

The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

June 2010

Volume XIX Issue 3

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. Publication dates are available from our 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.

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Cabin Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00-5:00 pm

Website:

http://miarnisburg.org/ miarnisburg_historical_society.htm Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Historic Sign is Added to Society's Collection

Maybe you can guess where our "new" sign came from. It was originally on the train depot building near Central Ave. The very heavy iron sign



Larry Suttman with "Miamisburg" Sign

was thought to have been painted black with either gold or white lettering and border. (Does anyone remember?) This one would have replaced the earlier wooden sign. Thought to date back to the early 1920's, the sign is rusting, but may easily be restored and preserved by sanding and painting of the surface. The other sign, a twin to this one, was broken when it was dropped at the time it was taken down many years ago.

We first learned about the sign when Bobbye Sweny received a call from Johnny Wax whose grandfather was freight manager of the train station when it was still New York Central. While at the dentist office in the Dental Depot, Mr. Wax was told of the sign that was stored in the basement of the building. He rescued it, sanded and cleaned it up and eventually contacted our Society and offered to donate the sign for our collections.

Needless to say, we jumped at the chance to possess such a great piece of Miamisburg history. It is thought that it would be an appropriate display in our Transportation Museum which is being planned for the future at the Heritage Village complex.



We're Planning a PICNIC!

Mark your calendar for **Thursday**, **July 22 at 6:00 pm**. Your Historical Society invites all members to get together for a picnic in the shelter house at **Sycamore Trails Park**. We'll celebrate the summer with picnic food and drinks which will be provided by the Society along with table service. There should be plenty of seating, but you may want to bring along a lawn chair for your own comfort.

We're looking forward to lots of great food, a big turnout and a fun event!



From the President's Desk...

By Ted Fink

It was my honor to be the speaker at the Silver Taps Ceremony at our May General Meeting. Having participated in a number of Memorial Day observances around the country and while stationed in England, the weekend program of events put together by Randy Staley and our Veterans Committee, and the members of American Legion Post 165 is unquestionably one of the

best I've seen. Silver Taps is one of the fine traditions of this community that has been developed and preserved over the years through the direct involvement of the Miamisburg Historical Society.

Another Historical Society tradition which has evolved over the years is our commitment to instilling a sense of local history in the students of the Miamisburg schools. Many people have been involved in this endeavor, but the one most closely associated with its success is Bobbye Sweny. I asked Bobbye to provide a synopsis of how the program developed, and as you can imagine, I got enough information to include an article in every *Tavern Log* from now until the end of my presidency. I will try to summarize.

In 1986, then President Mady Ransdell started a Children's Essay Contest for sixth graders. The winning essays were read at the May general membership meeting. In 1994, a Children's Art Show was added, again for the sixth graders. This program was headed by Miamisburg art teacher, Cathy Sweny, who insisted that it not be a contest, but a display of the children's art. Historic subjects were chosen to coincide with the program that evening. Between 1995 and 1999, various summer programs for children were conducted by Society members with themes such as the contributions to our town by Daniel Gebhart, the development of the Miami Erie Canal, the art of basket weaving and researching family history.

The first walking tours began with the help of teachers from Kinder and H.V. Bear Schools. The teachers provided the curriculum requirements and a program was developed around them. As other schools became interested in the program, it expanded to what is now known as the "Heritage Walk", going from Library Park to the Daniel Gebhart Tavern, with stops along the way at such historic buildings as the Carnegie Library, the old post office, the first schoolhouse and St. Jacob Lutheran Church. A short stroll along the old canal and a meeting with Mayor Dick Church round out the tour. In-school programs include the study of the Adena Indians, canal boats on the Miami Erie Canal and the life of the early frontiersmen.

Last year nearly 425 students participated in the "Heritage Walk" and the program continues to grow. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people who get involved in these programs to the extent that they do. I want to say a special thanks to Bobbye Sweny for her work with the children over the years. She is about to retire and pass the torch to Judy Wuerstl, who has assisted her for some time now. I know Judy is a dedicated volunteer, who will continue to grow this fine tradition. So, on behalf of the members of the Historical Society Board, "Thanks for a job well done, Bobbye!"

New Items Featured at Our Gift Shops

By Mary Pat Golden

Stop by the Market Square Building (Wed. and Sat., 1-4:00) or the Gebhart Tavern (Sun., 2-5:00) and see all the new Gift Shop items. The caps, tote bags, bandannas, magnets and "Church Dolls" all proudly say Miamisburg, Ohio.



