



# Old Tyme Chronicle

Published by Big Walnut Area Historical Society

Volume XXI

October 2021



**Big Walnut Heritage Day**  
**3 to 6 p.m.**  
**Sunday,**  
**October 24**

*at Myers Inn Museum*

**John Cleland will sign books**  
*may be purchased in the Gift Shop*

**Activities for the family**

**Tours of the Myers Inn**  
*(masks please if inside)*

**Visit Blacksmith's Forge**

**Scrapbook of Sunbury News**  
*clippings about local men and women in WWII.*

In September's B.W.A.H.S. program John Cleland tells how he wrote this WWII history book after receiving a footlocker of his uncle's memorabilia, clippings and photos. He was only 4 when his uncle died in a plane crash so he did not remember him.

"Say Hello to Johnny," book by John Cleland about his uncle who served in WWII is available in the Myers Inn Gift shop for \$19.20 including tax. John will be at Heritage Day to sign the books.

Carl and Johnny were born in Kingston Township.

This YouTube program can still be opened thru October from our website at

[www.BigWalnutHistory.org](http://www.BigWalnutHistory.org)



*S/Sgt Carl and Johnny*

*Beginning October 1....*

## **Decorated Flour Sacks from World War One**

*by Polly Horn*



Many years ago I was contacted by Annelien van Kempen of the Netherlands inquiring about the Burrer Mill in Sunbury. She was doing research on the flour sacks used in the WWI Belgium Relief Fund. I had seen some of the flour sacks owned by Carleton and Dilly Burrer.

### **Burrer Mill in Sunbury**

The Burrer Mill, located along North Street east from Columbus Street, was known for its white loaf flour and Red-A-Mix pancake flour. This was shipped locally and overseas. During World War I Herbert Hoover's Belgium War Relief needed flour so G. J. Burrer (known as Jakie) and Sons sent White Loaf Flour to Europe in sturdy white linen bags. The bags were stamped with the logo for the mill in bright colors.

### **Belgium**

In Charleroi, Belgium, Alice Gugenmeim's family had a warehouse of embroidery thread which had been used by the embroidery workers prior to the war. Because of the war there was no material to embroider and the workers were out of business. She could find no bleach to remove the writing on the flour sacks but the fabric was good and strong. Women began enhancing the designs which were used to cover lampshades, waste baskets, tea cozies, pillow covers and even school smocks. The items were sold on a prominent street in Brussels and yielded tens of thousands of gold-standard francs to the Belgium Relief. In appreciation some of the school children embroidered 500 of the bags and sent them to Herbert Hoover. One of the enhanced Burrer Mill bags was put on display in the Hoover Peace Tower.

*(Continue on page 3)*

# Hard to Say Goodbye

In the past month we have lost two active members of our historical society. Neither woman was interested in being an elected official but both worked hard behind the scenes to help the society grow.

For years, Bette Roberts served as membership chair for the group. In addition to keeping the role up to date, she made sure people got to the meetings by offering to drive them if it was difficult for them to get to the meetings. She served as a guide and frequently rang the bell to change groups with the school classes.

Connie Ackerman worked quietly behind scenes to clean the floors, to do the laundry from dinners and teas, to bake cookies for meetings and to provide food for dinners and teas. She manned the Gift Shop during Open Houses and Special Events and served as a guide for special activities.

We will miss both ladies as we head into another school year.

Many thanks to all of you who remembered them with your donations to the Big Walnut Area Historical Society. We appreciate your support.

**Myers Inn Museum  
Is Open 10-1  
on Saturday mornings**  
Masks are required.

<b>Big Walnut Area Historical Society</b>
<b>OFFICERS</b>
Mindy Pyle, President
Vice President to be selected
Chip Welch, Secretary
Bill Kavage, Treasurer
Polly Horn, Curator, Webmaster and Editor of Newsletter
<b>TRUSTEES</b>
Alice Lacher
Ashley Hornbaker
Bill Comisford
Carol Wood
Damon Bower
Jon Geyer
Mel Meyers
Richard Helwig
Roger Roberts
For Information Call 740-965-1154 leave a message or email <a href="mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org">Info@BigWalnutHistory.org</a>

<b>Calendar of Events</b>
October 1 Program: Decorated Flour Sacks in WW I in Ohio (includes Burrer Mill in Sunbury) Via YouTube see page 1
October 12 at 6:00 BWAHS Board of Trustees
October 24 3-6 Sunbury Fall Fest and Heritage Day. Book Signing by John Cleland
<b>MYERS INN MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN 9-1 ON SATURDAYS</b>
Watch sign on porch for last minute changes

***Sunbury Village Becomes Sunbury City***  
Sunbury was founded in 1816. On the 1819 tax list there is Laurence Myers, William Myers, Gilbert Adams, Hezekiah Rogers and Hezekiah Roberts (these last 3 own lots 60, 64 and 73 on the west side of South Columbus Street). Lawrence Myers owned everything north of Granville Street and William owned everything south of the street. When the 1820 census was taken, Sunbury Village was in Berkshire Township. Sunbury Township was a separate entity.  
See the State Proclamation on page 3 making us a City.

