



## Sunbury Fall Heritage Day Festival 3-6 Sunday, October 27

Mindy Pylie and Alice Lacher are spearheading the BWAHS part of the celebration. They are looking for people to set up a fall scene photo-op beside the barn.

They have planned stations where children will decorate Trick or Treat Bags, drop clothes pins in a bottle, toss rings, and make a wreath. Let them know if one of these is something you would like to supervise. Call Mindy at 614-657-5579, or Alice at 614-505-9194.

In order for the Myers Inn to be open that day, a docent or guide is required for each room. Call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 if you are available.



### Exterior Painting Finished

#### *Add to Your Calendar . . . .*

### Mark Graves for Veterans Day

American Legion, Sunbury Halter and Saddle 4-H Club and our Historical Society will meet at Sunbury Memorial Park at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 10, to honor veterans who have died this past year.

## Sultana - Greatest Naval Disaster



*Van Young*

Tuesday, October 8, Van Young will be sharing his thoughts about one of America's greatest naval tragedies when he addresses the Big Walnut Area Historical Society and guests in the Myers Inn Meeting Room beginning at 7:30.

Near the very end of the civil war, a river steamship called, Sultana, exploded on the Mississippi River as it was returning north with hundreds of just released Union Army prisoners of war.

Why do so few Americans know of this disaster? What caused this explosion? Who was held responsible? Many questions exist, even today.

So to tell us more about this sad piece of American history, Van Young is returning to the Myers Inn Museum.

Van was born and raised in Ohio and has been a resident of Columbus for the last 36 years. Since his retirement in 2012 from AT&T, one of his goals was to spend time studying and learning more about the Civil War,

Van is active in two other area civil war organizations and is president of The Worthington Griswold History group that meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 am, at the Griswold Center, in Worthington, Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, which are free of charge.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Scheduling Field Trips

Each year the 3rd grade teachers from the four elementary schools schedule field trips to visit the Myers Inn and learn a little about history in this area. Most visits start with a powerpoint of the buildings around the Sunbury square and how these have impacted our history. This is done in the school in preparation for the field trip.

On the day of the field trip 6 docents present 10 minute presentations in the Myers Inn and barn on a variety of topics of local history. Technology is left behind so the students can react with the presenters. Guides are used to lead the children through the sessions. Thirteen volunteers are needed to serve as docents and guides.

Docents need to take a training and learn the stories that go with the different things in the room they will be working in. No one is left to their own devices until trained.

**WE ARE HAVING A WALK-THRU AT 2:00 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, FOR ANY WHO WANT TO START THE PROCESS.**

Guides do not need as much training and are used to guide people from place to place or sit in a room to provide security and answer questions. These positions are very rewarding and worth the time you put into them.

## Calendar of Events

- 6 October 2:00 Training for Guides & Docents
- 8 October 6:00 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 8 October 7:30 Program - Van Young and  
“Sultana - A Great American  
Disaster”
- 13 October - 2:00 Future Guides and Docents  
See page
- 19 October - 10:30 BWAHS Stories in  
Community Library
- 24 October - BWE 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders to Inn
- 27 October 3-6 Fall Heritage Festival - Myers Inn  
and Sunbury Square - see page

**All Events Are in Myers Inn Museum**

If you are considering giving more time to the Myers Inn Museum but aren't sure, try the Walk-Thru on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Remember you are not committed to any time frame unless you agree to be.

Can't make the 13<sup>th</sup> but might be interested, call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582.

All BWAHS programs are done by volunteers!

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Big Walnut Area Historical Society  
**OFFICERS**  
Bill Comisford, President  
Brian Moore, Vice President  
Damon Bower, Secretary  
Bill Kavage, Treasurer  
Polly Horn, Curator and Webmaster  
**TRUSTEES**  
Alice Lacher  
Amy Welsh  
Carol Wood  
Chip Welch  
Mel Meyers  
Mindy Pyle  
Roger Roberts  
Suzanne Allen  
Polly Horn, Newsletter Editor  
For Information Call 740-965-1154  
leave a message or  
email [Info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org)

# Community Library Visitor Solves Lawrence Myers' Mystery

by Polly Horn

On June 12, 1991, the library was in the Town Hall on Sunbury Square. My office as Assistant Director was on the second floor. I had gone to the first floor for a break and heard a girl's voice say, "Suppose this Eliza is our Elizabeth?" I only knew one Eliza - Eliza Myers the wife of Lawrence Myers, one of the co-founders of our town and the original owner of the Myers Inn.



