The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

June 1995 Volume III NumberIII

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.

Submit material to
Editor, *The Tavern Log*
Miamisburg Historical Soc.
P.O.Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774.

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

BOARD MEETINGS
All Board meeting are held the third Thursday of each month

GEBHART TAVERN HOURS
All Sundays
June through September
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

"History and Stories of Pipestone Golf Course"

A reprint of Anne McCabe's winning essay from the 10th Annual Essay Contest

The history of the land around Pipestone Golf course is my favorite part of Miamisburg history because of my family's heritage and all of the Indian stories that I have heard from friends and family members. One of my favorite places to hear old stories is sitting around a camp fire in my backyard looking out onto this wonderful land which is now called Pipestone. Imagine yourself sitting around a camp fire hearing exciting stories about the ancient Adena Indians that once roamed this land right here in Miamisburg.

To understand some of the stories you will have to know some background of the Adena Indians. Some people think they may have come from Mexico traveling up the Mississippi River to the Ohio Valley. The Adenas did some farming. Gourds, squash, pumpkins, and sunflowers were the plants that were cultivated by theAdena people. Their houses were circular shaped. The diameter was 18 to 60 feet. The walls were wooden posts set into the ground at an 11 degree angle so that the tops would lean outward. The poles were five feet apart in pairs of two. The pairs were set 1 1/2 feet apart. Boughs, vines, cane matting, and other wooden materials were woven between the posts to make walls. Overhanging bark protected the walls and kept water from running down them.

A day was spent gathering and preparing food, making proper clothing and shelter, and participating in social. political and religious activities. The development of pottery making was one of the Adena's major achievements. The Adenas hunted with spears or javelins. Knives had leaf-shaped blades on them.

Pipes were made from grinding and drilling sandstone and limestone and by carving and drilling pipestone (fire clay). This history has been used to connect our local Indian heritage to the naming of Miamisburg's modern golf course. The pipes were mainly tubes but they were different because of the shape of the mouth piece. The pipes were shaped like tubes or animal heads.

The Adenas were the first in the area to make earth mounds over the remains of their dead. The mounds were cone shaped. The burial ceremony and the construction of the mounds were important parts of Adena life. Mounds marked burial sites and protected the site from predators. Sometimes a person would be buried in a pit dug on the floor of a burnt down house. The dirt was piled up on top of the burial and the remains of the house. Later other mounds were built on top of a mound or next to one.

The stories that have been told to me are stories that I will

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From the President's Desk..

Spring has brought a flurry of activities for the Historical Society. First was City Pride Day, sponsored by the City Beautification Committee and chaired most capably by our own Connie Kline.

Lee Hieronymus drove his "toy", a huge dump truck, in the parade carrying the sign "Don't Dump Family Records" and the identification of the society. We encourage all of you to remember the society when disposing of family pictures or records ... our genealogists love to get these! We also had a booth in the park where we sold our coverlets, T-shirts and other items. And thanks to Betty and Ross Morris, Mat Hermetz and the Swenys, the weeds and trash from the Gebhart Tavern Museum area were cleaned up.

Next came Spring Fling, and our booth did extremely well. It's great to sell our gift-shop items, but it's also great to talk with the public about our organization - our dreams and our goals. We gained some new members and reinstated some who had let their membership slapse.

The renovation of the Little White House (as officially named by the Board) is progressing rapidly. Member Earl Fox brought his expertise to install the new wiring, and Francis Schmidt is supervising the plumbing. Track lighting and a room fan have been purchased and will be installed as soon as the new ceiling is in place. All in all, "Buck and Butch" (a.k.a. John Crowder and Everett Sweny) are creating little miracles each day. I hope they know how much they are appreciated!

The 10th Annual Children's Essay Contest was its usual tremendous success under the chairmanship of Mady Ransdell. Each year these youngsters out-do themselves. Their research and writing improve each year; their subjects continue to be diversified and interesting; their presentations amaze us with their use of computers.