***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**

# Proclamation from the State of Ohio showing the Village of Sunbury Population exceeds 5,000 so it becomes a City



## PROCLAMATION

**AS A RESULT OF** the Federal Census of Two Thousand Twenty for the State of Ohio and the various political subdivisions having been officially made known to me, I, Frank LaRose, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, complying with the provisions of Section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, do hereby make proclamation that the municipality of

**Sunbury in  
Delaware County, Ohio**

according to said Federal Census of Two Thousand Twenty has a population of

**6,614**

and shall, from and after thirty days from date of this proclamation be known as a **City** by virtue of and in accordance with said Section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.



IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed. Done at the City of Columbus this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-fifth and of the statehood of Ohio the two hundred eighteenth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Frank LaRose", is written over a horizontal line.

Frank LaRose  
51<sup>st</sup> Ohio Secretary of State

## *Flour Sacks of WWI, continued from page 1*

Charlotte Pagels Burrer who married Jakie Burrer's youngest son, Gordon, and lived in Cincinnati, embroidered a bag to make a replica. A photo of it can be seen at the beginning of this article and is in the Community Library.

### **Annelien van Kempen**

Annelien van Kempen has always been interested in learning new fields of expertise, while aiming to integrate them with her previously acquired skills.

Born a farmer's daughter in the Netherlands, she obtained a Master of Laws degree then spent one year studying French in Switzerland. Her second job was as a corporate lawyer was in industrial textiles which she really liked but she switched to the glass packaging industry and became general manager of the artisan glass blowing facility Royal Leerdam Crystal, which included managing the Dutch National Glass Museum. At the museum she developed her passion for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Thus Annelien established herself as an artist and researcher. The ongoing theme in her own creative work has been the richness of the Earth, harvest of nature and the role of women.

Symbols for this theme are sculptures like sacks/bags, materialized in textiles, paper or glass, and the concept of recycling and creative use of previously used products.

### **From the Netherlands**

Over the years I have received Annelien's emails and her blogs about the bags. Then about 6 months ago, she said she was making a program about the Belgium Relief fund and the flour bags in her Netherlands language.

In November 2019, I got an email saying "*Dear Polly, My first article about the WW I decorated flour sacks has been published in print!*

*"Embroidered flour sacks in WW I: Nice souvenirs, serve well as gifts; the profits are worth talking about. The relic of a heroic people.*

*"25 pages with text, photos and a bibliography can be found in the September 2019 issue of Patakon, the bakery heritage magazine of the Furnes Bakery*

*Museum."* She included a link.

The article originally appeared in the Dutch language but she had translated it into English.

Roger Roberts, our B.W.A.H.S. program chair, agreed this would make an interesting program for the historical society so we began negotiating.

So October 1<sup>st</sup> a link will be on our website to present our first international program via YouTube. Imagine yourself giving a program in another language!

**THANKS ANNELEIN!**

## *Volunteers Needed Today*

In order for the Big Walnut Area Historical Society to do the things you like, we need volunteers.

There are many things on hold due to covid but there are others which need to be started again. We are taking precautions to keep you and our guests safe.

As a museum, we should have a volunteer in each room if people are allowed to self tour through the facility. The volunteer is available to answer questions and point out items on display that the tourist might not see.

A facility needs freshening. Dust, foot and finger prints need to be cleaned. These are little things that say welcome.

If you are interested in research or writing, we can use your talents. We get lots of questions about houses, buildings and even streets in the community. Are you interested in learning how to do this kind of research?

Our gardener is interested in getting someone started on the flowerbeds and planters. She begins planning in the fall.

Have you seen or heard a presentation you really liked and would like to see it presented as a monthly program? Please get us the details so it can be looked into.

Remember we are a volunteer organization, owned and run by volunteers! How would you like to help? Call 740-965-3582 (leave a message) or send an email to [info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:info@BigWalnutHistory.org). See you at the Inn!