



# The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

December 2006

Volume XV Issue 6

## 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@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

## Improvements for the Market Square Building

Pictured is a digital rendering of the new sign that will soon be installed on the east end of the Market Square Building. The canvas banner that hung there for quite some time certainly did not convey the importance this historic structure has for the city of Miamisburg. The new sign, being constructed by Insignia Signs, will undoubtedly be in place by the end of January.



An even larger project that has been in the planning stage for over a year is the reconstruction of the front façade of the Market Square Building. The woodwork panels surrounding the windows and doors have deteriorated to the extent of allowing water to penetrate to the interior. In accordance with historic guidelines and to closely replicate the original design, new woodwork will be installed along with energy saving doors and windows which have already been ordered.

Funds for the renovation come from a grant that provides a sharing of the costs between the city (owners of the building) and the state. The Historical Society will incur some small costs due to cosmetic details that are deemed necessary. The entire façade renovation will be underway soon and is slated to be finished in early 2007.

We have an important historic structure in our care. It is essential that it is maintained and preserved for future generations.

## Tavern Log Publishing Postponed

We've delayed the publishing of this issue in order to include pictures and articles on our December activities. It's been a very busy month and there's lots to talk about and report to our members.

Look for our February issue at its normal time. That issue will contain our calendar of events planned for 2007.

## Miamisburg's Armory

It has recently come to the attention of our Veteran's Committee that there was indeed an armory in Miamisburg. The March 8, 1900 edition of the *Miamisburg News* contains an article entitled, "New Military Company". It states, "Lieutenant H.G. Catrow and a number of other young men with him has again taken up the matter of organizing a military company which they are now pushing to a finish."

On March 22, 1900 the newspaper reads, "A new military company held an exceedingly interesting drill at the Mecca Hall on Tuesday evening." On April 5 the *News* headline announces, "Muster of Company H, Third Regiment O.N.G." This article reports, "Special Orders, No. 76, issued by the Adjutant General, directs Colonel C.B. Adams to muster the military company into the service of the State on Tuesday April 10th and hold an election for one captain, one first lieutenant and one second lieutenant. This will take place in the evening at Mecca Hall, at 8 o'clock. Major H.M. Taylor, Surgeon of the Fourth Infantry, will accompany Colonel Adams and make examination of those who wish to enter the company." The April 12 issue states that the required number of men, fifty-two, had been attained, the oath of service was taken and the company mustered into the service of the State of Ohio.

As soon as the company was sworn in, an election of officers took place resulting in the election of Herbert G. Catrow, Captain; John H. Karr, First Lieutenant; George W. Nusz, Second Lieutenant. Thus, Company H, Third Regiment, Ohio National Guard of Miamisburg was born. It was due to Captain Catrow's indefatigable efforts that the company was so quickly formed and mustered in. He was a graduate of Chester Military Institute of Chester, Pennsylvania and particularly well qualified.

The company quickly became the best in the state. Captain Catrow became Major Catrow and he contracted A.F. Gwinner for his warehouse building, at the corner of Linden and Second Streets, to be used for the new armory for Company H. The building (now used by Alcor Supply) was in excellent condition. The second floor was arranged as the drill hall and the first floor for the use of officers and company.

Thus we have the history of the Armory in Miamisburg. We know where the Armory was located, but our dilemma is that no one seems to know where the "Mecca" building was located. Mecca Hall is mentioned in all the old articles as being the meeting site used while the military company was being formed. If you can shed some light on the location of this building, please contact Veteran's Committee Chairman, Randy Staley at 885-4458.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

