

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show

Maeystown will host an antique and garden show as part of its annual Fruehlingsfest (Spring Festival) on Sunday, May 1. The show, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m., will take place around the stone mill in the heart of town.

The Fruehlingsfest will feature more than 35 quality antique dealers from Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa and Kansas, specializing in country, primitive, garden, and cottage-style antiques. In addition, various nurseries will be selling annuals, perennials and herbs.

“Maeystown is the perfect setting for a quality antique and garden show like this,” says John Rehling, event coordinator. “Antique and garden lovers will enjoy the festival, as well as anyone looking for a fun spring day in a country atmosphere.”

A variety of food will be offered including bratwurst, chicken and dumplings, German potato salad, kettle corn, funnel cakes, pretzels and strawberry shortcake.

Additional activities include a Maeystown Creek Duck Derby (2:00 p.m.), historical displays, and a creek-side wine garden. For more information, call the Corner George Inn at 618-458-6660 or visit [www.maeystown.com](http://www.maeystown.com).

### Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2005. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2005. If we do not receive your renewal by April 15, we will assume you do not wish to renew and will drop your name from our list.

### Old-Fashioned German Christmas December 2004

After seeing the ads for our Christmas festival, Kevin Darr, reporter for the “Monroe County Clarion” wondered if there really could be an old-fashioned Christmas anymore. So he came to Maeystown to find out.

Tower music welcomed him as he came into town. Throughout the day a brass quartet strolled the village, hammered dulcimers were heard at the Mill, and the Valmeyer High School ensembles performed at the Corner George Inn. Demonstrations of German paper star folding and wrapping of a sassafras tree, as well as a display of vintage Christmas ornaments, were seen at the Mill. Later in the afternoon he joined in the German carol sing and sampled desserts at a “Taste of Christmas.” Kevin even seemed to enjoy the unique shopping and delicious selections of foods including weihnacht stew, brats, chicken and dumplings, German Christmas cookies, stollen,

wassail, and roasted almonds. Up at the church he listened to the Millstadt Community Choir perform. By that time it began raining.

Kevin summed up his thoughts in the December 8 issue of the “Monroe County Clarion” like this – “People wouldn’t stick around to get wet in this cold weather, would they? But something amazing happened. Some left, but the majority of people stayed until the end to see the lighting of the Weihnachtsbaum (Christmas tree). What are they staying for? It was then I realized Christmas is a feeling, an atmosphere, not the commercial event it has become. These people wanted to be around the feeling of a traditional Christmas. They didn’t want the pomp and circumstance that comes with shopping the day after Thanksgiving. They came to Maeystown to find out what an old time Christmas is all about. And that is exactly what they received.”

### Mill Museum and German Dinner

If you have been to the mill lately, you have undoubtedly seen the transformation that has occurred on the street level of the mill. After many years of planning and conversation, we have created a first-class museum to share with all the visitors to the village.

Visitors to the mill can now see that we have very little space with which to host our popular German Dinner, which we have had for several years. Most of the space used for dining, is now occupied by the museum displays. We are also working on transforming the second story into

museum space and research libraries.

This year will be an interim-type year in which we will not have a German Dinner. We are in the process of planning some type of event to have an open to introduce the members and public to the new museum. We are also planning some type of social event for all friends of the Society to enjoy.

The possibility exists of having future German dinners at another location suitable for this event. Please bear with us as we grow.

### Message from the Curator

Several ancestors of original founding families have been in contact with me providing more information about their families. As always, we are excited to receive photographs of the town, your families, businesses, farms, etc. during the early period of Maeystown's development. Please feel free to call me at home in the evenings or weekends (277-8030) with any information about Maeystown or to discuss donations or loans to the museum. Thank you for your time and generosity in keeping the rich history of Maeystown alive. Nancy Uhl

### Calendar

March 12 & 13	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 1	Fruehlingsfest/Springfest Antique and Garden Show 9:00-4:00 p.m.
May 27 & 28	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00 p.m. – Close
August 6	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 7:00-11:00 a.m.
October 9	Oktoberfest 9:00-5:00 p.m.
December 4	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.