

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show

Maeystown, Illinois, will host its annual Fruehlingsfest antique and garden show on Sunday, May 1, 2011. 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.

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

Annual Maeystown Spring Art Show March 19-20, 2011

The annual Spring Art Show will be held in Maeystown on Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20, 2011. The show is sponsored by Historic Maeystown. Its mission is to highlight and recognize the works of local artists in the Monroe and Randolph County area. Works by the featured artists will be exhibited in the ballroom of the Corner George Inn Bed and Breakfast and in the Preservation Society Mill Museum from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days. There is no admission price for the show, but some works will be available for sale from the artists.

The featured artists for the 2011 show will be Barbara A. Schrieber and Faith E. Mueller, both of Waterloo. Mrs. Mueller has previously exhibited in the Maeystown show, but this will be the debut of Mrs. Schrieber's works in Maeystown.

Barbara Schrieber majored in graphic design and art education at Eastern Illinois University. She earned her bachelor's degree there and has also received her master's degree in

Watercolor Painting. Her watercolors are a suggestion of an image. She especially enjoys painting barns, flowers, angels and landscapes. Color and texture create unique excitement of brush work on the paper. She also does commission pieces of homes and family portraits when asked. Barbara teaches art in her home to both children and adults, twice a week. She and her husband of 27 years, Tom Schrieber, reside in Waterloo and have three children--Joy, Tim and Annie--as well as a golden retriever and a Siamese cat.

Faith Mueller was born in Southington, Connecticut, and has lived in Waterloo with her husband Herb for over 20 years. She has a bachelor's degree in education with an art major from Concordia University in Nebraska. As a child, she enjoyed drawing and painting whenever she could. Since Faith is retired from teaching and her three children are grown, she now has more time to pursue her art. She enjoys spending time drawing portraits of children at Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School in East St Louis, painting oil portraits by commission, sketching, and designing greeting cards to order for friends and family. Faith appreciates the opportunity to participate in local art shows. At the Maeystown show, she will be available both Saturday and Sunday to draw quick portraits for a very nominal fee. Bringing forth a good likeness is very rewarding for both the artist and subject. A sitting for one of these quick drawings takes less than 15 minutes. No one is too young or too old for these quick portraits!

For more information on the Spring Art Show, please call 618-458-6660. Support the arts in Monroe County!

Marcia Braswell

Additional Donation to the Society

The Society has received an additional 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 first donation was made in January 2009.

This donation was received in January and was discussed at the January board meeting. To utilize some of the money, we plan to continue expand and complete our museum on the third floor of the mill and outside enhancements in front of the mill.

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.

Marlene grew up in Waterloo, and married Michael Seyler in Waterloo. They later moved to Glendale, California, and retired to Sun City, Arizona. She died December 25, 2008. Her husband preceded her in death.

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.

Mill Renovations

It has been over 16 years since our beautiful mill has had some major repairs and renovations. We are happy to announce renovations are almost complete. Broken window panes have been replaced, along with re-caulking and painting of all interior and exterior windows, leaking gutters and roof repaired, rotting fascia boards replaced, all interior plaster walls and trim were painted, and much, much more. More exciting plans are scheduled for the mill and museum! Keep watching the Volksblatt for updates.

Welcome Sign

Check out our wonderful new Welcome sign just inside our museum for our visitors which explain how Jacob Maeys and his family arrived in Maeystown and how the village evolved. More great story boards are in the works for the museum along with new displays!

Information and Photos Needed

In our November issue we did an article on the street lamps in Maeystown before electricity. We are still seeking information on the street lamps and would be very interested if anyone has information or photos regarding the lamps.

We are also interested in any photos that our members may have showing the streets and street scenes of Maeystown. This information would be very useful for our files and museum. We will copy any photos and return them you. If you can supply any information, please contact either Ron Upchurch (618-939-7439) or David Asselmeier (618-281-7441).

David Asselmeier

The Star on the Hill

In about the year 1955 a group of young men who were members of the Maeystown Civic Association placed a lighted star at Christmas on the southern hill overlooking Maeystown. These men were Fred Pieper, Louis Hoffmann, Guy Bundy, Louis Dillenberger, and Willbert Hesterberg. Louis Dillenberger contacted Vernon Kuergeleis of Waterloo to see if he could construct a wooden star – and he consented. Mr. Dillenberger wanted to personally pay for the star.

Before the Advent season these men carried the star, the wire needed for the lights, and a ladder about half way up the hill. The lights were put on the star before it was taken up. Wip

volunteered to climb up the ladder about half way up the tree and he placed the star on a nail he had put there. It was about 30 feet from the ground. The men then rolled the wire that had been attached to the star down the hill to the old firehouse. William Lueking had a garage next to the firehouse and he volunteered to plug the star in every evening and unplug it again in the morning. After Christmas these men would climb the hill and the tree to take the star down and store it a Mr. Dillenberger's house until the next year.

