *Impact of the Great 1913 Flood on Miamisburg, Ohio*.
- Bring your chairs and reserve your spot at the bandstand for our first community concert of the season.
- There are more activities to be confirmed for Riverfront Park.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Kaarn J. Weaver**  
**William Russell**

**Corporate Sponsors:**  
**Classic Stitch**  
**American Legion Post 165**

## Get Well Wishes to Tom Schultz

The Society sends its best get well wishes to Tom Schultz, a Society member living in Houston, TX, who has been very ill since December. Tom, we're hoping that you're feeling much better very soon.

## 1913 Flood Program to be Televised

Tune in your TV to *Around the Burg*. Mayor Dick Church will be moderating a panel about the 1913 Flood. The program will be aired February through March on Time-Warner cable channel 5. It is also available on AT&T U-Verse and online at [www.mvcc.net](http://www.mvcc.net). This is also the web address where upcoming cablecast dates may be accessed.

Panel members are:

Carol O'Connell: Flood Commemoration Chair  
 John O'Gorman: Author, "Impact of the Great 1913 Flood on Miamisburg, Ohio"  
 Larry Suttman: Curator, Mshg. Historical Society

**Do you have any memorabilia  
 or stories about the 1913 Flood  
 for our showcase at the  
 Market Square Building?  
 If so, call 859.5000.**

## Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

☐ Student Membership \$5.00  
☐ Individual membership \$15.00  
☐ Family Membership \$25.00  
☐ Sponsor Membership \$50.00  
☐ Corporate Sponsor\* \$50.00  
☐ Patron Membership \$100.00  
☐ Lifetime Membership \$500.00  
☐ Society Friends

Donation

Total enclosed \$

\* Corporate Sponsors will be given a business card size ad in the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Tavern Log*.

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard  
☐ Visa ☐ Discover



Credit Card #

Expiration Date

Signature

Please make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

☐ I am a new member ☐ I am renewing

Name

Address

City

State  Zip

Phone

E-mail

Would you enjoy volunteering?  
 Please note your areas of interest:

Please mail to: Miamisburg Historical Society  
 PO Box 774  
 Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774





## Notes From the Curator

By Larry Suttman, Curator

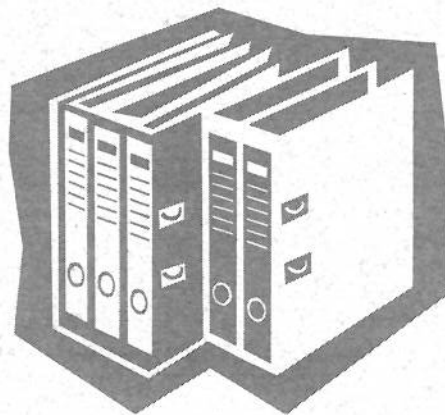
### We Really Need This!

Gary Petticrew is a very handy guy to have around. Not only is he the Assistant Curator and the Membership Chairman, but he is also the computer whiz-kid who solves all our problems in that dark place I do not want to go. One of the fun things we do is sit in the office and bounce ideas off each other: "Why can't we do this?" "We should try doing that!" Some very worthwhile ideas are born right here, and have become useful tools.

One 'strategy', that was so obvious we walked into it and received a really nasty bump, was the fact that while we store a huge wealth of knowledge in our files, the public - our visitors, see that 'wealth of knowledge' only as a conglomeration of stuff, because it's off limits to them. Something is wrong with that picture! We're going to change it!

Gary and I have in mind a set of books - three ring binders, with clear plastic sleeves. These 'books' will contain about every category of life in Miamisburg, right back to 1790. This set of books will be available to all visitors in the Sweny Research Room.

For example, there will be a section on physicians - every physician who has ever practiced in our town, and the same with dentists, lawyers and merchants. And not just people, but enterprises as well. We will feature restaurants, groceries, saloons, drugstores, hotels, tobacco warehouses, stables, churches and flour mills. We'll include the companies that produced twine, machinery, wheels, toys, cigars, knives, buggies, autos, airplanes, pitchforks, ice and farm equipment. And we even printed our own money!



We will limit, to just one page, the name of a person, place or thing. If there is more information, visitors will be referred to the proper source. If at all possible, we will include a photograph. We will also make an effort to show our source of information.

