



Old Tyme Chronicle

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Moore Provides New Leadership for 2021

by Damon Bower

Brian Moore has begun the year as our new Board President. He has served as Vice President for two years so is well versed in the activities of our society.

Brian has some large shoes to fill as Bill Comisford ends his tenure as President.

Bill's leadership over the past few years has been extraordinary, marked by his active participation in: grant writing; negotiating withdrawal of endowment fund from Delaware County Foundation; promoting area historical activities; authoring and sending annual end-of-year solicitation requests; doing groundwork on the feasibility of a new display barn; recruiting new Board Members and participating in organizing special displays.

The good news is that Bill's talents will not be gone since he remains active as a Trustee.

Thanks

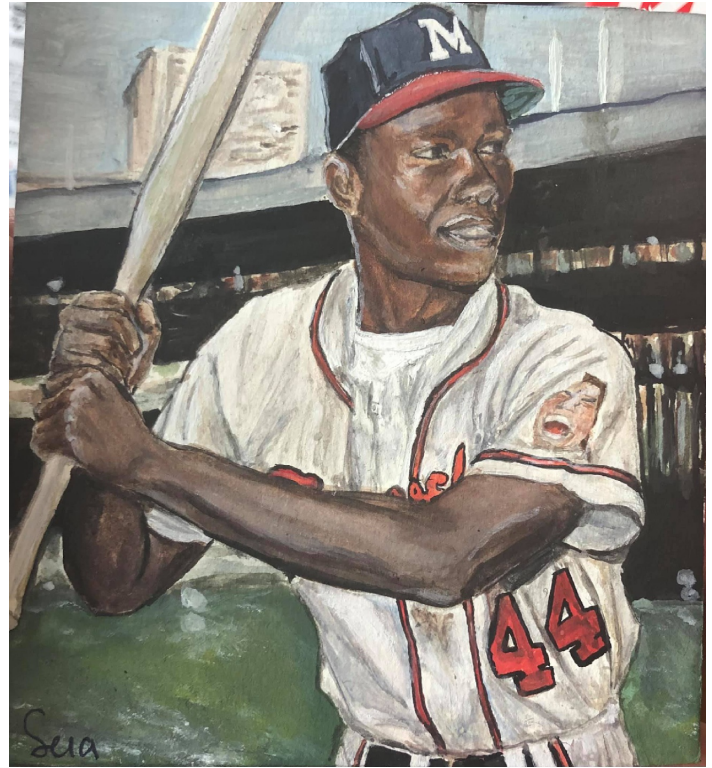
END-OF- YEAR DONATIONS

As of mid-January, a total of \$1,440 has been received as donations that will help in various ways as we work on projects in 2021 and beyond.

Horn's Tour of Sunbury Square Shows thru February

There is still time to see the program which started in mid January. For the link, go to the website at

<http://BigWalnutHistory.org>.



Hank Aaron, Painted by Sela Whitney

Aaron's Connection to Sunbury

By Polly Horn

Growing up in a Pioneer Family of the community means you have lots of stories about the men, women and places that made our community what it is today.

We witnessed the passing of one of the Top 100 Baseball Players with the death of Hank Aaron on Friday, January 22.

Few people realize Sunbury's Billy Southworth was a scout for the Milwaukee Braves after he retired as manager.

Roger Roberts and my nephew Beau Whitney each sent me a copy of Billy's Player Report for this young man.

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After seeing Aaron play 3 games for Eau Claire Club, on July 2, 1952, Billy Southworth recommended the Milwaukee Braves get him in a farm league and he would be ready for major leagues in 4 to 5 years. His scouting report noted 18 year old Aaron was slender build, weighed 170 pounds and was 5' 11" inches tall. He hadn't gone to highschool and had only played 3 months of pro play for the Indianapolis Clowns. What he lacked in experience, he made up for in his all around ability. Southworth noted they should also give him a bonus.

As a result of his standout play with the Indianapolis Clowns, Aaron received two offers from MLB teams via telegram, one from the New York Giants and the other from the Boston Braves. Years later, Aaron remembered, "I had the Giants' contract in my hand. But the Braves offered fifty dollars a month more. That's the only thing that kept Willie Mays and me from being teammates – fifty dollars." The bonus? (From "Batting Around," by Donald Honig).

While with the Clowns he experienced racism. He recalled a time his team was in Washington, D.C. "We had breakfast while we were waiting for the rain to stop, and I can still envision sitting with the Clowns in a restaurant behind Griffith Stadium and hearing them break all the plates in the kitchen after we finished eating. What a horrible sound. Even as a kid, the irony of it hit me: here we were in the capital in the land of freedom and equality, and they had to destroy the plates that had touched the forks that had been in the mouths of black men. If dogs had eaten off those plates, they'd have washed them. ("From Babe to Mel." by Alan Schwarz and John Thom).

