



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Programs May Resume With a Different Format

Roger Roberts, chair of the Programs for the BWAHS, is working to bring you programs online or outside to comply with social distancing. We know that many of you do not use email but hope you have tablets or some type of device to view the presentation. When all arrangements are complete we will let you know via email, website and postcards. Thanks for your patience.

Myers Inn Museum Remains Closed

It really seemed strange to be at the Myers Inn on Memorial Day and have the town empty.

Damon Bower and Bill Kavage were fixing the loose rocks under the front porch, Warren Owen watered the flowers and Polly Horn put buntings on railing. It was great to see familiar faces on Memorial Day but sad to know we could not be a square attraction this year.

Horn did not send out a docent schedule for June. Most of the docents are over 60 and therefore at high risk. There is no way to open and assure their safety at this time.

People who are staying home are using this time to get answers to questions about our history. We are answering them as quickly as we can but most take a good deal of research.

If anyone is interested in helping with cleaning while we are closed, please contact Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 and leave a message or send her an email to Pollyho@columbus.rr.com.

President Donald Trump Saluted Local Veteran On Memorial Day



James E. Krebs

James Edward Krebs and his twin John Joseph Krebs were born to Albert J. and Katherine D. Krebs on August 21, 1925 in Columbus. Jim and Jack grew up with two brothers and two sisters on Deshler Avenue.

The twins were 15 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Then the two 17 year olds enlisted together.

In 2016, Jim made three pages of notes on his life in WWII which Lenny Lepola shared with us. Copies of the original notes in his shaky hand-writing are on our website.

This is how Jim told the story

We went to Basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, then to Camp McCain , Miss for maneuvers.

We were sent to Fort Jackson to join Patton's Army, 346 Regiment, 87th Infantry, Company C.

From Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, we went to New York to sail on the Queen Elizabeth.

Six days later they landed in Glasglow, Scotland, and got a train to Congleton, England. In two weeks we sailed to Le'Havre, France. Our 1st enemy encounter was in Metz, France. We covered 400 miles in 30 days to Saar Basin which is part of Germany today.

Next we lost our bazooka team to the Siegfried Line (a wall built as a defense by Germany). (Goto page2)

(Krebs Continued from Page 1)

Jack and Jim volunteered as the new bazooka team. For 20 days they fought through the Siegfried line capturing 3 German towns and broke through 300 miles north of Belgium, German border in the Ardennes Forest.

Patton's 3rd Army needed to stop the Germans. Four days and nights they fought the Battle of the Bulge. Jack and Jim were awarded the Silver Star Metal for the encounter 4 days after the end of Bulge-Guerlange, Belgium.

Three days later – Jack was mortally wounded – died in my arms on February 1, 1945. I received a bullet through hip & shrapnel in back helping my brother.

After wounds healed – I was sent to 1135th Combat Engineers. We put the 1st bridges across Rhine River for Patton's 3rd Army to cross (my old outfit). "I was discharged Jan 12 1946 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania," noted Krebs.

*For his military service, Jim earned 3 Bronze Stars
for European-African Middle East Campaign
Silver Star Medal
Bronze Star Medal
2 Purple Hearts
Combat Infantry Badge
WWII Victory Medal
Distinguished Unit Citation
Good Conduct Medal
and
Delaware County Outstanding
Veteran Award Nov. 2015*

After the Army Jim earned his Electrical Engineering Degree from Franklin University and went on to have a long career with WCOL Radio and Rockwell International.

Jim and his wife Wilma Jean had a daughter Debbie who married Daryl Diller,

After retirement Jim remained active as a school bus driver for Westerville City Schools and as a Greeter at Meijer in Westerville.

Additionally, he would often give presentations about WWII to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society, and to schools and participated in many Veteran's Day Commemorative Services.

Jim was very social and would boast he "never met a stranger". Likewise, Jim was well respected and loved by many.

He received the Hometown Hero Award in January 2016 from Sunny 95 Radio, Hometown Newspapers, and The Federal Credit Union. He received a Flag flown over nation's capital July 4, 2015.

Jim was honored to serve as the Grand Marshall in the Parade in Delaware in 2007, Sunbury Parade in 2014 and Westerville Parade in 2015.

In May 2016 American Legion Post 457 in Sunbury honored its three World War II Veterans. At this time Krebs and Minor gave notes on their memories of serving their country.

Jim died in his home in Sunbury on April 05, 2020.

Two of his grandsons, Andy and Ron attended the Memorial Day Service at Fort Mc Henry and received a public thanks from President Trump.

Visit our Website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> more about Krebs Under Local History, WWII.

BUSINESS MEMBER DECK MASTERS

Deck Masters have been serving Delaware County and twenty other Central Ohio counties since 1986. Their construction services include: decks, patios, garages, roof decks and arbors.

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How Did Father's Day Become a Holiday?

By Polly Horn

I turned to the History Channel where Dave Roos wrote "William Jackson Smart was a twice-married, twice-widowed Civil War veteran and father of 14 children, one of whom dedicated her life to the creation of Father's Day in honor of her devoted and selfless dad."