By the time you read this we will also have had the Children's Annual Architectural Art Exhibit. Forty-six sixth graders from Neff School, under the direction of art teacher Cathy Sweny, will present their concepts of a variety of "entrances" to historic homes and buildings in Miamisburg. Following the program, the art will be moved to the public library for display. If you were unable to make the meeting, please take a minute to visit the library and see the skills of the students. Curator Mat Hermetz, a retired art teacher, chairs the program.

We so appreciate the support of the teachers and administration of the Neff School in presenting these annual programs. They provide us the opportunity to interest the next generation in the value of history and its preservation.

We have two favorite activities to look forward to - the annual picnic on July 27th featuring (by popular request) our own Lee Ann Kinner - and the annual Historic Homes Tour on August 6th. Tickets and brochures are ready now. We need your "sales" to help make this a financial success.

Please consider giving a few hours of your time on a Sunday afternoon to host the Gebhart Tavern. We need the support of our members to provide hosts from June 4th through September 24th. The Tavern is open from one to five o'clock each Sunday afternoon. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Give Mat Hermetz a call at 859-4288.

Bobbye

Upcoming Events

Date: June 15, 1995
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Trinity Church
Mayor Dick Church

The Honorable Dick Church, Jr., mayor of the city of Miamisburg, will address the membership on the city's perception of the Historical Society and its work, and how the mission of our society can impact with the city's plans for the future of Miamisburg.

Date: July 27, 1995
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Mound Park
"Picnic at the Mound"

The annual, midsummer picnic at the Mound gives all members a chance to get together in a relaxed atmosphere. Back by popular demand is the entertainment of Lee Ann Kinner.

New members

The Miamisburg Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members; Ed & Betty Dean; the John Gebhart Family; Bradley & Cheryl Rice and Dave & Jane Collinsworth. We would also like to welcome back Denver & Sharon Angel and Joe and Gaile Stanton as members.

Two members of the board of the Miamisburg Historical Society will be adding to the list of their "duties" on July 15th when Terry Prosser and Lee Hieronymus are married at Trinity Church. The society members join in wishing them a joyous life together.

Summer youth programs scheduled for 1995

Please allow the Miamisburg Historical Society to take your children, grandchildren, or friends' children back in time -- to the beginnings of Miamisburg. Help us to show them what it may have been like to come down the Miami River on a flatboat with their cargoes and find refuge for the night at the tavern now known as Gebhart Tavern. Let us walk with them along the cinder path and visualize how it must have been when it was where the Miami-Erie Canal once flowed and the important role it played in the development of Miamisburg, or just let us share a few hours of game-playing, craft-making activities, singing, and dancing from the days that "once were" in our wonderful town of Miamisburg. Our children will be the makers of the history that is "yet to be" and we feel it is so improtant to encourage them to learn and become acquainted with the history that "has been."

Our programs, open to children ages 9 through 12, are free of charge. The scheduled events will be held at Gebhart Tavern, Old Main Street as follows: "Pioneer Times in Miamisburg," Tuesday, June 13th 1:00-3:00 p.m.; "Canal Times in Miamisburg," Tuesday, July 18th 1:00-3:00 pm and "Fun Times of the Past in Miamisburg," Thursday, August 10 1-3 pm Registration is required as space is limited and must be in one week prior to the scheduled date.

If people would like to volunteer their time or talent or has questions please contact Betty Morris, 866-9955.

In the Museum Shop

The Miamisburg Historical Society has a number of items that are available for purchase.

The one-of-a-kind MHS coverlet, designed by Mat Hermetz, is available in cranberry red and Williamsburg blue at a price of $36.

The MHS T-shirt featuring the 1887 "OTTO" child's high wheeler is also available in sizes medium, large and x-large; the price is $7 each.

The last-time casting of the Miamisburg trivet has been made and only a limited quantity are left. Interested individuals can purchase them for $10 each.

All items can be purchased from any board member or at the Gebhart Tavern during summer hours.

