



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President's Desk . . .

By Rick Helwig

It is not an exaggeration to say that I have been a living historian for 60 years. When I was a baby, I was dressed up in CW era baby cloths and wheeled around in a pram by my mother at reenactments. Over the years, I have done impressions from the 18th century to the 20th century, both civilian and military. Some of them were named impressions (Cornelius Wilcox, blacksmith), others were occupational (Artillery Officer).

If you have every thought about creating a impression, here is my top five list for creating a new impression.

- 1) Pick a time period that you want your character to be from. Sometimes this is dictated by the group you are going to join. For example, normally working in a specific room at the Myers Inn might influence what period of time you focus on and you might pick an occupation that goes along with the items in that room. This will allow you to focus on what costumes, items, trades, world events you need for your impression.
- 2) Pick a name. While a name is helpful, in doing a first-person impression, it is also possible to be successful doing a trade profession (Blacksmith, Housewife, etc.). One word of caution, unless you are an expert in a famous person's life, don't do it as your impression. Instead pick a person in the famous person's circle. For example: I portrayed Col. James Barnett, the Chief of Artillery for Gen. Rosecrans instead of a more famous officer.
- 3) Pick a trade or if a military impression, a branch, unit and rank. Having a trade helps you to flesh out your impression and give you a focal point for creating the story that your character will tell to the public. (Continue on Page 4)

Program on January 10

Story of the Orphan Trains

Roger Roberts will show a video based on the book "Abandoned: Story of the Orphan Trains," by William T. Keene, to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30 on Tuesday, January 10 in the Myers Inn Meeting Room.

Keene reminds us that in 1848 Ireland was gripped by famine. Nearly a million people died of starvation. Desperate, a million more abandoned their homeland and immigrated to America. Many settled in Five Points, an area of Lower Manhattan infamous for its squalor, gang violence and disease.

By the mid-nineteenth century, an estimated 30,000 orphaned and homeless children roamed New York City. They survived by resorting to petty crime, by begging and by selling newspapers for a nickel a piece. They slept in alleyways, in cellars and even sewers. For protection, they joined the violent gangs of the Bowery Boys, the Dead Rabbits and the Roach Guards.

In response to this crisis, the age of orphan asylums began, culminating in one of the most improbable and audacious episodes in American history. Called the Orphan Train Movement, it endeavored to rescue these children lost to the streets and our institutions, by heroes who fought for their liberation.

Orphan trains went thru Ohio but we do not know if any children ended up here. This documentary will give you something to ponder as we begin the new year.

Myers Inn Museum is located in downtown Sunbury at the corner of Columbus and Granville Streets. It is open 10-3 on Saturdays and by appointment on other days.

To make an appointment for a tour, call 740-965-3582 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.

Creamery thru Nestlès

Polly Horn will present the powerpoint program “Sunbury Co-Op Creamery thru Nestlès” to the Harlem Township Heritage, Inc. at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 12th in the Township Community Room behind the Harlem Fire Station at 3883 S. St. Rt. 605 in Center Village. Enter from the back parking lot,

In the late 1800s, there were Creameries in many of the communities which make up the Big Walnut area including one in Center Village where Fracasso’s is at 3699 OH-605. Each was independently owned and operated. In 1892 a group of men decided to incorporate and hire people to run the creameries and ship the cream to Sunbury Co-Op Creamery where it would be churned into butter. Farmers were paid for their butter fat and given the buttermilk to take home for their pigs.

In 1903 the creamery supplied the butter for the first butter cow at the Ohio State Fair and it became famous. John Wilde bought the company in 1913 and Nestlès bought Wilde the next year. It was to become one of the largest employers in the area for almost a century.

Learn more about the company and the people who made it work at the program on January 12 in the Harlem Township Community room.

Thanks

Many thanks to all of you who sent year-end funds to the B.W.A.H.S. to provide a scholarship to a Big Walnut Area resident who understands the value of volunteering. With time still in the month, so far the donated money plus the matching funds is **\$5750.00.**

Calendar of Events

- January 10 at 6:00 BWAHS Board Meeting live and on Zoom
- January 10 at 7:30 Program: “Abandoned” based on a book about orphan trains by Mike Keene- details on page 1
- January 12 at 7 p.m. Polly Horn will present “Sunbury Co-Op Creamery thru Nestles” to Harlem Township Heritage, Inc. see page

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN
12-3 ON SATURDAYS
Special Tours maybe arranged on another day
by calling 740-965-3582**

BWAHS Looking for Good Board Members

Once again we are looking for interested people to serve on our Board of Trustees. Without a Board we can not operate. All board members and employees at the Myers Inn Museum are volunteers. Stop in the Myers Inn on Saturdays or call 740-965-3582 if you are interested.

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**

Saving Sunbury's Treasure

by Polly Horn

When the pillar on the north end of the front porch began to move from rot on the bottom, I began looking for articles I wrote about the replacement of the brick pillars with the present ones.

In 1936, I.T Frary wrote the book, "Early Homes in Ohio," which highlighted examples of outstanding architecture. The Sunbury Tavern, which we call the Myers Inn, was one of the highlighted buildings. Our cornice, frieze, fanlight, and the gallery appear to be from Asher Benjamin's books and should be saved.

One night when Hosea Hopkins owned the house a drunk man lost control of his car and broke off one of the wood pillars. Hopkins was so mad he had all the pillars replaced with square brick ones. When Harold McMillan bought the building from the Hopkins family in 1978 and gave it to the library the stone porch and brick pillars were one of the eyesores the renovation committee wanted to tackle.

