



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Happy 10th Birthday Myers Inn Museum!



Earliest photo of Myers Inn - early 1900

At the corner of the Walhonding Indian Trail and the Portage Indian Trail, Lawrence Myers (a co-founder of Sunbury) built a one room house in 1816 to serve as his family home and an inn for travelers. When the Walhonding Indian Trail was to become a state road to Mt. Vernon in 1820, he built a two story frame stagecoach inn southeast of the first building. In 1824 he began connecting the two buildings with a hall and Tavern Room. Following the Civil War, Jeduthan Skeels added the porch and balcony.


It had many owners and names before Hosea Hopkins purchased it in 1903 and called it the Hopkins House. It was a hotel, boarding house and eventually it was converted into a 4 family apartment house in 1950's. In 1974 it was put on the National Register of Historic Places as the Sunbury Tavern. It had passed to Sam Hopkins who moved to California.



Hosea Hopkins

In 1978, the building was suffering from absentee ownership and could easily have become a parking lot. Harold McMillan bought the house and property and

Big Walnut Area Historical Society
Presents
T.K. Cellar and the



7:30 p.m.
Tuesday
July 10

Myers Inn
Meeting Room

See story on page 2

gave it to Community Library as a memorial for his wife Mapledell. Both McMillans had been teachers and wanted a place where young people would learn our local history in an interesting way.

Community Library appointed a Planning Committee to plan for usage of the building. It was planned to include it in the new library facility when it was built.

When it became apparent the library was not going to be able to purchase a small lot in the middle of the lots they owned from Columbus to Evening Street for their new facility, they had to look at other properties and ended with the property at 44 Burrer Drive where they opened Community Library in 1994.

In the May Newsletter BWAHS became owners.

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**Exhibit of Veterans'
Military Uniforms
Closes at 3:00
July 4th
Don't miss it**



7:30 July 10. . . .

Brown Fruit Farm

Frame and Molly Brown*

T. K. Cellar will present the program "Brown Fruit Farm" to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30 Tuesday, July 10, in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. "My grandfather, Murrin Cellar, was the farm foreman, and my father grew up there. The farm closed around 1956 after a killer frost," explained T. K.

The Brown Fruit Farm operated on Route 23 north of Worthington for nearly fifty years, from 1912 to 1958.

Original apple orchards were planted around 1901, by Frank Bower, on property once owned by the Pool family. Sally and Joseph Pool came to Sharon Township in 1812, and built the house that the Browns lived in. The Pool family gravestones have been incorporated into a restored cemetery at Highbanks Metro Park. Bower sold the orchards to William C. Brown in 1909, who few years later turned the property over to his son, Frame.

The farm grew and sold apples and apple products such as juice, candy and apple butter, as well as cherries, plums and honey. As of 1925, the farm

encompassed 100 acres planted with 4000 fruit trees and was the largest fruit farm in central Ohio. It was renowned not only for the quality of its produce, but also for its innovative roadside marketing, including signs telling motorists how many miles they were from the farm. Frame and Marie Brown both passed away in 1936, when Molly Brown took over ownership of the farm, which operated until 1958.

"When my four siblings and I had to move our parents to a nursing home, we found what I call a "treasure trove" of scrapbooks, newspaper articles and pictures of the farm and the folks who worked and lived there. It seemed fitting to put together a presentation to save the memory of this once popular spot, now completely gone except for the memories of a few," noted Cellar.

This presentation is open to the public. There is no admission fee.

Browns' Photo from www.WorthingtonMemory.org

Eva Jane Williams, BWAHS Trustee Emeritus

Mrs. Williams is in Countryview for rehab following a fall in her home on June 17th. She has a broken wrist, 3 compressed vertebrae and a broken vertebrae. Keep her in your prayers.

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**

Big Walnut Area Historical Society

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For Information Call 740-965-1154

leave a message or

email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org



Library Director Polly Horn, Library Trustee Tammy Caudy, Jeannette Curren President of BWAHS, Ben Hart President of library, Historical Society Trustees Sarah Doan, Rick and Dick Helwig at deed transfer.

New Owners



Larry Mitchell

At this point the Board of Trustees for the historical society decided to change the name to the Myers Inn for the original owner. Larry Mitchell was hired as the project manager.

