



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Granary to Blacksmith's Forge . . .

Back on July 25, 2009, volunteers from the historical society and the General Rosecrans re-enactors began taking down a granary on the Bill Comisford farm and moving it to our lot for a barn and blacksmith forge.

Following Rick Helwig's design, the crew worked until the final dedication on July 4th. 2012 when he used the sun and black powder to light the forge.



Rick Helwig, Judge Henry Shaw and Bob Cheadle reflect on the past two years as the forge is lighted.

You can follow this process on the homepage of our website at <http://bigwalnuthistory.org>.



Gravel Added Around Base of Our Barn

Using a trailer belonging to Rick Hekwig, Damon Bower and Chris Killeya got gravel from Duane Yarnell to fill in a ditch around the barn and blacksmith's forge to slow washing dirt away and groundhogs digging under the barn. Duane had the equipment to help load the gravel but shovels and elbo grease were used to unload it. Rain washed the dirt off the gravel.

Thanks, guys!

Coming July 9 at 7:30. . .

Helwig & Art of Blacksmith

The art of the blacksmith has been practiced for 1000s of years. There are references to it in the Bible and it play a significant role in the mythology of many ancient cultures. As expansion happened in the US, the blacksmith was one of the first craftsman to set up shop in a new community and provided an invaluable service to those sutlers. The need for the blacksmith didn't end there. Up until the early 1900's, blacksmiths served as a key member of many rural communities.

Join the BWAHS's resident blacksmith, Rick Helwig, as he discusses the art and history of the blacksmith, as well as demonstrating some of the techniques of the craft. Rick was apprenticed to a blacksmith when he was 9 and has been working as a historic blacksmith for over 50 years.

This program will be held at the barn in the side yard of the Myers Inn. Please bring your own chair and be prepared to spend an enjoyable summer evening outside.

July 4th at The Myers Inn

Many thanks to all those who volunteered at the Inn to set up, give tours, work in the forge and share local history with our visitors. It would not have happened without you, Hope you enjoyed the day as much as the visitors did. I was pleased to see docents moving to new areas to learn more about the history.

It was good to see our members Forrest and Glenn Hale driving tractors in the parade.

I was sorry to see the trash left in front at the end of the day. This was the first time people seated in front of the Myers Inn to see the parade

Our next major event is Labor Day. There is plenty of time for new docents to learn a tale or two. If you are interested, complete a postcard from the table at the front door and turn it in to the docent in charge.

NEW MEMBER BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT WANDLE & ASSOCIATES

Allen Wandle began providing accounting services in Sunbury in 1999!

With a team of Certified Public Accountants, they can do Tax Preparation, Accounting, Auditing, Payroll and Financial Planning.

Contact these professionals can be done at:

Walk in at 25 S. Columbus St., Sunbury,
43074-9353. Phone-740-965-1588

Or mail to P.O. Box 161, Sunbury, 43074-0161



Iron Got a Facelift

Wrought iron railings, and the boot scrapers have been getting a face lift. Normally we tend to take these useful things for granted but when we need them, we are pleased to note Damon Bower gave them a fresh coat of paint.

Barn Siding Secured

Chris Killeya worked on the battens on the Board and Batten siding on the barn. The battens add to the appearance of the barn but also help seal it against bad weather. Time loosen some of the nails which Chris fixed.

It takes a lot of work to keep the property inside and outside looking great, safe and up ro date. BWAHS relies on volunteers to do this.

Warren and Karen Owen take care of the flowers in front in back of the Inn. Roger Roberts does those on the side. All take patience and many trips to the Myers Inn.

Check what these volunteers did when you come to the program July 9th.

Calendar of Events

July 9 at 6 p.m. BWAHS Trustees Meet
July 9 at 7:30 p.m. BWAHS Program "Art and History of Blacksmiths by Rick Hewig - in the barn Bring your lawn chair!"

Myers Inn Museum is Open
10-3 on Saturdays, 12-4 on Sundays

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**

BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Dave Martin
Mel Meyers
Porter Welch
Roger Roberts

Ralph and Judith Edmond Visited the Myers Inn Museum

On a Saturday afternoon Ralph and Judy Edmond from Bellville came to the Myers Inn to bring some things back to the town where they belonged. One item was a very large framed Sunbury High School diploma for Wilma Osborn, Ralph's third cousin. The smaller two items were framed photos of the inside of Ward's Hardware Store.