The stone floor of the porch was lifted and after footers were poured it was put back in place. Contractor Marion Ackerman got pillars to match those on the balcony. I remembered the photo of Marion pushing the brick pillar over but could not find it in my many files of the building.

Recently when the one rotted and had to be replaced, Damon Bower talked with Marion and he agreed he could cut off some of the pillar and make a new piece for it. Brad Orndorf took the old one out and braced the corner so it would not fall while the work was being done.

A week after Marion returned the rebuilt pillar and Brad installed it, Marion came to my house with the two newspaper articles I had been looking for. Of course they are not in my files. At that time I was working in Community Library and they are in their files. I am so glad Marion and Connie saved these copies

The first article ran in *The Sunbury News*, June 18, 1981. It shows Marion on the left and Bob Domigan pushing the brick pillar on the north end of the porch



Hopkins House Gets New Pillars

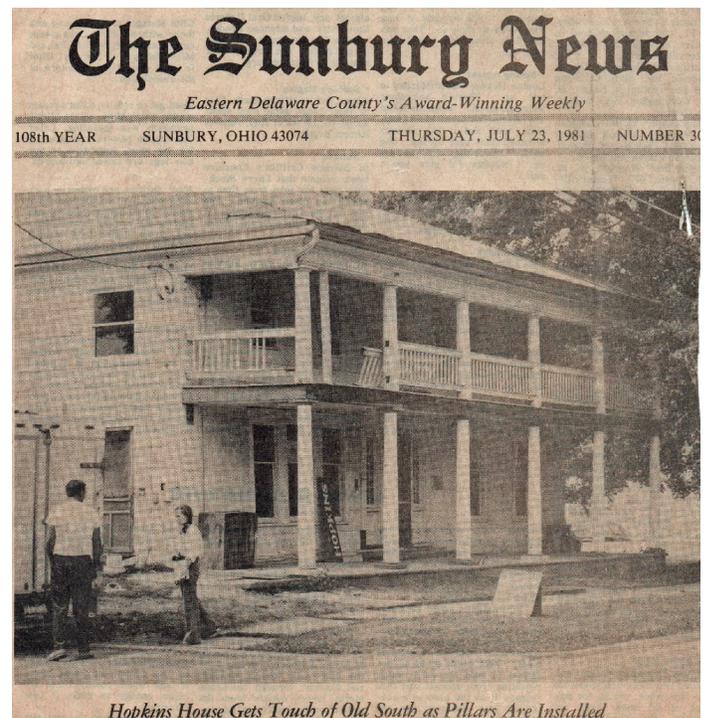
(note cellar door at the bottom right).

I find it interesting to note the pillar which was just repaired was in this same location

The second paper clipping Marion brought was from July 23, 1981.

All of the brick pillars have been replaced to match the ones on the balcony and in Frary's book. Marion is at the left and Library Director

Rachel Edwards is consulting with him.



Myers Inn Museum

- Featuring Local History
- An 1816 Home
- Stagecoach Museum
- General W.S. Rosecrans
- Raccoon Who Saved Bank

Open Saturdays 10-3



MARIAN ACKERMAN AND ORNDORF CONSTRUCTION TO THE RESCUE

by *Damon Bower*

THE OLD

The northern most 9 foot column supporting column at Myers Inn had moved 3 inches due to base wood rot mid Fall—quite a scary site. It could have been replaced with a composite column, but the flutes did not match and the top portion had a band 8 inches from top and smooth finish leading upward—like all modern columns have. Our original wood columns have flutes right to the top. Replacing the column made of wood was researched, with quotes from California and New York between \$2000-\$3,000 (included new base/capital and shipping).

Throughout this process consultation with Marian Ackerman and Brad Orndorf of Orndorf Construction was ongoing, with both agreeing to assist anyway possible. Marian was instrumental in erecting the existing wood columns during facility renovation, and volunteered to replace the damaged lower portion of the column rather buying a new one. Brad Orndorf agreed to take down the damaged column, install temporary bracing and reinstall the column once repaired.



THE NEW

Marian was successful in duplicating the fluted bottom portion and reattaching in his shop. Brad reinstalled the repaired column. Both individuals preformed this work **gratis, for which we should be forever**

THANKFUL.

Helwig, Continue from Page 1

- 3) the story that your character will tell to the public.
- 4) Pick an impression that is appropriate to your age (or at least an age you can pass for).
- 5) Once you have a name and a trade or activity, create a back story for your person. Remember, if you are not doing a real person, you can use parts of your real life and age it. In the example below, I used my real birth date and the college I graduated from but aged them for this character.

For example: here is a biographical profile I created last year for an impression as a WWII Visiting Correspondent:

*Richard N. "Earnest" Helwig –
Correspondent
Born in December 26, 1881
Graduates with a degree in Journalism from
Defiance College in 1905
Worked in the creation of recruitment
material during WWI for the US Government
Currently writes features for the Columbus
Citizen Newspaper (A Scripps -Howard
owned newspaper)
His writings attract the attention of the
Scripps – Howard Company and he is sent to
the Pacific Theater to cover the war.
This just gives you a beginning on creating
an impression. Now the fun starts, bringing
your character to life, assembling an outfit,
purchasing items, doing research into the
times and occupations, creating a script or
patter you will use when doing your
presentation and then finally, trying is out on
the public to see how it goes.*

Adding an impression is a great way to enhance your knowledge in history, and of course gives you a character to portray as you are help as volunteer at the Myers Inn.

See you at the Inn - Rick

Do You Like To Explore Local History?
Do You Like To Share It with Others?
Do You Like To Make History Live?
Become a Myers Inn Volunteer

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