



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

June 2016

Volume XXV Issue 3

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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: <http://www.miamisburg.org/>
miamisburg_historical_society
Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Historical Society PICNIC

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

Join us for an
old fashioned summer picnic!

**Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 pm at
the large shelter house at Miamisburg Mound.**

Food, drinks and tableware will be provided.
Members attending are invited to bring a dessert
to share. There is no charge for the picnic.

In the event of bad weather, picnic will be held at Market Square.

Our Thanks to Some Very Generous Folks

In December each year, we acknowledge donations in the amount of \$500 or more that we've received throughout our fiscal year. This year we've decided to post the donors' names in a more timely manner, in the June *Tavern Log* and also in the December issue.

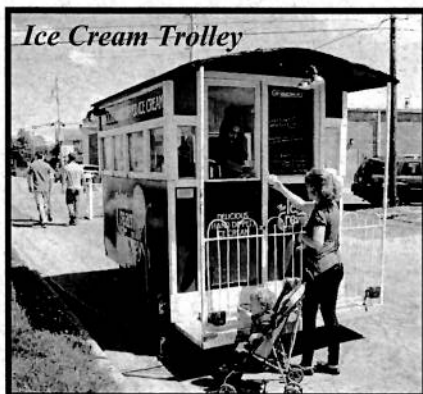
Generous donations to the Miamisburg Historical Society
thus far this fiscal year include the following names/organizations:

Jan Runkle Miamisburg Rotary Club Gene & Pat Paff

We could not do what we do without this most generous support.

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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Heritage Village Season Opens With Ice Cream Social

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

The Village was looking its best when we kicked off our opening day with an old fashioned Ice Cream Social. We were thrilled to have the weather clear up and become a beautiful day. The Ice Cream Trolley was there with ice cream treats. The Star City Brewing Co. brought their cream soda which could be transformed into "butter beer" for a delicious non-alcoholic drink. The Village Park Band entertained with a wonderful assortment of live music. The event was well attended, not only by locals, but also out-of-towners. We felt it was such a success that we've decided to do it again next year!



This year's Cleaning Day At The Village was held on Friday, April 29. As she always has, Jeane Toadvine sent a cleaning crew from her 8th grade class. They were: Samantha McPheters, Kamiah Shepard, Maddie Riddle, Quintin Tarango and John Brough. Teacher Krista Pickering came along again to help. Tom Silberman was back to make all the windows sparkle and was ably assisted by Sharon Hiatt-Yee. New docent Bobbie Orth was a tremendous help in the Tavern while Carolyn Kilpatrick and two of the 8th grade girls worked hard to make the Kercher Pioneer Home clean. Doug Stamm, Larry Suttman and Don Wuerstl took care of some outside chores and repairs, while Jane McGriff planted her herbs in the limestone trough.

Thanks to the docents who volunteered in May:

Carolyn Kilpatrick	Judy Wuerstl
Tom Silberman	Sharon Hiatt-Yee
Jessi Trofi	Vicky Warrick
Mike Kindle	Bobbie Orth
Jeanette Belvo	Marilyn Shade
Jane McGriff	Nita & Gary Petticrew
Jay, Angie, Amanda & Daniel Robinson	



Visitors at Heritage Village

And now.... another plea for volunteer docents. Our committee list is quite short again this season, and without some additional help there will very likely be Sundays that we will not be able to open the Village. You would be asked to volunteer only one Sunday a month. That is just **three hours** once a month! A lot of people have worked so hard to keep Heritage Village in good shape and of interest to visitors. Wouldn't it be a shame to see this historic Miamisburg treasure decline?

Please think about it, and contact Judy Wuerstl at jk.wuerstl@gmail.com or 937-866-1784.

*Heritage Village is open Sundays,
May through October, 2:00 to 5:00pm.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sandi Postle Barry Takas
Ron McKiddy

Membership Renewals - April and May

Charles & Murielene Case	Mary K. Weller
Ted & Kathie Fink	Gary & Darlene Maxwell
Ann Greiner	John E. Kauffman
Lee Eudon Holland	Mirko & Karen Ilich
Allen Jones	Constance March
Suzan Lang	John & Karen Warrington
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Sending out bee well wishes

Ruth Miller
Charlie Case
Laura Bornhorst
Loueda Schultz



★ REMINDER ★

Please remember to **register or re-register** for the Kroger Community Rewards Program. If you have a Kroger Plus Card, go online and register to have a portion of what you spend at Kroger to be automatically donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society each time you shop at Kroger. **This is an ADDED benefit to your card and will not affect any benefits you personally receive.**

It's so easy to do. Just go to
www.krogercommunityrewards.com
and register online.

After you register, you're set up for an entire year.

Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$15.00
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<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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div>

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 member

Name _____

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



We're Planning for Miamisburg's Bicentennial!

Join in the planning for our town's 200th birthday celebration in 2018. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in city council chambers at the Civic Center. Your ideas are welcome! Upcoming meeting dates: June 28 and July 26.

Paying Homage to a Dedicated Former Historical Society Member

By Bobbye Sweny

On May 25th, a group of family and friends gathered at the gazebo in Library Park, to celebrate the life of Connie (Kline) Painter, who passed away in May. Connie joined the Historical Society in June of 1993, during Miamisburg's 175th birthday celebration. She was an enthusiastic, dedicated historian and genealogist, with a deep commitment to learning all she could about her new hometown, and preserving its historic heritage.

During this strong growth period for the Society, Connie served four years as Secretary of the Board. She was involved in the acquisition and renovation of the Market Square Building and especially in establishing our organization as a "Certified Historical Society" for the state of Ohio.

One of the Society's dreams was to establish a Research and Resource Library to house the growing historical collection being donated to the Society. Connie took over this task with great enthusiasm. With the help of Dawn Dewey, head of the Wright State Historical Library, Connie not only set up the library, but succeeded in attaining grants to pay for equipment and supplies. She will be remembered for her outstanding exhibit on the Tobacco Industry and for heading the committee to videotape the history of Miamisburg at the cable network. So long as there is a Research and Resource Library operating at the Historical Society, Connie's legacy will live on.

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Saying Goodbye to the Anna K. Wantz Building (Intermediate Building)

In early April, demolition was begun on the Wantz Building on Sixth Street in Miamisburg. In earlier years it was known as the Intermediate Building and through various eras housed the 4th through 8th grades.

Built in 1927-28, additions were added in 1957 and 1959. All who attended school there will certainly remember the old school bell that stood out in front. The bell originally came from the 1848 Miamisburg schoolhouse. Except for storage, the Wantz structure had been out of use since 2011.



Photo by Gary Petticrew

The building was named for long time teacher, Anna K. Wantz, who passed away in 1978. She was well known, loved and respected as a no nonsense, but fair teacher. Most will remember Mrs. Wantz especially for her penmanship classes.

Many local people were gathering around to watch, and reliving bygone days as the Wantz Building came down in April.



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Historical Society as a
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here next issue!**



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★ MEMORIAL DAY ★

Once again this year our Historical Society Veterans Committee, under the direction of Randy Staley, and local American Legion Post 165 with Commander Wayne Kern, have provided this community with a variety of meaningful Memorial Day Weekend events. West Carrollton VFW Post 3438 also participated in our Silver Taps Ceremony at Market Square, and we thank them.

“Silver Taps” was held on Thursday evening preceding Memorial Day weekend. The program featured Mr. Fred Lynch as speaker and he gave us an up-close and personal look at the daily lives of Civil War soldiers. He also brought with him clothing, weapons, equipment and food utilized by the soldiers, which were placed on display that evening. Thanks to Mr. Lynch for an outstanding and informative talk that enlightened us all on the hardships that were endured during those years.

The names of local military veterans who died in war were read. This list includes men from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and the War on Terror which continues to this day. Taps were played at the conclusion of the reading.

The military displays downstairs in our museum were opened after the program. Our thanks to all the volunteers who took part in “Silver Taps” this year, and to those who worked so hard to make this program and the military displays possible.



*American Legion Post 165 Commander, Wayne Kern
Civil War Reenactor and Speaker, Fred Lynch
Historical Society Veterans Committee Chair,
Randy Staley*



*Bagpiper, Tim Schaiper
Revolutionary War Reenactor, Bill Ellerman
Frontiersman Reenactor, Jim Schnapp*



*VFW Post 3438 members,
Terry Lane and Jerry Van Zant*

If you have never attended a “Silver Taps” Memorial Program, please make a point to attend next year and every year. We MUST honor the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in order that we may live in freedom.

IT'S THE LEAST THAT WE CAN DO!

★ WEEKEND EVENTS ★

The weather on Memorial Day was picture perfect in contrast to last year's wind and rain. Services were held by the American Legion at three cemeteries and the Linden Avenue Bridge, with Rita Myres tossing the wreath into the water in memory of those who died at sea.

The Miamisburg Band each year goes above and beyond in their musical contribution to the bridge service, the parade and the service at Library Park. They always do an outstanding job and we send all our thanks for their participation.



