



# The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

June 2006

Volume XV Issue 3

## 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@aol.com

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 Sept., 2:00-5:00 pm

### Website:

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

Webmaster: Jay Robinson



## "Bicycles Through The Ages" Exhibit Returns to the Market Square Building

Mark your calendars for July 21, 22 & 23!

That's when the "*Weekend on Wheels*" celebration returns to downtown Miamisburg. Activities will include a Motorcycle Cruise-In (dubbed **The Thunder Burg**) on Friday evening, the traditional *Car and Truck Cruise-In* on Saturday afternoon and evening, and the exciting downtown bicycle races on Sunday morning and afternoon.

This *Tour d'Burg* race is a United States Cycling Federation (USCF) event with several hundred riders competing for cash prizes totaling nearly \$4,000.00. In addition to the sanctioned professional races, there will be a variety of "fun races" including a Celebrity Race, Antique High Wheeler Race, Police vs. Firemen Race and several Children's bike races.



Continued on page 3

## Glass Negatives Provide an Image of an Earlier Age in Miamisburg

A significant addition to our extensive collection of old photos "fell in our lap" recently with the acquisition of some 200 glass negatives depicting scenes of an earlier era in and around Miamisburg. The glass negatives have been given a preliminary screening in an attempt to identify places and persons related to Miamisburg around the turn of the century.

Several of the glass negatives have been scanned and printed on a computer and reveal a remarkable sharpness and clarity of definition. Plans for this collection include scanning of all of the negatives and recording the images on a CD. Many of the images will then be printed where they will be more accessible to the public. Look for some of these photos to be printed in *The Miamisburg News*.

## From the President's Desk...

This has been a busy, busy time of the year for your Historical Society! Special events and programs have placed a very heavy workload on our all-volunteer organization. Credit for our successes goes to many of our members (and some non-members!) who have stepped forward to help in such areas as staffing the Gebhart Tavern Museum on Sunday afternoons and to providing enlightening programs and tours for children of the Miamisburg school system.

One of our major tasks during the past month has been to pull together the fantastic exhibit of military uniforms and artifacts which were on display at the Market Square Building during the Memorial Day weekend. Board members Randy Staley, Les Wead, Diane Warrick and other members of the Veteran's Committee did a fantastic job in organizing and displaying the hundreds of items at this year's event. Still other members have helped by staffing the exhibits during our expanded "open" hours.

We also need to acknowledge the folks who manned our sales and information booth at the 2006 Spring Fling Celebration. Income from this effort helps to support the operational expenses of the Society and also informs other town folk of the many services and programs of the Society.

I was pleasantly surprised recently when a telephone call from Jeannie Toadvine (a teacher at Wantz Middle School) resulted in an offer too good to refuse! Seems five boys from her 8<sup>th</sup> grade class were interested in doing a community service project and she wondered if we had a job for them at the Market Square Building. Did we ever! The boys (Aaron Hanselman, Christian Yates, Kyle Hill, Nick Rachlou and Kyle Thomas) showed up on a Wednesday afternoon and proceeded to wash all of the outside windows on the first floor of the building, followed by washing the insides of the windows in the North and South Galleries. The boys did a great job of "staying on task" and seemed to enjoy doing it.

Following the manual labor of window washing, the boys interviewed me about the goals and objectives of the Miamisburg Historical Society. We then toured the 2 floors of the building where the boys were genuinely interested in the many of the items displayed on both floors. It goes to show you that you're never too young (or too old) to help out at the Historical Society. We can find a job for anyone interested in helping out. Check it out!

*Phil*

Phil Johnson,  
President

## 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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Carole Leis Troup  
Don & Saron McLaughlin  
Tom Williamson



## Old Fashioned Summer Picnic

Thursday, June 22, 2006  
5:30 pm at Zimmerman's Farm

Join us for our annual Summer Picnic to be held this year at Karl and Carol Zimmerman's Farm at 6290 Upper River Road in Miamisburg. We are very pleased to have the Zimmerman's host us at their beautiful farm across the river, surrounded by farm fields and woods. We will have a nature walk around their "English country style" garden of perennials. There will be old fashioned children's games, a three legged race and wheelbarrow races.

