



# The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

April 2009

Volume XVIII Issue 2

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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@sbcglobal.net

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.

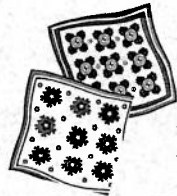
### GEBHART TAVERN

Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00–5:00 pm

### Website:

[http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg\\_historical\\_society.htm](http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm)

Webmaster: Jay Robinson



## Historical Society and Material Girls Quilting Group Present Quilt Show at the Baum

By Jeanette Belvo

You do not have to be a quilting enthusiast to enjoy looking at old, new and heirloom quilts. The workmanship and creativity of these beautiful quilts will bring a great deal of enjoyment to all. There will be vendors with quilting patterns and merchandise, quilting craft items and a RAFFLE for a full size quilt made by a 'Material Girls' member.

The Quilt Show is being co-sponsored with the Baum Opera House Association. There will be a luncheon served downstairs by Baum members. Please come and enjoy the Quilt Show on the second floor of the charming Baum Opera House. It is handicap accessible. If you need more information or would like to volunteer to help, please call Janet Wead at 866-1604 or Debby Cook at 859-7822.

Fri. and Sat.

April 24 and 25

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Admission \$5.00



Baum Opera House

15 South First Street

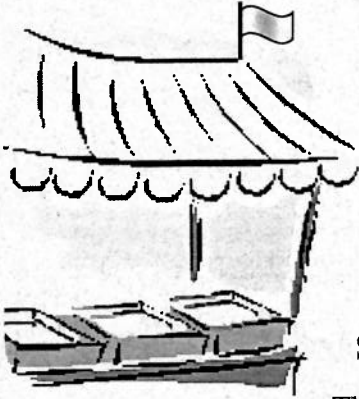
Miamisburg, OH 45342

## The Quilting Art Form

The art of quilting can be an individual as well as a group endeavor. Until the 1750's very little quilting had been done. Even during colonial times quilting was not a popular activity as the women had so many chores during the day and at night the light from a fireplace was not good.

As years went by, fabrics became more available. Historically, quilting and sewing skills were practiced by women and passed down to their daughters. Quilts were not only used as bed coverings, but as wall hangings which not only kept out the cold, but were also a creative form of expressive décor. These were probably more elaborate than those for every day use.

During the Civil War, quilts were made in memory of male friends and family members lost in the war. These often included scraps of the person's clothing. Even today people create quilts for the purpose of honoring someone or as expressions of opinions of various causes.



## Look For Our Booth at the Spring Fling • May 16-17

Again this year our Historical Society will be offering many items from our gift shop at the Spring Fling. If you haven't had a chance to get down to the Market Square gift shop in a while, you'll be interested to see what all we have to offer. In addition to our Miamisburg Cats Meows, we have an amazing collection of 8"x 10" photos of old Miamisburg. Great for framing to hang in a den or office. Of course, among other things we'll also have our Historical Society and Kercher Cabin brochures to spread the word about ourselves.

The Spring Fling booth (#47) is always an opportunity for our Society to get our "face" out in public - not only to offer the Miamisburg gift items, but more importantly to let people know about our great organization and how we benefit the community. We may even gain a few new members along the way. Our Historical Society is a very busy and thriving group, managing not only to preserve and share the history of Miamisburg, but participating and contributing to the life of our city.

It doesn't hurt to toot our own horn once in a while because we have a lot to be proud of. One has only to read *The Tavern Log* to see all that we're involved in. The saving and restoration of the historic Kercher Cabin, the teaching of local history to Miamisburg elementary students, the honoring of our veterans through the Veterans Committee, the great monthly programs we offer at the Market Square Building, the operation of the Gebhart Tavern Museum, the very important archiving of artifacts and documents for the public to research.

Bring along a friend to the Spring Fling and stop by our booth. Let's let people know what we're all about!

### "Tavern Talk"

By Judy Wuerstl,  
Gebhart Tavern  
Volunteer Coordinator

We are getting ready for the "opening day" of the Gebhart Tavern Museum. Our spring cleaning day is scheduled for Thursday, April 30 and opening day is Sunday, May 3. We are going to try something a little different this year by being open also on **Saturdays** of holiday weekends, such as Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Alumni weekend, etc.

