



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Welcome Our New Tenants . . .

Brushwork Art Studio

by Damon Bower

Laura Jacob and Amanda McGee are professional artists who wanted space to create and exhibit their art.

Laura received a BFA from Bowling Green with concentration in oil painting. She moved to Atlanta as an art consultant for several years before returning to central Ohio. Seven years ago she started working with melted bees wax and learning the ancient skill of Encaustic painting. (LauraJacobart@gmail.com)

Amanda is a licensed artist, surface designer, illustrator and digital designer. She likes to create colorful light hearted art work, cheerful hand lettering and happy surface patterns in a hand drawn style. She has worked in the corporate world as an in-house designer while being a independent employed designer and artist for 27 years. (Amandamcgeartstudio@gamil.com)

Both artists plan to hold periodic workshops such as "Mixed Media Pumpkin Painting" held on 10/21st and have samples of their art hanging for review. All visitors and members are welcome to stop by and experience their varied mediums. Their work can also be found on social media and in various galleries throughout central Ohio.

From the President's Desk . . .

Bringing In the Crops

By Rick Helwig

As you drive around the Big Walnut area today, you will see farmers with their combines harvesting their grain. Today, every farmer has his own combine (threshing machine). This was not the case 120 years ago. In the late 1800's and (Continue on page 2)

Coming at 7:30 p.m. November 14 . . .

Our WWII Servicemen

Polly Horn will present the program to the historical society in honor of Veteran's Day.

Marian Whitney's husband, Bill, as owner and editor of "The Sunbury News" kept track of all the men and women in the service from the readership of the newspaper.

As Bill received data from parents, the war department, and letters from the service personnel, he passed the information along in his column, "With Our Boys in Service." As Bill got address, each local person in the military was sent a free subscription to The Sunbury News. Through the column, the people kept track of the locals serving their country and the military personnel were able to keep track of each other as they were moved around the world. They also got to see what was happening on the home front.

Unfortunately Bill got the ranks reversed on the first column and demoted the man instead of promoting him. He told his wife never to let this happen again and thus Marian's scrapbook came into being. Their daughter Polly pulled the book from the trash when Marian was clearing her things for her son to become editor.

This program is the articles and photos from those newspapers. Where our local soldiers went, what they saw and did. You can relive their experiences on November 14th in the Myers Inn Meeting Room.

Museum Guests Looking for Van Sickles

Wilma McGowen and Stacey Olsan from Minnesota are looking for their ancestors. Peter Van Sickle (1749-1843) had in Berkshire, Kingston, Marengo and Porter Townships. Grandson William, son of Elias went west.

President's Column Continue from Page 1

As you drive around the Big Walnut area today, you will see farmers with their combines harvesting their grain. Today, every farmer has his own combine (threshing machine). This was not the case 120 years ago. In the late 1800's and into the early 1900's one person in a community owned a threshing machine and usually a steam traction engine to power it. In those days, harvesting grain was a community activity.

When it was time to bring in the grain, the owner of the threshing rig would set up a schedule and start moving through the community, stopping at one farm and then another. All of the neighboring farmers would also show up to help bring in the grain and run it through the threshing machine. In the Berkshire / Genoa Twp. area, the owner of the threshing rig was a man named Seth Gerber. While he had long since stopped using the equipment, I remember driving by his farm as a youth and seeing the steam traction engines sitting out front and the threshing machine sticking out of the barn. I remember my grandfather telling stories about the big machines traveling around the community when he was a boy.

One of the things he fondly remembered was the harvest feasts that

were had after the hard work was done. While the men toiled to harvest the grain, the wives would be working hard to prepare a large meal to feed the tired hungry men when had they finished labors. These feasts were filled with dishes of meat, potatoes, vegetables bread and pies. Each wife providing their signature dish. As we gather for our Thanksgiving feast, think about the traditions that inspired our modern-day harvest feast and the sense of community that it used to inspire it.

See you at the Inn, Rick



Unknown Harvesters on S. Galena Road



Ed Lake's Steam Engine

Big Walnut Area Historical Society

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selected**

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The Delaware Gazette July 16, 1869

OLIVE GREEN LETTER

OLIVE GREEN, July 12, 1869

EDS GAZETTE: Having taken considerable interest in your local letters I propose giving you a few items in regard to Porter Township.

A large club of the GAZETTE is taken at the office – Kingston Centre. It is the first paper I desire to read. Local news is always welcome.

