

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

34th Oktoberfest

On Sunday, October 12, we will be celebrating the 34th Oktoberfest, with arts, crafts, antiques, and great food from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the area around the stone mill and bridge.

More than 60 artisans, crafters, antique dealers, and food stands will be featured. Arts and crafts will include rug weaving, handmade wool coats and soaps, paintings, candy, painted furniture and a country store. Food will include popcorn cooked in an old-fashioned kettle, turtle soup, and potato pancakes. Some of the other choices available are bratwurst, funnel cakes, and pies.

The village specialty shops, bed & breakfast, restaurant, tea room and museum will be open throughout the day. Proceeds from the Oktoberfest are used by the Maeystown Preservation Society to preserve the integrity and character of the village and to develop and maintain the museum and visitor center in the restored 1859 stone mill.

Anita Muertz

Make Apple Butter in Maeystown

Friends of Maeystown will assemble at the Maeystown Preservation Society Mill on Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27, 2014 to make apple butter for the upcoming Maeystown Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 12.

Apple peeling occurs at the mill basement from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, the 26th, and apple butter stirring takes place from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 27th.

Join us for fun, food and a chance to meet your neighbors on one or both of these days. If you can help peel or stir for at least two hours, please contact David Braswell at 618-580-5875 or cornrgeo@htc.net.

David Braswell

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) 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 11, or Sunday morning, October 12.

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

Historic Maeystown to Host 2nd Annual Paint Out October 18

Historic Maeystown will sponsor the second annual Maeystown Paint Out on Saturday, October 18, beginning at 9:00a.m. The first event held in 2013 was a huge success, with over 25 plein air artists from throughout the metro St Louis area participating. The 2014 Paint Out will include registration, painting time in the open air, lunch and a display of finished paintings which will conclude the event. Everyone is encouraged to come watch as the artists create their works during the day, as well as to attend the display in the afternoon. Plein air artists paint in the open air, and most works are finished the day they are begun. The purpose of the event is to introduce artists to the natural beauty of Maeystown and spectators to the art of plein air painting.

A Visit to Bellheim

Shirley and David (Buzz) Asselmeier visited Germany in June of this year. One of our stops included the village of Bellheim. We met with Klaus and Ute Schäffner on Monday, June 17. The Schäffners were gracious hosts. Before we toured the village we were treated to a wonderful lunch of

"Kartoffelsuppe and Dampfnudeln." The Dampfnudeln was served with a choice of apple butter or vanilla sauce. After lunch we met Klaus' friend and classmate Bernd Schuler and we all went on a walking tour of the village. We enjoyed visiting the Catholic Church under renovation and the Protestant Church. The families that came to Maeystown from Bellheim were members of the Protestant Church. Along the walk we passed many homes that were typical of the region. Most of the homes were close to the streets and very close together. The flower boxes on the houses were especially beautiful. Klaus took us to the home of the Bellheim Cultural Society. It is an old sawmill that the Society is renovating. On the other side of the creek by the sawmill is an old grain mill. Near the two mills was the old border which separated Germany and France many years ago. We also visited the cemetery and saw many familiar names. In the evening we enjoyed an Italian dinner at a local restaurant with Klaus, Bernd, and Mayer Tobias Baumgaertner. The mayor presented us with a Coat of Arms of Bellheim, a history book of Bellheim, and a poetry book written by a local well-known poet.

On Tuesday, June 18, Klaus accompanied us on a trip to Heidelberg. We took the funicular up to the Heidelberg Castle. The views from the castle were spectacular. We walked down to the city and enjoyed the views of Heidelberg from the bridge across the Neckar River. We also visited the city of Speyer, visiting the cathedral and the historical buildings.

Klaus and Ute, along with their dog Sophie, went on a hike with us to the Palatine Forest on Wednesday, June 19. It was a beautiful day for a hike. We visited St. Anne Chapel along the way. The fox gloves were in bloom and were with us all the way to the top of the hiking trail. There was a restaurant at the top of the trail where we had a lunch of sausages, beer and wine. After the delicious lunch and a short rest, we walked back to our car. We were surprised to see a pot belly pig on the

hiking trail. At first we thought it was a wild boar, but found out it was a lost pot belly pig when it was reported in the local newspaper.

