



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

December 2015

Volume XXIV Issue 6

MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS & BOARD

Officers:

Eric Cluxton, President
Tim Fox, Vice President
Carolyn Kilpatrick, Secretary
Judy Frizzell, Treasurer
Gary Petticrew, Curator
Joe Steffen, Curator Emeritus

Board:

Dick Church Jr.
Kim Izor
Randy Staley
Paul Schultz, Past President
Judy Wuerstl

Committee Chairs:

Rolla Broerman, Gift Shop Manager
Dick Church, City Liaison
Kim Izor, Membership Chair
Carol O'Connell, Historic Tours, Media
Nita Petticrew, HRRC
Paul Schultz, Programs, Ways & Means
Randy Staley, Veterans Committee and
Facility Maintenance
Chuck Sweny, Printing of Publications
Diane Warrick, The Tavern Log Editor
Judy Wuerstl, Children's Education and
Heritage Village Coordinator

The Tavern Log is published six times a year by the Society for its members.

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.

THE MARKET SQUARE BUILDING

4 N. Main Street, Miamisburg, OH 45342
Open Wed. & Sat., 1:00–4:00 pm

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Pioneer Home
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main, Mshg.
Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00–5:00 pm

BOARD MEETINGS

Held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Market Square Building.

E-Mail Address: MHSociety@att.net

Phone: (937) 859-5000

Website: www.miamisburghistory.org

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Historical Society Celebrates the Holidays

We celebrated "Christmas at the Tavern" on a day that was more like spring, but no one was complaining. The sun was out in full force and temps were on the warm side. Thanks to Judy Wuerstl who chaired the event with the help of Laura Bornhorst and many others. Tom and Joyce Zimpfer had the old log structures and the grounds beautifully decorated in 1800's style. An impromptu holiday recitation by Bobby Sweny had everyone thinking about the real meaning of Christmas.



Judy Wuerstl enjoys a quiet moment as she listens to Bobby.



The Miamisburg H.S. Madrigal Singers performed a portion of their program outside the Tavern.



Star City Dulcimers provide a wonderful musical ambience for our celebration.



Paul Schultz and Mary Weller enjoy a glass of hot cider.

All our thanks to the Star City Dulcimers and the Miamisburg High School Madrigal Singers who make our holiday celebration extra special.

More Society Christmas activities: The "Holly & Ivy" event, originally scheduled for December 4, was postponed until the following week. Greg Wartinger is scheduled to drive our 1918 Willys Overland in the Community Holiday Parade in Miamisburg on Saturday, December 12.



Fall 2015 Very Productive For Media Group

By John Warrington, Chairperson

John Warrington and Kevin Scheuller interviewed Dr. Bob Bowman and Harriet Foley of the Franklin Area Historic Society in the first of several shows highlighting the History of the Miami Valley Chautauqua. The first show detailed the first 50 years of Chautauqua from 1896 through 1946. In the second show, current director, Jerry Harmeyer, gave a 'walking tour' of the present day Chautauqua grounds and spoke of the history of older structures still in existence and the role they played in making this site a summer attraction for over 100 years.

Carol O'Connell was very busy completing a number of interesting programs during the fall. She taped two 30 minute programs on the 1986 CSX Train Derailment, interviewing the then deputy fire chief Billy Ring. The programs detailed the largest evacuation of citizens ever resulting from a chemical spill resulting from a train accident and included rare TV footage and interviews with key figures to the disaster. Next, Carol interviewed the past commander of the I.O.O.F who gave a very interesting narrative on the history of I.O.O.F and the building in downtown Miamisburg. Finally, Carol interviewed Ron's Pizza proprietor, Ron Holp, in his downtown restaurant last month. Ron, with both humor and uncanny recollection of events, told his story of building the pizza business up from a tiny storefront in downtown Miamisburg in the early 60's to the successful business that it is today.

Work is currently underway to finish the Chautauqua history series with interviews of former and current residents of the Chautauqua area to be taped early next year. Carol O'Connell has several projects planned including a program on the importance of the paper industry and mills along the river and canal from West Carrollton, Miamisburg and Franklin. Another program will reveal the history of the Old Twine Mill across the river on Upper Miamisburg Road. Finally, she wants to look at the history of Fox Motors, the oldest car dealership in Miamisburg. One more program on the history of the Monsanto Corporation is planned on the tritium program, the research and products that were developed at the Mound during the 1970's through the 1990's.

