



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

April 2006

Volume XV Issue 2

MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS & BOARD

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

A list of deadlines and publication dates is available from the board president or on our website.

Submit material to:

Editor, The Tavern Log
Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343

or via e-mail to DEWarrick@aol.com

The Tavern Log reserves the right to edit any material submitted.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Market Square Building.

GEBHART TAVERN

Sundays, May thru Sept., 2:00—5:00 pm

Website:

http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Daniel Gebhart Museum Prepares For Opening Day

The Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum will open one month early this year, on May 7th, to accommodate school requests for historic walking tours ending at the Museum. As a result, additional docents will be needed to cover the five extra Sundays added to our normal schedule. Last year a Docent's Handbook was created, and a training session was held for new docents and for those who have volunteered previously, but wanted to learn more about the history of the Museum and its artifacts. We will repeat the training session again this year.



We urge our members to consider volunteering for this interesting and rewarding work. Just one Sunday a year would be most welcome. The Museum is open from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm each Sunday from May 7th through September 24th, 2006. We ask that docents work in pairs so the Museum will be adequately covered. To make the transition more comfortable, we will pair new docents with experienced members. Anyone interested should call either Curator, Joseph Steffen, 847-7476 or Bobbie Sweny, 866-3507.

Aerial Photo of Miamisburg Restored

Stop by the Historical Society's Market Square Building to see the recently restored aerial photo of Miamisburg. This large 18 ft. x 4 ft., circa 1963 photo has been a very popular display in the North Gallery ever since our opening in 2002, but has shown its age with numerous tears and scratches on the surface. Furthermore, the backing and frame have warped due to years of storage by the city in the upstairs (now Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium) of the Market Square Building.

All of that, however, is a thing of the past thanks to the talented efforts of Quill Abney and Reese Collins who have beautifully framed and firmly attached the photo to the north wall. Barb Olekas, with the help of Nita Petticrew and Les Wead, have retouched and repaired the damaged areas thus giving this photo a new lease on life. Its "battle scars" are now touched up, and it is securely framed and covered with a Lucite panel to prevent further damage to the original surface.

Lincoln Program Enjoyed by Young and Old



Stan Wernz's portrayal of Abraham Lincoln at our February General Meeting proved to be an outstanding program. Wernz spoke as Lincoln, delving into his childhood memories and the hardships of his early years. As he matured, Lincoln was driven by his beliefs that slavery should be abolished, and thus entered into the political scene. Wernz's presentation concluded with the traumatic events and struggles of the Civil War years and finally his assassination.

The Lincoln portrayal was authentic, entertaining and sometimes humorous, revealing many anecdotes that did not

appear in our school history books, thus bringing Abraham Lincoln, the man, to life. Wernz's resemblance to Lincoln served to enhance the sense of actually being in Lincoln's presence.

The event concluded with an audience participation period in which "Lincoln" answered questions from the children in attendance, as well as the adults. Delicious refreshments topped off the evening and were enjoyed by all, even "Lincoln" himself!

Our thanks to Paul Schultz, Program Chairman, for bringing this valuable presentation to the Historical Society and to the public.

March General Program Presented by Valena Randolph

**Education Specialist,
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**

The audience was fascinated as Miss Valena Randolph presented the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar. Mr. Dunbar's poetry in the Afro-American dialect of the South was especially enhanced by Miss Randolph's eloquent delivery. The program continued with the history of Wilberforce University with special emphasis on the lives and accomplishments of many of the University's distinguished graduates. The question and answer period following the program was enjoyed by all.

Become a Member ...

and help preserve Miamisburg

I would like membership in the category checked:

☐ Student \$5.00
☐ Individual \$15.00
☐ Family \$25.00
☐ Sponsor \$50.00
☐ Patron \$100.00
☐ Life \$500.00 (per person)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
Miamisburg Historical Society

☐ I am a new member

☐ I am renewing

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

(please mail to:)

Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

**Congratulations to
Carl & Marilou Becker**

**who recently
celebrated their**

**60th
Wedding
Anniversary!**

From the President's Desk...

Kudos to our Vice President Les "Turk" Wead! During the past 3 months while I was "basking in the sun" of beautiful Hawaii, our able Vice President, Les Wead, has been directing the activities of the Board of Directors during the formative months of the new year. It's not as though he didn't realize what he was getting into when he signed up for a second two-year stint as Vice President. The fact is he went into this deal with his eyes wide open, knowing that I would be absent the first three months of the year leaving the directing of day-to-day activities to him. And what a great job he has done! Through the wonders of modern communications I have been able to keep in touch with Les and other Board members via e-mail.

Although I was not physically present for Board Meetings or General Program Meetings, I was able to keep abreast of the happenings in the Society as I received the e-mails regularly on my lap top computer. As I understand it, Les has set a new standard for promptness and timing of Board Meetings - limiting meetings to no more than two hours. This has been a goal in past administrations, but was seldom achieved. With Les setting the new standard, I look forward to continuing this precedent in the Board Meetings to follow.