Third Annual Historic Home Tour

The Miamisburg Historical Society will be hosting the Third Annul Historic Home Tour on Sunday, August 6, 1995 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Five homes and two churches will be highlighted on this year's tour. We are delighted to have St. Jacob Lutheran Church and Trinity United Church of Christ, which is celebrating its 175th year, as highlights on this year's tour. The five homes to be showcased are:

1) the Ernst Rost House, 707 East Central Avenue, owned by Dr. Cliff and Wanda Gebhart;
2) the Carl Stine House, 28 South Seventh Street, owned by Dennis and Linda Wikoff;
3) the Stout Will Britton House, 31 South Seventh Street, owned by Charles and Bobbi Sweny;
4) the Kinder House, 122 South Fifth Street, owned by Tim and Pat Wagner; and
5)the Flavius Bowles House, 430 East Linden Avenue, owned by Sam and Bonnie Owens.

Tickets are $5 in advance and $7 the day of the tour. Tickets can be purchased at the Gebhart Tavern on Sundays beginning June 4th or by mailing a request with enclosed check to the Miamisburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 774, Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774 or by calling one of the board members.

Tavern to Open

The Gebhart Tavern opening is slated for Sunday, June 4th from 1 to 5 p.m. For this special day, the Historical Society has planned special events to take place. We will be featuring old-time crafts demonstrated by our very own citizens. Among the interesting crafts will be chair caning by Erma Hoops, lap quilting by Louise Goonan, small loom weaving by Cathy Sweny, tatting by Joan Ziemer and whittling by Phil Lawrence.

Crafts will be demonstrated from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 and the tavern will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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probably remember all my life because of this essay. Imagine youself sitting around a camp fire while you are reading about these fascinating stories.

Ray Woods, a relative of one of the owners before Pipestone, was plowing the field when he stumbled over an arrowhead pointing toward Fort Ancient. A coincidence maybe, but then most Indian doings were for a purpose.

The most interesting story is one about gold and an old sycamore tree. A certain sycamore tree on the golf course was thought to have gold hidden under it. Some people think it was Mexicans that were hiding the gold from the U.S. Maybe one of these days, someone will come over an uprooted sycamore tree with gold hidden under it.

When the first settlers came to this area, the land was covered with vines, snakes, and large trees. Tree roots were so deep that the settlers had to use dynamite to clear the land for fields. Hundreds of arrowheads were found all over the land and sold by the bushels.

My great uncle was plowing a field on our family farm, (now the front nine on Pipestone), preparing it for planting corn when his plow hit something hard. He got off of his tractor and started to dig around and discovered a leg bone and a piece of a jaw. It was buried in a sand pocket on the side of a hill. The University of Dayton was contacted and it was determined to be the bones of an Indian.

A small valley was once used as an area for Indian ceremonies. This area still exists today near the eighteenth green. When you go and stand in this area you can hear very clearly what everyone around you is saying. It is said that is why they chose this area. Some call it a natural amphitheater. If you are observant, there are a lot of areas around Pipestone in which you can hear very clearly what others are saying. Beware when you are playing golf, some one might hear that secret deal.

There is another Indian Mound in Miamisburg. You may not have heard of this mound because it isn't quite as big. This mound is only about twenty to twenty-five feet high. When this mound was discovered, people dug into it and could not find anything. It has been promised by the city of Miamisburg and the developers of Pipestone that this area will not be destroyed.

I have included pictures of the areas I have described to you to view as we sit around the camp fire. While researching this essay I discovered that my ancestors were one of the original owners of this property that was sold to the Woods family that in turn sold this property to the city of Miamisburg. My great grandfather also sold his property to the City of Miamisburg. My family on both sides, my mother and my father, had a part in making this area come alive.

It is getting late and the fire is starting to fade away. I have shared all my stories and have no more wood. (No pun intended).

July picnic planned

The annual, mid-summer picnic at the Mound is set for Thursday, July 27th. All members are invited to come and bring their families. It plans to be a great time as our guest will be Lee Ann Kinner, entertaining us with her English and Irish ballads.

Tickets are $5.50 for adults and $___ for children. The meal, ham & cheese sandwiches along with potatoes, salad, fruit and brownies, will be a home made one courtesy of Mary Goodwin and Sue Brawn.

Tickets will be available at the beginning of July and can be purchased from Mary Goodwin at 866-6962, Sue Brawn at 859-1898, or any board member.

Miamisburg Historical Society
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