



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

October 2007

Volume XVI Issue 5

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



October 25th Annual Meeting & Canal Days Dinner

By Paul Schultz

Our Annual Meeting and Canal Days Dinner will be held at St. Jacob Lutheran Church, 213 E. Central Avenue in Miamisburg on Thursday, October 25th.

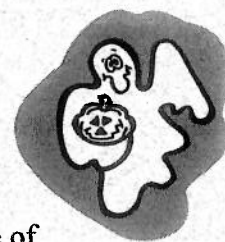
The traditional bean supper, consisting of ham, beans, cornbread and dessert, will be prepared by Mary Goodwin and her helpers and served at 6:30 pm. Immediately following the dinner will be the program and the Annual Business Meeting which will include election of Officers and Board Members.

The program for the evening will be a presentation on Patent Medicines, presented by Mr. Dennis Dalton. This will be a nostalgic look back to the heyday of these famous and infamous medications.

Tickets for the dinner are \$5.00 per person and may be purchased at the Market Square Building on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons or from Board Members. Mark your calendar to attend for a great dinner, program and our very important Annual Meeting.

Ghost Steps Down Main Street October 14th

By Cathy Oberer



We begin at Market Square, unlock the cell and follow the lady. She goes south on the west side of the street called Main. Dusk is upon us and the lights begin to flicker to the "on" position. Ron's is tempting, but there is no dancing on the third floor so we continue with our walk. Look, it is a little Foggy (or is it Froggy's). On we go to the Plaza Theater. Who should appear from the side of the Plaza out of nowhere but Tock, Seal and Ari from last year's tale.

Still we move ahead. There are the cars, printers and the Richmond Hardware Store, even though I still hear Shirley somewhere. Aha, look at the Chimneys. Beware of Greeks bearing smoke. Now let's cross over and Taste a little Wine at the Miami Hotel. Maybe we will take a quick ride down the river. We can borrow a canoe from the Outfitters. They are a friendly bunch.

Continued on Page 5



From the President's Desk...

Finally! A welcome change in the weather! It's not that I don't enjoy the summertime and the opportunities it offers for picnics, ball games, etc., etc., but enough already! A number of our members have shared with me stories of their childhood in the days before air conditioning. Were those really "*The Good Old Days*"? Remember sleeping outside when the heat became unbearable? As a kid, I bought a war surplus hammock and regularly slept outside in that thing as it gently rocked me to sleep. My good friend George, next door, was fortunate to have a "sleeping porch" on the second floor of his home and often invited our gang to join him for a sleep-over (girls called them slumber parties).

Miamisburg is very fortunate to have so many lovely old homes and if you look carefully you'll see a number of them still have the distinctive second story sleeping porches. They feature lots of screened windows, wide overhanging roof lines (to keep the rain out if a storm came up), and generally good cross ventilation resulting from exposure on 2 or 3 sides. If you've never observed such "appendages", I urge you to take a stroll through some of the back alleys on Linden Avenue or South Fifth Street. I've never really researched the architectural history of sleeping porches, but from my observation they seem to go with homes built shortly after the start of the 20th century.

Speaking of lovely old homes, if you failed to attend this year's Historic Home Tour on September 23rd you missed out on a rare experience. Thanks to Laura Leyes Bornhorst and her committee the tour included a variety of homes and historic buildings that you might not have previously had an opportunity to visit. On behalf of the Historic Society I want to thank the homeowners who so graciously opened their beautiful homes to us for this year's tour. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who served as guides at the various sites and were available to answer questions from the many folks who visited them.

John O'Gorman, Les Wead and I opened up the Historic Jacob Kercher Pioneer Log Cabin on Ferry Street as a part of the home tour. We were pleased to see so many folks stop by to learn first hand about the Historical Society's current project to relocate this "diamond in the rough" and to learn of the plans to restore it to its 1809-10 condition. With the combined support of everyone in the community, we can make this happen and in the process save a significant historic structure that our children and our children's children may enjoy for years to come.

Phil

Phil Johnson,
President

Local Historian Passes Away

Julia Shupert Hagwood, born into one of the pioneering founding families of Miamisburg, passed away on July 31. Julia, a member of the DAR, was an accomplished genealogist and was author of *Gebhart-Gephart and Related Families 1609-1996*.

Many years of her life were devoted to compiling the data needed to complete this publication which is so important to the history of the Miamisburg and Miami Township area. Copies of her book may be found in the Library of Congress, several local libraries and also in the Research Room of our own Miamisburg Historical Society.

