



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Coming At 7:15 p.m. April 9 . . .

“The Dakota Sioux War of 1862”



Van Young

Van Young returns to the Myers Inn to explain how an armed conflict between the United States and several bands of Dakota/Sioux Native Americans ended the way of life for the natives.

It began what would eventually become a 30-year war between the United States and plains natives, eventually leading up to the Battle of Wounded Knee and end of their way of life. Van Young will tell the story of how this war started as well as the conditions and events leading up to it and the sad results of three decades of western warfare. A sad, but true story of an American war.

Young was born and raised in northeast Ohio. He has been a resident of Columbus for the past four decades. When he retired from AT&T in 2012, one of his retirement goals was to spend time studying and learning about the Civil War, and specifically the social and personal stories of that era and the effects the war still has on our society today. Using his research, Van presents programs to area history groups, senior centers, retirement villages and local colleges.

Van has programs on such a wide variety of topics, the trustees and Program Committee have a difficult time choosing which programs to bring to the historical society.

Volunteers Always Needed

Hylen Souders third graders will be coming to the Myers Inn April 26 to learn some local history. This opportunity is only possible because six of our volunteer docents will share their time and stories with the students.

Other volunteers will serve as guides to move the students thru the stations when a volunteer rings a bell. Let Polly Horn know if you think you would like to be a docent or guide. Remember, we will train you.

Volunteers are also needed to do cleaning,

The Red Light District

When Community Library was first given the Myers Inn, then known as the Hopkins House, it did not look at all like it does today. It was a 4 family apartment house which belonged to a family in California. Local people made repairs as requested but tenants were afraid to complain because the owner would raise the rent. It was ready to be a parking lot!

As the Assistant Librarian, I used the Hopkins House for programs to implement the crowded Library in the Town Hall. Frequently when I was using the building, I would have to go out on the balcony to push a breaker or change a fuse - remember the round glass ones you screwed in? This seemed to happen during rain storms. There was a dip in the balcony flooring right in front of the electrical box which held rain water. I used a broom handle to push the breaker. This is how I first saw the red light.



Look carefully at the ceiling not even half way to the pillar with the red bow.

I was sure the Trustees had not know we were in the red light district.

One day an old timer was telling me about the original fire department. Sunbury had a Town Marshall who walked around the square stopping at different businesses to chat. Each time he went outside he checked the cupolo on the Town Hall and The Hopkins House balcony. Each had a red light the telephone switchboard operator controlled, (Go to Page 2)

New Business Membership Spotlight . . .

CREEKSIDE COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

80 S. Columbus Street in Sunbury

Holistic counseling is based on the premise that clients deserve to have a life you love and relationships that fulfill you. We all have times of change, challenge or crisis that can be overwhelming. Together with clients, the holistic support needed to help sort through experiences and live in a way that feels right is provided.

Adults can schedule an appointment or seek more information by contacting:

Creekside Counseling and Wellness,
80 S. Columbus Street,
Sunbury, Ohio, 43074

email:

creeksidecounselingandwellness@gmail.com

or call: 740-330-4310

Red Light, Continue from Page 1

The telephone office was in a small house where the Chamber of Commerce is today. When residents needed the marshal or the fire department, they rang "Central" who turned on the red lights from the switchboard. The marshal ran to the office to see what was needed. The operator had the numbers for the firemen and she was already calling each one.

Across the street near the Gazebo in front of the Myers Inn, there is a very big rectangular rock. It covers a cistern which was used by the fire department. There

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

Calendar of Events

April 9 6 p.m. BWAHS Trustees Meet
April 9:15 p.m. Program: "Dakota Sioux Wars of 1862" with Van Young
See page 1 for details
April 26 10a.m. Souders 3rd Graders will visit

MYERS INN MUSEUM IS OPEN
Saturdays 10-3 Sundays 12-4

Private Tours may be arranged by calling 740-965-3582 and leave your phone number, Your call will be returned

was another one diagonally across the square at the corner of Vernon and Cherry Streets.

The first fire truck had tanks which looked like big milk cans. Water was pumped into these from the cisterns then pumped onto the fire.

When not in use the firetruck was stored inside the north door of the Town Hall. When you look at the existing door remove the glass side panels and insert 2 wooden doors which opened outwards.

It was no wonder fires when once started took down much of the block.

I guess you can say this was a Red Light District just not what I thought of when I saw the light on the balcony.

