

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

### 30<sup>th</sup> Oktoberfest

It is hard to believe, but we will be celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> featuring crafts, arts, antiques and food from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at the area around the stone mill and bridge.

More than 50 artisans and dealers and numerous food stands will be featured. Crafts will include rug weaving, weaving, artists, woodworking and a country store.

Food will include turtle soup, ham and beans, and popcorn cooked in old-fashioned kettles. Bratwurst, potato pancakes, funnel cakes, baked goods, apple butter, cider, coffee and soda will also be available.

The village specialty shops, bed & breakfast, restaurant and museum will be open throughout the day. Proceeds from the Oktoberfest will be used by the Maeystown Preservation Society to develop and maintain the museum and visitor center in the restored 1859 stone mill

### Learn to Make Apple Butter

Instruction in the art of making apple butter will be provided at the restored 1859 rock mill in Maeystown on Friday and Saturday, September 24 & 25. Members of the Maeystown Preservation Society will demonstrate various apple peeling and stirring methods in preparation for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 10. Apple peeling will take place at the mill between 8:00-1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24. Apple butter stirring will begin at 6:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25. Friends of Maeystown willing to help peel apples or donate two hours of stirring time are asked to contact David Braswell at 618-458-6660

### Apple Butter Sponsors

Interested in sponsoring the making of apple butter? We are seeking either individuals or groups to sponsor apple butter making at the annual cooking.

A donation of \$100 will entitle you to be recognized in the paper and at the Oktoberfest, a free quart of apple butter with your name on the label, and a year's membership to the Society. Best of all, your sponsorship will also entitle you to have a special label prepared for numerous jars of apple butter noting the name of the sponsor.

If you wish, you can organize a crew to participate in the preparation of apple butter. We will be happy to provide you with all the knowledge, assistance, and all needed ingredients and equipment.

If this is of interest to you, please contact Linda Green (618-458-5698), David Asselmeier (618-281-7441), or Anita Mertz (618-458-7463).

### Oktoberfest Coming . . . Country Store needs you!

Oktoberfest is just around the corner. HUGE thanks to you all for your help and support in the past. The revenue we receive from Oktoberfest is our yearly operating money for the rock mill. We could not be successful without you! How can you help? Just bring those delicious home-baked goods or other home-made or home-grown items (vegetables, flowers, homemade gift items, etc.) to the mill on Saturday, October 9, or Sunday morning, October 10.

We need **LOTS** of volunteers to work in the Country Store starting at 7:30 a.m. to help set up our booth, throughout the day to work at the booth, and after closing for clean up.

Please call me if you can help in the Country Store. Thank you!

Nancy Uhl 618-277-8030

### Work Days at Mill

On Friday, September 17, we will have a cleaning day at the Mill. Anyone is welcome to attend.

As is done every year, we will again have a work day at the Mill on Saturday, October 9, in order to ready the Mill and the grounds for the upcoming Oktoberfest. Everyone is welcome. No experience is required. Show up at the Mill at 9:00 a.m.

### Maeystown Preservation Society Website

We are pleased to announce the Society's website is now available for use. This is the basic website. Additional features will be added when available. You can check out the website at:

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

### Raffle Tickets

Enclosed with this mailing is a set of 10 raffle tickets for each member to sell or purchase. Please return the stubs and your check in the envelope provided. Be sure to return the stubs and money by October 4 or bring them to the Country Store on the day of the Oktoberfest. Additional tickets will be available at the Old Rock Mill and at the Oktoberfest on October 10.

## August Meeting

Meetings will again resume on Tuesday, August 24 at 7:30 to begin preparation for the Oktoberfest.

## Exciting Museum Changes

Be on the lookout for some exciting changes to our museum in the next few months. We also hope to expand the museum into the third floor by next summer. Preserving the history of Maeystown is an honor.

Our many thanks to all of you who generously donate and loan items to be exhibited. If you have any old photos, documents or Maeystown artifacts you would be willing to have scanned, copied, or displayed, please give me a call.

