



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

August 2014

Volume XXIII Issue 4

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The Tavern Log is published six times
a year by the Society for its members.

Submit material to:

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Miamisburg Historical Society
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Miamisburg, OH 45343
or via e-mail to
dewarrick@sbcglobal.net

The Tavern Log reserves the right to edit
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BOARD MEETINGS

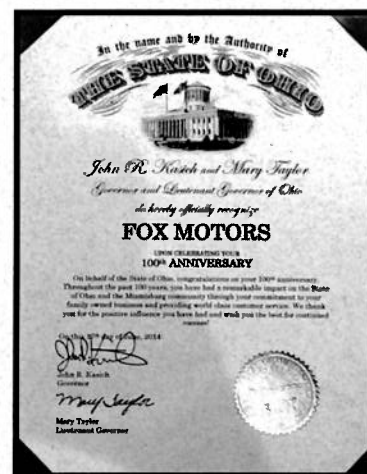
Held the third Thursday of each month at
6:00 pm at the Market Square Building.

E-Mail Address: MHSociety@att.net
Phone: (937) 859-5000

Website: www.miamisburghistory.org
Webmasters: Don McLaughlin, Jay Robinson

Fox Motors is Honored By State of Ohio

In July, Josh Fox and Tim Fox of Fox Motors were very surprised and honored when they received the award pictured at right from the State of Ohio. Signed by John Kasich, Governor, and Mary Taylor Lieutenant Governor, this award celebrates and honors the Fox business for their longevity and success that has lasted for 100 years.



The award reads as follows:

"On behalf of the State of Ohio, congratulations on your 100th anniversary. Throughout the past 100 years, you have had a remarkable impact on the State of Ohio and the Miamisburg community through your commitment to your family owned business and providing world class customer service. We thank you for the positive influence you have had and wish you the best for continued success."



As if that weren't enough, the pièce de résistance was yet to follow. A large 8' x 12' American Flag arrived along with a certificate from Washington DC. The certificate reads as follows:

"This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the **United States Capitol on July 4, 2014**. At the request of the Honorable Michael R. Turner, Member of Congress, this flag was flown in celebration of the Fox Family and the 100th Anniversary of Fox Motors, four generations of the same family in the same business at the same location."

In addition, a congratulatory letter was sent to Fox Motors by US Senator, Sherrod Brown, which echoed the sentiments expressed in the award. Mr. Brown writes, "Through your hard work, you have strengthened your community, our state and the very fabric of our nation."

Needless to say, as the Miamisburg Historical Society, we are extremely proud of Fox Motors, and we congratulate and celebrate this historic business. A very humble and extremely appreciate Tim Fox remarked that only in a supportive city such as Miamisburg could a family business such as ours continue to thrive for so long.

Fox Motors, we congratulate you on reaching the century mark in business. You exemplify the spirit that makes Miamisburg great!

Archiving Miamisburg History

By Bobby Sweny, Member of Media Production Group

Eighteen years ago - 1996 to be exact - Connie Kline, then Chair of the Historical Research and Resource Committee (HRRC), contacted Aldona and Joe Ryan, owners of Alanjo Productions of Centerville. Aldona and Joe had considerable success in producing and directing television programs.

It was evident that video taping was the modern way to archive history. It was a process that would enable us to record current history, interview the elders of our community, and give visibility to the work of the Society. Being able to learn local history through televised programs was sure to succeed.

The Ryans taught our committee the fundamentals of video taping, and the "show was on the road." Camera people were needed - the Senior Citizens provided Paul and Gladys Knott, and Dick Gleadell. A background "set" needed to be designed - our retired art teacher and Curator, Mat Hermetz, filled the bill. We needed background music - good friend, Lee Ann Kinner, recorded "The Erie Canal Song" with her beautiful voice and banjo. Still photography for the background music came from Everett Sweny's vast collection. Marcia Dunahue, Lowell Suttman and Bobby Sweny volunteered to serve as interviewers.



Closing of the Miamisburg Pool Ceremony in 1996.

(This pool was in operation from 1937 to 1996.)

Seated, facing audience: Hank Schneider and Joe DiMatteo

At podium: Mayor Dick Church

Time to choose the first show. Miamisburg furnished a great one! The closing of the old Swimming Pool south of Mound Ave. was being done with great ritual. The Mayor locked the gates for the last time (the lock and chain are part of the Society's archive). To celebrate this historic event, it seemed appropriate to interview the pool's most remembered manager, Hank Schneider. A better start for our series could not have been chosen.

