



Old Tyme Chronicle

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March 2018

Wool Riot Studio presents

A Rug Hooking Exhibit

Gwen Hess is spearheading a Rug Hooking Exhibit in the Myers Inn Museum from 10-2 on Friday, March 9th. Members of the Rug Hookers who have been meeting in the Myers Inn for a year will display examples of their art for a day so people can come to the museum, enjoy the art (some for sale) and ask questions.

Mary Jo George and Gwen Hess have been organizing the rug hookers who meet in the Myers Inn Museum from 10-3 on the 2nd Friday of the month.

New Resident is B.W.A.H.S. Officer



Brian Moore

Brian Moore was elected Vice President of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at the January meeting and is in line to follow Bill Comisford as president next year.

Brian moved to the Sunbury area in May 2017, with his wife, Brooke and their twin sons, Madden and Mason. He graduated from Otterbein College in 2000 after growing up just north of Sunbury in Mt. Gilead. He currently works in the investment industry and looks forward to establishing relationships in the Big Walnut / Sunbury area as his kids make their way through school. His sons visited the Myers Inn Museum with their school class and are excited to know Dad is becoming part of the society.

(Continue on page 2)

C. A. & C. Railroad



Sunbury Trestle Collapsed in 1878

Dennis Fravel will present a program on the Cleveland, Akron and Columbus Railroad which ran from Cleveland through Sunbury, Galena and Westerville and on to Columbus at 7:30 Tuesday, March 13, in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. Big Walnut Area

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Greetings to New Members

Our Membership Committee reports that during the year of 2017 our membership remained steady, losing some members due to poor health or moving; and gaining some members as more residents tour our museum or attend our programs.

Area businesses joining in 2017 include: Contract Processing & Title Agency; Sunbury Plumbing & Heating; Child Care Unlimited; and Sure Signs. Individual and/family memberships joining or rejoining include: Charlotte and Monte McGowen, Rachel Edwards, Sheila Micholes, Edith Sullivan and Melvin Wigton.

We welcome our new members and ask our existing members to remind their family members, neighbors and friends to join our society---the cost is minimal and rewards are seeing the museum and programs preserve our historical traditions.

Complimentary Luncheon For Volunteers During 2017

Alice Chapan is planning a special luncheon for all the many people who volunteered to help at the Myers Inn Museum or at other Big Walnut Area Historical Society events throughout 2017.

The event will be at noon on Saturday, April 7th, in the Myers Inn Museum.

Alice is a long time volunteer who understands the value of volunteers and the benefit they give to a program. She has planned the luncheon to correspond with National Volunteer Month.

Watch your mail for invitations in early March. Reservations will be taken until March 31st.

Many Thanks for a Successful Luncheon

Thank you to all who helped with the Valentine's Luncheon. Over 40 people attended the luncheon with \$315 in donations received. The majority of people attending were first-time visitors to the Myers Inn and expressed an interest in a return visit. Thank you also to the BWAHS members who attended and showed their support of this event.

<p>Big Walnut Area Historical Society OFFICERS Bill Comisford, President Brian Moore, Vice President Damon Bower, Secretary Bill Kavage, Treasurer Polly Horn, Curator and Webmaster TRUSTEES Alice Lacher Amy Welsh Charlotte McGowen Carol Wood Mel Meyers Mindy Pyle Roger Roberts Suzanne Allen</p> <p>For Information Call 740-965-1154 leave a message or email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</p>
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Military Heroes of Sunbury

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, Friday, May 25, the Big Walnut Area Historical Society will present a display of military uniforms and stories of the Big Walnut Area's own local military heroes at the Myers Inn Museum. This display is held in honor of Bob Cheadle, a longtime, board member, volunteer and supporter of the BWAHS and the museum, and all military veterans of Sunbury and the Big Walnut area.

Those interested in sharing a uniform, information and stories for this event can do so by contacting Bill or Sue Comisford at 614-403-4565 or emailing mcomisfo@columbus.rr.com. Bill and Sue will pick up the uniforms or meet you at the Myers Inn to accept the uniforms and gather the needed information. Thank you in advance for your support in honoring our hometown HEROS!

(Moore continued from page 1)

"I think it is important that community members learn as much as possible about the history and heritage of where we live, and I look forward to learning more about the rich history of the Sunbury community in the years to come," noted Moore.

Joining BWAHS is Easy

Circle One:

*Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50,
Business 11-99 employees \$75, Business 100 or more employees \$100,
Patron \$100, Other ?*

Name _____

Address or P. O. Box _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Send with check for dues to BWAHS

**P.O. Box 362
Sunbury, OH 43074**

(Railroad Program continued from page 1)

Historical Society sponsors this admission free program about the local railroad which was so much a part of the community from 1873 to 1982.

He spent 9 years researching this strip of the railroad.

Fravel lives in Westerville but is a member of the local Fravel family from Sunbury and Harlem.