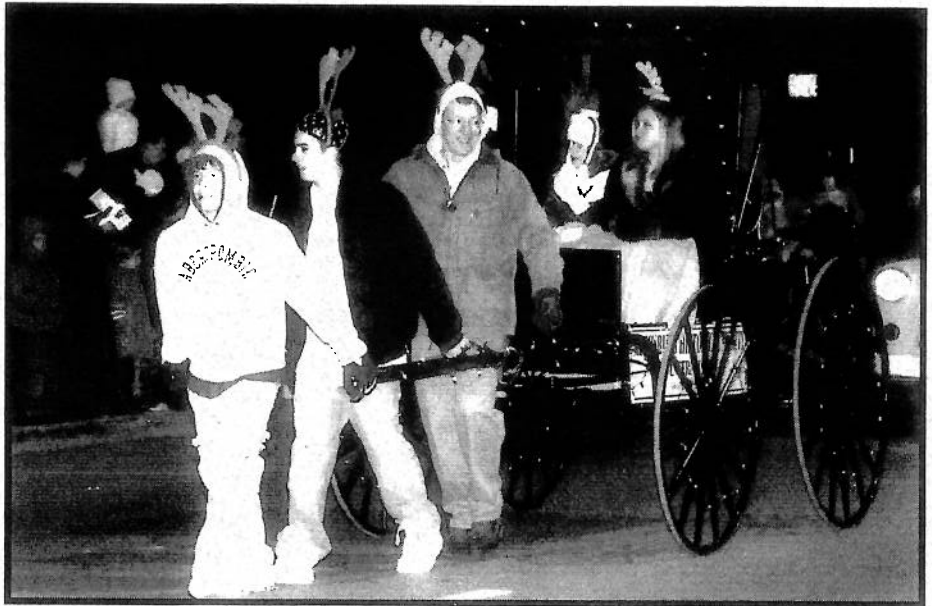
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Miamisburg Historical Society  
P.O. Box 774  
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

## Historical Society Participates in Christmas Parade

The evening was beautiful. Cold, but no freezing rain as in last year's parade. The Kauffman Buggy was decorated with lights for the event and pulled by three REINDEER??

No, you're not seeing things. The Clydesdale horse that usually pulls the buggy was not available this year, but that didn't stop us from taking part in the parade. Thanks to Jim Bornhorst who installed the Christmas lighting on the buggy and also assumed the roll of reindeer, the show went on as planned. The other "reindeer" were Aaron Collins and Calob Perkins. Many thanks to them for helping to pull the buggy. Enjoying the carriage ride were Ciera Brandenburg and Hannah Perkins.



*Photo by Jim DeYoung*

This Christmas Parade was a very well attended event in Miamisburg. More folks than ever before came out to see the parade and to take part in all the festivities. The Santa Scramble goes on that evening along with lots of games and activities for the kids at the Baum House. If you missed it this year, make a mental note to get out of your recliner and join in the fun in 2007. You'll love it!



*Holly and Ivy  
2006*



On Friday, December 8th we were treated to a very nice evening at the James & Suzanne Butler home for the Holly and Ivy Christmas Party. They graciously offered their home for this annual holiday fundraiser event for the Miamisburg Historical Society. There were delicious hors d'oeuvres, cheese, crackers, olives and a wonderful spread of Christmas cookies and cakes. There was a holiday punch and Suzy's secret recipe fresh fruit sangria.

Guests were treated to a tour of Jim and Suzy's new home. They recently moved into this home, located in the Vienna Park area of Miami Township, after an extensive renovation. The house was completely redone inside and a new stone addition was added for a home office and an additional bedroom for their children. The house now has a high raised ceiling over an open kitchen and living area.

Jim is a history 'buff' and has an interesting collection of Dayton prints from old glass negatives from John Patterson's NCR archives. He also has a fun collection of cereal boxes and 50's and 60's items from local stores, dairies and restaurants (Frisch's/Jerry's).

We are very grateful to the Butlers and all who attended. A good time was had by all.





## November General Program Celebrates Vietnam Vets

Tara Dixon-Engel and Lt. Col. Mike Jackson (Ret.), co-authors of the book, "Naked in DaNang", gave an outstanding presentation in November that honored and celebrated the legacies of America's military veterans.

Mike Jackson recounted his experiences in Vietnam with unexpected humor. He also touched on the dark side of war along with the anger and rejection that was dealt most vets upon returning home from Vietnam.

Ms. Dixon-Engel, National Chairman of "Operation Welcome Home", told of the many ceremonies, celebrations and parades that are currently being held across our country to show very belated appreciation to Vietnam veterans for their service. These celebrations have served to help heal the wounds of many men and women who, because of the public's disapproval of the war, were never properly thanked by US citizens.

This presentation was informative, thought provoking and also very entertaining; an excellent example of the quality programs available to the public at our Historical Society general meetings.

## 2007 Membership Drive

You'll soon be receiving your 2007 Historical Society Membership form. Please keep your membership current by submitting your dues for the new year. Your support alone makes it possible for the Society to exist and to continue its preservation of Miamisburg's past as well as providing the excellent programs and events we offer throughout the year.