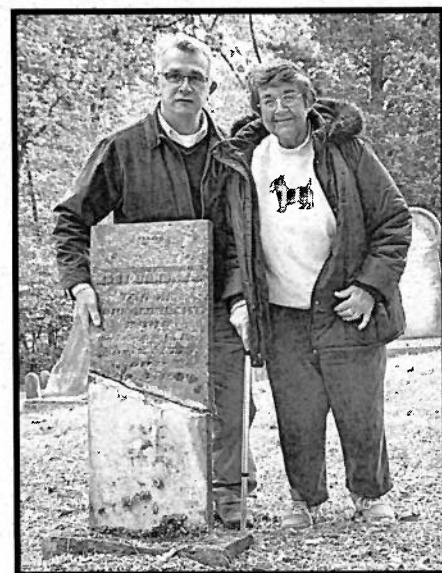
Gebhart Descendants Visit Miamisburg

By Gary Petticrew, Curator

Gary and Nita Petticrew hosted Tim England and his mother, Darlene Gebhart England who travelled from Grand Rapids, Michigan to trace their Gebhart ancestry back to Miamisburg. A friend told them about St. John's Cemetery on Gebhart Church Road, so they decided to make their journey of discovery. Darlene Gebhart England is the 4th great-granddaughter of George Gebhart who left Ohio in the early 1800's for Michigan.

After visiting the St. John's Cemetery, they next travelled to Hillgrove Cemetery in Miamisburg to find the burial site of the 6th great-grandparent, Nicholas Gebhart (b. 1/17/1765). Nicholas is laid to rest next to John Jacob LaRose, who established the Union Congregation at St. John's around 1804.

While here in town, Tim and Darlene took the opportunity to visit the Gebhart Tavern at Heritage Village while we were having our Old Time Craft Day, as well as the historic, St. Jacob Lutheran Church. Tim had the thrill of climbing the 100 feet to the top of the bell tower to see the silver-cast bell.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Daniel W. Lake

Thank You Members!

Membership Renewals - October and November:

Patricia Ring	Larry & Julie Chmiel
Bill & Suzanne Ellerman	Bob Faulkner
Caroline Mays	Earl Wayne Burgett
Eric Mays	Carroll Zink
Mitch & Carol McElroy	Brielle Maynor
Gary & Nita Petticrew	

Get Well Wishes

We're sending our best "Hope you're feeling better" wishes out to several of our members and friends:

Judy Stamm, Mary Goodwin, Linda Lewis
and Don McLaughlin, Jr.



EASY MONEY!

The Society just received a **\$94.25** check as our Kroger Community Rewards for the last quarter! Fantastic, easy money just by shopping at Kroger! This was from only 8 households participating. Just think what we could do if more of our members signed up! Register your Kroger Rewards Card online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

To all those who worked together as a team on our Canal Days Dinner in October, we thank you so much. To all our members and friends who attended the event this year, we very much appreciate your support.

Funds raised at this dinner go directly to the Historical Society operating fund.

There will be no General Meeting at the Historical Society in December or January.

Membership Application

I would like membership in the category checked:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Membership	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Sponsor*	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Society Friends	<input type="text"/>

Donation

Total enclosed \$

* Corporate Sponsors will be given a small size ad in the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Tavern Log*.

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Cash

NOTE: We are no longer accepting credit cards.

Please make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

E-mail

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

Please mail to: Miamisburg Historical Society
PO Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

Heritage Village News

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

We closed out the season with our annual 'Old Time Craft Day' on October 18 which again turned out to be a perfect autumn day. Our returning craftspeople were:

Scott Hamilton - furniture making	Debra Hamilton - chair caning	Anne Freimark - knitting
Russ Kidwell - carving/whittling	Josie Reno - herbalist	Carol O'Connell - crocheting
Art & Nancy Glidden - blacksmith	Cathy Sweny - yarn wrap baskets	Janet Wead - tatting
Barb Willis, Jan Dohn and Amy Baird - spinning	The Miami Valley Rug Hooking Guild - rug hooking	

New this year: Sue Marine - basket making, Susan Sinks - quilting, Carol Cates - weaving. The always popular dulcimer music was provided again by Linda Lewis who brought Roe Barans this year to play her guitar, and "Ole Jim" Schnapp returned in full regalia.



