



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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## **Center Inn Celebration. . . . Items Silent Auction**

At the 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of the Center (Van Dorn) Inn on October 21, there will be a silent auction to raise funds for the Big Walnut Area Historical Society. Items to be sold should not be flea items but rather nice things someone would want in their home or business.

If the item is big such as furniture, pick-up will be available. For more information [awelsh937@me.com](mailto:awelsh937@me.com) or call 614-560-6953.

## **Help Needed for Labor Day**

Myers Inn Museum will be open from 9-3 on Labor Day. People are needed to be in each room to help guests or answer questions about BWAHS. Email Polly at [info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:info@BigWalnutHistory.org) or call at 740-965-3582 to volunteer 9to 12 or 12 to 3.

## **Sue Seeks Heritage Day Ideas**

Since the beginning of this historical society, we have remembered our local history at a fall Heritage Day event. Through the years different facets of our history have been celebrated from frontier settlers, to military veterans, to township histories, to local history which included a car show on the square. Last year we joined with the village for a Sunday event which was very successful.

Our Board of Trustees agreed to help sponsor the event again this year on October 15. Share your ideas with Sue Comisford, chairperson, at 614-403-4565. We need to plan now so we are not overwhelmed as we became last year.



## **Beyond These Walls**

BWAHS will explore the effect art and history is having on a dying industrial town at their meeting at 7:30 Tuesday evening September 12 in the Myers Inn Meeting Room. A film, "Beyond These Walls," shows how a devastated industrial community pulled together to bring hope and pride to their residents. Admission to the program is free.

Following the 1937 flood which filled the area with high water but luckily only killed one person in Portsmouth, the Army Corps of Engineers build a 20 foot high flood wall 2090 feet long to protect the city from future floods.

Portsmouth became a thriving industrial town with steel mills, shoe factories but eventually cheaper labor in foreign countries closed the companies leaving no jobs, empty buildings no one wanted, and a depressed economy.

"This program shows how history and art teamed together to bring pride back to a community that was devastated economically by the demise of the steel industry, the shoe making industry, and the uranium enrichment plant. Portsmouth, Ohio, once a thriving industrial town, lost its major industries leaving joblessness and poverty. Through the efforts of an ambitious group of citizens an amazing program to paint the town's history on the flood wall was formed and fundraising was started," states Roger Roberts.

In 1992, Dr. Louis and Ava Chaboudy visited murals  
*(Continue on page 2)*

# Calendar of Events

## September

September 4 OPEN HOUSE for Labor Day  
 September 6 at 1:00 Board Meeting  
 September 12 at 7:30 Program- Beyond These Walls  
 - Art and History Revive a Town

## October

October 4 at 1:00 Board Meeting  
 October 10 at 7:30 Program- Brent Carson: Restaurants  
 and Ice Cream Parlors in Delaware Co.  
 October 15 Open House for Sunbury Heritage Festival  
 October 21 Through the Decades@Center (Van Dorn)  
 Inn Fund Raiser

## November

November 1 at 1:00 Board Meeting  
 November 5 Mark Veterans' Graves with Sunbury  
 Halter and Saddle 4-H Club  
 November 7 at 7:30 Program- Suzanne Allen: Ground  
 Observer Corps  
 November 23 THANKSGIVING - Museum Closed

## December

December 2 4-8 Christmas-On-the-Square Open House  
 December 6 1:00 Board Meeting  
 December 12 NO MEETING

**At the Myers Inn Museum Unless Noted**

## Sizzles and Sounds

Once again big crowds came to Sunbury Square. This year in the hour before the rains there were 14 visitors but I stopped counting at 40 when the rain and hail fell.

Some were to get dry but were interested in staying and looking around. Many children brought the families to visit the raccoon. Always good to see many new faces!

Big Walnut Area Historical Society

### OFFICERS

Bill Comisford, President  
 Carol Norris, Secretary  
 Bill Kavage, Treasurer  
 Polly Horn, Myers Inn Curator

### TRUSTEES

Alice Lacher  
 Amy Welsh  
 Carol Wood  
 Charlotte McGowen  
 Damon Bower  
 Mel Meyers  
 Roger Roberts  
 Suzanne Allen

Leave messages at 740-965-1154

To get information email

[Info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org)

*(Beyond the Walls continued from page 1)*

on buildings in Steubenville and thought this would be a good thing to do on the flood wall.

