



Old Tyme Chronicle

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September 11. . .

Early Genoa Township Schools



Mindy Pyle will present the program, "Early Genoa Township Schools" to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30 Tuesday, September 11, in the Myers Inn Meeting Room. Mindy is a Trustee of the historical society. The program is free to the public.

Barn Yard Sale on Labor Day Needs Donations & Donations

Have you cleaned out your stash of good things you no longer use? Those items can find a good home with someone who needs them at the Barn Yard Sale in front of the Myers Inn Barn on Monday, September 3rd from 9 to 4. Proceeds from the yard sale help to support the Myers Inn Museum.

Please do not bring clothing.

People will be in The Myers Inn to take your donations for the sale. For ease use the ramp door.
12-3 Sun. August 26, 12-7 Thursday August 30
12-3 Tues. August 28, 12-7 Friday, August 31
12-3 Wed., August 9, 10-3 Saturday, September 1

If you have items you cannot get to the Myers Inn, please call Amy Welsh at 614-560-6953 to arrange for someone to pick them up.

If you are available to help set up or work the sale, let Amy Welsh know. She is the sale coordinator for the event.

Earliest settlers made do by teaching children in a home, shed or any building until schoolhouses were built. The first schools in our community were primitive subscription schools erected by volunteer labor. Logs cut 16' or 18' lengths were used for the construction. Broad boards composed the roof. Each had a fireplace, a clapboard door. If there was a window it was probably greased paper to let in light. Students benches were fashioned from trees. A subscription of \$1.00 to \$3.50 per child was paid for a 3 month period. Teachers boarded with the families. Readers consisted of The New Testament or Old English Reader. Grammar was rarely taught.

In 1853, Ohio revised it's education system by law forming a Township Board of Education for each township. These boards consisted of one representative of each sub-district school and the clerk of the township. This group was invested with the title, care and custody of all school property. They appropriated the money among the sub-districts, determined what text books were to be used, fixed the boundaries of the districts and located school sites. They reported to the County Auditor annually. City and incorporated villages acted as their own sub-district.

(Continue on page

Genoa Schools Continued from Page 1

Each sub-district (usually 6-10 per township) had a school so children did not walk more than a mile or two to school. Each had a local board of directors who controlled the schools. They enumerated the children of school age, employed and dismissed teachers, made contracts for the building and furnishings of the schools.

The state bill also eliminated the rate-bills and made education free to all youths in the state. Thus one room schools began to replace the primitive schools. Typically these structures were 22' by 36' from outside to outside. Usually they were brick with more than one window to provide light. Each had one door, a chimney (usually for stove) and generally a blackboard as well as benches and tables or desks.

On September 11, Pyle will go back to the start of Genoa schools in 1821. She will discuss the beginnings of the Genoa schools and go in detail about the first four school sub-divisions in the district. Many of the original school buildings still remain today! “We will also partake in an exam that students were given to see if they were ready to move beyond 8th grade. Do you think you will have the knowledge to pass?”asked Pyle.

“My passion for local history and education stem from my own family history. My family has generations of educators and has been part of the Sunbury community for many years. My grandmother, Carol Wirick, was an art teacher and a substitute teacher in Sunbury as her children were growing up. My great-great aunt, Esther McCormick, taught Home Economics and wrote many books on the history of our family and Sunbury, including the article on Sunbury’s Flea Markets on page 3. I have been an educator for the past 12 years and have lived in Sunbury since 2006,” noted Pyle.

Myers Inn Museum Celebrates 10 Years



Alice Chapan cuts cake while President Bill Comisford, Secretary Damon Bower and Program Chairman Roger Roberts wait to taste!



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**

Priced to Sell on Labor Day



BWAHS is having their Big Barn Yard Sale on Monday hoping to pick up walk-ins from the Lions Club Labor Day Flea Market. These donations, taken in on the first collection day, are priced ready to sell.

So why Labor Day Flea Market? Esther McCormick gives the following account in this excerpt from her book.

Chapters in Community History

Sunbury Flea Markets

by Esther McCormick

Flea Markets are so much a part of Sunbury picture that newcomers may think we always had them. Not so! Our first-ever flea market came in 1965 as a badly needed money-making project for our 1966 Sesqui-centennial.

Where were we to get the money for our big celebration was one of the big worries in 1965. George Lindsay, chairman advised us that at least \$10,000 was needed for our planned activities. The Commission staged 2 or 3 money-making events, none of which was particularly successful. What were we to do?