After the hike we went to visit Burg Landeck. The views of the wine country were spectacular from the Burg. After a short rest we were on the road again.

On our way to Wissembourg, France, we stopped by the wine gate in Schweigen. Wissembourg was a beautiful French village. We walked along many of the streets and then stopped for coffee before we returned to Bellheim.

One of the highlights of our trip was going to Strasbourg, France with Ute and Klaus. The canal and flowers were very beautiful. We visited the cathedral and shopped at the street market. When we returned to Bellheim we were treated to a barbecue at Bernd's home. After the delicious supper we got to see some of Bernd's photography. He is a professional photographer and he had many special types of photographs to share. At the end of the evening it was time to say goodbye to our new friends. We are planning to see them when they come to visit us in Maeystown.

Shirley Asselmeier

After the Asselmeiers left, David and Marcia Braswell visited Bellheim and enjoyed the company of the Schöffners.

On Monday, June 23, 2014, David and Marcia Braswell and their German cousin Traudel Postel from Hassloch (about 25 minutes away) arrived in the village of Bellheim around noon. It was a beautiful sky blue day with temperatures in the 70's. The three were met by their hosts for the afternoon, Klaus and Ute Schöffner and Ernst Gilbert. After a brief welcome at the Schöffner home, Klaus, Ernst, David, Marcia and Traudel took off on a walking tour of the village (population 8,000). What a charming town, houses built right up to the sidewalk and many adorned with flower boxes hung from

the window...We walked past the protestant church and the catholic church where the steeple is under renovation and surrounded by scaffolding....down the Kirchgässl (church alley) past several centuries old half timbered houses ("Fachwerk Häuser"). A short distance later we turned left, went a little further and there was the sawmill on one side of the creek and the grain mill on the other...The sawmill is a restoration project of the Kulturverein Bellheim (Bellheim Cultural Society)...Hungry we returned to the Schöffner home where Ute had prepared a midday meal, a regional specialty of "Kartoffelsuppe, Dampfnudeln und Bellheimer Bier". Yes, Bellheim has its own brewery. After lunch our group returned for a tour of the grain mill which had been restored into a home by a local architect and his wife. Our final stop was the site of the old border which once existed between Germany and France. Having spent a delightful day in Bellheim, we left with several gifts to be delivered to the Maeystown Preservation Society: a Bellheimer beer stein, a glass coat of arms of the village that says "Ortsgemeinde Bellheim", a book about Bellheim's poet, August Heinrich, a metal engraving with his likeness, and the history book of Bellheim which includes two pages with a picture of the Corner George Inn Bed & Breakfast (built by George Jakob Hoffmann from Bellheim) and a listing of Bellheim families who emigrated to Maeystown.

David Braswell

Following is an article that was in the local newspaper in Bellheim after the Asselmeier visit.

"A Visit in the Village of the Ancestors"

Maeystown was cofounded by emigrants of Bellheim. Since more than two years a brisk contact exists between the "Kulturverein Bellheim" and the "Maeystown Preservation Society" in Illinois. It is a family relationship. The

small town, about 10 km away from the Mississippi, in the middle of the 19th century was cofounded by the emigrant families Huenerfauth, Doll, Sutter, Hoffmann, and Job (Jobb).

From Wednesday on Shirley Asselmeier, corresponding secretary of Maeystown Preservation Society is on a visiting tour together with her son David "Buzz" to the home of the forefathers.

At the initiative of Maeystown Preservation Society an intensive contact developed between the husband of Shirley Asselmeier, who passed away one year ago and Klaus Schaeffner, responsible to maintain the contacts for the KV Bellheim. Maeystown, with only 152 citizens, is listed in the register of historic places in the United States. Maeystown, named of the official founder and landowner Jakob Mees from Oggersheim. Primeval German traditions are kept alive, Mr. Schaeffner says. He mentioned German Christmas celebration in church, Fastnacht and Oktoberfest that is celebrated on the same time like the "Kirwe in Bellheim. On a quarterly base Maeystown Volksblatt appears, in English. It is reported about "Frauenabend", preparing apple butter and so on. Until the first WW the citizens of Maeystown spoke German.

