



Old Tyme Chronicle

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July 2021

Pyle Becomes Our President

Mindy Pyle became the President of Big Walnut Area Historical Society following Brian Moore’s resignation at the June Board of Trustees’ Meeting.

Moore had to resign following a new ruling in his company which does not allow its employees to hold office in a non-profit organization because of possible conflict of interest. Moore served 2 years as vice president and has been our leader since December 2020. He has done an excellent job under difficult conditions. “I will still volunteer as time permits,” noted Brian.

Pyle is the wife of Justin Pyle and mother of two girls. She has served on the board since 2018 and been Vice President to Moore. She has volunteered with crafts and games for children, helped with luncheons and teas, has given a program, has helped with tours during covid. Her parents also belong to the society and her grandparents were Charter Members, Ray and Carol Wirick.

In other business, the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Trustee Brock Schmaltz and made plans to open July 3rd. Regular open hours will depend on people volunteering.

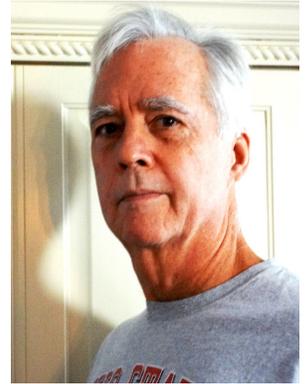
Myers Inn Has a New Tenant

Jason Powell has signed a lease to rent the southeast room of the Myers Inn beginning July 1st for his business, Attached Therapy.

Powell explained he created Attached Therapy to serve individuals and couples in an authentic way. He works
(Continue on page 2)

Coming July 13

“Steam Engine Contributions To the Industrial Revolution”



Jack Brown

Jack Brown continues his series on the Industrial Revolution with his program to the BWAHS available July 13 on YouTube. He’ll show how struggles with flooding coal mines set the stage for three distinct periods of steam engine development and application. Learn about the connection between steam power and water power and how this changed a number of critical Ohio industries.

Early settlers in our community had to go to Zanesville to get their grain ground into flour for white bread. Big Walnut Creek always had water but not always enough to run the big wheels needed for grinding quantities of grain. Jacob Burrer owned the quarry along the Big Walnut outside of Sunbury at the end of Cherry Street. Using a man made race, the mill worked when the water was high enough. *Continue on page 2*

Celebrate Independence Day. . . .

Myers Inn Museum and Forge Will be Open 9 to Noon on July 3rd

Families in small groups will be admitted in the museum and forge in accordance with Delaware Co. Health District rules. Anyone with a temperature or feeling ill should not enter.

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

New Tenant Continued from page 1)

in an authentic way. He works with individual clients on things like anxiety, depression, PTSD, relational hardships, trauma, and just navigating the challenges of our daily lives.

When working with couples, “I am experienced in affair recovery and infidelity, communication challenges, a loss of intimacy, and regaining the closeness that may have been eroded over time. My goal is not just to change the way a couple communicates, but to really understand at an emotional level what is happening so that deeper connection can be made. I use a modality known as Emotionally Focused Therapy and am working towards AASECT sex therapist licensure as well. I am able to offer both in person, and teletherapy options to those wanting to work together,” explained Jason.

Jason and his fiancé Dawn Roberts, are residents of Sunbury. As a business and family, they also support our first responders and offer a 10% discount to active-duty military, law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, and all other first line responders.

For more information, please visit their website at www.attachedtherapy.com. You may call Jason at 206-499-8021 or email him at Poweja76@gmail.com.

Thanks

To Brian Moore for leading with us during a very difficult year and a half.