The food will be provided by Chef's Touch and there will be grilled hamburgers, bratwursts, salads, fresh fruit and cookies. The cost is \$5.00 per person and tickets can be reserved from any board member or picked up at the Market Square Building. Bring a comfortable folding chair if you have one. Come and enjoy an evening in the pastoral countryside with your Historical Society friends.

## "Bicycles Through the Ages"

(Continued from page 1)

By popular demand our Historical Society will again have an impressive collection of *Bicycles Through The Ages* Exhibit at the Market Square Building. This collection of historic bicycles will be open to the public at no charge each of the three days of this memorable "Weekend on Wheels". Included will be high wheel bikes from the late 1800's, "fat tire" bikes from the 40s and 50s, mountain bikes from the 80's and modern light weight racing bikes like those used in the Tour d'Burg races on Sunday.

In addition to the 30-40 man-powered bicycles on display inside the Market Square Building, we expect to have an outdoor exhibit of motorized bicycles (Whizzer), scooters (Cushman) and similar early conveyances outside the building. Most of the bikes on display are "on loan" from local collectors, but others come from out of state sources.

Display hours are: Fri., July 21, 5:00-9:00 pm    Sat., July 22, 1:00-9:00 pm    Sun., July 23, 12:00-5:00 pm

## How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

### *The June Pop Quiz:*

**When the Enterprise Carriage Co. on Pearl Street closed its doors in 1918, what was the next business to occupy the building?**



Answer on Page 4



## Notes From The Curator

The following was written by Ada Viola Urschel Askins, an area resident who was born in 1898 and died at the age of 99 on December 4, 1997. This is a small portion of her writings and describes her early memories of Miamisburg. A great sampling of the good and bad in an earlier time.



### **"As I Remember Miamisburg"** by Ada Viola Urschel Askins

My parents lived on Germantown-Liberty Road, northwest of Gettersburg (later named Ellerton). The Gettersburg name came from a group who came from Pennsylvania and settled there by the name of Getters. Some still live nearby. To get to Miamisburg they took the Bear Creek Road to the Twine Factory Hill where there was a factory that made binder twine used on the farm. There was a flow of water from a spring that came out of the hill on the south side of the road. The spring flowed into a trough of a big old hollowed out log for the horses to drink from and a wooden dipper for the driver of the horses to drink from.

We crossed the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad through a wood covered bridge, which was destroyed in the 1913 flood. The bridge crossed the Miami River to Main Street. On the right on Miami Avenue there was a factory that made wagon and buggy wheels, one set of buildings along the river and another set of buildings across Miami Avenue with a "cat walk" from the second floor to the other building. No elevator in those days, just steps. The traction car ran down the middle of Main Street through town. If anyone wanted off at a certain street they would pull a cord and the conductor on the traction car would stop and let them off.

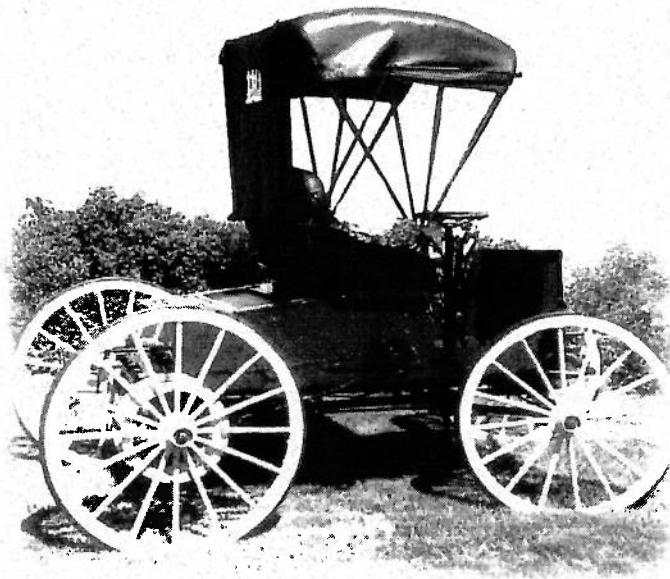
Some of the businesses on the Main Street were Grace Walters Hat Shop, a shoe cobbler who made shoes from the sole up, and boots. I remember a man that had a club foot and the cobbler made a shoe for that foot so he was able to walk on it. Also Bill Nieble's Grocery and DiMatteo's fruits and vegetables.

