



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

August 2016

Volume XXV Issue 4

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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 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, Msbg.
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.historiamiamisburg.org
Webmaster: Tom England

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION



Society to Participate in "Ohio Open Doors"

A new Ohio event will be taking place statewide, where building and landmark sponsors will open their doors to the public for special walking tours. The Miamisburg Historical Society is officially registered and will be taking part on

Saturday, September 10, between 1:00 and 5:00 pm.

This will be a great opportunity for the public to learn more, and come inside some of the buildings on our "Visit Historic Miamisburg" tours.

We're planning two, self-guided walking or driving tours. Visitors will begin at Market Square to pick up a brochure that will map the route and give information about the various buildings. The first will be the "Town Center Tour" which encompasses the historic district on Main Street, the Baum Opera House and our Heritage Village. Next will be the "Second Street Tour" which will include the Masonic Temple, Fox Motors and St. Jacob Lutheran Church, among others.

The "Ohio Open Doors" event is the same day as the Artisan Festival at Riverfront Park, so while you're downtown at the festival, drop over to Market Square between 1:00 and 5:00 pm, pick up your map for the tour, and take advantage of this unique opportunity to tour a few of the historic buildings in Miamisburg. Plan on making a day of it. Spread the word to your friends, as we'd just love to show off all the historical structures in our town that are still in use and vital to the community.

Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 pm.

Summer will soon be over and the Historical Society's normal schedule of programs will begin again in September. If you've never taken full advantage of your Society membership and the many programs we offer, September would be a great time to start. Our regular programs are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Market Square Building at 7:00 pm.

Fall seems to be a busy time of year for everyone, but we hope you'll mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting in September. In addition to a short business meeting and election of Board Members, Jim Caldwell will return to tell us more about Native American life and customs, which always proves to be very interesting. You can be sure there'll be great refreshments too.



Judy Wuerstl Wins the 2016 Honor Graduate Award at Miamisburg Alumni

Our heartiest congratulations to Historical Society Board Member, Judy Wuerstl, who so deservingly won this year's Honor Graduate Award at the Alumni gathering in June. And we must add that we're not a bit surprised. Just her work at the Society alone would more than qualify her for this accolade. Judy, a 1960 graduate of Miamisburg High School, is a Society Board Member, Children's Education Committee Chair and Heritage Village Coordinator, in addition to helping to organize many of our special events.

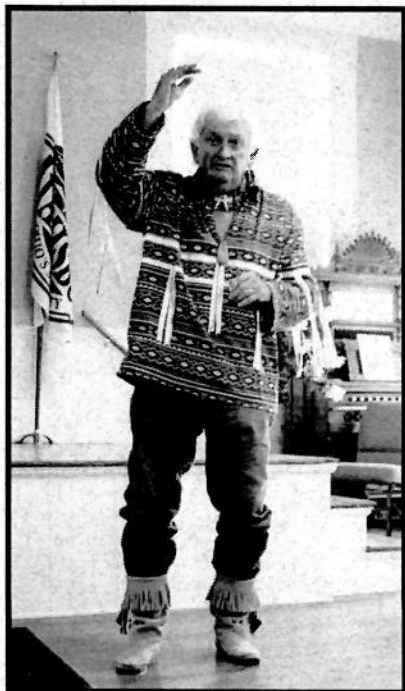
Judy has also been a tutor for Miami Valley Literacy Council and a home visitor for Catholic Social Services. She is a member of the Monday Night Club, works part-time as an aide in Miamisburg City Schools, and serves as the Librarian and usher at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Miamisburg.

Judy spends many, many hours in service to this community and we are very fortunate to have her.

Society Annual Picnic Moved Indoors... Again

For the second year in a row, our annual picnic plans were foiled by Mother Nature. Again we were forced to change the venue from the Miamisburg Mound shelter to the Market Square Building because of the threat of rain. Thankfully, we do have a wonderful space in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium upstairs at Market Square which accommodates us well.

This year our picnic was catered by "OinkaDoodleMoo", a new BBQ restaurant that opened on N. Main Street earlier this year. They served delicious shredded pork, chicken and brisket meat for sandwiches along with two different barbeque sauces, baked beans and macaroni and cheese. A great variety of desserts contributed by members topped off the meal.



Jim Caldwell, a Society member, presented an interesting program on Native American culture and his experiences in participating in some of their rituals. Jim is quite knowledgeable on this subject and is in the process of organizing the ceremonies and demonstrations that will take place at the Mound during our city's Bicentennial celebration in 2018.



Members sample the OinkaDoodleMoo buffet.

It's sad to say that our picnic attendance was down quite a bit from previous years, possibly due to the bad weather earlier that day. But rest assured folks, we won't allow you to get rained on, so please take advantage of our annual picnic in 2017. You're guaranteed a great meal and it's free! The Annual Picnic is a good way to relax and perhaps renew some old friendships or maybe even make new friends, with whom you would share a common interest. Don't stay home because you have not prepared a dessert to bring - believe me when I say there is always more than enough!

Presenter, Jim Caldwell as "Two Hawks".

