

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

Historic Maeystown to Host Antique & Garden Show (Fruehlingsfest)

Maeystown, Illinois, will host its annual Fruehlingsfest antique and garden show on Sunday, May 5, 2013. 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 Spring Art Show Features the Work of School Art Instructors!

Historic Maeystown and the Preservation Society will once again sponsor the annual Spring Art Show on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Exhibits will be set up in the Mill and Museum, the Corner George Inn ballroom, and in the shops if extra space is needed. There is no admission charge for the show.

We are delighted to be featuring the work of the art teachers from Monroe County schools this year. Participating artists include Jane Huebner, Waterloo High School; Diane Corzine, Gibault High School; Jen Traube, Columbia High School; Sara Schoenborn, Valmeyer High School and Junior High; Annette Rau, Waterloo Junior High; and Tammy Fulte, Columbia Middle School.

Each artist will be bringing different style works to the show. Jane

Huebner considers herself to be a wildlife painter and Diane Corzine prefers to work with mixed media within an artwork. Jen Traube specializes in photography and Sara Schoenborn enjoys pen, pencil and painting. Annette Rau enjoys using unexpected materials with jewelry and fabrics, while Tammy Fulte also enjoys graphite pencil and sculpture.

These ladies bring massive experience to the art education atmosphere in Monroe County. Please support them by attending the show!

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed out with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2013. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2013. 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.

How Do You Eat Your Apple Butter?

How do people like to eat their apple butter? Here are the full results of the informal survey conducted since the November issue. Some comments were verbal and some folks wrote me a note. Enjoy!!

- . Eat the apple butter on the cinnamon sticks that come in some jars.
- . On toast.
- . Homemade bread with butter.

- . On top of cottage cheese.
- . In a sandwich with summer sausage.
- . On top of oatmeal.
- . In a liver sausage sandwich.
- . With pork sausage.
- . On top of spaghetti.
- . On toast with an egg.
- . On top of cooked noodles.

One reader responded with a note that said: "My grandparents, Daniel and Katie Wild, along with my mother, Bertha Washhausen, always cooked apple butter in a large kettle at their home near Burksville, IL. They would also make from scratch, tons of homemade noodles on that day and as they kept cooking (and they kept stirring) we grandchildren, after a morning of frolicking outside in the crisp autumn air, would sit down to a "feast of hot, buttery noodles topped with warm apple butter- yum-o!! Try it you'll like it." Joyce Pfeiffer

The writer enjoys it on toast with butter or country bread with butter or an English muffin with butter.

David Asselmeier

History of the Rock Mill

Maeystown had its beginning in 1852. It was platted out in lots in 1856 by "Jacob Maey and Company." Jacob Maey later took a man named Jacob Pilliard as his partner. Jacob and his wife Barbara sold land to Jacob Pilliard for \$246.00. Pilliard and a John Coleman built the mill in 1859. Pilliard sold it to Coleman on March 3, 1860. Coleman sold it to Anton Zeitinger on November 12, 1862.

Zeitinger still owned the mill when there was a fire in 1868. At a later date, the mill was purchased again by Jacob Maey, William Maey, Jacob Jobb, Jacob Hoffman, George Hoffman, William Hoefft and Dr. Charles Wilhelmj. It was rebuilt in 1880, but never put back in operation.

On September 28, 1893, Jacob and Christine Maey and Margaret Maey, along with sellers Jacob and

Wilhelmina Hoffman, August and Catherine Quernheim, Jacob and Gertrude Jobb and George Hoffman sold the mill to William (Wilhelm) Hoefft for \$246.60.

August Hoefft was the undertaker in the village and a brother to William (Wilhelm) Hoefft. August died later in 1893 and William set up an undertaking and furniture business in the mill. He ran the business until he was killed in a car/pedestrian accident in November 1914. William was the pedestrian. At that time his half-brother Charles (Karl) Hoefft left farming and took over the business and became an undertaker. The family moved to Maeystown on Christmas Day 1915.

Karl cut one of the big doors into the front of the building for a car garage. The second floor was for living quarters and the third floor was for storage. This third floor was really the fourth level of the mill. It was made of wood and had been damaged by a previous fire. Hoefft also installed a cider press, cooked sorghum and operated a delivery truck to haul produce to St. Louis and bring back manufactured products for merchants and residents. In addition, Karl Hoefft also sold electric light plants in 1921. The members of St. John Church voted to buy from him a light plant to service the church, old school house, parsonage and the newly built church hall for \$164.31. This price included labor, globes, wire, switches and two gallons of gas for the unit.

Editor's Note: For information purposes, public electricity did not arrive in Maeystown until 1938.

Charles (Karl) Hoefft's business venture ended when he was struck and killed by a train at Maey Station on July 6, 1922. The mill was then sold to Jacob Henerfauth for \$3,000.00 on October 24, 1922.

