



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

April 2015

Volume XXIV Issue 2

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The Tavern Log is published six times
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Submit material to:

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Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343
or via e-mail to
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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
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BOARD MEETINGS

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

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MIAMISBURG
200
YEARS OF HISTORY

April Program Will Highlight Plans For 2018 Bicentennial

Yes, we're already thinking ahead to the
Bicentennial that our city will be celebrating in
the summer of 2018. As a Historical Society,

we know this will be an excellent chance for our organization to shine,
and we want to be ready.

Bicentennial Planning Program

Thursday, April 23 at 7:00—Market Square Building

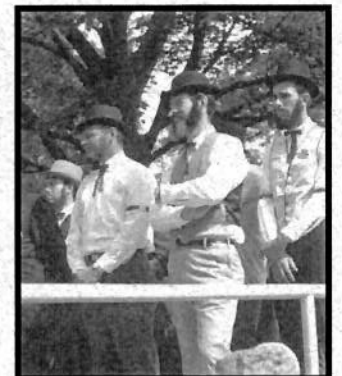
Were you around when the city celebrated its Sesquicentennial in
1968? It was a huge event for Miamisburg. The men grew mustaches
and beards and were even "arrested" if they were seen in public, clean
shaven. The women sewed
1800's dresses and matching
outfits for the children. There
were style shows, antique
shows, a professionally
directed pageant at Harmon
Field, a cow milking contest,
several parades, and numerous
other fun events which kept
everyone very busy for over
a week.



*Scenes from the 1968
Sesquicentennial*



*Mayor Robert Mears and his wife, Rose,
lead the parade of walkers in 1968.*



Be a part of the fun and get in on the early planning. Do you have
some ideas of how the Society may be involved in the Bicentennial.
We'd love to hear them. Of if you'd just like to see what's in the
works for the 2018 celebration, be sure to attend our April program.

Society's March General Program Featured First-Hand Account Of 1986 Miamisburg Train Derailment

Our March 26, General Program at Market Square was very well attended as Billy Ring gave a presentation and slide show on the CSX train derailment that occurred on the west side of Miamisburg. Billy Ring was, at that time, Captain and paramedic at the Miamisburg Fire Department and served as spokesman to the media. At the program, he was able to give folks a much better idea of what happened during that event and many facts that were not revealed at the time.

For those who were not living here in 1968, this accident was historic in scope and involved the evacuation of approximately twenty thousand residents in the community and surrounding areas. On July 8, 1986 at 4:25 pm, a southbound freight train, consisting of an engine and forty-four cars derailed while traveling over the bridge spanning Bear Creek on the west side of the Miami River. Fifteen of the cars derailed, one of which contained phosphorus. The Miamisburg Fire Department, headed by Chief Bob Menker, and fourteen area fire departments were involved in containing the fire which raged for five days.



(Continued on page 8)

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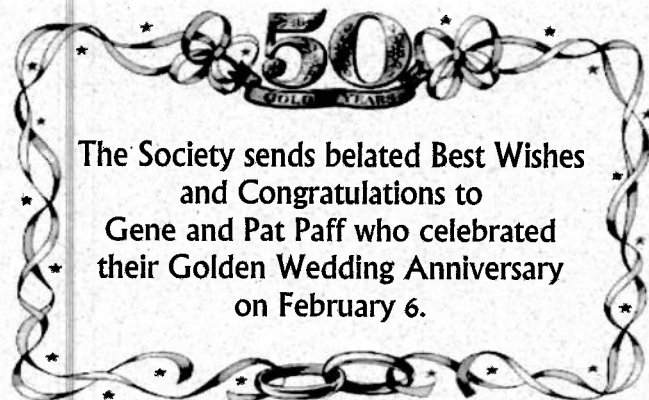
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February and March**

Classic Stitch

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It wasn't too many years ago that there wasn't a whole lot going on in Miamisburg on Memorial Day Weekend. Yes, it was a time to picnic with family and friends, and celebrate the unofficial start of summer, but how many folks actually took the time to recognize our military veterans. It seems like the purpose of the holiday had been forgotten.