As you crossed Main Street on Sycamore which came to a dead end by the Erie Canal, there my two sets of grandparents lived in a double house. My sister, Dorothy Urschell Schroeder, and I would swing on a wrought iron fence gate to see the ducks. Grandma would walk downtown, rain or shine, to Huff Dry Goods to learn what happened in the town overnight. She never took a daily paper, but the Sunday News and always saved the funnies sheet for us girls to look at: "Maude the Mule, Mutt and Jeff and The Kats and Jammer Kids".

*Continued on Page 6*

### **Pop Quiz Answer**

After the Enterprise Carriage Company ended production in 1918, the **Wright Airplane Company** took over the building and manufactured airplane parts at that location during World War I.



## 1908 Buggyabout to be Displayed in Miamisburg

A 1908 Hatfield Buggyabout will be on display in Miamisburg the weekend of **July 21-23** as part of the "Weekend on Wheels" event. The Buggyabout is an early automobile that was built in Miamisburg by the Hatfield Motor Car Co. at 20 North Main Street, using bodies supplied by the Kauffman Buggy Co.

The two companies merged in 1908 and formed the Advance Motor Vehicle Co. The Hatfields eventually left that business, but the company continued under the ownership of the Kauffman family, producing two more vehicle models, one of which was a "sports car". According to our Curator's mother, Mary Louise Schuster Steffen,

the auto resembled a Stutz Bearcat. William Kauffman, the company president's son, was killed in that car on what is now the Stewart Street Bridge in Dayton. This tragic accident ended the budding automobile manufacturing business of the Kauffman family.

The Buggyabout being displayed here in July is thought to be one of two still in existence and is owned by Ray and Lori Baronas of Deerfield, Massachusetts. Thanks to our Curator, Joe Steffen, the 1908 Hatfield Buggyabout is returning to its place of birth here in Miamisburg for our "Weekend on Wheels" event. You'll find the auto on display adjacent to the Market Square Building.

Don't miss this chance to see a very early automobile that was made right here in our town. Plan to come downtown for the "Weekend on Wheels" event and take in all the activities and displays.

## Upcoming Events

### June

- Event:** Miamisburg Alumni  
**Date:** Sat., June 17, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30  
**Place:** Holiday Inn Dayton Mall
- Event:** Annual Summer Picnic  
**Date:** Thursday, June 22, 5:30 pm  
**Place:** Karl & Carol Zimmerman's Farm
- Event:** Cruise the Burg #1  
**Date:** Saturday, June 24 4:00-10:00 pm  
**Place:** Downtown Miamisburg

### July

- Event:** Weekend on Wheels  
**Date:** July 21, 22, 23  
**Place:** Downtown Miamisburg
- Event:** "Bicycles Through the Ages" Exhibit  
**Date:** July 21, 22, 23 (For exhibit times, see article.)  
**Place:** Market Square Building
- Event:** Cruise the Burg #2  
**Date:** Saturday, July 22 4:00-10:00 pm  
**Place:** Downtown Miamisburg
- Event:** Historical Society General Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27 7:00 pm  
**Place:** Market Square Building

## Notes From The Curator

(Continued from page 4)

### "As I Remember Miamisburg"

Dry goods were shipped in wooden boxes. Grandma would carry box after box home to build a chicken house in the yard. The double house had a trap door on the North end. My sister and I always wondered what it was for.

During the 1913 Flood Grandma wouldn't leave the house. They lived only a square from the river. The water kept coming up and finally went to the first floor. She went to the second floor 'til morning. The sons rowed by boat to the house. The water was up to the eaves of the roof. The sons opened the trap door and took their mother out. She slid down the porch roof into the boat fastened at the edge of the roof and toward higher ground until the water went down. The poor soul lost one eye by getting flood water in it.

The Eric Canal that ran down in the front of the house yard furnished power for West Carrollton, Franklin and Miamisburg Paper Mills.



### Kinder School to Celebrate 100 Years

This fall Kinder School (formerly the Auditorium School) will celebrate its 100th birthday. A highlight of the celebration will be the display of old photos, written stories and other memorabilia from the past 100 years.