In conjunction with this project, we will also be building a Miamisburg 'Time Line'. This clever little thingumadoodle will tell you when was the first time for anything in Miamisburg. When was the first train through Miamisburg? When were the first electric lights? When was the first concrete sidewalk? When was the first brick house? When was the first ferry in operation? When was the first swimming pool? Who was the first shoemaker in Miamisburg? And on and on. It should be interesting and long overdue.

**Now to the good part. You, our members, can help build this directory of Miamisburg's past. The years after 1930 are no problem, but if you have information, stories, news clippings or photographs of historical interest from the earlier years before 1930, that you think may be fascinating, let us know. We may very well want to make a copy for our new directory. This could be in reference to any of the above mentioned (there wasn't room to include everything) or anything or anyone to do with old-time Miamisburg. Remember, photographs are priceless. Contact us - and THANKS!**

**The Historical Society 859-5000, Larry Suttman 299-5810, Gary Petticrew 866-1285**

### Miamisburg Historical Society & Community • 2013 Calendar of Events

<b>Jan.</b> 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm  <i>No General Meeting in January</i>	<b>July</b> 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 29 Articles Due for August Tavern Log  <i>No General Program in July</i>
<b>Feb.</b> 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 28 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm “Old Photos and Pizza”	<b>Aug.</b> 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm  <i>No General Program in August</i>
<b>March</b> 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 13 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 28 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm “1913 Flood Commemoration Presentation” 29 Articles due for the April Tavern Log	<b>Sept.</b> 7-8 Starving Artists Show - Library Park 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 25 Articles Due for October Tavern Log and Reports Due for the Annual Report 26 MHS General Program - 7:00 pm TBA
<b>April</b> 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 10 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 25 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm “Movie Night with Popcorn”	<b>Oct.</b> 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 20 Old Time Craft Day - Heritage Village, 2:00-5:00 24 Historical Society Annual Meeting and Canal Days Dinner
<b>May</b> 5 Opening Day at Heritage Village 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 8 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 17 Taste of Miamisburg – 5:00 pm 18-19 Spring Fling Parade & Festival 23 MHS General Meeting (Silver Taps) – 7:00 pm 23, 25, 27 Veteran’s Exhibit at Market Square Building 27 Memorial Day Parade – 11:00 am 31 Articles due for the June Tavern Log	<b>Nov.</b> 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 28 Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving Morning  <i>No General Program in November</i>
<b>June</b> 9 1913 Flood Commemoration at Riverscape Park w/displays at Market Square 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 12 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 Msbg. High School Alumni Dinner/Dance 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 27 Historical Society Picnic – 6:00 Location to be announced.	<b>Dec.</b> 2 Articles due for December Tavern Log 6 Holly & Ivy Gala 7 Community Holiday Parade (Tentative Date) 8 Christmas at The Tavern – 2:00-5:00 pm 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm  <i>No General Program in December</i>

**The Heritage Village is open to the public on Sundays, May through October from 2-5 pm.**

## John O’Gorman Authors Book on 1913 Flood

While we’re on the subject of the 1913 Flood, we’re proud to recognize Society member, John O’Gorman, who has authored a book on the subject. It’s entitled, *Impact of the Great 1913 Flood on Miamisburg, Ohio*. The book will be published and available for purchase at the Market Square gift shop and at our General Programs.

John has invested a great amount of time in researching the flood and compiling information from many sources into one, easy to read, account of the disaster that overtook our town 100 years ago. It contains personal stories of heroism and descriptions of the panic, horror and devastation endured by our citizens during those bleak days in March.

John has included many photos taken at the time of the flood and more photos of the monumental destruction. In addition to documenting the flood itself, he follows up with describing the actions that were taken in the years following, to ensure that this event was never repeated.

You will also discover a fact, not known by many, that contributed greatly to the extreme height of the flood in Miamisburg. I’ll let you read the book to find out why the flood would not have been as bad here, if it had not been for one, very important contributing factor.

John O’Gorman’s book is a must for anyone who is interested in the history of Miamisburg. It is a very well documented account of the days and the weather leading up to the flood, the flood itself and the effects of this historic event on our town. You’ll want to hand this book down to your children and grandchildren!



Corner of Second and Central Ave. (Fox Motors)  
Old Police and Fire Station in background on right.