The Asselmeier family was not really surprised about Bellheim. "Seven years ago we passed Bellheim just to take some photos for those who were interested in the home of their ancestors" the 49 years old David "Buzz" Asselmeier, an official of the Illinois Environmental Administration of Illinois. He and his mother noticed especially after the tour through Bellheim, that there is less green within the village than in Maeystown. The rural surrounding in Bellheim looks similar to those of Maeystown, Mr. Asselmeier says.

Mr. Schaeffner gave a tour through the Sawmill at the "Mittelmühle" that is to be reconstructed – another trait of Bellheim and Maeystown. "A great parallel." The historic "rock mill", the

brick wall mill there, it's a little bit smaller and without water wheel, David says.

The building later was used as gas station and garage, as well by a undertaker and carpenter, the retired school secretary Shirley Asselmeier says. The mill of Maeystown also was rebuilt by volunteers and is used since about eight years as home museum and visitors' center.

After visiting their own relatives near Koblenz, the Asselmeiers want to stay for four days in south palatinate. At the forthcoming are hiking in the palatinate forest, the German wine street with a detour to Wissembourg, Speyer, Heidelberg, together with the Schöffner family. Next year a return exchange in Maeystown is planned, Mr. Schöffner says. An official twin town connection is not the same. Some still exist between towns on the Mississippi banks. The contact should be fostered on at club level.

It was wonderful to meet all these people in Bellheim, although they are not relatives of us, Shirley Asselmeier reported. She would like to also have the citizens of Maeystown to also fall in love with Bellheim like we did. Because: "the closer we get, the more understanding we will have."

Canning Jars

The Society thanks everyone for all the donations of jars for apple butter. This really helps us out by not having to purchase so many jars. They are expensive. If you have some, contact one of the officers or you can call the Mill Museum at 618-458-6464 and leave a message. We will contact you.

Frauenabend

Ladies come on out and enjoy an evening planned just for you! The third annual Frauenabend or Ladies Night Out will feature unique dining, shopping and pampering on Friday, November 21. Vici's Front Porch and Tea Garden will be open from 4:30 -

8:30 p.m. serving her delicious salads, soups and desserts. The evening is filled with a variety of holiday shopping, samplings and pampering experiences. Enjoy a chair massage, start your Christmas shopping or try a holiday wine. Discounts and tastings will also be available at the Village Kaffeehaus, Maeystown General Store, the Sweet Shoppe, Georgia Mae's Antiques and The Tavern. The Maeystown Preservation Society will have the museum open for all visitors.

Anita Muertz

Meeting Changes

Meetings of the Society will resume on Tuesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mill to begin preparation for the Oktoberfest.

are many familiar names and even a few misspelled like Schulz and

Deaths

Clifford Asselmeier

Clifford Asselmeier, Life Member of the Maeystown Preservation Society died on May 31, 2014. Clifford was preceded in death by his wife Helen Asselmeier, nee Klein. His sons, Charles (Mary), John (Jane), Joseph (Judith), and daughter Kimberly (Dale) Sylvan, survive him. Grandchildren, great grandchildren, and brothers also survive Clifford.

Milton Hoffman, Sr.

Milton Hoffman, Sr. died on May 22, 2014. He was a of the Maeystown Preservation Society. His wife Jessie preceded him in death. He is survived by his sons, Milton (Jane) and Dennis (Dianne), and his daughter Lisa (Terry) Noble. He is also survived by grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Calendar

August 17	Maeystown Fire Dept. BBQ and Car Show 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
September 26	Apple Peeling Rock Mill 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
September 27	Apple Butter Stirring Rock Mill 6:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
October 12	Oktoberfest 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
October 18	Paint Out 9:00 a.m.
November 21	Frauenabend/ Ladies Night Out 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
December 6	Old-Fashioned German Christmas 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
February 17	St. John Church Fastnacht 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
March 21 & 22	Spring Art Show 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.