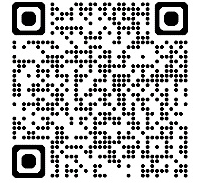




Old Tyme Chronical

PUBLISHED BY BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



VOLUMN XXIV

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Coming October 8 . . .

Tracing an Ancestor Through Civil War Records



Traci Fravel

Ms. Traci Fravel will address the Big Walnut Area Historical Society monthly meeting beginning at 7:30 on Tuesday evening, October 8th in the Myers

Inn Museum.

Gilbert Waters Fravel (1838 to 1923) was one of the first Fravels to be born in Ohio after they moved from Woodstock, Virginia in 1833. Gilbert was the first from Harlem Township to enlist in the Civil War. He is Traci's Paternal Great-Great-Grandfather. She has made it her mission to learn all about his history in the Civil War.

Traci is the daughter of the late Terry and Teresa Fravel. Her father served in the Navy. However, I made an error in the article on our website and Terry was the son of Jim and Mary Fravel, not one of the four Fravel brothers who served in the Army in WWII.

Like all of the BWAHS monthly programs, admission is free and open to the public. Myers Inn Museum is located at the intersection of Columbus and Granville Street across from Sunbury Square. It is open for tours 10-3 on Saturdays and 12-4 on Sundays.

Newsletter Has a New Look

Hopefully you noticed the QR Code (the box in the upper right corner of this page). This code will take you to the homepage of our website if you scan it with your cell phone. If you are like me and have an old cell phone you will have to download a QR Code APP to make it work. These have been around for a long time but it took our new webmaster, Chris Killeya, to put one on our front door and on the tea cart in the back hall. A visitor from Cleveland ask if they went to our

website and was thrilled when I said yes. She scanned them, said she would check it out, leave us an online donation and visit on their next trip to the area. Enjoy!

Big Walnut Area Historical Society Joins Library's Cultural Pass Plus

Cathy Neja of the Community Library Staff is adding a new service for library card holders and ask if we would like to participate. Since we do not charge to go thru the Myers Inn Museum, we had to come up with another benefit.

We have put heart stickers on many items in our Gift Shop which are eligible for \$1 off the cost when the patron shows their Community Library membership card or a BWAHS membership card which Damon Bower mails to you when you annually renew your membership.

Details for this service are on the Community Library website at <https://www.yourcl.org> and in the library.



Cleaning, new paint make lights sparkle!

Our porch lights got a facelift when Chris Killeya helped Damon Bower take the lights down so the lights could go to Damon's workshop for a good cleaning and a new coat of paint. Like the beautiful flowers Warren and Karen Owen have been watering sometimes three times a day during the heat, upkeep for the grounds and facility is done by volunteers. Won't you volunteer?

SAMBUCA'S

Sambuca's is a family owned market and greenhouse open-year around, offering a wide inventory of speciality foods, plants and gardening products, and seasonal holiday items.

**Located at 577 North Walnut Street (on S.R. 3)
Galena, Ohio 43021 Phone: 740-965-4422**

Store hours: Sun-Fri 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Email: sambucagreenhouse@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

October 8 at 6 p.m. BWAHS Trustee Meeting

October 8 at 7:30 BWAHS Program:

Gilbert W. Fravel, Civil War Vet.

By Traci Fravel

October 17, 11:00 Prairie Run 3rd Graders Visit

October 19, 1-3 Heritage Day

Myers Inn Museum

and Gift Shop

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

Heritage Day

Next to Christmas on the Square, Heritage Day is my favorite community holiday. Early October has nice weather for a visit to the Myers Inn and remember why we are here,

Saturdays there is a lot of traffic in town how about joining us mid day on Saturday, October 19?

If you are willing to help, please let me know ASAP so we can get a little publicity. Call 740-965-3582, leave your name and phone number. All Suggestions are welcome!

Because of You, We Did It!

By Polly Horn

On August 30, we had to say good by to another pillar of our historical society.

I first met **June Campbell** when she became the Clerk-Treasurer for Community Library. She fit right into the library family and wasn't thrown by the payroll program I had written for our computer. She was a polished lady who wore high heels to work even when her office was on the 3rd floor. No elevator!

Years went by then I became acting director of the library with the assignment to get a bond issue on the ballot, pass it and build a library. June was my right hand thru this.

