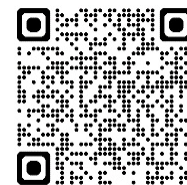


Old Tyme Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



VOLUME XXV

November 2025

From the President's Desk . . .

Fall of 1775: The Long Knives & the Shadow of Revolution

by Mike Wise

In the fall of 1775, central Ohio stood in the uneasy shadow of a growing war. While major battles between colonial rebels and British regulars raged far to the east, the ripples of revolution reached deep into the Ohio Country, unsettling Native nations, colonial traders, and British agents alike.

From their base in Detroit, British officials had long sought to forge alliances with the chiefs of the scattered Native villages of the Shawnee, Delaware (Lenape), and Wyandot. In October, British agents ramped up their efforts to enlist Native warriors by distributing trade goods and promising to defend Indigenous lands from further American settlement. Reports spread southward that the British planned to use the tribes as allies against frontier settlements in Kentucky and the upper Ohio Valley. These concerns grew stronger as a steady stream of scouts and traders reported that the Shawnee were once again debating whether to take up arms.

At the same time, while some Americans, mostly frontiersmen from Virginia and Pennsylvania, sought Native friendship to protect the frontier, others aimed to prevent Britain's Native allies from attacking western settlements. American leaders sent envoys westward to keep the fragile peace. Men like George Morgan and Alexander McKee (before his eventual defection to the British) encouraged Native neutrality, insisting that the colonies were fighting not against the tribes but against Parliament's tyranny. Despite the assurances, Native leaders remained skeptical. They saw little difference between the redcoats who once drew boundaries and the settlers who kept crossing them. But as news of rebellion spread across the Alleghenies, British influence began to wane.

Among the American frontiersmen were the so-called "Long Knives"—a term used by the Shawnee and Delaware for Virginians, named after the long hunting knives they carried and for their fierce reputation. The phrase became widespread during Lord Dunmore's War the previous year, when Virginia militia under Lord Dunmore and Andrew Lewis fought against the Shawnee and Mingo. From then on, "the Long Knives" became a symbol of Virginian soldiers and settlers moving west.

(Continue on page 2)

Coming Tuesday November 11 . . .



Van Young

"Squanto: The True Story of the Native American Behind the First Thanksgiving" *by Van Young*

Without this man's help as an interpreter, negotiator, and agricultural advisor, our Mayflower Pilgrims may not have lived through their early years at Plymouth. Their survival, albeit our survival, depended on this one man. Without him, we may be all speaking, French, Spanish or some other European language. His help contributed to the success of the Plymouth plantation, and the other colonies who will soon follow. Come learn about this fascinating and inspiring story.

Van Young is a regular presenter at the Myers Inn Museum. His programs are always well planned and presented. This is a perfect way to start your Thanksgiving holiday.

Brad Orndorf's program about the Native American Tools had to be canceled at the last minute when a large group used the Sunbury Square for a Charlie Kirk Memorial Service which took all the parking in the surrounding area. We learned of the event at 5:30 which did not leave us any way to let you know.

Our programs are scheduled months in advanced so we have rescheduled Brad Orndorf's program for March. We skip December for Christmas on the Square, and January for bad weather. Another program is scheduled for February. Please forgive us for the confusion.

Looking For A Business Room To Rent Facing Sunbury Square

Myers Inn has a front room of about 300 square foot for rent with a private entrance from Granville Street and a view of Sunbury Square. The corner room has access to restrooms, a meeting room and a kitchenette with microwave and refrigerator. Utilities including wi-fi are included. Rent is \$700 per month. To see email Bower67@gmail.com or call Damon 614-745-4375.

“Meet Our New Trustee” Karen Snyder

“Hi! My name is Karen Snyder and I am a new trustee for the Big Walnut Area Historic Society. I just retired from the Big Walnut Local Schools after teaching for 36 years. The photo was me in the costume I had to wear the last month I taught third grade in Prairie Run Elementary school,



I am married to Jon and we have two daughters who graduated from Big Walnut: Abby (31) and Allison (24). We have a grandson who attends Big Walnut Intermediate school, Carter (11). My mom is also a 1957 Big Walnut graduate!

As a 3rd grade teacher, my favorite unit was the community history unit. I loved watching history come alive for my students as we walked through the rooms at the Myers Inn. So I am very excited to get to help bring this adventure to more students. I grew up in Westerville and attended Bowling Green State University.”