My brother Duncan Whitney, like all our family, were Boston Braves fans and followed Billy Southworth's career. Hearing of Aaron's death, my nephew, Vic, shared the following memory of going to Cincinnati to see Aaron break Babe Ruth's record.

"In 1948 when the entire state of Ohio was rooting for the Tribe to win the World Series, Dunc and all of eastern Delaware County were pulling for their opponent, the Boston Braves. The Braves' manager was from Sunbury and was the



Dunc's late 1940's Boston Brave Cap

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER REPORT					
DATE	July 2, 1952		SCOUT	Billy Southworth	
NAME IN FULL	Henry Aaron				
CLUB	Eau Claire Club		LEAGUE	Northern League	
PLAYER'S HOME ADDRESS	2010 Edwards Ave., Mobile, Ala.				
POSITION	SS	AGE	18	WGT.	170
				HGT.	5'11"
				BATS	R
				THROWS	R
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	Slender build.				
NATIONALITY	Negro		DATE OF BIRTH		
HITTING	good	RUNNING	fast	FIELDING	good
POWER	fair	ARM	strong	ATTITUDE	good
SPEED		CURVE		CHANGE	
CONTROL		POISE		STAMINA	
MARRIED	No	HABITS	good	HUSTLE	good
IS PLAYER PROSPECT	Yes				
PLAYER'S STRENGTH	All around ability				
PLAYER'S WEAKNESS	Experience				
PLAYER'S MILITARY STATUS	Player could not tell me				
HOW MANY GAMES OBSERVED:	Three				
WHAT CLASSIFICATION PLAY NOW?	Class C	Four or five years.			
		YEARS BEFORE MAJOR LEAGUE			
DATE GRADUATED/HS HIGH SCHOOL:	Did not attend high school.				
PREVIOUS PRO EXPERIENCE	(3) months Indianapolis Clowns				
BASEBALL HISTORY AND REMARKS	Aaron has had very little baseball experience not having attended high school. His experience has been confined to sandlot and three months this year with Indianapolis Clowns. I recommend bonus.				
BASEBALL SELECTION STATUS:					

Posted in r/baseball



Beau Whitney Sent from France

cool, old dude that Dunc and these guys said had the best sledding hill in town," noted Vic.

"On opening weekend 1974, Dunc, still a Braves fan, took us down to Riverfront to see Hank Aaron break Babe Ruth's home run record against the Big Red Machine. Aaron ended up taking the night off that night so he could pass Ruth once he got back in front of his home crowd in Atlanta, which he did a couple days later. I'm told he popped his head out the visitors' dugout a time or two that night to offer the Cincinnati crowd a tip of his cap. But, I can't say I remember. I was only two. "

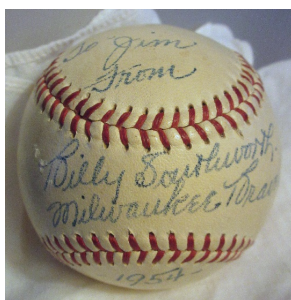
"Dunc follows the Tribe now, as he has for years, but he's always remained a fan of Hank Aaron. His granddaughter's artwork was her gift to him this past Father's Day," commented her proud father Vic.

(Continue on page 3)

Museum Receives Billy Southworth Memorabilia from Jim Wickham

While going through his father's correspondence, Jim Wickham found a letter from Billy Southworth to his father, retired Judge Fred R. Wickham. Fred had defended Billy in a court case and Billy was thanking him "for your wise counsel and expert defense in my case. I don't think any other attorney could have done as well. You will always be a champion in my book." It was dated February 12, 1955.

Typed on letterhead for Minor League Operations, National League Baseball Club of Milwaukee, Inc. Milwaukee County Stadium, Milwaukee 13, Wis. William H. Southworth, Scout, Route 1, Sunbury, Ohio.



Apparently, Fred had mentioned his son because Billy autographed a baseball "To Jim from Billy Southworth, Milwaukee Braves -1954-". Both the letter and the baseball wrapped in a white linen handkerchief will be on display when the Myers Inn Museum

reopens following the covid19 pandemic.

Many Memories

"Tour Around Sunbury Square" drew over 300 hits during the last half of January.

