Myers Inn Museum

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From the President's Desk . . .

Central Ohio in June 1775: A Tense Frontier Poised For Conflict

by Mike Wise

In June 1775, central Ohio, located around the Scioto River valley, was a Native-controlled frontier with no recorded battles or treaties. Yet, it simmered with tensions that foreshadowed its role in the American Revolutionary War. Home to the Shawnee and Delaware tribes, this region was a critical theater of competing interests among Native Americans, British authorities, and American colonists, shaped by the aftermath of Lord Dunmore's War, the Quebec Act, and the Revolution's early stirrings.

The Shawnee, residing in villages such as Chillicothe, still grappled with the Treaty of Camp Charlotte (October 1774), which ceded lands south of the Ohio River to Virginia following Lord Dunmore's War. In June 1775, specific conflicts had not arisen in central Ohio, but the Shawnee and Delaware remained vigilant, watching for colonial incursions and reinforcing their connections with the British. British agents, providing arms and supplies from posts like Detroit, strengthened Native resistance to American expansion, setting the stage for future skirmishes.

The Quebec Act of 1774, which annexed the Ohio Territory to Quebec, continued to restrict colonial settlement in central Ohio. This frustrated American frontiersmen from Virginia and Pennsylvania, who desired the region's fertile lands along the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. Although permanent settlements were absent in June 1775, small groups of explorers likely traveled the trails of central Ohio, raising concerns. The enforcement of the acts strength British and Native control, fueling colonial resentment.

The American Revolution, which ignited in April 1775, gained momentum by June with George Washington's appointment as commander-in-chief on June 19, 1775.

Central Ohio's lack of notable events in June 1775 illustrates its isolation and the brief pause after Lord Dunmore's War. However, the determination (Goto 4)

Coming August 12 at 7:30 p.m. to Myers Inn

Mike Wise as Captain George Wise

How Ohio Won The Civil War

On Tuesday Evening, August 12, our president, Mike Wise, will present his program "How Ohio Won the Civil War." Mike will portray Captain George M. Wise, his second great-uncle, who served as an adjutant in the Union's 43rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment under our hometown hero, Major General William S. Rosecrans. Mike will recount how Ohio's contributions to the Union war effort to suppress the Southern rebellion were critical in achieving victory and restoring the Union. Ohio contributed the third-largest number of men as soldiers and sailors, served as a significant transportation and supply hub through its railroads and proximity to key battle sites, and was a key manufacturer of weapons, supplies, and uniforms.

Additionally, Ohioans raised funds and established volunteer aid societies to support wounded and disabled soldiers. Many supported abolitionist movements and the Underground Railroad, and sustained the Union politically, with strong pro-Union sentiment prevailing in most of the state. Beyond political leaders such as Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, and U.S. Senator John Sherman, Ohio also contributed 134 generals for the Union effort, including Rosecrans, Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, George McClellan, Phil Sheridan, Irvin McDowell, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, and Delaware's own Rutherford B. Hayes.

Come hear how Ohio played a pivotal role in America's Civil War. The program will be in the meeting room of the Myers Inn which faces Sunbury Square at the intersection of Columbus and Granville Streets. Admission is free.

What Do The Farmer's Bank, Burrer's Tavern and Bakery and Sunbury Sidewalks Have In Common?

See Page 4 for answer.

What Happened to the Myers Inn Stagecoach Inn Museum

By Polly Horn

There are so many stories going around about what happened, I will tell you what we know for history.

A Sunbury Policeman called me about 8:15 p.m. on Friday, June 13. He said a car hit the Myers Inn and I was needed there. As I was driving I had visions of the front of the car buried into the Inn. Mark Parish, a BWAHS member, called to tell something was happening at the Myers Inn as I was driving.

My first sight was flashing lights. Everywhere I looked there were vehicles with lights flashing. I was so relieved to see the car with the hood up facing away from the building.

Mark Parish took this Photo from the Parking area across the Street.

After answering questions from a policeman, we went inside noting things that were damaged. I was relieved to see the Meeting Room seemed to be the only thing that was damaged. The curtain in the fourth window from the garage was askew as were the painting on the wall.
The upper floor and the basement had no obvious damage.

Bottom of Hitching Post near walk.

To assist with inventory, I called our President Mike Wise and a Trustee Doug Linnabary, who lives nearby and had them come in.
On the outside, the stone hitching post had been broken off at the ground and was in many pieces all the way to the south east door.

Note there are tire tracks thru the grass and up the walk almost to the garage entrance.

The car plowed thru the ramp hitting the corner of the building, then continued up the side of the building breaking the stone steps into the southeast room.

Left is the end of the ramp and the damage around the corner of the building.

Doug went home for visqueen, and a staple gun to cover the broken boards and keep rain out of the building.

He also brought caution tape since we could not move things until after the inspections for safety and insurance.

