



# The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

December 2007

Volume XVI Issue 6

## MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS & BOARD

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Displays - Open

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



## Gebhart Tavern Site of a Movie Shoot

By Phil Johnson

Several months ago The Historical Society received an inquiry from a representative of a movie production company (Room 101 Productions from Columbus, Ohio) requesting the use of our Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum for several scenes of a movie they are producing. This inquiry was followed up by an on-site visit by the Producer, Ben Bayes, and Assistant Producer, René Kline, several weeks later. At that time they confirmed that the Tavern would work out well for their interior shots and proposed possible dates for the actual filming.

It was subsequently scheduled for a one day "shoot" to be completed between 9:00am and 9:00pm on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. It is interesting to note that the producers "found" our log cabin Tavern on our website while searching for a suitable site to record several specific shots in their planned 50 minute long movie.

The entire contingent amounted to about 20-25 persons including producers, director, lighting, camera, sound crews along with wardrobe, seamstress, makeup and set design personnel. A basic group of 5-6 actors was supplemented by several "extras" (non-speaking parts) which included three of our faithful Historical Society volunteers, Les & Janet Wead and Rolla Broerman, who appeared in period costumes.

Bobbie Sweny and Phil Johnson served as "technical advisors" to assure the safety and security of our furnishings and collections, as a good bit of these materials were temporarily relocated in keeping with the needs of the Producer and Set Director.



Movie "extras", Les & Janet Wead and Rolla Broerman

Continued on Page 7



## From the President's Desk...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our members and their families. The year has passed so quickly and it is already time for me to bid you adieu as your President. It's hard to believe that my tenure has been for 4 consecutive years! During those 4 years I have come to know many of you on a first name basis and to consider you as friends in the truest sense of the word. Many others in this fine organization I know only by name on our membership list. Part of the problem is that my memory for names leaves much to be desired. My dear departed wife, Nancy, often made up for my

loss for names by immediately informing me of a person's name as I struggled to make the right connections. I miss her sorely – but time goes on.

I want to thank all of our Board members with whom I have served during the past 4 years. Without their active and sustained efforts we would not have been where we are today as a strong and vital organization. Thanks too go to all of our volunteers who have done so much to enhance the services provided by our Society.

I want to be the first to welcome our new President, Cathy Oberer, and to wish her every success as she assumes the leadership role in our Historical Society. I think you'll find Cathy to be a dedicated and hard working person and I urge each of you to give her all of your support in the years ahead. Cathy takes the helm as we embark on a critical new venture to move and restore the Jacob Kercher pioneer log cabin to a new location adjacent to the Daniel Gebhart Tavern on Lock Street. There it will find use in our expanding educational program for elementary and high school students. This venture will require us to raise about \$200,000 to complete this project and to purchase the adjoining property at 142 Lock Street (at the corner of South Miami Ave). According to our Treasurer, Phyllis Abney, we are already approximately 25% of the way there.

The founders of our Historical Society had the foresight to include a provision in the Constitution which keeps the immediate Past President on the Board for 2 more years to assure continuity of the new leadership team. Sooooo, you'll still see me around for the next couple of years as I take on a supporting role for the Society.

Sincerely,

*Phil*

Phil Johnson,  
President



## How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

### *The December Pop Quiz:*

How did Lock Street get its name?

*Answer on Page 8*

## Christmas at Gebhart Tavern

On Sunday, December 9 we held our annual old fashioned Christmas gathering at the Gebhart Tavern. Folks were treated to hot cider and snacks as we listened to carols and Christmas music beautifully performed by Kylene Griffith and Ted Baxendale. In addition to our Society members who attended, we were also pleased to have walk-in visitors who had never been inside the Tavern and were happy to get a tour in addition to the festivities.

As always, it's a nice break from the hectic holiday season to relax for just an hour or two and enjoy a simple celebration of Christmas in the 1800's style. Les and Janet Wead along with Rolla Broerman added to the ambience by dressing in period costume. Our historic cabin is a wonderful venue for the annual holiday get-together.

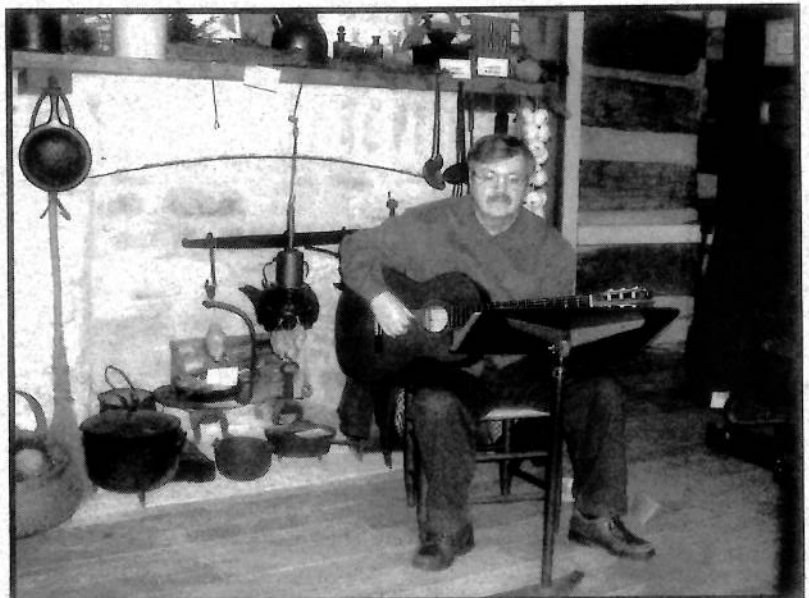
Our thanks go to Laura and Jim Bornhorst who organized the party. Thanks also to Tom and Joyce Zimpfer for dressing up the Tavern with period Christmas decorations and also to the Society members who contributed the delicious drinks and goodies.