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For information email info@BigWalnutHistory.org or Call 740-965-1154 and leave a message

Who Was Peter R. Van Houten

By Polly Horn

In the February newsletter I had an article explaining my quest to find who was Peter VanHouten, the blind minister, and who made the monument for him which took first place in the Ohio State Fair in 1851 sculpture contest. Where was it before it came to Sunbury?

I listed Sunbury families I knew were related to him.

Paul Henry Miller read the article and sent a copy to former Sunbury resident, Fred Stith. Fred's sister, Marty, was a year older than me but our paths crossed many times. When I started a Day Camp for Girl Scouts at the Conservation Club, Marty donated equipment her girls no longer used. Later she became interested in her family genealogy so we met in Community Library so I could help her,

Fred did not know who made the monument but he sent me a copy of the "Will of John Lightpipe." I remember Marty and I laughing about the will and wondering if one could refuse such an inheritance. I was suppose to ask Prosecutor Duncan Whitney about the legality of the will but I forgot.

John Leibheit (the correct spelling of his name) was born in Braunschweig, Germany. in 1750, He fought in a war in Germany before immigrating to this country,

The Will was written in September 1826 about six years after John's wife, Mary "Polly" Duffy had died. Their daughter Margaret Catherine called "Peggy" Leibheit was apparently an only child born in N.J. in 1790. In 1820, she married David "Hendrick" Van Houten an American Revolution soldier who earned a Bounty Land Warrant.

When the Will was written in 1826, they lived in Sussex, N. J. and had 8 children, the third was Peter R VanHouten born in October 13, 1814. According to his grandfather's Will, Peter was lame and blind.

Apparently grandfather wanted to be sure this unfortunate grandson was taken care of so he left all of his estate after his bills were paid, to Peter with exception that "David and Peggy were to have use of it during their natural lives, they at all times finding his grandson Peter sufficient food and raiment and taking such care of him as his situation may require in sickness and health."

Further David and Margaret in consideration of the use of the estate must lay out \$50 yearly during their lives upon the farm whereon John lived by way of fencing and repairs and necessary buildings."

I sent a copy of the will to our member Judge Alan Norris for his take on it. He replied, "The will is confusing. Essentially Lightpipe wants to take care of his grandson Peter by giving Peter ownership of all of Lightpipe's property. ("I give unto him his heirs and assign forever"), subject to David Vanhoutan (Peter's father) and Margaret (Lightpipe's daughter) having the use of the property during their lifetime ("during their natural lives") so long as they care for Peter. At their death, Peter gets full use of the property (he can sell it, or will it to anyone he pleases). Should Peter die during the lifetimes of either David or Margaret, he/she could continue to use the property until both die, when title to the property would pass to Peter's heirs.

"Life estates were common in the 19th Century (and earlier). Example: Suppose Jack and Jill marry, and have 2 children. Jill dies. Jack remarries Mary; no children are born of that marriage. Jack is on his deathbed. If he leaves all his property to Mary, and she remarries Jim, under the old common law, her property becomes her new husband's, leaving Jack and Jill's kids out. Or, Jack can leave a life estate to Mary, with title to Jack and Jill's kids, at Mary's death. Jim will have no right to interfere with Mary's use of the property during her life (she can't sell or will it). Jack and Jill's kids get the property from Jack's will, not from Mary.

"Life estates are rare these days, due to wives now having full property rights!"

Thanks to Alan and Carol Norris for sending me the explanation of the will.

Peter's parents ended up with 11 children. After David died, Margaret applied for a Widows Pension but I did not see if she got it. Researchers say she died in Prospect, Marion Co., Ohio, in 1863.

It is interesting to note the misspelling of the name Lightpipe as Lightpipe. Both John and his daughter Margaret signed the will with their X mark so perhaps they did not know the correct spelling.

*Peter Van Houten's
Mother
Margaret Catherine
Leibhipe Van Houten*



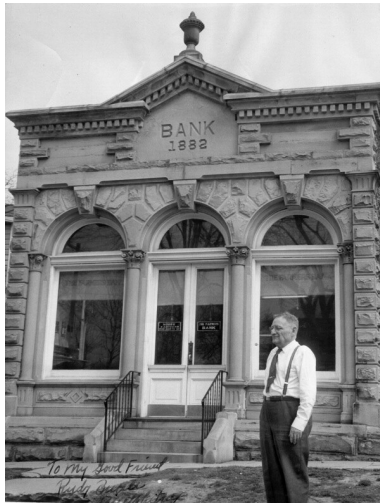
Raccoon Who Saved The Farmer's Bank ***By Polly Horn***

The Farmer's Bank was originally started in 1872 in a frame building facing the south side of the square. In 1882 the bank was prosperous enough for a new stone facility at 28 E. Cherry Street.

