

# MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

## Maeystown Preservation Society

[www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org](http://www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org)

### Frühlingsfest 2015

The Maeystown atmosphere can't be beat, and yes the food is great. But, it is always fun just looking for those odd things the dealers bring, the eye catching displays, and how they find unusual ways to use common items. Along the creek, wash line was strung through several trees with over a dozen brightly printed vintage tablecloths blowing in the breeze. It reminded one of days gone by and simply put you in a smiling mood. A narrow folding wallpaper table, that had been used to spread paste on many long sheets of wallpaper, now was set up for "al fresco" summer dining. Another vendor had what mistakenly looked like a finely finished wooden step stool. In reality it was a French commode from the early 1900's. I watched as someone proudly carried out their purchase of a hard-to-find collectible item. It was as an "end of day", large brightly colored, enamel tray, probably made in Belleville, Illinois. And then there was that one item that caught your attention and just made you giggle. A local vendor proudly displayed a six foot long hammerhead shark made from blue and green fiberglass in the 1960's. By early morning it was gone! I'm always looking forward to what next year's Frühlingsfest will bring.

Anita Muertz

### Gründertag Founders' Day

On Sunday, June 14, from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m., stroll the village at your leisure as you meet people from historic Maeystown's past. People dressed in period clothing will be stationed on various front porches sharing their stories. They will be talking about their trades, families or life in Maeystown at that time. Enjoy free horse drawn carriage rides, old time accordion music, museum displays and unique shopping. There will be plenty of food choices: fresh brewed coffees, smoothies and frappes, hand dipped ice cream, or enjoy lunch at Vici's Front Porch & Tea Garden or The Tavern. Join us for a fun way to enjoy a relaxing summer afternoon!

Anita Muertz

### Gifts to the Society

The Society is always grateful for the many items that are donated to the museum.

The children of Albert Bertram recently donated a 1963 Maeystown Homecoming Poster, a copy of "Arrowheads to Aerojets", a Victrola and numerous documents and church information papers.

Ethan May donated a picture of the Dr. Wilhelmj Home that is currently the parsonage of St. John Church. He also sent some obituary articles from the "Waterloo Times" of March 2, 1917. He received these items from his Grandmother, Marianne May. He

stated that these items were found in his great-grandmother's (Audrey Fidler) personal papers. One of the obituaries is reprinted in this Volksblatt.

Coast to Coast Equipment and Supplies donated a computer printer to the Society.

David Braswell presented a receipt book from the Village of Maeystown to the Society.

Elaine York donated pictures relating to Maeystown.

Carol Simpson donated a picture of a 1967 Asselmeier Family reunion. She donated items related to Canniff School – a picture of the class of 1932 and a 1932 report card. She also donated a Cradle Roll Certificate from 1919 for Esther Asselmeier.

The Society appreciates all of these wonderful gifts. It is through gifts such as these that the Society is able to carry out their efforts to preserve the history and culture of Maeystown and the lifestyle that it represented.

### Maeystown Post Office Sign

This spring the Society was offered the opportunity to purchase an old Maeystown Post Office sign from Chandra Moffitt of Waterloo, Illinois. We did and now are looking for more information. The sign was studied and discussed at the April meeting, and then I began searching Gloria Bundy's files.

The information that follows comes from her files:

In 1860, Maeysville was authorized to open a post office. Jacob Maeys was

appointed postmaster and the post office was in the Poston-Maey's store building. (The name of the village was changed to Maeystown at that time.) Maey's and other villagers took turns going to Monroe City either on horseback or on foot to meet the mail carriers. After a short time Maey's requested that Maeystown be included in the mail route from Waterloo. This route included post offices in Foster Pond, Madonnville, Monroe City, Chalfin Bridge and Wartburg.

According to Gloria, at first the weekly paper was the principal mail. Those folks who didn't get a paper or couldn't read anxiously congregated at the home of the recipient of a newspaper and heard the news read aloud. Several residents took turns reading until the paper was read completely. Two German papers, "Die Westliche Post" and "Die Anzeiger" were the most popular publications at that time.

