



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

August 2007

Volume XVI Issue 4

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:

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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

Miamisburg Historical Society Home Tour 2007

The Miamisburg Historical Society Home Tour will be held **Sunday, September 23rd from 2-5:00 pm.** This year five historical homes in the downtown area of Miamisburg and our log cabin museum, the Gebhart Tavern, will be featured.



- **The Stephen and Sandy Stemple Home** – 451 E. Linden Avenue
This home, on the northwest corner of Fifth St. and Linden Avenue, features a charming garden, handsome color scheme and a large bungalow style, glassed front porch.
- **The Law Office of Attorney, Thomas Croskey** – 126 S. Seventh St.
Many of you will know this pretty yellow home on top of the hill that houses Tom's law office.
- **The Robert and Carolyn Kilpatrick Home** – 122 S. Seventh Street
This home, next door to the Croskey office, is currently for sale and features a beautiful hilltop setting with a large glass porch at the rear.
- **The Winters/Hovell Home** – 114 N. Fourth Street
We have all enjoyed seeing this home on our Home Tour and Garden Tours in years past, but the owner, a talented graphic designer, Scott Winters, has totally redone the interior.
- **The Mary and David Cherolis Home** – 108 S. Main Street
This young couple recently purchased the large brick home next to TJ Chumps which features their living quarters and photography studio.
- **The Daniel Gebhart Tavern** – Corner of Old Main and Lock Street
Our log cabin museum, built in 1812, is always a great place to start to learn about Miamisburg History.

Tickets for the tour are \$10.00 each and may be purchased at the Market Square Building on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1-4:00 pm or from any Board Member. Tickets will be also be available on the day of the tour at the Stemple Home at 451 E. Linden Avenue.

Join in the tour and take advantage of this opportunity to see the restored interior beauty of some of Miamisburg's older homes.



From the President's Desk...

The hot dry weather of June and July have come and gone – but have not dampened the spirits of the loyal supporters of our Miamisburg Historical Society. They have been busy (as usual) with the important work of our Society at both the Market Square Building and at the Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum. You'll find them there on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons (Market Square Building) and Sunday afternoons (Gebhart Tavern). I'll not single out any specific individuals for fear I'll overlook someone – but you know who they are. It is vitally important that we maintain our presence and visibility in the “downtown” area and provide the services the public expects of us. There is a real sense of accomplishment which comes from helping people who cross our doorstep each day seeking information on genealogy, old houses, old friends, old businesses, etc. In most cases we are able to assist them – even if it's just pointing out other resources that might be available to them at other museums or historical societies.

We value our volunteers greatly, but I wish we had a “few more good men and women” to assist in the ongoing work of the Society. As mentioned in my previous ramblings, my dream would be to expand the hours at our Market Square facility to include another day or two each week. All it would take is for 2 more folks to donate 3 hours per week (or for 8 people to donate 3 hours per month) and we could do it. I know that some of our members are unable to help in this way, but one way in which all of you can help is by maintaining your membership and by encouraging other town-folk to become members of the Historical Society. Our total membership has not kept pace with the growth of the Miamisburg/Miami Twp. communities.

With all of the added emphasis on “Historic Miamisburg” and the resurgence of growth in the downtown area, we need your help to “spread the word” (about belonging to the MHS). Just as all of you have expenses associated with maintaining your home, car, etc, we have ongoing expenses for electricity, gas, maintenance, programming, etc. at the MHS. Membership dues are the largest factor in helping us to balance our income vs. expenses. Benefits of membership are extensive and varied. A number of our members live outside of the community – and even outside the state, yet they look at MHS membership as their way of assuring the continuation of vital historic records and services as a legacy worth preserving.

As we move into fall, it is time to elect new Directors and Board Members for the Society. Please consider how you might be able to help in this regard and say “YES” if asked to run for one of these jobs. Alternately, why wait to be asked? Please let me or other Board Members know that you're interested in serving in one of these capacities and we'll be more than happy to talk with you about the expectations involved.

Phil

Phil Johnson,
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mike Kindle	Lee Eudon Holland
Carmen Fogle	Philip Stewart
Zach McGlothin	Doug Benbow

Sending our Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family and friends of Historical Society Life Member, **Virginia Brodbeck**, who passed away in June.

