



# The Tavern Log

*A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society*

February 2015

Volume XXIV Issue 1

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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, Mshg.  
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](http://www.miamisburghistory.org)  
Webmasters: Don McLaughlin, Jay Robinson

## February General Program To Highlight New Media Production Group



The newly revived Media Production Group will be featured at our February Program. The group, headed by John Warrington, will catch us up to date with its recently completed segments and what future shows are in the works for the Bicentennial Series.

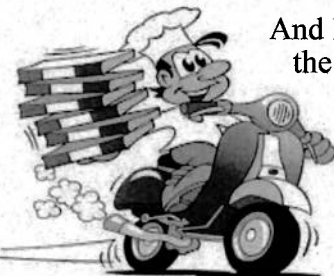
If you've not had a chance to catch any of these new productions, they may be found on MVCC Channel 5 (Time Warner Cable) and Channel 99 (AT&T). Since the viewing times are not published, a good idea is to program your TV to record them automatically when they are televised.

## February General Program "Media Production Group"

**February 26 at 7:00pm at the Market Square Building**

The Group began work just last summer, and the number of quality productions they've already completed has been extraordinary. They have completed two Miami-Erie Canal programs, two "Memories of Miamisburg" shows, and one of four programs on The Mound Lab. The first program detailed the Manhattan Project and Dayton Operation that led to building the Mound Lab in 1946.

Another program introduces a new series, The Miamisburg Town Center Historic District and the nine sites on the National Register of Historic Places which were placed on the registry in 1975. The first taping will feature the Market Square Building, Groby Bank site and the Gwinner Building. Carol O'Connell will interview avid historian Bobbye Sweny.



And let's not forget about the FREE PIZZA after the program! If you've ever been to our February Program, you know that many varieties of Ron's Pizzas are delivered hot and fresh, right on cue, after the program, and they are stacked high on the tables. We absolutely guarantee that no one goes away hungry.

## Changing Of The Guard

2015 brings about a few changes with the Officers and Board of the Historical Society. The vacated office of Curator has now been filled with the appointment of Gary Petticrew. Gary has served as Assistant Curator for the past several years, in addition to his regular post as Membership Chair. He has now made the decision to leave the Membership position entirely and devote all his energies, full time, to the Office of Curator. This move subsequently had us searching for a new Membership Chair.

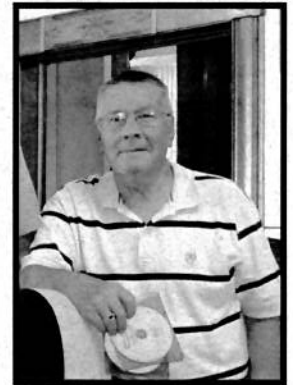


*Kim Izor*

At the Board Meeting in January, Board Member, Kim Izor, volunteered to take on the position of Membership Chair. Kim has extensive experience with the computer program, Microsoft Access, which will go a long way in making the transition a smooth one. A big thanks to Kim for stepping up to fill this very important position. Thanks also to Gary for the great job he's done as Membership Chair and for assisting Kim in assuming his new responsibility.

Late last year, because of personal reasons, Sherry Barrett found that she was unable to complete her term as Board Member. Our hard working volunteer, Judy Wuerstl, stepped up to fill the vacated spot. Judy serves as Heritage Village Coordinator and Children's Education Chair. She also volunteers for whatever and whenever she's needed in other projects. Her energy is amazing and her contributions to the Society have been invaluable. Without doubt, she'll be an inspired and inspiring Board Member.

You too can be an important cog in the Miamisburg Historical Society "wheel". With the Bicentennial coming up, there'll be plenty of opportunities to volunteer in an area that interests you. Every volunteer is appreciated for whatever time, abilities or ideas he or she is willing to contribute.



*Gary Petticrew*



*Judy Wuerstl  
in pioneer costume*

## Annual Statehood Day Event

This annual event is where the entire Ohio history community comes together to celebrate our state's birthday and to remind local legislators about the importance of preserving our history.

**Ohio Statehouse in Columbus  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015**

Gov. John Kasich has been invited to be this year's keynote speaker at lunchtime. The annual grant awards from the history fund will be announced.

For further information and to register, go to  
[www.ohiohistory.org/  
about-us/advocacy/statehood-day](http://www.ohiohistory.org/about-us/advocacy/statehood-day)



## THERE WERE SOME TAVERNS IN THE TOWN

**Excerpts from "Miamisburg—The Story of Our Town"**

Miamisburg still retains within its corporate limits the building which housed the first local Tavern [1811]. *(This building is now our Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum at the corner of Lock St. and Old Main.)*

In pre-prohibition days Miamisburg would never have voted dry. At the turn of the century and during the first decade of 1900's, this city, with a population of about 4,000, had 23 or more saloons with a variety of names—The Oasis, Owl Café, the Ram's Head, Hole-in-the-Wall, No. 10, Park Saloon, The Highland House and The Oak, just to name a few.

