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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 e-mail to canadamadelyn@gmail.com

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

THE MARKET SQUARE BUILDING

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

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Pioneer Home
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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

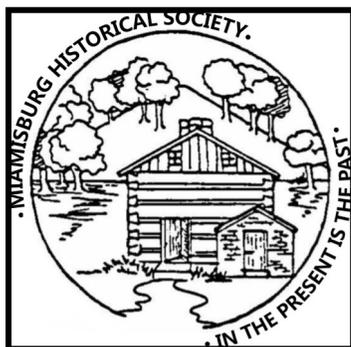
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**The Miamisburg
 History Center
 Grand Opening
 Celebration
 By: Eric Cluxton**

Join us on **Saturday, December 21st at 12:00 p.m.** at 35 South Fifth Street to celebrate the grand opening of the Miamisburg History Center! The Miamisburg Historical Society has been on the move for the last few months to a new location and we cannot wait to welcome the public to this new location. This 10,000 square foot building will allow the MHS to show and tell so much more of the city's tremendous history. The facility will house many artifacts and historical material for the general public to review and better understand how special the city of Miamisburg is—we are the one and only!



New Building, New Logo, Same Values



Pictured at left is the Miamisburg Historical Society logo you have known and loved for quite some time. On the front page, you might've noticed it has been replaced with our new logo (also pictured to the right below). It may seem that with a new building and a new logo a lot is changing for the MHS, which is true. But you can rest assured that though we have a new look and a new home, the MHS is still passionate about the same thing it always has been: our beloved star city. We hope that our new building and our new logo better represent and enable us to do what we love most: share the stories that built this city with those who have yet to hear them and those who've heard them time and time again.

Miamisburg is the one and only city with that name, and therefore we are the only Miamisburg Historical Society. Do you know other current or former citizens who are passionate about sharing the stories of our past with the people of our future? If so, they can be a part of what we're doing by becoming a member. When they do that, they'll receive a discount to our gift shop where they can get all the Miamisburg items their hearts desire, our quarterly publication of *The Tavern Log*, and most importantly, they'll help equip us to keep on doing what we love: telling the stories that made us who we are, the one and only Miamisburg.



A very special thank you to *DMS Ink* who supports the Historical Society by donating their printing and mailing services for each issue of *The Tavern Log* newsletter and Annual Report. Their donation represents a substantial monetary amount that is *invaluable* to our organization.

DMS Ink—888 Dayton-Yellow Springs Road.,St. 102, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 (987) 222-5056

YOU'RE INVITED... SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Please join the Miamisburg
Historical Society on Saturday,
December 21st at 12:00p.m. for the
dedication and grand opening of
the Miamisburg History
Center!**



Welcome New Members!

*Timothy R. & Jean Gaffney
 Jim Dickey
 James F. Aldridge
 Mary Ferguson
 David Flint
 Ken Ballinger*

*Pam Lindsay
 Don & Ann Niess
 Sherry Barrett
 Kelsey Whipp
 Sherrie Shutts Fischer
 Karen Myers
 Paul & Betty Uhlman*

Winter Membership Renewals

William & Suzanne Ellerman
 Everett & Barbara Hamm
 Kim & Mary Izor
 Chris & Jenny Butcher
 Gary & Nita Petticrew
 Peg Rinaldi
 Larry Suttman
 Bobbye Sweny
 Jim and Maryann DeYoung
 Martha Ballinger
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 American Legion Post
 Jack & Lorna Schoenberger
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 Jim Huesman
 Kurt Stueve
 Earl Wayne Burgett

Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

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- 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 Cash

NOTE: We are no longer accepting credit cards.

Please make check payable to **Miamisburg Historical Society**.

- New member Renewing member

Name _____

Address _____

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

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

Out of the Past...

Remember when you last saw this?

It is a solid brass table being polished for placement in the new Miamisburg History Museum. The tabletop has a glass panel countertop, one-inch thick, with a black and grained marble slab at each end. The shelf has three holes for holding ink wells. Clue-- it was in a very prominent place in Miamisburg. You couldn't miss it ... so what do you think it was used for and where? ---Austin Brookins





Historic Research and Resource Center - HRRC

By: Teri Skudlarek

Nita Petticrew and her volunteer staff of the HRRC at the Miamisburg Historical Society have been actively involved in planning, decision making, preparations and move for the Historical Society's journey to the new Miamisburg History Center since the inception of this project. Since last summer, Nita and her staff of volunteers Robin Beachler, Richard Hipple, Sandi Postle and Teri Skudlarek have worked tirelessly for many, many hours on this project.