As we were not exactly swamped with offers to become a docent (none actually), we will once again appeal for new volunteers. With the addition of the Kercher Cabin to our little corner of history, we feel the Tavern will be visited more by the community and surrounding towns. Please consider helping.

Thanks!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Ann Alspaugh  
Fred & Joellyn Bashford

**There will be NO  
April General Meeting.**

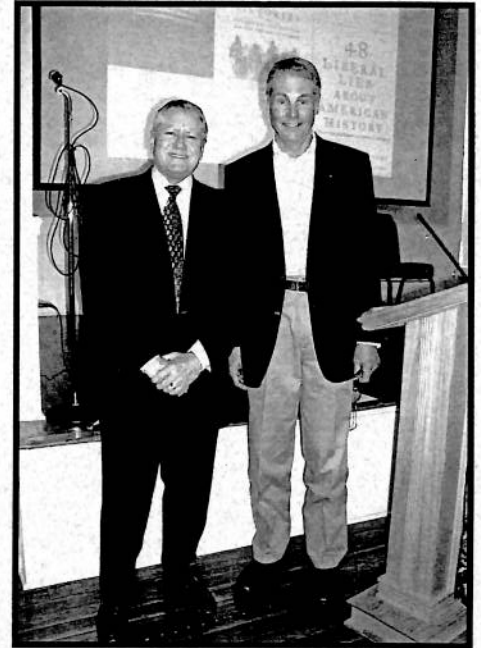
**The Quilt Show  
will be our "event"  
for the month.**

## March Program Featured Dr. Larry Schwiekart

By Ted Fink, V.P. and Program Chair

The general membership meeting was held, Thursday, March 26 at 7:00pm at the Market Square Building. There were about 40 members and guests present who heard Dr. Larry Schwiekart discuss his most recent book, "48 Liberal Lies About American History". Before his presentation Debby Cook, a member of the Material Girls Quilting Group, discussed the upcoming Quilt Show to be held at the Baum Opera House on April 24 and 25. The event is co-sponsored by the Society and the Baum Opera House Committee. Debby displayed a beautiful handmade quilt which will be raffled off on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing with the quilting theme, students from Neff School taught by Cathy Sweny displayed quilt patterns which they created as part of their spring art project. This is a tradition for the Society. Every year in the spring we invite Cathy's students to present their most recent project; this year in conjunction with our Quilt Show they designed their own quilt pattern. Everyone agreed the works were outstanding.

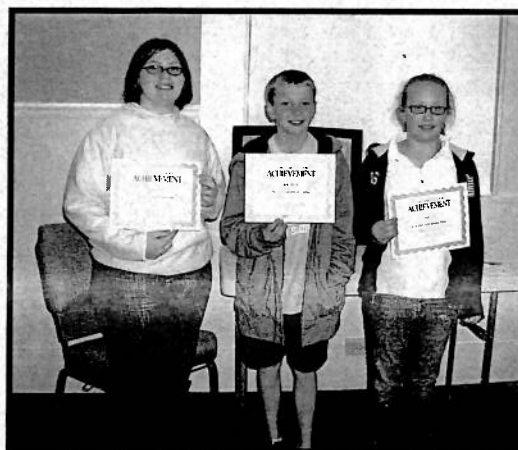
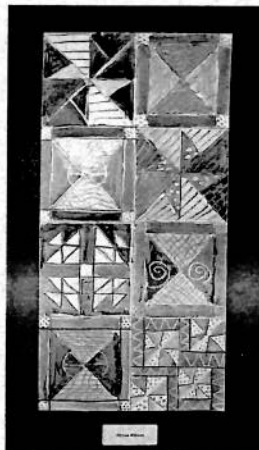


Dr. Schwiekart and Ted Fink

Our featured speaker, Dr. Larry Schwiekart, is a history professor at the University of Dayton and a frequent contributor on the Fox News Network program, "Fox and Friends", which airs every weekday morning from 6:00 to 9:00 am. He discussed his most recent book, "48 Liberal Lies About American History." Dr. Schwiekart's premise was that there was a shift in academia from a more traditional to liberal approach to history following the McCarthy era.