After about five years Milton Schilling suggested to set a post with a meter on it next to the electric post downtown, run two wires to the star, and have the electric company turn on the star at the beginning of the Christmas season and set it so it would automatically turn on and off each day until the holiday season was over. Each year there were a few more interested individuals who would volunteer to put the star up and take it down.

For the first few years they also put lights on a cedar tree on the hill close to the tree that had the star. They used a long pole with a hook on it from the fire department to go round and round the cedar tree with the lights.

It was a lot of work but it also was worthwhile to bring joy to those approaching Maeystown. The star shone brightly as a beacon on the hill.

They also decorated a cedar tree and placed it on the square in Maeystown. One year an elderly gentleman by the name of John Welsch, who lived in a small house next to our present post office, drove into the tree and damaged it. He commented in his slow drawl, "I didn't see it and it shouldn't have been there anyway." That was the end of the tree on the town square.

Wip Hesterberg is the only one still living of the original crew of the star project. He is very happy to see that one of his best friend's son, Mark Bundy, has continued the tradition, assisted by Earl Fitch, President of the Civic Association. The only difference

is that the star is put a little lower and easier to reach. It stays there all year and is automatically turned on and off during the holidays. It is still beautiful to see.

Note – this information was gotten from my husband, Wilbert.

Florence Hesterberg

Norma (Faus) Sopp Get-Together

Norma (Faus) Sopp is the youngest daughter of Louis and Elenora Faus. At the age of 96, along with her daughter Linda Frisch, she had a get-together for her nieces, great nieces, and great-great nieces on October 9, 2010. Norma was born, raised and married in Maeystown, Illinois. She was a member of St. John UCC and sang in the choir, as well as taught Sunday School. She now lives in St. Louis and is a member of Christ UCC in Dupo, Illinois. A memorial was given in memory of her mother and father to St. John UCC.

Faye (Faus) Birk

Creek Walk Tour

Norma (Faus) Sopp won the Creek Walk Tour from the 2009 Oktoberfest Raffle. On June 8, Norma will be 97 so she felt she better not take the walk and instead gave it to her daughter Linda Frisch. Linda spread the fun by asking more relatives of her mom's. On October 16, 2010, Linda, myself (Norma's great niece), Christy (Birk) Muertz (Norma's great-great niece), Becky (Breidecker) Kelly (Norma's great niece), Sebastian Kelly (Norma's great-great nephew), two of Sebastian's friends and Gracie Allen (Pastor Poole's daughter) were guided by Mark Bundy. While we walked the creek Norma visited with her old friends Florence and Wip Hesterberg. They reminisced and laughed for hours. I was really excited about this because growing up I had walked the creek many times from our house, Melvin Faus' farm above Maeystown. The

difference was we always walked the branch of the creek behind Gloria Bundy's house and now we would be walking the side behind the Pfeifer house (now owned by Brian Coats). We couldn't have asked for a more gorgeous fall day!

We piled in my car and drove up by the Maeystown Sportsman's Club where we began our trek. Mark showed many interesting points along the way. He showed us where David Henerfauth's family had a clubhouse, what Mark believes is one of the oldest trees in the area and many more. Norma had told me of a cave she and her sisters had gone to many times when she was young. They would go from her home above Maeystown across from Posten School. I asked Mark and he said he thought he knew where it was but he wasn't positive, so off we went to find it. He was right and it was neat to see the cave after hearing about it so many times. He also showed us many springs along the way.

After going north and finding the cave we headed back towards town. We walked under the bypass and came to the area behind Harry Steingrubby's. It is a beautiful spot due to Harry's hard work of keeping it cleaned up. We soon arrived behind Brian Coats'. We reminisced about the Maeystown Homecoming that used to be in the area between Coats/ and Steingrubby's. For Linda and I it brought back old times.

We went behind Mark's house to the waterfall. Norma had pictures of this area with her husband Oliver along with her friends and sisters from when she was young. They would walk the creek from behind Louis Faus, Jr.'s home above Maeystown (currently owned by Lonnie Roy).

Mark showed us where the spring was behind their house and how it had dried up and reemerged up the creek a short ways when there had been an earthquake. He then showed us the original house built by his grandfather Jacob Maey.

It was an amazing day and we hated to have it come to an end!

Faye (Faus) Birk

Death

Twyla Luhr

Twyla Luhr of Waterloo died November 5, 2010. She was a Life Member and long time supporter of the Maeystown Preservation Society.

She was married to the late Alois Luhr. Survivors include her children Sheryl (Bob) Metzger, Vickie (Bill) Gardner, Michael (Michelle) Luhr, Jay (Betty) Luhr, and Bethany (Mark) Miller. She is also survived by grandchildren, great grandchildren, many other relatives, friends, and loyal employees of Luhr Brothers, Inc.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still a few people who have not renewed their membership for 2011. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2011. 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.

Calendar

March 8	Fastnacht St. John Church 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 19 & 20	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 1	Fruehlingsfest Antique & Garden Show 9:00-4:00 p.m.
May 27 & 28	Civic Association Homecoming 5:00p.m.-Close
August 6	Trash and Treasures Village Yard Sale
October 9	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 4	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.