Doug Linnabary got this photo of the stolen Kia before the Columbus Police towed it away. It was getting very dark but hopefully you can see the flower barrel we turned right side up. Just a few hours earlier Roger Roberts and Warren Owen had planted flowers in this barrel. They were set aside and are now growing in the barrel again. In the photo you can see parts of the broken Hitching Post. In the lower right are the damaged steps going into the Art Studio.

The railing was bent back into the door, Stone steps loosened.

If you look up at the eaves under the roof, there is black oil spattered there.

I was puzzled as to why only one curtain in the meeting room was eschew.

I could not determine how the paint came off the upper side of the window left of the SE door. Finally Warren Owen and I found a piece of the hitching post next to the east door with paint on it. It hit hard enough to throw the curtain over the rod but did not break the glass.

We were closed over the weekend until the Building Inspector said the building was safe to use.

There are still a few things we cannot see which we continued from page 1 may need. If you have been with building since it was given to Community Library, you may remember when the sill broke. The original building, the 1820 addition and the 1894 addition were all built with a stone foundation and a wooden sill about 8" in diameter sitting on top of it. The wooden 4"x4" beams were nailed to the sill to brace the side walls. Because the car hit the corner we will not know if there is more damage until it is opened. Drywall nails popped in the meeting room.

All in all, we are very lucky on June 13th. There were no people on our walk or parked on the street.

Sunbury Police Report given to Sunbury Council at the June 18 meeting.

Pursuit ending on the square

A. Columbus Police were tracking a stolen vehicle and before they could get the aviation unit over it they lost the vehicle. Our Flock camera alerted officers that the stolen vehicle was north bound on Rt. 3 passing South Galena Rd. Officers located the stolen vehicle turning onto Granville St. from Rt. 3 heading towards the square. Our officers activated overhead lights to stop the vehicle, and it took off. The vehicle crashed into the Myers Inn causing damage to the rear and side of the structure.

B. The operator was a juvenile (17) from a foster home here in Sunbury. The juvenile was transported to the hospital to be medically cleared after the crash and is currently in custody at the Juvenile Detention Center being held on several felony charges.

From the President's Desk
continued from page 1

conflict as the Revolution progressed, hinting at impending raids and settlements in the years to come.

In summary, central Ohio in June 1775 was a volatile region influenced by Native vigilance, British policies, and revolutionary ripples, representing a frontier on the brink of transformation.

Stones for Sidewalks and Buildings

With the stone quarry on Walnut Street at the east end of Cherry Street, most of the sidewalks in Sunbury were stone. One learned to hop over the seams when roller skating on them. Other than a little moss under the trees, the walks were very maintenance free. Lou Guidotti led the campaign to get the stones removed because he thought people would fall on them. I do not remember this happening but it could.

The stone used in the walks around the square were larger than those in the residential areas. Community Library owned the Myers Inn then. We let people know we would take the stones. Some were used for our patio others stacked for someday.

Many stones from the quarry were used in buildings, such as The Farmer's Bank, the original Savings and Loan- both on Cherry Street, construction of foundations like the Myers Inn, in-ground cooling systems like under Burrer Tavern and Bakery.

The Burrer family owned the quarry both before the Burrer Mill and while other Burrers ran the mill.

Photo at thr right was taken in early 1915s on Morning Street a house or two south of North Street. Hermalee Ester, Ed Sparks and Millie Fay are in the photo on a stone sidewalk. The big white house is 110 North Street which is diagonally across the street from Lot #1 in Sunbury. The Carriage House to the left belongs to 110.

Diagonally across the intersection from this house is Sunbury's LOT #1, The large stone which marked this corner was moved to the Myers Inn and stands to front of the Museum.

I suspect the stones used to hold the banks back when the road was put under the railroad were also from the quarry but I am not sure about this.

Donna Denney

Sorry If You Missed This

Amazing Aviators Wings Against the Sun

Donna Denney presented her program to the BigWalnut Area Historical Society at the July monthly meeting to a room full of members and guests.

Donna is the daughter of Clayton Whisman, President of Sunbury High School's Class of 1942. Her Uncle, Walt Gross had a gasoline station at the corner of Columbus and Cherry Streets. One of our members who now lives in Kentucky, emailed to say he and his cousins worked for Walt when he managed the L&K at I-71.

We meant Donna when she donated her father's class composite photo to the Museum.

After Donna graduated from Westerville H.S., life took her to California where she married into the movie business. After her husband's death she knew she had to gather the info they had collected and make a documentary to honor all the WWII aviators and the Ghost Fleet of the Turk. She became the Executive producer for this video which was shown on PBS.

Due to technical difficulties I was unable to get the July Newsletter out to let you know about the program. I sent emails to those I have addresses for but there was not enough time to mail notices.
So sorry!

Photo is on loan from Rick Fay. His parents owned Fay's Market which was in today's Municipal Parking Lot.

Hermalee Ester, Ed Sparks and Millie Fay on Morning Street Sidewalk