



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

February 2009

Volume XVIII Issue 1

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@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.

GEBHART TAVERN

Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00–5:00 pm

Website:

http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Did you know...

The USS Kauffman, pictured below, was named for a Miamisburg man who grew up on Pearl Street.

The USS Kauffman is one of the last frigates of the Navy built in the 20th century. She was launched in 1986 from the Bath Iron Works Corp. in Bath, Maine, commissioned in 1987 and is still in active service in the Atlantic Fleet. She was named after Vice Admiral James Laurence Kauffman of Miamisburg and his son, Rear Admiral Draper Laurence Kauffman.



US Navy photo DVID #DN-SC-89-06644 by Bath Iron Works, Inc.

The Kauffman family had three sons and one grandson who were Navy Officers. Vice Admiral James L. Kauffman was born in 1887, attended public schools here in Miamisburg and entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1904. He saw service as a Commander of a destroyer in WWI and was awarded the Navy Cross.

In 1942 he was called to Florida to take command of the Gulf Sea Frontier in combating intense German submarine activities in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Vice Admiral Kauffman continued on to serve as "Commander of Destroyers and Cruisers - Pacific Fleet" and later as, "Commander of Philippine Sea Frontier".

Vice Admiral Kauffman's son, Rear Admiral Draper L. Kauffman (1911-1979), for whom the ship is also named, had a very distinguished Naval career in his own right. The story of Draper L. Kauffman - father of World War II's underwater demolition teams, is detailed in a Naval Institute Press Book, *America's First Frogman*.

Continued on Page 8



From the President's Desk...

By Cathy Oberer

April 24th and 25th will mark a joint venture between the Miamisburg Historical Society and the Baum Opera House Association. The two organizations will hold the first Miamisburg Historical Society Quilt Show at the Baum Opera House. It will be a two day event held on Friday and Saturday. The quilt exhibits will be on display on the second floor. There will be quilts for sale and historical quilts for viewing pleasure. Quilting vendors will be set up on the second floor also. There is handicap and elevator access to the area. The downstairs will have a luncheon and snacks area. Plan to come and spend the day.

There is plenty of parking. The Baum Opera house has a nice parking lot, the Cinder Path across the street is available and lots of parking on First Street. If you are interested in volunteering for this or any of our events, please call the Market Square Building at 859-5000 or drop in and see us on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

General Program Set for February

By Ted Fink, Program Chairman

On Thursday evening, February 26, Dr. Larry Schweikart will address the members of the Miamisburg Historical Society and their guests at our first monthly meeting of 2009. Dr. Schweikart is a professor of history at the University of Dayton as well as a frequent guest on the Fox News Channel.

Dr. Schweikart began his career as a drummer in a rock band, but quit the road in 1976, tired of starving and driving. He attended Arizona State University to obtain a teaching certificate, and in the process took a history class that changed his life. From that moment on, he wanted to be a history professor (even though he still played drums at night all the way through grad school).

In 1977, Dr. Schweikart entered the Arizona State history program to obtain a Master's Degree, and during that time wrote a national prize-winning article on Peary's quest for the North Pole. Dr. Schweikart attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he obtained his PhD, graduating with distinction. He will be discussing his most recent book, "48 Liberal Lies About American History".

As an added "perk", February is also the Society's traditional **Cherry Dessert Night.** **Don't miss it!**



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Edgar & Rita Myres

Get Well Wishes!

To Randy Staley, Veterans Committee Chair, and Cathy Oberer, President, we send our "Get Well Quick" wishes.

In January both Randy and Cathy tangled with the ice and lost. Randy will be off his feet for a couple of months and hopefully Cathy will be back in action a bit sooner.

Let's get those broken bones healed quickly. We need you at Market Square!





Visitors from Near and Far

By Nita Petticrew
HRRC Chairperson

We have had the privilege, as volunteers, to greet many visitors to the Market Square Building. Some came to tour the building or to do research, and some just came to see what the Historical Society has to offer.

An inventory of visitors from 2004 to 2008 was taken and following is the result of the states and countries that were welcomed into our facility.

In the United States: Virginia, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Louisiana, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Colorado, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, California, Kentucky, Arizona, West Virginia, New Mexico, New York, Washington, Maine, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Delaware, and many cities throughout Ohio.

Outside of the United States: Australia, Canada, England, Japan, Philippines, Spain and Switzerland.

As volunteers, we are proud to be part of the Historical Society and to have the opportunity to meet people from all over the United States and the World! It would be great if we had more volunteers to have the opportunity that we have experienced.