A van of community leaders went to Steubenville, saw their murals and pledged \$5,000 to seed the project. In only a year, artist Robert Dafford of Louisiana was hired to do the first mural. The plan was to paint 3 to 4 murals a year for 10 years. Each mural features a significant event in the local history. The original project was completed in 2002 with 2,200 feet of art along the Ohio River. Since then even more murals have been added.

BWAHS members and former Portsmouth residents, Connie Ackerman and Roger Roberts hope you will enjoy this emotional film made by Lorentz Productions in 2014. As retired teachers they want you to watch the highschool students look at a dismal future then change as they study their history on the murals.

“The project took ten years to complete and ranks with some of the great paintings of Renaissance Italy in its beauty and impact. It has united business, schools, government, many organizations, and regular people as nothing else could do. The entire south-central region of Ohio feels pride in this project,” notes Roger.

## 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 (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### In Memorium

Trustee Emeritus Carol Wirick took over the society trustee job from her husband Ray who died in 1998.

She continued to plan programs, helped with the renovation of the Myers Inn and gave many volunteer hours to furthering our mission. She still attended events until a few years ago.

Carol's calling hours are 5-8 on Wednesday, August 30, at DeVore-Snyder Funeral Home and Service at 11:00 Thursday in Sunbury United Methodist Church.

## Van Dorns of Vans Valley

Center Inn was the hub of the little community of Vans Valley. Gilbert Van Dorn's neighbor ½ mile east was A. C. Leak who opened the first postoffice in the area but Gilbert soon managed to move it to his establishment with a small general store.

In 1835 a group of Presbyterians met in the Center Inn and decided to form a church. Magdalena was a charter member of the First Trenton Presbyterian Church which held services in the Inn and in the Odgen School at Vans Valley Road and 37 until they built their church north of 605 just east of 37 in 1837. There are still 4 markers in the cemetery which was in the church yard. In 1858, the congregation built another church northwest of Hartford Road and 605 to be more centrally located in the township.

In 1836 Gilbert's daughter, Gasha Ann married Orr Carpenter, grandson of Gilbert Carpenter, Sr., who owned land just below Galena adjacent to land owned by Gilbert Van Dorn. They had two children, James (1836) and Caroline (1848) When Gasha died in 1855, Caroline Carpenter went to live with her aunt Caroline Armstrong. Gasha Ann, Lamatta, and Carolyn were married in the church above. Mary and Catherine were married by an E.M. and M.G. respectively.

Lamatta married John Beatty a farmer in Shippenburg, Pa. Their daughter Mary married Charles V.D. Armstrong and settled in Johnstown, OH.

Mary married John Dawes and moved to South Dakota and had 8 children.

Caroline married John Armstrong and had two sons.

Catherine married a lawyer, James Stout, had 4 children and lived to Ottawa, Il.

**Myers Inn Museum &  
Gift Shop**

**OPEN**  
12-3 Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays  
10-3 on Saturdays  
*facing southwest corner of Sunbury Square*  
740-965-1154  
<http://BigWalnutHistory.org>  
Follow us on Facebook!



THROUGH THE DECADES

200 years old THE GREAT BIRTHDAY TELEGRAM 200 years old

You are invited to join us for  
200th Birthday Celebration Of The Center  
(Van Dorn) Inn

Saturday, 21st October, 1:00pm-4:00pm  
14659 E State Route 37  
Sunbury, Ohio 43074  
United States

THE BIRTHDAY MAIL 200 YEARS OLD 1817 POSTAL SERVICE

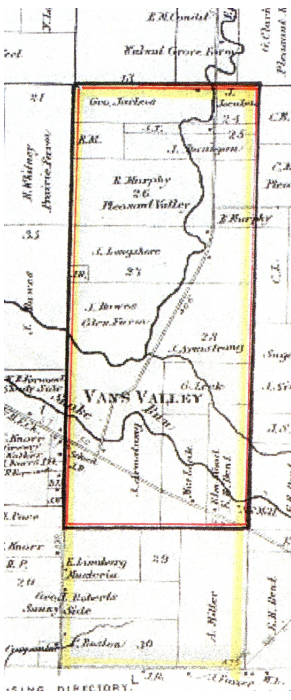
Celebration	Kindly Reply
<b>IMPORTANT!</b>	PLEASE REPLY BY OCTOBER 15TH TO AWELSH937@ME.COM OR 614-560-6953

**Proceeds go to Big Walnut Area Historical Society**

(Continue on next page)



*(Van Dorns continued from page 3)*



Peter died at age of 15.

