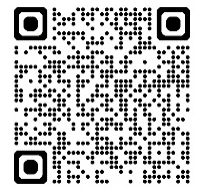




# Old Tyme Chronical

PUBLISHED BY BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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## No Program in December

Traditionally there is no program in December for the Big Walnut Area Historical Society. Instead we hope you will all attend Christmas On The Square and visit the Myers Inn between 4 p.m. until the parade and from the parade until 8p.m. on Saturday, December 7. If you would like to bring a batch of dozen homemade cookies for the event, call Alice Chapan, 614-325-3934.

Roger Roberts will once again be the Town Crier keeping everyone advised of the happenings of the evening. The local OSU Alumni Brass Group will play on our porch. Rick Helwig will portray a Civil War Santa in the Tavern Room for photo ops. Docents will be on hand to tell you about the displays.

Since this is the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, Marian Whitney's Scrapbook of Sunbury News articles of local men and women who served in WWII will be available for you to look up your relative or friends if they were from eastern Delaware County. Bring your camera if you wish a copy of any of the pages.

Christmas on the Square is now sponsored by the Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce.

## Plan ahead for the January 14<sup>th</sup>

Our program chairman, Roger Roberts is bringing back a popular program by asking each person to bring something to the meeting to share.

It can be a family heirloom, or an antique which you may or may not know the history of it.

It may be a "What's It?" - something you have no idea what it is but you inherited it, found it or were gifted it. Maybe someone will know what it is.

It may be a piece of Memorabilia which means something to you because you remember the vacation when you stood in line to purchase it, but will your descendants treasure it?

Our president, Rick Helwig used to appraise antiques so he may be able to give you some insight.

Light refreshments will round out the evening.

## History of Christmas on the Square

*By Polly Horn*

Community Library opened in a former meat market on Cherry Street in 1945 and moved into the Town Hall on the Sunbury Square in 1955. Each year they celebrated Hanging of the Greens with local businesses when they decorated their buildings.

In December 1978, Library Friends served a combination Oyster and Chili Dinner in memory of the Oyster Dinner served at the opening of Colonel Frambes' Institute on December 1, 1868 (now the Town Hall). This meal was served upstairs in the historic Knights of Pythius Hall (now Surve). Since I did not like oysters, Neva Kintner and I made the Oyster Stew while Mary Ellen Miller oversaw the making of Chili. We quickly discover children would not eat either so we added peanutbutter and jelly sandwiches with carrot and celery sticks. Father Christmas joined the festivities so children would not be confused when Santa visited the local stores. Entertainment included historic tableaux. Years later the dinner moved to the Sunbury Methodist Church to avoid the stairs.

My brother Duncan Whitney had been stationed in Albuquerque while in the Air Force and told us about the luminaries in New Mexico and this seemed like a good thing for Sunbury Square. Around 1980, we decided to add these to Sunbury square. Traditional paper bags with sand and candles did not work so we collected gallon milk jugs and cut the slanted area out, put in sand and utility candles from Shaw Pharmacy.

With Bob Domigan's help we spaced the jugs on all the sidewalks on the square and lit them at dusk. Using a skateboard, my three children, David, Stephanie and Bradd and a couple of friends took turns checking for ones that needed to be relit. I ordered pizza for us and Dan Shaw showed up with a beverage. The weather was very balmy with a light fog which frosted the trees. It was a winter wonderland. We hated to leave when the candles burned down.

The event grew under Christy Manor who was a business owner, a Library Friend and a Girl Scout leader. She added a parade to the event. One of the highlights was Chris Hale driving a pair of Charlie Hale's Belgium horses pulling a Yule Log to the Square where a leader John Faber, did a ceremony to light the log.

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### ***Christmas on the Square continued from page 1***

My 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl scouts held a Moravian Love feast in the Hopkins House, Phyllis Quelette taught the girls how to make the special bread for the event, Bob Quelette made a Moravian Star to hang on the porch.

The other Girl Scout Troops decorated Christmas Trees which were given to a local group to give to homes which might not have a tree.

Most business stayed open to thank the people who had supported them throughout the year. Many served refreshments.

Churches had nativity scenes. Choirs provided Village Carolers. Community Library provided candles for the people gathered to light the Christmas Tree on the Square.

The Sunbury News carried a big photo page of the 1982 Christmas on the Square celebration. I added it to the Local History part of our website. You can see it at [www.BigWalnutHistory.org](http://www.BigWalnutHistory.org).

Each year the event grew as language students sang carols in Spanish or French. Peggy Linnabary played her harp in the Myers Inn. The Post Office had a special cart to send letters express to Santa. IGA shopping carts collected cans for the food bank.

Jennifer Lieurance taught a group of people sign language in Community Library, and they came to the Myers Inn to sign carols.

My most memorable Christmas on the Square was in 2018 when Pearl Harbor Day fell that day. After the lighting of the tree and carols, most of the people left. There were about a dozen men and women with their

lighted candles in a ring around the tree. I saw tears running down their cheeks. Slowly they left until there were 3 of us. I stayed with them as they remembered. Eventually the last two candles went out and we quietly left.

Throughout the years other things have been added to the evening. Ice carving, horse drawn carriage rides, a lighted parade, roasted chestnuts and many more I'll probably remember tomorrow. Be sure to come this year to see what new things will be added. Don't forget to stop in the Myers Inn and look up members of your family who served in WWII. Bring a camera if you wish a photo.

## **Calendar of Events**

*Saturday, December 7 4-8 p.m.*

*Christmas on the Square*

*Open 4p.m. until Parade*

*Open following parade until 8 p.m.*

*Tuesday, December 10, 6 p.m. BWAHS*

*Board of Trustees*

*No Program*

***Myers Inn Museum***

***Open Saturdays 10-3***

***Open Sundays 12-4***

***To schedule a group tour at another time,***

***CALL 740-965-3582 AND***

***LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH YOUR***

***PHONE NUMBER***

***We will return your call.***

## ***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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***Send with check for dues to BWAHS***

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

## **Museum Adds Memorabilia**

Lee McAfee of Columbus visited the Myers Inn Museum with some items from her husband, David McAfee who worked in the Sunbury Nestles plant until it closed. He was short some time until he was eligible for retirement so our Sunbury Nestles plant arranged for him to transfer into the New Orleans plant so he could retire with his pension in tact. He kept a 1993 Nestles' Rose Parade Poster and commemorative pins for both 1993 and 1994.