Big Walnut Area Historical Society
OFFICERS
Mindy Pyle, President
Vice President to be selected
Chip Welch, Secretary
Bill Kavage, Treasurer
Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster
and Editor of Newsletter
TRUSTEES
Alice Lacher
Ashley Hornbaker
Bill Comisford
Carol Wood
Damon Bower
Mel Meyers
Roger Roberts
For Information Call 740-965-1154
leave a message or
email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July 3 - 9 to Noon Family activities outside the Myers Inn. Families may enter in small groups if all are feeling healthy.
July 13 - Program: “Steam Engine Contributions to the Industrial Revolution,” with Jack Brown via YouTube. See details on page 1
July 13 - 6:00 Big Walnut Board of Trustees July Meeting.
Museum open by appointment on Saturdays. Watch sign for additional open days

Brown, Continued from page 1
Samuel Shriver Gammill had a sawmill and Hoop Factory on North Street just west of Vernon. He used the spring fed ditch running thru Sunbury to Prairie Run to generate his power. He suggested Burrer buy the lots west of him, and install a steam engine to operate the buhrs. They could use the scrape wood from Gammil’s factory and water from the ‘ditch’ to generate steam power year round. Thus the Burrer M

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

Porter Township, Part 2

Continued from the June Newsletter

by Jennie Kavage



***Chambers Road Bridge
from Porter Township Website***

The State of Ohio was concerned about education from its beginning and in 1825 provided a tax of one-half mil. to be levied by the County Commissioners for school purposes and made township clerks and county auditors school officers. The tax rose to one and a half mills by 1836. Finally in 1853 the state made education free to all youth of the state and townships boards of education were decreed with representatives from the subdistricts. Each subdistrict had its own board of trustees to manage school affairs, subject to advice and control of the township board. All public schools were required to be in session at least 24 weeks a year. (Paraphrased from the Baskins 1880 history of Delaware County.)

The 1866 map from the Beers atlas of Delaware County shows nine schools spaced around the township. (The Beers maps are available on the BWAHS website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org>. Start with “Local History;” click on Porter and look down the list. Later township maps may be found by web searches but the 1866 map has more information than most.)

There are also maps for Olive Green and East Liberty on the BWAHS Porter list. The Olive Green map shows a school on lot 87. It also shows J.N. Stark dealing in dry goods and groceries at the NE corner of today’s routes 521 and 656. On down Main Street (656) are: D. Rider, groceries and a hotel; Fisher, grocery; A. Garvin, wagon shop; Dr. Maiser; W. S. Stockwell, boot and shoe maker; J. Potter, broom maker; possibly a blacksmith shop on lot 34 and G. Wilcox has a S.Shop on lot 90.

Three sawmills are shown on Sugar Creek in the northeastern quadrant of the township; one on S. Dowell’s property, the second installed by Dunkard preacher Henry Davy and the third on Patrick land just south of the abandoned railroad bed. There were two mills on Big Walnut Creek, one at the west end of East Liberty and one on Chambers where the covered bridge spans the creek now. The mill races are obvious. Eskham Hayes Jr. says there was a dam above the Chambers Road mill to increase the water flow when needed for mill operations and it appears right above the mill race on the map. What is the S. S. Mill on the James N. Stark property south of Chambers and near present State Route 61? *Sorghum sugar mill??*

In very small print it appears there was a nursery on Long Run just west of Fredericks Road and across from the East Liberty Cemetery. Something is marked “Cat Pond” on the James B. Gray property, Lot 4, on the township’s northern border. On the M. Bacon property in the southwest section a path is clearly marked to a “Mound.” The Baskins history reports “There is said to be in Porter Township a circular fortification, inclosing about half an acre of ground but the wall is fast disappearing under the action of the plow.” Don Caudy recently told me there was a mound on the property west of Big Walnut Creek that’s slated to become a part of the Preservation Parks system, about where it appears on this map. The later James R. Lytle county history contains a chart that credits Porter with three mounds but there’s no indication of location.

A number of residents named their properties, perhaps just for the Beers Atlas. There were still plenty of trees and the variety is reflected in the names: Oak Grove, Willow Grove, Maple Grove, Evergreen Place, Burr Oak Park and Sycamore Flats along the southern stretch of Big Walnut Creek. Other names may reflect an owner’s state of mind: Pleasant Hill, Sunny Side, Pleasant View and Fiddlers Green.

