

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show

Maeystown, Illinois, will host its annual Fruehlingsfest antique and garden show on Sunday, May 2, 2010. 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. Maeystown, located only 30 minutes from St. Louis, is one of a handful of towns in Illinois that is listed, in its entirety, on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Fruehlingsfest will feature unique antiques from some of the finest dealers in the Midwest. In addition, various local nurseries will be selling annuals, perennials and herbs.

"The Maeystown Fruehlingsfest is permanently on my calendar," says Andy Culbertson of Quintessential Antiques in St. Louis. "We look forward to it every year, and I wouldn't think of missing it. It's a unique, entertaining day in a beautiful setting—appealing to hardened collectors and casual antique buffs alike, or for those just looking for an enjoyable way to spend a Sunday." Culbertson has been selling antiques at Fruehlingsfest since 2004.

This show, held rain or shine on the first Sunday in May, has rapidly become one of the best and most highly anticipated antique shows in the Midwest.

"It's amazing how the Fruehlingsfest has become a full-day's destination and event," says John Rehling, event coordinator. "At most antique shows, people arrive early, shop quickly, and leave for other events. At the Fruehlingsfest, people tend to arrive early, shop leisurely, and stay the entire day to soak up the Maeystown magic. They relax at the wine garden, walk the creek, explore the town, and revisit the

show to see the new items dealers bring out throughout the day." The event is free, so attendees can check out the show as often as they like.

A variety of food will be offered at Fruehlingsfest, including bratwurst, barbecue, potato pancakes, kettle corn, funnel cakes, pretzels and strawberry shortcake. A creek-side wine garden, served by the Maeystown Kaffee and Wein Haus, will also be featured.

For more information, call the Corner George Inn at 618-458-6660 or visit www.maeystown.com.

Historic Maeystown to Sponsor Annual Spring Art Show

The annual Spring Art Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14, 2010, from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Art will be on display at the Preservation Society Rock Mill and the ballroom of the Corner George Inn.

Featured artists this year will include nearby Maeystown resident Fanny Sue Schellhardt. Fanny Sue will be displaying works in watercolor.

Also displaying art will be Caroline Wylie of Chester. Ms. Wylie will be displaying works in watercolor and acrylic. She is a member of the Mississippi Valley Art Guild. The current chapter of the Art Guild was founded in 2006. Other members of the Guild will also be exhibiting works, but at the time of this printing, specific names are not confirmed.

The purpose of the Spring Art Show is to feature the works of local area artists. Historic Maeystown, the inn and the Preservation Society are happy to host the show and invite everyone to come view the artists' works. There is no admission charge for the show.

For more information, please call 618-458-6660.

New Life Members

Charles and Faye Birk have become Life Members of the Society. We thank the Birks for their continued support.

Donation to the Society

The Society has received a substantial donation from the Michael H. and Marlene E. Seyler Charitable Foundation. Marlene had been a Life Member of the Society since the 1980's.

The donation was received in early January and was discussed at the January board meeting. It was decided to utilize some of the money to expand and complete our museum on the third floor of the mill. Some of the money will also be used to do some much needed repairs to the mill to prevent further deterioration.

Marlene Elizabeth Seyler, nee Trost, was a native of Waterloo. The Trost family was from the Maeystown area and involved with St. John Church. Her parents were Walter and Alma (nee Kraemer) Trost. We believe her grandmother was a Hesterberg.

Marlene grew up in Waterloo, and married Michael Seyler in Waterloo. They later moved to Glendale, California, and retired to Sun City, Arizona. Her husband preceded her in death. She is survived by her brothers Leroy, Wayne and Richard Trost.

Marlene and her husband are buried in the Waterloo City Cemetery.

The Society is very thankful for this donation that will enable us to expand our museum and do some repair work which is always needed on an old building.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2010. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2010. 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.

Would You Want to Go Back?

On these cold snowy sub zero mornings, how would you like to shovel a path to the outhouse early in the morning and as the day progresses and the snow continues have to reshovel for each trip you make? Oh, and by the way, the outhouse construction wasn't too great and you may well get a dusting of snow when the wind whistles through the gaps in the wooden boards. I imagine having to bundle up before even attempting to go outside for the bathroom. One thing – no one lingered very long.

The challenges in the summertime were almost as bad. Often when you would open the outhouse door you were greeted by a barrage of angry wasps or hornets who liked to build their nests in the corners. They definitely did not want their territory invaded. Believe me, they didn't show any mercy if they had a chance to sting. Many a time you could see a person running out the door with these angry varmints pursuing them. Oh yes, black snakes used to love to lie on the two by fours right inside about the door and dangle their head or tail. This resulted in a scream and hasty exit by the victim. Outhouses usually were "two seaters" – an elevated one for the grown-ups and a lower one for the youngsters. The outhouse was scrubbed inside with hot soapy water on Mondays with leftover water saved from the weekly washday.

Sometimes it was cleaned again on Saturday.

Another inconvenience was the limited water supply. Most houses in Maeystown and surrounding farms had cisterns where the water supply came from the rain as it washed from the roof into guttering and into the spouting which was funneled into the cistern. You learned to conserve water all the time and especially if it didn't rain much.

A familiar slogan for the older children was, "Hey, go get a bucket of water from the cistern and while you're at it, fill the teakettle and put it on the stove so we have hot water for the dishes and then refill it again for drinking." The water bucket was either made of wood, aluminum, or granite with a long handled aluminum or granite dipper. You know all those glasses that pile up on the sink because EVERYONE must have a separate glass? No one would think of drinking out of anyone else's glass. Well listen up. Back in those days everyone drank out of the same water dipper and if there was any surplus in the dipper, back it went into the same water for the next person. You simply did not waste water. Using a glass was unheard of except at mealtime. You used a dishpan to wash your dishes in and rinsing dishes was a luxury that you seldom did. You just wiped the soap away with the dish towel. And by the way, you used homemade lye soap because there were no dishwashing detergents. A bucket was kept by the sink to put the dishwater in. Sorry, no drains to dump your water into.

Guess how you washed your hands and took a bath. There was a wash pan on a wooden stand with a bar of soap next to it. That is where everyone washed their hands and a lot of times the water was pretty dirty before you dared dump it as that too would be wasting water. Again, another bucket sat next to the washstand to pour the dirty water in. Sorry, no daily showers! One took a "sponge bath" in the wash pan and I guarantee it wasn't every day in the winter. The weekly Saturday

night bath was taken in the washtub. In winter the water was heated in the teakettle and in summer a tub of water was set in the sun so it would be warm enough for the evening bath. In winter the wash tub was set in the kitchen near the cook stove and in summer it was usually but in the smokehouse or other out buildings. Imagine taking a bath in the same water that someone else in your family bathed in. Yuck! That was the way of life then so water would not be wasted. No wonder they needed that stinky pink soap know as Lifebuoy for a bath. It not only got rid of body odor, it killed everything in its path.

Another daily chore was to fill the wood box which stood next to the cook stove in the kitchen. A familiar command was, "Fill the wood box before you take your coat off and by the way, split some kindling to start the fire again in the morning." Your feet almost froze to the floor when you got out of bed in the morning. There was no such thing as a thermostat or even a furnace – just cook stoves and heating stoves. You practically had to sit on top of the stoves to get warm.

Imagine a world without TV, computers, or electricity. Kerosene lamps were used to provide light and they had to be cleaned and filled with fuel every day. No light switches to flip on when you went outdoors at night, you used a kerosene lantern or a flashlight.

Let me ask you, "Would you really like to go back to the GOOD OLD DAYS?" Florence Hesterberg

Calendar

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