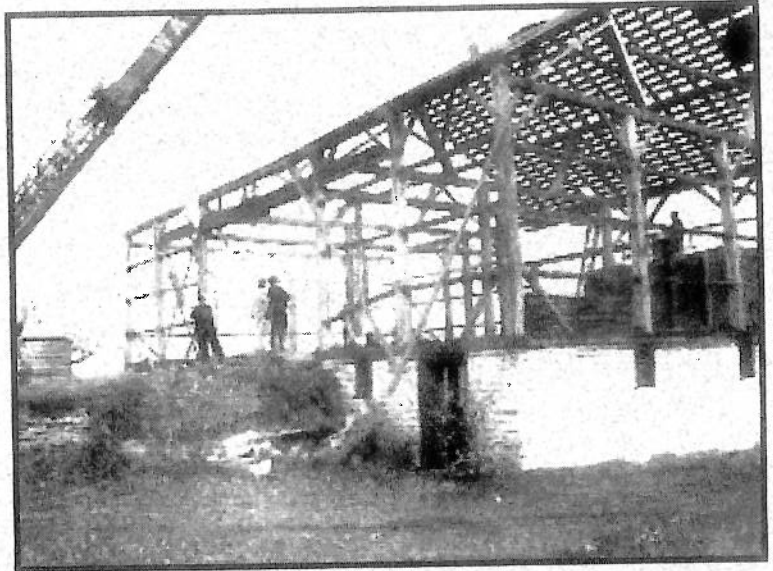
Sympathy also to Jerry Wall on the death of her husband, **John “Jack” Wall**, who passed away in late July in Sugar Land, TX. Our condolences to the entire Wall family.

The Chamberlin Barn is Saved!

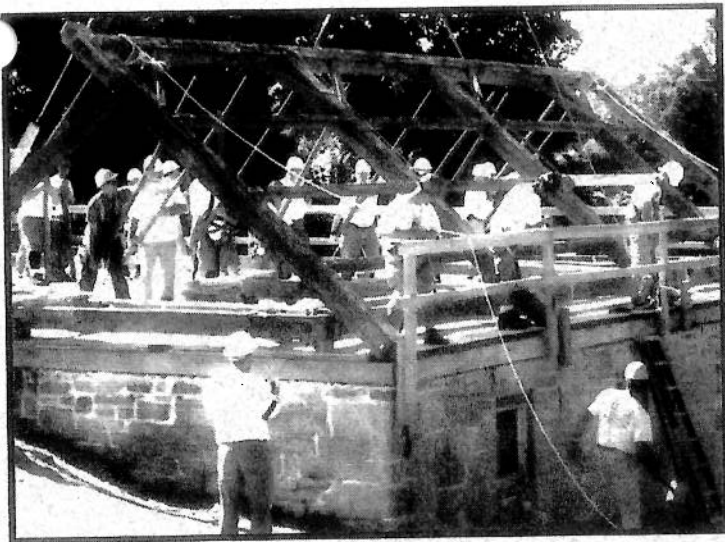
By the time this newsletter is in your hands the Chamberlin barn, originally scheduled for demolition in 2006, will have been dismantled and rebuilt in Springfield, Ohio at the George Rogers Clark Historic Park. The barn, on the property previously owned by Louis and Helen Chamberlin at 7240 Springboro Pike in Miamisburg, was built in the mid 1800's. Their daughter, Lynn Chamberlin Miller, was instrumental in saving the historic structure that belonged to her family dating back to her great grandparents, John and Sara Chamberlin.

Lynn writes that she originally became interested in saving the barn in 2000 and had an Ohio barn expert give her an appraisal of its condition. She attempted to find a commercial use for the barn such as a restaurant or antique store, but was unsuccessful. The Miamisburg Park District and Five Rivers Park District were also contacted, but to no avail.

In a final attempt to save the barn, Lynn contacted the Timber Framers Guild who put her in touch with Jim Campbell at the George Rogers Clark Historic Park, who was trying to rebuild a barn at their Hertzler House site for a public museum. A barn foundation was already there and the Chamberlin barn would prove to be a good fit.



The Chamberlin barn during the dismantling process.



The barn raising on July 21, 2007 in Springfield, OH.

The grand raising of the barn took place on July 21, 2007 at the park. The Hertzler home is also available for tours. For more information about the Springfield, Ohio park, and also the Timber Framers Guild go to:

<http://www.tfguild.org/projects/Hertzler/index.html>

or www.tfguild.org - Under "Hertzler Barn Project" click on "Reports from the field".