*Visit our gift shop for
Historical 8 x 10 Photos
of Old Miamisburg*

*We have a wide variety
to choose from!*



**Market Square Building
4 N. Main Street • Miamisburg
Open Wed. & Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 pm**

Our Condolences

To Tom Silberman and the Silberman/Price/Coblentz families we send deepest sympathy on the passing of Sue Silberman in December.

Sue was a graduate of Miamisburg High School and was well known to many in the community. Sue and Tom have had a Family Membership in our Society for the past several years and have been great supporters of our organization. Sue will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

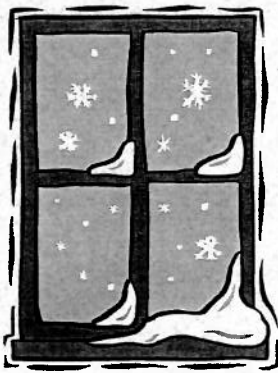


How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

The February Pop Quiz:

Name the drugstore on Central Avenue,
across the street from Library Park.
It was a popular hangout for
school kids many years ago.

Answer on Page 6



"Tavern Talk"

By Judy Wuerstl,
Gebhart Tavern
Volunteer Coordinator

With the weather being so blustery and finding myself getting "cabin fever", I have turned my thoughts toward the upcoming season for the Gebhart Tavern Museum. Cathy

Oberer has given a challenge to have the Tavern open on Saturdays as well as Sundays. That would require more volunteer docents, of course. With enough volunteers, no one should have to work more than once a month.

I appeal to each and every member to consider getting involved, or if you know of someone who would just love working at the Tavern, please contact me. I know the current docents will agree with me that once you get involved with the Tavern you are hooked!

*Remember to renew
your membership
for 2009!*

Our Sympathy to the Leyes Family

We send our deepest sympathy to the entire Leyes family on the passing of Bill Leyes in December. Bill was a long time member of the Historical Society and the father of 5 daughters, three of which are also members of the Society: Laura (Jim) Bornhorst, Suzie (Jim) Butler and Julie (Ron) Sparks.

He was the co-founder of Image Industries and long standing member of the Miamisburg Rotary Club. Bill was a very well known citizen in our community and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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 _____

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

Quilt Show Planned for April

By Janet Wead, Quilt Show Coordinator

The Miamisburg Historical Society and The Material Girls Quilt Group from Miamisburg will be presenting their first Quilt Show on Friday and Saturday, April 24th and 25th. We are hoping this will become an annual event to help raise funds to operate the Historical Society. The show will be held upstairs at the Baum Opera House from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day (Admission \$5.00). Members of the Baum will be offering a lunch in the downstairs area.

We hope there will be Society members who will share their quilts (old or new) to display in the show. Below is a form you may use to enter your quilt. Please complete the form and return by March 7 so we will know how many other quilts we will be able to accept from Quilt Guild members and others in the community.

A lot of volunteers will be needed to set up and take down the show, along with various other tasks. Bobbye Sweny (866-3507) and Rolla Broerman (866-2497) will be signing up volunteers willing to help. They will need people who will accept responsibility and find helpers for different projects before, during and after the Quilt Show.

On Friday, April 23, we will need men and women to help set up the quilt racks, people to accept, number and hang the quilts on the racks that day and evening. We will also need men or women (or couples) to stay all night on Thursday and Friday night to ensure that none of the quilts disappear while they are at the Baum House and in our care.

We're looking forward to an outstanding show of heirloom and newly made quilts. Mark your calendars now!



Miamisburg Historical Society Quilt Display Form

To enter your quilt in our First Annual Quilt Show on April 24th and 25th, please complete this form and mail to: **Miamisburg Historical Society Quilt Show**
c/o 1129 Case Court
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Quilt

Pattern

Size

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please return this form before March 7, 2009.



Kercher Cabin and adjoining smokehouse

Kercher Cabin Project Moves Forward

By Bobby Sweny
Children's Programs & Education Chair

The Kercher Cabin Task Force is again in full operation following the holidays. At the meeting on January 21st, the group discussed plans for making the Kercher Cabin "usable" for the opening of the Gebhart Tavern Museum on May 3rd, and the beginning of the Children's Educational Programs on May 4th. Until such time as fund raising has produced the monies to complete the full restoration, that portion of the work to be done by volunteers from the society will be scheduled so the cabin may hopefully be opened to the public.

The completion of the electrical work was given first priority. This will enable the completion of the free-standing restroom and the walks and steps to make it accessible from the upper complex. Doug Voss will be working with the city to see if we can meet the specifications needed to receive an occupancy permit.