Mary Kay Sidders, a Big Walnut first grade teacher and an antique dealer on the side, was the catalyst who first alerted us to possibilities. We were all so ignorant about flea markets that it took two or three meetings before we decided and set a date. The only unforeseen thing was that I was made co-chairman of the event.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 3 at 9-4 OPEN HOUSE for Labor Day

September 3 at 9-4 Big Barn Yard Sale

September 5 at 1:00 Board Meeting

September 11 at 7:30 Program- Mindy Pyle:

Schools in Genoa Township.

September (dates to be announced)

3rd Graders to Myers Inn from Big Walnut

Elementary School, General Rosecrans

Elementary School, and Harrison Street

Elementary School

October 3 at 1:00 Board Meeting

October 9 at 7:30 Program- Roy Nichols:

Presidents before the Civil War Who

Argued before the Supreme Court

All Events are at the Myers Inn

I was already in the middle of writing “Sunbury’s Part in Ohio History” – an enterprise started from scratch. However Mary Kay and I worked evenings – five or six a week. I wrote letters, learned about flyers, how to make them and where to deliver them, about contracts, advertising and so on.

Two or three evenings we drove to flea markets taking Wilma Ward, whose business experience with Ward’s Hardware Store was helpful. We all sized up the best looking exhibits and invited them to come to *our* flea market. We were so successful we soon had about 100 antique dealers signed up and \$200 in the treasury. This \$200 did not stay in the treasury but was used for advertising in the Columbus Dispatch, and Delaware, Mansfield and Newark papers.

The big day came. Mary Kay had her own booth so the responsibility came back to George Lindsay, Harold Kintner, Harold Ault and me. My naive idea about getting uptown by 6 A.M. changed when I got a 5:00 o’clock call, “Where are you? There are dozens of dealers and they don’t know where to go.”

The weather was not with us – it was raining hard. Three building on the East Side had been recently

(Continue on page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

vacated – Hill’s Drug Store and two Cheverolet buildings. Gladys Hill, wife of the druggist, swept up surface debris with a big push broom and she was joined by two or three other cleaners. Right behind them, dealers moved in, taking spaces along the wall.

A Delaware dealer went home saying we weren’t organized! Last minute dealers who got assigned to the garage in the rear were somewhat disgruntled saying no one would get back there but they stayed anyway. By afternoon it was the coolest and most comfortable space and *everyone* got there.

In the chaos of people sweeping and dealers moving in, I could see George Lindsay and Harold Kintner putting up a rope outside, finding places to fasten it and so on. I also heard Spider and Lib Stelzer had opened their restaurant for breakfast as no food was available.

By 9:00 o’clock a miracle happened. We were ready for business. Ropes were up, gatekeepers were on hand for collecting fifty cents admission, dealers were all set up and the three buildings were reasonably clean.

The biggest crowd in Sunbury history came. The final estimate was over 3000 people showed up. Harold Ault’s final figure showed \$1200.00 was collected, a figure beyond our wildest dreams.

Naturally we made mistakes. We had inexperienced helpers parking cars so people parked all over town and even in the country. There were not enough restrooms. The food was woefully inadequate – sandwiches, pies and cakes for a few hundred people – everything gone by 12:30.

In spite of this the crowd was one of the happiest I had ever seen. Most people were carrying purchases and elated dealers were saying, “This is the biggest day we’ve ever had. You are doing this again, aren’t you?”

At 3:00 George, Harold Kintner and I sat down for the first time that day. We were hungry, tired and our feet killed us but we were solvent.

We leave Esther’s tale here but her book, “Chapters in Community History,” is sold in the Gift Shop, \$20.

Flea Markets on Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day continued to grow in Sunbury. They became the main source of income for the Band and Marching Boosters, Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce and the Lion’s Club.

Flea Market in 1990

25 Years After First Flea Market

Sunbury Labor Day weekend could not have been much nicer, and the Lions Club members have nothing but happy (and tired) faces to show for it.

Probably the largest crowd ever jammed Sunbury Monday, from early morning until late afternoon, for the Lion’s Club Annual Ox Roast and Flea Market. Lion Wally Dravenstott reports, that with a little figuring, “we took in over \$20,000 gross.” Wally says he had paid receipts for 6,800 admissions to the square, “so I’d venture to say there were at least 8,000 attending.” Dravenstott added the club sold 200 spaces to 187 dealers on the square in 1990.



Myers Inn Receives Painted Rocks



Across the nation people of all ages are painting rocks. One finds a nice rock and decorates it then leaves it by someone’s door to let them know they are loved. Check planters at Myers Inn front door.

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>

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