Lynn explained, "A match was made and we donated the much loved barn. Dozens of volunteers dismantled the 40 x 60 foot barn roof and siding last October and November. We helped, too! Then Rudy Christian's professionals (Christian and Son) took over removing and labeling the timbers."

The Chamberlin barn is reported to contain logs that were over 400 years old at the time the barn was built in the 1850's. The old forest timber that was used in construction illustrates the huge timbers that were readily available in Ohio at that time.



Mike and Lynn Chamberlin Miller display photo of the Chamberlin barn.



Photo by Timothy Hearsom

Don't miss our September General Meeting!

In addition to an "End of Summer Pot Luck Dinner", we'll be featuring a program entitled "An Unexpected Twist: The Story of Rope".

The presenters will be Kate Hagenbuch and her father, Bill Hagenbuch, who was Chief Engineer and President of Hooven & Allison, the Xenia company which manufactured natural fiber rope. With the closing in 2003 of Hooven & Allison, followed by a 2005 fire, part of Ohio's unique history has faded. Over the last several years, Bill Hagenbuch has helped preserve the history of the "H & A"—one of the last natural fiber rope companies in America.

We'll learn about rope-making's forgotten effects on agriculture and industry in Xenia, Ohio from the Civil War to the present - and beyond. His slide presentation "ties together" such diverse topics as prehistoric tools, Ben Franklin, trust busting, the Industrial Revolution, railroads, hemp agriculture, drug laws, WWII, globalization, plastics, carbon nanotubes and space travel.

The General Meeting on September 27 will begin at 6:00 pm with our "End of Summer Pot Luck Dinner" followed at 7:00 pm with "The Story of Rope" program. Bring a covered dish and join us at the Market Square Building and we'll share a wonderful meal and program. Drinks and table service will be provided. There is no charge for the program and the public is always welcome.

NOTE: There will be no General Meeting in August.

"Whirled Top Fest" Returns to Miamisburg



By Pastor Mike Hout

Miamisburg continues to be a leader in the top spinning world with our **8th Annual Whirled Top Fest** on **August 25th from 5:00-8:00 pm**. Spinners will be coming from all over the Midwest and all over Miamisburg. This year's event will be held in the parking lot on the north side of the Baum Opera House on First Street.

There will again be the Battle Tops Challenge for youth with the winning team earning \$100 in gold coins (plus an extra dollar coin for each year of the event, so our new record total will be \$108). Get your family together or invite some neighborhood children to join a three person team to spin for the big prize. Everyone who participates is a winner and is guaranteed to get at least one gold coin. There will also be other activities like Jay's Change Challenge (win some of Jay's coins) and Dave's Duration (longest spinner).

For the last several years the Whirled Top Fest has been held in conjunction with the "Cruise the Burg" car show. This gives us lots of "walk through" action and many opportunities to show others the joy of simple things and times past. We need help from local folks so we can continue to let everyone know there were lots of fun, real life activities before video games.

Many thanks to the Miamisburg Historical Society for their support over these past eight years. We have had lots of experts and champion spinners pass through our town and have grown from that exposure. Pastor Hout will be attending the World Championships of top spinning in Florida because of this. By the time of our August 25th event he hopes to be recognized as one of the top "top throwers" in the world.

Our top spinning event constantly reminds us of what we have known all along..."**Miamisburg is Tops**".



How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

The August Pop Quiz:

The ACME Folding Boat Company was a very successful early Miamisburg business. Where was it located?

Answer on Page 6

ACME Folding Boat Framework Revealed at June General Meeting

An old canvas bag that had been sitting in an upstairs corner at the Gebhart Tavern finally revealed its contents. It had long been suspected, but never proven until now, what secrets it held.

Dr. Carl Becker presented the story of the ACME Folding Boat Co. of old Miamisburg at our June General Meeting. To coincide with the program it was thought that an investigation into the contents of the bag would be appropriate. With the approval of the board, Randy Staley and Les Wead opened the disintegrating bag and carefully lifted out its contents which were completely black with dust and dirt.

Just as was suspected, the canvas bag held the parts of an ACME Folding Boat. After hours of careful cleaning and organizing, the framework of the flat bottom boat was finally assembled at our meeting. It was a fitting climax to the program and brought a piece of Miamisburg history to life.