As we extend our sympathy to the Hagwood and Shupert families, we also celebrate the gift of Julia's life and the great contribution she made in documenting many of the early families in this area, their ancestors and their descendants.

November General Program To Feature WWII Memorial and Honor Flight Program

By Paul Schultz, Program Chair

The date for the November General Meeting is Thursday, November 15th at 7:00 pm, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, and will be held in the Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium in the Market Square Building. The Program presenter is our own Dean Goodwin, a WWII veteran. The subject of his presentation is the "WWII Memorial and the Honor Flight Program".



Veterans at WWII Memorial in Washington DC via the Honor Flight Program.

The Honor Flight Program was conceived by Earl Morris, a physician assistant and retired Air Force Captain, as a means for veterans to visit the WWII Memorial in Washington DC. Capt. Earl Morris (Ret.) was originally hired by the Department of Veteran Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, OH. During his work he became aware of aging WWII veterans and their desire to see the Memorial that was 60 years in coming. Thus began what is now the "Honor Flight Network" providing free transportation for these heroes to visit their Memorial. Dean Goodwin himself was a recipient of the Honor Flight Program.

Mysteries of the Burg

By Randy Staley, Veteran's Committee Chair

Ok you genealogists, here is a challenge. Last month I made a side trip to the Marietta, Georgia National Cemetery to visit the grave of one of the "Burg Boys", Lieutenant George J. Grove, who is buried there in section C, lot 2023 in the year 1866.

Who was George J. and how did he get there? Lt. Grove, Company F, 1st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, gave his life leading his men into battle against the Confederates in the red mud of Georgia, on May 27, 1864. The area is known as Burnt Hickory, New Hope Church, just east of Dalton. The Boys named it "The Hell Hole" due to the heat, week long torrential rains, foot deep red mud, and the ever present enemy 30 yards away. It lies just west of Interstate 75 and the terrain looks the same today.

George J. was the son of George A. Grove and only appears in the 1860 Census as George S. (S) 23 - Laborer. He does not appear in the St. Jacob Church records. Now the real mystery appears. Hillgrove Cemetery records show him buried at the family lot 623 in Section 2, Grave 1 in Miamisburg. The lot was purchased by his father on July 11, 1887 and his name (George J. Grove) appears on the east side of a monument named "Silence" that was dedicated to George A. Grove's wife, Christina.

The Marietta National Cemetery states that he is still buried at the cemetery in Georgia.



Marietta, Georgia National Cemetery



Hillgrove Cemetery



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

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time and effort in planning and taking part in our 2007 Tour of Historic Homes in September. Great job!

Committee members were: Chair - **Laura Bornhorst, Phyllis Abney, JoAnne Brewer, Rolla Broerman and Cathy Oberer.**

Guides were: **JoAnne Brewer, Melanie Wild, Jim Bornhorst, Linda Bernard, Carroll Zink, Sharon Angel, Rolla Broerman, Kathy Bayer, Jane McGriff, Louise Graham, Sherry Barrett, John O'Gorman, Rick Young, Cathy Oberer, Judy Wuerstl, Phil Johnson and Les Wead.**

Ticket sales: **Laura Bornhorst and Phyllis Abney.**

A big thank you also to the docents who worked at the Gebhart Tavern during the months of August and September. They were **Paul & Loueda Shultz, Quill & Phyllis Abney, Judy Wuerstl, Phil Johnson, Bobbye Sweny, Jeannette Belvo, Rolla Broerman, JoAnne Brewer, Diane Warrick and Cathy Oberer.**

If you know of a volunteer who deserves to be recognized or whose name has been omitted, please submit his or her name to:

Diane at dewarrick@sbcglobal.net



How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

The October Pop Quiz:

Lilac Park was the scene of Miamisburg High School football games in the early 1900's.

Where was Lilac Park located?

Answer on Page 8

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. & Mrs. G.T. Collins
Rev. N. Donald Cotrone
Gary Wilson
Eric Mays
Dalton & Pam Sparks

William H. Nelson
Cathy L. Kosik
Caroline Mays
Peg Rinaldi

Our Sympathy

The Historical Society sends sincere sympathy to Virginia Kinderdine and family on the passing of her brother, Dan Shank.

