

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

November Meeting

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Society will meet on Tuesday, November 17, instead of November 24. The meeting will be held at the Mill at 7:30 p.m.

Twenty-Ninth Annual Maeystown Oktoberfest October 11

On Sunday, October 11, the Maeystown Preservation Society hosted the 29th annual Oktoberfest featuring crafts, arts, antiques and food.

After battling rainy weather for most of the month, we were very fortunate to have a clear workday on October 10 to prepare for the Oktoberfest. On the day of the Oktoberfest, it was sunny and cool. The rains returned again the following day. The Society was thankful for the interlude of dry weather.

We were pleased to have over 50 artists, crafters and antique vendors. The crowd seemed enthralled with demonstrations from Jim Agne, using the hand powered wood lathe and Mike Lanham, the blacksmith. Those attending also enjoyed the variety offered at 13 food booths.

It is amazing to see in a village the size of Maeystown, a festival with thousands in attendance, managed so flawlessly. That is a tribute to an organization like our Preservation Society. Much thanks goes to all the members and Preservation friends who donated many hours to our cause!

Country Store Thank You!

Congratulations! You outdid yourself again this year with your generous donations to the Country Store for our Oktoberfest! A HUGE thanks to all of you for the time and effort that went into making/growing/bringing the wonderful baked goods, garden vegetables and craft items.

Another HUGE thanks to all of our tireless workers for helping clean up the Mill, set up the tables and tents, and then do it in reverse on Sunday afternoon. Another HUGE thanks to everyone who worked in the Country Store on Sunday. Oktoberfest is a great success every year because of you!

Nancy Uhl

Maeystown Old Fashioned German Christmas

Maeystown will once again celebrate its heritage and its customs at the Annual Old Fashioned German Christmas on Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 11:00a.m.-5:00p.m. The emphasis for the day will be on German Christmas customs and music. There will be an abundance of music provided by groups from around the area including a Brass Ensemble Plus One from the Bud Light Brigade, hammered dulcimer music at the mill by favorites Carl Seavers and Jim Abbott, accordion music by Mardy Eisloeffel, piano music in the ballroom of the Corner George Inn, a German Carol Sing in the ballroom; and a traditional Christmas Carol Sing at the lighting of the village Weihnachtsbaum at the rock mill. There will also be strolling musicians at various times during the day.

Pastor Ivan Horn, currently pastor at the Hecker United Church of Christ, will present two monologues about Christmas, including "The Old Shepherd", in the ballroom. There will be demonstrations of paper star folding and wrapping the sassafras tree, as well as a visit from Sankt Nickolaus. The O'Fallon High School German Club will demonstrate traditional German dances.

Three houses dressed in their Christmas best will be available for tour during the afternoon. Tickets for the houses will be available at the General Store.

Food will be in abundance, with the traditional Weihnacht Stew, Bratwurst and Kinderpunsch available from the St John Church Choir. The Maeystown Women's Club will again host the Taste of Christmas Dessert Sampling in the basement of the rock mill. The Village Kaffeehaus will have traditional German Glühwein as well as specialty coffees and wine. The Sweet Shoppe will feature German stollen and gingerbread as well as other goodies and sweets.

The Maeystown General Store will be offering gifts from both past and present and Georgia Mae's Antiques will remind you of memories of Christmases past.

The Preservation Society Rock Mill Museum will be open throughout the day. The village will be decorated for the season. Be sure to stop by the General Store when you arrive to pick up a map and time listing of events for the day.

For more information, please call 618-458-6660. Please join us for a day of celebration in Maeystown!

Marcia Braswell

Apple Butter Peeling and Cooking

There were two wonderful days of apple peeling and cooking apple butter. Everyone enjoyed both events.

If this sounds like this would interest you, and you would like a day of good fellowship, light and fun work and good food, put this on your schedule for next year. It is usually two weeks prior to the Oktoberfest. Thank you to everyone listed below that helped with the apple butter.

Thank you to the people listed below for their fine work. With the help of the volunteers, the apple butter process was a huge success. We could not have done it without you. We are very sorry if any names have been inadvertently left off this list.

Apple Peelers, Friday, September 25, 2009: Linda Green, Anita Muertz, Diane Hamilton, Adam Tyberendt, Bill Tutka, Harvey Ries, Lisa Boone, Terry Schuchmann, Tom Schuchmann, Marlou Schewe, Gloria Knoke, Ron Upchurch, Rosemarie Upchurch, Lynn Cereghino, Tony Cereghino, Sharon Ruiz, Natalya Pruitt, Katie Dillenberger, Nancy Uhl, Vivian Horn, Marcia Braswell, Carol Bay, Mary Lou Galle, Jill McMillin, Chris McMillin, Wip Hesterberg, Susan Barker, Patrick Poole, Anita Louise Poole, Linda Coats, Dorothy Brandt, Marian Knobloch, and David Braswell.

Apple Butter Stirring, Saturday, September 26, 2009: David Muertz, Anita Muertz, Linda Green, Harvey Ries, David Braswell, Gloria Knoke, Elise Finnerty, Kathryn Finnerty, Hannah Finnerty, Brad Finnerty, Kaleigh Dickneite, Christy Muertz, Chris Muertz, Kaylee Muertz (age 10 weeks, 2 days), George Obernagel, Terry Liefer, Caleb Hicks, Jason Crouch, Paige Allen, Michelle Livingston, Carrie Rodenberg, Ron Upchurch, Katie Dillenberger, Dorothy Brandt, Patricia Lewis, Marilyn Jones, Wip Hesterberg, Connie Turner, Carmen Lewis, Clara Lewis, Bud Knoke, Robbie Schulz, John Fuerst,

Betty Fuerst, Jason Reynolds, Mrs. Jason Reynolds, Rosemarie Upchurch, Adam Tyberendt, Anita Louise Poole, Patrick Poole, and Marcia Braswell.