Now, 115 tapes later, a new committee has been formed - The Media Production Group. Under the leadership of John Warrington, the group will now be reviving the taping on a regular schedule.

But what about those old tapes - the VHS ones?

They were converted to DVD's - ten to a disk.

Some have been lost, others taken out and not returned.

But all is well - thanks to modern technology, the Cable

Council has transferred all of our original tapes to a hard drive. A duplicate copy is in our archives. So much history on such a small device - so much storage space saved. Good things do come in small packages.

As soon as the system is set up, you will be able to go to the Market Square Building and see the "tape of your choice", and even buy a copy if you want one (cost to be determined). The progress of this work will be covered in future issues of *The Tavern Log* newsletter. Just another example of the Miamisburg Historical Society's effort to save our history.

You will also be able to access these tapings which have already begun on MVCC Channel 5 on Time Warner Cable. Or if you have AT&T, go to channel 99, press OK; three choices come up - Miamisburg Government Channel, Miamisburg Educational Channel, Miamisburg Community Channel. Scroll to each one and find a program showing Historic Miamisburg.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**Jim & Patricia Caldwell****Jeremy Cornette****Caroline Fox****NEW CORPORATE SPONSORS:****One Bistro****U! Creative, Inc.****Miamisburg-West Carrollton News****2 Cups Coffee and Bakery LLC****Apologies in Order**By Diane Warrick, *Tavern Log* Editor

My sincere apology to **Jim Caldwell**, who appeared as an American Patriot in the Memorial Day Services at Library Park. His name was erroneously listed as Jim Chapman in the June issue of *The Tavern Log*.

Jim and his wife, Pat, are also new Historical Society members.

Historical Society Acknowledges the Passing of Hubert Fields

There are few long time residents of Miamisburg who did not know Hubert Fields. "Hube", as he was known, passed away on July 27 at the age of 107 years.

After working at Chrysler and Frigidaire, he began, in the 1930's, working as a farmer on his property off St. Rt. 741, and later started a John Deere implement dealership from 1950 until 1963. He was a member of Trinity Church, a long-time member of the Miamisburg Rotary Club and a 75th Anniversary Paul Harris Fellow. Hube served as Rotary President in 1961-62, during which time he, along with Dr. Glen Brandon, founded the Rotary Pancake Day.

The Society sends sincere condolences to Mr. Fields' family and his many friends and acquaintances.

Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

- ☐ Student Membership \$5.00
☐ Individual membership \$15.00
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Total enclosed \$ _____

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Please make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

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

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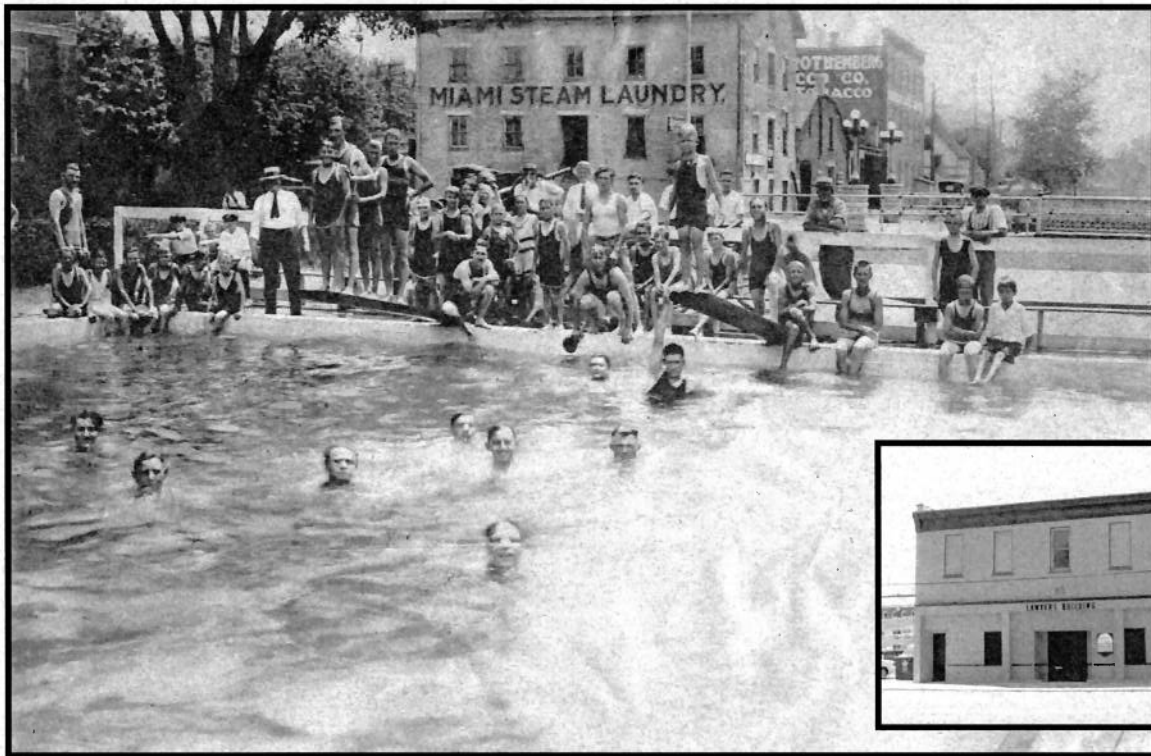
Growing Up In Miamisburg - Summertime