Stone was quarried at the end of Cherry St. in a quarry that once belonged to the Burrer family. A crew of Italian stone cutters were brought in to cut the stone into various shapes - even round columns, fluted pilasters and finals. The decorative pedestal for the peak was sculpted from a single block. It is now in the backyard of the former Burrer home at 46 N. Columbus Street

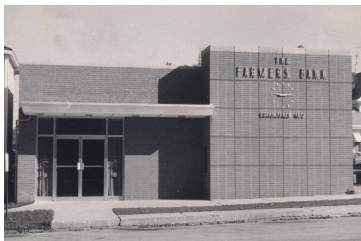
The bank vault was a large metal box which stood up on 4 legs like the Wells Fargo vaults popular in the early cowboy movies.

Before electricity, one night robbers broke into the front door of the Farmer's Bank, used dynamite to blow open the vault, but left without touching a cent in the vault. You can imagine the surprise of banker Rudy Burrer when he found the money all in the vault. They determined the stuffed raccoon became airborne when the dynamite went off and probably touched a robber before landing near the front door. It was enough to scare them into running without the cash. The raccoon was brushed off and put on the new vault.



Banker Rudy Burrer - 1960

Years went by and the bank continued to grow. In 1960 the stone bank was too small so a larger brick one was to replace it. The town added a second north door to the Town Hall and added a vault in the northwest corner of the west room so banking could continue while a new bank was built on the site of the stone bank. It was ready for the town's Sesquicentennial.



***The Farmers Bank
in 1966***

no place for the raccoon who saved the bank. All were afraid to throw away. The lady who cleaned the bank offered to take the racoon home until the directors, could decide where to put it.

However there was a problem with the new bank. The vault was built into the wall so there was

When he retired in 1965, Rudy was President and Chairman of the Board of Directors and his nephew Carleton Burrer was promoted to cashier. In 1965 Farmers merged with First National in Delaware and Carleton became a vice president and manager of the Sunbury office. He retired in 1974 ending over 70 years of Burrers with the bank. Later the bank became City National Bank which was purchased by PNC in 2010. Many thanks to Rudy Burrer who shared his stories with me.

In 1980, Community Library was having an International Fair on the Village Square. A Professor from Capital University was set up to collect folklore from residents. My job was to find people who would talk with him. Henry Stith told him the same story Rudy Burrer had told me about the raccoon. When he walked out the door I asked where he heard the story. "I more than heard it, I have the raccoon. My mother was the bank custodian." After Henry died, his wife Alita called and said we were the only two who knew why she had a raccoon in her living room. Would I like it for the museum? Of course!

In 2012 ,members of the Stith family donated Lillie Mae Stith's parlor organ to the Myers Inn Museum. At that time Ken Crowl told us she was the lady who cleaned the bank. Fred reminded me of the conversation. Sure enough the "Family Chart for Van Houten" states Lillie Mae Heil born Dec. 1906 in Porter married Henry Harrison Stith in Trenton. She had two sons: Larue was the father of Fred and Marty and Henry was the father of Roger, Ann and Philip.

Jessie, who I mentioned in February, was Lillie Mae's mother.

THANKS to Grace Ellen who gave Paul a BWAHS membership and to Paul who sent the newsletter to Fred, to Fred who sent me John's will, to Alan and Carol for explaining the will, to Pat who gave me the VanHouten Genealogy, to Rudy who told me the bank stories, to Henry who had the raccoon, to Aleta who gave it to the Myers Inn Museum. He has become the museum mascot. Ask any 3rd grader who has visited!

The Solar Eclipse in 1963

The Eclipse was to be my topic for this month. I remember seeing an almost total one in my youth so I thought Dad would have written about it in his 7" thick book of columns but it was when he was ill.

He brought us 4" square negatives from his Speed Graphic camera to protect our eyes. As the moon passed over the sun our world grew dark with just a little sun on top, I remember the goosebumps on my arms when Dad said, what would prehistoric people or the American Indians think who saw this without knowing what was happening?

Need glasses, check with Community Library!