To prove his theory he and his colleagues reviewed 20 different history text books currently in use and identified 48 separate instances where the authors presented the material with a liberal bias. He admitted that not all 48 "lies" were in every book, but of the 20 books he reviewed several of them were in each book. For example in a number of books he reviewed, the authors referred to Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy, as either a Marine or former Marine, and nowhere did any of the authors refer him as a Communist. Dr. Schwiekart spoke for about 40 minutes and most everyone agreed he was one of our best and most entertaining speakers in some time. Following his presentation Dr. Schwiekart answered several questions and signed copies of his book which he had available for sale.

At right is the art project of Alyssa Wilson depicting quilt patterns. Hers was just one of 47 from Neff School that were on display at our general meeting.



Lilly Collins, Zach Amsler and Paige Greer display their certificates which were presented to them by the Society for their participation in our annual art show.





## 2009 Memorial Day Weekend Events

By Randy Staley, Veterans Committee Chair

**Mark your Calendars, Fly your Flag, and plan to attend our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Weekend!**

The "Silver Taps" program will be held, Thursday, May 21, in the Miller-Chamberlain Auditorium at 7:00 pm. This solemn ceremony honors all of our veterans who have served this nation, so we may enjoy our freedom. The Military Exhibits will be open following the ceremony. As with all of our programs, the public is encouraged to attend.

**The Military Uniforms and Memorabilia Exhibit** will open by appointment at the Market Square Building on Monday, May 11. Appointments may be made by calling the Historical Society at 859-5000, Les Wead at 866-1604 or Randy Staley at 885-4458. This special day is a result of our Children's Program and seniors groups who are unable to attend during our normal 'open to the public' hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 -4:00 pm. The Military Exhibit will also be open to the public on Memorial Day, May 25, after the Parade.

This year's **Victory Dance** will be held at the Baum Opera House on **Sunday**, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. Music will again be provided by the Hauer Swing Band for your dancing and listening enjoyment. Tickets are \$7.50 per person and available at the Market Square Building or from any Vets Committee or Board Member. Snacks and set-ups will be provided. **BYOB.**

**Cemetery Services** will be conducted by the American Legion Post #165 on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 as follows:

8:45 am Our Lady of Good Hope Cemetery  
 9:15 am Hill Grove Cemetery  
 9:40 am Highland Cemetery  
 10:15 am The Linden Avenue Bridge  
*The public is encouraged to move onto the bridge for the service.*

**The Memorial Day Parade**, Monday May 25, will start at 11:00 am from the Linden Avenue Bridge. Line-up will be on Miami Avenue beginning at 9:00 am. This year's parade route will progress East on Linden Avenue, North on First Street, East on Central Avenue (Veterans Way) and South on Fifth St. to the Library. The annual **Memorial Service** will be conducted in the park by the American Legion Post #165 following the Parade. Free hot dogs and ice cream will be available at the bandstand after the Memorial Service.

### 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

## We're Having a GARAGE SALE!

By Barb Olekas



We are going to have a garage sale of old items that have been stored in Laura Lyes Bornhorst's family building. These are things from the Little White House, the Weber House and the Market Square Building along with various other donated items. The Lyes family will be selling their building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street where many of these things have been stored, so we now need to dispose of them. We have also decided that if members have things they want to donate, we will accept them Friday, but we need them marked with a price that you think it may sell for. NO clothing please! We will be happy to accept most items except clothing. So do some spring cleaning and bring your things down on Friday, May 1, between 10:00 and 12:00 noon. If these items do not sell, we will give them to the Goodwill or a similar organization. If you want the unsold items back, please be there at the close of the sale on Saturday, May 2 at 4:00 pm to pick them up.

We will be marking the items on Friday, May 1 at 10:00 am until noon or so, at the building at 219 S. Second Street. I will be needing volunteers to help move and mark these things that morning. I am also asking for volunteers for the day of the sale, May 2, which will begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. I will be in need of men that can help move the items out of the building early in the morning.

