

**MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Tavern Log is published four times a year by the Society for its members.

Submit material to:

Editor, *The Tavern Log*
Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774
or e-mail to
tavernlog@historicalmiamisburg.org

The Tavern Log reserves the right to edit any material submitted.

MIAMISBURG HISTORY CENTER

35 South Fifth St., Miamisburg, OH 45342
Open Wed. and Sat., 1:00–4:00 pm*

THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Pioneer Home
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main, Mbsg.

BOARD MEETINGS

Third Thursday of each month at
6:00 pm at the Miamisburg History
Center or virtual via Zoom

EMAIL:
MHSociety@historicalmiamisburg.org
Phone: (937) 859-5000

Miamisburg History Center celebrates Grand Opening

At long last, the Miamisburg Historical Society was able to celebrate the **Grand Opening** of the *Miamisburg History Center*. Fortunately, the festivities could be moved indoors due to unusually low temperatures that morning. Former mayor Richard Church, Grand Opening Committee chair, led the ceremony. Miamisburg mayor Michelle Collins discussed the opportunities the Center provides and recognized the efforts of the Society. The Miamisburg Alumni Band and the Star City Dulcimers added music for the afternoon. We even had delightful star-shaped cookies made by Society member Lora Mills and drinks served from our restored and recently installed Ankeney lunch counter, the first time in decades that counter has been used.



Approximately 150 visitors attended the ceremony, and many commented on how amazing it was that the Center's displays were all nearly full and so much of the story of Miamisburg was contained in the building. Even more amazing to some is that all the work has been done by volunteers dedicating hours of labor in creating, organizing, and presenting the various exhibits.

One observer noted that from the noon start until around 2 p.m. everyone walked through the building and took in all the displays. Somewhere around 2 p.m. until the day was over, the building filled with voices as small groups shared their memories that the displays stirred up.



Thanks to the City for lending us the lectern and the chairs and to all the volunteers that made this day possible.

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the Miamisburg History Center, it is open and operating on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Plenty of free parking is available behind the building and it is handicap accessible. Masks are recommended for the unvaccinated.

CELEBRATING OUR 2021 VOLUNTEERS

Please join the Historical Society in thanking these fine volunteers for their hours of service in the last year! We have accomplished so much with their help!

Sylvia Marshall, Joyce Horner, Jeane Toadvine, Carol O'Connell, Diane Warrick, Laurel Benner, Stan Bernard, Pat Barnes, Brenda Robinette Hill, Jan Dobson, Kendall Clay, Jeanette Belvo, Linda Bernard, Annie Gilkison, Linda Leas, Vickie Shortal, Patti Weidel, Lora Mills, Robin Beachler, Richard Hipple, Allen Jones, David Shade, Earl Wayne Burgett, Carroll Zink, and Greg Wartinger



More from the
Miamisburg
History Center
Grand Opening



A very special thank you to **Dour Printing** for supporting the Historical Society with printing services for each issue of *The Tavern Log* newsletter and Annual Report.

Dour Printing—18 North Second Street, Miamisburg, OH 45342 (937) 866-5040

Welcome New Members!

Dale & Sue Beal, James A. & Brenda Bryant, Beth Copper, Whitney Engle, Donald Erisman, Erin Oldford, and James F. Aldridge

Winter Membership Renewals

Sherry Kahler
 Louise Graham
 Gary Kapka
 Martha Ballinger
 Laurel A. Benner
 Earl Wayne Burgett
 Lois Dempsey
 Barbara Glenn
 Kathleen Sweeney
 Sherry Kahler
 Louise Graham
 Gary & Patricia Barnes
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 Jeff Stone
 Kathleen Sweeney
 David & Vickie Thomas
 Howard & Patti Weidel

HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECHARGED

The **History Center** is open on **Wednesday and Saturday** from 1:00 to 4:00pm. To make an appointment for another time, go to www.historicalmiamisburg.org/history-center-reservations
OR
 email reservations@historicalmiamisburg.org.