(Continue on page 4)

Porter Township Continues

Most township residents were farmers but a chart of sponsors in L.H.Everts 1875 Atlas of Delaware County tells a little more about a few Porter Township residents: A. Barbour in East Liberty was a physician and hotel proprietor; L.N. Conard, township clerk; B.A.H. Drake, carpenter and joiner; T.P. Freeman, hotel proprietor; Zenas Harrison, township trustee; C. W. Remington, druggist; Fisher White, farmer and Township Treasurer, and George F. Foster, physician and surgeon.

When the Baskins history was published just a few years later (1880) there were two stores in Olive Green; one run by Mr. D. Morehouse and Mr. Conard had the former J.N. Stark store. There were two churches, Methodist and possibly Congregational; one blacksmith shop worked by John Roberts, a shoe shop, a carpenter and joiner shop, Miss Mary Conard's millinery establishment and Dr. Foster.

Dr. Bessee settled in East Liberty and remained there until the Civil War began in 1861. Then he moved to Delaware. George Blayney moved to East Liberty where he kept a hotel and served as postmaster. He lived in what is now Virginia Page's house (no relation to the Pages who founded the village), on the NW corner of the intersection with East Liberty Road.

The house next to the Page house is said to have been built by Zenas L. White. Zenas and his brother, Fisher, set up a general store across the street. After five years Zenas went to Cardington, then to Delaware and finally to Columbus where he established the Z.L. White Company, a department store at 102 High St.

After selling his interest in the East Liberty store, Fisher "ran a notion wagon over the country and, by having a first-class salesman, they exchanged about \$12,000 worth of goods yearly for four years," the 1880 Baskins says. He then bought stock and began farming 100 acres adjoining East Liberty. The Knights of Pythias, Porter Lodge, No. 640, was chartered Aug. 24, 1893 in the upstairs of the store and met there for many years.

In the late 1800s Emmit Carnes began acquiring property in East Liberty. He built and ran a feed and lumber mill at the old race on Big Walnut Creek and built a house just east of the stream. Eskham Hayes Sr., moved his family into that home a few decades later providing one of the more memorable moments in East Liberty history. The night of Jan. 17, 1952 the house blew up with all the family asleep inside. Daughters Maxine and Mary Lou were blown out with their mattresses. All survived and a new house was constructed in the same spot. In the picture with this article Eskham Jr. and Jeanne are standing in front of a wall built from the old foundation stones and Eskham points to a piece of an old grindstone found along the creek.



Eskham, Jr. and Jeanne Hayes

Porter got two more churches in the latter half of the 19th century. The Trenton M.E.Church moved north on Condit Road to land provided by Samuel Baker for a church and cemetery. The frame was raised in 1868 but blown down in a windstorm that very night. They weren't deterred and the church opened in 1869 as Mt. Pleasant M.E.Church. In 1891, the Advent Christian Church put up a house of worship on Olive Green Road just east of the Ulery Road intersection.

In 1883 Galena's Everett S. Sherman built the Childs truss covered bridge over ***(Continue on Page 5)***



**Construction of
Chambers Road
Bridge**

Porter Township Continues

Big Walnut Creek on Chambers Road. It was one of few area bridges not washed away by the disastrous flood of 1913. The only covered bridge remaining in Delaware County, it was restored and a new foundation installed in 1983 by the Delaware County Engineers Department. The bridge is the official symbol of Porter Township.

Dr. Foster came to Olive Green in 1873 and served the area until he died in 1912. “Many older readers can remember his familiar figure in his open buggy or cart or sleigh in the winter’s cold and when the roads were deep and muddy he could be seen rocking along in his saddle on Old Bill or Frank, two of the best saddle horses in Ohio,” Olive Green resident Fred McKay wrote for *The Sunbury News*. He birthed most of the babies in the area, many of whom



***Foster Lane and his Waco 9 from an article
by Jennie Kavage in The Sunbury News 1987***

were named after him. One of those was Foster Lane, a Porter lad, who grew up one house east of the Lane one-room schoolhouse on Centerburg Road. His “good-looking, very dignified” Uncle John with the handlebar mustache was his teacher. Once Lane had a chance to ride in an airplane he was hooked. He got his first plane in 1928, the year Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic. It was a Waco 9 he flew all over Ohio barnstorming. Some of his old friends and neighbors paid \$5 for a ride. This is the Lane who started Lane Aviation. He was a real aviation pioneer.