Getting the bond issue on the ballot was the easiest part. It passed the first time for which we were very grateful. Unfortunately the land we thought we owned was missing a 15'x15' section right in the middle. We drove all over the school district looking for land with utilities. When this did not work, we went to Sunbury Council to get the Miller farm switched from agriculture to commercial so we could build adjacent to the existing town. June had experience with building trades which was an amazing help.

There were times funding at the library was tight. One month we could not make payroll so I instructed June to hold mine but not tell the staff. When I read the financial sheet I discovered she had also held hers.

When I could not find a buyer for the Myers Inn and we decided to form the historical society, June kept tabs on records the volunteers kept and reminded us of the forms non-profits had to file saving us from paying fines.

I was shocked when the state called an audit of June's books. An hour into the audit in my kitchen, we discovered It was a blank sheet of paper that was not filed because I took it out before I mailed the report thinking it was there by accident. I picked up the blank paper with our number from a stack of scratch paper on my counter, ending the audit. June sighed then laughed at me.

June and her husband Paul were always on hand for Christmas on the Square in the Myers Inn even before we had walls or heat. Paul would get the fireplaces burning and June served hot mulled cranapple juice which became our annual tradition.

When Paul died, June paid to get the Myers Inn kitchen finished and furnished in his name. This asset made many meals and teas a reality for the historical society.

Thanks for everything, June.

More from the Point

by Polly Horn

While looking into the Ward's Point for the July newsletter I picked up tidbits of our local history which I want to share with you.

I knew of the McFarland addition which included land for the cemetery but had missed the Blakely Heights Addition. This was added in 1916 and included over 200 building lots.

My problem with the Point was CCC Highway.

Like Moses Byxbe before them, the Myers brothers, Lawrence and William, probably followed the Portage Indian Trail which came thru what would become Granville, Byxbe had Azaiah Root (yes, Chauncy Root's ancestor) survey the route from Berkshire back. Byxbe returned east to sell land to more settlers. I know many say Byxbe came thru Worthington but it does not look like that to me. He did have to go to Franklinton to record his deeds.

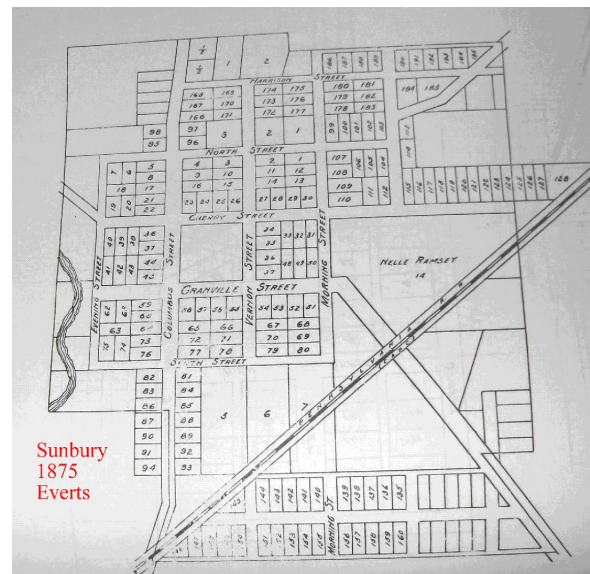
When the Myers brothers arrived at the crossed path of the Walhonding Indian Trail (now the intersection of Granville and Columbus Streets), the land all around the intersection belonged to them so this was an excellent place to start their town. As far as I can tell there was only one other settler in the proposed Village of Sunbury, Hezekiah Roberts who had a cabin at 60-61 Columbus St. He ran a tavern in a log cabin near his cabin. The brothers paid him to incorporate the property with theirs. There is more about his story on our website under Genoa Township.

The property was sold to Col. Frambes who ran a school in the former tavern until he built the brick school in

the middle of Sunbury Square. The front of the house was replaced with a frame house which burned and was replaced by a new frame building which encloses the log school and the house.

Indian Trails often became roads but in the beginning they were indeed trails to be traveled by foot or horse. If a tree grew in the trail stayed there so wagons and carts were not able to easily use the trails. It is not surprising that very few years passed between the platting of Sunbury and the State of Ohio's decision to make a road out of the Walhonding Trail. Early maps show the trail going straight up the what is now 61 to Mansfield but Ohio curved the road to go to Mt. Vernon which was being heavily settled at that time. Making a road consisted of cutting down the trees in the road and laying logs over the wet spots so the wheels would not get stuck. The stagecoach route from Sunbury went diagonally across the Worthington Galena Road to Franklinton (founded in 1797) because there was no Columbus until 1812.