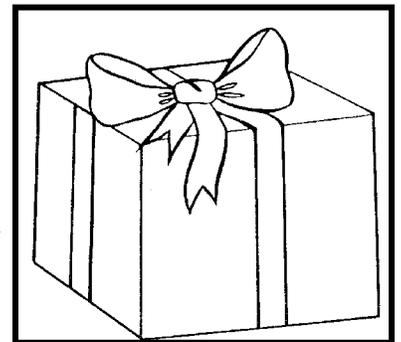
Packing up all the materials that are currently housed in the Research Room and the Archive Room at the Market Square site is a huge undertaking. Working diligently to ensure all the materials are carefully catalogued in the database and then placed in well marked boxes to guarantee an easy transition to the new site at the History Center has guided their actions. Currently this collection numbers over 16,000 artifacts so their efforts have been an integral part of the move.

At the new History Center, the completed construction of a new Research Room guarantees a large area of the building to serve the needs of the public who would like to learn more about the history of our city and township. Now that moving all these materials to the new site is completed, re-shelving the materials back in their proper location, much of which will go in the new Research Room, should be a fairly simple job thanks to their diligence with careful planning and organization. It will just take some time to accomplish this monumental task!

History Center Gift Shop

By: Carolyn Kilpatrick

Our gift shop has a new location and a new name – Mary Ann Gift Shop. The Mary Ann shop was in the Market Square Building for many years: we will be featuring an upcoming article about the shop and its owners. Once the History Center is open, we will be offering some new items – such as post cards and a T shirt with our new logo. Also, with Christmas coming up, we have a small supply of the Miamisburg Monopoly games – a great gift. There is also a supply of some of the featured Bicentennial memorabilia if you missed out earlier.



The Gift Shop will be open on Dec 21st for the Dedication Ceremony.

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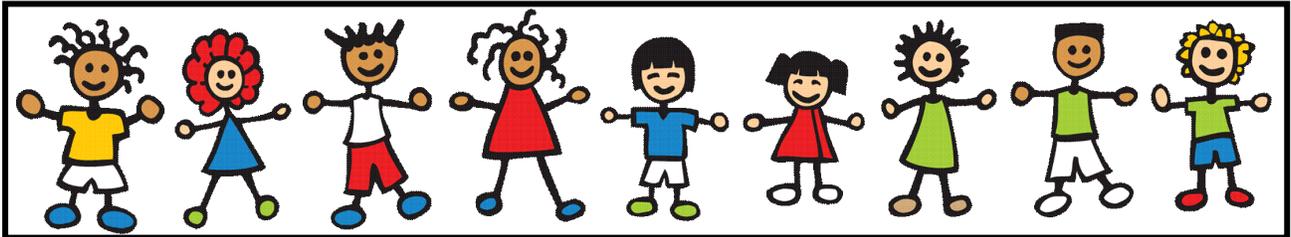
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Children's Programs

By: Judy Wuerstl

We sure do love having our 3rd grade children visit the Heritage Village. We had kids from Kinder, Medlar View, Mark Twain and Mound elementary schools come to visit this fall. Bear School always wants to do theirs in the spring. I don one of my "pioneer woman" dresses and bring half the children into the Gebhart Tavern where I give them a bit of history of the settlers of what is now Miamisburg, the Tavern, and pioneer life. Meanwhile Carolyn Kilpatrick, in her "school marm" garb, brings the other half into the Kercher Pioneer Home and shows them just what it would have been like to go to a one-room schoolhouse. They they are taken upstairs to see the Children's Toy Museum. Then they switch buildings. Our mission is to try to instill in these youngsters an understanding and appreciation of the rich history of our town.

In November, once again all of the eighth grade teams were brought to Chautauqua for a Veteran's Day program. Our Vietnam veteran, St. Mark Kucharski, once again gave his presentation of the story of the Vietnam Conflict. He brings a lot of decommissioned weapons and paraphernalia from his time in Vietnam. After the program he allows them to "get up close and personal" with these items. Believe me, those eighth graders just love him. He tells me that the letters they send him bring a tear to his eye.