*Excerpts from a memoir written by
Warner Forbes (1914 - 1995)*

"Except for Christmas, the 4th of July was biggest event at our house. We always ordered our fireworks from the Brazil Novelty Co. in Cincinnati. They were shipped by Railway Express and we would be watching for that truck for a month before the big day. The fireworks came in a little wooden box and Mom and Dad would divide them between my sister, Barbara, and myself. We usually kept them in a small lard can.

One year I accidentally dropped a match in Barbara's bucket and set off all her fireworks. That caused a major hullabaloo, particularly since it happened around 6:00 in the morning. Later on, when I was in my teens, I had a firecracker stand in partnership with another guy. We had a lot of fun and made a few bucks.

Most of my summer days were spent at the swimming pool where spectators would toss pennies and occasionally nickels into the pool and we would dive for them. The pool at that time was located where the city fountain is now, on First Street. They changed the water every Monday. There was no filtration system. After it was changed, it was so cold you could hardly stand it, but by Sunday it was about as warm as urine, and I'm sure there was a lot in it. However, I don't recall anyone becoming ill or getting a disease."



The original City Swimming Pool (closed in 1934), NE corner of Central Avenue and First Street.

Note the Miami Steam Laundry building across the street on Central Avenue.

The building still stands, and is currently the Lawyers Building (inset above).

The building has been home to several businesses over the years, two of which were Danart Appliances and Danart Buick. (Named for Dan Anslinger and Art Studebaker)

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

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Media Production Group is Formed

By John Warrington, Media Production Chairman

On February 17th 2014, the first meeting of volunteers was held in the Market Square building to discuss the resurrection of a "media production group" to begin making historical programs for broadcast on the public access channel of the Miami Valley Communication Council. In attendance were Larry Suttman, Gary Petticrew, Carol O'Connell, Bobbye Sweny, Kevin Scheuller and John Warrington. We created a name for our show, which is **"Historic Miamisburg – Bicentennial Edition"**. In doing so, we hope to bring awareness to the 2018 Bicentennial celebration of the founding of Miamisburg.

During the months of March and April additional meetings were conducted to pick topics for potential programs and Robert Knierim joined the group. In May, several members took a 4-week course in TV production at the MVCC facilities in order to be able to secure video recording equipment for remote shoots.

Work began on putting together our first production featuring historian David Neuhardt, who is an authority on the Miami-Erie Canal. On June 17th, Carol O'Connell hosted the first taping of "The Miami-Erie Canal: A Waterway Transit 1828 to 1913". The resulting interview produced two 30-minute programs that were released for broadcast during the month of July. Next, we are planning on a show featuring the Mound Science and Energy Museum. We are interested in hearing from members with suggestions for future show topics. Please contact John Warrington at jwarrington@woh.rr.com with your comments and suggestions. Be watching for updates on show release dates and times.



It Was a Great Picnic!

Thanks so much to all who took part in our June picnic. We were blessed with an absolutely perfect evening weather-wise. Past President, Paul Schultz, who organized the event, counted heads that evening and announced that there were 68 folks in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the excellent food that was catered by 'One Bistro' of Second Street in Miamisburg. In addition to the picnic fare, Society members contributed their usual outstanding desserts.

We revisited the past with a program by Jerry Harmeyer of the Chautauqua Community Center. He talked about the long and varied history of Chautauqua and its role in the community today. Many of those in attendance had great memories of the park and they related their own stories, mostly of teen years and the fun times they remembered.



Historical Society Will Participate in Miamisburg Artisan Festival

By Carol O'Connell, Historical Society Booth Co-Chair

Since there is no Starving Artist event in the Park this year, Pegge Bellamy and Dina Cain have organized a new event to take its place. They're calling it the Miamisburg Artisan Festival.

