



Old Tyme Chronicle

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BWMS Students with Damon Bower May 12

A LOT OF WORK COMPLETED

By Damon Bower

Thanks to the efforts of nine eighth graders at Big Walnut Middle School, their service day at Myers Inn was quite a success. Inspired by the leadership of Josh Frame, Principal, all students and their teachers at the Middle School participate in a morning of service through out the area.

Our work assignments included: table set up, dish washing and making center pieces for the Mother's Day Tea (supervised by Alice Lacher); washing all the first floor windows and main entrance both inside and out (supervised by Bill Comisford); and various outside tasks—from heavy lifting of 30 twelve foot long 4x4 posts from barn floor to loft and reattaching some lathe to trimming and bundling lower branches of our apple tree (I supervised).

I certainly appreciated the students helping, Alice and Bill volunteering and Ms Beeson the student's teacher for being with the troop! — Damon Bower

Museum Open Memorial Day

Myers Inn will be open 9 to 3 on Monday, May 29th. Admission is by donation.

BWAHS Presents at 7:30 June 13. . .

WWII War Correspondents

Featuring Rick Helwig

Over 1,600 war correspondents flocked to the European and Pacific theaters during WWII. While most of these 1600 reporters would go home after the war to lead average lives, several became well known to Americans including such notable journalists and writers as: Jack Anderson, Walter Cronkite, Ernest Hemingway, Ernie Pyle, Andy Rooney, and Eric Sevareid.

The term “correspondent” included journalists, feature writers, radio commentators, motion picture photographers, and still picture photographers. Correspondents were classified as “accredited” and “visiting.” Accredited Correspondents were “permanently” assigned to cover the war and given great freedom to move about and report on the war. Visiting Correspondents had permission to visit the field force for the purpose of securing information or photographic material for publication *after* return from the visit. Visiting correspondents were limited to a specific itinerary as outlined in their letter of authorization. They were to comply with the regulations governing accredited correspondents with some modifications made because of their temporary status

Join Richard “Ernest” Helwig, as he discusses the role that journalists played in WWII and the trials and restrictions, they were subject to. Part of this program will be done in the first person.

Rick Helwig is a long-time reenactor and does first person living history portrals at both Civil War and World War II events. The program is in the Myers Inn Museum meeting room which faces the southwest corner of Sunbury Square.

PROGRAM ADMISSION IS FREE!

Calendar of Events

June 13 at 6:00 p.m. BWAHS Board Meeting.
 June 13 at 7:30 Program: "WWII Role of War
 Correspondent presented by Rick Helwig
 See page 1 for details

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



BWMS Students clean up branches from apple tree originally from Buckingham Orchard now behind Myers Inn during Community Service Day - see page one for more about the event

GRE 4th Graders Visited Inn

On May 19th, sixty-six fourth graders stopped at the Myers Inn Museum to hear first person vignettes of three early Sunbury natives. Polly Horn as Eliza Brown told

of her early days as daughter of Major Brown of the Militia in Berkshire Township, Massachusetts. They moved to Berkshire, Ohio, in 1806, lived in a cabin then the brick house behind the store. In 1816 she met Lawrence Myers, married and moved to the Myers Inn.

Roger Roberts, speaking as Charles Wesley Carpenter, told of his father, Benjamin, who started the Sunbury Methodist Church in his barn on 61 north of town.

Damon Bower explains the tools and forge like those used by Cornelius Wilcox when he had the first blacksmith's shop in about the same place as the replica is now on the Myers Inn property.

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*For Information Call
 740-965-1154*

*leave a message or
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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,
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Name _____

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Send with check for dues to BWAHS

**P.O. Box 362
 Sunbury, OH 43074**

“ I Can’t Be a Docent, I Don’t Know Those Stories”

By Polly Horn

This is the major excuse I get when I try to talk someone into becoming a docent. None of us are born knowing the history of our community. We all learn it one tale at a time.

If you have enjoyed your visits to the Myers Inn Museum, consider taking docent training and make history come alive for someone else. A major part of the training is the docent’s manual which includes the history and facts about the items in the museum as I know them.

No one is expected to sit down, read the manual and be able to know about everything in the museum. Each of us has a special part of the museum or special items that call to us. Those are the stories you need to learn. You can add more as you share the first ones you learn.

This week

BWAHS member Don Foster sent me a death notice published in a Sandusky news-

DR. RUSH ROBINSON
TFFFIN, March 18--(Special)--
Funeral services for Dr. Rush Robinson, 61, Columbus obstetrician who died of a heart attack Sunday will be held Tuesday at 2 p. m. in Columbus. Burial will be made in that city.

paper for Dr. Rush Robinson, a Columbus obstetrician with White Cross Hospital. His research found a note that Miss Esther Booker held supper at Lindale farm, the summer house for the Robinsons.

Miss Esther Booker entertained with a sunset bridge supper Friday evening, Aug. 18, at Lindale farm, the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. Rush Robinson. Those present were the Misses Catherine R. Booker, Mona Carpenter, Oliver Greer, Grace V. Booker, Ann Holly, Helen Shields, and Myra Houston.

Foster thought it might be in the Sunbury area.

I know of Windale but have not heard of Lindale. I set out to see what I could add to his notes. I found the Bookers - Esther, Catherine R, and Grace V. living together in Columbus. When I looked at my notes on Windale, I was unable to make a connection but I realized I was using the Docent’s Manual, the informal collection of local historic vignettes.

I decided to share it with you so if you can see you are not expected to come up with your own stories. The story of Windale Farm is in the information on World War 2, in Display Case 5.