Well, that has all changed now, thanks to the Historical Society Veteran's Committee and the American Legion Post 165. Together, they have brought Memorial Day commemorations back to Miamisburg in a big way.

The weekend kicks off with our "Silver Taps" Ceremony at the Market Square Building. Taps are played and the names of local military veterans who died in war are read. That evening the Society's military display is also opened for visitors.

The weekend continues with Rocky's 5K Freedom Run and the Victory Dinner/Dance on Saturday. Cemetery services are conducted on Memorial Day, followed by a parade which ends at Library Park. Services are then conducted at the Park with a picnic afterward, offering FREE hot dogs and ice cream for everyone.

Please consider taking in some, if not all, of the events offered in our community. You'll be glad you did!

Silver Taps Program and Military Display

Thursday, May 21—7:00 pm
Market Square Building

Rocky's 5K Freedom Run/Walk

Saturday, May 23—9:00 am, *Registration at 8:00*
Library Park—5th and Central (Veteran's Way)

Victory Dinner/Dance

Saturday, May 23—5:00 and 7:30 pm
American Legion Post 165
35 N. Main Street, Miamisburg

Memorial Day Cemetery Services—Monday, May 25

Our Lady of Good Hope Cemetery	8:45 am
Hill Grove Union Cemetery	9:15 am
Highland Cemetery.....	9:40 am
Linden Avenue Bridge	10:30 am

Memorial Day Parade 11:00 am

Linden Ave. to First St. to Central Ave. to Library Park

Library Park Memorial Service—Following the parade

Picnic at the Park—Following Memorial Services

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February Program Featured Media Production Group

By John Warrington, Media Production Group Chair

On February 26th, at our General Program Meeting, the newly created Media Production Group gave a presentation summarizing the highlights of work completed in 2014. Chair John Warrington gave a short PowerPoint presentation and an eleven minute video clip of several show segments.

Committee members Bobbye Sweny, Carol O'Connell, Gary Petticrew and John Warrington elaborated on current and future show topics and took questions from the audience. About forty brave guests attended this meeting on a very cold and snowy night, but were rewarded with Ron's Pizza, Joe Stanton's cheese cake and other refreshments. Thank you to Ron Holf for the pizza and those who helped set up and contributed to an entertaining evening.



John Warrington

Watch For Our New Productions

Information provided by Carol O'Connell



When our new shows are scheduled for viewing on MVCC Channel 5 or Channel 99, they are posted as "Historic Miamisburg—Bicentennial Edition". This title differentiates our new productions from those done in the past. The three part series currently in production is hosted by Carol O'Connell. The interviews are with Bobbye Sweny, as she features the nine properties in the city that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Three properties are featured in each of the three episodes. The first episode which was taped in January includes the Groby Bank, Gwinner Block and the Market Square Building. The February taping includes the Baum Opera House, Liesenhoff Building and the A.R. Stocker Building (pictured at left). The third episode in this series will include the McGuire Home, the Weaver Building and the IOOF Block which is now home to Ron's Pizza.

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Heritage Village Opens For The Season on May 3

We know you read all about our Heritage Village in *The Tavern Log*, but have you actually been there? These two historic structures, both built in the early 1800's have been restored and outfitted in period furnishings by our Historical Society.

The Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum is on its original site and not only serves as a museum, but also a venue for several of our Historical Society events. An interesting

note— when Daniel Gebhart wanted to build and operate a tavern, he was only 19 years old. A historic record indicates that his mother, Catherine, went to Dayton in September of 1811 and secured the license for him.

The Kercher Pioneer Home (at left) is the second building at Heritage Village and was moved from Ferry Street to this location in 2008. It was built in 1809 by early settler, Jacob Kercher, and is where he raised his two sons and eight daughters. Although it is covered by lap siding on three sides, the log structure may be seen on the back and interior of the building. The Society has furnished it as a one room school house on the first floor and a children's museum on the second floor. It serves the community well as a local history teaching facility for hundreds of Miamisburg third graders and other children which are brought through each year.

