



Old Tyme Chronicle

Published by Big Walnut Area Historical Society

Volume XX

November 2020

Election of BWAHS Officers

Normally we would vote at the general meeting in November. With covid rules we are not allowed to hold a meeting of more than 10 people in masks and social distanced. Therefore the BWAHS Trustees are asking you to vote by mail or by email.

The nominating committee has submitted the following slate of officers for election. Clip the ballot below on the broken line, Mark the ballot and mail in envelope with your name and return address. Couples with a Family Membership may each vote in household by copying the form.

After voting, mail it to BWAHS Election
P.O. Box 362
Sunbury, Ohio 43074

A ballot is also available on the website so you may vote by email. Goto <http://BigWalnutHistory.org>.

BWAHS BALLOT FOR NOVEMBER 2020

President, December 31, 2020 thru December 2022

_____ **Brian Moore**

_____ write-in

Vice President, December 31, 2020 thru Dec. 2022

_____ **Mindy Pyle**

_____ write-in

3 Trustees for renewal of terms thru Dec. 31, 2023

vote for 3

_____ **Mel Meyers**

_____ **Roger Roberts**

_____ **Bill Comisford**

_____ write-in

**Ballot must be returned by mail postmarked by
November 10, 2020.**

Put return address on Envelope.

One vote per member.

Pictorial Visit to the Gettysburg Battlefield

Van Young is returning to the historical society with a Zoom presentation of Gettysburg Battlefield at 7:30 Tuesday evening, November 12.

Over three days in July of 1863, the bloodiest and arguably the most significant battle in the civil war took place in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This talk provides a pictorial tour of the Gettysburg National Battlefield, including many of the monuments, sights, and structures everyone should see if they get a chance to visit here.

Invitations will be sent via email to those who get the newsletter by email.

If you have access to email but are not on this list, please send an email to info@BigWalnutHistory.org and we will send you an invitation at that address.

If you have not used Zoom.us for a meeting or program, instructions will be attached to the invitation. Zoom is a free program but you must register your email to use it. If you need help, Polly Horn will walk you through the steps to use it.

Jack Brown's Program

**"Industrialization in America
1890-1914"**

is still available online. Link to the YouTube program is posted on the website at <http://BigWalnutHistory.org>. Roger Roberts, chairman of the BWAHS Programs noted 85 people have taken advantage of this educational program at press time for the newsletter.

Sunbury News Columnist Remembers

Apple Cuttin', Butcherin, Wood Choppin', Kraut Makin' All Lead Up To Thanksgiving

**by Fred McKay of Olive Green
written 1955 about his childhood**

“Now comes November with her comforting browns and time of garnering our treasure in from “Nature’s lavish horn.” The picking, pulling, digging and cutting are done. We are beginning to think of our warm firesides. . . . The last wedges of wild ducks and geese have winged their annual flight to the south land. I recently heard a reluctant-to-leave meadow lark pipping its farewell song. . . .

Month of Apple Cuttin' and Butcherin'

“This is the month when we used to hear someone say: There’s an apple cuttin’ over to Aunt Jerusha’s next Wednesday night - - plenty of sweet cider.” Butcherin’ time with the bright chip fire under the kittles so early in the morning!

“There’ll be a wood choppin’ for the widow McKay and her five boys and one girl all day next Saturday. A “skift” of snow was always preferred for this gladsome time — singing saws and crashing, falling trees! The never-to-be-forgotten trips on the old mud-boat with cakes of snow flying from the trotting feet of the steaming steeds as the brought in load after load,

Kraut Cuttin', Huskin' Bee

Don’t forget the kraut cuttin’ at Aunt Mehitabel’s and Uncle Eliphalet’s on Monday night. They’re quite poorly this fall. Someone decided to get up a huskin’ bee for Uncle Charlie on next Thursday. Aunt Sarry Ann has promised a big dinner. Her barrel of kraut which has worked and cured will be just right. Pig nuckles and backbone! Corn pone and sausage – sage in it. . . .

I can still remember the hustle and bustle of the day before– the smell of freshly peeled and cut-up punkin – cinnamon, allspice, dill, sage – I smell something scorchin’ — Hurry!

Calendar of Events

November 10 at 6:00 BWAHS Board of Trustees meet via Zoom

November 12 at 7:30 Program “Pictorial Visit of Gettysburg Battlefield” with Van Young, via Zoom

MYERS INN MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN ON SATURDAYS BY APPOINTMENT.

Call 740-965-3582 to make an appointment. Your call will be returned. Allow 24 hours.

Now Comes Thanksgiving Time

“November is a link or tether holding home and folk together. The old kitchen with its one step up to the living room- - the “harth” of the old kitchen stove and its quaint oven on top with its two doors, one on either end where many a peek was taken to see if what was bakin’ was almost done.

“The broken hinges on the old front door — the watch dog shivering on the doorstep waiting for someone to come out so he could dodge in to his place under the stove. The well beaten path from the house to the barn through browned dog path.”

Fred died in 1961 at the age of 81

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**



Judge Henry Shaw escorts a lady placing a wreath at the Woolson Monument in Gettysburg

Eight Years of Service to SVR

by Carol Norris

Every November for the past 8 years, BWAHS member and retired Delaware County Common Pleas Judge Henry Shaw has been front and center in coordinating the annual Remembrance Day parade and military ball in Gettysburg, PA. Not this year, though. Both events were cancelled due to Covid-19.