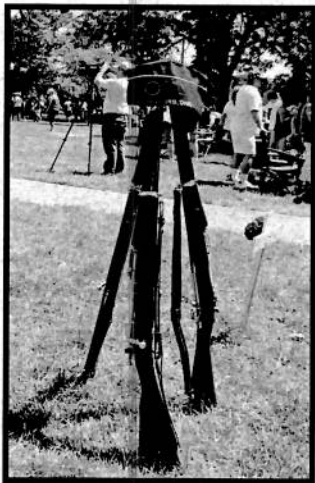
American Legion Color Guard



*Rita Myres, President
American Legion
Ladies Auxiliary*



Miamisburg Marching Band



Rifle Memorial at the Park

It's been another great Memorial Day Weekend in Miamisburg – from the Silver Taps Program, to Rocky's 5K Run/Walk, to the Victory Dance at the American Legion, to the Parade and Services on Memorial Day, which ended with a free picnic in the park. Our Veterans Committee and American Legion Post 165 work together to make it all happen every year.

Thanks to all those who came out and commemorated the Holiday and honored the men and women who gave their lives for the freedom that we all enjoy.



Littlest and best decorated parade rider.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors who helped to make these events possible:

**One Bistro Gordon Food Service Mayor Dick Church
Masters Insurance Ron's Pizza**



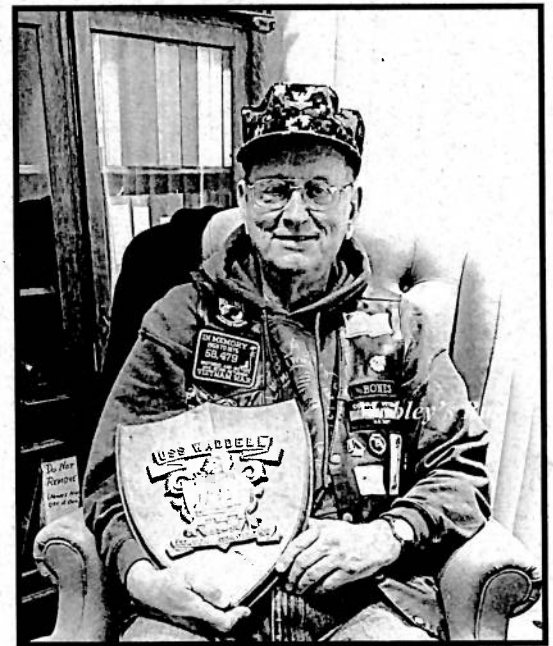
Notes From The Curator

By Gary Petticrew, Curator

The Miamisburg Historical Society continues to receive many artifacts and memorabilia from current and former “Miamisburg-ers”. We are fortunate to be the recipient of Allen Jones’ lifetime collection of beautifully bound postcard albums and nearly 200 first issue, scale model replicas of John Deere and many other early automobiles, commercial vehicles and farm implements, including two complete, original boxed sets of rare toy farms made in Czechoslovakia—the list is too extensive to present here. But that’s not all. He has also gifted memorabilia and historical documents he collected during his two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Allen was also a 31-year employee of the Bell Telephone Company and was present at the break-up several years ago when he retired. Many of his Bell historic documents along with his framed tee-shirt “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do” will greatly enhance our collection covering the Bell Telephone Exchange. (Now the building annex to the Miamisburg Senior Citizens Center on Central Avenue.)

The picture at right, taken at the Miamisburg Historical Society, is of Allen L. Jones (MHS Class of ‘63) with a plaque of the ship he helped commission and served on during his two Vietnam tours (1965-67). The plaque depicts the Warship USS Waddell DDG-24 Crest. The plaque is made from spent powder casings that were fired during the first tour in Vietnam in 1965-66. There were only 15 of these made and only a few have survived. According to Allen, the Warship USS Waddell DDG-24 was commissioned on August 28, 1964 and decommissioned on October 1, 1992. The ship was then sold for \$1.00 to the Hellenic Navy (Greece), and ultimately used for target practice and sunk in the Mediterranean Sea. The Warship USS Waddell DDG-24 was named “Top Gun” of the Vietnam War since the ship fired more five inch, 54 caliber rounds than any other ship that was involved in the war.



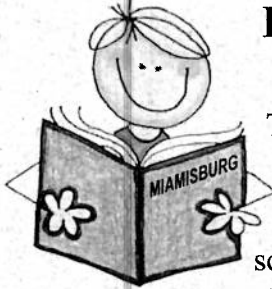
Allen Jones with USS Waddell DDG-24 Plaque

A partial history of the ship’s war service and awards:

- It was the first US ship to be fired upon since the Korean War. The North Vietnamese shore gun battery was subsequently destroyed and there are photos of the smoke rising from the debris in the collection at the Society.
- The ship exceeded 40 knots in speed which was the fastest Guided Missile Destroyer ever built, and was awarded the Marjorie Sterrett Award which recognized her as the “Best Ship in the US Navy Fleet” which is no small feat.
- The ship earned eleven Battle Stars (Allen Jones was part of the crew which earned six of these Battle Stars) and two US Navy Commendation Medals. The ship earned the reputation as the “Busiest Ship in the Gulf”.

