



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

February 2007

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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
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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.

GEHBART TAVERN

Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00-5:00 pm

Website:

http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

The 1913 Flood Remembered



This photo of flood cleanup efforts was taken from what is now Miami Ave. looking East up Central Avenue toward the Market Square Building.

The following writings are excerpts from a letter written in April, 1913 by Mrs. Ida Pansing Eck to her sister, Mrs. Mary Pansing Gehr in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Ecks lived at the N.W. corner of Linden Avenue and Seventh Street at the time of the flood.

These excerpts are only a small portion of the entire letter, "A Memoir of the 1913 Flood", which may be purchased at our Gift Shop for \$3.00.

Tuesday, April 1, 1913

We have had heavy rains for weeks and all day Easter up to 2 o'clock it poured. Monday it poured all day and about 3:30 in the afternoon we had a regular cloud burst but our sewers and creeks took care of us and we felt pretty good, only a little worried on account of our street car service to West Carrollton and Dayton for Tuesday a.m. I seemed to have a warning of it though, for I could not sleep Monday night, had the feeling that there was something awful going to happen. Charles felt the same way and we both got up before six and he left for town and said he would be back about seven and tell me about the river and if high bring me over in auto to see it. That was the last I saw of Charles until Thursday noon. He saw river was simply on a rampage and said to me over the phone that water would be on Main Street enough to row a boat before night. It was there in less than three hours so deep and swift that he could not get in a boat to get out. He stayed there even after the others (Anne and Janitor) left to help their families, in order to put carpets, rugs and books up high.

Continued on Page 6

Children's Educational Programs

I want to tell you about our Children's Educational Programs, and how important they are to our Society. Not only because they instill in our young people a love for the story of our city and the people who founded it, but because *education* is an integral part of the Society's purpose and commitments.



We will soon be receiving requests for in-school programs and walking tours at the elementary level. As teachers hear from other teachers about the programs we have done for their schools, the number of requests increase. It's time for us to increase the number of volunteers in our Children's Programs Committee. These programs do not take a long time – some preparation, yes – some knowledge, yes – some enthusiasm for working with children, oh yes! But the rewards are ongoing. Children who have participated in some of our programs or have done a walking tour with us, frequently recognize us at the library, at church or at the grocery store and tell us how much fun they had. They write us wonderful "thank you" letters which we treasure.

Am I asking for volunteers – **you bet I am!!** **Are you a born story teller??** We can use your help, and we provide the historical information. You can embellish it with your own personal stories and knowledge. **Do you like to dress up and pretend you're someone else??** You will find us a great place to play grown-up "dress up". Betty Morris loves to be "Early Dawn", the Indian maiden who tells about the Adena and Miami Indians. Jim Schnapp is a wonderful frontiersman with his "possible" bag that holds so many fascinating items.

We are always looking for oral history tellers. They are well remembered by the children – at least that's the story we get from their parents and grandparents. **How about a look at our town through the eyes of a child??** That's what our walking tours are. Our best remembered one is the year that the locusts invaded us. We started at Library Park with an exciting "in-your-face" encounter with thousands of locusts in various stages. That was a day when **all** of us learned something. These tours never grow old. We have several routes, each one geared to a grade level of interest. A tour usually takes about an hour. Hey, if I can still do one at **84**, you can handle this with no effort.

Do you have computer skills? Can you do PowerPoint displays? Boy, can we use you!! We have some excellent slide shows that we would like to convert to DVD and use them on our new equipment, purchased especially for education use. Talk to us about this. We are open to suggestions and ideas. It's important to us that we keep our programs fresh and up-to-date with technology.

Are you an idea person? Do you think "outside the box"? There is nothing that keeps a program growing like fresh material and people who think and plan with new eyes. We are definitely **not** set in our ways. We are not **chiseled in stone**. Bring us your ideas, your experiences, your skills and your enthusiasm. You will be most welcome!!