The Tavern Log

By: Madelyn Canada

You may have noticed that the last issue of *The Tavern Log* did not release on it's regular schedule. With the grand opening of our new Miamisburg History Center, new elections on the board, and the coming turn of another decade, we have decided to give *The Tavern Log* a little bit of a makeover. Going forward, the newsletter for the Miamisburg Historical Society will be released quarterly and filled to the brim with content you won't want to miss out on. Starting with the first issue for 2020, the first article in a series titled *Miamisburg: Through the Decades* will be released, so get excited and stay tuned!



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Battlefield Cross Dedicated

By: Randy Staley

On November 11, 2019 Veterans Day was observed at Veterans Memorial Park.

The memorial service was conducted by American Legion Post 165 for the 100th year. Thank you for those who attended, including the 3rd Grade students from Our Lady of Good Hope. Immediately following the services a dedication of a new monument called the Battlefield Cross. The monument was donated by the Zanowick family with proceeds from Rocky's 5K Run held annually during Memorial Day Weekend. Paul W Zanowick II, "Rocky", was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 6, 2011. The Battlefield Cross origin was documented during the Civil War, found at the head of a temporary grave in the field, with the rifle and its bayonet pointed downward, stuck in the ground. During World War I and II the helmet was added on the stock where it was used as a memorial. It should be noted although it is called a cross; it does not have a religious context.

The Battlefield Cross took more of a memorial during the Korean War as it became a way of the fallen soldier's comrades to have a closure and mourn their loss. Today's version includes the rifle, helmet, boots, and dog tags, and became a symbol of loss. It is used in memorial services held in combat theaters and once again when the unit returns home.

This Battlefield Cross monument presented today by Paul, Nan, and Nicole Zanowick to the City of Miamis-



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“The River Runs Through” Receives Outstanding Award

By: John Warrington

Since 1960, the Ohio Local History Alliance, in partnership with the Ohio History Connection, has led the state in recognizing excellent projects, publications and programs produced by Ohio’s local history societies, museums and related organizations. This year, the Miamisburg Historical Society was selected as one of 11 recipients of a 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award in the category of History Outreach- “media and publications” for our bicentennial



video program “The River Runs Through: 200 Years of History in Miamisburg, Ohio”. The award certificate was

presented at an annual luncheon held at the Crown Plaza in Dublin, Ohio on October 5th . Accepting the award on behalf of the Miamisburg Historical Society were co-producers Bobbye Sweny and Dr. Carol O’Connell, Kevin Schueller, narrator and John Warrington, videographer and editor. Tina Schueller and Karen Warrington also attended the ceremony. This was a great honor to be recognized by your peers across the State of Ohio. Our documentary required many months of research, scriptwriting, photography, editing and volunteer work

from many people including the staff of the Miami

Valley Communications Council who generously offered their facilities and talent to give our program a professional appearance. If you haven’t done so, you can pick up a copy of the DVD from our gift shop for \$20 each.



A Letter From The Incoming President

By: Judy Wuerstl, President Elect



As incoming president of the Miamisburg Historical Society, it will be an honor to work with the exceptional talent on our board. I thank them for their commitment and devotion toward continuous improvement and meeting the needs of our community. As our accomplishments grow, we are proud to have membership at over 200 members. This is representative of the hard work and commitment of our board to grow the society.

Our city is on the brink of a new beginning for the Historical Society as we move into a new era with the opening of the History Center where artifacts and relics of the past will be on display. We collect, preserve and exhibit for educational and cultural purposes historical artifacts, records and material having particular relevance to the Miamisburg area. Our mission is to promote interest in and reinforce knowledge of the history and rich heritage of Miamisburg.

I am eager to get to know more of you, along with your interests and concerns in the coming year. I would appreciate hearing from you and encourage you to reach out to me or speak with me at one of our regularly scheduled program meetings. I will work hard to meet



Pictured above is our newly elected board of the Miamisburg Historical Society. From left to right: Gary Petticrew, Dick Church Jr., Ken Ballinger, Judy Wuerstl, Pat Barnes, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Sandi Postle, and Eric Cluxton. We are so thankful for each of them and their hard work and dedication to the MHS.

