



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Sunbury Fall Heritage Festival

BWAHS has held an annual Heritage Day Festival each year until they merged with the Village of Sunbury to make the event more educational and entertaining for everyone.

This year the event is 3- 7 on Sunday, October 21. Kathy Belcher is in charge for the village and Bill Comisford for BWAHS. It takes a lot of people to put on this event so let them know how you will help.

243 Third Graders are Visiting Myers Inn Museum This Fall

Harrison Street came in September. Big Walnut Elementary and General Rosecrans Elementary are coming in October.

We go to the school and present an hour powerpoint of photos taken around the square then the classes walk to the museum where they are divided into 6 groups each to attend all 6 sessions put on by volunteers in the museum. If you would like to help, call, 740-965-3582.

The Big Walnut Area Historical Society Presents

Annual Fall Dinner

Saturday, November 10th at 6:00 pm
Myers Inn Museum

\$35 per person

For reservations call Sue @614-403-4565
or email mcomisfo@columbus.rr.com

Entertainment by Dr. Ron St. Pierre

Presidents Who Argued Before the Supreme Court



Roy Nichols

Roy Nichols returns to Myers Inn to address the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30 Tuesday evening, October 9. Nichols spoke to the group earlier in the year on "Vice-Presidents Who Went Rogue." which turned out to be a very entertaining as well as enlightening program. The program is free and the public is invited to attend.

There have been eight Presidents who argued cases before the Supreme Court: John Quincy Adams, James K. Polk, Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William Howard Taft and Richard M. Nixon. Some only presented one case, some several while Taft had 18 cases. Nichols will cover all eight men and their most significant cases.

Nichols graduated from Ashland High School and got his B.A. from Gordon College in Massachusetts in 1967 and a M.A.T from Oberlin College in 1968. He taught history and American government in Midview High School in Grafton, Ohio, while he attended law classes and earned his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall Law School in 1972.

From 1972-75 Roy served as the Assistant Counsel for Ohio Secretary of State (in Elections division). From 1975 to 1979 he was Chief of the Corporations Division for Ohio Secretary of State. From 1979-1983 he served as Chief of Legal Services Division of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (Legislative Liaison

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 3 at 1:00 Board Meeting
 October 9 at 7:30 Program- Roy Nichols:
Presidents Who Argued before the Supreme Court
 October 18 at 10:30 Big Walnut Elementary 3rd
 Graders Visit Myers Inn Museum
 October 21 at 3-7 Sunbury Fall Heritage
 Festival
 On Sunbury Square, Myers Inn and Lions
 Building.
 October 26 at 9:20 General Rosecrans
 Elementary School 3rd Graders visit
 Myers Inn Museum
 November 7 at 1:00 Board Meeting
 November 10 at 6:00 Annual Fall Dinner
 November 13 at 7:30 Program - Gale Martin
"Clues to Dating Photographs"
 December 1 at 4-8 Christmas on the Square
All Events are at the Myers Inn

(Nichols continued from page 1)

for DRC). From 1983-2007 he was in private law practice but taught classes at Columbus State and other local colleges.

Upon retirement he formed Nicholsworth Presentations and gives historical talks on a variety of subjects, is a Professional Storyteller and plays Santa. He is a member of Vaudvillities cast member (3 shows per year); Hanby House volunteer; Church choir; Silvertones Chorus; enjoys karaoke and ballroom dancing; Forever Young Theater Group (once per year); Gillie Payers (3 plays per year); Underground Railroad Study Group.

Roy is active in Faith Covenant Church, Blendon Senior Center, Westerville Senior Center, Gillie Rec Center, Storytellers of Central Ohio, 2 Civil War Round Table Groups; Ohio History Connection; Westerville Historical Society; Delaware County Historical Society and the Griswold Center in Worthington.

Board of Trustees Wish to Amend the BWAHS By-Laws

ARTICLE X. Amendments:

Amendments may be made to this Constitution and these By-laws by presenting said amendment in writing at any regular meeting of the Society, but no action shall be taken thereon until the next regular meeting. It shall require a 2/3 vote of the members present to adopt an amendment.

Proposed addition to Article 5, C. 2 as shown in red.

Attendance of a Trustee is expected at all board meetings. In the event a Trustee cannot make a scheduled meeting, notification should be given at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to assure a quorum. **In the event that a Trustee misses three consecutive meetings or is absent from 50% of all scheduled board meetings in a calendar year, the Trustee's resignation will be deemed to have been tendered and accepted. For Trustees elected after the January board meeting, 50% of all scheduled board meetings will be based on the number of meetings remaining in the calendar year from their election.**

VOTE AT THE OCTOBER MEETING.

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**

What's to Become of Vans Valley Cemetery?



Last fall the Big Walnut Area Historical Society held a fund raiser at the Van Dorn or Center Inn at 14659 E. State Route 37 which is now owned by Tim and Amy Welsh. It was built by Gilbert Van Dorn on the 1000 acres he claimed from his father, Aaron. The area became know as Van's Valley and later Vans Valley.

Sometime in 1835, a meeting was held in Gilbert Van Dorn's Tavern to discuss the possibility of organizing a Presbyterian Church in Trenton Township. On October 15, 1836, twenty charter members signed a petition (see list on page 4), Elders Silas Ogden, Robert Lewis and Andrew Herron were elected, and the First Trenton Presbyterian Church was formed in the frame Ogden School House on 37 between Vans Valley Road and 605. During the first year, Rev. C. N. Ransome served as pastor for \$18.50 and held services in the tavern or the school as available. Magdalena Van Dorn, wife of Gilbert, was one of the Charter members. Much of the very early history of this church was lost before records were kept in 1851



Gilbert Van Dorn's Inn

In 1838 the First Trenton Presbyterian Church was built on the northeast corner of 605 and 37 with a cemetery just east of it. Lois Lewis may have been the first person buried there. This served the community well for 20 years. However it was a long 7 mile buggy ride from North Condit to the church so members were transferring to closer churches. As Trenton became more populated, it was decided to build another church closer to the center of the township to be nearer the

majority of the members of the congregation.

