Myers Inn Museum

Old Tyme Chronicle

PUBLISHED BY BIG WALNUT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXVI **October 2026**

From the President's Desk . . .

Central Ohio in October 1776: The Gathering Threat of Frontier War

by Mike Wise

As October 1776 brought autumn colors and cooler temperatures to central Ohio, events hundreds of miles away threatened to reshape the region's future. British victories around New York City weakened American hopes for a quick victory, while the struggle for control of the western frontier grew increasingly important. (Remember, during this time, the western frontier generally referred to the territories beyond the Appalachian Mountains, including what is now Ohio).

For the Native nations of the Ohio Country and the pioneer families advancing toward its borders, the approaching winter brought uncertainty about what the Revolution might mean for their future. Central Ohio remained predominantly Native territory, with no established American pioneer towns.

However, settlements were growing along the upper Ohio River and farther south in Kentucky. At Boonesborough and Harrodsburg, families who had crossed the Appalachian Mountains were attempting to establish permanent homes. Their activities reinforced Native fears that American independence would accelerate westward expansion, threatening ancestral lands and hunting grounds.

For these pioneers, autumn was a demanding season. Families harvested crops, preserved meat, repaired cabins, and accumulated firewood before winter. Hunting and trading remained essential to survival, but travel beyond established settlements carried increasing risks. Reports of possible attacks circulated among frontier communities, where families depended upon neighbors, militia organizations, and fortified stations for protection.

Meanwhile, American authorities at Fort Pitt worried that British influence among western Native nations might produce a broader frontier conflict. With Continental forces heavily committed to the eastern war, protecting scattered settlements proved difficult. American representatives continued seeking Native neutrality, recognizing that a major western campaign would place additional demands upon already limited military resources.

One particularly revealing example of (Continue on 2)

Coming November 10th . . .

Surprising Facts About Every U.S. President

Presented by Van Young



Young at Yellowstone

Since the establishment of the office in 1789, 45 people have served in 47 presidencies. Each president has brought their own brand of political discourse to the role, and historians tend to remember these leaders primarily for their major historical achievements and policy decisions.

But behind every political legacy lie plenty of lesser-known details we don't hear about as often, whether it's a past life as an executioner, a penchant for skinny-dipping, or a fierce dislike of broccoli, you will learn it all in this surprising presentation along with some of the most embarrassing nicknames imaginable.

Who is Van Young?

Van Young is a self-taught historian whose lifelong fascination with American history began as a youngster watching Hollywood historical classics such as *The Alamo*, *Davy Crockett*, and *They Died with Their Boots On*. Inspired by the characters and events portrayed on screen, he developed a curiosity about the real people and remarkable stories behind America's past.

Following nearly 30 years in the high-tech industry, Van retired in 2012 determined to immerse himself in the study of American history and current events. Joining a local Civil War Roundtable sparked a passion that took him to historic battlefields, museums, and landmarks across the country. His interests soon expanded far beyond the Civil War. He has also served for many years as president of the Worthington Griswold History Study Group, which meets weekly to explore American history.

Today, Van shares his enthusiasm through more than 80 entertaining and educational presentations covering American history, the Civil War, nostalgia, current events, and travel. Speaking to libraries, historical organizations, senior centers, retirement communities and lifelong-learning groups throughout central Ohio, he averages 10–12 presentations each month. (See Page 2}

From the President's Desk

Continued from page 1

frontier life existed at Schoenbrunn, established in 1772 along the Tuscarawas River in 1772 along the Tuscarawas River in eastern Ohio. There, Moravian missionaries, including David Zeisberger, lived among Christian Delaware in a community with cabins, cultivated fields, a church, and a schoolhouse. Their commitment to peace and neutrality became increasingly difficult as both British and American interests threatened to draw the Ohio Country into war. For the Shawnee, memories of Lord Dunmore's War in 1774 remained fresh. The growing American presence south of the Ohio River demonstrated that colonial expansion continued despite the Revolution. Delaware and Wyandot leaders likewise faced difficult decisions about preserving their communities, maintaining trade, and avoiding destructive warfare.

By month's end, central Ohio remained largely untouched by organized military campaigns, but the conflict was drawing closer. Pioneer families along the surrounding frontier prepared for winter amid growing insecurity, while Native communities weighed the consequences of further American expansion. The struggle between Britain and its rebellious colonies was becoming more than a contest for independence. It was also a contest over the future settlement and sovereignty of the Ohio Country.

Who Is Van Young Continued from page 1

Viewing Central Ohio, his presentations as a way of volunteering and giving back to the community, particularly to seniors, Van generally offers his programs without charge. His greatest satisfaction comes from enriching lives through storytelling, learning, and lively audience discussions.

A longtime Columbus-area resident, Van is active in his church, enjoys competitive pickleball, and frequently visits Hilton Head Island. His philosophy is captured in the words he often shares with audiences: **"Remember, we are living history!"**

Stay In Touch

Join Our 156 Followers On Facebook

For the latest at the Myers Inn check our Facebook! We have been busy with 3rd Graders learning about our community's history while touring the Myers Inn Museum and forge. Check in out. We do not show kid's faces without permission.
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579544770157

Special Tours of Museum

may be scheduled by calling 740-965-3582 and leave a message and your call will be returned.

Christmas on the Square Begins at 4p.m. December 5

An evening of events for all ages sponsored by Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce

Events already on the calendar for the evening include Ice Skating at 4 pm. (Skates are provided) and Ornament making in the Town Hall. Food Trucks on Granville Street, Many businesses will be open including the Myers Inn Museum with Nash's Civil War Santa for a period Photo Opt.

Annual lighted Christmas Parade begins at 5:30. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in the Town following the parade.

Many entertainments will be on the stage outdoors through the evening. The traditional lighting of the Christmas Tree and caroling around it will close the event.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce if you would like to help. (740) 965-2860.

Another Building Facing Sunbury Square Has Building Issues

This past weekend, #2 South Vernon Street's north basement wall collapsed leaving 2 beauty shops, Village Hair Company and Total Concept, Edward Jones Investment Company and the Law Office of Firestone, Brehm and Whitney looking for temporary housing.

The two story Blakely-Williams Building originally owned by Theodore Blakely (a former huckster} and Alfred Williams stood on this corner lot and survived the fire of 1926 which burned all the buildings south of it to 34 S. Vernon where Branch Pizza is today.

In March 1956 fire, there was a clothing store, Burrer's Sunbury Electric, Satterfield's Red & White Store and Meat Market in the building. An explosion of a gas-light pipe left in the building when Burrers installed electricity was believed to have caused the fire. The building was owned by the of Theodore , Mrs. A.C. Williams and daughter in-law, Mrs. Edmund Williams.

I am not sure who rebuilt the store, but I remember a Dime Store on the corner in the 1950's. In 1966 there was a Fast Food Market in the building, Belvo's Market, then maybe Thompson's Market before it was converted into the present four store fronts.

Village Hair Company and Total Concept (also a beauty shop) have shared the corner store-front owned by David and Renee Brehm who bought the building from the Baldasarros. Bob Hetterscheit of Edward Jones Company has 4 S. Vernon and the Law offices are in 6 S. Vernon Street. All are store fronts in the building.