



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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## Tea Reservation Deadline May 5

This year's Mother Daughter Tea with the theme of Buttons & Bows will be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at the Myers Inn. Assorted savorys, scones, sweets and, of course, tea will be served. Call Sue at 614-403-4565 or email [mcomisfo@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mcomisfo@columbus.rr.com) to make your reservation.

## HONORING VETERANS OF BIG WALNUT AREA FOR MEMORIAL DAY

In Memory of Korean Veteran Bob Cheadle, a Big Walnut Area Historical Society Trustee, Bill and Sue Comisford have been collecting uniforms of local veterans and information about them to put on display in the Myers Inn beginning May 25<sup>th</sup> thru Memorial Day during regular Myers Inn Museum hours.

On Sunday, May 27, Polly Horn will present a program on "Men and Women Who Served in World War II" as published in *The Sunbury News* during the war. The program will begin at 2:00 in the Meeting Room. There is no fee for the program which last about an hour.

A continuous playing program on General William Starke Rosecrans born in Kingston Township will play throughout the Open House on Monday, May 28. Take a rest from the Events on the Square to sit and enjoy the program.

## BWAHS, American Legion and 4-H To Mark Graves for Memorial Day

Meet in Sunbury Memorial Park at 2:00 on Sunday, May 27 to continue marking graves.

## Historian and Nursery Owner Works to Save Native Plants



*Gale Martin*

Gale E. Martin, owner of Natives in Harmony Nursery, will address the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30, May 8, in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. Her Nursery is dedicated to preserving Ohio's native plants. "We do this through promoting the conservation and restoration of native Ohio landscapes and habitats," notes Gale.

Martin believes that the preservation of local-genotypes is of the utmost importance. She works hard to convert others to natives by offering high quality, genetically appropriate native forbs and grasses as well as providing the expertise to use and care for them. One of the main focuses of the nursery is to also encourage others to support local wildlife populations, especially native pollinators. Education is a big part of Gale's mission, and she works hard to educate and support her customers and the public at large in their land-use decisions. "We educate others on how to propagate these plants and also make Ohio native plants and wildflowers available to the public," says Martin. A large part of the nursery's mission is to research and acquire knowledge about Ohio's flora and Ohio's natural history and pass the information on to the public through tours and programming.

Gale is a trustee of the Ohio Prairie Association and the Appalachia Ohio Alliance Board of Trustees, and currently the director of the Wyandot Popcorn Museum. For 13 years she was the Executive Director of the Marion County Historical Society having retired from that position in July of 2017.

*(Continue on page 3)*

# Civil War School Day Still Needs Volunteers

Friday, May 18, from 9 to 2 is the annual Civil War School Day at the Myers Inn and on the Sunbury Village Square. Designed for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are studying this time frame in school, this program offers the opportunity for students to observe segments of life during the Civil War Era. They have a chance to learn why and how things were done.

Rick Helwig is once again in charge of the event. Buses will bring children to the gazebo where they will be checked in and divided into groups with a guide who will lead them through the stations.

We still need volunteers to guide the groups. It is best if the guides dress in costumes to make them stand out from the teachers who will also be accompanying the students. A gun will fire indicating it is time to move to the next station. If you are able to be a guide, please contact Alice Lacher, at 614-505-9194.

Since there are two sessions of classes, food is needed for the guides and presenters - about 15 people. It needs to be ready at 11:00 in the Myers Inn. By 12:00 the next session has begun and the food and kitchen can be cleaned up. Call Polly Horn at 740-965-3582 if you can help with the meal.

<p>Big Walnut Area Historical Society <b>OFFICERS</b>            Bill Comisford, President            Brian Moore, Vice President            Damon Bower, Secretary            Bill Kavage, Treasurer            Polly Horn, Curator and Webmaster  <b>TRUSTEES</b>            Alice Lacher            Amy Welsh            Charlotte McGowen            Carol Wood            Mel Meyers            Mindy Pyle            Roger Roberts            Suzanne Allen            For Information Call 740-965-1154            leave a message or            email <a href="mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org">Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</a></p>
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## Calendar of Events

- May 2 at 1:00 Board Meeting
- May 4 at 10:15 - Souder's 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Visit Museum
- May 8 at 7:30 Program- Gale Martin: Natives in Harmony, Sowing Seeds for Change
- May 9 at 10:15 - Polly Horn to talk to Souder's 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders
- May 11 - 10 to 2 - Rug Hookers
- May 12 at 1:00 Mother Daughter Tea
- May 18 from 9-2 CIVIL WAR SCHOOL DAY
- May 20 - BWAHS, Sunbury Saddle and Halter 4-H Club & American Legion - Mark Graves of Vets buried in Sunbury Memorial Park from all war since WWII.
- May 25 - 28 BOB CHEADLE MEMORIAL VETERANS' DISPLAY in Myers Inn Museum by Bill and Sue Comisford
- May 27 at 2:00 - Program by Polly Horn: World War II Veterans taken from the Sunbury News.
- May 28 OPEN HOUSE 9-4 for Memorial Day

**Museum is Open 12-3 on Thursdays,  
Fridays, Sundays and 10-3 on Saturdays.**

### 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**

## BWAHS Has Table at Chamber EXPO

Vice President Brian Miller, Trustee Roger Roberts and Curator Polly Horn set up the display and manned the table throughout the evening. Member Eva Jane Williams helped to give the others breaks.