Now if I haven't hit **your** particular area of interest, call me (866-3507) - let's talk about it! Please help your Society in an area which is fun, takes very little time, is seasonal (you get summers off!) and is so important to us and the future of our young historians. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Bobbye Sweny,
Chair, Children's Programs

In the Gift Shop

Cat's Meow Inventory and Pricing:

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
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, photos, tapestries 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

"Boiled Peanuts and Buckeyes"
by Lee Eudon Holland

"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**

Cat's Meows Being Phased Out as Gift Shop Items

With the possible exception of a few special styles, we are beginning the phase-out of our Cat's Meow inventory. We're now offering reduced pricing in order to expedite the process. As our inventory is depleted, most items will never be reordered.

Do you have a Cat's Meow that you've always wanted, but never got around to buying? Would you like to buy a few as keepsake gifts for friends or relatives? **Now is the time to do it!** Don't wait until it's too late and the one you want is gone.

The list at left shows our remaining inventory of styles and discount pricing as of February 1. If you are out of state and would like to purchase one or more items, please call the Historical Society at (937) 859-5000. Arrangements can possibly be made for your purchase and the mailing to you.

For you local folks, stop in at our gift shop soon! We're open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.



KUDO KORNER

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

A special thank you goes out to JoAnne Brewer and Ron and Jane McGriff for passing out candy and signing scramble sheets for the Sweet Treat Night in October.

In December Judy and Don Wuerstle along with JoAnne Brewer signed the Santa Scramble sheets and passed out candy during the downtown holiday festivities.

Many thanks to these folks for volunteering their time to our Society. Our appreciation also goes to Cathy Oberer for coordinating the volunteers for these events.

We appreciate YOU!

Miamisburg Historical Society 2007 Calendar of Events

Jan. 10 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 10 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 18 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 19 MHS Membership Drive (Membership dues) 24 Special Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 1:30 pm 24 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 31 Articles Due for February Tavern Log	July 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm TBA <i>Weekend On Wheels (MMA)</i> 21 <i>Cruise The Burg #2</i> 25 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 26 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 31 Articles Due for August Tavern Log
Feb. 7 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 13 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 21 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 22 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm “Mary Todd Lincoln” Presented by Donna McCreary	Aug. 8 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 8 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 16 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 22 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 23 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 25 <i>Cruise The Burg #3</i> 25 Old Fashion Top Throwing (Contact Mike Hout)
March 7 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 13 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 21 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 22 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 31 Articles Due for April Tavern Log	Sept. 8-9 <i>Starving Artist Show at Library Park</i> 11 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 20 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 22 <i>Cruise The Burg #4</i> 27 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 30 Articles Due for October Tavern Log and Reports Due for the Annual Report
April 4 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 8 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 11 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 11 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 18 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 19 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 26 MHS General Meeting and Children’s Art Exhibit – 7:00 pm	Oct. 9 HRRC 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 TBA <i>Sweet or Treat Night</i> 25 Historical Society Annual Meeting – 6:30 pm (Canal Days Dinner at St. James Church)
May 2 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 6 Opening of Gebhart Tavern Museum 2:00-5:00 8 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 9 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 9 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 17 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 18-20 <i>Spring Fling Parade & Festival</i> 24 MHS General Meeting (Silver Taps) – 7:00 pm 26 Victory Dance - Memorial Day Weekend 26 and 28 Veteran’s Exhibit at Market Square Building 28 Memorial Day Parade 30 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 31 Articles Due for June Tavern Log	Nov. 8 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 13 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 14 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 14 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 15 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm 22 <i>MMA – Annual Turkey Trot</i> <i>Thanksgiving Morning</i>
June 12 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 13 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 13 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 13 Veterans Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm 16 <i>Msb. High School Alumni Dinner/Dance</i> <i>& Historical Society Display</i> 21 MHS Board Meeting – 6:00 pm 23 <i>Cruise The Burg #1</i> 27 Kercher Cabin Task Force Meeting – 4:00 pm 28 MHS General Meeting – 7:00 pm	Dec. TBA <i>Santa Scramble & Santa at MSB</i> 7 Holly & Ivy Gala 9 Christmas at The Tavern 11 HRRC Meeting – 7:00 pm 12 Maintenance Liaison Meeting – 2:00 pm 12 Articles Due for December Tavern Log 25 <i>Christmas</i>

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



HRRC Needs You!