2006 promises to be a very busy year for the Historical Society! We're already off to a great start with two excellent programs in February and March, with more to come in the following months. Specifically, I encourage all of our members (as well as other community-minded residents of the city and township) to get involved in our plans for the Memorial Day Weekend. Our Veteran's Committee, under the direction of Randy Staley, will again have a wonderful display of military uniforms and other memorabilia at the Market Square Building on May 27 through 29 and will feature the "2nd Annual Victory Dance" at the Baum Opera House on Saturday night (May 27th). Volunteer help is needed to set up and man the displays, so please call Randy or Les to indicate your availability to help (859-5000). Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade led by the American Legion Post 165 on Monday, May 29th.

Another BIG community weekend is scheduled for July 21-23 with our 2nd Annual Weekend on Wheels. This event is sponsored by the Miamisburg Merchants Association, but is actively supported by the Historical Society which will repeat its very successful exhibit of "Bicycles Through The Ages" at the Market Square Building on each of these 3 days. The Grand Finale will be the professionally sanctioned bicycle races through downtown Miamisburg on Sunday. We're anticipating an even bigger turnout than we had last year. **Be There!**

Phil

Phil Johnson,
President

How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

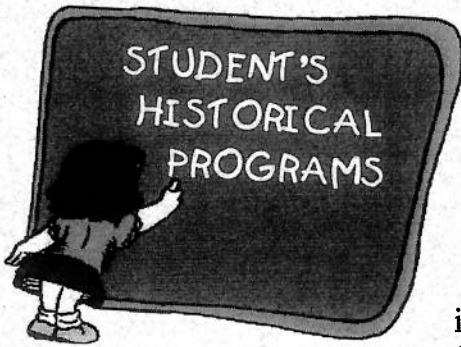


The April Pop Quiz:

What were Miamisburg High School athletic teams called before they were named "The Vikings"?

- A. Star City Lads**
- B. The Burgers**
- C. The Blue & Whites**
- D. All of the above**

Answer on Page 4



Student's Spring Historical Programs

As word of our program availability spreads throughout the elementary schools of Miamisburg, the third grade teachers are calling in their requests for local history programs to augment their curriculum requirements in this area.

Sara Berner at Bear School has asked for her annual 4-day program which includes the story of the Adena and Miami Indians, the arrival of the early pioneers and the founding of Miamisburg. Overhead slides, artifacts and stories make this interesting for the children. One of the highlights is the arrival of a pioneer in full costume, complete with his "possible bag" and all the strange objects it holds. Pioneer, Jim Schnapp, challenges the children's imagination as he tells stories of his travels through the forests of the Northwest Territory to reach Hole's Station. Retired teacher, Betty Morris, delights the children by teaching them Indian songs complete with dancing.

A similar 4-day program will be done for Mark Twain School which is new to our programs. Teacher, Jeanette McNally, has made the arrangements for this group of 35 children. They are eagerly looking forward to joining our activities.

Kinder School is back on our schedule with a one day activity for their two third grade classes. Teacher Ginger Schwieterman looks forward to having a comprehensive program next year similar to the ones that are being done for Bear and Mark Twain Schools.

The programs last about one hour each for three days. The historic walk from Library Park to the Gebhart Tavern Museum takes about two hours and can be taken by one of several routes which include the Miami Erie Canal, downtown Miamisburg, and a short visit with Mayor Church at the Miami Indian statue at the Civic Center. Getting to meet the Mayor is a big event for the children. We are blessed to have such support.

Other volunteers who participate in these programs are Kathy Fortney, Marty Williams and Becky Lewis. The schools provide teachers and chaperones to guarantee the safety of the children.

The greatest joy of these programs are the wonderful letters written by the children to thank us for sharing our stories with them. We would love to have more people participating in these programs. If any of you have a yen to dress in early American garb and tell stories to the children, or if you would like to take a historic walk, please let me know. Call Bobbye Sweny at 866-3507 - or e-mail at onebobbyes@aol.com.

Bobbye

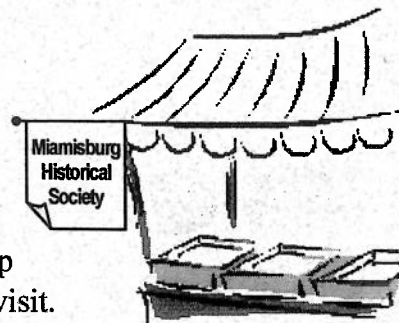
Bobbye Sweny,
Children's Programs & Education

Pop Quiz Answer

The correct answer is **D**. At various times, the teams were referred to as the "Star City Lads", the "Burgers" or the "Blue & Whites". In 1932, Hi-Y Club members decided a more dignified image was needed to represent the school, and after consideration of the "Mound Builders", "Hawks" and "Vikings", a vote was taken and school teams thereafter became known as the Miamisburg Vikings.