MIAMISBURG CRAFT MALL

18 N 2nd Street in Miamisburg 45342
 Email: info@miamisburgcraftmall.com
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 Website: www.miamisburgcraftmall.com

Membership Application

- Student Membership \$5.00
- Individual Membership \$15.00
- Family Membership \$25.00
- Sponsor Membership \$50.00
- Business Sponsor* \$50.00
- Patron Membership \$100.00
- Lifetime Membership \$500.00
- Society Friends Donation

Total enclosed \$ _____

* Please include a business card or small size ad for *The Tavern Log*.

Method of Payment:

Check Cash

Make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

New member Renewing member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Why not become a **volunteer**?

Please note your areas of interest:

Please mail to: Miamisburg Historical Society
 PO Box 774
 Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

A Letter from the President

Judy Wuerstl, President



Valued members,

My term as President of the Historical Society is coming to an end. And what a couple of years it has been!

After our Dedication of the History Center in December 2019, we had big plans for a Grand Opening in May 2020. Well, as you know COVID-19 put the kibosh on that. Nevertheless, our hardworking volunteers continued coming into the Center to get things done. And we were finally able to have our Grand Opening on Saturday, November 13. It was quite a phenomenal day! Visitors were impressed and never failed to express their amazement with what we have done. I am pleased to tell you that when I put out a request for volunteers to sign up, I received twenty-seven responses. Most of these folks are trained and ready to serve at the History Center.

It has been an honor to work with our exceptional board. Their commitment and devotion toward meeting the needs of our community is overwhelming. I know that as we look to the future the incoming Board of Trustees will continue to provide information and insight into the rich history of Miamisburg and Miami Township.

Sincerely,
Judy



REMEMBER TO REGISTER!

Did you know that you can donate to the Miamisburg Historical Society every time you go to the grocery? If you have a **Kroger Rewards Card**, register at www.krogercommunityrewards.com so that a percentage of what you spend will be automatically donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society each time you shop. It's SO EASY! You need only register once, and it *does not affect* any prices or benefits you may already be receiving from your Rewards Card.

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HERITAGE VILLAGE

by Judy Wuerstl



CHRISTMAS AT THE TAVERN

The Christmas spirit was alive and well this year at Heritage Village. The Miamisburg Historical Society was very excited to again be able to host **Christmas At the Tavern** on Sunday, December 5th. Tom Zimpfer gathered evergreen branches and festooned the picket fence posts and the Heritage Village sign while Joyce Zimpfer brought her collections and decorated inside the Tavern with old fashioned ornaments and baubles, evergreens and pinecones. Laura Barnhorst spread the table with delicious appetizers and Annie Gilkison ladled out hot spiced cider. Once again, we enjoyed Christmas music and sing-along tunes by the Star City Dulcimer group. Local musician LeeAnn Kinner stopped by to entertain with her guitar and songs.

As the last notes faded in the air and the last ornament was put back in the box, we sealed our happy memories at the Heritage Village for another year.



The Miamisburg Historical Society has partnered with the **Baum Opera House** and the **Plaza Theater** for a special one year membership drive to **all THREE organizations**. Your \$100 donation will help to support Miamisburg history and landmarks. It includes discounts at the History Center gift shop and on Baum merchandise **PLUS** two tickets to the Plaza Theater that do not expire all year!

Go to www.theBaumOperaHouse.org for more details.

Focus on Veterans

Miamisburg VETERANS Day 2021

by Randy Staley



It was a very windy November 11 for our Veterans Day Services and over 100 guests attended. Between wind gusts, Jim Caldwell of the American Legion Post 165 Board conducted the program. This year we welcomed the MHS Alumni Band and vocalist Alberta Duncan who played and sang patriotic music. Everyone was given song sheets and encouraged to sing along. Mayor Collins offered the annual address on veterans and the U.S. Army, and Vietnam veteran Billy Ring shared his moving experience of shaking hands before returning home in the 1970s.

We need to extend a big thank you to our friends from the Richard Montgomery Post Sons of the American Revolution for their support—in uniform—at our events. We would also thank the City Parks and Recreation Department for their assistance in all our programs.