George and Marie Edler bought the mill from Henerfauth on November 22, 1934. A car repair garage continued in the mill for many years. A man named Jack Monroe operated the garage and he and his wife lived on the second floor. He also put in a barber chair on

the first floor and cut hair when he had time. Later Erwin Hoffmann and Charlie Fischer operated the garage. Walter (Wuzzie) Vallowe was a mechanic for them.

In April of 1935, Edler removed the damaged third floor from the building. Edler sold the property to the Monroe Service Company, now Gateway FS, who operated it as a service station. Operators of the business during this ownership were Louis (Peggy) Hoffman, Guy Bundy, and again Jack Monroe

Vernon Hoffman operated the garage in 1945 and 1946. In 1947, Albert (Slim) Knobloch operated the garage and did so until 1963. In 1963, the Maeystown Civic Association bought the building and used it for storage.

The Civic Association sold the mill to Doug Clements on July 14, 1980. He operated a business that made hand-crafted furniture, repaired furniture and restored horse drawn conveyances.

At a special meeting held April 19, 1983, the Maeystown Preservation Society voted to purchase the mill from Clements Woodworking for the sum of \$16,000.00. The Society gave Clements \$3,500.00 and was given a loan by First National Bank of Waterloo for \$12,500 for the purchase of the property.

Today the mill is owned and operated by the Maeystown Preservation Society as a museum, historic displays, visitor's center, and a social center. The Mill plays a large part at the time of the Oktoberfest and other festivals in Maeystown. It is also used by the Society as its headquarters.

The Society has worked hard over the years to restore and preserve the Mill. In 1995, the Society received a matching grant from the Tourism Bureau of the State of Illinois to preserve and restore the Mill. Tuck-pointing, new guttering, closing up the large front doors and replacing some windows had been previously done. The matching grant allowed the Society to add restrooms, heat, air conditioning, upgrade electric service and sewer hookup, a kitchen area, storage and a

meeting area. A museum and visitor's center was created on the street level. During 2012, the Society has done a lot of preservation work such as restoring and painting all wood on the entire outside of the Mill, along with the tin roof. More workspace for making apple butter was added. Windows were also painted and caulked. New signage was added inside, along with a new historic Maeystown sign, stone patio and bench outside the Mill. Numerous repairs and improvements were made inside. The top floor was restored in preparation for additional museum space.

David Asselmeier

Information for this article was gathered from a brochure "History of the Rock Mill" by Gloria Bundy and "Maeystown Mill and Morsels" cookbook issued by Maeystown Preservation Society, Copyright 1996, printed by Morris Press.

Donation

The Society has received two old items from Ellen Kuergeleis, nee Altes.

One item is a 27-inch diameter brass apple butter kettle and tripod. The kettle has been in her family for many years and once was the property of Elizabeth Maey Diehl who was a daughter of Jacob Maey.

The other item is an antique wooden commode. For those who don't know what a wooden commode looks like, go to the internet. This one is a fancy piece of furniture and belonged to Ellen's great great grandmother who died in 1910. Her maiden name was Catherine Hoffman. She married a Bickelhaupt who died and she later married Karl Nagel.

Thank you Ellen for the wonderful additions to our collection.

David Asselmeier

Old Pictures

The Society is always interested in old pictures of Maeystown and Maeystown families. If you have old photos or know of someone who has old photos, we would appreciate it if you would contact us. "Old" doesn't totally mean to be back in the 1800's or early 1900's only. Since this is now 2013 photos prior to 1950 are now 60 years old. If you no longer want them you can donate them to us for our files or we will make copies and return the originals to you. Contact David Asselmeier at 618-281-7441.

Video Tape Sessions

For a couple of years the Society has been active in doing videotapes of some of the senior members of the area that lived in or grew up in Maeystown. We feel it is our duty to preserve the memories and stories of Maeystown that these folks have to tell. Ron Upchurch has done the videotaping.

We have done video tape sessions with Whip Hesterberg, Florence Hesterberg, Dorothy Brandt, Joanne Goeddel, Norma Faus Sopp, and Ruth Faus Stumpf. We plan to do more in the future.

David Asselmeier

Death

Dorothy "Pat" Voris

Pat Voris, a Life Member of the Maeystown Preservation Society, died November 25, 2012. Her husband Robert Voris preceded her in death. She is survived by her children Craig (Alice Anderson) Voris and Cathy (Mike) Gilbert. Also surviving are a granddaughter, Erin (Lucas) Hayes, brother David (Wanda) Quernheim, sister Margaret Frederick and sisters-in-law Sharon Quernheim and Jean Jost.

Calendar

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.
May 24 & 25	Civic Association Homecoming
August 3	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale
September 27	Apple Peeling 8:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.
September 28	Apple Butter Stirring 6:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
October 13	Oktoberfest 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
December 1	Old Fashioned German Christmas 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.