



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

February 2006

Volume XV 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@aol.com

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 Sept., 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Website:

http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

February 23 General Meeting "A Date With Abraham Lincoln"



Our February program entitled "A Date With Abraham Lincoln" will be a presentation in the first person from a selection of Mr. Lincoln's writings, *Early Life, Faith, Education, Politics, Law Practice and The War Years*. The presenter, Stanley A. Wernz of Cincinnati, is a well known and highly regarded member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters.

Mr. Wernz's presentation will appeal to children as well as the adult audience. He will appear in full costume as Lincoln, which adds a heightened sense of reality in bringing the history of that era to life.

We are very excited about this timely presentation and are therefore opening the program to the public. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to bring children and/or grandchildren for an exciting evening of American History. The date is Thursday, February 23; the time is 7:00 p.m. and the location is The Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Market Square Building. For further information contact Paul Schultz at 937-847-8277.

Good Samaritan Program At River Valley Credit Union

Are you financing a new car or any other item? River Valley Credit Union will donate 1% of the amount of your loan to the Miamisburg Historical Society. As a nonprofit organization, we qualify for these funds and the River Valley donation has no affect on the cost of financing or your loan payment.

It's easy! When you are financing, just let the loan officer know that you'd like your 1% contribution made to the Miamisburg Historical Society.

Remember to think of us when you're financing through River Valley Credit Union. These funds are being made available and it's up to us to take advantage of them. Please do your part in enabling us to continue our important work in preserving and sharing the history of Miamisburg.

From the President's Desk ...

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by! Seems like just yesterday that we sat down as a Board of Directors and developed plans for the "new year" (2005)! In reality, a lot of water has passed over that dam and we find ourselves facing a whole host of new opportunities with a newly elected Board consisting of a number of "returnees" as well as some welcome "new faces". We will miss the past members (old timers?) who have worked so hard on behalf of the Society, but look forward to fresh ideas and a sense of shared excitement which the "new faces" bring to the table.

One of the most visible and important jobs on the Board has been that of Tavern Log Editor. **Chuck Sweny** has done a marvelous job in that position for quite a number of years during which time our "**Tavern Log**" has been recognized as one of the best Historical Society newsletters in the region. Chuck has asked to step down from that job, but I'm delighted to report that **Diane Warrick** has stepped forward to assume that position. Meanwhile, Chuck will help to facilitate a "seamless transition" to the new Editor and will handle the printing and distribution functions for Diane. Many of you will remember that Diane was elected to serve as Secretary of the Society, but in light of her willingness to assume the role of Editor, I have asked new Board member, **Cathy Oberer**, to take over as Board Secretary.

Rounding out the other "new faces" on the Board, **Paul Schultz** will chair the Program Committee and **JoAnne Brewer** will chair the Membership Committee. All of the other "old hands" on the Board will retain positions they have held in the past, with Immediate Past Co-Presidents, **Jim & Laura Bornhorst**, filling in where needed with special projects and facility maintenance. For the first time in several years we now have the services of a Publicity Chairperson with **Susan Montesano** ably filling that position.

Continued on page 5

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



Many Thanks To Our Friends At "Christmas On Main Street"



Our appreciation goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Chris Haines and staff at "Christmas On Main Street". They supplied five beautifully decorated Christmas trees for the Market Square Building in December. The trees were placed upstairs in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium and also in the front window of the gift shop. The lighted trees were just as spectacular from the street and gave our building an especially festive appearance this holiday season.

Many thanks to everyone involved in assembling, decorating and removing the trees. All your efforts were greatly admired and appreciated.

Historic Research and Resource Committee – HRRC...

The main objective of this committee is to work with the curator to obtain collections and maintain them for the Historical society. This includes research books, microfilm, microfiche, videotapes, CDs and oral interview cassettes for the Research Room, located in the Market Square Building. The Research Room and the Gift Shop are open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Other resources such as photos, obituaries, house histories and artifacts are stored in the Archives Room (not open to the public), which is used by volunteers to obtain information for researchers. A knowledgeable historian is available to answer questions about the history of Miamisburg, Miami Township, businesses, homes and much more. If you have something you would like to donate or loan to the society, please contact Joe Steffen, Curator or Nita Petticrew, HRRC Chairperson.



