



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

April 2007

Volume XVI Issue 2

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 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

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Why "The Star City"?

By now nearly everyone in the community knows that Miamisburg has a nickname, "The Star City", yet few can tell how it got that name and more importantly, what does it mean to be "The Star City". These questions are routinely raised by visitors to the Historical Society's headquarters at the Market Square Building, but facts are hard to come by and several different explanations have surfaced.

The single explanation that seems to be reasonably documented comes in a handwritten letter dated June 18, 1983 and attributed to Forest Bradley Smith. Mr. Smith was born in Miami Township in 1892 and died in June of 1984. He was the founder of Star City Hardware which was located in the buildings currently occupied by Bugaboo Moosetracks and The Finch Loft.

According to Mr. Smith's writings, "Zachariah Hole was a minister who settled (Woodburn) east of Mad River Road on Whip Road. There were four or five log cabins one was a church. He had a son Dr. John Hole MD he rode horseback down to Great Miami River, where Bear Creek empties in the Miami River, and he met the chief of the Miami Indians camp [and] the medicine man. The 3 sat at a campfire and the medicine man said "What will we call the new settlement. [?]" The chief looked up to the sky and saw 7 stars, the seven sisters. The medicine [man] said it be the Star Settlement. That is how (Msbg) became known as Star City, but Miamisburg was named from the Gr't Miami River."

Note: Brackets [] are added for clarity. Original spelling and punctuation has been retained as closely as possible to the original. For further information on Mr. Smith's handwritten letter, readers are directed to an article by Mady Ransdell which appeared in the Miamisburg/West Carrollton News dated October 29, 1997.

We invite our readers to contact Les Wead or Phil Johnson at the Market Square Building (859-5000) if you have other interpretations on how Miamisburg became known as "The Star City". We'll try to feature such stories in future issues of the newsletter. Letters to The Miamisburg Historical Society, PO Box 774, Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774 are also welcomed.

From the President's Desk...

Spring has sprung and the grass has risen, aren't we glad the snow is missin? Excuse the poor attempt at poetry, but the sentiment remains. There's something about spring and the return of the warm weather that lifts the spirits and urges us to get out of doors and enjoy the beauty of this land.

Many of you know that Nancy and I routinely spent part of each winter in Hawaii. We loved the weather and the beautiful surroundings, yet we were always happy to return to the Burg each year just in time to enjoy the beauty that is Ohio in the spring time. Not so enjoyable, however, was the return to stacks of accumulated mail and the dread of working on 2006 taxes. Buried in my stacks of mail was a letter from JoAnne Brewer, our able Membership Chairman, indicating that my dues to the Historical Society were (over)due!

Apparently I was not alone in overlooking the payment of the annual dues as our Treasurer (Phyllis Abney) pointed out in her financial report through the middle of March. Soooooo if you (like me) have overlooked this chore, I ask that you get with it right away and while you're at it I invite you to consider raising your level of membership category. If you have a "Family Membership" consider upgrading that to a "Sponsor" – just ten more dollars, but a big help to your Historical Society as we're facing a shortfall in our budget again this year. If you've been a "Sponsor" in the past, I invite you to increase that support to the "Patron Level". I recognize that not everyone can do this, but for those that can, it will really help the Society to continue the fine programs the Society offers for both the adults and our wonderful children's activities so faithfully headed up by Bobbye Sweny. If you're tired of paying annual dues, we have a solution for that. For just a one-time payment of \$500.00 you can become a "Life Member" and never have to write out a check for dues again!

On a different note, have you noticed our beautiful new sign on the east end of the Market Square Building? It has taken a couple of years to finalize and approve the design, but the wait was worth it! The design and fabrication is basically the work of Mike Riley of Insignia Signs in West Carrollton (formerly located in Miamisburg). The new sign incorporates design elements of the smaller sign on the west front of the building. The framework on which the sign rests was a cooperative effort of members Jim Bornhorst and Quill Abney. The framework allows easy removal of the sign itself when necessary to make repairs or paint the building. It also prevents birds or other pests from building nests behind the sign.

Phil

Phil Johnson,
President

How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

The February Pop Quiz:

**Which current downtown Miamisburg business
was started as a result of the 1913 flood?**



Answer on Page 4

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
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.

Books and booklets include:

- The Hill Grove Cemetery Book
- "Miamisburg In WWII" by Carl Becker
- "Boiled Peanuts and Buckeyes"
by Lee Eudon Holland
- "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**

Highlighting Our Historical Society

Did you know...

Information on Miamisburg properties dating back to the mid 1800's can be found by looking at our microfiche records in the Research Room at the Market Square Building.



Do you own an older property in Miamisburg? Would you like to know more about it? Look up your lot number on our maps and then access the previous owners of that property on our microfiche viewer. The records are complete up until 1940. It's very simple to see all the owners and how many times and when the property changed hands over the years. It also provides the number of the deed book and even the exact page if you would like to do further research at the Records and Archives Center in Dayton.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Anna Gilkison

Bert & Marianna Wall



KUDO KORNER

Recognition of our volunteer force.
We get things done because of you!