Olive Green and East Liberty are our central points of trade. J. N. Stark has a fine, large and convenient store room, comparing favorably with any in the county. Mr. Stark has been one of the most successful business men in our county. Everything he touches seems to turn into money.

The following may be taken as our “Business Directory:” Stark & Harris Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries &c.; L. N. Conner, same; G. Wilcox, same; Clark Sears, Dealer in and Manufacturer of Boots and Shoes; E. B. Mosher, Physician and Surgeon; Mrs. Wilson, Dress Maker and Milliner; J. B. & L. Duden, Harness & Saddlemakers; S. Slyter, Blacksmith; T. P. Freeman, Keeper of the Nasby House; A. Garvin, Carriage & Wagon Maker.

We have an extensive school and intend to build a larger school-house soon. Miss Rose is the present teacher. The M. E. Church is capacious and convenient. Rev. Bell is Pastor. Rev. O. C. Plunkett is Pastor of the Congregational Church and Rev. Wiley of the N. S. Presbyterian.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has a lodge of forty to fifty members.

The society here is good.

Porter township is hard to beat for farming purposes.

Be it said to the honor of both Porter and Kingston townships that there is not a grogshop in the whole domain.

Our township officers are as follows: Trustees Charles Wilcox, Roswell Page and Zenas Harrison; Clerk W. W. Davy; Treasurer, John Linberg; Justice of the Peace, Mr Ramsey; Constables, Andrew Gavin and John Rowe. OBSERVER.



The Heart of Olive Green, *Part 2*

by Jennie Kavage

When Porter Township artist Henry Nease drew this scene of the old store/lodge he depicted it as “Olive Green - 1874” noted just above his signature. Situated on prime Olive Green lot No. 1 at the junction of present-day state routes 656 and 521, it would have been the first thing shoppers and travelers saw as they entered the bustling village described in the sidebar published in an 1869 Delaware Gazette. In 1874 Rutherford B. Hayes, whose name is painted on the side of the building, considered himself retired from politics after about one and a half terms in Congress and two as Ohio’s governor; in 1875 he ran for governor for the third time - successfully. On March 3, 1877 following a long contentious process he became president of the United States.

Meanwhile James N. Stark was leaving the stage he had held for 20 years as store owner, postmaster and one of the biggest property owners in the area. On Oct. 2, 1876, Darius (?) W. Morehouse was appointed Kingston Centre postmaster. On Oct. 18, 1876 Daniel W. Morehouse is listed as postmaster and continued in that post until Emil Olds was appointed in 1882. James N. Stark was living in Columbus when the 1880 census was taken.

In 1882 Abram Sharp, a Columbus resident who called himself a “broker, money lender” and a “capitalist” on 1870 and 1880 census forms sued Edward R. and Martha Chase in Delaware Common Pleas court. They were ordered to pay him \$2737.60 in five days. When they did not the court ordered the block of lots James N. Stark’s store and other enterprises previously had sat on (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 34 and 35) be appraised and sold. I have not yet found how the lots came into the Chases’ possession. They sold at Sheriff’s sale on Jan. 10, 1883 to Abram Sharp for \$834, an amount two-thirds the \$1,250 evaluation as required by law.

Edward R. and Martha Chase along with Edward’s mother Catharine Chase, widow of Methodist (continue on page 4)

Heart of Olive Green continued from page 3

minister Ebenezer Chase, had left Porter Township and were living in Findlay by the census of 1880. Abram Sharp kept the property until he sold it to Benjamin Newell in 1891. Although he called himself as a “retired merchant” on the 1860 census, there is no reason to think he left his home in Columbus for Olive Green. So who was minding the store?

Gerald Crowl, who ran the last store in this building, had a list of the storekeepers before him and near the beginning of that list was Nelson Conard, frequently written incorrectly as “Conrad.” In the 1880 census of Porter Township, L. N. (Lewis Nelson) Conard is listed as “merchant.” Listed with his family is a Wilson W. Buttes(?) “clerk at store.” The 1875 Delaware County Atlas lists L.N. Conard as Porter township clerk.

In the 1900 census Conard and his family are living in Columbus where he is managing a furniture store. Living on Tompkins Street in Columbus in 1920, Conard is 73 and no longer working. His sister Cornelia is living with them. He was a corporal with Company A. 20th Regiment, OVI during the last year of the Civil War. The 1930 census reports the old soldier, 84, a widower, and an attendant at Memorial Hall.