The shop now carries earrings with miniature pictures of the Market Square Building, Kercher Cabin or Gebhart Tavern. Our newest item is a heavy, clear glass mug, deep etched with a drawing of Gebhart Tavern. These also say Miamisburg, Ohio and are gift boxed.

You're invited to...

"An Evening with Daniel and Mary Gebhart"

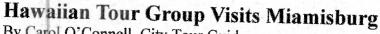
in their 1800's Tavern

As their guest, you will be entertained by their stories of life in early Miamisburg, be served a meal prepared from pioneer recipes and be treated to musical entertainment reminiscent of that time period.

Saturday, August 21, 2010 5:30 to 8:30 PM Heritage Village, corner of Old Main and Lock Streets

\$30 per person for Miamisburg Historical Society members \$35 per person for non-members

Limited Seating
Period Attire Optional
For Reservations, call (937) 847-1826



By Carol O'Connell, City Tour Guide

On April 10, 2010 the Miamisburg Historical Society welcomed 39 visitors from Honolulu, Hawaii. Arriving on the mainland, they began their tour in Atlanta, Georgia, working their way through South Carolina, West Virginia and Ohio after which they would travel on to end their tour in Las Vegas. They commented that Miamisburg was one of the highlights of their trip so far.

They were welcomed at Heritage Village by Mayor Dick Church, and docents, Judy Wuerstl and Bobbye Sweny. The tour to Miamisburg was led by Carol O'Connell, our local tour guide. We were pleased to have had the opportunity to converse with such interesting visitors about our early settlers.



Bobbye Sweny relates the story of early settlers in Miamisburg, to Hawaiian visitors.

While in the Miami Valley the group also toured the Air Force Museum, Wright Interpretive Center and Packard Museum. We were impressed with their enthusiasm as they visited our historical sites. The group was very curious about the how and why of the Adena Indian Mound, which they also visited.

Our visitors from Hawaii were the first to visit our newly opened gift shop at the Tavern created by Mary Pat Golden. While there, refreshments were served by Marilyn Shade. The event was recorded by our photographer, Diane Warrick. We were pleased to display the Kauffman Buggy, brought forward by Doug Stamm, who manually pulled it from its hiding place.

We all gathered for a group photo to forever remember the occasion as we said good-bye to our visitors from afar. Aloha!



Group photo of Hawaiian tourists along with tour guide, Carol O'Connell (back row on left).

Applebee's "Dine to Donate"

The opposite page contains coupons which are needed to participate in Applebee's "Dine to Donate" program. Just dine in or carry out at the Springboro Pike location near the Dayton Mall anytime during the day or evening of **Thursday, June 24** and 10% of the total of your check will be donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society. Your purchase of food, soft drinks, appetizers and alcohol all add up to be counted towards the donation to the Society. Let's make this day a great success. See you at Applebee's on June 24 and bring along some friends!

You must present a coupon at Applebee's for the donation go to our Society.



Bobbye Sweny with children.

Children's Historical Programs for 2010

By Bobbye Sweny Retiring Chair, Children's Educational Committee

The Children's Educational Committee has had its usual very busy month of May, scheduling 320 elementary students and 30 high school students for various programs. 240 students participated in a four-day program including three programs in the school and one Heritage Walking Tour.

To support the Veteran's Committee work, this year we included a Memorial Day program in the schools which featured Memorial Day - what it means, when it started and how we celebrate. We tell the history of the flag and what each segment means; the story of TAPS and the words that go with it. The National Anthem - all four stanzas and why Francis Scott Key wrote them. We were pleased with the children's knowledge.

Two schools (Bear and Kinder) asked for our new all-day program which includes the Heritage Walk in the morning, a school sponsored picnic lunch at Community Park, and a two hour session at the Heritage Village. We did Kinder's in-school programs last fall to take some of the load off our May schedule. We have already received our "thank you" letters from Bear School - they make it all worthwhile!

Judy Wuerstl and Bobbye Sweny also did a walking tour of the downtown for Carol McElroy's local history class. Tom Chapman very kindly took us through the old theatre and made arrangements for us to go through the Miami Hotel and the addition which houses sporting equipment. Our theme was "The Miamisburg We Remember" which included the after-the-war days of 1947 and the early fifties when we had mom and pop groceries, meat markets, several drug stores, dry goods stores, five and dime stores, the Equity Dairy Store, restaurants, bars, the early television and radio stores - and the many automobile showrooms and filling stations throughout Miamisburg. It brought back memories for us, too.