### *“Impact of the Great 1913 Flood on Miamisburg, Ohio”*

By John O’Gorman

**Price: \$15.00 plus tax (Members receive 10% discount)**

Available at the Market Square gift shop or by mail (buyer pays shipping).

## MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATE SPONSORS

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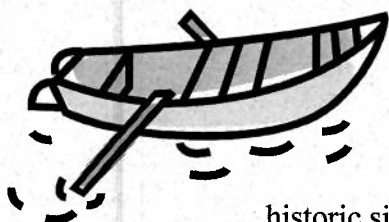
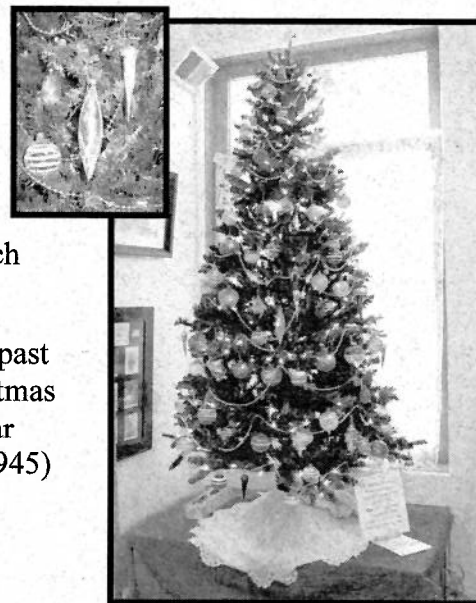


## A Very Belated Thank You to Richard "Pork" and Joyce Petticrew

In the December Tavern Log, we neglected to mention the beautifully decorated Christmas tree that was placed near the front window at the Market Square Building by 'Pork' and Joyce Petticrew. They not only assembled and decorated the tree, they also provided the ornaments which were all WWII vintage.

The Petticrews possess an extensive collection of ornaments and for the past few years, they've been kind enough to provide the Society with a Christmas tree and special ornaments from their collection. The ornaments this year were all lead free, because the lead available during those years (1942-1945) went to benefit the war effort.

We really appreciate the Petticrew's kindness in loaning and decorating the tree and brightening up our Market Square Building for the Holidays.



## BOATS! BOATS! BOATS!

By Carol O'Connell, Flood Commemoration Chair

Do you know of anyone who has a boat for our 1913 Flood display? Society member, Wayne Burgett, is constructing a National Cash Register boat. The historic significance of this boat is that John Patterson, founder of NCR, on March 25, 1913, began building the boats to rescue stranded people. A boat was constructed every 7 minutes.

We will display old boats, such as canoes, rowboats, fishing boats and rafts. Anything that would float and people *could have* used for rescue efforts. They don't have to have been in use in 1913.

Call me (Carol) at 859-5000, leave a message and phone number and I will return your call.

## MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATE SPONSORS

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## **Memorial Day Weekend 2013**

By Randy Staley, Veteran's Committee Chair

Plans are moving forward for the 2013 Memorial Day Weekend:

**Silver Taps** will be held **Thursday, May 23, 7:00 pm**, at the Market Square Building. This annual memorial ceremony honors our local veterans who served, or are now serving our country so we may enjoy our freedom.

**Following Silver Taps our Military Exhibit will open.** We will not have a Victory Dance this year due to the cost and dwindling attendance.

**Memorial Day, May 27** will start with memorial services at: Our Lady of Good Hope Cemetery at 8:45 am, Hill Grove Cemetery at 9:15 am, Highland Memorial Cemetery at 9:40 am, Linden Avenue Bridge at 10:30 am.

**The parade** will begin at 11:00 am from Linden and Miami Avenue, and will travel east to First Street, North to Central Avenue (Veterans Way), East to South Fifth Street and Library Park. The American Legion Post 165 will conduct the **Annual Memorial Service at Library Park** following the parade. After the service our annual **Picnic in the Park** will include free hot dogs and ice cream. The Military Exhibit will also be open at Market Square from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Memorial Day. The events are sponsored by the Miamisburg Historical Society Veteran's Committee and American Legion Post 165.

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**Our sincere thanks to Dayton Mailing Service who so generously donate  
their printing and mailing services for each issue of *The Tavern Log*.**

**Dayton Mailing Service • 100 S. Keowee Street • Dayton, OH 45402 • (937)222-5056**

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