



Old Tyme Chronicle

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September 14 via Zoom with RSVP



A Day in the Life of a Civil War Artilleryman

by Van Young

“When most folks think about the civil war, they think of infantrymen marching in columns or soldiers marching side by side across a field of battle. Few know, or appreciate, the life of an artillery battery soldier. Was it easier or harder than an infantryman? Was it more or less dangerous? This presentation shares the hardships and talents needed to support a single cannon in the civil war. The logistics of the men, materials, horses, and the firing will be discussed,” commented Young.

Van Young was born and raised in northeast Ohio. He has been a resident of Columbus for the past four decades. When he retired from AT&T in 2012, one of his retirement goals was to spend time studying and learning about the Civil War, and specifically the social and personal stories of that era and the effects the war still has on our society today. Using his research, Van presents programs to area history groups, senior centers, retirement villages and local colleges.

This program will be via Zoom if at least 10 attendees R.S.V.P. See instruction in the next column.

BWAHS Receives Kroger Funds

23 households selected Big Walnut Area Historical Society as their Kroger Community Rewards recipient.

For the May-July quarter we received \$114.41.

Thanks for Krogering!

If you need to sign up our number is **PS720**

Myers Inn Open Labor Day

Plans are underway to open the Museum, Blacksmith's Forge and Gift Shop on Monday, September 5, from 9 to 4:00 with docents and guides available to tell about the displays that represent our local history. As usual, admission is free but donations are always welcome.

Need R.S.V.P. to Attend

“We need to assure Van of at least ten Zoom attendees for the *Civil War Artilleryman* program,” explained B.W.A.H.S. program chair Roger Roberts.

Email your RSVP to info@BigWalnutHistory.org. Include your name, and number in your group who will be attending and send it by Saturday, September 10. You may also call 740-965-3582 and leave a message and we will return your call.

Future BWAHS Programs?

Historically our programs have been monthly evening programs in the Myers Inn Museum with 20 to 30 attendees. Covid forced us to look at a different way to hold the programs so we learned to Zoom.

Are we ready to return to regular programs, continue on Zoom, or discontinue programs?

Tell us what you want and when you want to attend afternoon or evening programs?

Thirty-one attended the special program, “Sunbury Creamery thru Nestlé’s,” many of which were former employees or members of their families and the program was held in the afternoon. “Many thanks to Alice Chapan, Pat Kletrovetz and Mindy Pyle who added refreshments to the event,” noted presenter Polly Horn.

Sparrow Lodge Donates Time

On Saturday, August 30th, members of Sparrow Lodge #400 F & A.M. did 17 community service hours for the Big Walnut Area Historical Society.



French Drain

The five men installed a french drain in front of the Blacksmith's Shop, installed 3 posts in the shop and attached a post drill to one and a tire iron removal tool to another. They place new boards under the covered wagon and brought the tongue down from the

loft. The men moved the Sunbury School bell from the Kletrovetz barn.

They plan to return in the fall and continue work on the drain to remove water from the area.

Many thanks to Rick Helwig, Eric Kletrovetz, Jeff Hall, Grant Wise and Jeremy Ramey for their service.

Thanks to the Marvin Miller family!

<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><i>To contact email to Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</i></p>
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One of 3 New Posts

Calendar of Events

Sept. 5 9:30-3:30 MYERS INN OPEN HOUSE
Sept.13 at 6:00 Trustees

Sept.13 at 7:30 Program "Day in Life of an Artilleryman in the Civil War." by Van Young. See page 1.

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

**Special Tours maybe arranged on another day
by calling 740-965-3582**

Sunbury School Bell Moves

When Sunbury School consolidated to become Big Walnut, the bell (circa 1878) was given to Marvin Miller, Big Walnut Superintendent. His family has given it to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society.



Members of the Sparrow Lodge moved it to the historical society during their recent work day.

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**

DID YOU KNOW.....

Two of three children living in poverty have no books.
Children growing up in homes without books average three years behind those who do.
More than 36 million adults in U.S. cannot read, write or do basic math above 3rd grade level.
Half of U.S. children will not hear a bedtime story tonight.

When Jon Geyer suggested the Big Walnut Area Historical Society have a Little Free Library unit, other Board Members, Bill Kavage and Damon Bower, embraced the idea and sought to erect one. Subsequently, a kit was purchased, primed and painted and a post/stand was made and installed in front of our Inn/Museum.



Bill Kavage, left, and Damon Bower making sure it will be level

Hopefully this effort will be seen as our way of giving back to the community, inspire readers and expand access to books. Our Little Free Library joins a network of over 125,000 units around the world that share over 42 million books!

Please drive by the Myers Inn Museum and take a good look—hard to miss the red color!



Finished Project. It kept the book dry during the rain storms last Saturday

Thanks

Groups are Returning To Tour the Myers Inn

Willowbrook Village is bring a group via tour bus to Sunbury on September 7th for lunch at Big Walnut Grill and then a tour of the Myers Inn Museum and Gift Shop to learn some Sunbury history. Make reservations for tours at 740-965-3582. Leave your contact info and someone will return your call.

How Football Came to Sunbury in 1926

retold by Polly Horn

Columbus Dispatch, August 18th edition, had a football preview featuring Big Walnut's Nate Severs and Garrett Stover. It reminded me of a story my father told in 1966 about how Sunbury fielded its first football team. Bill Whitney (Sunbury News Editor in 1966) felt sorry for his brother and others who wanted to play football. After all Galena had a team for three years. Sunbury's School board would not permit it.



Sunbury 1926 Football Team

Pictured sitting in front are Ashton Perfect, on the left and Eldon Condit on the right.

Seated in the middle left to right Carl Perry, Orvel Kempton, Carlton Burrer, Merrill Mathews and Walter Adams.

Standing in the back left to right is Raymond Jahn, Hi Morris, Hoyt Whitney, Bill Lee, Paul Stelzer and Henry Beaver

Photo taken by Scott Patrick and loaned to *The Sunbury News* by Ray Jahn.

Bill started a campaign to get people elected to the board who had sons who wanted to play. Action Started. There was no money for uniforms or to hire a coach. Superintendent G. E. McFarland suggested Bill talk with the athletic director of Otterbein College, Royal Martin. He recommended Bill talk with a student from Dayton who was a good player but not eligible to play that season.

“I talked with him and he was eager to coach. Next I had to go to Mr. Townsend, Ohio High School Athletic Commissioner, to obtain permission. I received an OK. Next we needed money so I took up a collection from Sunbury Merchants and obtained enough to buy pants, sweat shirts, shoes and helmets and football started,” recall Whitney.

Superintendent McFarland worked with the team until the Otterbein student got there. Whitney recalled, “We paid the coach \$250 for the season. I remembered they got drubbed 49 to 0 at Danville.”

There were only 13 boys on this first team. Some would get hurt in a game so “We often finished up with 9 players,” said Hoyt Whitney. “Anyway we started football in Sunbury and it has continued as Big Walnut,” noted Whitney.

I do not know where the first games were played but Sunbury High School used what is now J.R. Smith Ball Park. I remember many a muddy ball game there even after Big Walnut High School was built on Baughman Street. Eventually the Athletic Boosters built the ballfield, stadium and track opposite the school on Hill Street. The 2022

Big Walnut High School has a new ballfield at 713 North Miller Drive on the north edge of Sunbury.