This will be my last year to chair the Children's Educational Committee. Judy Wuerstl will be taking over the reins. I will, however, continue to do programs as needed in the schools and at the Village - just no walking tours.

We would be remiss if we did not thank all the docents - Judy Wuerstl, Melanie Wild, Jim Schnapp, Lynley Culpepper, Kathy Fortney, Annie Gilkison, Joyce Zimpfer - and the ones who have helped in the past that we miss so much now - Betty Morris, Rolla Broerman and her daughter Vi, Becky Lewis and Diane McGlothlin. Also such wonderful helpers as Doug Stamm and Joe Steffen and our special supporter, Diane Warrick, who takes pictures and anything else we need! We also thank Chuck Sweny for printing all our stuff - especially the new brochures for the Gebhart Tavern and the Kercher Cabin. The children have enjoyed these so much.

DON'T FORGET YOUR COUPON! Clip these coupons and distribute to family and friends.

Dine in or carry-out at Applebee's on Thursday, June 24. Present a coupon when paying and 10% of the amount of your check will be donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society. Copies of coupons are acceptable.



DINE TO DONATE

Dine at Applebee's and 10% of your bill will be donated to

Miamisburg Historical Society

Present this flyer to your Server on Thursday, June 24, 2010 From: 11:00am to Close Only Valid at the following:



105 N. Springboro Pike, West Carrollton, OH 45449 Carside To Go Included



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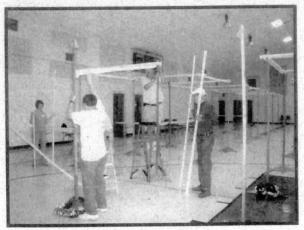
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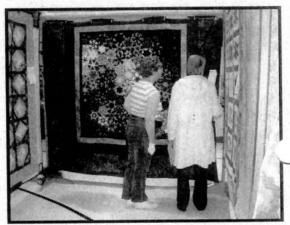
Setting up quilt racks.

Many Volunteers Contribute to Successful 2010 Quilt Show

By Janet Wead, Quilt Show Co-Chairperson

We appreciated all the help we received in April for our 2nd Quilt Show which proved to be a great success. Our first big project was to move all the quilt racks to our new site at the Miamisburg First Church of God. The move was made easier with the use of Doug Stamm's truck and trailer and his "chain gang" crew, Randy Staley, Zach McGlothin, Ron McGriff. Henry Powers, Carroll Zink, Rick Stock, Tom Silberman, Bob Faulkner, Jim Schnapp, Jim Lee Hoerner, Paul Mason, Les Wead and William Faulkner.

Many thanks to all of you who were able to attend our Quilt Show and all those that made the show possible; The Miamisburg Historical Society Board who did our advertising (Don McLaughlin), printing of quilt sign (Barb Olekas), all who sold raffle tickets (Bobbye Sweny, Karen Schnapp, Ted Fink deserve extra credit). Masters Insurance Agency provided our raffle tickets and they were printed up by Chuck Sweny. Karen Pelfrey secured our vendors, set up booth spaces and took care of numerous details. Phyllis Abney was in charge of admissions, banking and paying our expenses. An especially big thank you goes to all who shared their quilts by contributing to the display. The quilts are, after all, the stars of the show. We felt very fortunate to display a wide variety of exquisite quilts again this year.



Visitors viewing quilts on display.

Our appreciation to Darrell and Debby Cook. Darrell tightened all the racks and replaced the missing straps; Debby handled the sale of raffle tickets, the hanging of the quilts and sewed together the quilt blocks that were donated by the Stitching Nook from Richmond, Indiana. Georgia Evans machine quilted the raffle quilt.

Volunteers involved in the many details of setting up, taking down and operating the show:

Cathie Kosik Diane Carter Pati Kraft Kay Vonderembse Karen Pelfrey David Easter Janice Miller Janet Myers Thelma Fisher **Debby Cook** Georgia Evans Claire Olich Rolla Broerrman Marilyn Shade Darrell Cook Fred & Joellyn Bashford Joe Steffen Carol Brodehl Ginny Bignell Les & Janet Wead **Bob & Peggy Hewitt** Marie Mousa Bud & Iola Hail Judy Frizzell Connie Bates John & Diane Warrick **Dorothy Pugliano** Joan Cole Trish Mizer Shirley Holbrook Jim & Sharon Downey Debbie Palmer **Carol Grimes** Sandi Phipps Randy Staley Molly Frances Miller Doug Stamm Some members of the First Church of God Youth Group.