Tom Conway demonstrates bow making.

You never know what new things we will have. This year Tom Conway brought his bow making demonstration, a real hit with the visitors. Jim and Pat Caldwell (aka Two Hawks and Woman Who Sees Far) in authentic Native American regalia, were on hand to tell stories to both children and adults. The haunting flute music they played added so much. The Children's Table had a very interesting new craft this year. The youngsters made "felted snakes" from yarn. They were helped to learn this by two darling young girls, Jade O'Gorman and Kali Parker, and Jessi Trofi did a fine job of overseeing the project.

A lot of interested folks stopped by the Historical Society table to talk with Annie Gilkison and Murielene Case. Beside them was Rolla Broerman with her display of items from the Historical Society Gift Shop, offered for sale as souvenirs. Folks asked for the well-known lavender cookies and again they were provided by Jane McGriff.

Sherry Kahler loves taking care of the guest book. Jeanette Belvo served up a delicious assortment of cookies and cider, courtesy of our Kroger store. Diane Warrick took a lot of great photos again. The aid of Mike Kindle and Wayne Burgett in talking to the visitors and answering questions was much appreciated.

We all had a wonderful surprise when Greg Wartinger arrived proudly driving our new 1918 Willys Overland to take folks on a jaunty ride around town. What fun!

As always... special thanks to Doug Stamm for helping us pull it all together and to Tom and Joyce Zimpfer for their always beautiful autumn decorations. Special thanks to Tony Carpenter and the City for erecting and taking down the tents that add so much to our event. The efforts of many folks who worked so hard made the event another success!

Thanks to the docents who volunteered at the Village in October: Paul and Steve Schultz, Gary Petticrew, Carolyn Kilpatrick and Larry Suttman.

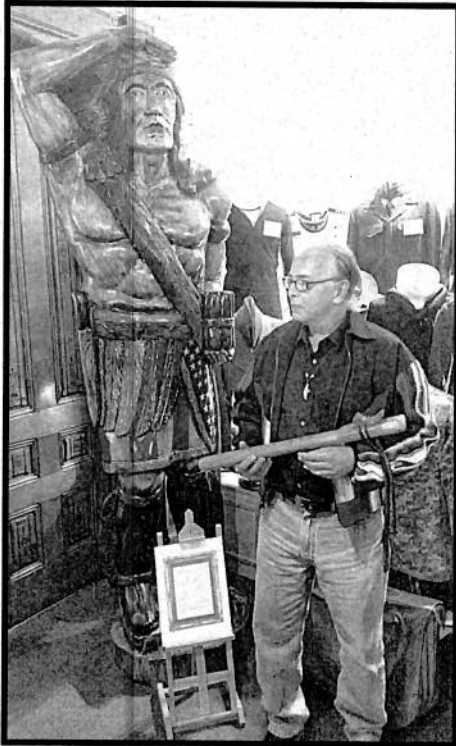


Greg Wartinger arrives in Willys Overland.

And so another good season at the Heritage Village has come to a close.

Our sincere appreciation to Dayton Mailing Service who so generously donate their printing and mailing services for each issue of *The Tavern Log*.

Dayton Mailing Service • 100 S. Keowee Street • Dayton, OH 45402 • (937)222-5056



Unexpected Delight

By Gary Petticrew, Curator

You never know when an out of the blue person spontaneously breaks through your hectic hubbub of activity. It happened to Historical Society volunteers and visitors at the Market Square Building on Veterans Day. Society member, Jim "Two-Hawks" Caldwell, stopped by and introduced Joseph Mato Whitefeather. The two had participated earlier at the Veteran's Day memorial services in Library Park.

As Jim introduced Joseph, everyone gathered around and noticed his beautifully handcrafted wooden flute. We later learned that Joseph had made the flute he carried and that it embodies the craftsmanship of the people of our Native American Indian Tribes.

