



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President's Desk

Make Plans Today

By the time you read this, we will almost be a third of the way through the summer travel season. Many of you will have already planned your vacation trip for the year. You may be planning to travel to another state or possibly to another country. Traveling hundreds or even thousands of miles and spending as much in money to visit museums and historical sites in those places. I am no different, I will spend time and money to visit a museum far from home instead of visiting ones just an hour or less away. "I can always visit them." But will I ever?

Last Fall I visited the Mott Military Museum in Grove City. I had wanted to visit it for years but never got around to it. Why did I do it then? I needed to kill a couple of hours between other events I was attending that day. Otherwise, I probably still wouldn't have made the time. "I can always visit it."

A quick Google search came up with a list of almost 400 museums and historical sites in Ohio. Plenty of options to plan a weekend or even a week-long trip. Don't let "I can always visit it" be an excuse. Instead change your thinking to "I can visit it this weekend."

See you at the Inn,

Rick

Myers Inn Museum and Blacksmith's Forge Open July 4th

Docents and Guides are needed to provide tours to the public from 8:00 to 2:00 when events are happening on Sunbury Square. As always, we will be closed for the July 4th Parade to give our staff the opportunity to see the parade which goes north on Columbus Street. Contact Polly Horn, 740-965-3582 if you are able to help. Leave a message with your phone number.

Coming July 11th at 7:30

"Down Memory Lane - Sunbury 1950's Thru 1999"

In 2019, Polly Horn was asked to give a Powerpoint Program to the Big Walnut High School American History Classes on the influences of national and international events on life in Sunbury. Note this is before covid and the changes it made.

Many of you have lived through these same 50 years so it will be a trip down memory lane for you. Watch how Sunbury and Galena grew, the roles of women and mothers changed, churches and schools grew. Inventions changed our perception of the world and brought others into our homes. For better or worse our lives were influenced and we tried to keep up.

See people and events in history which made our lives very different today. Some are good and some are not so good but we have evolved and adjusted to the changes.

Horn is a native of Sunbury who grew up in "The Sunbury News Whitney family, graduated from Big Walnut then Lake Forest College which is north of Chicago.

With the exception of college, 3 years in the Hough slums of Cleveland and 8 years commuting from Delaware to Sunbury, she has spent her life within a few blocks of Sunbury Square - both as a witness to or a part of the changes.

Come take a virtual stroll down Memory Lane on Tuesday, June 13th at 7:30 in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. Refresh your memories, and share the good old days. Admission is free.

Celebrate with Jane McFarland

If you went to Big Walnut High School in the late 50's you may remember Jane McFarland, the choir director.

On August 2nd she will have lived 100 years. Her son is planning a celebration for her in Texas which is too far for most of us to go for a birthday party.

However, he contacted Wayne Martin who in turn would like you to remember Jane by jotting down your memories of A Capella Choir, Girls Glee Club or the Music Theory Class you took to qualify for the choir. Maybe you took the trip to Parkersburg and made a recording.

Write your memories down and send them to Wayne Martin, 303 Hawthorne Blvd., Delaware, Ohio, 43015.

He will then send them on to her son for the party. We have collected things from the yearbooks and programs from scrapbooks. We did not find a photo of her red convertible.



Repair on Balcony Continues

Damon Bower and Brad Orndorf are rebuilding the bottoms of the columns which had rotted over the many years

they have supported the roof and railings on the balcony.

Thanks, Guys!

<p>Big Walnut Area Historical Society OFFICERS Brian Moore, President Mindy Pyle, Vice President Chip Welch, Secretary Bill Kavage, Treasurer Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster and Editor of Newsletter TRUSTEES Alice Lacher Ashley Hornbaker Bill Comisford Brock Schmaltz Carol Wood Damon Bower 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

July 4 8-2:00 Open House at Myers Inn
July 11 at 6:00 - Board of Trustees Meeting
July 11 at 7:30 Program "Down Memory Lane"
Life in Sunbury, 1950-1999.
With Polly Horn in Myers Inn - See page 1

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN
10-3 ON SATURDAYS**

**For Private Tours on other days
Call 740-965-3581 and leave a message
Your call will be returned**

Lost Netted Lace Is Back on Table

Fishermen's wives in the northern sea coast used thread and the same netting procedure their husbands used in fish nets to make the background for lace. They wove thread in the netting to make doilies, runners, and table clothes as well as decorations for clothing. We found a runner which fits Nathan Marble's table in the 1816 room. We lost it during the tea. Fortunately noone pitched it because there is a hole in it. It had been placed between 2 boxes of table linens. It is back on the table. Enjoy it!

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**

The Wheaton Building

With the opening of a Coffee Shop on the south side of the square, people have been asking about the history of the building at 25 East Granville Street.



Granville Street on the day Wheaton brought cars to Sunbury in early 1920's

31 E. GRANVILLE STREET

Charles M. Wheaton built 31 E. Granville Street first the part to the left then added the building in the center. He may have used a building previously on the site.