(If you've helped out at the show and we've missed listing your name, our sincere apology.)

To the Miamisburg First Church of God - we thank you for allowing our show to be held in your building, for the delicious lunch served by the Inspiration Ladies, for the help of your Youth Group and to your Church Board, our thanks for allowing us to store the racks and supplies at your facility.

We hope to do it again next year. Don't miss it!

The proceeds from the Quilt Show benefit the operating fund of the Miamisburg Historical Society.

2010 Silver Taps Program Best Yet

From beginning to end, this year's Silver Taps Program was outstanding. From the singing of our National Anthem by Riley Stamm and the traditional playing of

the bagpipes, to retired Air Force Colonel Ted Fink's stirring Memorial Day talk, it all added up to a very meaningful evening. Mayor Dick Church read the names of Miamisburg men who were killed in war and taps were played.



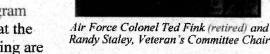
Bagpiper, Tim Schaiper

Randy Staley, head of our Veteran's Committee, has spearheaded the efforts to bring Memorial Day events back to the Burg. Our Historical Society can be very proud of all he and his committee has accomplished over the past several years.



8 year old, Riley Stamm

The Silver Taps Program and military display at the Market Square Building are



only the beginning of the events planned for the weekend. As this newsletter goes to press, the Victory Dance, the parade and Memorial Day service at the park are yet to come, along with the four cemetery services performed by American Legion Post 165.

Our thanks to all who took part in this year's Silver Taps Program, including American Legion Post 165, W. Carrollton VFW Post 3438 and Kettering American Legion Post 598.

Heritage Village News

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Volunteer Coordinator

Cleaning Day at Heritage Village dawned warm, dry and sunny. Yours truly was met at 9:00 am by two old faithful helpers: Bobbye Sweny set to work cleaning "her" Kercher Pioneer Home while Tom Silberman started on his yearly task of making the windows sparkle. Jim Schnapp also arrived and pitched in for several hours.

By 9:30 the four 8th grade boys who Jeanne Toadvine sent to help this year arrived and they were a Godsend. These hard workers



Our 8th grade helpers on cleaning day.

were: Kyle Withrow, Austin Bledsoe, Zack Smith and Tyler Haller, along with teacher, Krista Pickering. By and by Don Wuerstl and Carol O'Connell stopped by to offer a hand, and then along came Larry Suttman who stayed to the bitter end. To all those who gave of their time and sweat, a big huge thanks.

You know, this historical village belongs to us ALL. Why not show your support next year and come help to put a clean and professional appearance on our buildings! The Village looked great for our opening day of the season, May 2, worked by volunteer docents Mike Hagan, Bobbye Sweny, Kathy Fortney and Annie Gilkinson. Volunteers who worked the remainder of May were Mary Pat & Clyde Golden, Bud Colvin, Jay & Angie Robinson, Jeanette Belvo, Marilyn Shade, Judy Frizzel, Sherry Kahler, Bill Stalder, Carol O'Connell, Diane Warrick, and Kim, Mary and Karen Izor. Our volunteers are very much appreciated!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sandra Dehart Brest Alex Bussard Sandra & Rick Ruggles



Thanks to Our Webmaster!

Have you ever noticed a friendly, smiling fellow walking around taking pictures at all our events? More than likely that was **Jay Robinson**, Historical Society website webmaster.

In 1997 Jay was hosting at the Gebhart Tavern... and enjoying it. He thought about creating a fan site for the Tavern, but instead asked if he could set up the official website for the Historical Society. After being given the "go-ahead", he has since collected photos (old and new) and plenty of historical information about our town which he displays. Since the beginning Jay has done all this work on his own, including purchasing the domains and paying for hosting. He has never solicited any payment from the Society, stating this is his contribution to the Society and something he is very happy to do.

Jay explains that the website has evolved over the years and even now he is in the process of reconfiguring, updating and improving the look of the pages. Technology has greatly progressed since he first opened the site and the more recent photos are of a much better quality than when the website was first begun. Jay is always asking for your input, and that includes any suggestions, new information, updates, photos or corrections that you are able to provide. You may e-mail him by clicking on the red mailbox on the website pages.