When donations are received, they are not just put in a box! Items are sorted, accessioned (given an identification number) and catalog information is entered into a computerized database for easy access. The items are stored in proper archival containers and file cabinets or shelved in the Research Room. At this time, we are unable to accept personal clothing because we do not have the proper storage area to insure the integrity of the material.

In 2005 over sixty-four donations/collections were received for the Historical Society. Veterans' Uniforms are collected and archived by the Veteran's Committee and are always a welcome donation – please contact Randy Staley or Lester Wead, Jr. if you have Veteran memorabilia.

Congratulations to Carl Becker!

On December 8, 2005 in Columbus, Ohio, Carl Becker was awarded the Bjornson Award for Distinguished Service in the Humanities. This award is given each year to an Ohio resident who has made outstanding contributions in the field of humanities.

Carl has had an outstanding career of teaching and writing, and has authored many publications on the history of Ohio. We're all familiar with Carl's recent book, "Miamisburg in WWII", which we're very proud to offer in our gift shop.

Congratulations Carl!

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| What: | February General Meeting
<i>"A Date with Abraham Lincoln"</i> |
| Where: | Market Square Building
Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium |
| When: | Thurs., February 23, 2006 - 7:00 pm |
| What: | March General Meeting |
| Where: | Market Square Building
Miller-Chamberlain Auditorium |
| When: | Thurs., March 23, 2006 - 7:00 pm |
| What: | Spring Fling Festival & Parade |
| Where: | Library Park & Downtown Msbhg. |
| When: | Fri., Sat., Sun., May 19-21 |

Notes From The Curator

Your Miamisburg Historical Society has received a wonderful gift from Mrs. Phyllis (Holzman) Jackson, formerly of Miamisburg. She has donated Miamisburg City Council Meeting Minutes Ledgers dating from 1838 through 1864. These Minutes date back to pre Civil War days and show in great detail the history of Miamisburg.



We will also be sharing the history of Miamisburg, with the information contained in the old Council Meeting Minutes, in future issues of the Tavern Log. The old Council Meeting Minutes will also be available for research at the Market Square Building.

Following are the Council Meeting Minutes from the January 1, 1861 meeting where the main order of business was the purchase of the first fire engine.

(Notes From The Curator continued on page 7)

**Council Meeting Minutes
January 1, 1861**

**Miamisburg, Ohio
Council Meeting
January 1, 1861**

Mayor: C. Boltier

Present: Boltier, Schultz, Goudy, Grove, Kaufman and Meyer. Minutes read and approved.

Special committee on Canal Boat in Basin reported that they had contracted for removal of nuisance and that the work was progressing and would be completed as soon as the weather permits.

Committee on Fire Engine reported with proposition from Mefs Button @ Blake Company and Mep Jeffrees and Company to build an engine.

Mr. Schultz moved that Council now proceed to select from the different proposals and instruct the Committee to order an Engine and that the Committee be continued for that purchase.

Mr. Goudy moved with Kaufman's second that the Committee be authorized to contract with Mefs Button @ Blake Company for a Second Class Engine well furnished.

Mr. Moyer to amend by saying Second Class, less one discharging pipe and spring gears. Original motion amended. Yeas, Moyer, Kaufman, Grove, Goudy and Schultz adopted unanimously.

Mr. Grove moved with Kaufman's second that the Council be authorized to contract with Mefs Button @ Blake Company for a two wheel horse carriage at a cost of \$100.00. Also 500 feet of their double Evetea Hose. Mr. Schultz moved to amend by insisting \$150.00 of hose instead of \$100.00. Motion not accepted.

Mr. Goudy moved that the vote on the awardment be rezoned, he having misunderstood the motion. Motion lost. Mr. Goudy asked for a discussion on the question. Vote yeas Meyers, Kaufman and Schultz. Nays Grove and Goudy. Original motion adopted. Mr. Schultz moved that council proceed to select a name for the Engine and Hose Cart. Mr. Grove suggested the Engine be called "Young America". Mr. Goudy moved to call the Cart "Belle Can".

