



Old Tyme Chronicle

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BWAHS Fall Dinner Saturday, November 10th

What is more inviting on a cool November evening than taking your spouse or your group of friends to The Myers Inn for a pre-Thanksgiving Dinner? Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and homemade rolls will be served along with homemade pie for dessert.

Following dinner, hear the entertaining stories by Dr. Ron St. Pierre.

Reservations are necessary and can be obtained by calling Sue at 614-403-4565. The cost is \$35 per person. Spots are filling up fast – hope to see you there.

11 Year Project Nears Completion. . . .

Marking Veterans in Blue Church Cemetery

At 2:00 on Veterans Day, November 11, BWAHS and Sunbury Halter and Saddle 4-H Club will be identifying graves of veterans who served since WWII in Blue Church Cemetery. This completes the marking of all the veterans' graves in the Big Walnut cemeteries (Harlem marked their own). After completion of the graves in Kingston, the group will go to the Galena Cemetery where this project began in 2007 with the marking of the veterans graves of 13 soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Galena Cemetery is said to have more American Revolution veterans than any cemetery west of the mountains.

Veterans are invited to join the 4-H members for potluck in Galena Methodist Church following the marking of graves.

Clues to Dating Photographs

Gale Martin will give us clues she has learned to dating those family photos you have buried in old photo albums when she addresses the Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30, Tuesday, November 13, in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. She encourages people to bring photos they are trying to identify. The program is free to the public.



Gale Martin

Being able to identify an ancestor and look at the person's image makes that person's life more interesting to genealogists, historians and descendants.

Many of us were good at putting photos in albums but we knew who they were so maybe we did not take time to identify the people or the place the photo was taken.

With digital photos on cell phones, our photos are often not even printed and memories are lost with the phone.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 7 at 1:00 Board Meeting
 November 10 at 6:00 Annual Fall Dinner
 Dr. Ron St. Pierre will speak on doctors making house calls
 November 11 at 2:00 Mark Grave in Blue Church Cemetery. 3:00 Return to Galena Cemetery
 Potluck for 4-H & Veterans in Galena Methodist Church
 November 13 at 7:30 Program - Gale Martin
"Clues to Dating Photographs"
 November 14 at 5:30 to 8 Officers and Trustees will meet to work on schedule for 2019
 December 1 at 4-8 Christmas on the Square



Late Beth Williams, Polly Horn and Suzanne Allen putting flag holder on Benjamin Carpenter's grave in Galena in 2007 - Photo by Lenny Lepola

The Day the Task Began

Three BWAHS members above were discussing the legend of Galena having more American Revolution Veterans than any other cemetery this side of the mountains when we decided to be sure all 13 graves were

(Day the Task Began, continued)

marked with a flag holder and flag. Since we were there in early May, Galena had not put the flags in the cemetery. What we thought would take an hour took 5 hours. Allen's Sunbury Halter and Saddle 4-H Club and American Legion helped us each Memorial Day and Veteran's Day honor the veterans in each cemetery as we worked through all the wars.

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

Veterans Day Brings Memories

A star was placed in front windows or hung from the front porch to let everyone know a person from that family was serving his country in WWII. Lois Davenport, the widow of John Davenport, had 7 stars on her porch (her 5 sons and 2 sons-in-law). William Clayton, David Grooms and Floyd Fravel each had four stars for their sons in World War II.

Floyd Fravel married Carrie Budd and they had eight children, five were boys. The oldest, David, was married with children so he was not called to serve.



Probably Fravels - Allen, David, Dick and Jim

Richard Fravel enlisted in the Army in March 1942. In November he called his mother from Ft. Bragg for her birthday.

In June 1942, Allen Fravel was inducted into Army Air Corps at Ft. Benjamin Harrison. He wrote to The News in July from Jefferson Barracks, MO, "It's a pleasure to receive the News. We are

schooled, drilled and hardened and ready to outwit the enemy." A year later he sent a picture of himself and a dog noting he was on the right. He was in March Field, CA. His wife, Belva was with him and a telephone operator.

In October 1942, Jim was in Camp Butner N.C. cooking for soldiers. He went to California in April 1943 and wrote to the News, "Bill, please remember the news from around home does us boys in the service so much good." By August he was in New Guinea with the engineers driving a truck. "The only things that worry me are falling coconuts and slipping on banana peels. Otherwise I am safe under my conditions. We see natives and boy am I glad we service men don't dress as they do."

On February 10, 1943, Walter enlisted in the Army. In about a year he was stationed in Hawaii. Their mother said one week they got 23 letters from the four boys. "They are all fine, doing their duty and wouldn't have it any other way."

None of the boys made it home for Christmas in 1943 but Major General M. B. Ridgway informed them OFC Richard had been awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action in Italy. The citation told that part of his platoon was obliged to withdraw to better positions before superior enemy forces and firepower. Pfc Fravel, first gunner in a machine gun platoon, voluntarily and single-handedly set up his machine gun above an ammunition box and held up the attacking hostile troops until withdrawal had been effectively accomplished.