Our Historical Society is a non-profit and entirely volunteer organization.

## We appreciate all you do...

All our thanks go out to Dean and Mary Goodwin who along with Ross and Betty Morris prepared and served the wonderful ham and bean dinner at our Annual Meeting in October.

Through their efforts, our Canal Days Dinner was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Every year these folks are so kind to volunteer their time and talents in order to benefit the Society.

## How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

### *The December Pop Quiz:*

**The Market Square Building has housed many activities over the years.**

**Clothing Shop**

**Town Hall**

**Farmers Market**

**Shooting Range**

**Historical Society**

**Library**

**Post Office**

**Jewelry Store**

**Jail**

**Meat Market**

**Mayor's Office**

**Bank**

**Only one of the above list is incorrect. Which one is it?**

*Answer on Page 7*



## Excerpts from the Staley Diaries

The Historical Society has recently acquired the diaries of Isaac Staley. He was born July 3, 1836 in "Shakersville", three miles east of Dayton. This may possibly be in the area of what is now Wayne Avenue and Watervliet Avenue. His father died when Isaac was just over a year old. Isaac's mother, Salome, always referred to as Sara, moved him to Miamisburg a few years after the death of his father.

Isaac Staley was confirmed in the Lutheran Church by Rev. Heincke and sang in the choir for years, including the event of the dedication of that church. Many times he would attend two services a day at different churches, one being in English, the other in German.

The family farm was located at Miami Township, Lot 33 on Miamisburg Centerville Pike (the Toll House), now the location of Ron's BP station on Central Avenue. His mother bought the land around 1850.

On March 6, 1865 he married Harriet Ann Coleman. They had three sons and two daughters. Isaac was a very active farmer, however he also served as a Township Trustee, Chairman of Elections, School Board Member for 24 years and President of that Board at the time of his death.

He died December 19, 1903 at his home. His obituary said, "He was a man of careful habits, strictly honest and kept a daily journal ever since the year 1861."

Following is an excerpt from Isaac Staley's diaries which take place in the days around Christmas in 1864. Our Society is very fortunate to be in possession of these writings which give us a glimpse of everyday life in that era.

### December 19th Monday 1864

Striped tobacco nearly all day took 2 more throughs more down  
and to German choir Meeting  
paid .30 cts for 1/2 lb of candy and retired 10 O'

### December 20th Tuesday

Striped tobacco all day and bubs Mother washed for us Mother not being well to singing in the eaving for Christmas a gift of one \$1 Dollar to H and retired about 10 paid 35 cts for candy again

### December 21 Wednesday

Me and John striped tobacco again all day and retired early.

### December 22nd Thursday

Very cold to day - I went to Lambs Mill and got \$11.50 worth of feed in the forenoon, and fetched my new Spring Wagon in the afternoon for 155.00. not settled for. R E

### December 23rd Friday

Worked a little around the house then went to town with some Eggs 5 Dozens @ 25 c - 1.25 received paymt  
to Choir Meeting in the eaving  
paid .25 cts for coat Buttons retired Early

### December 24th Saturday

I was about home till Noon  
Went to the election for Esq. Goudy was Electit,  
got medicine for Mother for 50 cts paid she not being well  
to Christmas tree celebration  
to Whitmyer [?] Harriet [R?] home early

### December 25th Sunday

To sundy school they gave the things from the tree to the children and German preaching in the forenoon then home and  
Mother not better yet  
Mary played the organ  
to town and English preaching in the eavning and retired early Cost 40

### December 26th Monday

Striped tobacco all day by myself  
off what I had down from last season  
to German Choir meeting in the eaving  
mary played paid .30 for tobacco  
retired early

## Historic Research and Resource Committee . . . HRRC



The excitement of opening gifts on Christmas morning has come and gone, but for us it's like that throughout the whole year with each donated collection. Imagine sitting down in front of a dusty box or perhaps a suitcase heavy with its content ...opening it ...and WOW, the treasures that sometimes emerge!

We recently received just such a suitcase, chock-full of old photographs from Donny Miller. And what a collection— never before seen photographs of the 1913 flood and the reconstruction of the flood damaged railway through Miamisburg.