Jane Elizabeth married Orrin Knox who was killed on the Panhandle Railroad while shipping stock in 1869. She then married Edwin Phillips. They stayed in Vans Valley and Galena area.

Octavia, Gilbert's 8<sup>th</sup> child married David Sanderson and settled in Ottawa, IL.

Trenton township map at left shows the original 1333 1/3 acres Aaron Van Dorn bought in yellow and the 1,000 acres Gilbert claimed in 1817. Fay Armstrong marked the land over a Beers' 1866 Atlas map.

In 1861 Gilbert Van Dorn sold everything east of 605 including the house to Caroline's husband, John Armstrong for \$8462. In 1862 he sold the land west of 605 and a Lot in Section 3 to Mary Magdalena's husband, John Dawes.

Gilbert died August 26, 1862. Magdalena died in 1863.

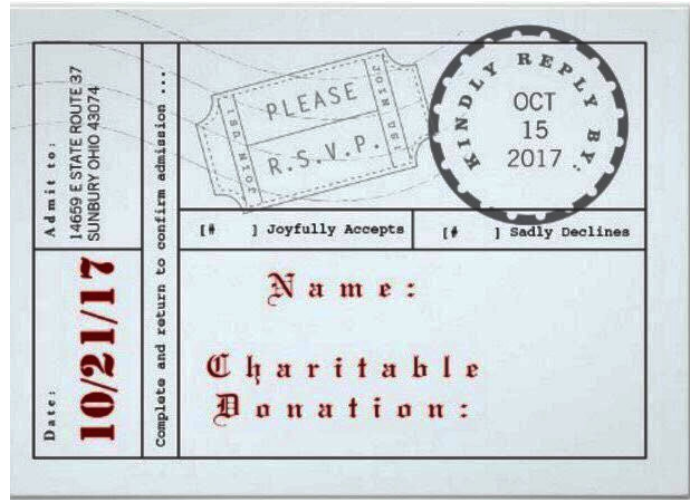
John and Caroline (Van Dorn) Armstrong are the next owners of the Center Inn.

## Center Inn Event Still Needs

- Craft Demonstrators
- Costumed Re-Enactors from all decades
- Guides in Rooms
- Leaders for Games
- Silent Auction Items

Call Amy 614-560-6953

visit event website at [www.throughthedeacades.org](http://www.throughthedeacades.org)



## Through the Decades at Van Dorn Inn October 21

BWAHS Trustee Amy Welsh's family is opening their home from 1 to 4 p.m. to Celebrate 200 Years since Van Dorn built his original cabin on the land. The Celebration includes a Silent Auction of donated items. If you have something to donate, put your name, the item(s) or service you wish to donate on the card above and send it to Amy Welsh, 14659 E. State Route 37, Sunbury, Ohio 43074 or email [awelsh937@me.com](mailto:awelsh937@me.com).

*Travel Through Some Of Delaware County's Historical Years!*

**Silent Auction accompanying Food & Refreshments for all....**

We will be holding a Silent Auction for anyone that wishes to participate as well as providing a variety of food & refreshments for our guests. Any charitable item(s) or service(s) donated is greatly appreciated and will partake in this event's Silent Auction. If you wish to participate by donating an item or service, please indicate such on your enclosed RSVP ticket. Pick up is also available and free of charge as well. If you wish to have your donation picked up, please indicate as such on your RSVP ticket.

**Dress Up From Your Favorite Era....**

Come & celebrate with us by dressing up from your favorite Era. There will be a costume contest for those who wish to participate as well as a few prize give-a-ways! There will also be some re-enactors from a variety of time periods walking around the fun filled celebration so you do not want to miss it!

**Fun Filled Activities For The Children....**

Don't have a babysitter? No worries! Even the younger generation will have a chance to travel back in time and experience the fun of Candle Dipping, Primitive Doll Making, Pumpkin Painting and enjoying some of the most popular games the children enjoyed playing during this time period!

1817 — 2017

**Center (Van Dorn Inn)**

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

*All Proceeds, Donations & Services Benefit The Big Walnut Historical Society*