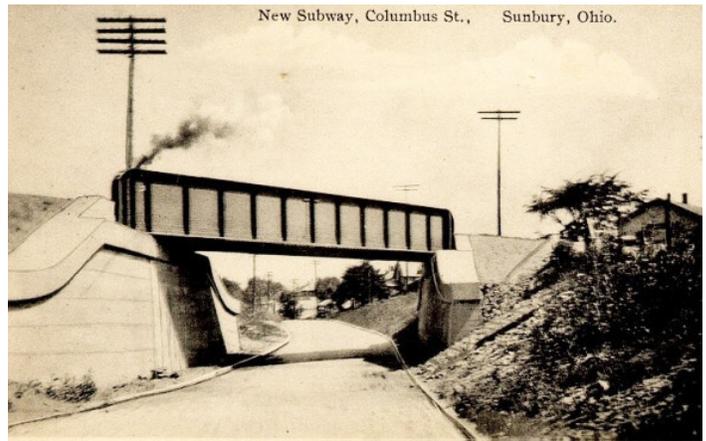
The original railroad in our area was to go from Mt. Vernon to Delaware via Olive Green but although the beds had been under construction, the railroad was deserted in favor of the C. A. & C.

Towns had to pay to have the railroad go through their village. Sunbury raised subscription fees of \$22,000 for the railroad, Galena \$13,500 and Westerville \$20,000. Each had to build a station as did Condit which was the beginning of Condit Station.

The original railroad passing through Sunbury crossed Columbus Street, Vernon Street, Granville Street, Cherry Street and Walnut Street. Legislation was passed to require the train to stop at each intersection and blow the whistle before proceeding. Early one morning The town awoke to discover the Columbus and Vernon Streets were barricaded by the railroad so people had go to 37 to get downtown.

After many auto-train accidents, Sunbury got the railroad to build a subway for St. Rt. 37 under the railroad in 1916. In order to make this grade, Cherry Street was cut out from Vernon to Morning and on down Granville Street under the railroad and leveled out again at East Street. Granville Street was cut out from Vernon to 37. This was a major inconvenience for all the residents whose houses were once at street level but were now left with front yards dropping way down to the street. The village still works to keep that stretch of Route 37 safe for school students to walk so close to the trucks which replaced the train traffic.

Letts Avenue ran from Vernon Street to 37 and needed to be extended to Columbus Street to allow the village to build another subway under the tracks on Columbus Street. In order to provide for cars to make the turn onto Columbus, Jerd Willison agreed to give 59 feet of



Postcard of the New Overpass on Columbus Street in 1909. It is still there in 2018

his pasture in exchange for new fences which made a ‘S’ curve from Letts to Columbus Street. While blasting the rock to dig out under the subway a large boulder was thrown into the first house below the tracks at 466 South Columbus Street. The boulder did a lot of damage to the front of the house which the village had to rebuild. For many years this was the home of Roger Fravel, a relative to our speaker.

When the railroad was finished with the land, rather than return it to the original owners who had been forced to donate it, they sold it. In some cases this land ran through family farms. One such piece became the Sandel Legacy Trail from the second Sunbury Railroad Station to Big Walnut Elementary School. The Sunbury Train Station now belongs to Preservation Parks and houses a model railroad museum.

Visit our website for more about the railroad.

**Myers Inn Museum &
Gift Shop**

OPEN

12-3 Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays

10-3 on Saturdays

facing southwest corner of Sunbury Square

740-965-1154

<http://BigWalnutHistory.org>



Follow us on Facebook!

CHILDREN OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Born in the 1930's and early 40's, we exist as a very special age group.

We are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.

We are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

We are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.

We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans.

We saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available.

We can remember milk being delivered to our house early in the morning.

We are the last to see the gold stars in front windows of our grieving neighbors whose sons died in the War.

We are the last generation who spent childhood without television; we imagined what we heard on the radio.

As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside".

There was no little league. **There** was no city playground for kids.

The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like.

On Saturday afternoons, the movies, gave us newsreels between westerns and cartoons.

Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party Lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).

Computers were called calculators, they were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. No 'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE.'

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our radio in the evening by Gabriel Heatter and later Paul Harvey.

As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth.

The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow.

VA loans fanned a housing boom.

Pent up demand coupled with new installment payment plans opened many factories for work.

New highways would bring jobs and mobility.

The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

Our parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus.

They were glad we played by ourselves until the street lights came on.

They were busy discovering the post war world.

We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves and felt secure in our future, **although depression** poverty was deeply remembered.

Polio was still a crippler.

We came of age in the 50's and 60's.

The Korean War was a dark passage in the early 50's and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks for Air-Raid training. **Russia** built the "Iron Curtain" and China became Red China ..

Eisenhower sent the first 'Army Advisers' to Vietnam. **Castro** took over in Cuba. **Khrushchev** came to power.

We are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.

Only our generation can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. lived through both.

We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better, not worse.

We are "The Last Ones"

More than 99 % of us are either retired or deceased. We feel privileged to have **"lived in the best of times!"**