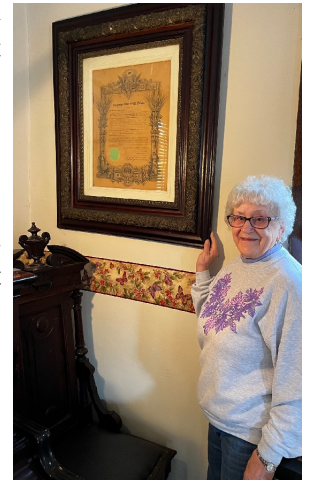
When Conard dies of pneumonia Jan. 10, 1935 at the age of 88, The Richmond, IN, Paladium Item notes: he was a past commander of Wells Post, G. A. R. and former Assistant Adjutant General and Quartermaster General of the Ohio G. A. R. He and his wife are buried at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus.

Benjamin Franklin Newell gave Abram Sharp \$175 for the store and the associated lots in 1891. He was a grocer in Bellpoint when the 1880 census was taken. He had a wife, Elvina; a son Charles, 3, and a daughter Ida Ann, 1. He was appointed Kingston Center postmaster in May 1893 and held that post until Dora McCarty’s appointment in March 1894.

In 1891 Big Walnut Lodge 798 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was founded in Olive Green. A membership book from the beginning to 1958 can be found on Delaware County Memory.Org. The first new

member was Dr. George F. Foster, 41 years old. Others signing that same Sept. 16, 1891 were C. F. Galpin, 21; Frank Swartwood, 34, and Joseph Walker, 22, all farmers. Our 1869 sidebar says there was an IOOF Lodge of 40-50 members in Olive Green at that time and Mr. Nease put an IOOF sign on the building in his 1874 drawing. The state IOOF office has no record of an earlier group in Olive Green. There is a record of IOOF Lodge 404 beginning in Galena in 1868.

In March 1894 Benjamin and Elvina Newell sold the store building, all six lots and appurtenances to Big Walnut IOOF Lodge 798. It was the beginning of a relationship between the Lodge, the storekeepers and their families that lasted more than half a century. The Lodge met upstairs on the west side of the building. The store was on the west side downstairs with two-story family living quarters on the east side. When the IOOF’s sister lodge, Banner Rebekah 451 organized in 1896 it used the lodge facilities as well.



***Lorraine Weiss
Saunders with the
1896 Charter for 451***

Almer C. “Al” Williamson (1857-1947) grew up in Porter Township, marrying Jennie A. Marshall Oct. 14, 1891. He operated general stores at Olive Green and Kilbourne towards the end of the 19th century according to information available on Delaware County sheriffs. He was appointed Kingston Center Postmaster April 18, 1898. Twice elected sheriff of Delaware County, first in 1902, he left office in 1907 to run a grocery at the corner of Central and Sandusky in Delaware. In 1914, Williamson went into business with his son and together they operated A C Williamson & Son Grocery at Hyatts until 1941. Al died July 27, 1947. He was buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Delaware.

Possibly James W. Gleason was the next grocer in Lodge 798's building. He is listed as “grocer” in the 1900 census. Thirty-five years old he is a widower. He and his first wife, Freda Wilcox, had a daughter, Eva, now 6. On March 21, 1901, he (Continue on Page 5)

Heart of Olive Green continued from page 4
married Martha "Mattie" McCarty. The handwriting is not good in the old postal records but probably he was appointed Kingston Center postmaster the same year. There was a school on his property next to Olive Green that was known as the Gleason School. When he died in 1934 his obituary in The Sunbury News said he operated a general store in Olive Green for many years and was widely known. Both James and Martha are buried in Stark Cemetery.

The 1900 census shows Joseph Wilcox boarding at the Marengo home of Thomas Chase, a stock buyer, where he works as a "hosler," perhaps a "hostler" taking care of the horses and mules. On the first day of January, 1906 he and Porter Township resident Jennie McQuiston were married by the Rev. Ralph Davy. By the 1910 census he is a merchant with his own general store, quite likely in Olive Green. His service registration card in 1918 shows him, 35, living on R.F.D. 2 Sunbury, a self-employed farmer, medium height, medium build, with blue eyes and brown hair. In 1930 Joe and Jessie are living in New Carlisle, OH where he is a merchant with a general hardware store. In 1940 he is a farmer and owner of Wilcox Hardware. His obituary in the Dayton Journal Herald tells that he became president and chairman of the board of the New Carlisle National Bank in 1940. He held that position until 1967 when the bank merged with Guardian Bank of Springfield to become Security National Bank of which he was director emeritus until he died in 1978 at 95. Jessie had passed away in 1974. They are buried in New Carlisle Cemetery.

