



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

October 2014

Volume XXIII Issue 5

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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 any material submitted.

THE MARKET SQUARE BUILDING

4 N. Main Street, Miamisburg, OH 45342
Open Wed. & Sat., 1:00—4:00 pm

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Pioneer Home
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main, Msbg.
Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00—5:00 pm

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
Webmasters: Don McLaughlin, Jay Robinson



Come One, Come All To Our Canal Days Dinner!

It's that time of year again when we serve up our scrumptious ham and bean soup dinner, complete with coleslaw, cornbread and **wonderful desserts** provided by Society members.

This will be our second year at the Parkview United Methodist Church on Benner Road.

This venue provides plenty of seating room for a great turnout of Society members and friends. The public is always welcome, so please bring along a group of friends!

*Support your Miamisburg Historical Society
by attending our major fundraiser of the year.*

Canal Days Ham and Bean Dinner

Thursday, October 23

Serving begins at 5:00 pm

Tickets: \$8 per person

Parkview United Methodist Church
3713 Benner Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Additional tickets may be purchased at Market Square on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, or from any board member.

We'll be holding a silent auction of Miamisburg related items from our gift shop and various other donated items.

The Annual Report will be handed out to members that evening. It's a beautiful, 20 page, color printed 'yearbook' with many pictures that illustrate the Society's activities during the past year. It also includes the financial status of the Society and a list of members.

As years go by, the Society continues to grow and become an even stronger dynamic in the community. Please make a point to attend this very important fundraiser, so we may continue our vital work in the preservation and sharing of the history of Miamisburg.

Heritage Village News



By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

Hard to believe our season at the Village is nearly over again. Thanks to the commitment of our Village docents, each Sunday was quite easily scheduled. We did not have to remain closed on any Sunday.

Now we are finalizing plans for our annual 'Old Time Craft Day', which will be on October 19th this year, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Most of our great craftspeople are all coming back again, along with a couple of new crafts. Mark your calendar and come visit us on that date!

Many thanks to the volunteers who worked at the Village in August and September:

Kim & Mary Izor
Mike Kindle
Diane Warrick
Jeanette Belvo

Matthew Mowery
Tom Silberman
Paul Schultz
Marilyn Shade
Jay Robinson

Jane McGriff
Sharon Hiatt-Yee
Harley Schram
Doug Stamm
Judy Wuerstl

Carolyn Kilpatrick
Sherry Kahler
Carol O'Connell
Bill & Patti Johanan

**Make your plans now to visit Heritage Village
for these upcoming events.**

FREE ADMISSION

Old Time Craft Day

Sunday, October 19
2:00 to 5:00 pm

At Miamisburg's Heritage Village
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main

Watch the old time crafters
as they demonstrate their skills...

Carving Knitting Tatting Quilting
Chair Caning Spinning Basket Making
Furniture Making Creativity with dried herbs
Dulcimer Playing Blacksmithing

REFRESHMENTS!

FREE ADMISSION

Christmas At the Tavern

Sunday, December 7
2:00 to 5:00 pm

at the Gebhart Tavern Museum
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main

A Holiday Open House!

Stop by for music, refreshments
and
CHRISTMAS CHEER!

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

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**WELCOME
NEW LIFETIME MEMBER!**

Fox Motors

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**Best Wishes and Thank You
to Cheryl Cox Stock**

It wasn't long after the Miamisburg Alumni gathering in June that Society member, Cheryl Stock, announced her retirement as Permanent Secretary of the Miamisburg Alumni Association.

For 27 years Cheryl has kept track of the graduates of Miamisburg High School. She's kept records of who has passed away, who has moved, who has married, etc., etc. And this is only a small portion of her job. It's hard to imagine all the information that she has compiled over the years. And it's even harder to imagine anyone else taking on the big challenge of her job.

We'd like to congratulate Cheryl on her retirement and a job VERY WELL DONE! We know her love of Miamisburg is what's kept her in the Permanent Secretary position for all these years, but understand now that she's ready for a little travel time and some well deserved R&R.

All the best to you, Cheryl, and thanks for all you've done!

**Watch For Our Historic 1800's Sleigh
in the Community Holiday Parade**

Community Holiday Parade
Downtown Miamisburg
Saturday, December 13 at 11:30



Society Sends Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to the friends and family of Mae Boyer. Mae and her husband, Charles, were longtime members and supporters of the Historical Society. Over the years Mae worked at the Mary Ann Shop and Ben Franklin in Miamisburg. She was known and loved by many, and will be greatly missed by all.