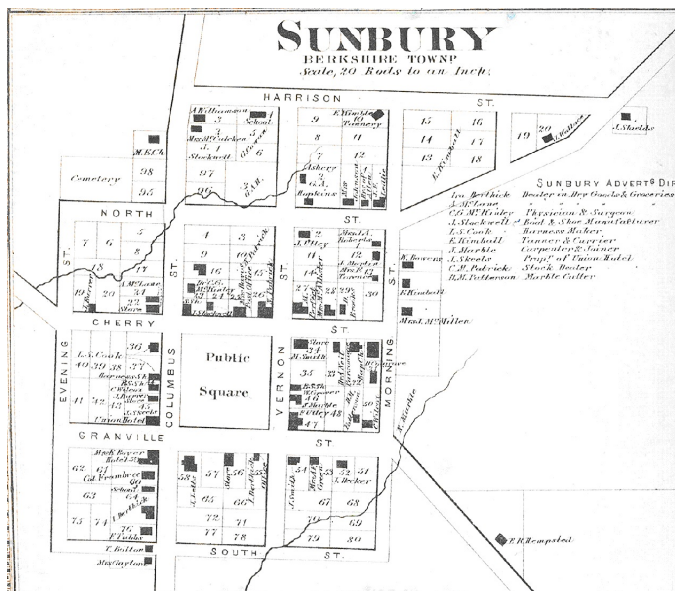
CCC to 3-C Highway to State Route 3



Sunbury in Everts 1875 Atlas

Before Road Maps, books were published with the recommended routes for drivers. (Check out the Green Book in the Myers Inn.) 3-C Highway began showing in these books as early as 1918. Mike Buettner is the authority I used to check routes. In his 1922 "Green Book" 3-C (Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati) road came into Sunbury from Galena on Columbus Street, turned right on Cherry Street, left on Otis Street then High Street out of town.

The 1866 Beers Atlas shows North Street angling northeast at Morning Street towards Mt. Vernon. But the 1873 Everts Atlas shows a 2+ block street with another street angling thru the intersection at Harrison Street on toward Mt. Vernon. When Harrison Street was added and the Sunbury School



1866 Beers Atlas Map

built in 1878, the highway was routed from Columbus Street to Harrison Street across it to High Street thus avoiding the North Street jog.

FYI: **State Route 3** began to show on maps in 1923.



Ward's Point Store with the white metal Sunbury Diner to the right of it on Rainbow Avenue

I come from a family of 7 which rarely ate out so I have no memory of this Sunbury Diner.

Warren Owen told me there were two restaurants on Rainbow. According to the 1940 Census, Abraham Beck of 172 Rainbow was the proprietor of 1 in 1940. His wife Letitia was his helper. The other was owned by Dwight Stemen of 48 Rainbow, a merchant with a restaurant. 19 year old Beatrice Paul, who lived at 50 Rainbow with her parents Richard and Vera Paul was a waitress in a restaurant. This had to be the Diner!

In the school yearbooks beginning in 1948 thru 1951, I found ads for Sunbury Diner. It was amazing because it was open

24 hours a day. Phone 200.

At one of our monthly class luncheons, I ask my classmates from the class of 1957 what they could tell me about the Sunbury Diner. Judy Warner Buel started telling about the diner and the people around the area.

Wayne Martin said he and Joe Compton went there for breakfast before going to school.

Jim Gross delivered the Columbus Citizen, which was an afternoon and Sunday paper. It later became the Citizen-Journal, the morning paper. "We picked the papers up in front Don Meredith's International Harvester Store on Rainbow Ave. It was real close to Main's Trucking (now Vergil's Jerkie). After delivering the papers on Sunday, my dad and I would stop at the Sunbury Diner near Rainbow Ave. and High Street, for a coffee for him and an hot chocolate for me. It was a good time for both of us. I love to think back about those times."

Brigitta Lambert had a Beauty Shop and did Vera Paul's hair. In 1940 census, Sadie Clayton Paul, wife of Frank Paul, lived on Rainbow and was a cook in a restaurant. Vera was married to their son, Richard and they had 2 children, Beatrice and Kenneth.

Vera owned and ran the Sunbury Diner for years serving good food and happy memories. Perhaps the most special memory of the Sunbury Diner was its frequent patron, Bob Hope, who made a meal stop on his road trips from Cincinnati to Cleveland and back. After all the 3-C Highway was only a few yards away.

Thanks to all who shared their memories. Learn more history at www.BigWalnutHistory.org

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 _____

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