Our Society has been invited to participate. We will be displaying artifacts and also offering gift shop items, Miamisburg memorabilia and literature about our organization. We'll have information available about the upcoming 'Old Time Craft Day' at Heritage Village and the City's Bicentennial which will take place in 2018. This will be a great opportunity to make ourselves known in the community and perhaps interest a few folks in joining the Society.

Miamisburg Artisan Festival

Saturday September 6 – 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Riverfront Park, 20 S. Miami Ave., by the Great Miami River

The Festival will feature artisans who will share their artistry in pottery, ceramics, painting, jewelry, quilts and more. There will be music and a 'Food Truck Rally' as well, so don't worry about going hungry.

Money raised will be given to the city for children's scholarships for summer camp.

We're looking for volunteers to help man the booth and to help out in other ways. If you can spare an hour or so at anytime during the day or would like further information, contact Judy Wuerstl at jk.wuerstl@gmail.com or 866-1784, or call Carol O'Connell at 384-0761. If you've never worked at our booth, give it a try – *It's FUN!*

September General Program

Summer is almost over and plans are underway for the upcoming fall/winter season. We resume our monthly program schedule in September and utilize this session to update our members on all the happenings and activities going on with the Society and our plans for the future. There will also be a question and answer period for anyone who would like more specific information.

September General Program
Thursday, September 25, 7:00 pm
Market Square Building

Come and join other members as we get back together again after the summer break. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are a member of the Miamisburg Historical Society, which means that you have a love of our great city. Get together with others who have the same common interest.

As a Society, we accomplish so much in preserving and sharing the history of our town. Come and see what all is in the works and what has already been achieved through the efforts of our volunteers.

A Question For Our Readers

By Diane Warrick, *The Tavern Log* Editor

For those of you who are well versed in Miamisburg history, have you ever heard of the community or neighborhood called "Poor Hook"?

On a recent trip to visit my friend, Carol Loy Butzer, she showed me some writings by her grandmother who was born and lived her entire life in a farmhouse near the corner of Rt. 725 and Rt. 741. In everything she wrote, she signed 'Della Smith, Poor Hook' and the date, which in the example below is 1897. Carol says that she also remembers her dad mentioning the community of Poor Hook which was evidently considered part of Miamisburg.

If you know more about this neighborhood, we'd love to hear your information. Please contact me at dewarrick@sbcglobal.net.

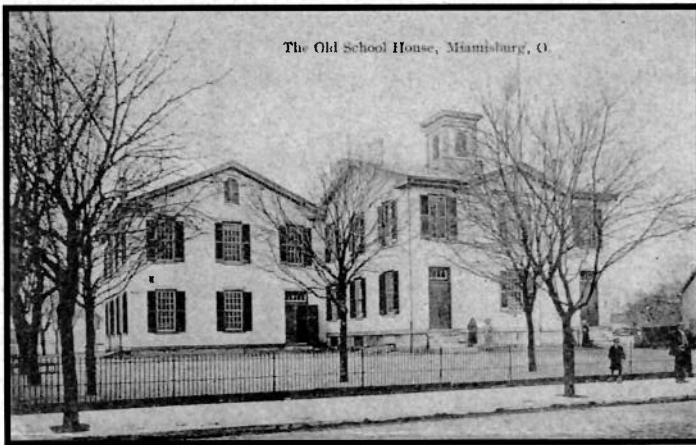
A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten text in cursive. The text reads: "Della Smith", "Poor Hook", and "1897".

Eudon Holland Pledges \$500,000 for Proposed MHS Sports Complex

The "Campus Quest" project that is currently underway has received a huge boost by MHS graduate of 1951, Mr. Eudon Holland, who also happens to be a Historical Society member. We're very happy to spread the word of his most generous contribution to the ongoing fund drive. He came to Miamisburg in the late 40's and says that he was so warmly accepted in this town that it has always held a special place in his heart. Mr. Holland several years ago set up a charitable trust to benefit the school, but when this privately funded, sports complex project came up, he decided to donate the funds at this time so that he could see the results during his lifetime.

Miamisburg's First High School

It's very possible that you may remember this old building. It was home to Miamisburg's first high school. Do you remember where it was located? Like so many old structures, it served the community well for decades,



but eventually outlived its usefulness and was demolished in 1959. If you're still wondering exactly where this building stood, it was at the site of the present day 'Our Lady of Good Hope' Catholic Church on Central Avenue across from the Senior Center.