Display Case 5 in Loom Room:

Delaware, Ohio, Man finds Sunbury Soldier’s Dogtags in Mojave Desert in California. . .

Jeff Button Visits Same Site As William H. Linnabary - 60 years later

In 2004 Jeff Button, a 1981 Hayes graduate, was a sergeant with the heavy mortar platoon at Fort Irwin 50 miles west of the Mojave Desert in California. On July 24th, Jeff, his wife Rhonda, and sons Jeffery(10) and Morgan (4) were riding their family’s all-terrain vehicles in the Mojave Desert when they had to stop for a minor repair.

When Jeff stooped to pick up a bolt he dropped, he saw something in the sand reflect the sun’s rays. Immediately he knew it was someone’s military dogtag. “You’ll never believe what I found,” he shouted to his wife. The bigger surprise was what the tag said: William H. Linnabary, 2562214, Maggie Linnary, Rt 1, Sunbury, Ohio, P.



This man lived only 12 miles from where Jeff grew up!

Jeff contacted *The Sunbury News* and the Community Library. I put him in touch with Maxine Longshore who wrote the Linnabary family history in 1975. Maxine speculated the tag belonged to William Henry Linnabary, her father’s distant cousin. He lived from Nov. 9, 1908 to Sept. 20, 1998. His parents were John and Maggie (Ginn) Linnabary.

Clues from the tag told Button Maggie was his next of kin. Indeed it is his mother’s name on the tag and it was shortened because of the hole to hang the dogtag or perhaps it was just misspelled. In July 1943 they ceased putting next of kin on the tags so it was issued before that. Jeff discovered the serial number identified the soldier as a draftee called up by the Selective

Training and Service Act of 1940 assigned to the Fifth Corps. The Fifth Corps consisted of men from Ohio West Virginia, Indiana and Kentucky headquartered at Fort Hayes in Columbus. Rt 1 was the postal area south east of Sunbury where the John Linnabary family lived. P stood for Protestant.

Within a 15' perimeter of the dog tag, Button found a brass button, a single edged razor with "Star Super Edge" imprinted on it and a 7.62 shell casing dated 1942. The casing looks as though it was exploded rather than discharged. These items and others he found in the desert are in the display.

OTHER WORLD WAR II ITEMS IN THIS DISPLAY

1. On the case is a **notebook** Button created to tell about the items he found in the dessert.
2. Mary Ellen Miller gave us some **black-out cloth** used to darken the windows at night to keep the house from being a target.
3. **Nestlé's** put a packet of Nescafe in every soldier's rations kit to support the effort. This won them the E Award from the government. Nescafe, invented and perfected in Sunbury is believed to be the first instant food and was not expected to last because "Everyone wants their coffee dripped or perked - not instant.". However, WWII made Nescafe a household name.
4. **Columbus Dispatch papers - War Headlines.** Sy and Linda (Cook) O'Quinn shared them. These were special editions run for collectors.
5. **Civil Defense** was an important part of our WWII lives. The Cooks shared their training kit.
6. **Windale Farms** quart and pint bottles.

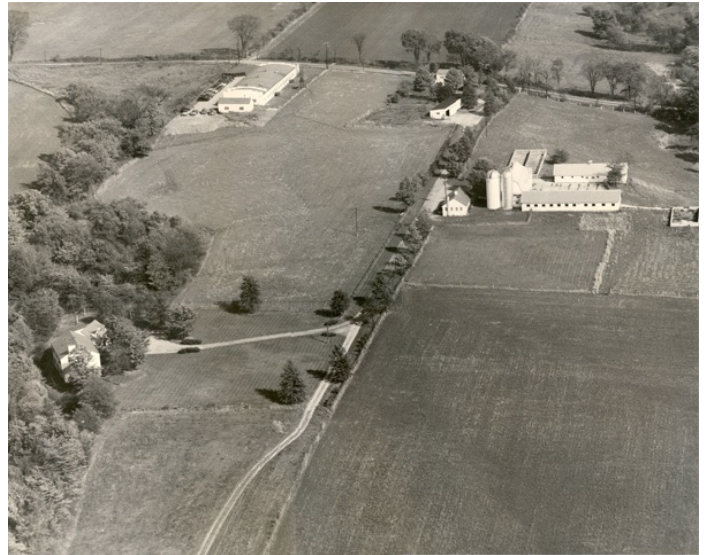


Kline Manufacturing Plant - 1950s

During WWII Uncle Sam took over many plants and used them to manufacture items needed for the war effort. Our oral history says

Kline Manufacturing (a metal manufacturer) was used to make ammunition for the war effort.

As a front, Windale Farms was established to look like a dairy. There are lots of bottles and paper caps in the area.



Kline Manufacturing in top left on Red Bank Road and Windale Farm to the right possibly on Center Village Road. Photos by Lane Aviation

"I remember the night when Kline caught fire and I went with my father to cover the story for the paper. As sparks flew up in the air, my father commented, "Thank goodness the ammunition was not stored here" and told me about the WWII effort. He did not mention the name of the farm but told me employees were sworn to secrecy so the enemy would not find out what was being made there. Dad ended by telling me not to mention this to anyone.

Until I put the display up, I kept the secret. When people began bringing in bottles and caps, I would ask what they knew and most would say nothing so I would tell parts I knew and they would agree the secret no longer needed to be kept. Most of them had been employees and wanted people to know how they helped the war effort."

You can become a Myers Inn docent and have the manual full of historic and oral history to share with our visitors. Fill out a volunteer card at the front door soon.

We look forward to talking with you.