



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Myers Inn is Closed Until Stay-At-Home is Lifted

In compliance with Governor DeWine's asking Ohioans to Stay-at-Home, BWAHS President Bill Comisford and Curator Polly Horn made the decision to close the museum. "Most of our docents are over 65 and this caused their families to be concerned about their opening the museum to the public. History tells us what will happen if the virus isn't stopped so we opted to close," noted Horn. When the Stay-At-Home is lifted we will reopen.

There is no easy way to reach attendees if the program is cancelled at the last minute. Article for the newspaper must be in 10 days prior to the event. Meanwhile, Paul Revere has postponed his ride to Sunbury until August 11 when he will join us at the Annual Picnic. Brent Carson as Paul Revere will entertain and educate us at this meeting with the program he had planned to do in the Myers Inn in April.

Big Walnut Area Historical Society Board of Trustees will not meet on April 14.

Meanwhile stay home and stay safe. We will open as soon as we are permitted.

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE SOON

Rhonda Crum, our wonderful tenant for the last five years, will be leaving April 30th so we are looking for a new tenant for that 300 square foot space.

As you know, the corner of Granville and Columbus Streets is a very busy location for passing auto and foot traffic. We ask you to take a minute and think if you know anyone starting a small business or needing a satellite office to let us know. Call Damon Bower at 614 745-4375 or email bower67@gmail.com.



Local Women Preparing for First Election

After fighting for the right to vote for over 70 years, women looked forward to their first election. This is a photo of the first political rally for women in this area held in front of Henry Cook's home at 21 S. Columbus Street, now Jennifer's barber shop, Viva Cuts.

The men in the photo were probably candidates or people speaking for issues. "My grandmother and great grandmother are in the photo," noted Polly Horn.

Congress passed by 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919 but like all amendments to the constitution it had to be ratified by 3/4 of the states. It was ratified on August 18, 1920. Since the leaves on the tree are full, this photo was probably taken in late summer or early fall.

Before the ratification individual states had passed legislation that allowed women to vote in different types of elections; some only allowed women to vote in school or municipal elections, some required that women owned property if they wanted to vote, and some territories extended full suffrage to women, only to take it away once they became states. Many black women in the southern states were denied until 1965.

Is History Repeating? by Polly Horn

Spanish Flu started in 1918 and ran through 1920. Spain was a neutral country during WWI so their news was freely reported including an early case of the flu. However another of many countries, including the United States, is possibly the origin. On March 11, 1918 a soldier reported ill at breakfast time in Camp Funston now Ft. Riley, KS. By noon 100 soldiers were ill; by evening 500. Soldiers were moved from base to base and overseas carrying the virus with them as the doughboys went to WWI. Estimates are that 1/3 of the world's population was infected and from 20 million to 50 million people were killed worldwide from this flu. I'm sure there are local statistics but I'd rather tell the story of a local family's experience.



Horns: Jim 3, Burt 1 and Mary 8

William Horn married Daisy Evans of Center Village in 1898. In 1919, they lived on their farm on the inside of the curve on Dent Road where it went toward Ross Road in Trenton Township. (Their first baby had died in 1901 just months before Mary was born.) Daisy had just given birth to their 8th child, Edward, on March 8, 1919, and was still in

her 'laying in' when the influenza struck her family. The oldest child Mary (age 17) who had helped deliver the baby, also helped William take care of the sick children: Jim (14), Burt (11), Pearl (9), Alvin (6), and Melvin (3). Just as the others were getting on their feet, Mary and her father became ill. Mary died on March 22 and her father William died 2 days later. They were buried in the same grave.

Although the family was already a poor, without the father things became much worse. Good neighbors answered notices in The Sunbury News that said 'Widder Horn' needs help planting, and 'Widder Horn' needs help harvesting. Obviously the neighbors often helped the family.

The children walked to Ross Road School at the corner of Ross and Dent Road. The boys only had one pair of shoes which they shared so only one boy went to school each day. As soon as they finished 8th grade they would drop out of school to get jobs on neighboring farms to

Calendar of Events

April 12 - MUSEUM CLOSED FOR EASTER

April 25 - 9-2 CIVIL WAR SCHOOL DAY

Sunbury Village Square and Myers Inn

May 9 at 2:00 Mother Daughter Tea

May 12 at 6:00 Board Meeting

May 12 at 7:30 Program: "Military Equipment Connections Between Wars" with Dick Doritty

May 25 OPEN HOUSE 9-3 for Memorial Day

EVENTS ARE IN MYERS INN MUSEUM



Ross Road School c. 1916 Sadie Wilson Teacher. Mary 5th from teacher, Burt 7th from right in front, Jim between in the middle.

help their mother.

They made sure Melvin and Ed stayed in school and graduated from Sunbury School.

When the odd jobs dried up, the older boys, Jim, Burt and Melvin got an old pick-up truck and followed crop harvesters across the states to earn money to send home. Melvin tired of harvesting crops and decided to join the Navy in October 1940 and was on U.S.S. Arizona when it was sunk in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 (he was the first from Delaware County killed in WWII). The 3 older boys enlisted to get revenge on the enemy who killed their brother. Alvin had 3 small boys so he could not enlist. He drove to California to make ships for the Navy. His family followed him. His middle son, Bob, got polio and was in an iron lung which brought memories of watching his father die to Alvin. Other than Melvin, after the war they all came home.

Roger Roberts' relative **Everett Francis Rittenour** enlisted in August and mustered in October 1918 to Co. 'N' Marine Barracks, Paris Island, S.C. He got the flu and may have died but he had \$5 in his shoe and paid a person to bring him a bucket of ice. He packed himself in ice. He lost 50 or more pounds in the ordeal. When he was given an honorable discharge in December, his wife did not recognize him when he walked by her.

