



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President

Our Volunteer Opportunities

by Mindy Pyle

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful start to the Fall season.

Our Historical Society is trying to adapt to the new world around us. In our board meetings, we are exploring ways to encourage our members to take part in events and expand our number of volunteers.

My journey to volunteer for the Historical Society began with my grandparents, Ray and Carol Wirick. When my grandmother was not able to volunteer her time, I walked into the Myers Inn to see how I could continue her legacy. When I walked into the Inn, I was greeted by one of the docents, Alice Chapan. It was a joy to speak with her and she shared different ways I could volunteer my time. A week later, I helped with the craft during Christmas on the Square. I loved working with the families and connecting the Myers Inn with a passion for learning and discovery.

As time continued, I shared my joy of volunteering with my daughters, Emma and Claire. Emma is a wonderful assistant and loves to help others out and Claire is a ball of energy excited to greet anyone entering the museum. I cherish the time volunteering with my daughters. My daughters love to help serve the seasonal dinners! They have also helped with tours at the Inn and crafts during special events.

I understand volunteering takes time out of your busy schedule and it is difficult to fit everything in. Below are ways that you can donate your time.

Be a docent in the museum. There is training available where you will learn the detailed history of the artifacts in the museum and be able to share the passion for history with others. Do you have a child or grandchild interested in history? We can train them to be Jr. docents! Time Commitment: 3 hours per month, currently the museum is open **(Continue on page 2)**

Zoom Program November 22. . . .

Marietta – Ohio’s First Settlement

**BASED ON
McCULLOUGH’S BOOK,
“THE PIONEERS”
By Van Young**



Van Young

Van will tell the story of Ohio's earliest days, before statehood, and how the first pioneer settlers were able to carve out a successful existence in a wilderness filled with indigenous peoples, wild animals, and harsh conditions. Not only a story of survival, but of courage. The talk will discuss the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, living in colonial times, and the significance the city of Marietta had in the development of our country.

In addition to the valuable history lesson, Marietta is a great travel destination with plenty to do, great places to eat, and wonderful accommodations. It is a perfect day or weekend trip. Van has some recommendations to improve your visit.

Young will present this meeting via Zoom at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 22. Link to the zoom meeting will be on our website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> and emailed to the newsletter email list.

Born and raised in Ohio, Van has been a resident of Columbus for the last 36 years. Since he retired in 2012 from AT&T, he has spent much of his time doing research on the civil war and other historical events and then presenting programs to historical groups.

Van is president of the Griswold Center History Study Group in Worthington which meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom. Everyone is welcomed to attend. Send Van your email address if you would like to participate or have any questions email him at vanvanyoung@hotmail.com. **(Continue on page 2)**

From the President: Continue from page 1 from 12-3 on Saturdays.

Help with Promoting Events. Help to add our events to Facebook and/or twitter. You can do this from your home. Currently Polly Horn and Alice Lacher help with this, but we are always exploring creative ways to promote the Inn. Time Commitment: 2 hours per month (may vary).

Help with Special Events including Memorial Day, Labor Day, Harvest Festival, and Christmas on the Square. During these events we need docents, help with organizing the crafts, and greeters. Typically, these events are 2-4 hours on the day of the event. If it is a longer event, we break the shifts up to make it more manageable.

Help with Maintaining and Cleaning the Inn. As we are re-opening the Inn, we are looking for help to keep things dusted, floors clean, and the bathrooms tidy. Your time commitment can vary based on what works best in your schedule

I hope you can find something that brings your joy and fulfills your time in a meaningful way. If you have other ideas about volunteering your time, please share! Also, as additional needs arise, we will reach out to our members with specific information about how you can donate your time. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact us at 740-965-3582 or info@BigWalnutHistory.org

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
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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
November 9 at 6:00 BWAHS Board of Trustees meet in person and via Zoom
November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Program: "Marietta - Ohio's First Settlement" by Van Young Via Zoom
MYERS INN MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN 12-3 ON SATURDAYS
Special Tours may be arranged for other days
Call 740-965-3582 and leave a message.
We will get back to you

Van Young Continued from Page 1

He gives a variety of presentations on history, including the Civil War era, travel talks, and current events. Van is retired, plays Pickelball, lives in Columbus, and has four grandchildren.

Christmas on the Square

Join the celebration Saturday, December 4. Do you have a suggestion for things we can do at the Myers Inn?