It wasn't long before everyone in the building dropped what they were busy doing and gathered around Joseph to hear his story and to listen to the warm, rich, soulful and calming melodies of the Native American flute. He explained that the deep richness of its tone came from not only the size and length of the c-flat flute, but the precise placement of the finger positions, their size and how the air flow through the flute is both divided and expelled and passed through the mouth piece simultaneously.

Truly a wonderful happening not anticipated! Nearly 40 volunteers and visitors to our museum that day got to experience this gifted man of Native American ancestry, his story and the reverence for his heritage he displayed.

If you want to know more about Joseph Mato Whitefeather, who lives in Eaton, Ohio, and hear some of his melodies, you can go to this website: www.dancingbirdflutes.weebly.com/joseph-whitefeather.html.

Acknowledging Generous Donations To Society In 2015

From now on, in the December issue of *The Tavern Log*, we would like to publicly acknowledge the generous donations of \$500 or more that we have received during the year. The Society is very fortunate to have the support of these members and local organizations. We are extremely grateful for these donations, and those of any amount. Without this monetary assistance, the services and events we offer the community would be greatly curtailed.

Lynn Miller Trust • Mayor Dick Church (Fees from Marriages) • Miamisburg Rotary • Hieronymus Family Fund

The Society Sends Condolences

Saron McLaughlin, wife of recently deceased Don McLaughlin, passed away on December 1. Saron could always be seen accompanying Don at all the Historical Society meetings and events.

For sitting through the Society Board meetings that Don attended each month, Saron was always rewarded afterward, when they crossed the street to Ron's Pizza for her very favorite treat - their famous carrot cake.

We send our deepest sympathy to the McLaughlin and Benner families and friends, on Saron's passing.

Society member, Eileen Thoma, passed away on November 23 at Sycamore Hospital. The Society sends deepest sympathy to her husband, Jerry, and the Thoma and Wantz families and friends.

Eileen was a 1956 graduate of Miamisburg High School and worked in recent years at Ace Hardware. She was affectionately known by many as "Bean", a nickname given to her by her grandchildren.

Eileen will be greatly missed by her family and her many friends in the community.



Veterans Day Observance

Thanks to American Legion Post 165 and our Historical Society Veteran's Committee, a very meaningful observance of Veterans Day was held on November 11 at Library Park. Featured speakers were Mayor Dick Church and Jim Caldwell, who both spoke so eloquently on the sacrifices of the veterans who protect our freedom. Also taking part in the ceremonies were American Legion Commander, Wayne Kern, bagpiper, Tim Schaiper, and bugler, Jeff Leonard.



Afterward a new and updated Vietnam War Memorial Stone was dedicated. The names of Reggie Vance and Tom Austin have been added to the memorial.

The Veterans Committee Needs a Little Help!

By Randy Staley, Veterans Committee Chair

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped us out this year and we are also looking for more help. You don't have to be a veteran. We are looking for someone to assist our Memorial Day Parade subcommittee in sending out invitations and keeping track of a lineup. This will begin in late March next year.

In addition we have a number of Veterans in our data base that we need to track down. Some are names from a news article, an obituary or distant family member. If you have some time and like genealogy research on the computer, give us a call.

I can be reached at home at 937-885-4458 or on my cell at 937-672-8145.

THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSORS ♦ YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS APPRECIATED!

**Join the Miamisburg
Historical Society as a
Corporate Sponsor Member.**

**YOUR ad will appear
here next issue!**

Classic Stitch
30 W. Linden Avenue
Miamisburg, OH 45342

(937) 247-3900

Ad/Promotional Products • Embroidery

**We hate to see
EMPTY SPACES!**

**Become a Corporate Sponsor
and place your ad here.**

JLCreations
Unique Gift Ideas and Sew Much More!

Judy Frizzell
937.602.7251

WWW.JLCREATIONSWEB.COM
JUDY@JLCREATIONSWEB.COM
f JLCREATIONS



110 South Second Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342

937.859.1165
info@onebistro.org

**A new way to dine.
A new way to give back.**

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

10 S. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 859-1955

Children's Educational Programs

By Judy Wuerstl, Chairperson

What a busy month was October for the Children's Education programs! There were two Heritage Walks for third graders from Medlar View and two for Mound School. Instead of taking an actual downtown walking tour, the High School Local History class opted for a "virtual downtown walking tour" in the classroom. So we worked on putting together a very nice Powerpoint presentation which they seemed to enjoy.