The following bills were presented: Reuben Gebhart (Fire Company Bill) \$3.32
Reuben Gebhart (Service, Wood, Fluids) \$20.95

Meeting adjourned: To meet in two weeks

**Council Chamber Meeting
January 12, 1861**

Received letter from Fire Engine Supplier.

Cost of Engine, Hose Cart and 500 feet of fire hose \$1,225.00

From the President's Desk

(Continued from page 2)

Do these assignments of responsibility mean that we have all of the resources we need to carry on the vital work of the Society? Not by a long shot! This is just a "skeleton" of the organization required to carry out the work of the Miamisburg Historical Society. Our major goal for 2006-07 is to increase the participation of our members (YOU!) in all of the activities of the Society.

There are lots of jobs to be done. Could you spare just 3 hours a month to help "mind the store" at the Market Square Building? 12 more folks would permit us to keep our doors open an additional day each week, year round. Could you help out just one Sunday afternoon each summer to act as a docent at the Gebhart Tavern Museum? Do you have artistic talents that could help us enhance displays of some of our vast collection of materials at the Market Square Building?

These are just a few of the jobs that need to be done on a regular basis if we are to progress as a vital part of the "downtown scene" in Miamisburg. Training will be provided as needed to assimilate you into any of these jobs. Call me or any other Board Member and we'll find a job for you that is both fun and rewarding. Try it – You'll like it!

Phil

Phil Johnson
President

How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

?



**The February
Pop Quiz:**

**What was the
original name
of Linden Avenue?**

Answer on Page 8

In the Gift Shop

**Prices have been lowered
on Cat's Meows in our Gift Shop!**

Current selection and pricing as follows:

Bell High School	\$15.00
Carnegie Library	13.00
English Manor B&B	15.00
Fire Station	13.00
Gebhart Tavern	11.00
Hamburger Wagon	9.00
Kinder School	13.00
Koffee Kup	13.00
Market Square Building	13.00
Miamisburg Mound	9.00
Parkview Methodist Church	15.00
Peerless Mill Inn	15.00
St. Jacob Lutheran Church	13.00
St. James Methodist Church	15.00
Trinity United Church of Christ	13.00
Wantz School Building	13.00
Wantz School Bell	6.00

*Due to reduced pricing, MHS member discounts will **not** be given on Cat's Meows.*

Don't forget our gift shop when looking for a meaningful gift. We have many books, historic photos, tapestries, throws and other collectible items pertaining to the history of Miamisburg.

Books and booklets include:

The Hill Grove Cemetery Book
"Miamisburg In WWII" by Carl Becker
"The Story of Our Town"
"When Tobacco Was King"
Dr. John Treon Book
"Memoir of 1913 Flood"
by Ida Pansing Eck
Aunt Harriet's Storybooks
by Harriet Hieronymus

The Miami Township Book and the Baum Opera House Cookbook are also available in the shop.

**Gift Shop hours are Wed. and Sat.,
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

Miamisburg Historical Society

2006 Calendar of Events

Jan. 4 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 4 MHS Membership Drive (Membership dues) 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 31 Articles Due for February Tavern Log	July 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 21-23 Weekend On Wheels (MMA) 21-23 Bicycle Exhibition at Market Square Building 22 Cruise The Burg #2 27 MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm 31 Articles Due for August Tavern Log
Feb. 1 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm ("A Date With Abraham Lincoln")	Aug. 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm ? MHS General Meeting - (Cemetery Tour) 26 Cruise The Burg #3 26 Old Fashion Top Throwing (Contact Mike Hout)
March 1 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm 31 Articles Due For April Tavern Log	Sept. 9-10 Starving Artist Show at Library Park 12 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 Cruise The Burg #4 28 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 30 Articles Due for October Tavern Log
April 5 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 Easter Sunday 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 27 MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm	Oct. 2 Articles for Annual Report 4 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 10 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 21 Sweet or Treat Night (Contact Ann Harshman) 26 MHS Annual Meeting - 6:30 pm (Canal Days Dinner at St. James Church)
May 3 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 7 Opening of Gebhart Tavern Museum 2:00-5:00 9 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 19-21 Spring Fling Parade & Festival 25 MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm (Silver Taps & Annual Children's Program) 27-29 Veteran's Exhibit at Market Square Building 27 Dance at Baum Opera House on Sat. night 29 Memorial Day Parade 31 Articles Due for June Tavern Log	Nov. 1 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 MMA – Annual Turkey Trot Thanksgiving Morning ? MHS General Meeting - 7:00 pm 30 Articles Due for December Tavern Log
June 7 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 13 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 17 Msbg. High School Alumni Dinner/Dance & Historical Society Display 22 MHS General Meeting (Picnic at Zimmerman's) 24 Cruise The Burg #1	Dec. 8 Holly & Ivy Gala 9 Santa Scramble & Santa at MSB (Contact Ann Harshman) 10 Christmas at The Tavern 12 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm

Plans Being Formalized For Memorial Day Weekend 2006



The Miamisburg Historical Society Veterans Committee and the American Legion Post 165 are in the process of formalizing plans for this year's events to honor our area veterans. All events are open to the public. On Thursday, May 25, 7:00 pm, in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium at the Market Square Building, we will hold a program we call "Silver Taps" to honor our veterans. This event will also be the Grand Opening of our Annual Military Exhibit, which will include family memorabilia along with military uniforms from numerous wars. Last year, thanks to many donations, we were able to display 25 military uniforms, and this year we expect the display to be even larger. Exhibit hours will be from 12:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 27, Sunday, May 28, and Monday, May 29.

On Saturday evening, May 27 from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, we will hold our second annual Victory Dance at the Baum Opera House featuring the Hauer Swing Band. Tickets will be \$7.50 single or \$15.00 per couple. You can dance or just listen to the big band music of yesteryear.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, the American Legion Post 165 will hold their annual services at the following locations:

Our Lady of Good Hope Cemetery8:45 am
Hillgrove Cemetery9:15 am
Highland Cemetery9:40 am
Linden Avenue Bridge10:30 am

The parade will form on Miami Avenue and begin at the Linden Avenue Bridge at 11:00 am.. It will move east on Linden Avenue to Main Street, north on Main Street to East Central Avenue and east on Central Avenue to the Library Park. The American Legion will conduct their annual Memorial Service at the park after the parade.

If you would like to volunteer to help in any capacity, for a specific date or time, please call Lester Wead at 866-1604, Randy Staley at 885-4458 or leave a message at the Market Square Building at 859-5000. If you have items you wish to exhibit, please call the same phone numbers. Items for display must be delivered to the Market Square Building by May 10.

Notes from the Curator

(Continued from page 4)

Class Pictures

We recently received two of the Class Pictures that were displayed at the old Miamisburg High School on Linden Avenue. The 1940 and 1946 Class Pictures are now being displayed at the Market Square Building.

I understand that there may be more of the Class Pictures still around Miamisburg. Your Miamisburg Historical Society would be very much interested in adding them to our treasures and displaying them at the Market Square Building.

Please contact the Curator at the Market Square Building.
Phone 859-5000 or 847-7476

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Oberer
Kathleen Sweeney



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

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Dorothy Lane Market and GFS Participate in 1% Contribution Plans

The Miamisburg Historical Society could benefit from the Contribution Plans in place at Dorothy Lane Market and GFS. After a specified amount of money is spent by participating members, these businesses begin contributing a percentage of the amount of your purchase to the Miamisburg Historical Society.

GFS: Partnership in Savings Program.

As you check out, inform the cashier that you would like the Miamisburg Historical Society to be the recipient of the donation. Partnership in Savings Membership Cards are available at the Market Square Building, although the cards are not required in order to participate.

Dorothy Lane Market: Good Neighbor Program

You will need to fill out a one-time form at Dorothy Lane Market to participate in their contribution program. You'll be issued a card which will automatically add the amount of your purchase to our total.

These funds will then be donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society at the end of each year.

Pop Quiz Answer

The original name of Linden Avenue was **Walnut Street**. The name was later changed to Bridge Street and finally to Linden Avenue.