Raffle Winners

The following persons were winners in the Oktoberfest Raffle:

- 1st Prize – Maeystown Fly-Over – Faye Hughes, Red Bud, IL
- 2nd Prize - Maeystown Creek Tour – Norma Sopp, St. Louis, MO
- 3rd Prize - Night at Corner George – Joan Hoffmann, Waterloo, IL
- 4th Prize – Picture of Old Time Baseball Game – Al Bertram, Jr. , Bethalto, IL
- 5th Prize – 2 Quarts of Apple Butter – Mary Willis, Columbia, IL
- 6th Prize – Preservation Society Cookbook – Marie Coats – Valmeyer, IL
- 7th Prize – Sal's Wartburg Inn - \$20 Gift Certificate – Nancy Uhl – Belleville, IL

Thanks to all who supported our raffle. Special thanks to those who donated prizes: David & Marcia Braswell for the Corner George Gift Certificate, David & Shirley Asselmeier for the Framed Picture, and Sal's of Wartburg for the Gift Certificate.

Kettle Sponsors

The Society would like to thank the people who sponsored kettles for the making of apple butter. The sponsors were David & Shirley Asselmeier, Fred Berg, Sr., Lynn Bersche, Joanne Goeddel, George & Linda Green, Twyla Luhr, Ray & Nancy Reed, George & Nancy Uhl, Robert & Jackie Zeitingler, and In Memory of Charles Kuergeleis.

Membership Renewals

It is that time of the year when it's time to renew memberships for the year 2010. Enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal form for your existing membership for 2010. We would appreciate it if you would review this and renew your membership as soon as possible. It will save the Society both time and expense if renewals are made promptly to avoid future follow-ups, postage and duplicate forms. We thank you for your support and understanding.

If you are a Life Member of the Society you did not receive a renewal notice, but you have received an envelope to be used if you wish to make a donation to the Society. We again thank our many Life Members for their support over the years.

Canning Jars

The Society is very grateful for all of the jars donated for the apple butter. At this time we have enough quart jars for the next few years. If you have any pint or half pint jars, we would appreciate them. Please contact Linda Green or David Asselmeier if you have jars to donate.

The Steeple

A historical event occurred in Maeystown on Saturday, August 1, 2009 when the church steeple was removed for repairs. Some of the men from our church worked for weeks getting things ready for the big day. A large group of spectators assembled to watch the procedure. Preparations that morning were that the crane boom was counter weighted with two 2,000 pound blocks to prevent the crane from tipping. A crane with a platform was used to lift the workers up to the steeple to loosen the bolts around it. Heavy straps were attached to the holes that were drilled into the steeple. There was complete silence and some anxiety as

the boom ascended to the top of the church and successfully hooked the steeple. It glided over the cedar tree by the church, over the power lines, and without any problems was set down in the church parking lot. There were cheers from the crowd.

A huge iron plate weighing several tons was used to temporarily cover the hole on the bell tower where the steeple had been. It was lifted off a flat bed to the top of the church to mark the holes that needed to be drilled. When it was brought down the holes were burned into the plate with a torch. It was then suspended in the air to cool the metal.

The steel plate was lifted up and placed on the bell tower. Some of the men were inside the bell tower to make sure the holes on the plate were placed correctly and the plate was bolted down by the crane operator. The workers all knew what they were doing and everything went smoothly. Another cheer sounded and the church bells were rung in celebration. Everyone gathered around the steeple to inspect it. It was easy to see that the old tin roof needed to be replaced.

Some of the members of our church removed the old tin and put plywood on the steeple. A layer of stainless steel will be applied by Bill Eheler's manufacturing company from Waterloo, Illinois.

A very special thank you to Mark Hoffmann and Brian Edler who did a lot of work on this project, as well as to anyone else who helped.

When the steeple has been repaired it will again be placed on the bell tower.

According to old records, the steeple was built in 1877 by Alphonse Smolkart and Thomas Fink for the cost of \$1,300. The church building was completed in 1867. Pastor Umbeck laid the church cornerstone in 1865. (This information was obtained from the book AEROHEADS TO AEROJETS.

After weeks of hard work of replacing the old wood with plywood and applying the stainless steel to the steeple by volunteers of the church and community, the steeple was ready to

place on top of the church on October 1, 2009. Again there were a lot of spectators who were all interested in watching the procedure and again preparation by the very capable operators of the equipment before the operation began. The steeple was successfully lifted from the parking lot and onto the top of the church building after the removal of the iron cover on the church. It was again bolted down and the beautiful cross was attached to it. What a glorious feeling that everything went so smoothly without any problems. There was a shout of joy and applause. The church bells were again rung for a mission completed.

The steeple looks beautiful and can be seen peeking over the hills as one enters the little village of Maeystown. It is an awesome sight. We invite any and everyone to worship with us. We also want to again thank everyone who helped in any way.

Florence Hesterberg

Calendar

December 6	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.
February 16	St. John Church Fastnacht 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 13 & 14	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 2	Fruhlingsfest/Springfest
May 28 & 29	Civic Association Homecoming
August 7	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 8:00-12:00 noon

Note from a Member

Thank you for the article on Chaflin Bridge. My sister-in-law, Bernice Rose Klump is 92 and lives in Kennewick, Washington. She always talked about dancing at Chaflin Bridge.

I sent your newsletter to her and she really enjoyed reading about that place.

Gloria Bundy left a great legacy by preserving these memories.

Joyce Rose