Thanks a bunch to Rolla Broerman and Betty Zech for the completion of the much needed inventory of Cat's Meows.

HRRC volunteers are the greatest!!



Notes From the Curator

Afterthoughts of the Kinder School 100th Birthday Celebration

What a great celebration of the wonderful school that has served our community for many years. It was amazing the number of former students, teachers and friends of the community who came back last October to tour the old school on Central Avenue.

What impressed me was the electricity of those coming back to see their school one more time. It was also impressive to see the enthusiasm of the current staff so plainly evident as we visited the many rooms. The old school is still alive with love for the many who returned once again to see the school rooms where we spent our important childhood years. I think all of those attending came away with a "WOW" and maybe thinking it might be fun if we could start again from the beginning.

After all these years I can still recall Mr. Bear walking the halls, very much in control and speaking in a calm voice, making the children feel at home. There was never a question about who was in control.

The worn wooden floors and the smell of cleaning materials. The scary fire escape stairs from the upstairs auditorium. The basement, now full of classroom activity, was all open and was our playground on rainy days. I also remember going to the basement to get a flu shot. Looking back now, it wasn't so bad.

The forever famous Kindergarten play where the little lamb ended up being the star attraction. Entertainment and plays in the Auditorium Theater with Bob Thompson and also the McGuire Sisters singing before they became national stars. I also remember the minstrel shows put on by the High School.

I still have memories of the class taught by Mrs. Maddux. Each morning began with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag that hung on the back wall. I believe we sang God Bless America also. I can recall as if it was yesterday the story she told about building a home on a firm foundation. She had a model a church which she placed on a mound of sand and then on a rock. The lesson was building our lives on a strong foundation.

I also remember the play for younger children that my brother and I attended and not behaving the way we should have. The next day we had to apologize to Mrs. Maddux for disrupting the play. I learned a lot about life from this experience over 60 years ago. Mrs. Maddux made the point quite clear with her loving touch.

Then there was recess when we went out on the playground to run off some energy. There was also a little fear because of a playground bully. The bully ended up becoming a minister.

I sure would like to come back for the next 100 year reunion to talk about the memories of the Auditorium/ Kinder School. Bet it will still be going strong!

Pop Quiz Answer

The answer is the "Hamburger Wagon".

Sherman 'Cocky' Porter began frying hamburgers for the volunteers that were cleaning up the downtown area after the 1913 flood. The burgers went over so well that he bought the wagon and went into business.

Renew Your Membership for 2007



Keep your name on our mailing list by using the form printed at right and by submitting your dues for 2007. It's not too late! We will continue to mail your *Tavern Log* and update you on current projects and upcoming programs and events, as well as interesting tidbits from the past.

Enable our non-profit and entirely volunteer organization to thrive by renewing your membership for the current year. The important work that is being done at our Society can be accomplished **only** with the support of all our members.

Your support is valued and appreciated!

Mary Todd Lincoln Brings History to Life



Donna McCreary as Mary Todd Lincoln
with Kaitlin Fine

Our February General Meeting provided a lively evening of entertainment by Donna McCreary who portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln in the first person.

She described her life as a child, a young adult, and eventually her meeting and subsequent marriage to Abraham Lincoln. Her story vividly illustrated the life she lived as First Lady during the Lincoln years.

The program was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It certainly brought new insight into the life of one of the most

misunderstood women to live in the White House.

As Ms. McCreary answered questions after her presentation, her knowledge of Mary Todd Lincoln's life amazed us all. She has performed at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, IN, the Lincoln Boyhood National Park in Lincoln City, IN and the Lincoln Home in Springfield, IL.

As always, our Society is very proud to offer the very best in historically inspired and entertaining programs.

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

HRRC... Historic Research and Resource Committee



The 27th Annual Spring Fling Festival will be held on Saturday, May 19th and Sunday, May 20th at the Library Park. Hours of operation are 10:00 am on Saturday and 12:00 Noon to 6:00 pm on Sunday. The Miamisburg Historical Society and HRRC volunteers share in the operation of our booth during the two days of this event.

This year we are asking for your help to "work" at the booth. Please call Nita Petticrew at 866-1285 if you are interested in finding out what is involved if you decide to help. This year we are pleased to welcome 'visitors' and 'storytellers' from the "past". These happenings will be at the Miamisburg Historical Society **Booth #47** near the "oldest" oak tree in Library Park. Yes, we have moved away from the bandstand area!

April Program Set

"A Nation of Neighbors: The WPA and Public Support of the Arts" will be presented at our General Meeting in April by Dr. Marguerite S. Shaffer. Join us for another interesting and informative program in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 26.

Dr. Shaffer is an associate professor and Director of the American Studies Program at Miami University. She is author of "See America First: Tourism and National Identity, 1880-1940". Dr. Shaffer has also published a number of articles on tourism, national parks, scenery and regional identity of the American West.

In addition to the main program, we're very pleased to announce there will also be a Children's Art Exhibit which will feature their versions of tin ceiling tiles.

Mark your calendar for April 26 and join us for another great program provided free of charge by our Society.