The Historic Research and Resource Committee needs your help. This is the "FUN STUFF" for all you Miamisburg history buffs. Items that have been donated to our Society need to be itemized and accessioned into our system. It's an exciting discovery process going through boxes of old photos or other items that have been packed away for generations. There are almost always surprises and important additions to our growing inventory of historical artifacts pertaining to the history of Miamisburg.

Get in on the fun and join others on the team who are doing the very important job of preserving and documenting the early years of our town. This is what we're all about here at Market Square!

February General Meeting

Join us on February 22, 7:00 pm at the Market Square Building when Donna McCreary will present a program on Mary Todd Lincoln. The presentation, being done in the first person, promises to be outstanding!

Update on Façade Construction

We're almost there folks! As reported in the December issue of the *Tavern Log*, construction has begun on the front façade of the Market Square Building. Although the project was expected to be completed by now, there has been a delay in the process, as many times happens with even the best of plans.

The installation of the doors entering into the gift shop area has proved to be a problem as far as a secure fit. Options for a solution are being discussed at this time. After the doors have been refitted or replaced, the project will hopefully come to a rapid conclusion. We're all looking forward to getting our "house" back in order and all spruced up again!

All Our Sympathy

In December our Historical Society and the Miamisburg community lost a good friend and faithful participating member with the passing of Nancy Johnson. Her quiet and helpful ways were her trademark. Never looking for recognition, Nancy was always cheerfully willing to assist in any project or endeavor.

Our most sincere sympathy goes out to Phil Johnson and his family. Nancy will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Rick & Cheryl Stock

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:)

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1913 Flood Remembered

(Continued from Page 1)

So when he saw water rushing down past the front window he climbed out on fire escape to Deacon Club. There he tried to dry his clothes and get his nerves together. Water kept getting higher and higher and at last he began to hear cries and shots fired for help. help. help. Looking out toward the river, he saw a house topple over backwards into the river, and then heard cries for help coming from house next door, where Smith used to live. Frank Hall family were in upstairs and water was six inches on second floor and no attic to get to roof. They happened to have a hatchet and handed it to Eck by leaning far out. He got a step ladder and took off a shutter, made a temporary bridge, crawled out over that space and chopped a hole in roof of house, then helped all of them (seven) across into club rooms. There they stayed compelled to hear cries for help, help, help and not able to do one thing. They had no water to drink only what they caught by setting out some pans to rain in. No heat to warm and dry their clothes, no light and nothing to eat from Tuesday a.m. until Thursday noon. Eck had gone away without breakfast so he did not have anything from Monday eve. He was so weak he had to be carried into a boat and then into an auto to come home.

You can never know what we passed thru that awful Tuesday night, water continued to raise until 2:30 a.m. Wednesday a.m., then we heard it was on standstill and when we found it was really going to drop we cried for joy. We never went to bed and at 2 a.m. Mary Townsend, K of P Block, one of the three girls who stuck to their telephones called us up and gave us goodbye and said they were afraid of building collapsing as so many other buildings, barns, stables, houses etc., had banded up against it, it fairly shook. We were nearly wild and just offered one prayer after another. Finally we got word that water was dropping and I went upstairs to bed with a terrible nervous headache and sick as could be.

When I finally got myself together, I got children dressed and we started for Cedar Hill to see our ruined town. Mary, I could not tell what was street and what was canal or river or property.. all one jumbled up mass and water over all, just chimneys sticking out some places and barns and stables and water closets, chicken coops, dead horses and cows, chickens and everything you can think of just mixed up, something awful.

Complete letter available at Historical Society Gift Shop.