Do you have memories of attending school at Kinder? Did multiple generations in your family attend Kinder? Join in the celebration by sharing your photos, memories or any other information you may have.

If you would like to contribute to the display, please contact Kinder School at 866-4461 or e-mail to [kindercelebration06@yahoo.com](mailto:kindercelebration06@yahoo.com).

## In the Gift Shop

### Cat's Meow Inventory and Pricing:

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Bell High School                | \$15.00 |
| Carnegie Library                | 13.00   |
| English Manor B&B               | 15.00   |
| Fire Station                    | 13.00   |
| Gebhart Tavern                  | 11.00   |
| Hamburger Wagon                 | 9.00    |
| Kinder School                   | 13.00   |
| Koffee Kup                      | 13.00   |
| Market Square Building          | 13.00   |
| Miamisburg Mound                | 9.00    |
| Parkview Methodist Church       | 15.00   |
| Peerless Mill Inn               | 15.00   |
| St. Jacob Lutheran Church       | 13.00   |
| St. James Methodist Church      | 15.00   |
| Trinity United Church of Christ | 13.00   |
| Wantz School Building           | 13.00   |
| Wantz School Bell               | 6.00    |

*Due to reduced pricing, MHS member discounts will **not** be given on Cat's Meows.*

Don't forget our gift shop when looking for a meaningful gift. We have many books, photos, tapestries and other collectible items pertaining to the history of Miamisburg.

**NEW: "Steel Pots" DVD. The history of America's steel combat helmets**

**NEW: Historic Photos of our town**

Books and booklets include:

The Hill Grove Cemetery Book  
 "Miamisburg In WWII" by Carl Becker  
 "The Story of Our Town"  
 "When Tobacco Was King"  
 Dr. John Treon Book  
 "Memoir of 1913 Flood"  
 by Ida Pansing Eck  
 Aunt Harriet's Storybooks  
 by Harriet Hieronymus

The Miami Township Book and the Baum Opera House Cookbook are also available in the shop.

**Gift Shop hours are Wed. and Sat.,  
1:00 - 4:00 pm**



## Memorial Day Celebration "A Photo Album"



Rev. Dr. Bob Potts  
as General Patton  
&  
Sheila Borton



Joe Stanton, Air Force Veteran, in Kauffman Buggy  
(Driven by Duane Whitesel)



Arthur Wead and Marion Weller  
Uniforms on Display

The Veteran's Committee would like to thank all of the "Miamisburgers" who donated their time and efforts during this year's Memorial Day Celebration honoring our veterans. Our military exhibit tops all others in the region thanks to Les Wead, Diane Warrick, Barb Olekas and other volunteers who worked down to the last minute to get the job done. Many hours of work are involved in setting up the displays, but this year's attendance was less than we had hoped for.

The evening of our Silver Taps Program brought severe storm warnings and many who had planned on attending were kept away, including our Taps player who was also caught in the storm. The program went on as planned however, and we all managed to survive.

The Victory Dance on Saturday Night was an overwhelming success. The music was enjoyed by everyone whether just listening or dancing. The Hauer Swing Band definitely filled the Baum Opera House with echos of yesteryear.

The Memorial Day Service and Parade was bigger and better than ever. It will continue for years to come with the help of our friends. We will call them "Miamisburgers" or as back in 1863, the "Burg Boys".

Randy Staley, Veteran's Committee Chairman



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## **Congratulations to Dr. Clifford Gebhart**

The Miamisburg Schools Education Foundation, in existence since 1984, has honored Dr. Cliff Gebhart for the Medical Scholarships that he makes available to Miamisburg Students.

The Foundation is able to award scholarships and grants to graduating seniors, through the generosity of local organizations and area citizens like Dr. Gebhart.

We are proud to have Dr. & Mrs. Gebhart as members of the Miamisburg Historical Society and commend their interest and outstanding contributions that help to make our town a great community in which to live.

## **Get Well Wishes!**

We're happy to hear that Nancy Johnson is continuing to recover from her recent illness.

**Nancy, we're hoping you're up  
to full steam again very soon!**

**Here's an idea . . .**



## **Share your *Tavern Log* with a friend!**

Let others know what we're doing in our great organization and perhaps we'll gain more new members.