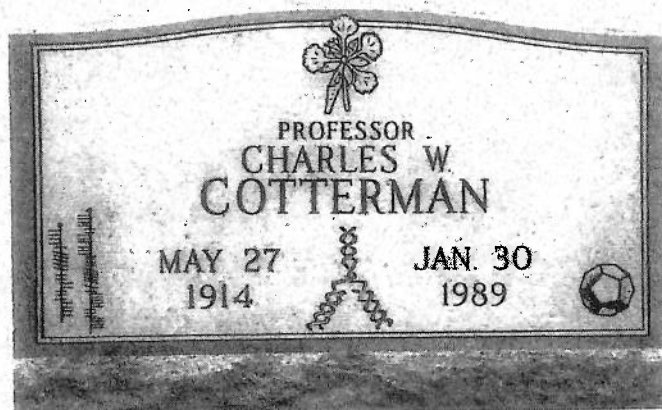
Notes From The Curator

By Joe Steffen

The grave marker at Hillgrove Cemetery for Charles Cotterman is quite unique due to the fact that he never lived in Miamisburg. His only connection to Miamisburg was his two cousins, Mary Louise Schuster Steffen and John Schuster.

His marker is carved from Wisconsin red granite which symbolizes his long tenure in Wisconsin as well as the hardwoods of the same color which he was fond of working with. Since he devoted so much of his life to the study, use and appreciation of leguminous plants, it seemed appropriate that the headstone of this great legumophile should be graced by a legume flower.

At the lower left corner of the marker is his name in Latin, which was executed in the Ogham, previously utilized, ironically by an egocentric Saxon tombstone engraver named Carolus Cottermanus, whom Charles thought of as a spiritual predecessor. This symbolizes his love of languages in the fourth century.



The replicating DNA in the center represents his career as a geneticist and is reminiscent of the pedigree diagrams in his later excursions into graph theory. The dodecahedron in the lower right corner symbolizes his love of mathematics, his remarkable craftsmanship in building such figures out of rare hardwoods and his ingenuity in writing scholarly treatises about them.

The diverse symbolism adds a touch of mystery reflecting his penchant for constructing puzzles and riddles to teach and amuse. I believe he would chuckle with satisfaction at this cryptic final tribute.

Charles marched to a different drummer. He cared not at all about money or material things. His whole life was the life of the mind. Logical thinking was his passion.

My last remembrance of Charles was one of his rare visits to Miamisburg and how he was fascinated with Tracie, our daughter, when she was a young girl. Rest in peace, Charles, knowing that your family in Miamisburg still thinks of you.

Ghost Steps Down Main Street

(Continued from Page 1)

No records at the store next door. I guess the owners are Finked out. No puffing past Paffs. Oh my, it is Christmas in October already. Of course we may need to know All About Wood before we pass the bakery and move back to the Home of our History.

These are a few of the highlights that you may see or learn about on our "spirited" walking tour.



Come and join us!
Sunday, October 14, 2007 at 6:30 pm



We will start out at the Market Square Building around dusk, then proceed down the west side of Main Street towards Linden Avenue and return to the Market Square Building via the east side of Main Street.

There is no charge and we will gather and talk at some of the haunted (haughty) spots in town.

Let's Go Back 100 Years...

The following articles appeared in *The Miamisburg News* during the month of October, 1907.

The Vigilance Society

The Miami Township Vigilance Society will hold its annual meeting Saturday, November 2 at the city hall at 2 o'clock.

The organization was founded in 1843 and is therefore sixty-four years old. During that time several horses have been stolen, but every one has been recovered – a splendid record.

The past few years the society has been active in sending several well-known horse thieves to the penitentiary and the secretary, W.A. Leis, and the directors deserve special credit for their efforts. The society has 165 members, and more members are desired.

Any good citizen in town or country is invited to join this old and very efficient organization.

Why Bachelors are Bores

Somebody has started the idea that bachelors sink down into a dull monotonous condition of boredom for themselves and they are apt to bore others from the sheer dreariness of their lives. Married men are said to be much more cheerful, light hearted and amusing than the bachelor tribe in general. A single man has so much more time on his hands that he is apt to mope and regard himself a martyr. At the same time married men become fearful old fogies. And there is not much to choose between an old fogy and a dull bore.

Football

The Miamisburg Athletic Club easily defeated the football team from the Lebanon University at Lilac Park Saturday afternoon by a score of 50 to 0. The Lebanon boys were not in good condition, and frequent stops were made while they recovered their wind and rubbed bruises.

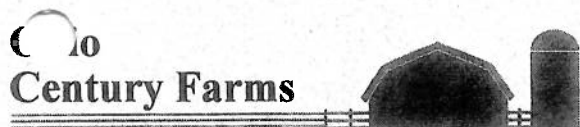
In the last half a player named Gettles was thought to be badly injured in the hip and was taken to Dr. Gill's office, where several doctors attended him. Fortunately the injury was not serious, and he was soon able to walk.