A trifold full of photos of our first 20 years was joined with a powerpoint representing highlights of our entire 25 years. Old fashioned taffy was given out but few of the children knew what it was. Guess we need a taffy pull!

Third graders from all three schools gave a recorder concert in the auditorium which brought back memories. When Polly and Roger were young, they learned to play on Fitchhorn's songflutes. Mr. Elva Joseph Fitchhorn from Delaware invented the plastic songflutes to give children an inexpensive way to learn to read and play music. The holes were closer together than wooden recorders so they were easier for children to play. After a year using the songflutes we were ready to learn a band instrument.

While the recorders used in our schools today are very much like the songflutes, the shape is a smaller version of the wooden recorders. None the less the sound is the same and brings back good memories.

## Rug Hookers Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 10-2 In Myers Inn Meeting Room

Stop in, be inspired!



## Community Service Day with B.W. Middle School Students

On Friday, April 27, five Big Walnut Middle School students worked in Sunbury Memorial Park with American Legion Members, Gene Fuller, Dick Dorrity, Dick Morris and with BWAHS members Suzanne Allen, Warren Owen and Polly Horn to honor over 50 veterans from the Korean and the Vietnam wars buried in this cemetery.

Owen and Allen had located the graves, marked the with orange flags to make them easy to find. Allen then researched the individual soldiers to learn as much about them as she could so when a grave was located, one of the boys read a tribute to the veteran. Horn took photographs and will post them on the [www.BigWalnutHistory.org](http://www.BigWalnutHistory.org) website. The American Legion purchased flag folders and flags for the veterans.

In addition to the individual veterans, the boys learned about the Purple Heart, Bronze Stars, ranks in the different branches of service from the American Legion veterans.

They learned that Congress has not declared war since World War II so all the wars since then are called conflicts.

Many of the Korean veterans came home thinking they were out of the military but learned they had been released to a reserve unit for another three years. Most were not called up again and at the end of the time they were officially discharged

All of the students were very attentive and respectful.

### *(Martin continue from page 1)*

Before that Gale was education specialist for the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District and a part-time naturalist at the Mount Gilead State Park.

This program, like all the monthly programs in the Myers Inn Meeting Room are open to the public at no charge.



## **Big Walnut Area Historical Society!**

On March 23, 1993, a group of interested people met in the Sunbury Lions Club building at the corner of Morning and Cherry Street to see if there was enough interest to form a local historical society.

Three goals were the basis of the new organization:

1. To collect and preserve the history of the Big Walnut Community
2. To protect the historical landmarks of the Big Walnut Community.
3. To share the history of the Big Walnut Community.

Thirty three residents attended the meeting including Polly Horn, of Community Library. Horn explained about a Survey of the Big Walnut Community her committee had completed with the Ohio Historical Society for the Delaware County Planning Commission. Individuals worked with the villages and townships to locate items of historic interest so they could be considered for protection as developers move into Delaware County. Results of this survey is on the reference shelf at Community Library.

Jeannette Curren said “Sunbury has a reputation of being the Antique Capital of Central Ohio - it deserves a museum.”

In 1978, Harold McMillan (in memory of his wife) donated the Hopkins House to the Community Library to make a place where children of all ages could learn to enjoy local history. The plan had been to use the facility for the local history collection and build a new library on the surrounding lots. A Bond issue was passed for the new library, plans were drawn up and the staff was getting ready for the ground breaking before it was discovered all the land did not belong to the library.

After much legal hassling, our lawyer determined the lot never belonged to the library so the board had to find another location. Community Library at 44

Burrer Drive was under construction as this meeting took place.

After Jeannette explained that the library board was willing to give the Hopkins House to a group who would continue with the museum idea, it was decided to form a historical society. Curren agreed to serve a president, Will Neff vice president, Horn as secretary, Cliff Cook as treasurer. At the meeting, Ed Nice (of the Truman Thomas House) gave \$5 to the museum fund and Sarah Doan gave \$10. Our Historical Society was born.

At the May 1993 meeting Mike Atkinson, John Bricker, Richard Hekwig, Virginia Helwig and Dick Helwig, Ann Nelson, Polly Horn, Margaret Garee, Julia Hewett and Jeannette Curren had each paid their \$10 to be Charter members.

By June of 1993 the group was getting organized. Due to overseeing the construction of the library, Horn passed the secretary’s job to Sarah Doan and Maxine Longshore. Ray Wirick co-signed for the bank account, Rick Helwig made Charter Membership cards. Dick Helwig collected data from other historical societies and presented proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws to the group. David Brehm agreed to serve as legal counsel to review and prepare the documents for the state.

Grants were not easy to get. Our Representative Joan Lawrence got us state money when she retired which was a real boost. Frustrations ran high. Officers quit often.

At one board meeting things got hot and many of the officers quit leaving secretary Polly Horn the only officer. She agreed to become president if none of the trustees would leave until the project was completed. They agreed. Thus began the long haul of raising \$2,000 then spending it, raising another \$2,000 and spending it over and over.

In 2005, Horn took over the project manager’s job. Finally the Myers Inn Museum was opened July 4, 2008. We had raised and spent \$512,000.

Six loyal trustees and officers were still active on the board. **HAPPY 25<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, B.W.A.H.S.!**