In 1910 Homer F. Lott was 23 years old working on the home farm in Porter Township. When he and Ivah Chandler get their marriage license in 1916 he writes he is a merchant. This must have been when he had the store in Olive Green. He is still a "merchant" in the 1920 census. They have a daughter, Jeannette. Ivah died in 1923 after giving birth to twins who also died. In 1925 Homer marries Mary Belle Taylor who had previously been married to Homer Blackledge and had a daughter, Martha Gene. On this marriage license he lists farming as his occupation. In 1930 Homer and Belle are living in Delaware where he is serving as a deputy probate judge. He served two terms as County

commissioner from 1937-1944. When he died at the family farm in Porter Township in 1977 at the age of 90, the Delaware Gazette noted in his obituary he was precinct committeeman for the Republican Party in Porter for many years. He had formerly been a cashier at the Galena Bank and served 27 years as a director of the Rural Electric Co-op.

Milo Owen was 17 in 1910 when he took a wagon to Columbus to pick up the stained glass windows for Kingston's newly-remodeled "Old Blue" Presbyterian Church. Born in Trenton Township in 1892, he lived in Kingston Township and then his parents moved into the former Lindenberger house on top of the hill above the Lodge Hall in Olive Green. On Dec. 31, 1913 he and Imo Huddleston of Olive Green were married. In 1920

and 1930 he and Imo were living in Porter Township and in the 1930 census he has the store in the Lodge building. Milo and Imo moved to Sunbury where he was a mechanic and later superintendent of the Sunbury Water Plant. Owen, 96, and Imo, 88,

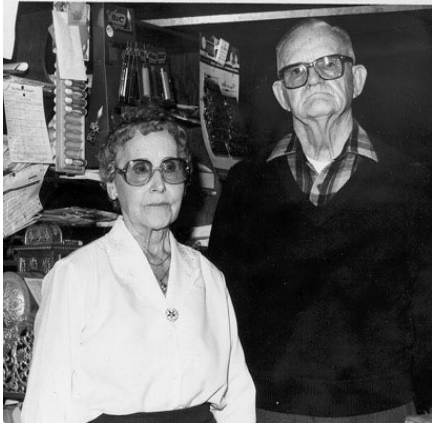


Imo Bell and Milo Owen

when they died, were the parents of three children. He was a past grand of the Big Walnut IOOF Lodge and she was a member of the Banner Rebekah Lodge. They are buried in Sunbury Memorial Cemetery.

Gerald and Alta Ross Crowl took over the Olive Green store on Feb. 23, 1932 when their son Kenny was just nine months old. In January 1969 he told Sunbury News editor Bill Whitney that store had a pot-belly stove with a coal box for tobacco chewers to spit in. Gerald bought an old truck, rigged it up for a country store on wheels and started a huckster route. Housewives would come out with eggs to sell and pick out their groceries. He didn't do it for long but he had a lot of customers, he said. Gerald was a school teacher before he became a store keeper, a builder and eventually country building (Continue on Page 6)

Heart of Olive Green continued from page 5



Alta and Gerald Crowl

of stores in the old building.

Alta operated the store during the week while her husband worked. She was an active member of the Porter Grange, the Banner Rebekah Lodge and a charter member of the Sunbury Business Women's Association. They raised five children, participated in the community and kept store as long as they could. After Gerald died in 1994, Alta continued until 1998, a total of 66 years in the store business. She died in 2004. They are buried in Sunbury Memorial Cemetery. The lighted sign that hung from their store is in the Myers Inn Museum General Store their son Ken helped set-up.

The Big Walnut IOOF Lodge 798 continued in the building until it disbanded in 1970. The Grand Lodge of Ohio IOOF sold the building to Banner Rebekah Lodge 451 with the stipulation it would revert to the Grand Lodge if the Banner Rebekahs ceased to exist. During the 1960s and into the '70s Boy Scout Troop 11 met in the building. Bill Chapman joined in 1960 when Adam Mika was Scoutmaster and Charles Bowsher was assistant. He remembers meetings were every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the west side of the building. Later the meetings were moved to the house side. Each side had a kitchen. When the building sold in 1995 Chapman helped the new owner remove the metal ceiling in the lodge room upstairs.