The Oak was located on the NW Corner of Central Avenue and First Street. and was considered the pleasantest place in town for a thirsty citizen to refresh himself. As early as 1851 this building was known as a public drinking hall, and the best regulated in town. Their delicious sandwiches were known throughout the valley.

## Thank you members!

### Membership Renewals December and January

Allen County Public Library	Kim & Mary Izor
Jane Bailey	Sherry Kahler
Fred & Joellyn Bashford	Michael Kindle
Keith Basinger O.D.	Frances Kuhn
Jan Beedle	Jim & Kaye Lenz
Robert T. Bell	Sharon K. Maddox
James & Jeanette Belvo	David Manning
Linda Bernard	Ruth Miller
Robert & Judy Bowman	Ken & Sandi Phipps
Dan & Kim Casson	Billy Ring & Karen Basso
A. Kendall & Cindy Clay	William Russell
John & Karen Critzer	Fred Schmidt
Tom Croskey	William G. and Mary Schmidt
Frederick E. Flory	Jim & Karen Schnapp
Jon & Nancy Frank	Miriam Shapiro
Keith & Anne Freimark	Daniel Shell
Robert & Patricia Frey	Gerald & JoAnne Stinson
Anna Gilkison	Jack Stone
Earl Gorsuch	Chuck & Bobbi Sweny
Everett & Barbara Hamm	Jerry & Eileen Thoma
Herman & Charlene Hiehle	John & Diane Warrick
Debbie Hodge	Sandra Weidner
Joyce Horner	Larry & Marty Williams

### Corporate Membership Renewals December and January

Canopy Creek Farm	JL Creations
Classic Stitch	Masters & Assoc. Insurance
Flooring 'n' Beyond (NEW)	Nestor Insurance Agency

### We're Sending Our Sympathy

Society member, Richard K. Flitcraft II, passed away on December 16, 2014. A long time member of the Miamisburg Historical Society, he was a retired CEO of the Mound Laboratory and was very active in the formation and running of the Mound Energy and Science Museum.

Our condolences go out to his children, their families, and his many friends. A memorial service celebrating his life will be announced in the spring.

### Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual membership	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor*	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Society Friends	<input type="text"/>

Donation

Total enclosed \$

\* Corporate Sponsors will be given a small size ad in the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Tavern Log*.

Method of Payment:

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> 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  
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774





## How High is Your Miamisburg IQ?

### The February Pop Quiz

Are you able to  
identify the location  
of the building in  
this 1968 photo?

*Answer on Page 7*

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## Miamisburg Historical Society & Community • 2015 Calendar of Events

<b>Jan.</b> 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm  <i>No General Meeting in January</i>	<b>July</b> 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 29 Articles Due for August Tavern Log  <i>No General Program in July</i>
<b>Feb.</b> 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm Media Production Group Presentation and FREE Pizza from Ron's	<b>Aug.</b> 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm  <i>No General Program in August</i>
<b>March</b> 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 MHS General Program - TBA – 7:00 pm 27 Articles due for the April Tavern Log	<b>Sept.</b> 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 12 Artisan Festival – 10:00-6:00 pm 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 Articles Due for October Tavern Log and Reports Due for the Annual Report 24 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting
<b>April</b> 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 8 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 MHS General Program – 7:00 pm Bicentennial Planning Program	<b>Oct.</b> 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 18 Old Time Craft Day - Heritage Village, 2:00-5:00 22 Historical Society Canal Days Dinner 25 Closing Day at Heritage Village
<b>May</b> 3 Opening Day at Heritage Village 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 13 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 15 Taste of Miamisburg – 5:00 pm 16-17 Spring Fling Parade & Festival 21 MHS General Meeting (Silver Taps) – 7:00 pm 21, 23, 25 Veteran's Exhibit at Market Square Building 23 Rocky's 5K Run for Freedom – 9:00 am 23 Victory Dinner/Dance at American Legion 25 Cemetery Services beginning at 8:45 Memorial Day Parade – 11:00 am Services & Picnic at Library Park after parade 28 Articles due for the June Tavern Log	<b>Nov.</b> 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving Morning  <i>No General Program in November</i> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">Happy Thanksgiving</p> </div>
<b>June</b> 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 10 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 20 Msbg. High School Alumni Dinner/Dance 25 Historical Society Picnic – 6:00 Location to be announced.	<b>Dec.</b> 1 Articles due for December Tavern Log 4 Holly & Ivy Gala 6 Christmas at The Tavern – 2:00-5:00 pm 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 12 Community Holiday Parade  <i>No Board Meeting in December.</i>

**The Heritage Village is open to the public on Sundays, May through October from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.**

## Renewed Efforts Underway to Restore Plaza Theater



A new committee was formed in March, 2014 with the purpose of renovating the Plaza Theater on Main Street. A previous attempt at restoration was made several years ago by another group, but unexpected costs were encountered and funds were depleted before the project was finished.

