



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

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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.

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Cabin
Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00—5:00 pm

E-Mail Address: MHSociety@att.net

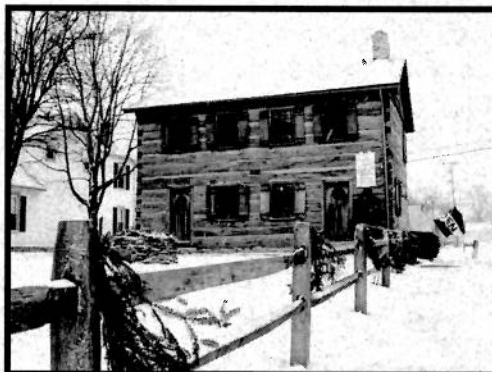
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Historical Society Celebrates the Holidays!

Sunday afternoon, December 12, brought our annual "Christmas at the Tavern" event. The day was cold and snowy, which only added to the holiday experience at the historic Gebhart Tavern.



Laura Bornhorst was in charge of refreshments that were irresistible! Annie Gilkison served the hot cider while Mary Pat Golden introduced some new items in the Tavern gift shop. Carol O'Connell made lots of 1800's style tree ornaments for the children to hang on an outside Christmas tree. Not only were the

ornaments decorative, but they were also edible for the winter birds.

Tom and Joyce Zimpher decorated the cabin, inside and out, in their usual authentic 1800's Christmas style. Each year the work they do in decking out the Tavern for the holidays is more beautiful than the last. They really outdid themselves this year!

Judy Wuerstl invited two groups for this year's musical entertainment. The Star City Dulcimers once again donated their time and musical talents by providing carols and old time music for our enjoyment. The second group was the Miamisburg Madrigal Singers, eight members of an outstanding high school chorus. They "wowed" everyone with their fantastic, professional voices.

If you've never been to "Christmas at the Tavern", you're missing out on one of the nicest events provided by the Society. Make a point to stop by next year and we guarantee you'll make it an annual event.



Miamisburg High School Madrigal Singers

Continued on Page 2



From the President's Desk...

By Ted Fink

I hope that all of you were able to celebrate a peaceful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I know that for many of us, Thanksgiving is the most important holiday of the year, even more so than Christmas, so I am dismayed at the gloss over it receives as we jump from Halloween directly to Christmas displays and sales. It seems even more ominous this year as many stores were giving "Black Friday" sale prices early in November. However, as we move through the holiday season into the new year, I want to wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There was a lot of activity for the Miamisburg Historical Society during the month of December. Our holiday celebration, "Holly and Ivy", was held at the home of Jim and Laura Bornhorst. This was a great way to wrap up the year, to get together and share the spirit of Christmas with friends and members of the Miamisburg Historical Society. Laura and her sisters always go out of their way to make this a memorable event for all.

On December 11, our own Market Square Building was the focal point for the annual Community Holiday Celebration, where kids had their pictures taken with Santa. The parade, with a Holiday Songs theme, kicked off the day's events. Following the parade, an elves workshop with games, crafts and entertainment was opened in the Baum Opera House. Mary Pat Golden had our gift shop open at Market Square for those interested in Christmas gifts highlighting the heritage of our city. There were carriage rides around downtown Miamisburg and families enjoyed activities and shopping at local businesses.

That Sunday, a Holiday Open House was held at the Historic Gebhart Tavern. This is an annual celebration, and the last event held in the Tavern for the year. The public was welcomed, and people were able to come in from the cold, snowy day for hot cider, refreshments and beautiful Christmas music by the Star City Dulcimers and the Miamisburg High School Madrigal Singers.

Before I sign off, I would like to pay special tribute to a long standing member of the Historical Society, who after ten years of dedicated service as our treasurer, has decided to retire. Phyllis Abney is one of the many dedicated members of the Society Board with whom it has been my pleasure to work over the past several years. I certainly understand her desire to step aside at this time, but I will miss her counsel and advice as, together, we tried to manage the Society's finances. I want to personally thank Phyllis for her work and hope she knows that she will truly be missed.

