



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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*FFA Club Volunteers . . . .*

## Moves Future Display

*by Polly Horn*

As Curator of the Myers Inn Museum, the displays, both today's and yesterday's are mine to oversee. Farming and three local business were here over a hundred years: Sunbury News, Sunbury Grill and Nestlès. Owners knew we wanted items for displays.

When Nestlès closed we got small memorabilia and a coffee bean roaster which is too heavy for the floors in the Myers Inn so it is stored in another building,

Sunbury Grill is still operating but we have an early menu in our General Store.

When the Sunbury News closed Editor John Whitney opened the printing company, Whitney Ink. I wanted a display but most of the neat equipment is also too heavy for our floors. Recently, John Whitney retired and gave us a choice of equipment to make a future display.

One of the items I wanted was some old hand-set type. Early in the life of newspapers every line of type was set one letter at a time. Each drawer of type was a certain face and size. Each letter had its own section in the drawer. Your worst nightmare was to pull the drawer too far out and drop the letters on the floor. In order to print correctly each letter is upside down and backward thus the saying, "Mind your p's and q's."

Up until the late 1920's, The Sunbury News used that hand-set type. Typesetters worked all week to set the pages of the news which was then printed on a huge press. When the printing was done, all the ink was washed off the type and it was put back in the drawers ready for the next edition. Bill Whitney only agreed to work in the newspaper if his father bought a linotype (a machine that sets the copy one line at a time). Hand type was still used for headlines and ads. (Goto page 2)

## Blacksmith Becomes Our New President



*Photo by Mark Parish*

Richard Helwig was elected the next President of Big Walnut Area Historical Society at the November Board of Trustees. While Helwig was raised in Defiance, OH, his roots run deep in Eastern Delaware County as his can trace his maternal ancestry to the first settlers in Berkshire.

Rick graduated from Northwest Technical College with a AAS in Electro-Mechanical Engineering in 1982 and The Defiance College in 1985 with a BS in Secondary Math Education.

In 1987, Rick moved to his maternal family farm in Eastern Delaware Co. and with his parents opened a multifaceted business in Sunbury. This business was closed in 2003 and Rick spent the next 14 years working at the Delaware County Board of Elections.

Rick holds licenses as an Auctioneer, Health and Life Insurance Agent, and Notary Public. He is also the Director of the Center for Ghost Town Research in Ohio and the owner of Classroom-Museum Products, LLC.

In his spare time, Rick is involved in many Masonic organizations, living history groups, and enjoys blacksmithing and woodworking. He is also one of the early members of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society and runs the blacksmith shop which he designed and helped build.

Seasonally he portrays the Civil War Santa at the Myers Inn during Christmas on the Square.

**Sunbury News Memorabilia from Page 1**  
 (a machine that sets the copy one line at a time). Hand type was still used for headlines and ads.



We have 2 cases of hand-set type that were moved one drawer at a time by FFA Volunteers as Community Service.



# Calendar of Events

**CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE  
 OPEN HOUSE - 4-8 IN MYERS INN  
 NO PROGRAM IN DECEMBER**

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN  
 9-3 ON SATURDAYS  
 EXCEPT CHRISTMAS EVE &  
 NEW YEAR'S EVE  
 MUSEUM WILL CLOSE AT 1:00 P.M.**

Special Tours maybe arranged on another day by calling 740-965-3582- leave a message



**I Can Do It!**



**Loading the Truck**



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## **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**

### **OFFICERS**

Mindy Pyle, President  
 Chip Welch, Secretary  
 Bill Kavage, Treasurer  
 Polly Horn, Curator of  
 Myers Inn Museum

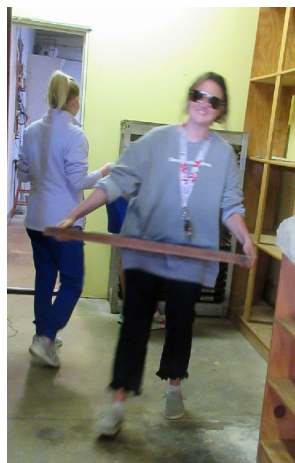
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To contact email to  
[Info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org)

# Many Trips to Get It Out of Whitney Ink

Drawers of Type taken out of shelving from the top down, one at a time, to the truck.