Another picture collection of Miamisburg's Main Street past was donated by Tom Silberman. It includes a photo of the Deutsche Apothecary or the A.L. Silberman's Pharmacy (pictured below) at the corner of Main and Central Ave. In the photograph is a one of a kind image of the Market Square Building with a Post Office sign next to the entrance. These donated collections and hopefully many more to come, continue to build our accessioned collection of photographs of historic Miamisburg.

We all experienced the fun and excitement of discovering the log home of Jacob Kercher at 14 West Ferry Street and with crowbars and hammers in hand, peeling away almost two centuries of paint layers, wallpaper and plaster lath to expose the massive timbers of the original log structure. Jacob Kercher built this log house between 1808 and 1809. His daughter, Elizabeth, was born in this home in 1809, perhaps the first child to be born in what is now Miamisburg.

The Historic Research and Resource Committee ended this fruitful year with a Christmas Party for volunteers on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to 2007 with excited anticipation. With the dedicated work of our volunteers and the generosity of donators, we will expand Miamisburg's Historical Society's over 12,000 accessioned items, enriching the collected history of Miamisburg and whetting our appetites for new discoveries.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ted Dalton  
Colvin Wells  
Tom Stine  
Bill Stalder  
Charles & Murielene Case  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Voss  
Tom & Sue Silberman  
Douglas Stamm  
Suella Fenton



## *In the Gift Shop*

### FEATURING:

**"Boiled Peanuts and Buckeyes"**  
By Lee Eudon Holland

The latest addition to the historical offerings in our gift shop is the newly acquired memoir-novel by Miamisburg Class of 1951 graduate, Lee Eudon Holland.

Mr. Holland tells about his early years, living in six different cities by the time he was 15 years old. He describes many of his high school experiences here in Miamisburg, along with his memories of the undefeated 1950 Vikings football team.

Hardcover: \$27.00    Softcover: \$18.00



Books and booklets now available include:

The Hill Grove Cemetery Book  
"Boiled Peanuts and Buckeyes"  
by Lee Eudon Holland  
"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



## **Christmas at the Tavern**

If you've never attended "Christmas at the Tavern", you're missing a wonderful and inspiring holiday event. It's a trip to the past when you enter the old historic cabin. As you walk through the door, the smell of spiced cider greets you along with the sound of Christmas carols being beautifully performed by Ted and Abbi Baxendale, a local father and daughter duo. Visitors too joined in the singing while enjoying cookies baked by Virginia Balzer and other Historical Society volunteers.

The outstanding decorations this year were done by Joyce and Tom Zimpfer, who did a wonderful job of keeping in the 1811 period by using pine boughs, ribbon and other natural elements. Also helping to create an atmosphere of days gone by were Les & Janet Wead and Rolla Broerman who all appeared in period costumes.

Our thanks to Nita Petticrew and Rolla Broerman for supplying the wonderful spiced cider. Thank you also to Jim and Laura Bornhorst who did a great job of planning and coordinating this year's event.

### **Pop Quiz Answer**

**The answer is "Library".**

At some point in its long history, all of the businesses or activities listed were located in the Market Square Building with the exception of a library. The Market Square Building was built in 1851 and has, twice in its history, been slated for demolition.



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

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## Bob Knierim Wins United Way Award

We are very proud of Historical Society member, Bob Knierim, for winning the Community Volunteer of the Month Award for November, given by the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area. Bob is the producer of two monthly public access television shows, one of which is *Historic Miamisburg*. For nearly 25 years Bob has volunteered his time for the Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC).

Bob's interest in videography began with the recording of his son's football games and continued to expand and grow from there. He was soon taping many other community events. Bob later formed the Miamisburg Video Club, an organization of senior citizens who all share the interest of videotaping events for their city.

Richard Diaz, Community Production Coordinator, says, "No volunteer in our organization, from teens to seniors, works harder than Bob Knierim. He infuses our staff with his energy and his dedication to keeping a record of the city he loves is inspirational."

***Congratulations Bob!***

## Students participate in "Make a Difference Day"



All our thanks to Doug Voss of Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department and the Miamisburg High School students who painted the exterior of the "Little White House" that sits behind Gebhart Tavern. The teens, participating in "Make a Difference Day" (MADD) volunteered their time to help out our Historical Society.

Students participating were:

Caitlin Courson	Kim Arnold
Morgan Ruppert	Nicole Birchmeier
Megan Weidner	

Our thanks also to Rosemary Schenck for assisting in the project.

We appreciate your willingness to donate your time and make a difference in our community!