To all of you, thanks for a great year, and on behalf of myself and my family,

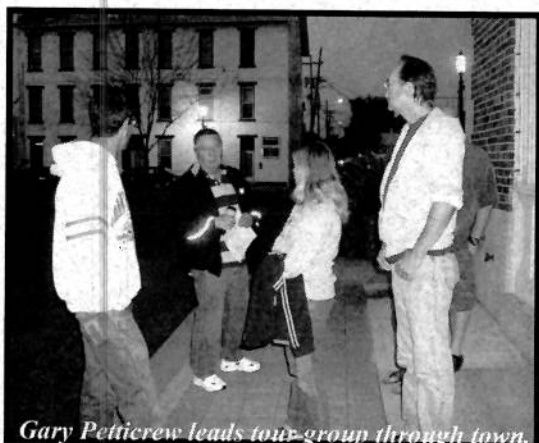
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Historical Society Celebrates the Holidays

(Continued from Page 1)

Our Holly & Ivy gala was held on December 10 at the home of Jim and Laura Bornhorst. Their beautiful, timber framed home was decorated for the season and around 30 Society members thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The home makes a wonderful venue for this holiday celebration and it is actually the second time it has been utilized; the first time being when Laura's late father, Bill Leyes was the owner.

This event is a special fundraiser for the Society and a chance for members get decked out in their holiday attire. As always, refreshments were in abundance and it's safe to say no one went away hungry or thirsty.



Gary Petticrew leads tour group through town.

Beautiful Evening for October Ghost Steps Tour

It was a perfect fall evening when the Ghost Steps tour traveled east on Central Avenue and then south on Second Street. The HRRC Committee presented the annual event and Gary Petticrew, again this year, lead the group. We all learned lots of history and stories about many of the old historic buildings on Second Street, such as the first schoolhouse, Masonic Temple and Trinity Church.

The walk ended on First Street where we received a very interesting, behind the scenes tour of the Baum Opera House. Rolla Broerman and Rick Stock both provided a fascinating and sometimes spooky history lesson about the old building and its previous owners. The evening ended with some "super delicious" Halloween style refreshments.

This year the tour was not as well attended as in years previous, but it was nevertheless a fun evening for everyone. Our thanks to Rolla and Rick of the Baum Association who went all out in entertaining the group.

Childrens' Education Program Concludes Fall Activities

By Judy Wuerstl, Childrens' Education Chairperson



Bobbie Sweny and I were very proud to travel to Columbus the first of October to attend the luncheon and receive our award for the Childrens' Education Program that Bobbie started nine years ago. Then the following week, being honored at the Miamisburg City Council was "icing on the cake". When you stop in at the Market Square Building, be sure to see the albums which we assembled and presented to the awards committee as well as the actual awards from OAHSM and the City Council.

We had a full schedule as we presented our programs this fall. Bishop Leibold School scheduled "Ole Jim" Schnapp, the frontiersman, in September. At the end of the month they scheduled two mornings of the One Room Schoolhouse program at the Kercher Pioneer Home. On October 1, we took a group of Carol McElroy's high school students on a walking tour down Main Street. This included a look at the Plaza Theater and ended with a visit to the Fox Motors Museum.

We are happy that for the first time ever we now have Mound School taking part in our program. On three fine mornings in October, we took their 3rd grade classes on our Heritage Walk, and quite a number of parents came along too. The children do love these walks which end at the Village. After the programs, what fun the kids had with their picnic lunches on the lawn.

Eighth grade teacher, Barbara Goralski, contacted us to ask for a Veterans' Day program for 50 students. We selected a program we thought very appropriate for Veterans' Day. The students met us at the Market Square Building. The agenda covered a bit of the history of the historic building, followed by a presentation by Vietnam veteran, Mark Kucharski, who captivated the crowd with his talk and "show and tell". Next was a short history of the American Flag. We welcomed new volunteer docent, Carolyn Kilpatrick, who presented a short history of Taps.

We are still actively searching for additional volunteer docents to help with these programs. Please seriously consider helping us out in this worthwhile area!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joe & Deanna Stebbins

Karlynn K. Johnson

Jim Huesman

Gerald & JoAnne Stinson

Masters & Associate Insurance

Oops, We Slipped!

Our sincere apologies to new members, Joe and Deanna Stebbins.

Joe and Deanna actually joined the Society with a Family Membership at the beginning of 2010, but somehow their names slipped through the cracks and never made it onto our membership database, thus they were never informed of our many activities

We value each and every member and would like to give Joe and Deanna a **very special welcome** to the Miamisburg Historical Society and a free membership for 2011.

We're Now On-Line!



Our Miamisburg Historical Society e-mail address is: **MHSociety@att.net**

E-mails will be answered on Wed. and Sat.

Re-Register for 2011 at Dorothy Lane Markets

If you're a Dorothy Lane Market shopper and participate in their Good Neighbor Program, please be aware that you must re-register for 2011. Customers enrolled from 2010 will not be carried over into the new year.