The west wing of the building (on right) was constructed in 1849, thirty one years after Miamisburg was founded. The east wing (on left) which housed the high school students was built in 1868 at a cost of \$8,000. After a few years, both sections were used to house the high school students and the first class graduated from this building in 1873.

It's Just a Little Log Cabin

Do you recognize the building at left? Beneath the clapboard siding hides a little log cabin (25 x 30 feet) that was used as a schoolhouse in 1818 for Miamisburg students of all ages.

It sits on Second Street now, but it has been moved twice since it occupied its original location at the corner of Central Ave. and First St. The first move was to make room for the canal that was to be built. The second move was because of a proposed cemetery.

This historic little building is definitely a survivor and hopefully will still be around in 2018 when it turns 200 years old.



Keep It In Mind!

Canal Days Ham and Bean Dinner, Annual Meeting and Auction
Thursday, October 23

Details announced in the October Tavern Log.

Heritage Village News

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator



This season at the Village has seen a nice number of interesting and interested visitors. On Fathers' Day there were 18 visitors! Wouldn't it be nice if there were always that many folks stopping in?

Please give us a hand and spread the word to everyone you know that we are there, and open to the public.

Thank you to the volunteers who worked the Sundays in June and July:

Kim, Mary & Karen Izor
Murielene Case
Sharon Hiatt Yee
Gary & Nita Petticrew
Jay & Angie Robinson
Vicki Warrick

Bill & Patti Johanan
Carolyn Kilpatrick
Jeanette Belvo
Diane Warrick
Larry Suttman
Marilyn Shade

Annie Gilkison
Tom Silberman
Carol O'Connell
Loretta Colaricci
Doug Stamm



Lifetime Achievement Award Given to Two MHS Alumni

The Miamisburg High School Alumni Association this year awarded two *Honor Graduate Awards*. These awards are given annually to MHS graduates who, beginning in high school and over their lifetime, have contributed their time and talents in many areas for the betterment of the community.

From the MHS Class of 1959, this year's honorees were Randy Staley and Diane Warrick. In addition to other organizations and interests, they are both active volunteers in our own Miamisburg Historical Society.

Randy holds two very important and time consuming positions as Chair of the Veteran's Committee and head of Facility Maintenance at Market Square and Heritage Village. You may also find him at Market Square on Wednesdays and Saturdays, helping out wherever he's needed. Diane is editor of *The Tavern Log*, serves as docent at Heritage Village, photographs all our events, provides PowerPoint shows for the Children's Educational programs and designs brochures and flyers as needed.

Randy and Diane wish to thank the MHS Alumni Assoc. for this honor and recognition. The love of their hometown of Miamisburg is the driving force behind their service and dedication to Miamisburg and its citizens.



MHS Yearbooks Needed...

By Randy Staley

Just in case you didn't know, the Historical Society has a large collection of Miamisburg High School yearbooks (Mirus) available in our research room. Believe me when I say the yearbooks are very well used throughout the year by the public and by our own researchers.

However, we do need a few more to complete our collection.

We are looking for the following years:

1918, 1965, 1971, 1980, 1981,
1984, 1989, 1992, 1994, 1996,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

If you are willing to donate an issue that is listed above, please bring it to Market Square between 1:00 and 4:00 pm on Wednesday or Saturdays. Or you may give us a call at 937-859-5000, or email us at mhsociety@att.net, and we will make arrangements to pick it up from you at your convenience.



Miamisburg Historical Society
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What's Coming Up

FREE ADMISSION

Old Time Craft Day

Sunday, October 19
2:00 to 5:00 pm

At Miamisburg's Heritage Village
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main

Watch the old time crafters
as they demonstrate their skills...

Carving Knitting Tatting Quilting
Chair Caning Spinning Basket Making
Furniture Making Creativity with dried herbs
Dulcimer Playing Blacksmithing

REFRESHMENTS!



Fall Schedule of Events



- Sept. 6 Artisan Festival Booth 10:00-6:00**
- Sept. 25 ... General Program 7:00 pm**
Market Square Building
- Oct. 19..... Old Time Craft Day 2:00-5:00**
Heritage Village
- Oct. 23..... Canal Days Bean Dinner & Auction**
Time and place to be announced
- Oct. 26..... Closing Day at Heritage Village**
- Nov..... No General Program**
- Dec. 5 Christmas at the Tavern 2:00-5:00**
Gebhart Tavern Museum
- Dec. 7..... Holly & Ivy Gala**
Time and place to be announced