Originally he had a hardware and paint store in this building. In the photo he had taken out the window and put in a door big enough to drive cars in as a show room. For years the drive cut was in front of the building. Jim Furry was his right hand man and probably handled the cars.

I've never figured out how the people learned to drive the cars but the all brought them to town at the same time.

Wheaton was on village council when they agreed to brick the streets around the square because cars got stuck on muddy streets. Note the pile of stones this side of the street. Those are the curbs which go 3.5 to 5 feet in the ground to hold the bricks in place.



Furry and Wheaton in front of garage door for dealership.

In the 1950's, first Lou Guidotti had an appliance business in #31 which he sold to Hoke brothers who had an electric store there. Before 1966, Ed Hoke moved the

electric business and True Value Hardware to 78 N. Columbus where KeWaPa is now.



Hill Pharmacy changed to Shaws Pharmacy

added sidewalk for their popular sidewalk sales.



Adding Sidewalks

When the new Big Walnut Plaza was built, Dan and Joan Shaw moved to the bigger facility. Leonard and Jane Weidner bought #31 in 1991 for their Antique Mall.

25 E. GRANVILLE STREET

Wheaton built this building before the cars came to town. H.L. Wheaton (one of Charles' brothers), sold Deering Farm equipment as well as other implements.

Under the ownership of the Wheatons, #25 became a hardware and paint store. The cabinetry was beautiful green lymed oak. Ladders on rails made the high merchandise easy to reach.

Daisy inherited everything from her husband when he died in 1926 in California. Somehow ownership of the building passed to the Green Sisters, Mona Bumstead and Betty Lou Komminsk, who were the daughters of Vatchel M. (Vadie) Green. He had worked with Wheaton in the many of his businesses.

The hardware and paint business was sold to Herbert Irwin who called it Sunbury Hardware Co. Irwin hired Walter Lenhart to manage the hardware between the 1920 add 1930 census "He had Walter paint all the beautiful cabinet woodwork and trim black," noted Marion Ackerman. By 1940 Irwin had sold the furniture to Lenhart and he kept the hardware.

Eventually Walter Lenhart (Continue on Page 4)



Charles M. Wheaton owned all of these building except the glass block building with the arched window. His house was on the corner. It and the glass block building came down for the Municipal Building

Continue from page 3

became the owner and the business became Lenhart's Hardware and Furniture Store. Paint was still a big item.

About 1980, Marion Ackerman bought building from the Green sisters. The two buildings which are faced with pressed tin, were painted blue. Many businesses have called it home including J & J Carpet and Flooring, Coffee and Ackerman Antiques, Video Rental Store, a Print Shop, Dooley Dips, Dave's Den and a Karate School.

In 2018, Barry Bennet bought the double building which is now # 21. Village Coffee opened in the left side this past week. Paradise Hobbies is upstairs.

IN THE ABOVE PHOTO

Note the gasoline pump near the drive into the building. It was used from the street until Ohio changed the law and cars had to drive off the street to fill up - then they used the driveway to entry into the Wheaton building.

When the state required 2 outhouses (one for males and one for females) behind the building on opposite sides, Charlie refused and stopped selling gasoline. The man in the hat near the farm disc might be Charlie but it is too hard to tell.

Note the pump in front of the left building. Sunbury's first Water Works were started from a spring fed well

behind this building and pumped to a water tower behind the Baptist Church parsonage on Cherry Street. One Sunday the tower collapsed during a church service flooding the area. Since each individual property owner put in the pipes across their property, some were metal, but most were wooden water pipes which were leaking. Jacob Burrer and his sons had purchased the Water Works for \$1 so they chose not to rebuild.

WHO WAS CHARLES M. WHEATON?

Charles Wheaton, born 1820 to Squire and Mercy Jacobus in Morris Co., N.J. came from New Jersey to Trenton Township. In Chillicothe, he bought 40 acres of land in the NE quarter of Section Nine in Township 4, Range 16. In 1848, he married Mary Elizabeth Saunders who was born in New York in 1829 and came with her family to Trenton. After the birth of their first child, Harvey Leland, they moved to Porter Twp. where they had at least 6 more children. The last one was Charles M. born in 1850.

Charles M. married Daisy Green, daughter of Lewis Delano Green and Jarusha Ford. They had no children. They lived in Sunbury most of their lives.

Daisy's brother Vatchel Metcalf Green, was known as Vadie. His marriage to Nellie Chanille ended in divorce. He married Mona Belle Whetsel and had two daughters: 1) Mary Elizabeth Green married Augustine Drummon Bumstead in 1936 and had two daughters Victoria and Rebecca. 2) Daughter Betty Lou married Paul Lewis Komminsk of New Bremen, Ohio. No children.



Former Wheaton Buildings with Village Coffee in the west side of Barry Bennett's blue building.