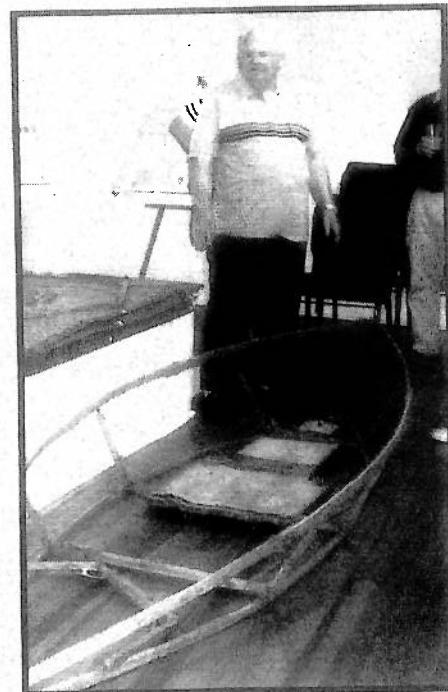
ACME folding boats were sold and distributed worldwide and literally served to put Miamisburg on the map. Following is a testimonial from one of the company's satisfied customers:

Chicago, April 16, 1907

I bought two of your boats in Seattle in 1898 and used them during my five years' sojourn in Alaska, going hundreds of miles and through some "nasty" places without any trouble. They are certainly everything one could expect to find in a safe, light, serviceable boat.

*Very truly,
Dr. L.O. Wilcoxon*

In addition to the ACME Folding Boat program, we all enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner. I believe it's safe to say that no one went away hungry, either for food or for a taste of Miamisburg history.



Les Wead with ACME flat bottom boat



KUDO KORNER

Recognition of our volunteer force. We get things done because of you!

A big thank you goes out to our "callers" who perform a great service each month by contacting the MHS membership before the General Meetings. These folks include **Phyllis Abney, Virginia Kinderdine, Marilou Becker, Wilma Hansen, Janet Wead and Rolla Broerman.**

Rodney Ziemer has taken on the big job of converting our "slide show" pictures to disk so they may be used in Powerpoint presentations. Thank you so much, Rodney!

Our appreciation to **Betty Zech, Rolla Broerman and Mary Mahan** for helping out at the Market Square Building on our "open" days. Also to **Virginia Kinderdine** for her work in keeping and updating the Mayor's wedding records.

The docents working at the Gebhart Tavern during the months of June and July were **Rolla Broerman, Bob Barr, Jim & Laura Bornhorst, Bobbye Sweny, Don & Judy Wuerstl, Quill & Phyllis Abney, Sophie Mahan and Mary Mahan.** The Tavern could not be open on Sundays without these great volunteers.



HRRC... Historic Research and Resource Committee

By Nita Petticrew

Lots of important and much appreciated work is being done by many of our HRRC

Committee Members. Tracie Atkinson has compiled pictures dating from the 1980's to 2003 and organized them into three beautifully bound scrapbooks. The books have now been placed in our Research Room and are available for public viewing. Mary Mahan, one of our new members, is currently organizing Brough Funeral Home records into binders. They will also be shelved in the Research Room for easier access to the public for viewing, copying, genealogy research, etc.

Our Society is very fortunate to have recently received a collection containing some very interesting and historically detailed information on the Indian Mound. This collection is a "must see" for anyone at all interested in our city's famous landmark.

The Hill Grove Cemetery - Miamisburg Cemetery Association records have been compiled and boxed by Randy Staley, Lee Hieronymus, and Wade Collins. These records are in the process of being archived and accessioned, but are not yet ready for public viewing.

We at the Historical Society are always thinking ahead and planning for future events. Our booth at the Spring Fling each year is an excellent means of making our organization visible to the public, in addition to being an important fund raising event. In planning for our Spring Fling booth of 2008, we are in need of volunteers to be "in charge". This would be a sub-committee which would organize the event, from getting together items to sell, contacting volunteers to work the booth, setting up and taking down the tent, display, etc. If you are interested, please contact Nita Petticrew at 866-1285, Les Wead, Rolla Broerman, Cathy Oberer or call the Society at 859-5000 and leave your name and phone number. Someone will get back to you ASAP!

A Belated Note of Sympathy

Our Historical Society lost a good friend and member earlier this year with the passing of Dr. Jane Chance. Jane was an outstanding Miamisburg citizen who served in many capacities over the years for the betterment of our schools and our community. Her enthusiasm and love of Miamisburg will always be remembered by all who knew her. She is greatly missed.

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 _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

(please mail to:)

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

Pop Quiz Answer

The ACME Folding Boat Co. was located at 432 Pearl Street.