The second church was built in 1856 north of Hartford Road in South Condit. This church was built across the street from the present manse for \$500. Here the name was changed to Condit Presbyterian Church. When this building became too small, it was sold to Mr, Pierson who moved it away to use for a barn until lightning caused it to burn.

Other Churches in Trenton Township

After the First Trenton Presbyterian Church moved to Hartford Road, the original one on 605 was sold for \$100 to Mr. Miles and Mr. Skinner in 1858 to be used as Trenton United Brethren Church. Zion Christian Church met in the same building. The denominations closed sometime after 1916 and the building became a machinery and storage shed until the owner Ed Ginn took it down in 1953. It has been part of the Lester Goodyear farm since then. The owners have respectfully mowed around the stone markers in the cemetery which became know as the Vans Valley Cemetery.

Construction of the Trenton Methodist Episcopal Church on Daniel Brown's property in 1854 allowed that congregation to have a minister without the entire expense since it shared a circuit rider with Galena Methodist. This church became Vans Valley Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Vans Valley Road and S. R. 37. In 1978, the congregation built a new brick facility further east on S. R. 37 now known as Vans Valley Community Church.



None of the newer churches included a cemetery. The trend to have cemetery connected to the church had waned. Trenton Township expanded its cemetery on Hartford Road. Local residents can use it or Sunbury Memorial Park.

In the 1960s when John Bricker enumerated the cemeteries in southern Delaware County. The Lewis family markers were the only ones he could read in the Vans Valley Cemetery.

He wrote: Lewis, Tho. d 9-5-2843 AE 28y 5m 21d
 Lewis, Lois wife of Robert Lewis
 d 11-1-1833 Age 65 y
 Lewis, Robert d 6-25-1841 Age 70
 Lewis, Rebecca d 10-30-1845 wife of
 Robert Lewis d 40y 29d



Robert's Marker-2012

Robert Lewis and his wife Lois were two of the charter members of the First Trenton Presbyterian Church and Robert was one of the first elders of the church. Lois who may have been a Comstock was born

1775, died November 1, 1838, is buried in this cemetery. Apparently Robert (1771-1841) then married Rebecca (1805-1845). First he, then she were buried in Vans Valley.



Lois' in 2012



Thomas - 2012

Robert and Lois' son Thomas (1815-1843) is also buried in this cemetery. He was only 28 at his death. His wife at the time of his death was Experience but I have been unable to find her so I assume she remarried.

It makes sense that more than the Lewis graves are in the cemetery when a church was there for almost 100 years. A look at the Condit Presbyterian Charter members helps a little because these members were mostly young and died after the church moved to South Condit. However there is no record of all those who joined after the Charter and died before the church moved.



Rebecca - 2012

It is not right for progress to destroy a cemetery unless they are willing to find all the graves and move them to a new location or enclose the area and make it a park.

21 Charter Members of Condit Presbyterian Church

1. **Squire Wheaton** died 1864, buried in Trenton Cemetery.
2. **Mercy Wheaton**, wife of Squire, died 1864, buried in Trenton Cemetery.
3. **Sarah Wheaton**, daughter of Squire, married Robert Walker, died 1881, buried in Sunbury Memorial.
4. **Simon Condit** died 1839, buried in Trenton Cemetery.
5. **Elizabeth Hamilton Condit**, Simon's second wife died at her daughter's in Franklin County.
6. **Electra Condit Ward** married Reuben Ward. She died in 1864 but not here.
7. **Alvin P. Condit**, died in 1883 in Iowa. First buried in cemetery his son donated in Iowa.
8. **Maria Jacobus Condit**, wife of A. P. Condit, 1883 in IA, 20 days after her husband.
9. **Mary Mulford Condit**, second wife of Jotham Condit (A.P.'s brother) died 1875, buried in Trenton.
10. **Asenath Condit**, widow of Joseph Smith Condit, died 1875, buried in Trenton Cemetery.
11. **Dorcas Condit** married a Ketcham, died 1865 buried in Trenton Township.
12. **Robert Lewis**, died 1841, buried in Vans Valley Cemetery.
13. **Lois Lewis** first wife of Robert Lewis, died 1838 buried in Vans Valley Cemetery.
14. **Thomas Lewis**, son of Robert, died 1843, buried in Vans Valley Cemetery.
15. **Elizabeth Leake**, probably married Edward Dent 1846, died 1852, in Trenton Cemetery.
16. **Magdalena Van Dorn**, wife of Gilbert Van Dorn, died 1856, buried in Sunbury Memorial.
17. **Silas Ogden**, died 1867 in Franklin County.
18. **Jane Ogden**, wife of Silas not found.
19. **Andrew Herron**, buried 1870 in Sunbury Memorial Park.
20. **Julia Herron** wife of Andrew, died 1872 buried in Sunbury Memorial Park.
21. **Sara Jacobus** died 1868, buried in Trenton Cemetery.

Note: 3 are buried in Vans Valley Cemetery, 8 are buried in Trenton Cemetery, 4 are buried n Sunbury Memorial Park, 2 are buried in Iowa, 2 are buried in Franklin County, and 1 was not found.