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 small 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.

- ☐ New member ☐ Renewing member
☐ This is a gift membership. Also mark either 'new' or 'renewing'.
 (List givers name, address and phone on separate paper and attach.)

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
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(E-mail your logo or business card to dewarrick@sbcglobal.net or mail to the Historical Society, attn: Diane Warrick.)

Halloween Pranks in Miamisburg Back in the 1800's

An Excerpt from
"Miamisburg - The Story
Of Our Town"



"What mischief did the youngsters of the 1800's get into around the Halloween season? According to 11 year Sid or "Dale" Hecker, who kept a diary of those years, we had a pretty good time Halloween. People nearly all took their gates off. (Back in those days, most yards were surrounded with an iron, picket or paling fence.) We hid them if they had the kind of hinges that come apart. We had to promise not to upset any privies and not to carry any gates away.

Out at Ike Eagle's we thought we would run away with his express wagon, but when we got close Ike came from behind the barn with a shotgun and asked what we wanted. We told him we didn't want anything. He told us to get out of there or we would get something we didn't want. (We ran away.) The next morning there was a buggy atop the Big Four Depot. They must have taken it apart to get it up and then put the wheels back on."

Society's Booth Successful at Artisan Festival

The first year for this event brought a good number of folks down to the Riverfront Park in September to see what the Festival was all about. We were extremely pleased with the turnout and had many more visitors than expected. In addition to the sales of our gift shop items, we also distributed literature and information about the Society and our upcoming events for the fall/winter season.

A big thank you goes out to Judy Wuerstl and Carol O'Connell, who co-chaired the booth. Another big thanks to all the Society members who helped out during the day, including the fellows who tended to raising and taking down the tent.

Events like these give us a wonderful opportunity to make ourselves known in the community. If you've never volunteered at one of our 'tent events'; give it a try next time. You'll find out that it's FUN!

Committee Leaders Speak at September General Program

If you attended the General Program in September, you learned quite a lot about the workings of the Society. We found out what is involved behind the scenes in running the Society and enabling it to function as an all volunteer organization.

The folks who spoke related how they had followed their own personal interests and were involved in areas of the Society that inspired them. The common link between all these volunteers is their love of Miamisburg and their desire to preserve and share the history of our city.

Speakers were:

- Eric Cluxton - President
- Nita Petticrew - HRRC
- Rolla Broerman - Gift Shop
- Paul Schultz - Program Chair
- Diane Warrick - Editor, *The Tavern Log*
- Gary Petticrew - Membership and Assistant Curator
- Randy Staley - Veteran's Committee and Facility Maintenance
- Judy Wuerstl - Heritage Village and Children's Educational Programs



Gift Shop Manager, Rolla Broerman, exhibits a few of the items offered at our Gift Shop at Market Square.

Hieronymus Family Foundation Makes Donation

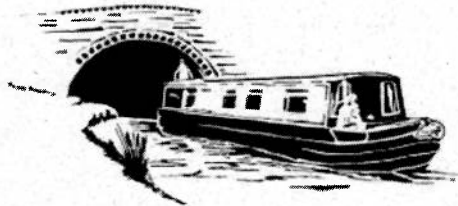
Lifetime Society member, Lee Hieronymus, and his brother Ted, have announced a donation of \$150,000 to the Campus Quest fund. Campus Quest is a project currently underway to privately raise funds to build a new sports complex for Miamisburg High School.

The Hieronymus name is well known in the community. Our "one room schoolhouse" (the Kercher Pioneer Home) is dedicated to Harriet Hieronymus, mother of Lee and Ted. She was an educator, historian and direct descendent of one of the earliest settler families in this community.

The family has always supported education in Miamisburg, and various other non-profit organizations. Their father, Ted, passed away in 1972 and their mother, Harriet, in 2004. Lee and Ted (son) are proud to make this donation to Miamisburg Schools on behalf of the Hieronymus family.

Are You Keeping Up With the New Historic Miamisburg TV Shows?

If you're a faithful reader of *The Tavern Log* you'll know that within the past few months a new Media Production Group has been formed. The group is in the midst of recording new programs on a regular basis, with Carol O'Connell as the moderator in the first two tapings. These two sessions feature David Neuhardt and his stories and history of the Miami Erie Canal that ran through our town. There are many photos too, that help to illustrate his story.



You may access these tapings which have already begun on MVCC Channel 5 on Time Warner Cable. A good way to catch them is to go through your cable guide until you see a time slot for Miamisburg History - then record the show.