The Plaza Theater holds fond memories for many of Miamisburg's residents who spent a quarter to get a whole day or evening's entertainment. Saturday morning westerns and cartoons were always a hit, especially with the guys. The theater, originally opened in 1919, was the venue for many a first date and there was plenty of hand holding done and even some smooching in the back row.

Doug Sorrell reports that \$300,000 is needed to bring the Plaza to "opening" condition, and another \$100,00 to facilitate initial operating expenses. To date, pledges of \$125,000 have been made, with the Miamisburg Merchant's Association recently donating \$25,000. The hope and the goal of the committee is to open the theater sometime this summer.

Since renovations were originally begun several years ago, there has been major interest among Miamisburg residents. Hopefully this new effort will inspire more contributions and enable the project to be completed. The Plaza Theater will be a wonderful, added draw to our city, to accompany all the other activities and events that are bringing folks in to the downtown area. For more information or donation procedures, visit [www.plazatheater.us](http://www.plazatheater.us). Contributions are tax deductible.

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## Society Sends Condolences

### Martha Colson

To the Larry and Marty Williams family, the Colson family and her many friends, the Society sends deepest sympathy on the passing of Marty's mother, Martha Colson.

Martha passed away on January 26, at the age of 102, at Sycamore Glen Health Center. Among many other jobs, she was also employed for over 25 years as Society Editor at the Miamisburg News. A member of both the Historical Society and Monday Night Club for many years, she was also a devoted Trinity Church choir member for 30 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Trinity Church.

### Edward Schultz

We send our sympathy to Karen and Jim Schnapp and their family and friends on the passing of Karen's father, Ed Schultz. Ed died on January 27 at Kingston of Miamisburg at the age of 94.

Ed graduated from Miamisburg High School in 1938 and worked at Chrysler Air-Temp and many will remember him at Suttman's Clothing Store where he worked for 20 years. He was an honored alumni of Miamisburg HS, a 33rd degree Mason, past Worshipful Master and a 70 year member of Minerva Lodge #98, along with membership in several other organizations.

Funeral services were held on January 31.

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## Spring Schedule of Activities and Events

### FEBURARY 26

*General Program:*  
Media Production Group  
and FREE pizza afterward

### MARCH 26

*General Program:*  
To be announced

### APRIL 23

*General Program:*  
Bicentennial Planning  
"Kick Off" Program

### MAY 3

Heritage Village opening

### MAY 21

*General Program:*  
"Silver Taps" and  
Military Exhibit

### MAY 23

Rocky's 5K Freedom Run  
Victory Dinner/Dance

### MAY 25 (Memorial Day)

Cemetery Services  
Parade  
Library Park Services and  
Picnic afterward.



### SPECIAL PROGRAM COMING UP IN APRIL

Mark your calendar for Thursday evening, **April 23 at 7:00**. The General Program at the Market Square Building will feature our kick-off and planning session for the Bicentennial Celebration in 2018. Does that seem a long way off? It will be here before we know it.

If you're interested and have some great ideas of how the Society may be involved in the celebration, don't miss this program! As the Miamisburg Historical Society, we are certainly well equipped to bring our town's 200 year old history to life, and we're looking forward to being a big part of the Bicentennial Celebration.

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

Although it's still several months away, the Veteran's Committee is already gearing up for this year's Memorial Day events. If you have never attended any of the activities, make it a point to begin a new tradition in 2015 by honoring our veterans on this weekend.



A detailed schedule of events, including dates, times and locations, will be listed in the April *Tavern Log*. All of the Memorial Day Weekend activities are sponsored by the Miamisburg Historical Society Veteran's Committee and Miamisburg American Legion Post 165.

## Pop Quiz Answer

The building once housed a bakery and was known as Beiswenger's corner. It was located at the **SW corner of First Street and Central Avenue**. It has also been utilized as the Senior Center, and in 1968, served as the Hospitality Center for the Sesquicentennial Celebration being held that year in Miamisburg. It has since been torn down and that corner is now a parking lot and entrance to the Civic Center Annex on Central Avenue.

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

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