Although the library had put \$174,000 into the building, to replace the roof, replaced the sill, and resided the building, the inside was gutted in preparation for bringing the building up to code. Representative Joan Lawrence helped us get \$100,000 from the State of Ohio in 1997.

Dick and Rick Helwig did archeological digs in the side yard.



Cottonwood Out Steps In

We added the fire escape, put new beams under the floors and put plastic and gravel down, replaced the furnace, replaced the plumbing and electrical wiring, added insulation to all walls and ceilings. We used stone from the Jakie Burrer Tavern (which was torn down to build Lawson's where Payne and Brown is today) to rebuild the fireplace in the 1816 room in memory of Ray Wirick.

Larry Mitchell became semi-retired thus only able to work a few months of the year. Thus began years of raising \$2,000, spending it, then raising another \$2,000., always working toward state building code.



Mark Lieurance

Larry Mitchell retired about the same time Polly Horn retired from the library so she applied to be project manager in 2005. After



Ken Crowl

much haggling with the State, they agreed as long as architect Don Hoover was willing to sign off on each of her required forms.



Dick Yoerger

Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce got behind our project and offered to hold a



Jeannette Curren

CoC After Hours in the building in 2006 to acquaint all their members with our project.



Ken Crowl and Lyall Rodgers

To get ready for the After Hours, volunteers put in 300 hours in 30 days. They stripped woodwork, painted walls where some drywall had been hung,



Rick Helwig



Janet MacKenzie



Bob Horn

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 trimmed doors and windows, added a work sink. and cleaned, cleaned, cleaned.



**Myers Inn at Chamber After Hours
 by Embarq**



**1816 Room:
 Rick Helwig,
 Suzanne Allen**



**Three Evils -meeting room;
 Eva Jane Williams, Polly
 Horn, Virginia Helwig**



**Loom Room: Dan Schwartz,
 Polly Horn**



**Jim Kelly of Embarq
 Polly Horn
 Photos by Lenny Lepola**

Jon Peterson helped us get a \$50,000 grant from Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission in 2007. We had planned to use it for dry wall and the smoke alarm system.



**Joe (and Bess)
 Heiberger
 paper cover
 beams**

Porter Drywall came to our aid in January 2007 and finished all the drywall and spackling. The \$16,000 we had planned to spend on drywall put a new roof on the building.



**Porter Donates &
 Installs Drywall**

Interior doors were added as well as the cedar closet on the second floor. All floors were replaced, stripped

Museum Docents and Guides needed July 4th

Guides and Docents are needed to be in the rooms during the open hours on July 4th. There are 2 shifts: 9-12 and 12-3. In addition to the regular exhibits, it will be the last day for the Veterans' Military Uniforms Exhibit.

Myers Inn Museum is closed during the parade to allow staff to watch it on the porch.

If you can help, call Polly Horn 740-965-3582.

and finished. Light fixtures and alarm fixtures were installed. I have no idea how many times we set off the smoke alarm but Fire Chief Jeff Wilson always shouted, "Now what are you doing, Polly?"

In February 2008 we got the occupancy permit from the State of Ohio and rented the front room to the Chamber of Commerce. No More Raising Money For Utilities! There was still much to be done. Only the CoC room and one restroom were done. A grant added the ramp.

June Campbell donated the kitchen in memory of her late husband and it was installed by Jeff and Lanny George. Lanny added the mirrors to the bathrooms.

When a lawyer started fussing because we had not opened a museum, the board decided we needed to open July 4, 2008. We had a little over a month to pull it off.

Volunteers moved used display cases along with 30 years of donated items for the museum into the Inn. In some cases like the General Store, they had to take them apart, move them down steep stairs and reassemble them. Bob Cheadle, Roger Roberts, Lyall Rodgers and Ken Crowl did it without breaking a glass. 30 years after the Myers Inn was given to the Community Library, 15 years after the Big Walnut Area Historical Society became owners, the Museum opened July 4th 2008.

**Join us for cake at 12 noon, July 4, 2018!
 HAPPY 10th BIRTHDAY
 MYERS INN MUSEUM!**