Look For Our Booth at the Spring Fling!

Don't forget to look for our booth at the Spring Fling on Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21. The hours are Saturday 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm in the Library Park. The Miamisburg Historical Society booth number is 93. It will be a great chance to pick up that Cat's Meow that's missing from your collection, or just stop by and visit.



In addition to our Cat's Meows, books, throws and other Miamisburg memorabilia, we will be offering many "new" old photos of Miamisburg that have never been available until now. Larry Suttman has assembled and printed a select group of photographs, many of which you may never have seen before. We consider these to be an exciting and important addition to our inventory of historical items being made available to all. We'll be offering these photos for the first time at the Spring Fling.

If you would like to volunteer to help out in the booth for a couple of hours on either Saturday or Sunday, please contact Nita Petticrew at 866-1285 or call 859-5000. It's a great chance to get involved in a fun way.

See you at the Spring Fling!

Notes From the Curator

The following Council Meeting Minutes are taken from ledgers dating from 1838 through 1864, which were donated to the Historical Society by Mrs. Phyllis Holzman Jackson. This is the second in a series of which we will be sharing excerpts from these ledgers. The meeting concerns the robbery of a peddler.

Minutes from the Town Chamber Meeting — January 7, 1850

The Council were called together by order of the Mayor Adam Clay.

Present: Adam Clay, Mayor, and the Council Members, Mepf, Goudy, Fish, Rerchard, Conover and Gletzel. The Council being organized.

The Mayor said that the reason of calling the Council together was that information had reached him that on the previous night that the pedlar wagon of Darro Neible had been robbed of considerable jewelry. And in accordance with the duties of his office he had called this meeting and hoped the council would take such steps in the matter as would be best calculated to defend the lives and property of citizens and strangers suggesting the propriety of appropriating a reasonable sum of money for the purpose of offering a reward for the thief or thieves.

On motion the Citizens present were allowed to make remarks. After some discussion a motion was made that Fifty Dollars be appropriated to be offered as a reward which was unanimously agreed.

On motion the Marshall was authorized to have fifty advertisements printed for distribution.

Meeting adjourned.

Adman Miller, Recorder

Spring Cleaning at the Gebhart Tavern



In preparation for the opening of the Gebhart Tavern on May 7, a little sprucing up is on our agenda. To facilitate the spring cleaning of the Tavern, a cleaning crew will assemble at the Museum at 9:00 am on Friday, April 21st and 9:00 am on Saturday, April 22nd.

Bring cleaning cloths, brooms and dustpans, paper towels and your favorite cleaning supplies. Don't forget your enthusiasm, your best jokes, and your favorite morning beverage. We'll provide munchies. This always turns out to be a fun time with lots of laughs and camaraderie. Call the Headquarters at 859-5000 and let us know if you can join us, even if it's only for an hour or two.

Program Set for April General Meeting "The Toy Story"

Join us on April 27 at 7:00 pm in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium for our General Meeting. Mr. Richard Cummings will be presenting the history of toys invented and developed in Miamisburg. This is a chance to hear the story of 19th and early 20th century toy inventors and manufacturers, and those toys they developed.

A Note From Our Friends in Dayton . . .

The Historic Huffman Neighborhood proudly presents our second annual **Spring Home and Garden Tour**, May 20-21, 1-6 pm both days. Tickets are \$10.00 before May 15 and \$12.50 after May 15. Enjoy our neighborhood while you take a horse drawn carriage ride, visit our Dessert House full of homemade confections and marvel at the craftsmanship of days gone by.

We look forward to having you visit our gorgeous homes full of exquisite woodwork, stained glass windows and opulent crystal chandeliers. Meet friendly homeowners and hear their personal stories of their beautiful homes.

Call Eileen Peisert at 252-3339 or Gale Heller at 224-5071 for ticket information. You can also order tickets with a credit card at our web site www.huffmanhistoric.org. We hope to see you here!

In the Gift Shop

*Prices have been lowered
on Cat's Meows in our Gift Shop!*

Current selection and pricing as follows:

Bell High School	\$15.00
Carnegie Library	13.00
English Manor B&B	15.00
Fire Station	13.00
Gebhart Tavern	11.00
Hamburger Wagon	9.00
Kinder School	13.00
Koffee Kup	13.00
Market Square Building	13.00
Miamisburg Mound	9.00
Parkview Methodist Church	15.00
Peerless Mill Inn	15.00
St. Jacob Lutheran Church	13.00
St. James Methodist Church	15.00
Trinity United Church of Christ	13.00
Wantz School Building	13.00
Wantz School Bell	6.00

*Due to reduced pricing, MHS member discounts will **not** be given on Cat's Meows.*

Don't forget our gift shop when looking for a meaningful gift. We have many books, historic photos, tapestries, throws and other collectible items pertaining to the history of Miamisburg.