Allen donated to the Society many artifacts he collected and saved while serving in the US Navy (1963-67). Contact Randy Staley (937-859-5000) or visit the Market Square Building on any Wednesday or Saturday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm to view them. One item is a walking cane made from spent 50 caliber shell casings fired at waterborne craft off the coast of Vietnam during the first tour in Vietnam. It was made and given to Allen by a shipmate for aiding him in securing his VA benefits.

Thanks to Allen and many others, our historic collections are growing by leaps and bounds—we currently digitally document nearly 15,000 artifacts. Unfortunately the Society is woefully lacking in space to display many of these, especially the larger ones, currently in storage. We are seeking a new, much larger Miamisburg History Museum and would welcome your input and volunteer efforts to make it happen.



Local Children Learn About Miamisburg History

By Judy Wuerstl, Children's Education Committee Chair

The calendar for our Children's Educational Programs was not as fully scheduled as it normally is in May. This is due to all the testing, as well as the school year being over earlier than usual. There just wasn't time for our programs. Nevertheless, we did do three Heritage Walks, a Village Visit and several in-class programs. Having had two schools take advantage of the lovely fall weather last October to visit the Heritage Village was a big help in easing our schedule in May.

Again this spring we were asked to meet the 8th grade teams at the Miamisburg Mound for a program on the Adena Indian culture and our Miamisburg Mound. They then visited the Village in the afternoon and we presented our programs there. You might consider this opportunity to help our committee work with the older children in our schools next year. We are always in need of volunteers with the Children's Education Committee.

And so another successful and rewarding school season with the youngsters of Miamisburg is over!



See What's New at Our Market Square Gift Shop

Stop by and browse through all the Miamisburg memory related items. We're well stocked with T-shirts, hats, cups, books and hundreds of historic photos and much more. Historical Society Gift Shop Manager, Rolla Broerman has just added Miamisburg Bicentennial ballpoint pens - one in blue ink and another that can be adjusted for either blue, black or red ink.

The book *Miamisburg—The Story Our Town* by Esther Light, first published in 1968 and edited by Mady Ransdell in 1993, has been reprinted along with *The Impact of the Great 1913 Flood* by local author, John W. O'Gorman. There are many more Miamisburg related items to choose from for both adults and kids.

The Gift Shop is located in the Market Square Building, headquarters and museum for the Miamisburg Historical Society, at 4 North Main Street in downtown Miamisburg. You can't miss it— it's the town square.

The Museum is open on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information about our Gift Shop items, phone 937-859-5000 during our open hours or call Rolla Broerman at 937-866-2497. All proceeds from Gift Shop sales are applied to the operating budget for the Miamisburg Historical Society's many programs and events aimed at protecting, preserving and promoting the history of Miamisburg.

Do You Know Where It is?

In 2013 when we were commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Flood, a replica of an NCR rescue boat was built for display. After our event in the park was over, a home had to be found for the boat and it ended up at Middletown High School.

We're now looking for the boat again. The last we heard it went to a person who lives in Germantown. If you can shed any light on where it is or who is now in possession of the boat, please call the Society at 859-5000 and leave your contact information along with a message for Carol O'Connell.





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April General Program Highlights Media Production Group

All our thanks to John Warrington, Chair of the Media Production Group, for providing us with an update of the historical programs that have been recorded during the past year. Another presenter was Richard Diaz, of the Miami Valley Cable Council, who shared some interesting information about the equipment, processes and services that are provided by MVCC in order that our programs may be produced.

Since the Media Production Group was re-activated in 2014, the following programs have been completed:

Miami Erie Canal: A Waterway Transit - 2 programs
Interview with Bobbye Sweny - 2 programs
Mound Laboratories - 2 programs
Historic District, Miamisburg - 3 programs
CSX Train Derailment - 2 programs
IOOF Block: Independent Order of Odd Fellows - 2 programs
Chautauqua - 2 programs
Ron Holp: Pizza House
Fox Family Heritage
Papermaking in Miamisburg: Ohio's Paper Valley - 2 prog.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Miamisburg Historical Society has recorded over 119 television programs since 1995 that are available for viewing in the Market Square Building on Wednesday and Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on DVDs.
- We are digitally archiving all of our programs onto a hard drive for access by viewers now and in the future.
- See the curator (Gary Petticrew) for access to any of these programs.



MEDIA PRODUCTION GROUP
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY - MHSOCIETY.ATT.NET