**I am really in need of helpers! If you can help or donate, please call Barb Olekas at 855-6590.**

Work Day: Friday May 1, 10:00 am to 12:00

Sale Day: **Saturday May 2, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
219 S. Second Street- Bill Lyes' Building

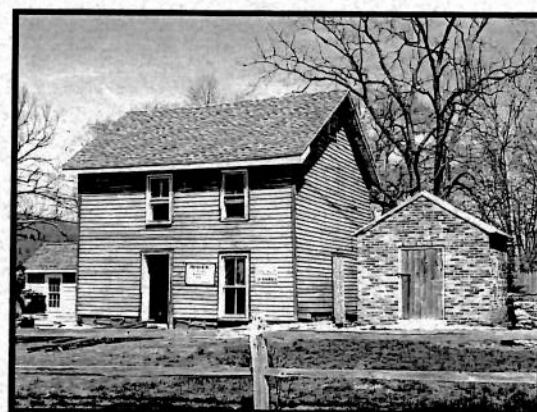
**The monies earned from this sale will go to the Kercher Cabin Restoration Fund!**



Hats off to those listed below who worked at the Kercher Cabin on two separate "work days" in March. Much was accomplished as the siding was removed from the outside of the building revealing the clapboards beneath. Plaster was removed from the ceilings and walls on the interior, exposing the old log structure. A bathroom was also disassembled and removed.

Working on the project were:

Mike Hagan	Larry Suttman	Les Wead
Don McLaughlin	Rick Stock	Quillard Abney
Wells Colvin	Mike Kindle	Lee Hieronymus
Ted Fink	Kim Izor	Carroll Zink
Cathy Oberer	Phil Johnson	Jim Schnapp
Laura Bornhorst	Jim Barnhorst	Art Murakowski
		(contractor)



Restoration continues to progress on the Kercher Cabin, but only as quickly as funds allow. Your help is needed! No amount is too small. Please consider being a part of this historic project.

Mail your contribution to:

Miamisburg Historical Society  
PO Box 774  
Miamisburg, OH 45343

Make check payable to:

Miamisburg Historical Society - Jacob Kercher Cabin

Doug Voss - Coordinator for the City  
Danny Mote - Supervisor for the trucks

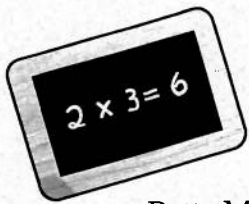
## Children's Educational Programs Scheduled

By Bobbye Sweny, Children's Education Chair

The month of May will be a busy one for the docents presenting the Children's Educational Programs. Four schools have scheduled three or four day programs to end their school year. Bear School, Kinder School, Medlar View and Bishop Leibold will be introducing their third graders to historical stories of Miamisburg.

Each school has chosen the popular Heritage Walk beginning in Library Park and ending at the Gebhart Tavern Museum. Although the Kercher Cabin is not yet ready for class activity, the children will see the building with all the old asphalt shingles removed and the original clapboard siding showing the age of the building. Weather and time permitting, we can do some programs with the children sitting on the widely expanded grass area of the complex.

Two new programs will be offered this year. Tom Silberman will be telling the children what it is like to be a Pilot on a Miami Erie Canal boat. Such programs presented in costume hold the students' attention and are great favorites. Tom has an extensive background in theater and will bring a great dimension to this program. Besides that, he's an outstanding window washer when we clean the Tavern.



Melanie Wild is working on a program as a teacher in a one room school - complete with old McGuffey readers, Eclectic Arithmetic and Spelling books and slates. She will introduce the students to learning by "rote", and having no papers to take home! Melanie was a third grade teacher before moving to Ohio and is well suited to this program.

Betty Morris and Judy Wuerstl will continue their two diverse programs on the Adena and Miami Indians as "Early Dawn" and "Singing River" and Jim Schnapp will reprise his very popular Frontiersman - with an added hat this year. I would venture to guess that the Skunk hat will always be the favorite.

Hopefully, Rolla Broerman will be in better health and will be able to join us with her special stories on the Heritage Walk. We miss her and her ideas and input to the programs. A new docent will be joining us this year. Lynley Culpepper has volunteered to join our group, and is diligently studying the book "Miamisburg, The Story of Our Town" - it's a wonderful introduction to the history of Miamisburg. Diane McGlothlin will again join our Heritage Walks when her work schedule permits.

