



Old Tyme Chronicle

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In the Beginning

McMillan Gives Hopkins House to Library Board



Board of Trustees Genevive Beaver, Frances Ruthig, Library Director Rachel Edwards, Lola Dell Searles, donor Harold McMillan, Library Clerk-Treasurer MaryLou Beacom, Dick Sechrist, Wayne Reppart, and Wendell Davidson September 26, 1978



1979 Restoration Committee Dilly Burrer, Genevive Beaver, Wayne Reppart, Richard Sechrist, Eugenia Schwartz, Cerna Bergandine, and Bernie Stockwell

When you have a building over 200 years old with a balcony about 157 years old, you know it needs lots of love and care. I think Jeduthan Skeels put the balcony on the front of the Myers Inn just after the Civil War because the building taxes dropped for a short while before he reopened it as the Union (Continue on page3)

Coming Tuesday, October 11. . . . Common Artifacts from The Past and Stories of How They Effected Our Lives

by Brent Carson

On October 11, Brent Carson will bring his artifact cart filled with items from the past to the Big Walnut Area Historical Meeting in the Myers Inn Museum at 7:30. We will discuss the items which are 50 to 150 years old and share stories of how they were used.

Carson, a retired Delaware school teacher, was the head of the Delaware County Historical Society for many years. He still gives programs to adults and school children. A favorite hobby of his is to collect stories from people he meets throughout the county and add them to his varied collection of things and happenings which make up his programs.

He has shared his programs with us for many years. Some are available on YouTube with links from our website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org>.

Brent has made several DVDs of his stories. Some are available in the BWAHS Gift Shop.

The October meeting is the first in person meeting since we had to close for covid. Masks are not required but individuals may wear them if they choose.

Reservations are not needed for this meeting. Seating is on a first come first choose basis.

Myers Inn Museum is located at 45 South Columbus Street facing Sunbury Public Square. Questions? Email info@BigWalnutHistory.org.

Myers Inn Continue from page 1

McMillan also gave \$70,000 towards the restoration. First thing on the restoration was to have Marion Ackerman replaced the brick columns with wooden ones which matched the upper floor. Plans quickly made it obvious the building could not be restored but needed to be renovated for extra library space. McMillan's money and other that the library raised was soon gone. The sill, siding and windows were replaced but it was still not useable,

Plans shifted to building a new library and so the library board tried to sell the Hopkins House now the Myers Inn. Potential buyers would have to tear it down because they lacked funds to finish the renovation. Big Walnut Area Historical Society was formed to collect local history. The library gave them the property so they raised funds, supervised workers and completed the building for a museum. Dedicated volunteers spent 13 years raising funds and spending them on the facility. Myers Inn Museum opened in 2006.

2022 – Upkeep: The Balcony. . .

By Damon Bower



New Floor Complete

The original hardwood tongue and groove floor has been a maintenance problem for several years. Lateral movement of the wood annually resulted in heaving and rotting of sections of the floor that allowed water to enter and even birds to nest. Deck paint and caulking every other year was not getting the job done. After consulting with area contractors, the best permanent solution was to

replace the old floor boards with composite tongue and groove material and level the structural floor beams once the old boards were removed. The project was recently completed by Deck Masters and thus one headache successfully removed.

However, with parts of a building over 200 years old, other issues including replacement of an column on the first floor porch, replacement of at least 3 second floor columns due to wood rot and repair of the eave on the north side still loom ahead—progress on those projects

will be reported in future newsletters. ###

The first inspector that went through the building hit his head going up the steps to the second floor. He said the first thing we needed to do so people could work in the building was make the opening over the interior steps bigger and add an outside fire escape. When we said we would make the latter wood, he said it needed to be covered to keep ice off them in the winter. Thus the awning over the exterior steps.

2022– Upkeep: The Fire-Escape

By Damon Bower

The awning over the rear outside staircase has been recently removed by Deck Masters as part of their work on the balcony floor replacement project. Weather had torn a large hole in the top section and a lot of nasty looking mildew and algae had built up on the north side due to no sun exposure. The original awning was replaced for the same reasons in 2013 for \$1800 now garnered two bids at over \$4,000 to replace just the awning. Rather than incurring that expense with no way to avoid repeating the process in the future, it was determined that a cover was not required by code and that the frame and fabric could be simply removed.