WELCOME NEW MEMBER**Raymond J. Seiler****Membership and Corporate Sponsor Renewals
During June and July**

Rolla Broerman	Carol Butzer
Ann Harris	Paul Mason
Ken & Wendy Jennings	Cathy Kosik
Douglas & Judy Stamm	Jeff Stone
Kathleen Sweeney	Carroll Zink
Don & Judy Wuerstl	Jim & Patricia Caldwell
Jo Ann Chipman	Phyllis Githens
Jim Huesman	Elizabeth Kreitzer
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Recognizing OUR SENIOR Members!

It has come to our attention that we need to acknowledge several of our very special Society members who are in the "over 95" group.

★ **A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS** ★
and Happy Birthday Wishes
to Jack Croskey on his upcoming
100th Birthday in September.

Dean Goodwin.....97	Nov. 29, 1918
Mary Goodwin98	July 31, 1918
Ruth Miller.....98	May 27, 1918
Virginia Kinderdine99	June 19, 1917
Jack Croskey.....99	Sept. 11, 1916

If you know of another Society member who is 95 years of age or older, please call Diane at 937-866-1783 or dewarrick@sbcglobal.net.

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:

☐ Check ☐ Cash*NOTE: We are no longer accepting credit cards.*

Please make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

☐ New member ☐ Renewing memberName 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

Notes From The Curator... Fishing for Answers

By Gary Petticrew



Some sidewalks, well trod by footsteps in old downtown Miamisburg, are slices of very dark blue, even black cut stone, especially when they are wet. Some of those very few remaining slabs were recently removed from the old sidewalk along the only remaining brick portion of Central Avenue. They were removed to make way for Riverfront Park at the west end of old Central. Your Society petitioned the City to move these three or four stone slabs and pieces to Heritage Village to preserve them. The City crew complied and stacked the well-worn walkways at the Village along with several, hand-chiseled curb stone slabs running parallel to these same sidewalk pieces.

Society volunteer, Doug Stamm, was recruited by our Heritage Village

Coordinator, Judy Wuerstl, to move the stone sidewalks and place them as an extension to the pathway from the edge of the Kercher Cabin to the Village's updated restroom facility. Doug went into action and enlisted his neighbor to bring his bobcat to the site and move the sidewalk slabs into place. Doug went one step further and asked the City to dump and spread gravel on our driveway and then reposition the stones.



It would be great to get a more definitive answer as to what kind of rock these stone slices actually are and perhaps even where they came from. Some say they are dolomite and may have come from a stone quarry somewhere near the crest of Stony Hill (Linden Avenue, west across the Great Miami River). The dolomite and limestone surface shale we see all around us was formed during the Ordovician Period in Earth's history, beginning 500 million years ago and lasting for 60 million years. As such, "dolomite" is a mineral and originates in the same environments as limestone.

Others have said that it is Euclid bluestone from northeastern Ohio. Euclid bluestone is a dense, hardened, very fine grained sandstone that crops out in northeastern Ohio in and near Cleveland. Quarried early in the 1800s, Euclid bluestone was most known for its use as flagstone for sidewalks. It was used widely in the Cleveland area, and was also shipped to many other cities. Most Euclid bluestone quarries were closed in the first decades of the twentieth century because of the lessening demand for sidewalk stone.

Drop by Heritage Village to see these stones. Which do you think they are – dolomite or bluestone, or maybe even something else? Hopefully their origin and some bits of buried Miamisburg history will be exposed to explain how and when they got here. If you would like to comment, email your thoughts to the Society at MHSociety@att.net or phone the Curator at 937-866-1285. The Miamisburg Historical Society's vision is to collect and preserve as many bits and pieces of our town's history as they emerge and are made available.

NOTE: Some of the remaining hand-chiseled curb stones from old Central Avenue are available for the asking on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like to have one or more, please phone the Society at 937-859-5000 to make arrangements to see them and perhaps pick some up.

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We Have A Brand New Website! www.historicalmiamisburg.org

We're very happy to report that the Society now has a new website, created and managed by Tom England. Tom has his own company, TEngland Productions, in which he specializes in photography, videography and event marketing. He has generously volunteered his photography and website building talents to the Society, so that we may better reach interested folks who would like to know more about us.

We're just recently up and running, but we'll be adding more and more historic and current information, photos and videos as time goes on. We're also sporting a new, official Historical Society Facebook page thanks to Tom. Our deep appreciation to Tom for all the work he's done in sharing his expertise and giving our Society a fresh, new face on the internet.

How much do we really know about "the good ole days" in Miamisburg?

Interviewing people about their early memories of growing up in Miamisburg, or those who have interesting stories to tell about our town would be a wonderful asset to the Society's records.

Is there someone you know who would be a great candidate to be interviewed? Would you like to interview them yourself, or have one of HRRC's volunteers do it? If you know of someone, please call Nita at 866-1285 or call 859-5000 and leave a message at the Historical Society.

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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Planning the Bicentennial - We Welcome YOUR Ideas!