The M.A.C. will play a strong Cincinnati team Sunday, October 20 at 2:30 at Lilac Park. The boys will go up against a hard proposition, but if they play as good as usual, will make a close game. On October 27 they will play a strong Hamilton team.

The High School boys defeated the East High of Dayton Friday, 6 to 5.

Avoid Day Dreaming

There is no girl so prosaic that she does not indulge in an occasional day dream. Some girls waste far too much time in rose-colored clouds of imagination. Day dreams are all well enough in their way; they lift us out of the common place, but to dwell continually in their rosy mists is bad for us. This is a practical world, and if we want to succeed we must keep our eyes open and make the best of such opportunities as come our way.



In August we received at the Historical Society a letter from Robert J. Boggs, Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, which we feel may be of interest to some of our readers. Following is a portion of the letter:

"As you know, Ohio was once an all agrarian society. Although most Ohioans today are removed from the farm, the importance of agriculture to our history and current quality of life remain paramount.

To honor those who have helped shape our heritage, the Ohio Department of Agriculture administers a statewide, historical program that recognizes families who have maintained a farm in their family for at least 100 consecutive years.

Currently, we have more than 600 families listed in our Ohio Century Farm program, but there are hundreds more out there. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing if a family is a century farm unless they contact us. I invite you to visit the web site at:

www.ohioagriculture.gov/centuryfarm/cent-index.stm

and help spread the word about this program to families who may qualify.

It is our goal to have a comprehensive, historical record of all Ohio's Century Farm families. Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us achieve this goal."

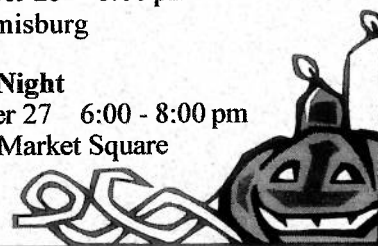
*Don't forget
our gift shop
for all kinds of
Miamisburg memorabilia!*

Market Square Building
4 N. Main Street • Miamisburg
Open Wed. & Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Event: Ghost Steps**
Date: Sunday, October 14 – 6:30 pm
Place: Market Square Building
- Event: Historical Society Canal Days Dinner and Annual Meeting**
Date: Thursday, October 25 – 6:30 pm
Place: St. Jacob Lutheran Church
(213 E. Central Ave.)
- Event: Boo in the Burg**
Date: Thursday, October 25 – 6:00 pm
Place: Downtown Miamisburg
- Event: Sweet or Treat Night**
Date: Saturday, October 27 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Place: Main Street and Market Square



NOVEMBER

- Event: Annual Health Fair**
Date: Thursday, November 1 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Place: Senior Center - 305 E. Central Avenue
- Event: MHS General Program
WWII Memorial & Honor Flight Program**
Date: Thursday, November 15 – 7:00 pm
Place: Miller-Chamberlin Auditorium, Mkt. Sq. Bldg.
- Event: Annual Turkey Trot**
Date: Thanksgiving Day, November 22 – 8:00 am
Place: Downtown Miamisburg

DECEMBER

- Event: Parade of Lights**
Date: Saturday, December 1 – 5:45 pm
Place: Downtown Miamisburg
- Event: Holly & Ivy Gala**
Date: Friday, December 7
Place: To Be Announced
- Event: Christmas at the Tavern**
Date: Sunday, December 9 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Place: Gebhart Tavern - Corner of Old Main & Lock St.

NOTE: No General Program in December



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Historic Home Tour a Success!

Everyday we pass by the old homes of Miamisburg in our comings and goings, but are never privileged to view the amazing interiors of some of these gems. Our Home Tour in September provided the public a rare chance to see the beautifully restored woodwork, flooring, ceilings and fireplaces in these local homes, some of which were built in the 19th Century.

Our gratitude goes out to homeowners Steve and Sandy Stemple, Thomas Croskey, Bob and Carolyn Kilpatrick, David and Mary Cherolis, Scott Winters and Brennan Hovell for opening their homes and businesses for our 2007 Home Tour.

Also included on the Tour was our own Gebhart Tavern which was built in 1811 and the Jacob Kercher Pioneer Home which was built a few years earlier. The Kercher home has only recently been identified as a very important part of our city's history and is currently being prepared for relocation and restoration.

Pop Quiz Answer

Lilac Park was located in the vicinity of Bell Monument Co. which is on the south side of town on Old Rt. 25. The field was used for games until Harmon Field was built.