Karen jumped right into things and took over the leadership of classes when Prairie Run Elementary 3rd grade made it's visit this fall. She already has Big Walnut Elementary scheduled to come to the Myers Inn in May.

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Christmas On the Square is Saturday, December 6

Sunbury's traditional Grand Opening to the holiday season is always held on the first Saturday night in December. Although it started with Community Library when it was in the Town Hall, it is now under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce. Check their website for events.

As always volunteers are needed to decorate the Myers Inn, provide mulled punch and Christmas cookies for our visitors and most importantly docents to tell the guests our story. Yes, the OSU Alum Brass Band members will serenade on our porch. To help, call 740-965-3582 and leave your name and number.

From the President's Desk *Continued from Page 1*



By October and November of 1775, Fort Pitt (today's Pittsburgh) had become a rallying point for these Long Knives. Although far from the main battlefields of the Revolution, the fort served as the key American outpost on the western frontier. Reports spread through the Ohio Country that armed Virginians were gathering there—meeting in councils, strengthening defenses, and preparing for potential attacks by British-allied tribes. To British officers in Detroit and their Native allies, this rallying looked like the first stage of invasion; to American settlers, it was a defensive necessity.

For the Native peoples of central Ohio, these developments presented impossible choices. The Delaware leaned toward neutrality, wary of being drawn into another white man's war. The Shawnee, still reeling from Dunmore's campaign, distrusted both the Crown and the colonies. Yet neither side would leave them in peace. Envoys from Detroit urged resistance to the “rebel threat,” while American agents promised fairer trade and protection. Each side offered gifts, guns, and threats—and each promise rang hollow.

By late November, central Ohio hovered between peace and war. The Revolution wasn't yet their fight, but its shadow cast a pall across the forests of Ohio. Soon, the “Long Knives” and their rivals would discover that our frontier could not stay untouched by the struggle for American independence.

Upkeep of the Facilities

by Polly Horn

Mainlining any building is difficult but maintaining the oldest building in Sunbury has it's own special quirks and it seems to never be done.

As we acquire different items to display, we need to prepare different spaces which requires different skills from different people to complete the process.

Genevieve Beaver left us a Bottle Collection which is perfect for the Tavern Room in the Myers Inn. I had stored junk in the space which was still as it had been when we acquired the building. Recently, it was pitched and Chris Killea added shelves to hold the bottles. Bill Kavage installed battery operated lights in the cupboard so the bottles will show. Hunter will help me clean them and get them in the room. So in addition to how that cupboard dated the age of that room as the Inn grew, we have historical bottles in a beautiful cupboard. When you check it out be sure to note the original builder's insignia on the inside of the right cupboard door. Sorry no name for the 1824 carpenter.

CARRIAGE HOUSE UPDATE by Damon Bower

Highlights of the sale process to date, including some very heartwarming and meaningful transactions.

Larry Myers of Louisville, Colorado, a distant relative of our Inn's founder Lawrence Myers wanted several 1820 original first floor Inn joists, support beams and a door. We asked for a donation, and he offered to give us \$1,500 which we gladly accepted. These items were we picked up recently by a delivery service and now on their way to Colorado.

The portable stage comprising eight 4'x8' heavy sections, steps and sides is back with the Village of Sunbury which we believe was originally made for the Village's use. It was stored without any use in the garage/carriage house for numerous years, good that we hopefully will see it assembled for special events on the Square.

Other transactions included: Workman Fence Co. taking some very long framing 2"x10" sections, several doors to area residents always wanting an old door for their older home and some smaller support wood pieces to residents.

A few 1820 joist pieces will be kept to future display, while the remaining windows (many broken), doors and wood pieces were given away or taken away by November 1st when we, (Doug Linnabary, Chris Killeya and I) made the final clean-out. We got a dumpster to pull with Doug's truck, and filled it then Doug and I took it to the Delaware Transfer Station.

Polly's Comments:

Since I am having minor surgery next Wednesday and suppose to be taking it easy and away from germs, Doug took time to send me photos of what was happening. I want to share them with you.



Before the Last Culling on November 1, 2025



Doug taking photos. Damon signaling Chris out of range



Filled Dumpster Ready to go



Results of the Mornings Work!

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