The three classes of Mark Twain School, with teachers Amy King, Jeannette McNally, and Shannon Bobbitt, had their program last fall to begin their school year. We have received from them three wonderful scrapbooks the children made reflecting on the areas of the program they most enjoyed. Mayor Church was delighted to be among their favorites. Having this kind of appreciation shown by the students and teachers makes our efforts most worthwhile and renews our energies. Consider joining us - we welcome new members. The season is short and you get the summer off!



### Mark Your Calendars Now!

The very popular Tea and Vintage Clothing Show will return again this year on November 15 at the Market Square Building. Last year was a great success and we plan on even more fun this year.



Miamisburg Historical Society  
2009 Veterans Committee  
Randy Staley, Chair

## "LEST WE FORGET"

In the Miamisburg Library Park there stands a granite monument engraved with the names of the forty-four men who gave their lives during World War II. The inscription reads:

**Lest We Forget  
Members of the Armed Forces  
of the United States  
who made the supreme sacrifice  
1941-1945**

Each Memorial Day those names are read at several services, however, looking at our Veterans Data Base, sixty four years later, they have been forgotten!

Larry Suttman started a project to create a book with 44 chapters representing each name telling the story of each man. He is looking for family and friends who can provide any information, photos and memories of them. We need your help! Information on six names appearing on that monument cannot be found.

They are:

Gerald Meyers	Elmer Michael
Charles Moyer	Charles Nithiem
Victor Pieffer	Nelson Pratt

In addition, we cannot find any information on Clarence Moyer; however, we have a Russell E. Moyer, who died in a plane crash in Colorado. Are they the same?

If you have any information, please call Larry at 299-5810, Randy at 885-4458 or the Miamisburg Historical Society at 859-5000.



## Upcoming Events

APRIL

### Spring Break in the Burg

Date: Thursday, April 23 • 6:00 pm

Place: Downtown Miamisburg

### Quilt Show

Date: Fri.-Sat. April 24, 25, 10-5:00 pm

Place: Baum Opera House

### Garage Sale

Date: Saturday, May 2 • 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: 219 S. 2nd Street, Miamisburg

### Opening Day of Gebhart Tavern Museum

Date: Sunday, May 3 • 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Place: Corner of Lock St. & Old Main

### Taste of Miamisburg

Date: Friday, May 15 • 5:00 pm

Place: Downtown Miamisburg

MAY

### Spring Fling

Date: Sat. & Sun., May 16-17

Place: Library Park

### MHS General Meeting / Silver Taps

Date: Thursday, May 21 • 7:00 pm

Place: Market Square Building

### Veterans Exhibit

Date: May 21, 23 & 25

Place: Market Square Building

### Victory Dance

Date: Sunday, May 24 • 7 - 10:00 pm

Place: Baum Opera House

### Memorial Day Parade

Date: Monday, May 25 • 11:00 am

Place: Downtown Miamisburg

JUNE

### Alumni Dinner/Dance

Date: Saturday, June 20

Place: Holiday Inn Dayton Mall

### Historical Society Picnic

Date: Thursday, June 25 • 6:00 pm

Place: To be announced

### Cruise the Burg #1

Date: Saturday, June 27 • 4-9:00 pm

Place: Downtown Miamisburg



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## **Sidney Hagan Addresses Society Members**

By Ted Fink, V.P. and Program Chair

On Thursday, February 26, Historical Society Member, Sidney Hagan, provided the program for our first meeting of the year, which also included the traditional cherry desserts. Born in Hannibal Missouri, Mr. Hagan enlisted in the Navy in June, 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He received his basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station and was trained in radio communications at Miami University, Oxford Ohio. After training in radio communication he was sent to Cheltenham, Maryland where he learned German radio transmission procedures. After several trips up and down the East Coast of the U.S. he was finally assigned to the USS Greer. According to Mr. Hagan, once the U.S. broke the German Code through the efforts of personnel at NCR, together with the use of high frequency directional finders he and other members of his team were able to better pinpoint the position of German submarine activity. This in turn facilitated safe passage of troop and cargo convoy shipments across the Atlantic.

In addition to his thoughts and observations on reasons for the success of the United States in the Battle of the Atlantic, Mr. Hagan related details of life aboard a 1918 vintage four stack destroyer in the North Atlantic.

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**308 Mound Avenue**  
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