*Laura Bornhorst and Rolla Broerman prepare the hot cider.*



*Kylene Griffith singing Christmas carols*



*Ted Baxendale playing guitar*



## Your Historical Society Needs YOU!

### *January is Membership Month*

Early in each new year a letter goes out to our members as a reminder for folks to submit their annual dues. In doing so, you will remain on our active mailing list for *The Tavern Log* newsletter and thus be kept current on all the programs and special events which take place throughout the year.

The funds realized by membership dues are vital to the existence of our Miamisburg Historical Society. This support allows us to not only preserve the history of our town, but to pass on the old stories to the younger generation.

The education of Miamisburg students is becoming a large part of our service to the community. This exciting program which is growing by leaps and bounds, teaches our kids the history of Miamisburg and how our town came to be.

**Be a part of something very worthwhile.  
Please continue to lend your support by  
renewing your membership for 2008.**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Richard K. Flitcraft II**

### 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

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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(please mail to:)

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



*Don't forget our gift shop for  
Miamisburg memorabilia!*

Featuring in December:

*Miamisburg  
"The Story of our Town"*

A hardbound book of 300 pages  
 by Esther Light and Mady Ransdell,  
 filled with the stories, pictures and history of old Miamisburg.  
 A great keepsake for anyone who loves our town.

Price \$15.00

**Market Square Building**  
**4 N. Main Street • Miamisburg**  
**Open Wed. & Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 pm**

## Record Attendance at Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting and Canal Days Dinner which was held in October was a great success with over 100 members in attendance. Due to the generosity and hard work of Dean and Mary Goodwin and Betty Morris, we were served a wonderful ham and bean dinner to begin the evening. All our gratitude goes out to these folks.



*Dennis Dalton with bottle of "elixir".*

Our presenter, Mr. Dennis Dalton, entertained us with a very humorous, but informative program which told about the patent medicines of earlier days in our area.

The important business of the evening consisted of the election of Officers and Board Members. In January these people will join others whose terms have not yet expired and will donate their time and efforts in leading our Historical Society.

### Newly elected Officers:

**Cathy Oberer, President**  
**Ted Fink, Vice-President**  
**Jeanette Belvo, Secretary**

### Newly elected Board Members:

**John Weithofer**  
**Barb Olekas**



*Over 100 members enjoy a ham and bean dinner.*

*Congratulations to all our new Officers and Board Members!*

## Kauffman Buggy Decked Out in Lights for Christmas Parade

On a very cold December evening our Historical Society, again this year, participated in the Miamisburg Christmas festivities by entering the Kauffman Buggy in the Holiday Parade of Lights. The buggy was drawn by our own "reindeer", Jim Bornhorst and Calob Perkins. Enjoying the carriage ride was Rolla Broerman.



## Let's Go Back 100 Years...

The following articles appeared in *The Miamisburg News* during the month of December, 1907.

### Of Interest at Council Meeting

The last meeting of the old council was held last night, and all were present. Routine reports were read.

George Yehle was engaged to put up street name signs - about 200 at 30 cents each.

Mr. Ulm reported the purchase of a new horse for the Fire Department. Its name is Frank. 7 years old, sorrel color, weighs 1350, can trot in 2.40 and has a fine Wilkes pedigree. "Mack", a horse eight years in the Department, was traded for the new horse and \$150.

Under ordinances, several salary ordinances were passed fixing bond and salary. The growth of our village and the requirements of the new State Bureau of Accounting has greatly increased the work of the village officials and consequently it was necessary to slightly increase several salaries. The Mayor, Clerk and Board of Affairs were changed to \$250, \$450 and \$150 annual salary, an advance of \$50 per year. The fire chief was advanced from \$75 to \$100.

### Scientific House-cleaning

In the past few years science has come to aid in the performance of many of the details and drudgery of housekeeping. The electric iron, the water motor for washing machines and many adaptations of gas and electricity lighten the work in the kitchen and elsewhere about the house.

In the cleaning of carpets science has scored a victory by machines in which by the use of a vacuum, the dirt and dust is quickly sucked in and deposited in bins and removed.