(The distinctive triangular shaped red brick building that sits beside the railroad tracks.)

Notes From The Curator

By Joe Steffen

Members of the Schuster Family were in Miamisburg recently as my brother, Amor, and his wife, Phyllis, from California were here on vacation, and Amy Schuster Richardson and her husband, Rayman, were returning to West Virginia from a class reunion.

We can't wait to get together again as we had a great time and hope to see Mary Schuster Underwood and Charles Schuster who were unable to attend this 2007 gathering.

Left to right in the photo:

Amy Schuster Richardson*, Marsha Steffen, Ben Atkinson, Tracie Steffen Atkinson*,

Amor Steffen*, Caroline Atkinson*, Joe Atkinson*, Joe Steffen*, Phyllis Steffen, Rayman Richardson

*Direct descendents of the Schuster family of Miamisburg.



Your Help is Needed to Save the Kercher Pioneer Home

As the City of Miamisburg looks to the future and plans to rebuild the Great Miami Riverfront, we have been given the opportunity to preserve the past through the relocation and renovation of the historic Jacob Kercher Pioneer Home which is located on Ferry Street.

The home, originally scheduled for demolition in order to make way for our new Riverfront Park, was recently discovered just in time to prevent it from being destroyed. Who knew that beneath the decades of "renovations" (asbestos shingles and wood siding), an historic log cabin was hidden.

As reported in the June issue of *The Tavern Log*, a fund raising effort has begun so that the Kercher Pioneer Home may be saved and relocated alongside the Daniel Gebhart Tavern Museum at the corner of Lock St. and Old Main.

With your financial help, we may restore the Kercher log cabin and create a living history for generations to come. You will soon be hearing the details of how we plan to save the Pioneer Home "one log at a time" and how you will be able to participate.

SCHUSTER REUNION • MIAMISBURG, OHIO • MAY 2007

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

Event: Cruise the Burg #3

Date: Saturday, August 25 4:00-9:00 pm

Place: Downtown Miamisburg

Event: Old Fashioned Top Throwing

Date: Saturday, August 25 5:00-8:00 pm

Place: Parking lot just North of Baum House on 1st St.

NOTE: There will be no General Meeting in August

SEPTEMBER

Event: Starving Artists

Date: Sept. 8-9 8:00am - 5:00pm / 12-5:00pm

Place: Library Park

Event: Cruise the Burg #4

Date: Saturday, September 22 4:00-9:00pm

Place: Downtown Miamisburg

Event: Historic Home Tour

Date: Sunday, September 23 2:00-5:00pm

Place: See article on page 1

Event: Historical Society General Meeting/Program Pot Luck Dinner & "An Unexpected Twist"

Date: Thursday, September 27 6:00pm

Place: Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Mkt. Sq. Bldg.

OCTOBER

Event: Historical Society Annual Meeting and Canal Days Dinner

Date: Thursday, Oct. 25 6:30pm

Place: St. Jacob Lutheran Church (213 E. Central Ave.)



Miamisburg Historical Society
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Attention Dorothy Lane Shoppers!

We encourage those of you who shop at Dorothy Lane Markets to please join their "Good Neighbor Program". After \$250 is spent during the year by a participating household, Dorothy Lane will begin contributing a percentage of the amount of your purchase to the Miamisburg Historical Society.

You will need to fill out a one-time form at any Dorothy Lane Market to participate in their contribution program. At that time you'll be issued a card which will automatically add a percentage of the amount of each purchase to our total every time you shop. These funds will then be donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society at the end of the year.

Each year Dorothy Lane Market donates \$75,000 to non-profit area organizations. It's a great way to benefit our Society without spending an extra cent. All funds donated go to fund our Research and Resource Room at the Market Square Building.

Mark Your Calendar Now...

Thursday, October 25 is a very important upcoming event on the calendar of our Historical Society. It marks our **Annual Meeting and Canal Days Dinner**.

Each year we get together for the traditional bean supper prepared by Mary Goodwin and her helpers. Following the dinner and program will be the business meeting in which we elect the Officers and Board Members who will work to guide our Society in the coming year.

Tickets for the dinner are \$5.00 per person and may be purchased at the Market Square Building or from Board Members. This year the dinner will be held at St. Jacob Lutheran Church at 213 E. Central Avenue and will begin at 6:30pm.

Additional program details for the evening will be published in the October issue of *The Tavern Log*.