Big Walnut Area Historical Society

OFFICERS

Brian Moore, President
Mindy Pyle, Vice President
Chip Welch, Secretary
Bill Kavage, Treasurer
Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster
and Editor of Newsletter

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Carol Wood
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Mel Meyers
Roger Roberts

For Information Call 740-965-1154
leave a message or
email Info@BigWalnutHistory.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February Program "Tour Around the Square," with Polly Horn continues through February
February 9 at 6:00 Board Meeting via Zoom
NO VALENTINE LUNCHEON THIS YEAR!
March Van Young will present "The Battle of Fort Sumter – First Shots of the Civil War" via Zoom, time to be announced

Before Our Townships

Sunbury Township

by Polly Horn

Big Walnut Community of eastern Delaware County consists of Berkshire, Genoa, Harlem, Kingston, Porter and Trenton Townships. Yesterday . . .

Prehistoric Mound builders were in our area around 13,000 B.C. as the great Wisconsin ice sheet was retreating. We know they were here when the mastodons walked our area. Much is still being discovered about these people. (Continue on page 4)

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

(Before Our Townships continued from page 3)

We know them by their stone implements, arrow heads, and many mounds in our area. Work was stopped on the building of Galena School (now Journey Church) when they opened a mound while digging for the school. Much later, a mastodon was discovered between here and Johnstown.

Archaic People who were hunters of smaller animals and fisherman appeared about 7000 B.C. They made and used flint-tipped spears. They cooked their food, traveled in groups, and lived in villages. They needed flint for their spear and arrow points so Flint Ridge was very important to their survival. Many surmise there was a taboo against fighting in a large area around flint ridge which may have extended into our area. This would explain the large collections of broken flints found along the waterways in our community where the group safely camped and chipped flints. Hopefully DNA will eventually tell us what happened to these early people as well as their origin which may have been Vikings.

Historic Indians which came from China via the land bridge, moved into this area as early as 1600. But the fierce Iroquois would sweep westward from New York to devastate land from Ohio westward which resulted in the smaller tribes leaving the land vacant. By 1730, tribes seeking new hunting grounds moved to Ohio. Only six stayed – they were Miami, Wyandot, Mingo, Delaware, Shawnee and Ottawa. In Delaware County, the Delaware known as Lenni Lenape came from Pennsylvania and the Mingoes came from New York.

Greenville Treaty of 1795 resulted in Native Americans giving most of Ohio up for settlement. Chief Leatherlips was one of the signers of this treaty who really believed all people could live together regardless of their origin. Myers Inn Museum, Roger Roberts and Jim Thompson have made sure we know of this great chief and his tragic death in 1810.

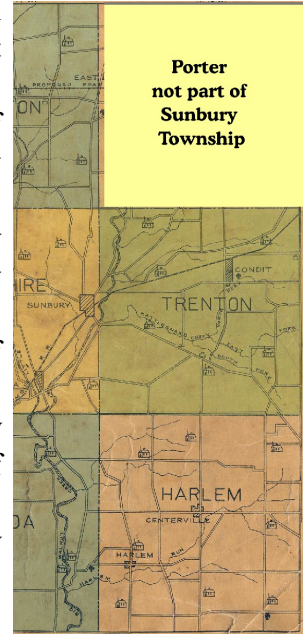
Delaware County was part of Franklin County when the state was founded in 1803. It was formed from Franklin in 1809, sandwiched with Franklin County (above and below) Delaware. The formation of Morrow and Marion Counties took part of Delaware County when they were formed.

In 1806, a larger Berkshire Township was formed that

included parts of Brown, Kingston, Berlin, Orange, Genoa, Trenton and Sharon Townships. Over years separate townships broke away until by 1821, today's Berkshire Township was left. It included Berkshire Corners and the villages of Sunbury and Galena.

Sunbury Township

Sunbury Township formed in 1808, contained the present townships of Harlem, Trenton, half of Berkshire and half of Genoa as well as Morrow County's Peru, Bennington, Lincoln and Harmony Townships which do not show on the map here. Slowly the different townships were set off with Genoa being the last to pull off from Sunbury Township. The Village of Sunbury was in the Berkshire Township not Sunbury Township.



Sometime between 1830 and 1835, the township name was changed to Trenton to distinguish the township from the Village of Sunbury in Berkshire Township.

Delaware County's Part of Sunbury Township over a 1909 map

Harlem Township was formed from Sunbury Township in 1810. It included much of what is now Genoa and was named by Dutch settlers from Harlem, New York, who brought the name from Harlem in the Netherlands.

Kingston became a township in 1813. John Phipps and George Hess from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, were the first settlers. Kingston is probably named after Kingston Township also in Pennsylvania.

Genoa Township was sectioned from Harlem Township in 1816 and given its name by Elisha Bennett after Genoa, Italy. Jeremiah Curtis of Hartford, Connecticut, was the first settler in 1804 when it was Sunbury Township.

Porter Township, not part of Sunbury Township, is in the Big Walnut community of six townships. The formation paper was lost so it's date was set as 1826.