As a reminder, 1% of any amount you spend over \$500 during one calendar year goes to our Society. If you've never signed up to participate and you're a Dorothy Lane Market customer, please consider signing up for 2011. It's an easy way to help the Society and it doesn't cost you an extra dime.

Sending our Sympathy

To Historical Society member Bob Barr and his family and friends, the Society sends deepest sympathy on the passing of Bob's wife, Mary Margaret Barr on October 21. Bob and Mary Margaret were married for 62 years.

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
☐ Corporate 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 _____

Would you enjoy volunteering?
Please note your areas of interest:

(please mail to:)

Miamisburg Historical Society

P.O. Box 774

Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

Phyllis Abney Retires as Treasurer

In October, Phyllis Abney submitted her resignation as Treasurer of the Historical Society. At the November Board Meeting, she was presented with a plaque commemorating her 10 years of service, along with a beautiful flower arrangement from Church's Flower Shop. Many of the Board Members who were present spoke and related their own stories of how Phyllis has assisted them, given moral support and helped to make their duties much easier. What a valuable asset to the Society she has been.

To say she will be missed is an understatement. Phyllis has managed the Society's funds in an expert manner. Always on top of every situation that may arise and doing so with her ever present congenial personality. Her financial experience stems from 31 years of employment at Farmers & Merchants Bank and as Financial Secretary at St. Jacob Lutheran Church. She has certainly put all her knowledge to good use at the Historical Society.



With Phyllis announcing her retirement, heads were turning in every direction wondering who could possibly take over the important Treasurer's position. Before too many weeks went by, Linda Bernard, our Vice President and Program Chairperson, put her name up for consideration. Linda was former Treasurer at St. Jacob Lutheran Church and is currently employed at Croskey Law Office. She has now been appointed by President Ted Fink to fill the Historical Society Treasurer position and will begin her duties in 2011. Phyllis has put a big stamp of approval on Linda's appointment and will work with her to assure a smooth transition. Laura Bornhorst has stepped up to fill the position of Vice President and Program Chairperson.

Our sincere appreciation, Phyllis, for your 10 years of outstanding service as Treasurer. You will be greatly missed by everyone, but we hope to continue seeing your smiling face at the many activities of the Society.

HRRC...name change!

By Nita Petticrew, HRRC Chairperson

A request for a name change of the "Historic Research and Resource Committee" to the "Historic Research and Resource Center" was presented and approved by the Historical Society Board at the November 18, 2010 meeting. The reason for the name change is because HRRC involves all areas of collections recorded and archived.

The collections for donations to the Society includes Veterans (2,500 entries), cemeteries (six in the Miamisburg area, approximately 14,000 entries), churches, the Gebhart Tavern Museum, the Jacob Kercher Cabin, Miamisburg businesses, the Indian Mound, property deeds (including Jacob Kercher), Staley Diaries (information about the Toll House), early and recent Montgomery County marriages, obituaries, photographs (many are cataloged in booklets), family histories, maps (circa 1800's) microfilm of early newspapers, MVCC (Miami Valley Cable Council – Historic Miamisburg interviews on CDs), oral interviews (audio and transcribed), and so much more.

The crew of volunteers are great at multi-tasking from answering many questions, doing research, receiving new collections by filling out the correct paperwork, giving tours of the Market Square Building, Gebhart Tavern Museum, Jacob Kercher Cabin and "manning" the Gift Shop.

There is a need for volunteers to help on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 1:00 and 4:00. Also, volunteers for data entry are needed. There would be training to guide new data entry volunteers through the process. HRRC is full of enthusiasm for the history of Miamisburg! Come and join us!



Judy Wuerstl with binder of Tavern residents.

Heritage Village News

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

Here's a little story. Once upon a time the family of John Herman Huesman lived in the "house-that-was-once-the-Tavern". Many, many years later, an e-mail from his great grandson, Jim Huesman of Washington State, eventually found its way to the Miamisburg Historical Society. Jim wondered if some historical display which recognized his family's place in the history of the Gebhart Tavern, could not be put together.

His e-mail eventually made it to me and I responded. This led to a barrage of e-mails back and forth for several months. The result was an extremely interesting narrative of the history of the family,

which Jim authored and sent to me along with great old family pictures. This historical data is in a 3-ring binder which will be kept at the Market Square Building until the Tavern opens again in the spring, at which time it will be housed in the Tavern, where it belongs. Please know that this is a work-in-progress. Wouldn't it be great to continue the story with the history of subsequent families that lived in the Tavern/house? If you can help compile this information, please contact me – judywuerstl@yahoo.com or 866-1784.