Cornerstone Laying Ceremonies of the Past

By: Ken Ballinger

When we gather to dedicate the Miamisburg History Center on December 21, we will be continuing a proud tradition. It will be a momentous day for the city and a representation of the great relationship with the Miamisburg Historical Society. The cornerstone ceremony that will be performed that day will be the first one in the Star City in almost eighty years, but it is an observance that Masons in Miamisburg have performed for more than a century. On Thursday, September 11, 1902, the front page of the *Miamisburg News* carried a story about the upcoming special day in town. Under the heading, "New Masonic Temple," the writer noted that "an event of great importance to the members of Minerva Lodge, Master Masons, and Trinity Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, of this place, will be laying of the corner-stone of the front to the former Methodist church building on Second Street. The foundation is all ready for the brick mason...

"Elmer L. Gerber of Dayton is the architect who has conceived and executed plans for a most striking and unique building of Egyptian design. The building will undoubtedly attract the attention of lovers of the picturesque everywhere." The cornerstone was laid at the new Masonic Temple on Wednesday, September 24, 1902.

Just two years later, on Friday, August 5, 1904, brethren from Miamisburg were invited to Germantown to assist with another cornerstone ceremony, this one at the new military college Miami Military Institute. The proxy was issued by the Grand Master of Masons of Ohio, A.P. Sperra, and authorized George D Copeland, Grand Orator, to lead the proceedings. Copeland's letter to the Grand Master indicated that the day was a great success.

On July 9, 1909, officers from the Grand Lodge were again invited to Miamisburg by Minerva Lodge to lay the cornerstone of the Carnegie Library. Horace Irvin, Past Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, representing the Grand Master, and performed the ceremony.

(cont. on next page)



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The cornerstone for the new Bell High School was laid by the Grand Lodge Officers and Minerva Lodge on June 20, 1921. All of the members of the Miamisburg school board and the Superintendent of Schools were Masons. The Grand Master that year was John R Flotron, and he led the occasion personally.

It was a big day of celebration when the new post office on Central Avenue was dedicated on October 1, 1940. Once again, Minerva Lodge invited the Grand Lodge to lay the cornerstone. Charles A Hoffman, acting under the proxy issued by Grand Master Dillon Crist, opened a Special Emergent Communication. One detail of the day that made particularly special was that Treon and the members of Minerva Lodge had contacted Washington-Alexandria Lodge in Virginia and got permission to use the same trowel for the ceremony that George Washington used when he led the cornerstone ceremony at the United States Capitol in 1793.

On Saturday, December 21, we can again observe this solemn and important ritual as Grand Master Keith Newton and officers of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will dedicate the Miamisburg History Center, in beautiful Veterans Park.

To our wonderful volunteers...

If it weren't for you, the Miamisburg Historical Society would not exist, and this year especially we are deeply grateful for the hours you spent working as we moved from the Market Square Building to our new location on South Fifth Street.

Please, give it up for our fabulous volunteers—you know who you are!



Christmas at the Tavern & Other Happenings at Heritage Village

By Judy Wuerstl

We were very pleased to be asked to partner our Old Time Craft Day with the city for their Heritage Bluegrass Festival in September this year. We recruited a number of our crafts persons from previous years and they demonstrated their crafts in Riverfront Park that day. Meanwhile, the Village was open as well and the city had a horse-drawn wagon picking folks up at the Park, taking them to the Village and back again. Several talented dulcimer players were entertaining visitors in the Gebhart Tavern, which had been decked out with fall decorations. The weather was perfect and a great time was had by all. Our schedule this year was to be open the first Sunday of each month from June through October. We hope to recruit enough new volunteer docents to consider opening the first and third Sunday of those months next season.

Yes, folks, we do really need more volunteer help. You probably have read or heard that I am “retiring” as Heritage Village Coordinator and we are still looking for someone to step up and take over. If you think you could be that person, or if you would just like to be a docent, please consider contacting the Historical Society and they will put me in touch with you. I will be most happy to meet with you for some training.



Our annual Christmas At The Tavern was held on Sunday, December 8, from 2-5PM. Those of you who have attended in the past can attest to the fun holiday activity. Our Tavern was decorated with old-fashioned Christmas decorations and lots of evergreens. We began the day with an assortment of delicious appetizers and sweets along with hot spiced cider. Our wonderful Star City Dulcimers entertained as we gathered and singing along was encouraged. Soon after, the Madrigal Singers from the high school arrived and they are just fantastic! You won't want to

miss this event next year, so be watching for the information.

The Tavern Log is always looking for new material about the history and happenings of Miamisburg to include. We would love to hear from you! Submissions can be sent in to canadamadelyn@gmail.com.

The Tavern Log reserves the right to choose what submissions are published and edit any submitted material.

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