Family groups will be allowed in with masks.

Joining BWAHS is Easy
Circle One:
<i>Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50, Business 11-99 employees \$75, Business 100 or more employees \$100, Patron \$100, Other ?</i>
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

Heritage Day 2021

Mother Nature had other plans for the Sunbury Fall Festival and our Heritage Day celebration scheduled for 3-6 on October 24. When heavy rains hit the community, Sunbury Village cancelled their event but we opted to stay open in case people who didn't hear drove in.

While most of our visitors came to see the Myers Inn Museum, some with children in costume had intended to take part in the activities on the square but visited us. At least we had crafts for them to make 'n' take.



Donna and John Carroll looking through Marian Whitney's WWII Scrapbook

Donna Carroll had read about the Scrapbook of clippings of local veterans in WWII from the former *The Sunbury News*. During WWII Bill Whitney ran a column in his newspaper featuring those in the military from our community. Each person who wrote to him got a free subscription for the time they were serving their country. They told about their training, where they were stationed and what they saw. When discharged, their pins they earned were usually included.

Donna was tracing her father and uncle when she discovered another relative so she ended up with articles about all three as well as photos of them.

Scrapbook in online at:

http://BigWalnutHistory.org/Local_History/WuorldWar2/Begin.htm
If you wish to see the actual scrapbook please call 740-965-3582 and schedule a time to come to the Myers Inn Museum.



Annelien van Kempen

Decorated Flour Sacks in WWI - Aid to Art

Food relief for the starving Belgium people during World War I, was sent in the form of basic flour which was shipped in cotton flour sacks. Even the sacks helped the people by providing needed fabric.

Sunbury's Burrer Mill provided flour and its sacks were among those decorated. A replica of a decorated sack is in the Burrer Room of the Community Library

Our first international program has had 78 viewers.



Myers Inn Museum Gift Shop will be open on Saturdays from 12 to 3 thru November. There are many items in the Gift Shop which will make great Holiday Gifts.

John Cleland's book, "**Tell Johnny Hello**" is available in paperback in the Gift Shop and in hardback thru Amazon tells of a local WWII soldier.

"A Bit About Our Past in the Big Walnut Community" by Suzanne Allen is the first of two volumes of local events, photos, and memories recalled by our residents.

Biographical books about Major General William S. Rosecrans, who was born on Rosecrans Road and served in the Civil War, are stocked.

Check out period paperdoll books help understand the clothing in different historical times.

Many unique items in the gift shop are locally made including plant hooks made in our blacksmith's shop by Rick Helwig.

Visit the Myers Inn Museum and Gift Shop

Fall Memories . . .

By Polly Horn

Andy Main would bring a big truck bed to the square and set it up at the edge of the square so the committee would fix it for the dance band. The band always had a piano player, a fiddler, a caller and any other instruments to round out the sound.

As a girl I never noticed how difficult it is to dance on bricks - especially in high heels as the women in the photo.

I do remember Mr. Haller filling the back of his green pickup truck with very salty popcorn which was free so we would grab a handful every time we ran by it. Behind the truck he pulled a large red Coca-Cola cooler with pop which he sold at twice the cost in a store. After the salty popcorn, you had to drink his popcorn.



*Halloween Street Dance in 1952 on Vernon Street
Dance band in the upper right corner*



Costume winners on the band stage in 1952.

Not sure who the first three costume winners were but think the next were my classmates Roger Stith, Betty Skeens, Donna Wood, Mardell Wilcox and Judy Warner. We were in the 8th grade.

Kids would carry a bar of soap and if the person did not answer the door on Beggars Night, their windows were soaped. Mother made sure we did not leave the house with soap in our pockets. I thought it was a harmless thing to do. I learned differently when I had to clean the *Sunbury News* door and window and discovered some had used paraffin which had to be scraped off.

Merchants and art teachers in the school got together and held an art contest for students to submit a painting for a window. Merchants donated money to buy BonAmi powder which was mixed with tempera paints and used paint the windows.

My father was very angry when the organizers refused to let any students paint the tavern windows after the owner had donated the most money. He had my sister and I paint those rather than be in the contest.

My brother Duncan Whitney painted the cat window on the block building on Granville Street where the drive goes back to the Sunbury Police Station today. AND YES, the paint solution washed off easily. FUN!

