



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President's Desk

By Rick Helwig

By the time you read this article, we will hopefully be through the first heat wave of the season. Traditionally, this time of year is referred to as the Dog Days of Summer. The "Dog Days" of summer last from July 3 to August 11.

But what are the Dog Days of Summer, exactly? In ancient Greece and Rome, the Dog Days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat!

Today, thanks to air-conditioning, we are not likely to be driven mad during the Dog Days of Summer, but it is a great time to get into our air-conditioned car and travel to a nice air-conditioned museum. If you have children or grandchildren, this is a great time to have one last chance to make memories before they go back to school. So, come to the Inn, learn about the history of the area and maybe make a memory. Sorry, we don't have any dogs on the days we are open, but we do have a raccoon.

See you at the Inn, Rick

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IN MYERS INN - SEPTEMBER

The southwest room in Myers Inn is open to rent effective September 1st, our current tenant is moving out of Sunbury. This is a 300 sq. Ft. office space at one of the busiest corner in town for only \$660 per month. The rent covers all utilities including basic internet. It has a private entrance from Granville Street and easy access to restrooms, kitchen and the meeting room.

If you have questions or wish to view the space, email Damon at bower67@gmail.com or call 614-745-4375.

Myers Inn Is Looking Good, Thanks to Volunteers!



A building over two hundred years old needs lots of tender loving care. In the photo, Damon Bower is putting paint on the replaced base for another pillar on the upstairs balcony. Marion Ackerman, Brad Orndorff and Damon have put in many hours renovating the pillars this summer. There is still a corner pillar to go.

Alice Chapan and Warren Owen planned the flower beds in front of the building. Alice and Roger Roberts have planted the barrels to the sides of the property. They add so much curb appeal to our facility.

The pansies at the front door are tired of holding their heads up so they will soon be replaced.

Inside the building, Damon Bower and Bill Kavage have selected a difference fire security system to monitor our building and keep us alerted in case of a problem. In order to have the hand hewed beams and the building construction on display, we had to agree to maintain a good smoke and alarm system to protect visitors and the building. As the original ones became outdated, new technology is allowing us to get the information in a more cost effective way. Of course this meant many trips to the Inn to meet with contractors and get the system converted.

Remember these guys are volunteers and would love to have you assist with anything in your field of expertise.

Docents are Museum Hosts

You treat the visitors as guests in our homes. Many of us have done this job for years and are as familiar with the Myers Inn as we are with our homes and families. We greet the visitor at the door and ask them to sign our guest book. A few questions will give you an idea of why the visitor is in the Inn today. Then your joint adventure begins. You will enjoy their visit, too.

As a new docent, you will be given a copy of the Docent's Manual which tells about almost everything in every room. No one is expected to learn all these stories, just the ones that appeal to you.

If you are interested in learning more about being a docent stop by the Inn or call Polly, 740-965-3582, leave a message and your phone number.

Committees: Backbone of BWAHS

In addition to the **Facilities Committee** on the previous page, there are other committees working to keep you and the community involved.

Membership Committee notifies members when renewal time arrives, contact guests to see if interested in joining, design ads to attract people.

Program Committee plans our monthly meetings and any special events programs we have.

<p>Big Walnut Area Historical Society OFFICERS Rick Helwig, President Vice President to be selected Chip Welch, Secretary Bill Kavage, Treasurer Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster and Editor of Newsletter TRUSTEES Alice Lacher Brad Orndorf Chad Neeper Damon Bower David Martin Mel Meyers Roger Roberts For Information Call 740-965-1154 leave a message or email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</p>
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Calendar of Events

August 8 at 6 p.m. B.W.A.H.S. Trustees meet in Myers Inn.

No Program in August.

September 11 at 7:30, "Flight 93-Real American Heroes" with Van Young

**Myers Inn Museum
 OPEN 10-3 on Saturdays**

**To Arrange a Tour at another time,
 Call 740-965-3582.**

Leave a message with your phone number and you will be called to arrange a time and date.

Publicity Committee creates the newsletters, press releases, handouts for visitors and events, and updates the website and signboards at the museum.

Scholarship Committee recruits candidates, and presents them to the board for nomination and selection.

Stop by the Myers Inn or call 740-965-3582 and leave your number. We will return your call and talk about how you can help.

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**

Camp Clifton on the Big Walnut

Summers were hot in towns and cities so it was very popular to go to the country for cooler more relaxed living. New Yorkers went to the Adirondacks, locals went to Camp Clifton.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, a group of people formed the Magazine Club. Early members were Dr. and Mrs. John H. Gerhardt, Mr. and Mrs. James Cockrell, Mr. and Mrs. Kimball Sedgwick. Mr. and Mrs. G. Jacob Burrer. Perhaps it was a literary club in the beginning but one of the club's projects was building a resort known as Camp Clifton. Other names linked with the enterprise were Pearlee W. Gage and Charles M. Wheaton, owner of Wheaton's from last month's newsletter.

Plans began in 1909 to build the resort. The earliest mention of the camp is a note in *The Sunbury News* which stated The Magazine Club was opening Camp Clifton on July 4th.