The 2010 season at our Heritage Village is winding down and it was a good one! On a rainy Sunday, October 3, several alumni from the class of 1964 dropped by to visit. Then on October 7, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held their meeting at the Village and eleven members enjoyed hearing the story of our buildings.

The annual Old Time Craft Day event gets better each year. Once again we were blessed with a beautiful autumn day on October 24. "Ole Jim" Schnapp, the frontiersman, was there in full regalia, as was "school teacher", Bobbye Sweny. A special thanks to Tom and Joyce Zimpfer for the better-than-ever decorating job. We would like to acknowledge the generous gift cards from Cub Foods and Kroger, Sizemore's Farm for the corn shocks, gourds, pumpkins and such and Palmer's Market for the cider. Thanks also to Jerry and Sherry Barrett for the donation of cider, Jane McGriff for cookies, Don McLaughlin for advertising, Diane Warrick for designing our flyer, Chuck Sweny for the printing and to Doug Stamm for all he did to help make the day a success.

Docents who helped out in so many ways that day were Iola Hail, Jeanette Belvo, Kim and Mary Izor, Shirley Holbrook, Diane Warrick and Clyde & Mary Pat Golden.

Our craftspeople this year were:

Maryann Deyoung – Dulcimer Playing
Janet Wead – Tatting
Ruth Miracle – Basket Weaving
Janice Dohn – Spinning

Carol O'Connell –
Crocheting and Embroidery

Judy Kelly – Knitting
Cathy Sweny – Weaving
Barb Olekas – Tole Painting
Jake Wilson – Chair Caning

Russ Kidwell –
Carving and Woodworking

Debby Cook – Quilting
Anne Freimark – Knitting
Les Wead – Leather Working
Amy Baird – Spinning

Barbara Willis and
Granddaughter Mia – Felting

Docents who worked through the month of October were Clyde and Mary Pat Golden, Bobbye Sweny, Judy Wuerstl, Bud Colvin, Peggy Critzer, Sherry Kahler, Mike Hagan, Jay Robinson, Bill Stalder, Barbara Doud and Paul Schultz. These wonderful people make my job easy.

Great Turnout for Canal Days Dinner

A big thank you to our members and guests who turned out to support the Canal Days Dinner and Annual Meeting. This ham and bean dinner, held at St. James Methodist Church, is one of our largest fundraisers and thanks to your generosity and support, was very successful once again.

A short business meeting was conducted by Society President, Ted Fink. Randy Staley and Don McLaughlin were both elected to serve another two year term as Board Members. Don McLaughlin provided a slide show and several display boards which illustrated with photos many of our events that took place during the past year. A "yearbook" (or Annual Report) was handed out to our members. If you were unable to attend, extra booklets are available at the Market Square Building.



*Judy & Doug Stamm with high school helpers,
Landen Gerlinger and Sidney Woelfed*

The ham and bean dinner was excellent! Seems it gets better every year. All our thanks to Mary Goodwin, Doug and Judy Stamm who organized and cooked the meal, Joe Stanton, Paul Schultz, Iola Hail, Rolla Broerman and high school helpers, Landen Gerlinger and Sidney Woelfed, who all worked together to prepare and serve the wonderful meal. Thanks also to Alcor Supply who donated the utensils. If you've never been to this Annual Dinner, you're really missing out on a good thing (dessert included)! Kudos to all involved who worked so hard to make the dinner a success.

Ways and Means Projects... They Keep Our Society Running

By Barb Olekas, Ways and Means Chairperson

We recently finished the fall "Community Days" fundraiser with Elder Beerman. Our total profit was \$720 from coupon book sales at the doors of Elder Beerman and sales to members and friends. We should also get a reward of approximately \$200 from Elder Beerman for selling 75 booklets by the month of October. A nice bonus! We will have the opportunity to sell again in February if we wish to have another campaign.

The possibility of holding a garden tour in the spring has been discussed. We have many members who have wonderful gardens to share. We just hope the weather is as cooperative as last spring.

In May we'll be holding a Tea and Style Show. We are working on a few new changes and surprises that you should enjoy. It will be held the Sunday before Mother's Day in May. Mark your calendar as this is a fun afternoon.

We are always on the lookout for new fundraising projects that will provide vital support to the Society. Do you have a great money making idea? We are always open to suggestions and help. If you would like to join the Ways and Means Committee, please feel free to call me at 855-6590.

Our Condolences

To the family and friends of Ron Sprague, the Society sends deepest sympathy on Ron's passing on September 29. In addition to being a Historical Society member, he was also an active member of many other local organizations and a generous volunteer at them all. Ron is greatly missed.

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