In November our annual Veterans' Day program took place at Camp Chautauqua again. All of the 8th grade teams, around 400 students plus teachers, came to the auditorium on November 4th and we presented our programs on the history of the American Flag, as well as the history of Taps. Then our Vietnam veteran, Mark Kucharski, returned and the students as always were very excited to hear his story, and then to get up close and personal with his display of weapons and gear. We are so grateful for Mark's continued commitment.

We finished up on November 16 when "Singing River" visited the Kinder 3rd graders and on November 18 when we presented our 1913 Flood Program.



Our Veterans Day program is presented to 8th graders.

And now it's time for the committee to take a break and enjoy our "time off", then get ready to gear up for the spring, when we'll be back and ready to do what we love. That is giving the school children of Miamisburg an appreciation of the rich history of our town.

THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSORS ♦ YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS APPRECIATED!

U! Creative
72 S. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 247-2999

Flooring Beyond
DESIGN CENTER
Kim Williams
420 S. 1st Street • Miamisburg, Ohio 45342
Ph: (937) 866-4755 Fax: (937) 866-4725
flooringnbeyond.com kim@flooringnbeyond.com
fbfloors.com kim@fbfloors.com

Nestor Insurance Agency
8 Mound Avenue
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-1278

Alcor Supply
110 E. Linden Avenue
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-6194
Fax (937) 859-3047


Richard G. Denny II
Insurance and Financial Services Agent
FARMERS
110 E. Central Avenue, Suite 112
Miamisburg, OH 45342
Bus: 937-866-9902
Fax: 937-866-9259
rdenny@farmersagent.com

American Legion Post 165
35 N. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-5493

Baver & Bookwalter Co., L.P.A.
202 E. Central Avenue.
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-2485

B&B Riverfront Hall
17 S. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 859-4554

General Engineering Services
William J. Johanan, Jr. P.E.
5982 Kodiak Run Drive
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-9065

Notes From The Curator

By Gary Petticrew, Curator



I was trying to think of something to write about for this issue of the Tavern Log, about the many good things that have happened to and for the Miamisburg Historical Society this past year. But instead I'm going to share a bit of Miamisburg History that I, for one, did not know much about. We, Larry Suttman and I, discovered it while doing research for a new *History of Miamisburg, the First 200 Years* for Bicentennial release in 2018.

It is about Vincent Groby Apple. Ever heard of him? He is one of two men from Ohio to become holders of the world's records for the number of inventions to their credit: Thomas A. Edison and Vincent G. Apple.

Vincent was born on a farm near Miamisburg, Ohio, January 26, 1874, and spent the early years of his life in Miamisburg. His parents were Martin F. and Mary H. (Groby) Apple. He was educated in the public schools, most likely School House #9 on Heincke Road. Number 9 still exists as a private home just north and one field away from Kroger's on Heincke, and near where Apple was probably born. The Apple farm bordered Richard Street going north from the top of Heincke Hill. In oral Miamisburg history, that area was known as Apple Town. Although he graduated from a commercial school, he never went to college. His engineering and scientific knowledge was acquired through his own efforts as a student. His inventive genius was a gift.



Vincent G. Apple

In 1892, when only a boy of 18 years of age, he organized the Franklin Electric Company, with a capitalization of \$100,000 to manufacture toy motors. The business succeeded and a few years later he organized the Dayton Electric and Manufacturing Company for the production of ignition equipment for stationary engines. In 1895 he had developed and built the first dynamo used for ignition on internal combustion engines, and in 1896 he built the first dynamo engine ignition system utilizing dry batteries.

In 1903 his magneto ignition system was used by the Wright brothers in their flyers at Kitty Hawk. He went on to originate the lighting and ignition systems used in cars, planes and boats through the 1930s. He invented what some believe to be the first electric self-starter, and also designed the flywheel magneto eventually used in Henry Ford's Model T automobiles. In 1899 he was one of the original incorporators of the Dayton Electrical Manufacturing Company, which became a key supplier of engine parts for the Wright brothers. Vincent continued to improve aspects of automobile starters, lighting and engines throughout his career. He sited among his friends both Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.