William Maey's succeeded his brother as Post Master in 1892. Louis Krone succeeded William Maey's in 1899 and moved the post office to his store building across the street from the first location. In 1940, Krone retired and Edwin Pfeifer succeeded him and then the post office was moved to the Pfeifer home (currently the Corner George Inn Sweet Shoppe).

The sign is two sided, hand made of wood and painted on both sides. On one side the original lettering is worn off and roughly painted over in silver paint. The other side is in good condition for its age, leading us to believe it was not facing the sun. This is why we believe it possibly hung in front of the Krone Store. Also, the style of lettering would indicate that it came from this time frame.

Soon we hope to have it hanging in our Post Office display. We are looking for any photographs or information that could help us verify this.

Anita Muertz

## Meeting Changes

There will be no monthly meeting of the Society in the months of June and July. Meetings will again resume on Tuesday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Mill to begin preparation for the Oktoberfest.

## New from the "Republic Times" of Waterloo

In the "Republic Times" February 4, 2015 edition, the following article was printed in the Cornerstones article.

April 11, 1965 – Monroe County's newest newspaper, "The Maeystown Volksblatt," made its second appearance last week with the mailing of Volume 1, Number 1. The "Volksblatt" ("Peoples Voice") is edited by Ken Kaufman with Gloria Bundy as assistant.

The following article from the "Republic Times" is from the Ethan May donation.

*Obituary – March 2, 1917*

Bertram

Martin Bertram, well known throughout this county, died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Welsch at Maey's Station, Saturday evening after a short illness of pneumonia, aged 64 years, 10 months and 23 days.

Mr. Bertram had been a resident of this county nearly all of his life. He was born in Germany and came to this country with his parents while young. His parents settled on a farm south of Burksville which is at present occupied by William Bertram, a brother of deceased.

Mr. Bertram embarked in the saloon business and had various locations in this city. He also had conducted saloons in Renault and

Harrisonville, and had just opened up January first in the latter place when stricken with his last illness.

Mr. Bertram served as county commissioner of this county from 1912 to 1915, and he also kept the county alms house for three years before his wife's death.

His wife preceded him in death six years ago on March 1, 1911. Two sons, William and Jacob, both of this city survive, as well as two daughters Mrs. Joseph Welsch of Maey's Station and Sister Mary Octavia, of St. Mary's Infirmary, St. Louis. Two brothers, William of near Burksville, and Joseph of Ivy Landing, as well as a sister, Mrs. Joseph Krebel of Kidd, also survive.

His remains were brought here and the funeral took place from the residence of his son William Bertram Tuesday morning after requiem mass in Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Interment was in the family lot in the Catholic cemetery. A large cortege of sorrowing relatives and friends attended the last sad rites.

The bereaved relatives have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in their hour of deepest sorrow.

## The Globe

The Society is looking for more information regarding the Globe. The Globe was located on Main Street. The Globe was torn down and the lots were recently bought by the Society. We would like to have photos of the house. The Society would also like to know more information about the house – Did it have inside plumbing; what was the interior like; who lived in the house; any interesting stories about the house?

**Death**

## Lee Hoffmann

Lee Hoffmann, a long-time member of the Maeystown Preservation Society died March 30, 2015. Lee was born in Maeystown on July 4, 1933. Survivors include his wife Grace and sons John and David. Kay Ritzel, Lee's sister, also survives. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Kermit, and sisters Dorothy Hoffman, Ada Osterhage and Ardel Mueller.

**Calendar**

June 14	Gründertag Founder's Day 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
August 1	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 8:00 – 12:00 noon
September 25	Apple Butter Peeling 8:00 – 1:00 p.m.
September 26	Apple Butter Stirring 6:00 – 3:00 p.m.
October 11	Oktoberfest 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.
October 17	Maeystown Paint Out 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.
November 20	Frauenabend 4:30 – 8:30 p.m.
December 6	Old Fashioned German Christmas 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.