Automobiles came along and lifestyles changed. With improved transportation not so many little schools were needed. Center School was moved to Olive Green for a township maintenance shop. One school ended up as the back of a barn. Many became homes when their school days were done. At some point, A.C. Metzger said 1915 or ‘16, the East Liberty School was transported across the Big Walnut Creek bridge to be joined with the Olive Green school to make the two-room Fairview School at the east edge of the village. The township schools were closed in 1930 and students were bused to Sunbury, Centerburg and Marengo for their education.

Gasoline pumps came to Olive Green. Every store and every vacant corner seemed to have one. There were as many as five in the village at one time. A series of storekeepers had the store on the corner of 521 and 656 over the years. Gerald Crowl who was the last, named them: Stark, a Newell, Nelson Conard, Al Williamson (who became County Sheriff), Joe Wilcox, James Gleason, Homer Lott and Milo Owen. Gerald and Alta Crowl came in 1932 and in 1948 moved to their own store across the intersection.

The Church of Christ in Christian Union organized in Olive Green in 1934 is the only active church left in the township. Advent Christian and the Methodist church in Olive Green were torn down when their day was done. The Presbyterian Church in East Liberty became the Grange Hall in 1940. When the Grange moved out in 1988 the building was turned into someone’s home. The Mt. Pleasant Church stands empty on Condit Road surrounded by the graves of many of its former members.

The Porter Township Fire Department was formed with volunteers in 1953 by Gerald Crowl, Joe Caudy, Art Kenney and Walter Phillips. Mr. Crowl was the first chief. Kingston Township soon began contracting with PTFD for fire protection. Homer Rader became the second chief in 1965, followed by Larry Caudy in 1972. In 1989 the two townships formed the Porter Kingston Fire District which is an entirely independent entity. Two years later the Joe Caudy Station was constructed on the south side of Olive Green Road. ***(Continue on page 6)***

Delaware County commissioners placed a Medic Transport Vehicle at the station in June 2000. Medic 6 is staffed 24/7 with three crews that have living quarters on the back of the fire station. In 2001 Chief Caudy and one firefighter became the first full-time paid PTFD personnel. When Chief Caudy retired in 2005, Michael Thompson, a 20-year member of the department, was selected to step into the leadership role.

In the last 50 years Porter Township has moved away from the 100-acre farms of yesterday. Much of the farm land has been sold for residential property or sold or rented to a few area farmers cultivating large acreage. There are no stores or gas pumps in Olive Green. New houses outnumber the old ones. New lots are primarily five acres or a little more for folks who want to raise a horse or two, have quiet, space and see the stars at night, though that's getting harder with more folks bringing more outdoor lighting. Porter seems to have become a rural bedroom community.

Last week Regional Planning Director Scott Sanders provided the following population figures for Porter Township: 1970 - 743, 1980 - 1,160 and 2,228 this year. In the last 10 years 118 houses have been built in the township.



Stark Homestead at corner of 61 and 656



Crowl's General Store (1932) in the International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge in Olive Green. The Crowls built a house and store on the southeast corner of 521 and 656. Their ice-cream sign is in the Myers Inn Museum.

Brown- Continued from page 2

It eventually generated the electricity for the village.

Brown has moved from a career in community analysis and statistics to a retirement hobby of furthering education of adults and youngsters. In 2020, he was featured in the Columbus Dispatch Special Edition highlighting "Everyday Heroes of Central Ohio." Brown has taken his love of science from his workshop to classrooms so students can actually see how things work and even invent things to improve tomorrow's communities.

Jack brings a unique look at his subject. This program is bound to make you think.



**Children at Stone Jug School on Chambers Rd.
In 1912**

Row 1& 2: Bertha Chambers, Florence White, Florence Haycock, Bertha Haycock, Philip Chambers, Jeanetta Chambers, Paul Haycock, Delbert Hines, Nellie Hines, and Helen Zeigler

Back Row: Grace McCrary, Ruth Zeigler, Merrill Conn, Harrison White, Florence McCrary, Burr Baker