Edison was granted approximately 1,000 patents on his inventions in a lifetime of 84 years. Vincent G. Apple, who died in his most productive period at the age of 58, had more than 350 patents issued in his name as inventor. Approximately 130 applications were pending in the patent office at the time of his death, and he was working, at the time, on 265 other inventions upon which his heirs and legal representatives could file applications for patents, bringing the total to 745. Had he patented all of his inventions, some of which have been worth millions to others, he could have had some 1,500 to his credit. In the year 1931, the year before his death, he had more patents issued to him than any other inventor.

Vincent G. Apple was well acquainted with Edison, and often visited him. When Vincent Apple became a member of one of the great engineering societies of the country, Thomas A. Edison was his sponsor. A part, at least, of the history of Vincent G. Apple's pioneering genius is recorded for posterity in the United States Patent Office and in the devices he originated, some of which are now arranged in a permanent exhibit in the Smithsonian Institution, the United States national museum at Washington DC. As a man of works instead of words, he will be known to posterity—a man from Miamisburg.

Miamisburg Homecoming Parade 2015

You say you missed this year's homecoming parade because of the weather? It was a cold, windy and rainy evening, but Greg and Jean Wartinger braved the elements to drive our 1918 Willys Overland in the parade. They transported their daughter, Sarah, and Troy Good, who were homecoming king and queen last year. In addition, Historical Society member, Virginia Kinderdine, Class of 1935, was honored as the Burg's first drum majorette.



A big thank you to Tom England who has recently volunteered his photographic services to the Historical Society. (www.tenglandphotography.com)

THANK YOU CORPORATE SPONSORS ♦ YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS APPRECIATED!

Canopy Creek Farm
600 Benner Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 903-8517

Fannin Enterprises
4827 Miami Shores Drive
Moraine, OH 45439
(937) 251-1312

Masters & Associates Insurance
24 E. Linden Avenue
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-3361

Bike Way Bike Shop
21 S. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 384-0337

Paff Jewelers
42 S. Main Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-2101

2 Cups Coffee & Bakery LLC
103 S. Second Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 830-7237

Fox Motors
9 South Second Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-3227

Mound Development Corp.
Eric Cluxton
985 Capstone Dr., Suite 480
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 475-6527

Miamisburg / W.C. NEWS
230 S. Second Street
Miamisburg, OH 45342
(937) 866-3331



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

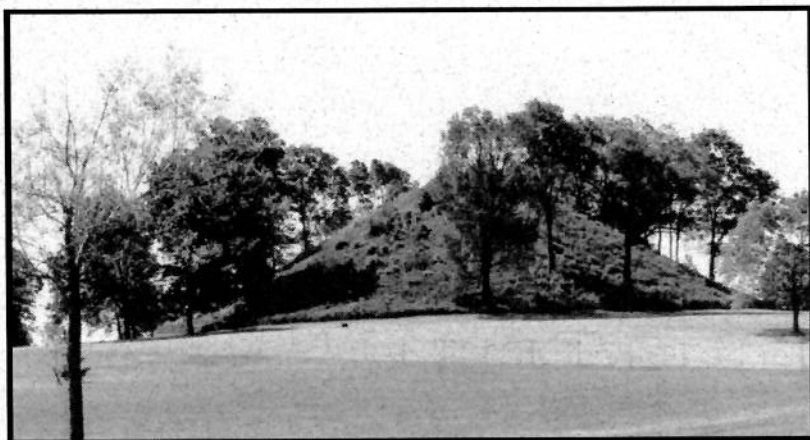
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

certified by



Remember When?

The Miamisburg Mound still had trees.



These photos were taken in 1984. Not that long ago really, but how quickly things change within a short span of time.

To you photography buffs... don't forget to take photos of everyday scenes. They don't mean much to you now, but they become such a valuable record of history for future generations. The rare, local photos that can be seen at Market Square from earlier times are indeed a treasure.

We had the Western Shop on Main Street with a horse above the entrance.



Now the site of the Plaza Theater restoration.