Seated in front row of the picture above are Minerva Hess Burrer, Mr. Samuel Hess (father of Minerva), Gertrude Burrer, Mrs. L. R. Smith, a Leemy girl, Daisy Burrer holding Carleton Burrer, Jackie Burrer, Gordon Burrer, unknown child, Mrs. Cockrell and Mrs. Gage.

In the back row are Parker Burrer holding Gerald Jacob Burrer, Karl O. Burrer, P. W. Gage, Magus a camp employee, Dr. Gerhardt, Mrs. and Mr. Leemy, L. R. Smith, Charles M. Wheaton, Otis Wheaton, Mrs. John Cockrell, Mrs. G. J. Burrer, Mrs. Wheaton, a cook, Dean Cummings, and another cook.

Located northeast of Sunbury at 12474 N. Old 3-C Highway along the Big Walnut Creek, the camp consisted of several cabins and a large dining room. Picnicking, boating, fishing and swimming were some of the entertainments. A railroad spur provided access from the outside. Cooks were hired to provide the food. Families would go to the camp for a weekend, a week,

a month or even the whole summer.

Sunbury had a town picnic there August 28, 1918. All stores in Sunbury closed for the day except the restaurants which closed from 12:30 to 5:00. The Committee urged residents to "Bring your baskets well filled and spend the day with your neighbors."



Swimming in Fern Bank
James Cockrell, ?, Mrs. Cockrell,
Dr. Gerhardt, Mrs. Sedgwick,
Mrs. Marshall Smith and
Mrs. Amy Burrer.



Cabin from 1907 postcard
from Don Edwards



Front Charles and Daisey,
Wheaton, her mother &
brother, Mrs. Mann, and
Mrs. and Mr. Vada Green



Families of Allie Williams, Theodore Blakleys,
H. H. Whittiers, G. W. Sharp, and Jackie Burrer



Camp Clifton ceased to be an exclusive resort around 1920 but continued to be used for civic events such as Sunday School picnics, cookouts and a spot for hikers.

How Did You Keep Cool In Dog Days of Summer?

By Polly Horn

I don't remember anyone having a swimming pool when I was young. In the 1940's businessmen put a wading pool in the Sunbury Playground for children to cool off. Adults watched their own children.



Pool on Sunbury Playground. Sunbury Fence Factory is in the back at the left. Senator O.W. Whitney and Herbert Irwin were 2 of the men who paid for the pool. Dave Whitney on the left and an unknown boy on the right.

Writer Louie Bromfield encouraged farmers to build farm ponds for fire safety and people did swim in them but not us.

I remember Mother taking us to the Delaware County Swimming Pool on the Fair Grounds for swimming lessons but most of our swimming was at the new Lake Hope in Zaleski State Park. Two weeks in the summer! We couldn't wait!

Mother was raised in Ostrander and there was no swimming pool. Boys swam in the swimming holes but "she was not allowed to do so because girls would drown." As an adult she learned to float by watching us but she never got over the fear. She was tall enough to walk in the deep end at Lake Hope so we did not know she couldn't swim until we had learned.

When I was in highschool, I heard only boys went to 20-Foot and other swimming holes but did not ever question why. Think I knew they skinny dipped.

At one of our class get-togethers, Wayne Martin mentioned swimming in 20-Foot on Little Walnut

Creek near Cheshire Road and hanging on a rope to swing out and drop in the water. Marilyn Gregg DeFranco had mentioned the people swimming in 20-Foot. It was actually on the Gregg property. "When the corn was high enough, the boys would run between the rows removing their clothes then jump in the water at the end of the corn. I wanted to go so badly so one time my grandfather took her when there were no boys there. I remember floating in a plastic ring but it was not as much fun as having lots of people there," recalled Marilyn.

Wayne told of Gee Fuller diving from the highest tree and going to the bottom to bring up a handful of mud to prove he had done it. Gee's daughter, Sheila Micholes, said that sounds like her dad. He took them swimming in Big Walnut beneath the 37 bridge south of Sunbury. He tried to get her to jump off the bridge but she didn't.

I remember the Roadside Park where Creek Road went off of State Route 3C. There was a picnic shelter and one could go down to the creek to wade. We also waded below the dam. Both of these were Big Walnut Creek which circled the east side of Sunbury.

Then there were the Quarries and the Cliffs on Alum Creek. People were not suppose to swim in either but teenagers couldn't resist and many got hurt. In both cases you were to jump in without knowing where the bottom was or what was in the water.

In the 1950's a group of men put money into building a swimming pool in Sunbury. Jim and Dave Whitney and I were the only residents with lifesaving when they were ready to open the pool. All three of us had jobs, so I came home on weekends to train my brother Duncan and help guard. I continued at the pool until fall '61 after I finished college.

Years later the Fuller girls, Sheila and Teresa were life guards in the The Pool the last summer it was open. Even with all the Parks and home pools, we miss The Pool and all the friends made there.



Sheila and Teresa Fuller

With A-C we miss the Dog-Days but they made good memories. Remember how you spent yours?