



Old Tyme Chronicle

Published by Big Walnut Area Historical Society

Volume XVII

December 2017

Big Walnut Area Historical Society Annual Appeal

It takes more than dedication to keep the Myers Inn Museum open for history buffs who want to visit one of Frary's "Early Homes in Ohio," local family genealogists searching for their roots, the Big Walnut school children and tourists looking for local history.

If you have been reading the newsletter through the year, you have an idea of the variety of programs we offer to our members and to the public. This past year has been easier thanks to the Annual Appeal last year. Please read the attached letter from BWAHS President Bill Comisford.

Remember Amazon-Smile

Using Amazon Smile when you shop will help BWAHS if you designated it as your preferred nonprofit. While it adds no cost to your purchase, the extra pennies add up for BWAHS. To sign up, go to our website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org> and follow instructions on the homepage. We thank you for helping us keep Myers Inn Museum open.



Enjoying the Heritage Minstrels at the Center Inn Celebration

Christmas on the Square 4-8, Saturday, December 2

Myers Inn will be open for families to visit with Thomas Nast's Civil War era Santa in the Tavern Room, enjoy homemade refreshments in the 1816 House, buy presents in the Gift Shop in the meeting room and see artifacts from the Big Walnut Community's past.

The Inn will be close while the parade goes by so our workers can enjoy this treat.

This is Rick Helwig's 40 year playing Santa. He was the Christmas Santa for many years of Christmas on the Square until last year. History of the event from 1982 is available on the historical society website at [http://BigWalnutHistory.org/Local_History/Christmas on the Square/Origins.htm](http://BigWalnutHistory.org/Local_History/Christmas_on_the_Square/Origins.htm).

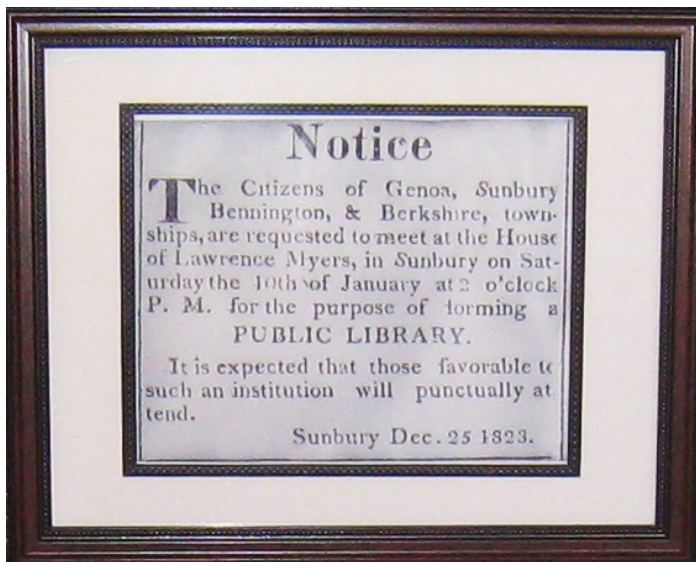


Enjoy the Inn Decorations

Many thanks to the Myers Inn Elves; Alice Lacher, Alice Chapan, Sheldon Lacher, Polly Horn, Amy Welsh, Belle Boozer, Faith and Joy Roig.

Calendar of Up Coming Events **December**

- December 1: 10-3 p.m. Rug Hookers
- December 2: 4-8 p.m. Christmas-on-the-Square
MYERS INN OPEN HOUSE
- December 6: 1:00 Board Meeting
- December 12: NO MEETING
- December 15: 10-3 p.m. Rug Hookers
- December 24:12-3 Myers Inn Open
- December 31: 12-3 Myers Inn Open



History of Christmas Trees

King Tut never saw a Christmas tree but Egyptians worshiped evergreens, bringing green date palm leaves into their homes at winter solstice to symbolize life's triumph over death.

At solstice, Romans decorated their homes with greens and gave coins for prosperity, pasties for happiness and lamps to light one's journey through life. Britain's Druids added holly and mistletoe to greens over their door to keep evil away.

Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees with candles to celebrate Christmas about 1500.

The tradition probably came to the United States with the Hessian troops during the American Revolution or Germans during the immigration to Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Puritans had banned Christmas in New England. Businesses and schools stayed open.

Lawrence Myers called for a meeting of interested residents to meet in his house to start a

Public Library on December 25, 1823.

In 1851, Catskill farmer hauled 2 ox carts of trees into New York City and sold them all. By 1900 most homes had a Christmas tree.

When candles lighted the trees, it was customary to put the tree in front of a window with a rope tied to the tree and passed out of the window so if the bucket of water left by the tree did not put the fire out, the tree was pulled out the window to save the house.

When I was very young, my Uncle Russell Duncan had a candle lighted tree in the parlor. The tree was tall and covered with short white candles. "I remember the excitement as we all waited in another room while the adults lighted the candles," noted Polly Horn. I do not think they burned more than a half hour while we sang carols. The bucket of water was nearby.

The northeast corner in the tavern room at the Myers Inn had remains of a fire on the beams which was probably caused by a tree fire.

Myers Inn artificial tree is lighted by battery operated candles provided by Amy Welsh this year.

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 _____

Send with check for dues to BWAHS

**P.O. Box 362
Sunbury, OH 43074**

Become a part of our history.

At the Big Walnut Area Historical Society (BWAHS), we pride ourselves on being the first stop for discovering history in Eastern Delaware County. Whether it's through the gleaming exhibits of the Myers Inn, the forging of iron in our blacksmith's shop, the magnificence of the General William S. Rosecrans' Statue, or just the history of our Sunbury Village Square, BWAHS has something for everyone to love. The collections of BWAHS and its properties require upkeep and care – which you have the opportunity to help sustain through a gift (large or small!) to our Second Annual Appeal.

Your contribution is critical to maintaining and furthering the BWAHS mission. Become a part of our history and make a tax deductible donation to:

Big Walnut Area Historical Society
45 South Columbus Street
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

Have questions about giving to our Second Annual Appeal? Call (614) 403-4356.



MAIL

CHECKS

TO P.O. BOX 362, Sunbury, Ohio 43074.