I'm sure you know by now that monthly meetings are being held for the purpose of organizing our City's Bicentennial, which is now less than two short years away. The meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers at the Civic Center. Upcoming meeting dates are Aug. 23 and Sept. 27.

Just to whet your appetite for our 2018 celebration, below are a few photos from our Sesquicentennial celebration in 1968. It was a fun-filled week, and an amazing display of community spirit where young and old alike took part. **We can do it again in 2018, but we need YOUR help to make it happen!**



Market Square served as Sesquicentennial Headquarters. Small Mary Ann Shop sign may be seen on left hand side.



Mayor Robert Mears and wife, Rose, lead the walking parade down Central Avenue.

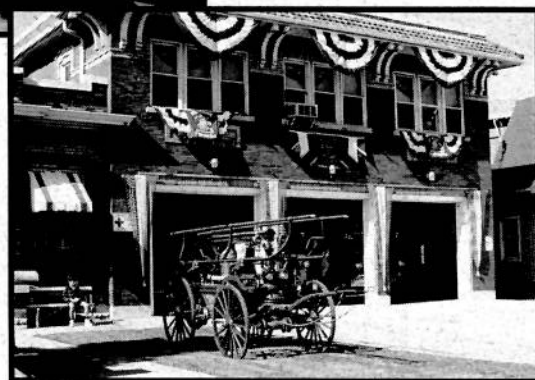
High School Librarian, Miss Helen Reed



Longtime kindergarten teacher, Helen Maddux, and husband, Sam Maddux.

Firehouse and police station on Central Avenue.

Now the site of our Civic Center.



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Heritage Village News

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

In June a woman named Margaret Cullison contacted the Historical Society. Emanuel Gebhart is her fourth great grandfather. She and her husband were briefly visiting Miamisburg and asked if someone could possibly open the Tavern for them. Of course we would! I contacted them and Carolyn Kilpatrick and I had a wonderful visit with them on June 14th.

In July we were contacted by Larry and Ruth Gebhart from Michigan who planned to visit the Gebhart Tavern during their trip to Miamisburg. They wanted to see where their Michigan ancestors originated. They toured the Village and asked many questions about the Gebharts, which the docents answered as best they could. They gave photographs of their Gebhart line dating back to the early 1900s for our archives.

Also in June, GOBA (The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure) came to Miamisburg. Nearly 2,000 bicyclists arrived on June 23 and camped out at the Middle School. The riders, who came from many states and also Canada, rode through the cities of Hamilton, Eaton, Oxford, Brookville and Miamisburg. Rest days were built into their schedule and allowed the riders to visit the sights along the way.

The City was well prepared to welcome them and our Heritage Village was one of the tour stops. We estimate we had 50 to 60 visitors, all of whom had nothing but great things to say about the welcome our town had given them. By the way, Gary Barnes and Randy Staley attached our new sign at the top of the steps to the bike path by the



Bicyclists visit Heritage Village.



Gary Barnes installs our new sign by the bike path.

Village in time for GOBA and it looks great. The next time you visit the Village take notice of the graveled driveway and "recycled" slate sidewalks leading to the restroom. Doug Stamm coordinated with the city and was able to have it finished in time for GOBA as well.

Sad to say we have not had a lot of visitors this season, other than our opening day Ice Cream Social and the GOBA visitors. Can you lend a hand in spreading the word that we are here and anxious to welcome visitors?

Much appreciation to the docents who volunteered in June and July, and I might add that some of them did a Sunday in both months:

Vicky Warrick	Steve Schultz	Jessi Trofi	Judy Wuerstl	Carolyn Kilpatrick
Gary Petticrew	Tom Silberman	Mike Kindle	Bobbie Orth	Sharon Hiatt-Yee
Annie Gilkison	Doug Stamm	Jane McGriff	Mary & Kim Izor	Jay Robinson & Family

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At the Gift Shop...

By Rolla Broerman, Gift Shop Manager

Drop by and choose from our array of books that appeal to the interests of all ages. Following are listed just three examples of what is on hand in beautifully bound soft covers. The Gift Shop is located in the Market Square Building at the center of downtown Miamisburg, and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Towpaths is a collection of articles from the Quarterly Publication of the Canal Society of Ohio. It features stories, photographs and drawings not only of the Miami-Erie Canal that ran through our town, but also highlights other canals in Ohio as well.

Boiled Peanuts and Buckeyes is a memoir-novel by Lee Eudon Holland (a 1951 Miamisburg High School graduate), Laurie A. Palazzolo and Danny Kanant. This book is about Ohio people and places, including personal stories, some of which are about Miamisburg, and also photographs of key events, individuals and families that made Ohio what it is today.

Images of America – Miami Township is the history of Miami Township, its people, events and achievements. This book was produced by the 175th Anniversary Committee. It is chocked full of photographs covering events since Miami Township was separated from Washington Township in 1829 and even before.

We welcome any and all to visit and browse through the shop's array of books and many other Miamisburg related gifts and memorabilia. For more information about what's available, you may phone Society volunteers at the Market Square Building, 937-859-5000 or Rolla at 937-866-2497.