The completion of the Kercher Cabin project, and the cleaning up of the adjoining King property, will greatly enhance the Gebhart Tavern Museum complex and create a valuable historic site for Miamisburg.

Pop Quiz Answer

The answer is "Park Drugs", better known as Ankeney's.
Can you remember sitting at the counter,
ordering a cherry phosphate or a chocolate coke?



The above photo was taken in the early 50's by Don McLaughlin. There has been little change in the building after all these years.

Miamisburg Historical Society & Community • 2009 Calendar of Events

Jan.	13 HRRRC – 7:00 pm 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 21 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 22 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 31 Articles Due for February Tavern Log	July	1 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 18 Great Miami River Race – Downtown 19 Tour d'Burg – 8:00 am-5:00 pm 25 Cruise The Burg #2 – 4:00-9:00 pm 31 Articles Due for August Tavern Log
Feb.	4 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 10 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 MHS General Meeting/Program – 7:00 pm	Aug.	1 Thunderburg – Downtown, 4:00 - 11:00 pm 5 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 11 Asian Festival – Library Park, 11:00 am-8:00 pm 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 22 Cruise The Burg #3 – 4:00-9:00 pm
March	4 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 10 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 MHS General Meeting/Program – 7:00 pm 31 Articles Due for April Tavern Log	Sept.	2 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 8 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 12-13 Starving Artist Show at Library Park 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 24 MHS General Meeting/Program – 7:00 pm 25 Articles Due for October Tavern Log and Reports Due for the Annual Report 26 Historical Society Home Tour – 10:00-4:00 26 Cruise The Burg #4 – 4:00-9:00 pm
April	1 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 8 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 12 Easter Sunday 14 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 MHS General Meeting/Program – 7:00 pm 23 Spring Break in the Burg – 6:00 pm, Downtown 24-25 Quilt Show at the Baum – 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Oct.	7 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 7 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 12 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 18 Ghost Steps – 7:00 pm, Market Square Bldg. 22 Historical Society Annual Meeting (Canal Days Dinner at St. James Church) 24 Sweet or Treat Night - 6:00 pm, Downtown 25 Old Time Craft Day - Gebhart Tavern, 2:00-5:00 29 Boo in the Burg – 6:00 pm, Downtown Mshg.
May	3 Opening of Gebhart Tavern Museum 2:00-5:00 6 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 11 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 13 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 15 Taste of Miamisburg – 5:00 pm 16-17 Spring Fling Parade & Festival 21 MHS General Meeting (Silver Taps) – 7:00 pm 24 Victory Dance at Baum (Memorial Day Weekend) 21, 23 & 25 Veteran's Exhibit at Market Square Building 25 Memorial Day Parade – 11:00 pm 31 Articles Due for June Tavern Log	Nov.	4 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 4 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 10 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 12 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 15 Vintage Style Show & Tea 19 MHS General Meeting/Program – 7:00 pm 26 Turkey Trot, Thanksgiving Morning
June	3 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 9 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 10 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 20 Mshg. High School Alumni Dinner/Dance 25 General Meeting/Picnic – 6:00 pm 27 Cruise The Burg #1 – 4:00-9:00 pm	Dec.	2 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 8 HRRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Holly & Ivy Gala 12 Community Holiday Parade 13 Christmas at The Tavern – 2:00-5:00 pm 14 Articles Due for December Tavern Log 25 Christmas

Gebhart Tavern Museum is open to the public on Sundays, May through October from 2-5 pm.



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The USS Kauffman

(Continued from Page 1)

A major test of Kauffman's new teams came in June 1944, when they cleared the beaches for the invasion of Saipan. Kauffman was twice awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic efforts there. His teams daringly ignored Japanese fire to cut paths through reefs and take soundings of the water depth. Countless lives were saved by the information brought back to our forces. A *Saturday Evening Post* article later described his work as the Navy's "human secret weapon". Draper Kauffman and his teams are now considered to be the predecessors of today's Navy SEALs.

An interesting side note - This Kauffman family was part of the same family who owned the Kauffman Buggy Company from which we now have our Historical Society Buggy.

Sympathy to the Belvo Family

Our deepest sympathy to Jim and Jeanette Belvo whose daughter-in-law, Janet, passed away on January 31. Janet was the wife of Jim and Jeanette's son, Aaron Belvo, of Miamisburg.

Each issue of *The Tavern Log* is duplicated and prepared for mailing, courtesy of:

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