When Carol Scholl joined the Rebekahs in about 1966 access to the upstairs Lodge room was by the enclosed outside stairway on the west side of the building. At the top of the stairs was a small entry room that occupied the

inspector. He was township clerk for decades and first chief of the Porter Township Volunteer Fire Department. He built a new store building and a house across the intersection and in 1948 the family moved. It was the end of the long line

front and southwest corner of the building. Another room extended from the entry room across the front of the building to the wall between the Lodge and the family dwelling. That room contained a pool table and supplies. The rest of the upstairs was a meeting room with a raised platform at the north end where Lodge dignitaries sat in special Lodge chairs. Lorraine Weiss Saunders remembers three decorative seats that were joined together. There was a good-quality piano. Carol recalls Mrs. Belle Lott playing for the singing.

Delaware Gazette, 4/7/1967

Mothers cooked and the scouts did the leg work for the annual pancake suppers the Troop held for money raisers. Chapman said the one event provided all the money the troop needed for a year. According to news items in The Delaware Gazette

children from the County Home were always invited and looked forward to the event.

Delaware Gazette, 11/4/1977 The Rebekahs put on

Maybe It's Here

Turkey supper, 5 p.m. Saturday at Olive Green Rebekah Hall. Olive Green. Adults, \$3; children 12 and under, \$1.50 (N.1,2,3,4-4t)

a turkey dinner every November to raise money. Lorraine Saunders, who joined the group in 1955, remembers Lucille Harding did most of the cooking. They cooked four turkeys along with mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, gravy, rolls and desserts. Nancy Murphy says her mother-in-law, Ernestine Murphy, was famous for the hickory nut cake she would bring for the raffle. "It was a good fund raiser," Mrs. Saunders recalled. "It kept the building full for a long time."

By the 70s the old building was deteriorating. Lodge activities were moved downstairs. Most Rebekahs were getting older, too. (Continue on Page 7)

**Olive Green Scouts
'Pancake' Home Unit**

The residents of the Delaware Children's Home were guests Saturday evening of Boy Scout Troop 11 for a pancake supper at Olive Green.

Scoutmaster Berly M. Johnson. Assistant master George McGraw, Charles Bowsher and Ed Newman were in charge of the annual fund raising supper.

Heart of Olive Green continued from page 6

On May 18, 1995 they gave the building back to the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The few remaining members consolidated with the Rebekah Lodge in Galena. The state secretary says there are only 12 Rebekah lodges left in Ohio. To try to make it easier to get new members, applicants can be as young as 16 and can join either the Rebekahs or the IOOF, or both.



A week later the Grand Lodge sold the Lodge Hall to Edward Galitza of Findlay. On June 13 he sold it to Harold R. Freiheit of Powell. The Freiheit family kept the building as reportedly a warehouse for their antique business. It was sold last year, 2022, to the Hayes family that owns Hayes Refrigeration on the adjacent property.

Esckham Hayes says the floors upstairs had fallen through, the building was so unstable and everything inside was in such bad condition that demolition was deemed necessary.

That happened early this year. Some of the old timbers were able to be salvaged for reuse. Hayeses have no plans for the property except to continue to clean it off. Only the old outhouse remains and it's no longer usable. "I'd better put an 'Out of Order' sign on it," Hayes quips.

Lists of the Grands came from a book kept with the State Lodge listing all the Lodges in the state and their Grands.

IOOF 798 Past Grands, page 1

Big Walnut

NAMES OF PAST GRANDS.	Date of Certificate.	Mem.	Date Rec'd Degree.
B. F. Newell	Jan 28 1892		
David Chase	July 27 1892		
H. Huff	Jan 24 1893		
A. C. Williamson	July 14 1893		
W. B. Blanny	Jan 1 1894		
B. F. Chandler	July 14 1895		
J. Waldron	Jan 18 1896		
R. B. Knight	July 18 1896		
L. Kirkpatrick			
Julien Forey the			
Rott Black eye.			
B. T. Bennett.			
Thos. Higton			
J. C. Chase			
Lewis Downes.			
J. W. Berry			
J. A. Chandler			
Wm. Blackledge			
Andrew Mann			
B. B. Orroturf			
Pearl Higton			
C. H. Chase			
Orral Higton	Jan 1916		
John Uley			
John Lee			
Mrs. M. Cusany	Jan 1917		
F. E. Wain			
Milo Orrin	July 1921		
J. C. Walden	Jan 1922		
Bruce Baldwin	July 1922		
E. G. Uley			
B. B. Orroturf	Jan 1924		
J. J. Callahan			
A. C. Metzger	July 1924		
Guy McAfferty			