Our Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Historical Society member Sid Hagen on the passing of his wife, Madolin in early March. Condolences also to their sons Mike (Sue) and Dan.

OAHSM 7TH District Meeting

Seven members of the Miamisburg Historical Society attended the annual meeting of the 7th District of the **Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums** on Saturday, March 3rd. The meeting was held at the YMCA in Piqua, hosted by the Flesh Public Library.

The welcome was extended by Virginia Weygandt Region 7 Representative, Clark County Historical Society, Springfield and Jim Oda, Director of Flesh Public Library. The business meeting was opened by Mary Oliver, Region 7 Representative, Dayton History. The OAHSM Report was given by Greg Myers, OAHSM 1st Vice President, Cridersville Historical Society, and the Local History Office Report was made by J.D. Britton, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus.

An interesting roundtable discussion on "Looking at the Recent Past: Critical Issues We Face in Collecting, Preserving and Interpreting the Past" was led by Jim Oda. This was an outstanding presentation offering a number of excellent ideas for exhibits. During the lunch and sharing time, Board Secretary, Cathy Oberer, represented the Miamisburg Historical Society in making our report.

Continued on Page 8

Upcoming Events



April Event: MHS General Meeting & Program
"The WPA and Public Support of the Arts"
and Children's Art Exhibit
 Date: Thursday, April 26 7:00 pm
 Place: Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Mkt. Sq. Bldg.

May Event: Spring Opening of Gebhart Tavern
 Date: Sunday, May 6 2-5 pm
 Place: Corner of Old Main and Lock St.

Event: Spring Fling Festival & Parade
Visit our booth (#47)
 Date: May 18, 19 & 20
 Place: Library Park and downtown Miamisburg

Event: MHS General Meeting (Silver Taps)
 Date: Thursday, May 24 7:00 pm
 Place: Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Mkt. Sq. Bldg.

Event: Victory Dance
 Date: Saturday, May 26 (Memorial Weekend)
 8:00-11:00 pm
 Place: Baum Opera House

Event: Memorial Day Parade
 Date: Monday, May 28 11:00 am
 Place: Downtown Miamisburg

Event: Veteran's Memorabilia Exhibit
 Date: Thurs. May 24, Sat. May 26, Mon. May 28
 Place: Market Square Building

June Event: Miamisburg Alumni Dinner & Dance
 Date: Saturday, June 16
 Place: Holiday Inn Dayton Mall

Event: Cruise The Burg #1
 Date: Saturday, June 23
 Place: Downtown Miamisburg

Event: Historical Soc. General Meeting & Program
 Date: Thursday, June 28 7:00 pm
 Place: Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Mkt. Sq. Bldg.

Memorial Weekend 2007

In this issue you will find a flyer with the dates and times for our 3rd Annual Memorial Weekend Program. Place it on your fridge as a reminder to take part in all the activities planned for that weekend. All events are open to the public including the American Legion Post 165 Annual Poppy Dinner being held on Friday, May 25th, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, which was not included on the flyer.

The Silver Taps Ceremony on Thursday Evening will include a speaker (to be announced) and the opening of the Vets Memorabilia Exhibit. Should you wish to exhibit memorabilia please call the Market Square Building at 859-5000 prior to Wednesday, May 9th and leave a message. We will promptly return your call.

The Victory Dance tickets are available at Market Square, American Legion Post 165 or any Board Member for \$7.50 each. The dance will be held at the Baum Opera House from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, on Saturday, May 26th. BYOB – setups will be provided.

As usual we are always looking for volunteers to help out on any or all events, especially Parade Day. If you wish to help out contact Les Wead at 866-1604, Randy Staley at 885-4458 or leave a message at Market Square, 859-5000. You don't have to be a veteran to be a committee member!



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

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HRRC

Hints for preservation:

- The key to maintaining paper documents from deterioration – Control of: light, heat, humidity, acids (in paper), plastics, pollutants, and pests.
- Valuable documents should be photocopied on acid-free paper. Originals should be encapsulated (not laminated) or placed in acid-free Mylar polyethylene, polypropylene plastic sleeves or page protectors (unfolded) – then stored in archival boxes. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is in store-bought binders which overtime emits acid and will destroy the integrity of paper.
- Letters should be unfolded; place flat in acid-free folders or page protectors.
- Photographs: Do not store in an attic or a basement. Store in a dry, dark area in acid-free containers. Temperature of no higher than 70 degrees is ideal. Make black and white copies on archival/acid-free photo paper. Color prints fade. Use only acid-free and non-buffered materials.

OAHS 7th District Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

A panel session on “Community Service: Students in History” was covered by representatives of societies within our region. The children’s programs, presented by Jean Simpson of Centerville, were especially interesting. The final portion of the meeting, a panel session on “Marking Our Community’s Past: Ideas and Products to Tell Our Stories” provided many new ideas for our society in ways to place historic markers to tell the story of our community.

Board members Joe Steffen, Cathy Oberer, Diane Warrick, JoAnne Brewer and Randy Staley, and committee chairs Rolla Broerman and Bobbye Sweny were well satisfied with the quality of the programs presented.

The Miamisburg Historical Society will host the 2008 session which will be held the first Saturday in March.