In February 1944, Richard was going by boat from Italy to England and was surprised to meet a former Harlem school mate, Paul Triplett on the boat. When he got to England Richard had glider training. On June 7, C-47 planes pulled gliders across the channel and cut them lose. The Germans threw so much flak at them, many of the crews were destroyed. "My glider cracked into a tree, we ran to a bridge to hide. As we started out a German patrol spotted us and opened fire. It was my duty to cover the retreat of my crew," Richard continued.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fravel got a telegram from the War Department saying Richard was wounded in Holland on October 2nd. He wrote to his parents telling about it on Oct. 20 but it took almost 2 weeks to reach them. "It could have been worse," this veteran told his parents.

While setting up his gun, he stepped on a land mine which blew his left foot completely off and imbedded shrapnel in his right leg. He made his own tourniquet and waited 3 hours for medical men to get to him.

May 1944, Cpl Allen wrote, "I have just read in *The Sunbury News* that Lt. Carl

(Continue on page 4)

SGT. RICHARD FRAVEL WOUNDED IN EUROPE

Wounds received in action on the European front recently necessitated amputation of Sgt. Richard Fravel's leg between the knee and ankle, a letter from him yesterday revealed.

"Dick" wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fravel of Harlem on Sept. 22 telling of his wounds and that he was coming fine. "It could have been worse", this veteran told his parents.



Dick's letter did not reveal where he is nor the war front on which he was wounded but relatives believe he was in the invasion of Holland. He had been in England until recently but had not told where he had

been sent.

Sgt. Fravel won two silver stars for gallantry in action in Italy where he was first gunner in a machine gun platoon. He did not tell which leg was amputated.

Dick is one of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fravel's four sons in service. Cpl. James Fravel is in the Netherlands, East Indies, Sgt. Allen is at March Field, Calif., and Pvt. Walter is in the Hawaiian Islands.

(Fravel Boys continued)

Fritsche is here. I almost got to see him the other day but he is on the twenty-four hours I am off and I am on the twenty -four hours that he is off. But was talking to some of the flyers of his crew and they say Carl is doing fine. I have been put in the same squadron that he is in so I may see him yet,” Both boys are at March Field, CA.

May 1944, the four boys sent their mother a corsage of gardenias for Mother’s Day. (Cpl. Allen from March Field, Cpl. James from New Guinea, Pvt Richard from hospital in England and Pvt. Walter in Hawaii). Walter was in the hospital recently and got 150 letters and 3 newspapers on one day. He saw in the *News Ebert Bordon* is in the islands and looks forward to seeing him.

In August, Allen was promoted to Sergeant at March Field. He has been in the service two years.



Richard

January through March 9, 1945, S/Sgt Richard was home on furlough from McCloskey General Hospital in Temple, Texas, after the amputation of his left leg below the knee. At the end of March he returned to the hospital for more surgery.

In February 1945, Cpl James Fravel wrote he met Jim Hoover and Jim Beaver on a ship recently.

In March 1945, Cpl James wrote to the *News* “Just a Hello to everyone. I hope to see you all before long. Last night four Philipinos came into our tent and ask for candy. I gave each one some chocolate Ex-Lax and haven’t seen them since. If the boys don’t get on the ball over there on the other side, we may end this war over here first.

Later Cpl James was in the hospital in the Philippines for 3 months and did not receive any mail during that time.

Then in one day he got 200 letters and 14 packages.

In November Sgt Allen was sent to the Marianas. He sent his father a coconut from Guam.

In May 1945, Richard called his parents and said he was coming home. In the same newspaper Corporal Marvin Scholl, who is guarding German prisoners in

France sent his mother German shells and a French bandana. Scholl is shown on left with Richard in 1940, before the war.



In July 1945, S/Sgt Richard was discharged with 5.5 years in the service and an artificial limb. He married Elenore Schmidt and had 4 children and adopted Dennis Fravel who gave Polly Horn the pictures for this article.

November 1945, Pfc. Walter is one of 610 high point Army veterans who the “Magic Carpet” is bringing back aboard U.S.S. Belleau Wood which left Pearl Harbor October 21 and will dock in San Pedro, CA November 7.



Walter



James

December 1945, Tech/4 James was discharged from Atterbury. He served 38 months - 32 overseas with the engineers. He earned 3 Bronze Stars and an Arrowhead, for first troops landing in Philippines on October 20, 1944. He has 2 stars on his Philippine Liberation Ribbon, one for Leyte and one for Luzon.

January 26, 1946, Sgt Allen was discharged from Camp Atterbury after 44 months in the military but not quite a year overseas as an M.P. in Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. “I would not trade Harlem Township for all the islands in the Pacific.” His wife, is visiting his parents with him from California.



Allen



Richard and Car for his Military Service



Richard - 1948