***Polly Horn, Ericka and David Myers, Eben Kenah, Gail Myers in front of Lawrence Myers' Inn - Sunbury News Photos***

Gail Myers introduced himself and explained they were on a Summer Break Field Trip to see if they could find the Sunbury where his ancestors lived and maybe their tombstones. He had copies of family names from a Bible and the little history he knew. He was aware there were 2 Sunburys still on the map (there had been 5 at one time) but we were the closest to Granville where they lived and his wife was President of Denison University. His children, Erika and David, and David's friend Eben Kenah were on this field trip with Gail. Imagine the thrill to learn on their first stop, they found the right town and that Gail's 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather was its co-founder.

By this time I had spent months of spare time in the courthouse going through records trying to piece the history of the town together. I had visited Wilkes Barre, PA, and gone through their records. My biggest problem was Eliza's maiden name. Everything I found pointed to Bennett but a voice in the night insisted it was Brown. Gail told me Bennett but agreed to call his brother and have him send me copies of the family Bible which he had in Tulsa, OK. Her name was indeed Brown. She was the daughter of Major Brown in Berkshire Corners. Mystery solved.

Gail's brother Lawrence (each generation has had a Lawrence since our Lawrence's Uncle Lawrence who gave money to the boys from his American Revolution pension which they used to purchase the land that would be Sunbury) and his wife Edith agreed to come to Sunbury three weeks later for its 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration and to be honored in the parade on July 6<sup>th</sup>. They returned with their grandsons.

Both Gail and Lawrence made other trips to Sunbury. Gail continued to do research and shared it with me. I shared my findings with him. Lawrence and Edith moved from Tulsa to Sheboygan, Wisconsin. They are both deceased but their son Lawrence who lives in Colorado, has been a member of BWAHS.

Gail moved to Oregon to be near family and always stayed in touch with me. Until recently he had been a member of BWAHS. His cousin, George Lawson of Oregon, has continued the Myers research (his mother, Reatha Myers, was the gg granddaughter of our Lawrence Myers). George has a great website at <https://olelarsonsfolks.net>.

Just before the last newsletter was sent, George told me Gail Myers died August 11, 2019 at the age of 96.



***Lawrence and Edith Myers in Sunbury's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade (1991)***

Sunbury, Ohio - July 6, 1991, 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Founding Lawrence Myers (1920-2010) was great-great-grandson of Sunbury founder Lawrence Myers 1794-1829



## BWAHS Election of Officers, Trustees for Upcoming Year

Annual election of officers and trustees is done in November meeting held on Tuesday, November 12 this year.

Trustees are elected for 3 years and other officers are elected for 2 years. Presently the Trustees meet before the general meeting at 6:00 on the second Tuesday of the month. This is a commitment of 12 meeting per year.

BWAHS Board needs people with ideas and how to implement them at the meetings. We need people who know people in the Big Walnut community

It is helpful if all officers are willing to help with the historical society programs. Talk to an officer to learn more about the positions. If you are interested talk to President Bill Comisford, 614-403-4356 or Curator Polly Horn, 740-965-3582.

## Membership Update

Please Welcome our New Members

**John and Deb Blakeslee  
of Delaware**

Check Our Banner Ad on the  
Sunbury - Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce  
Website

[www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com](http://www.sunburybigwalnutchamber.com)

**Myers Inn Museum  
Open**

**12-3 Thursdays, Fridays,  
and Sundays.**

**Open 10-3 on Saturdays**

## Giving Myers Inn a Facelift



**Integrity Painting powerwashed, scraped, caulked and painted between rain showers in August and September to give the Inn a much needed facelift.  
(See completed project on page 1)**



**Volunteer  
Damon Bower Painting  
West Side of Garage**