IOOF 798 Past Grands, page 2

Big Walnut Lodge	
NAMES OF PAST GRANDS	DATE OF CERTIFICATE
Derry Titus	Jan 2 1925
Edith Cornell	Jan 2 1926
B. N. Metzger	July 18 1926
Willie Egan	July 18 1926
E. A. Chaudler	July 18 1926
D. C. Blumberg	July 16 1927
Nelson Langhrey	Jan 4 1928
K. C. Orsby	July 7 1928
A. J. Robinson	Jan 26 1929
Allen Cantrell	Jan 4 1931
Harry Jones	July 12 1931
Geo. H. Stith	Jan 10 1931
Wanda Crowl	Jan 1 1932
Garson Pittom	July 1 1932
Irwin Zoward	July 1 1933
H. B. Page	July 1 1934
Berry Jones	July 1 1934
Bertha Titus	Jan 1 1934
Olvie Cantrell	Jan 1 1935
Charley Gomer	Jan 1 1935
F. M. Spithill	Jan 1 1937
M. L. Owen	Feb 1 1938
M. L. Owen	July 19 1938
Walter R. Williams	Jan 5 1938
J. R. Carter	July 11 1937
Dallas Metzger	Jan 28 1941
Cecil Touchley	Feb 3 1942
Clot Harding	Jan 19 1943
Ernie Tucker	July 27 1943
Gerald Tucker	Jan 28 1944
Henry Alery	Jan 23 1945
Alfred Edmister	Jan 22 1946
Alvie Towler	July 16 1946
A. S. Metzger	Jan 28 1947
Ralph Beaver	Jan 26 1949
Douglas Harder	Jan 31 1950
Ollie Cantrell	Feb 6 1951
Ernie Rubenckhoff	Jan 1 1952
Alva George	Jan 5 1954
Alva George	Jan 4 1955
George Beechold	Jan 10 1956
Kenneth Crown	July 17 1956
Noah Miller	Jan 8 1957
Clatus Hardin	Jan 1 1958
Clatus Hardin	Jan 1 1959
Kenneth Crowl	Jan 19 1960
Kenneth Crowl	Jan 17 1961
Kenneth Crowl	Jan 16 1962
Kenneth Crowl	Jan 15 1963
Kenneth Crowl	Jan 14 1964
Charles Brooks	Jan 14 1965
Charles Brooks	Jan 18 1966
"	1967
"	1968
"	1969
"	1970

Editor's Note: Many Thanks to Jennie for this wonderful historic account of a former landmark.

Good Bye, Eva Jane

Once again we must say good-bye to a Charter Member of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society.

When John Whitney and Jack Brehm owned *The Sunbury News*, all stories and ads were made up before we went home on Tuesday night so we could get the paper to bed on Wednesday. Around 10 p.m. John and his wife, Dan and Eva Jane, and Jack and I would go to the L&K for a refueling to get us thru the evening. Others would join the group as we discussed the community events. Here the Big Walnut Area Chamber of Commerce was born, many local celebrations were fine tuned and projects were started. Dan and Eva Jane were the treasurer's of the celebrations funds so they knew what would work.

No matter how hard we worked or how long the day was, Eva Jane always had a smile.

Eva Jane Williams at 96 has not been an active member in recent years, but as a Trustee, Emeritus, she was always with us in spirit and lengthy phone calls. Oh, how she loved Whit's ice cream cakes!

Acknowledgments For The Heart of Olive Green Story

By Jennie Kavage

Much of this article was put together at home using the computer and the phone. Primarily I used the following: Ancestry.com, Newspapers.com, Delaware County Memory. Org (can access on the Community Library website), Delaware County Recorder Documents Search, Wikipedia and old Sunbury News articles.

Help came from all these people: Jane Buxton, Linda Kroninger, Doug Crowl, Richard and Nancy Murphy, Carol Scholl, Bill Chapman, Lorraine Saunders, Penny Castle - grand secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio IOOF, Diana Kurzawa-assembly secretary for the Ohio Rebekahs, Eskham Hayes and his daughter in law, Michelle Hayes. Polly Horn and Bill Kavage.

Thank you, Jennie