Jay has dedicated countless hours on our behalf over the years because he loves Miamisburg and has the sincere interest of the Historical Society at heart. Thanks, Jay, for all your dedication and hard work!

Visit our website at:

www.miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

NOTE: There will be no General Meeting in June so you may participate in the Applebee's "Dine to Donate" program.

Look for our historical photo display in the hallway at the Miamisburg Alumni on June 19.

Become a Member ... and help preserve Miamisburg I would like membership in the category checked: \$5.00 Student Individual \$15.00 \$25.00 Family 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 _____ Would you enjoy volunteering? Please note your areas of interest: (please mail to:) Miamisburg Historical Society

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



Miamisburg Spring Fling Festival 2010

By Judy Knight Spring Fling Booth Coordinator

The history of the Miamisburg

Spring Fling Festival is one of shining success – it has never been rained out! The 30th anniversary event on May 22-23 at the Library Park was no exception. The rain ended as the Historical Society's tent went up and we enjoyed two days of sunshine.

Many neighbors from Miamisburg and the surrounding communities stopped in to see and purchase historical photos on display, as well as books about the area and Miamisburg memorabilia. All of these items are also available for viewing and purchase at the Market Square Building and at the Heritage Village.



Workers: Judy Knight, Clyde Golden, Mary Pat Golden and Carol O'Connell



Business is booming at our booth.

In addition to becoming members, many visitors asked how they can help support the Historical Society. We encouraged everyone to participate in our "Dine to Donate" partnership with the Applebee's on June 24 (see article on page 4) and also the "Good Neighbor Club" at Dorothy Lane Market.

Sincere thanks go to all the volunteers who helped make this year's event a success: Mary Pat and Clyde Golden, Carol O'Connell, Larry Suttman, Ted Fink, Jeannette Belvo, Barb Olekas, Cathy Oberer, Doug Knight, and Paul Knight.

"My Hometown" Special Exhibit Featured at Miamisburg Art Gallery

The show will feature the artwork of local artists and their depiction of well known scenes, businesses and homes in Miamisburg and some from surrounding communities. Admission is FREE.

Thurs., June 10 through Sat., July 17

Gallery Hours: Thursdays & Fridays, 5:30 - 8:00 pm Saturdays, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Miamisburg Art Gallery
16 N. Main Street (across from Bullwinkles)
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342

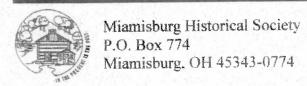
Miamisburg Loses Two Beloved Citizens

To the families of Ray Cluxton and Mady Ransdell, our Society sends its deepest condolences. Both were loyal members and supporters of our Historical Society in addition to being outstanding Miamisburg citizens.

Mady Ransdell, former Miamisburg News Editor and City Council member, passed away on March 30. Mady and her husband, Jim, were very instrumental in the preservation and restoration of the Baum Opera House.

Ray Cluxton was a former member of the Miamisburg Board of Education for 16 years and President and eventually Chairman of the Board of the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Ray passed away on April 12.

Our sympathy goes out to the families and many friends of these two beloved Miamisburg citizens.



Nonprofit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit #1315 Dayton Oh



Eagle Scout Project at Hill Grove Cemetery By Randy Staley, Veteran's Committee Chairperson

For several years the Historical Society's Vets Committee has been looking for a Life Scout, working on his Eagle Badge, to take on a project at Hill Grove Union Cemetery. Scout Mitchell Hopper, Centerville Troup 425, has agreed to take on the project with approval of Miami Valley BSA Council.

Mitchell Hopper, Centerville Troup 425, has agreed to take on the project with approval of Miami Valley BSA Council.

The project includes forming a work group, locating at least

15 Civil War head stones broken and covered with sod over the years. They will be cleaned, inventoried for damage, photographed and registered with the Son of Union Veterans Society's cemetery data base.

The ultimate goal is to repair or replace the stones.



"Soldiers Lot" area at Hill Grove Cemetery



Veterans Memorial at Hill Grove Cemetery

The work location is the grassy area across from the Treon crypt and Veterans Memorial. It is in Section 8, known as the "Soldiers Lot" in cemetery records. As a child I remember seeing them proudly standing with their flags flying every Memorial Day.

From an historic perspective, next year will begin the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and in 2013 the 150th anniversary of Hill Grove Union Cemetery. Some of these graves were the first burials made in June of 1863.