Books and booklets include:

The Hill Grove Cemetery Book
 "Miamisburg In WWII" by Carl Becker
 "The Story of Our Town"
 "When Tobacco Was King"
 Dr. John Treon Book
 "Memoir of 1913 Flood"
 by Ida Pansing Eck
 Aunt Harriet's Storybooks
 by Harriet Hieronymus

The Miami Township Book and the Baum Opera House Cookbook are also available in the shop.

**Gift Shop hours are Wed. and Sat.,
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

Upcoming Events

April		May	
Event:	April General Meeting "A Toy Story"	Event:	Gebhart Tavern Museum Opening
Time:	Thurs., April 27, 7:00 pm	Time:	Sunday, May 7, 2:00-5:00 pm
Place:	Market Square Building Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium	Place:	Corner of Lock St. and Old Main
		Event:	Spring Fling
		Time:	May 20-21 Sat. 10-7:00 pm, Sun. 12-6:00 pm
		Place:	Library Park



Memorial Day Weekend Schedule of Events



The 2006 Memorial Day Weekend promises to be the best ever! The American Legion Post 165 and the Miamisburg Historical Society Veteran's Committee are reviving, in a **big** way, a Memorial Day Celebration that has gone by the wayside in recent years. Many events and activities are planned that will enable us, as a community, to honor our veterans, past and present.

We all have friends and loved ones who have served our country. Take time this Memorial Day Weekend to recognize their sacrifices and to celebrate the freedom that our service men and women have always protected.

Event:	May General Meeting "Silver Taps"	The Silver Taps Ceremony will be the official beginning of the weekend and the opening of the Military Uniform Display at Market Square.
Time:	Thursday, May 25 - 7:00 pm	
Place:	Market Square Building Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium	
Event:	Military Uniform Display	A large collection of military uniforms and memorabilia will be on display. Memorial Day inspired artwork from area students will also be featured.
Time:	Sat., Sun. & Mon., May 27, 28, 29 12:00-5:00pm	
Place:	Market Square Building	
Event:	Second Annual "Victory Dance"	The Hauer Swing Band will be playing songs of yesteryear. B.Y.O.B. Setups are free. *Anyone wearing a US military uniform will be admitted free. Kick up your heels or just relax and enjoy the music.
Time:	Saturday, May 27, 8:00 - 11:00 pm	
Price*:	\$7.50 per person, \$15.00 per couple	
Place:	Baum Opera House	
Event:	American Legion Cemetery Services	8:45 am Our Lady of Good Hope Cemetery
Date:	Monday, May 29	9:15 am Hill Grove Cemetery
		9:40 am Highland Cemetery
		10:30 am Linden Avenue Bridge
Event:	Memorial Day Parade	Grand Marshall will be Dean Good, a local veteran who served in WWII. Children with bicycles decorated in red, white and blue are encouraged to ride in the parade. Meet on Miami Ave. at 9:30 am to be part of the parade.
Time:	Monday, May 29 - 11:00 am	
Place:	Linden Avenue Bridge to Main St. to Central Ave. to Library Park <i>Free hot dogs at the park after the Parade and American Legion Service.</i>	



Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

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National Volunteers Week — April 23-29

In view of April 23-29 being “National Volunteers Week”, it should be mentioned that the Miamisburg Historical Society exists today solely due to the efforts of so many who contribute their time and their talents to make this organization run. It takes many people, each contributing in his or her own special way, to preserve and share the history of Miamisburg. Each person is appreciated for all he does.

One of our busiest volunteers is Les Wead. Les contributes in so many areas, it’s difficult to list them all. To begin with, he’s Vice-President, he’s on the HRRC and Veteran’s Committee, he’s in charge of Market Square Operations, and that’s just a start. Every Wednesday and Saturday you’ll find him at the Market Square Building as Historian, answering questions or researching information for guests. Believe me, Les knows a lot about our town. He has compiled many books on Miamisburg which include pictures, articles and his own remembrances. These books are available in the Research Room for all to see.

Les has researched and written two plays; “Zachariah Hole Calls a Settlement Meeting” and “Dr. John Treon Calls First Town Meeting”, both of which have been performed at the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium. Every December you’ll see him in early American costume at our “Christmas at the Tavern” event. You’ll find him involved in every activity, helping out in any capacity, wherever he’s needed.

I’m sorry to say there are no prizes for this recognition, just our thanks to you, Les, for all you do. Thanks also to all the other volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to make our Miamisburg Historical Society an organization to be proud of.

Look for more volunteer profiles in future issues of the Tavern Log.