The story goes that William's daughter, Sonora Smart Dodd, was attending one of the first official Mother's Day services in 1909 at her church in Spokane, Washington, when she had an epiphany—"If mothers deserved a day in honor of their loving service, why not fathers?" asked Sonora.

When Sonora was 16, her mother Ellen died in childbirth, leaving William as a single father to Sonora and her five younger brothers. And by Sonora's account, he performed brilliantly. "I remember everything about him," Sonora said many years later to the Spokane Daily Chronicle. "He was both father and mother to me and my brothers and sisters."

Smart's story is a fascinating one.

He was born to June 5, 1942 in Crawford County, Arkansas. On the 1850 census for Marion, in Crawford County, Ark., head of household is Wharton R. Bowen age 21. Laban Smart, age 40, is living there as well as Polly D. Smart, age 28, Martha A., age 11 and William J. age 8. Later William listed his father as William J. Smart so maybe Laban was not his father but just a relative William and his sister Martha lived with.

In 1860 in Marion now in Sebastian Co., Ark. Mary Robinson, age 33 is head with Martha Smart, age 21 and William Smart age 17 - no idea who Mary Robinson was. All three are listed as 'Carriers on farm.'

Civil War

William enlisted as a Private in Company C of the Arkansas 35 Infantry Regiment according to the Confederate Military Records. While driving a

Calendar of Events

EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED PER OHIO REOPENING PLAN. Watch Our Website

June 9 at 6:00 Board Meeting via Zoom

June 9 7:30 Program: "Eli Whitney" with Jack Brown

July 4th OPEN HOUSE 9-3

July 14 at 6:00 Board Meeting

July 14 at 7:30 Program - "Military Equipment Connections Between Wars," by Dick Dorrity

July 18 at 10:30: History of Sunbury or ways to volunteer in the community at Community Library

EVENTS ARE IN MYERS INN MUSEUM

supply wagon for Confederate troops, William was captured in the Battle of Pea Ridge, a decisive Union victory near Fayetteville, Arkansas, in March 1862. Rather than languish longer in a prisoner of war camp, he opted to join the Union cause. He enlisted as a Sergeant in the Arkansas 1st Light Union Artillery Battery on March 21, 1863. His daughter Sonora became a member of both the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Daughters of Union Veterans.

Marriage to Elizabeth

In 1865 William married Elizabeth Harris. Mary (maybe named after his sister Mary Robinson?) was born in 1866, and Martha in 1867, Luida V. in 1869, William J., in 1872, Susan in 1873, and Annie A. in 1877. Elizabeth died in 1878 leaving 6 young children.

Marriage to Ellen

In January 18, 1880, William married Ellen Victoria Cheek (born 1851), the widow of James Thomas Billingsley and the mother of John, James and Liuary - all under the age of 9. In the 1880 census William and Victoria, their combined eight children, William's widowed sister Martha and her daughter Nora, were all living together on a farm in Marion, Sebastian Co. Arkansas.

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(Father's Day Continued from page 3)

When Sonora was born in 1882, William and his second wife Ellen were living on a "coal ranch" in Jenny Lind, Arkansas. Instead of mining for coal, William and the family "farmed" it, collecting chunks of coal from the surface and carting it to town for sale. William and Ellen sold the property in 1887 for \$5,000—a very handsome sum at the time—and the family traveled by train to a new homestead outside of Spokane. (The farm in Arkansas would turn out to be one of the most productive coal fields in the entire nation.)

William and Ellen had Charlie in 1883, twins George and Henry in 1885, Marshall in 1888 all in Arkansas before they moved to Washington where Ellen died in childbirth with Fred in 1891. William's family was in Custon in Lincoln Co. Washington in 1900. Sonora helped her father raise her siblings.

In 1910, Sonora brought a petition before the Spokane Ministerial Alliance to recognize the courage and devotion of all fathers like William on June 5, her dad's birthday. The local clergy liked the idea of a special Father's Day service, but couldn't pull something together so quickly, so they settled for June 19, the third Sunday in June.

Sonora won the support of her congressmen, who began to lobby for the creation of a national holiday. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson celebrated Father's Day in Spokane during a visit to Washington. "We don't know if William Jackson Smart was there to shake the president's hand, but it would have been one of his last Father's Days. William died in 1919," noted Roos.

It wasn't until 1972, six years before Sonora's death at the age of 96, that President Richard Nixon finally signed a Congressional resolution declaring the third Sunday in June to be Father's Day. "Her dad, no doubt, would have been proud," commented Roos.



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They are located at 160 S.Vernon St. in Sunbury and can be reached at 740-965-3071.

**Big Walnut Area Historical Society
Trustees to Meet via GoMeet.com
at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9.**

To login to the meeting, CLICK on the link in your invitation from Bill Comisford.

Big Walnut Area Historical Society

OFFICERS

Bill Comisford, President

Brian Moore, Vice President

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Bill Kavage, Treasurer

**Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster
and Editor of Newsletter**

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For Information Call 740-965-1154

leave a message or

email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org