## Reassembled at 111 Letts Avenue

Empty shelves reloaded at the bottom first for balance then other put in.



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Finally 2 shelves full of hand-set type, a proof press, examples of type set to use and block prints are stored. Many thanks to Big Walnut FFA members Ashton Baker, Lilly Capitte, Mallory Cline, Olivia Jenkins, Maddy Jones, Haylie McComas, Ella Russell, Landon Sewell and their advisor Jeff Stimmell. Thanks to John Whitney for the gift.

# *Siding from the Blue Church*

*by Polly Horn*

February 16, 1975, Columbus Dispatch ran a feature, "Old Blue Fades Away," in their magazine section. A church that had served the community for 148 years was being torn down.

Early settlers in Kingston Township worshiped in log homes and in forest groves until the original log church was built. Soon the walls of the log church were expanded and eventually in 1827 the frame Kingston Presbyterian Church was built.

Moses Decker, a soldier in the War of 1812 was the architect and builder of the church. Native cherry, walnut, ash and oak trees were prepared by an upright saw run by a water wheel on the creek. Massive hand-hewn beams up to 40 feet long and notched for fit formed the frame of the building. Nails and handmade wooden pegs were used in the construction. The first pastor, Ahab Jinks, was also credited with starting the first Sunday school and library in the area.

Sun and weather faded the church's stone grey color to a beautiful blue tint. People began to call it the Blue Church so when it was time for a new paint job it was easily decided to paint the church blue.

In the late 1830s controversies over church doctrines and the question of slavery caused a number of the members to leave and establish the Kingston-Porter Presbyterian Church near East Liberty.

A bell was added to the Blue Church belfry in 1850. The inscription on the bell reads, "Cast by C. W. Coffin, Buckeye Bell Foundry, Cinn, O., 1850."

In 1900 the church underwent a major remodeling. The old straight back pews hand-hewn from black walnut for the original church remained through out the life of the church. Milo Owen (1892-1989) remembered the two day wagon trip to Columbus to get the beautiful leaded stained-glass windows in 1910. When they returned the arches were cut above the existing windows to accommodate the stained-glass. Louise Cowman remembered the sun shining through the stained-glass windows and reflecting back colors on the back of Edna McVey's grey taffeta dress.

Owen was the first to arrive at church to start a fire and heat the building for service. He was the last to leave

as he rang the bells and the congregation drove away.

Christmas was special in the Old Blue Church in Kingston Township. Louise Cowman remembered in 1913 when she was four years old there was a tall evergreen tree with real candles and a wonderful fragrance in the church. "I'm sure the tree was near a window with a rope tied outside so it could be pulled out if it caught fire. My mother's brother, Russell Duncan, had a candle lighted tree in his house which was beautiful for the hour or so the candles were lit. In addition to the rope, there were buckets of water near the tree for safety," I know why Cowman remembered it 80 years later" notes Horn.

Louise also remembered she sang "Away in the Manager" as a solo and Santa passed out candy, in boxes shaped like churches, and lovely oranges. While adults dramatized Bible stories, her mother played the organ and her father played the piano.

For many decades, the church was the hub of the social life in the township which has no village. The Satellite Class of young people met in homes for fun, games and refreshments on the hostesses best china. Each winter, the church held an oyster supper, Protracted meeting (two weeks of preaching and special music) and of course Children's Day with drills, recitations and songs. Farmer's Institute, Patriotic Rallies for World War I, and Eighth Grade Commencements from the Township Schools were some of the events held in the church.

As the church aged, it became Old Blue Church. In 1958 declining membership resulted in services being discontinued. When it became unsafe the building was torn down and Dr. Carl Godshall saved the wood. Plaques made from the church's siding with decoupage drawing of the Old Blue Church were sold in 1976 during the National Bicentennial. Today the Cemetery, a marker with the old bell, Blue Church Road which carries its name and memories are all that remain of this Kingston Township Landmark.

Ryan Linnabary and Pat McGovern recently gave siding to the Myers Inn Museum which will be displayed with Verna Bergandine's painting of the Blue Church in its better years.

Thanks to the Columbus Dispatch and Cowman's article in McCormick's "Chapters of Community History."

Learn more and see photos in Local History at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> - Kingston Township!