One eyesore gone! ###



Thanks

Like all of us at the Myers Inn, Damon Bower is a volunteer. He gives of his time and gas money to keep us in great shape. THANKS, DAMON!

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO,
OFTEN BEHIND THE SCENES!

Heritage Day and Sunbury Fun Fest

Our Annual Heritage Day Celebration and Sunbury Fun Fest will be held on the square and in and around the Myers Inn from 3 to 6 on Sunday, October 23.

If you remember, a drenching rain fell throughout the time set aside for the event so it had to be cancelled last year. It was to be the first time since covid so there were lots of disappointed families.

“Many plans are still flexible,” noted Kathy Belcher who is in charge of the Square Activities for the Big Walnut Civic Association. She plans a straw maze, Mike Forman’s Hayrides, food, and maybe even a puppet show. Details are not all complete so watch so watch Civic Association and village on Facebook.

BWAHS plans to have an Open House from 3 to 6 with guided tours and possibly a craft at the Myers Inn. Rick Helwig plans to have the Blacksmith’s Forge open for the event. If weather permits we may have some outdoor activities.

Our Museum Gift Shop will be open for those wishing to get a head start on holiday shopping.

Visit our website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> to learn our Local History.

<p>OFFICERS Mindy Pyle, President Chip Welch, Secretary Bill Kavage, Treasurer Polly Horn, Curator of Myers Inn Museum</p> <p>TRUSTEES Alice Lacher Ashley Hornbacker Bill Comisford Damon Bower Jon Geyer Mel Meyers Rick Helwig Roger Roberts</p> <p>To contact email to Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</p>

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 Brent Carson Program see page 1
Friday, Oct. 21 at 11:00 Prairie Run 3rd Graders at Myers Inn
Sunday, Oct 23 3-6 p.m. Sunbury Square Fall Fest, Heritage Day at Myers Inn
Monday, Oct. 31 6-8 Sunbury Trick or Treat

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN
9-3 ON SATURDAYS**

Special Tours maybe arranged on another day by calling 740-965-3582- leave your phone number so we can return your call

Have you visited our Little Library to check out the volumes in it? Children’s books have been a big hit.



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**

Good Memories

by Polly Horn

Last week I got a phone call from Genevieve Beaver. She had some things she thought I would like to see. If the name sounds familiar to you, she is in the two photos on page 1.

She was on the Community Library Board of Trustees and the Myers Inn Restoration Committee. She was also a devoted volunteer for the library and the Myers Inn.

Her maiden name was Spearman. Her father, PFC George Richard Spearman, was in WWI and her husband, Staff Sgt. Benson Beaver was in WWII so when BWAHS and Sunbury Halter and Saddle 4H club decorated the veterans graves, Mrs. Beaver went to Trenton Cemetery to honor her father and to Berkshire Cemetery to honor her husband. She brought military memorabilia that had belonged to the soldiers which enriched the event for all of us.

But that was not why she called. (goto next column)

She ask me about some glass bottles she has and wondered if I knew about them.



The larger on says:

ONE PINT
WARRANTED
FULL MEASURE
C.E. GRANGER
WINES & LIQUORS
SUNBURY, OHIO

The smaller is a HALF PINT

Taverns had bottles made which the customer got with his first purchase. The customer took the bottle with then and returned for refills. No one has ever told me if they got money off if they brought the bottle back The bottles were sealed with a cork but many later ended up with rag stoppers. She assured me her's were all empty.

Mrs. Beaver went on to tell me about others from N. Green. also in Sunbury. I admitted I had a bottle but do not know where his saloon was located.. I took one of each to the Myers Inn where the Green bottle was broken. I believe Newt Green was my kin.

Here is a photo of the Granger Saloon where Firehouse Tavern is today. It is not the same building. The photo below is the inside of the building. Note the spittoons in front of the brass rail. Having a foot on the rail was more relaxing so the drinker stayed longer. Can't you just see Kitty from "Gunsmoke" at this bar?

(Please go back to the other column.)



Genevieve invited me to come look at her things but added "Do not to try now as the road is closed." She reminded me her birthday is coming up very soon. Happy 100th Birthday Mrs. Beaver! Thanks for the memories!



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