Wilma Osborn

Wilma's Diploma, dated May 16, 1915 with the Class Motto: Out of School Life Into Life's School, will hang in the upstairs hall with the photos of Sunbury graduates. Milton Utley, a long time educator in Sunbury, signed the diploma as District Superintendent and died at 87 in 1916. Also, P. S. Stanforth signed as Clerk of the Board of Education. He was married to my grandfather's sister, Winona Whitney.

Wilma Osborn was born in 1898 in Sparta, to Joseph Clark Osborn and Luellen Taylor Osborn. Before the 1900 census the family moved to the Clem Allen farm on Creek Road and there was an older sister Harriet called Hattie who became a popular teacher in Vans Valley and later in Carters Corners schools. In the 1905 they built the home on High Street before the Croton Road intersection. Joseph, known as Doc, was a Veterinarian for many years. They were members of the First Baptist Church. They died 7 months apart in 1942 and are buried in Sunbury Memorial Park.

Wilma graduated from Sunbury High School in 1915 married a man named Rowe. The marriage ended in divorce.

Charles Ward

Charles Ward was the last of 8 children of Williard and Anna Myers Ward. Born in 1893 in Washington Courthouse he graduated from Bliss College in 1911 and worked as a clerk for the Wolf Brothers Corporation in Columbus until he joined the army in WWI as Private 1st class, was sent to France where he served at a medical storage station until he was discharged as a Sargent in Sept 1919. He came to Sunbury in 1922 and married Wilma Rowe in 1923

In 1930 they lived in Columbus and Charles was a lineman for a telephone company. By 1932 they had returned to Sunbury and started the Point filling station at 165 High Street, Charles and a partner added ice to there income. Ice was cut from the Big Walnut Creek,



*Chuck and Wilma Ward's "The Point"
Photo provided by Gary and Jamie Milburn*

stored in straw then deliver it to homes in the summer.

In 1933 they added homemade Ice cream to the store merchandise. In 1938 they had to add a room to the business.

In the 1940 census, they still lived on the Point. In 1945 Chuck was appointed a mail carrier for the duration of WWII. The couple lived in 207 High Street in the 1950 census. This was Doc Osborn's house.

In 1952 Chuck bought the Sunbury Hardware at 34 South Vernon Street (now Branch Pizza) which they ran until he retired in 1962.

Chuck was Past Commander the American Legion 457, a fifty year Mason, and a member of the Scottish Rite and Shrine when he died in 1965.

She was the last living Charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary 457, a member of Eastern Star and active in the Sunbury Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1966. When Wilma died in 1983 at age 91, she lived in her family home on High Street.

The People Book

Much of the information for this article came from "The People Book," a 1976 Bicentennial project: I talked Ruth Truxall and Esther McCormick into spearheading it. Volunteers typed and put it together. Margaret Garee stored the original pages in her freezer. Carleton and Dilly Burrer indexed it. I spent many days recopying the typed pages to get it ready for the printer. Dilly Burrer paid to get 100 copies of the 400 page book printed for Friends of the Library to sell. Today it is in Community Library and Myers Inn Museum.



A Business Card tucked in the frame of one of the photos was probably printed in the Sunbury News print shop. Note the phone number was a Worth exchange.

One photo was taken at 2:20 and the other at 2:24 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 1955 - probably for the Sunbury News.

The top photo was taken facing Vernon Street. The bottom one is facing the back. Note Wilma in back stocking shelves.

Many thanks to Ralph and Judy for bringing these items to the Myers Inn Museum for everyone to see.

The Point

I ran out of time to do more research on The Point.

When you look at the photo on the previous page, The Point pointed into the intersection of High Street and Rainbow Avenue which goes off to the right.

A white mobile diner on Rainbow shows in this photo and my classmates remember going there.

If you remember anything about The Point, the Diner, the formation of Rainbow Avenue, please let me know and I will continue this story next month.

Pollyho@columbus.rr.com

*Preserving yesterday,
today, for tomorrow!*

