

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 6, 2012. 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.

John Rehling

Annual Maeystown Spring Art Show March 17 & 18, 2012

The annual Spring Art Show will be held in Maeystown on Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18, 2012. 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. Art will be displayed from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. both days. There is no admission price for the show. The St. Joe Women's Fellowship will be serving food at the Mill. There were no other details at the time of printing.

New Life Member

Charles Bieber, Sr. of Hanover, Pennsylvania, has become the newest life member of the Society. Thank you, Charles.

Letter from Member

The following letter was received from Paul Steingrubby in response to our November Post Office article.

Dear David,

Re: Closing of Post Office Season's Greetings!

I am sending you a recent newspaper clipping that might explain why the Post Office situation is in such shambles.

I was a kid in World War II, and when we saved a dime would walk the three miles to the Maeystown Post Office to buy a Saving Stamp. We managed to scrape up \$18.75 during the war years to buy a bond. Ed Pfeiffer was the Post Master of Maeystown at the time.

Old "Cotton" Heyl made the six day-a-week delivery for the Fults area in his trusty Model A Ford over dirt roads. Stamps were jumped from two to three cents. Wow!

Best Wishes,
Paul Steingrubby

We always welcome letters that give us a glimpse of the past.

Note: Due to space limitations, we are not printing the news article. (but we all know the story!) Mr. Steingrubby mentions a part of American life that only people living in a very small town would understand. That was instrument called "Saving Stamps." After reading Paul's letter, I did some checking on the Savings Stamp Program. Congress established the Postal Savings System January 1, 1911. The initial plan was aimed at getting money out of hiding from immigrants who did not trust banks and also to provide a method of saving money in small communities that lacked banks. The minimum deposit was \$1.00 and the maximum was \$500. This was later raised to \$1,000 then to

\$2,500. Deposits were made at the local post office and certificates were issued in amounts of \$1, \$2, \$5 \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100. They looked like currency. To save smaller amounts to build up to the larger certificates customers could purchase a 10 cent postal savings card and then buy 10 cent stamps to fill it up to buy a larger certificate. The post office served as a bank and took in cash and paid it out. The postal stamps paid a rate of 2% and then the Post Office deposited their funds in banks who were required to pay them 2.5%. The half cent spread was to pay for the Post Office Department to administer the plan.

(Editor's Note: Who wouldn't like a guaranteed 2% rate today on savings?)

This system continued until July 1, 1935, when the government began issuing Savings Bonds. This was to attract small savers and pay a good rate. Customers could trade in their accumulated deposits for the bonds. The folks in the Postal Savings System could keep their deposits and interest was paid. The government ended the Postal Savings System on July 1, 1967.

The Savings Bonds of 1935 were issued in denomination of \$25 to \$1,000. They were sold at 75% of the maturity value and paid a fantastic 2.9% rate of return! The old standard for many years was to buy a savings bond for \$18.75, hold it for 10 years at 2.9% and it was worth \$25.

These original bonds issued starting in 1935 were called "Baby Bonds." In 1941 with the start of World War II they were called "War Bonds."

U. S. Savings Bonds still exist today, but they pay many types or variable rates. It is hard to keep track of rates. There is no longer any set maturity.

Another change came on January 1, 2012, where you can no longer buy savings bonds at banks and you have to purchase them from directly the Treasury. No more of Grandpa or Grandma going into the local bank to buy a bond for a grandchild!!!

David Asselmeier

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2012. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2012. 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.

Thank You

We wish to extend a "thank you" to Marian Knobloch who donated a beautiful cedar tree from her property for the Village Christmas Tree at the Mill.

Museum Improvements

The Society continues to make improvements at the Mill. We are currently in the process of adding additional museum space on the top (2nd) floor of the Mill. Improvements involve patching and repairing many gaps between the wood floor and the stone walls to create a level meeting point where floor meets wall. The meeting point of ceiling and walls has also been improved. We also plan to clean the floor to bring back the old wood and make it more presentable. Many things need to be done to preserve and improve a 150 year plus building.

New and additional signage and lighting will be added. We will also be using many of the old historical display cases from Maeystown merchants as we have done on the main level. We have many items to display.

David Asselmeier

Smithsonian Display

Monroe County and the Waterloo Museum Society have been selected as one of the six cities in Illinois to receive the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit called "The Way We Worked." The exhibit will trace work as an essential element of American culture and work force over the last 150 years. The exhibit itself will be at the History Museum of Monroe County in Waterloo from June 2 through July 14, 2012. It will be a county-wide event with the towns of Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer and Maeystown all participating. Local displays and programs will be held in each town and each town will be responsible for a display at the Smithsonian exhibit in Waterloo. This will be a significant event for the county and we are happy that the Maeystown Preservation Society and our Mill and Museum were invited to be a part of this.

Please check local papers for more information on the great event. We will have an update in our May issue.

The Weather

We all talk about the weather. Recently we experienced wide swings in the weather with summer temperatures in January and February and tornadoes on New Year's Eve.

I recently found an interesting article which really shows you that these wide swings in the weather are not new. The article below caught my eye from the "Yesterdays" column from the Waterloo-Republic Times.

100 Years Ago – Waterloo Republican – November 15, 1911

The change from summer to winter last Saturday night was the most sudden drop ever observed. At 6 o'clock the windows and doors were open for fresh air. At 9 o'clock it was snowing and the temperature was 11. One of the

most sudden changes prior to that time was in the fall of 1885. Friday afternoon was nice and warm with the thermometer at 70. Daylight the next morning found it at zero.

David Asselmeier

Deaths

Alvera Niebruegge

Alvera Niebruegge, longtime member of the Society, died on December 4, 2011, at the age of 89 years. She is survived by her daughter Judy Maurer, son Robert (Darlene) Niebruegge, daughter-in-law Betty Jo Niebruegge, and brother Roger Nottmeier, along with grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her husband Robert Niebruegge, son David Niebruegge, and son-in-law Robert Mauer preceded her in death.

Robert Voris

Robert Voris, longtime life member of the Society died on January 20, 2012. He was 83 years old. Robert was the retired editor for The Waterloo-Republic Times and its predecessor, The Waterloo Republican. He is survived by his wife Pat Voris, son Craig (Alice Anderson) Voris, daughter Cathy (Mike) Gilbert, granddaughter Erina (Lucas) Hayes, sister Jean Jost and brothers-in-law and sisters-in law David and Wanda Quernheim, Margaret Frederick, and Sharon Quernheim.

Calendar

February 21	Fastnacht - St. John United Church of Christ 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 17 & 18	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 6	Fruehlingsfest/Springfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
Memorial Day Weekend	Civic Association Homecoming
August 4	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale
October 14	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.