Nancy Uhl, Curator 618-277-8030

## Deaths

On July 13, Kenneth Rahn, husband of Jean Rahn and father of Debbie (Teryl) Walster, passed away at his home. He is also survived by a grandson, great grandson, sister and brother. He was a member of several local organizations and loved to hunt and fish.

## Highlights of the Society's Past 30 Years

This Oktoberfest marks the 30<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of our Society and the Oktoberfest. Thought it would be nice to do a short history of the Society in the way of a time line.

- On May 13, 1980, a group of people met at the home of Walter (Pat) and Julia Schulz to organize a historical society in Maeystown. Those in attendance were Walter (Pat) and Julia Schulz, Meta Maeys, Gloria Bundy, Douglas

Clements, Vernon and Joanne Goeddel, Pastor Steven and Deborah Walker and Fred and Lillian Pieper. The following goals were established: (a) preserve character and integrity of Maeystown, (b) encourage preservation of existing village structures, (c) encourage preservation of local customs, traditions and values, (d) promote awareness of Maeystown's heritage, (e) develop an oral history of Maeystown, (f) solicit support in historical endeavors, (g) develop local history files

- In January of 1981 a meeting was held to discuss a Maeystown festival. The festival date was set for October 18, 1981 to be held at the mill, the rock house property and the Ruiz property.
- Attorney Jay Huetsch drew up papers for a not-for-profit corporation.
- Second Sunday in October was set as the permanent date for festival.
- Forty craft stands were at the first Oktoberfest. 1981 receipts were \$2,570.69 with a net profit of \$835.31.
- Membership was 163.
- On April 19, 1983, the Society voted to buy the mill property from Douglas Clements for \$16,000.00.
- In 1987 Gloria Bundy began a "semi occasional" newsletter.
- In 1990 officers were Ron Upchurch, President; Dennis Knobloch Vice President; Rosemarie Upchurch, Treasurer and Joanne Goeddel, Secretary
- In 1990 the two large entrance doors on the front of the mill were closed in with stone to return to original state.
- In 1991, the Mill was connected to the Maeystown water system.
- In 1995 German Dinners were begun.
- In July of 1997 Ken Kaufman proposed merging his Maeystown Volksblatt newspaper into the Society and it would become our newsletter. The "semi occasional" newsletter was discontinued.
- Also in 1991, concrete was poured to cover the basement dirt floor and a sink, two restrooms and a water heater were installed.
- In 1994 the Society voted to spend \$10,000.00 for restoration and preservation work on all three floors.
- In August of 1994 the Society applied for a matching grant from the Illinois Department of Tourism.
- The Society also applied to and received from the Internal Revenue Service a fully fledged certification as an IRS 501 (c) (3) corporation
- In June of 1995 the Society was awarded a matching grant of \$19,757.49 from the Illinois Department of Tourism. Funds were used to create a museum and visitor's center on the main level, enclose ceiling on top floor and make ready for additional museum space, heating and air conditioning added on all three floors and kitchen and meeting space in the lower level.
- In 1995 net income from the Oktoberfest was \$8,000.00 and an estimated 9,000 people attended.
- In December of 1997 the Mill restoration was completed.

- In June of 1998 the museum and visitor's center in the Mill was opened to the public.
- In June of 1998, the new Maeystown Post Office opened.
- In November of 1999 it was announced that engineering has begun for the Maeystown bypass to bypass and save the rock bridge.
- October 8 is the 20<sup>th</sup> Maeystown Oktoberfest.
- On September 15, 2001, a 120<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was held for the rock bridge.
- On June 22, 2002, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maeystown was celebrated.
- New Maeystown by-pass opened in December of 2003.
- In November of 2004 the new expanded museum opened in the mill.
- On September 10, 2005, the Society celebrated its' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an outside dinner on the mill grounds. Commemorative cancellation stamp is issued by Maeystown Post Office in honor of our anniversary.

David Asselmeier

### Calendar

September 24	Apple Peeling 8:00-1:00 p.m.
September 25	Apple Stirring 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 10	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 5	Old-Fashioned German Christmas