Or if you have AT&T, go to channel 99, press OK; three choices come up - Miamisburg Government Channel, Miamisburg Educational Channel, Miamisburg Community Channel. Scroll through each and find a program named Historic Miamisburg.

An additional program has been recorded with Mayor Dick Church as moderator and Bobbye Sweny as guest. It will be aired in the near future and promises to be a lively and entertaining interview titled 'Memories of Miamisburg'.

—Ohio Trivia Quiz—

1. What famous Civil War general was born in Lancaster, Ohio?
2. Who invented the first electrical ignition system for General Motors?
3. What famous movie director was born in Ohio?
4. The Shawnee Indians captured which noted frontiersman in 1778?
5. The 23rd President, Benjamin Harrison, graduated from which Ohio college?
6. In which Ohio city was the cash register invented?
7. Who is Marmaduke Van Swearingen (born 1752)?
8. Where was Ohio's first permanent settlement?
9. Where is the highest conical mound in the eastern United States?

ANSWERS

1. William T. Sherman
2. Charles Kettering and Clyde Coleman
3. Steven Spielberg - Cincinnati 1946
4. Daniel Boone - He was held in Seven Caves area
5. Miami University, Oxford
6. Dayton
7. Shawnee Chief "Blue Jacket" adopted by Shawnee tribe at age 17
8. Marietta - 1788
9. If you don't know this answer—shame on you!

Support Your Historical Society

By Gary Petticrew, Membership Chair

Our Society's goal is to increase the diffusion of historical knowledge and to inspire lifelong learning to create a more informed public. We hope to challenge and invigorate by providing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the events, ideas and cultural activities that took place in and around Miamisburg during its nearly 200 year history. We especially want to stimulate and nurture children's natural interests and help them to appreciate the lives and achievements of the people who lived in this place they call their hometown.

A key contributing role in support of this goal comes through membership dues that enable the Society to support its on-going activities. Annual membership dues in 2014 alone added over \$5,000 to the generous donations by individuals and groups toward special projects and through the non-profit sales at the gift shop.

Our active membership number in 2014 rose to 257 with 28 new memberships including 10 new Corporate Sponsors. This active membership total also includes some memberships we call "Gratis" memberships, extended to individuals who have contributed their talents and time to special projects, and to other historical societies locally and throughout the State with whom we share common goals and interests.

Help the Society to increase its membership and as a consequence, its contributions to the community by taking this pledge...

"I plan to contribute to the outreach of this volunteer organization by spending a couple of hours on Wednesday or Saturday afternoon at the Market Square Building or a Sunday afternoon at Heritage Village by donating my time and by proposing new ideas to the organization's leaders."

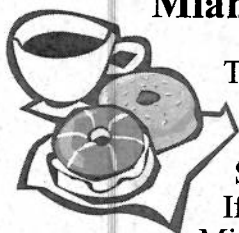
Recruit others to do the same. You might be surprised at how interesting and fun it is to host and interact with people not only from here, but from all over the country, including the occasional visitors from abroad.

Keep in mind that Miamisburg's Bicentennial is nearing, three fast-moving years away—lots to plan and much to do. Be a part of the celebration!



Gary Petticrew as docent on Children's Walk as part of our Children's Educational Programs.

Miamisburg Historical Society Helps in Welcoming New Residents



The Society joins other organizations in welcoming new neighbors to Miamisburg.

Sheila Russell of the Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department organizes a free breakfast to introduce new move-ins to the area. The next breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 15, 2014 at 9:00 am at the Senior Adult Center on Central Avenue.

If you are a new resident since April 1, 2014, you may register for the breakfast by calling Miamisburg Parks and Recreation at 937-866-8999.

Mayor Dick Church is the greeter and introduces City Council members. Judge Robert Rettich relates the legal/court process. Fire, Rescue and Police personnel let the guests know who is here to help them. Carol O'Connell of the Historical Society takes them on a short historic bus tour of downtown, Riverfront Park and the Mound. Parks and Recreation personnel review the City's calendar of events.

All those who attend receive a welcome bag. They are always pleasantly surprised when they discover how much Miamisburg has to offer.



Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
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and Best Kept Secrets

Once Upon a Time - The Way America Was
Diary of an Early American Boy - by Eric Sloane

Paper Dolls:

American Family Paper Dolls

American Family of the Federal Period

Or... give the gift of a one year Historical Society membership!

The Market Square Gift Shop is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.