Shaw, a former BWAHS trustee and Treasurer of the funds for the General Rosecrans' Statue on Sunbury Square, serves as National Deputy Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), the military and ceremonial component of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Remembrance Day parade, which is sponsored by the SVR, attracts thousands of uniformed reenactors, civilians and spectators and is reminiscent of the procession led by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863, on his way to deliver his famous "Gettysburg Address."

An SVR ceremony honoring Albert Woolson, the last surviving Union Civil War soldier who died in 1956, is held prior to the parade.

In the evening, the SVR holds a military ball, the net proceeds from which are donated to the Gettysburg National Military Park, to assist with the preservation of Union and Confederate monuments. More than \$85,000 has been donated by the organization for this purpose.

Shaw was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He is a member of numerous historical preservation groups and has held leadership positions in the Sons of the American Revolution and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. When not organizing Remembrance Day activities, Shaw enjoys firing his replica Civil War cannon, with BWAHS member Rick Helwig, during the Big Walnut Civil War Day and at other Civil War Re-enactments."

Shaw sent the following explanation with the photo. "One of my duties there is to escort the various "wreath presenters" to where the wreaths are placed in front of the monument. I think the photo was taken in 2016. I can't recall the lady's name who I was escorting. On the other hand, at the left rear of the photo, the lady in the brown dress is Ellen Higgins from New Jersey. Ellen's nickname, would you believe, is "squirrel!" Ellen is a member of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 and that is one tough no nonsense group of ladies! The big fellow with glasses and wearing a kepi, to Ellen's left, is James B. Pahl, an attorney from Lansing, Michigan and a past Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW."

Learn more local history at
<http://BigWalnutHistory.org>

Featured Business Member **DEVORE SNYDER** **FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**

The Snyder family has served the families of North-Central Ohio for nearly a century. Ora Snyder started his first funeral home in Johnsville in 1922, and then began to expand through out the general area in 1926. In the 1990's the Snyder's merged with the DeVore Funeral Homes located in Delaware, Sunbury and Marengo. Services available include funeral, cremation, memorial and life celebrations.

Their Sunbury funeral home is located at
 637 Ohio S. R. 61, and can be reached at
 740-965-3936 or at
delaware@synderfuneralhomes.com.

From the Curator's Files

How Our Communities Have Changed From Agriculture to Bedroom

by Polly Horn



Handmade Shocks

At a recent Condit Blood Drive, some were discussing people moving into a community without viewing it first. The newcomers were upset because they had to follow a piece of farm equipment slowly down the road, or had odors when the chicken farm cleaned the barns. I remember when they complained because the roads weren't paved.



Filling the Haymow

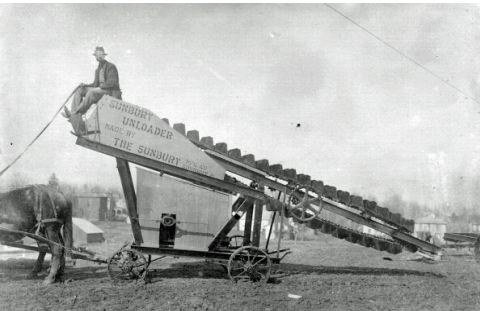
Fred McKay was born in 1880 and remembered life in Porter Twp., while he was growing up.



Clark Farm on Ross Road

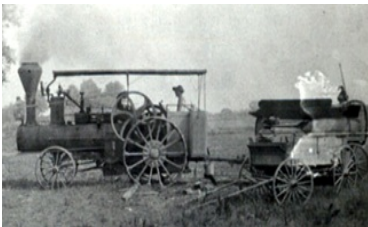
“Farmers around the area were largely sustenance

farmers; they usually had 160 acres or so and had a small dairy herd, 50 to 100 chickens, sometimes some hogs, and hay fields as well as grain fields. It was general, not specialty farming, on a very small scale. The main cash source was selling the milk to a local creamery. Olive Green was where they did their shopping and had their grains ground for cow feed.”



Charley Shavely on an Unloader Made in Sunbury

I remember the Villages of Sunbury and Galena of the 1940's and 1950's as being mostly rural large family farms often with several relatives farming near each other to share equipment and labor. Teens were often out of school to plant crops in the spring or harvest in the fall. FFA and FHA were big classes in high school.



Harry Lake's Steam Engine Ready to Harvest

Within a few decades, townships began mandating lots of 5 acres or more if a farmer was selling land. Soon many heads of the households sought work in surrounding cities and sold off their farms or leased them to big farmers.



Perfect Farm on north Old CCC



Trashers on Smith Farm in Berkshire

Sorry I do not have a photo of the women feeding the many visiting farm hands who helped to put the crops in and stayed to eat. Farming was also the social life.

County and State Fairs were planned to miss the harvests but allow venues for displaying the latest in farming technology and encourage tomorrow's farmers through 4-H. Farm families formed Granges.

Today farmers have machinery which costs more than our houses in the 1970's. They may still go slower than the cars but they are a reminders of yesterdays in the Big Walnut Communities.