The Memorial Day 2022 events calendar has been set. Our general meeting and Silver Taps will be held on Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 pm at Riverfront Park. Rocky's 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, May 28 will begin at 9:00 am at Harmon Field and finish at Veterans Memorial Park. The cemetery services will follow the usual route (Catholic cemetery to Hillgrove Union to Highland) and end at the Linden Avenue bridge at 10:30 am. The Memorial Day parade begins at 11:00 am and is followed by the Memorial Service at Veterans Memorial Park. We finish with the Annual Picnic in the Park, with free hot dogs and ice cream, sponsored by the Historical Society Veterans Committee and American Legion Post 165.

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Holiday Parade

On Saturday, December 4th, the City of Miamisburg celebrated the season with its annual Holiday Parade followed by a tree lighting and activities at the Baum Opera House. The Holiday Celebration Committee surprised the Miamisburg Historical Society by naming our organization as the 2021 Grand Marshal of the parade! We were represented by Board members Teri Skudlarek, Sandi Postle, Gary Petticrew, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Martha Ballinger, and Judy Wuerstl, riding in Eric Flasher’s big red truck driven by Board vice president Ken Ballinger. The City provided festive GRAND MARSHAL magnetic signs for the vehicle. Cool but sunny weather made the crowds as large as any that we have seen for years. Parade organizers Angie Engelke and Eric Flasher were very pleased with the high turnout and suspect the cancellation of last year’s parade due to Covid may have led to increased interest. The children along the route were delighted with the amount of candy handed out (something akin to a good haul on Beggars’ Night) and enjoyed the characters in the parade. The final unit—Santa—received the most attention.

That evening, upwards of 300 children visited Santa at the Baum Opera House and were treated to candy from Grandpa Joes and oranges. For many years, an orange was the gift a child growing up in Miamisburg, or any small America town, might expect for Christmas. The local grocery store wouldn't have citrus year-round, so it was a very special one-time-a-year treat. When some funding sources became unavailable to the Holiday Committee, the Miamisburg Historical Society stepped up and provided a donation to purchase all the candy and oranges for our youth to enjoy.



Miamisburg celebrates!

Online Resources

If you cannot visit the Miamisburg History Center to answer your Miamisburg history questions, go to www.historicalmiamisburg.org/research and fill out the request form. One of our volunteers can search our archives and get back to you with information.

You can also send an email to MHSociety@historicalmiamisburg.org any time.

The Historical Society is ready to serve you virtually all year long, wherever you are.

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Jacob Kauffman founded the Kauffman Buggy Company in 1869. It was a family business: his sons, Thomas J., James A., and H.L. were the president, secretary, and superintendent. Jacob died in 1903 and the next venture for the Kauffman family began in 1906: the Kauffman Motor Vehicle Company, providing bodies and chassis for the Hatfield "Buggyabout" high-wheeler motor car. Kauffman was a pioneering American automobile company from 1909 until 1912 right here in Miamisburg. When the Hatfield company ran into financial difficulties, the two firms merged to form the Advance Motor Vehicle Company.



Creating the Historical Record of our Time

The Historical Society is asking the community to collect artifacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, like masks, newspaper or magazine articles, or gloves. Especially memories.

Take some time and write down your pandemic stories. Send them to:

Pandemic Memories
Miamisburg Historical Society
PO Box 744

Miamisburg OH 45343-0744
or email to MHsociety@historicalmiamisburg.org. Use the subject line "Pandemic Memories".

The Miamisburg Historical Society has a number of volunteer opportunities. Whatever your skill set is, we have a position for you.

Positions include:

- Greeters
- Docents
- Tour guides
- Researchers

Help us help the community. Be a part of Miamisburg history.



The Tavern Log is always looking for new material about the history and happenings of Miamisburg. We would love to hear from you! Submissions can be sent to

tavernlog@historicalmiamisburg.org

The Tavern Log reserves the right to choose what submissions are published and edit any submitted material.



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