

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

32nd Oktoberfest

It is hard to believe, but we will be celebrating the 32nd Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 14, featuring arts, crafts, antiques and food from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at the area around the stone mill and bridge.

More than 50 artisans, crafters, dealers, and numerous food stands will be featured. Arts and crafts will include rug weaving, felting, blacksmithing, photography, woodworking, and a country store.

Food will include turtle soup, potato pancakes and popcorn cooked in old-fashioned kettles. Bratwurst, funnel cakes, apple butter, and pies will be some of the other choices 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 28 & 29. Members of the Maeystown Preservation Society will demonstrate various apple peeling and stirring methods in preparation for the 32nd annual Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 14. Apple peeling will take place at the mill between 8:00-2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 28. Apple butter stirring will begin at 6:00 a.m. and go until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. 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 13, or Sunday morning, October 14.

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

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 8 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 14.

German Dinner

After a long absence the Society sponsored a German Dinner on June 23. Almost 100 people gathered at St. John Church Hall for an evening of wonderful German food and a wonderful talk from Charlie Hoessle in regard to his memories of Maeystown and wildlife of Monroe County. Special thanks go to Kenneth and Jean Knobloch for the wonderful meal, Karen Leber for the delicious pies and to Charlie Hoessle for the program. Thank you to all who supported the dinner and thanks to all the members who worked to make it possible.

August Meeting

Meetings will again resume on Tuesday, August 28, at 7:30 p.m. to begin preparation for the Oktoberfest.

Letter from Member

We wish to share with you a recent letter from Charles Bieber, one of our Life Members. We think it is a letter that shows that once the magic spirit of Maeystown attaches to you it stays with you all your life. Thank you Charles for the letter.

David,

I was born and raised on a farm seven miles from Valmeyer. Raised there with my brother Chip and three sisters, Wanda, Eileen and Judy.

Our family moved to Maeystown in approximately 1964. While there I sang in the choir at Maeystown church on the hill.

I went into the Navy in 1965 after graduating from Valmeyer High School. Met my wife Darlene in Baltimore, Maryland, while attending radio and electronics operations at a school in Bainbridge, MD. We were married on January 11, 1967, in Baltimore. Stayed in the Navy until 1969. Started to work for United Parcel Service in that year. During that time we lived in Baltimore for four years and then bought property and built a home in River's Beach, MD, just north of Annapolis, Maryland.

Lived there for 17 years and then moved to Pennsylvania in 1989. My dad passed away while living in Maeystown and mother developed Multiple Sclerosis. She went to the nursing home in Waterloo and my brother Chip saw to the sale of our home there. Our home was out in the country about 1 ½ miles from the church cemetery down below Glenn Voelker's place.

Though my siblings lived in Maeystown many years after I left, I lived there long enough to appreciate

Maeystown as a wonderful place to live. Practiced baseball behind the Sunday school with Ron Roling, Willis Bundy, brother Chip and many more. I remember the sleigh rides down the hill to the creek past the tavern.

We attended the Oktoberfest about 6-7 times or whenever we are there on vacation. During those times I remember visiting many times with Gloria Bundy, sitting on her front porch.

Mrs. and Mrs. Hesterberg (Wip and Florence) were very good friends with my mother and I remember walking to the top of the hill to their home while at the Oktoberfests. So sorry to hear so many elderly people I knew have passed away.

During my years away from Maeystown we always kept track of most people there. My family always tried to talk me into coming back to live there, but after so many years it just didn't get done.

Retired from UPS after 34 years and still live in Pennsylvania. Son Chip, daughter Angela and grand children. All graduated from college and have deep roots here in their professions.

We have a large 150 year Maeystown poster hanging in our living room since the day we brought it home that year from the Oktoberfest. Love to drive down there from Waterloo every time we come to visit relatives.

So, yes there are very fond memories of Maeystown and always will be. I love the way the Society has taken our home town to recognition. Keep up the good work and I'll be there whenever I can.

Regards,
Charles R. Bieber
Hanover, PA

Deaths

Colette Gerhart

We are sorry to hear of the death of Colette Gerhart, widow of Bud Gerhart, of Washington, Missouri, on May 13, 2012. The Gerharts were long-time members and supporters of the Society.

Calendar

September 28	Apple Peeling 8:00- 2:00 p.m.
September 29	Apple Butter Cooking 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 14	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 2	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.
February 12	Fastnacht – St. John United Church of Christ 5:00-8:00 p.m.
May 5	Fruehlingsfest/Springfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.