The fine large carpet and upholstered seats on the sides at the Masonic Temple were cleaned this week by the vacuum process. The machine consists of a gas engine which operates an air pump creating a vacuum. A very long hose is attached, which is carried anywhere inside the building. A long metal tool or handle at the end of the hose is moved over the carpet, and all the dust and dirt is quickly taken up and pulled through the hose to a receptacle in the wagon outside. The process is particularly convenient for large carpets in halls and churches.

### He Recommends Candy

"Give children plenty of pure sugar, taffy and butterscotch and they'll have little use for cod liver oil," says Dr. Woods Hutchinson in the Christmas Woman's Home Companion.

"In short, sugar is, after meat, bread and butter, easily the next most and important food. You can put the matter to a test very easily. Just leave off the pie, pudding or other desserts at your lunch or mid-day dinner. You'll be astonished to find how quickly you'll feel 'empty' again, and how 'unfinished' the meal will seem. You cannot get any working man to accept a dinner pail without pie in it. And he is absolutely right. The only thing that can take the place of sugar here is beer or wine. It is a significant fact that the free lunch counters run in connection with bars furnishing every imaginable thing except sweets. Even the restaurants and lunch grills attached to saloons refuse to serve desserts of any sort. They know their business!

The more sugar and sweets a man takes at a meal, the less alcohol he wants. Conversely, nearly every drinking man will tell you that he has lost his taste for sweets. The more candy a nation consumes, the less alcohol."



## Notes From The Curator

By Joe Steffen

The picture at right was taken as a class of Miamisburg High School students paid their annual visit to Gebhart Tavern. Their teacher, Mrs. Carol McElroy, was instrumental in developing a local history program for Miamisburg High School.

Mrs. McElroy tells that as she was looking over the curriculums for her department, she noticed something that troubled her. Nowhere in the course of study was there anything that related to the very community that most students had spent their entire lives.



*Mrs. McElroy's Local History Class at Gebhart Tavern*

Her thoughts evolved into action as she set out to create the high school's first local history class. After much research into the history of the community and the writing of a curriculum, her innovative idea began to take shape. Mrs. McElroy writes that she forged a partnership with our Historical Society and became so enamored that she became a member herself. Her first class consisted of twenty-five students. The next year, that number jumped to forty-two, and the following year fifty-five students were enrolled. In addition to visiting the Gebhart Tavern, the class also takes a walking tour of downtown and visits the Market Square Building.

Mrs. McElroy relates that her local history class has accomplished everything she had hoped to achieve and more. "In all the creation of this class has been one of my most successful endeavors", she writes. "The students have gained precious information about the community in which they reside. This information has helped them obtain a richer, deeper understanding not only of the locale at the center of their lives, but also of history itself."

## Gebhart Tavern Site of a Movie Shoot

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Room 101 Productions is an entertainment production company based in Columbus, Ohio. Since 2001, they have been creating film, television and digital media. "The Horseman" is their second short film. We have been asked not to disclose details of the plot, but are authorized to provide the following information supplied by Room 101 Productions: "*The Horseman* is a short period film about a mysterious stranger who enters a small town on a secret quest. The story is inspired by *Sleepy Hollow*, with elements of *The Village* and the *Twilight Zone*."

We were impressed by the professionalism of all of the folks involved in the making of the scenes shot at our Tavern and hope to see the finished product at some time in the future. We were assured that The Miamisburg Historical Society will be acknowledged in the credits at the end of the film.

## Our Condolences

We send our sympathy to Robert Treiber and family on the passing of his wife, Cynthia Treiber.



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The members who served as docents at the Gebhart Tavern in October were **Cathy Oberer, JoAnne Brewer, Rolla Broerman, Karen Dawes, Sidney Pierson, Sophie Mahan, Mary Mahan, Bobbye Sweny and Kathy Fortney**. Many thanks to all of these people for enabling us to keep the Tavern open for an extra month in the fall.

A fantastic job was done by **Dean and Mary Goodwin**, who with the help of **Betty Morris**, cooked and served a delicious meal to a large crowd at our Annual Meeting. Thank you also to the members who brought in desserts to complete the meal.

We must mention **Paul and Loueda Schultz** who have handled the setup and cleanup of refreshments after our General Programs each month for the past two years. We always had a variety of delicious snacks, thanks to our members who were so kind to donate baked goods and snacks.

A great job was done by **Dean Goodwin** who was our presenter at the November General Meeting. He provided a wonderful talk and slide show on the Honor Flight Program for WWII Vets. Thank you, Dean!

Volunteers who worked at the Market Square Building for Sweet or Treat night in October were **Rolla Broerman, JoAnne Brewer, Karen Dawes and Sidney Pierson**.

Santa Scramble volunteers were **Karen Dawes, Cathy Oberer and Susie Oberer**.

Our electrical guru, **Jim Bornhorst**, again this year made sure that the Historical Society buggy was all decked out in lights for the Christmas Parade. Thank you so much, Jim!

#### Pop Quiz Answer

Lock Street got its name because it was the street that led to the canal lock that was located behind the Peerless Mill. The canal was in its heyday in the 1840's and 1850's.