If you've never visited Heritage Village before, make a point to get there some Sunday this spring or summer. Our volunteers are on hand and anxious to show you around from 2:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoons. (May through October) Thanks go out to the City of Miamisburg and to all our volunteers for doing their part in enabling the Society to keep these historic buildings open and available to the public.

Heritage Village is located at the corner of Old Main and Lock Street in Miamisburg.
It sits alongside the Miami River levee and is accessible from the bike path.

Venue is Changed for Miamisburg Alumni Dinner/Dance

Due to the closing of the Wyndham Gardens Hotel late last summer, the Alumni Association was forced to begin looking for a new venue for the Annual Dinner/Dance. This year marks the 128th Annual Meeting for this organization. As you may already know, Miamisburg has the longest continuously running Alumni Association in the United States, and that honor would not be dropped because of a forced change of venue.

Society member, Lee Hieronymus—Class of 1965, is President of the Association this year. Lee and his family have always been loyal supporters of Miamisburg schools, and you can be sure that the Annual Meeting would not come to an end under his watch. After considering several options, it has been decided that the Dinner/Dance will be held this year at the Moose Lodge on Old Central Avenue in Miamisburg. It will accommodate a large number of guests and there is parking on the premises.

128th Annual Meeting of the Miamisburg Alumni Association

Saturday, June 20	Cocktails	5:30
Miamisburg Moose Lodge	Buffet Meal	6:30
2110 E. Central Avenue	Business Meeting	7:45
Miamisburg, OH 45342	Dance	9:00

Dinner/Dance Tickets \$25
Dance only tickets \$10

Tickets will be sold from 10:00 to 12:00 on
June 6 and 13 at the Miamisburg Civic Center.

Stop In At Market Square To See Our Latest Display

By Nita Petticrew, HRRC Chairperson



In the North Gallery of the Market Square Building, a new display of pharmaceutical items has been set up. Items used in the 'olden days' are on display, along with a list of physicians (from 1811). These are all artifacts from collections given to the Society.

Among the items are:

A unique list of diseases, and the booklet, "The History of Medicine in Miamisburg, Ohio" written by the late C. E. Gebhart, M.D.

Two excerpts from this booklet:

- Article from the Bulletin Newspaper, January 24, 1873. "Ear Wax – its uses. It keeps the ear moist and is a deadly poison to insects."
- Article from Bulletin Newspaper, May 8, 1874. "Cure for lockjaw – pour warm turpentine on the wound (also a remedy for croup by saturating a cloth with it and putting it on the chest)."

Sending Get Well Wishes

We'd like to send our thoughts and prayers out to Tom Zimpfer, our wonderful gardener and seasonal decorator at Heritage Village.



Tom was recently hospitalized after a serious hiking accident. Our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery.

We're Thinking of You



We're sending heartfelt thoughts out to long time Society members, Don and Saron McLaughlin, as they deal with Saron's continuing health problems.

We send our best wishes out to you both.

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More Facts About the July 8, 1986 Train Derailment

(Continued from Page 2)

- Police departments from 53 jurisdictions carried out a massive evacuation of the city and surrounding areas. This evacuation was the largest associated with a train derailment in US history.
- Road blocks were set up on roads leading to the restricted area; citizens attempting to enter this area were turned back.
- Rail cars involved in the fire contained phosphorus, animal fat, new vehicles and newsprint.
- The fire was thought to be coming under control the following day, until the phosphorus car shifted in the wreckage and exploded.
- Flames were above tree top level and emitting a smoke plume that rose 1500 feet in the air, drifting in a northeast direction.
- The night of July 10 was complicated by the passage of severe winds and rain which forced the relocation of the Command Post as the plume shifted in that direction.
- On the morning of July 11, the tank car was still burning with no let up, and again the Command Post was temporarily evacuated as winds shifted.
- When the fire was eventually extinguished, the tank car was pulled ahead to a bed of sand and opened. The remaining content was emptied into drums for disposal.

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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