

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

Annual Fruehlingsfest

Maeystown will host its annual Fruehlingsfest antique and garden show on Sunday, May 1, 2016. The show, which begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 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. 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, strawberry shortcake and more. A creek-side wine garden will also be featured.

For more information, call the Corner George Inn at 618-458-6660 or visit www.maeystown.com.

Frauenabend November 20, 2015

It was a perfect fall evening for Ladies Night Out. The weather was brisk enough for soups, salads and desserts at Vici’s Front Porch, but warm enough to take the complimentary horse drawn carriage rides sponsored by Coast to Coast Equipment & Supplies. Ladies enjoyed pampering and shopping before the Christmas ‘hustle and bustle’ was about to begin. Downstairs at the Preservation Society they found vendors with jackets handmade from vintage denim and fabrics, sparkling crystal jewelry, children’s handmade sock monkeys, traditional vintage tableware, and holiday floral pieces, decorations and gifts from Bountiful Blossoms. Then they followed the luminaries on the street to the shops for special discounts and more to enjoy upstairs at the Corner George Inn. There the ladies found hand painted signs, hair accessories for little girls, artisan made jewelry, women’s hair jewels by Lilla Rose, dip and soup sampling, skincare products and goat milk soaps and lotions. Many took the time to enjoy the massages and essential oils. Before the evening closed, Crafting and Company had convinced some to sign up for another ladies’ night out to join them in making handmade decor. As Frauenabend came

to a close, ladies drinking fresh roasted coffee and samplings of glühwein could be overheard planning to come and join us next year. Anita Muertz

Old Fashioned German Christmas a Huge Success

Thanks to beautiful weather, the hard work of many people, and the spirit of the season the Old Fashioned German Christmas was a huge success. The attendance at the annual festival was one of the largest ever! We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the festival in any way for all your help and energy. A special thank you to the Women’s Fellowship at St John UCC for adding the amazing quilt show to the event, and to the homeowners who so generously opened their beautifully decorated homes for the house tour. The proceeds from the house tour were given to a local family in need of assistance. Please mark your calendars now for the December 4, 2016, Old Fashioned Christmas!

Marcia Braswell

Visitors from Bellheim

A journey through the time to the home of settlers from Bellheim and to see the descendants of the Hoffmann, Sutter, Henerfauth, Job and Doll families. But also to take the chance to meet the descendants of the Jung, Hellmer and Stein families from Waterloo.

On about one year after Shirley and Buzz Asselmeier, and David and Marcia Braswell had visited Bellheim, Germany, a visitor group of six Bellheim citizens came to Maeystown

to explore the roots of the co-founders from Bellheim, who immigrated in the middle of the 19th century to USA.

The connection between Maeystown Preservation Society and Bellheim Cultural Association exist since 2012, when Klaus Schäffner and David Asselmeier started a living partnership between MPS and BCA. Thanks to the help of Shirley Asselmeier this connection still is going strong, although David Asselmeier sadly died two years later.

The guests from Bellheim, Klaus, Ute and Dirk Schäffner, Hermann-Josef and Sigrid Schwab and Bernd Schuler arrived at O'Hare Airport Chicago on October 17. From the arrival to the end of the trip, Shirley and Buzz Asselmeier had planned and organized everything in a perfect way. Shirley and Buzz overtook even the responsibility to drive the group the whole way they were together. During the stay in Monroe County, Klaus, Ute and Kirk Schäffner were guests of the Asselmeiers and stayed in the condo of Buzz Asselmeier in Columbia.

The trip in the US started at Chicago, where the group had the chance to visit the most interesting places of Chicago, like Willis Tower, The Loop, Millennium Park, a riverboat tour on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, as well as many other attractions. Of course a set of famous restaurants were on the program and not only the ladies were fascinated by the variety of shopping temples like Macy's (the old Marshall Field's) and so on.

After the stay at Chicago they went southbound to Columbia with a short break at Springfield, Illinois. This day ended with a restful supper at Shirley Asselmeier's house.

Next day in Columbia the visitors were guests at the parish of St. Paul United Church of Christ where they were allowed to take part a practice session of the Bell Choir, visited the church and cemetery of St. Paul to see the graves of many German immigrants and above all, of David and Charles Asselmeier.

Cahokia Mounds was the next

target before going to St. Louis to try to climb the Arch.

On Thursday a visit of the St. Louis Basilica, Washington University, Forest Park, where the group enjoyed a picnic in the greenery. After that, a visit of the Botanical Gardens of Missouri was part of the daily program.

Next morning Grant's Farm and a visitor's tour in Anhuesser-Busch Brewery was one of the highlights of the day, followed by a very interesting visit of Rick City at Valmeyer. The daily program ended with a long visit at St. John's Cemetery in Maeystown and Salem Cemetery in Wartburg. In the evening the visitors were invited by the Maeystown Preservation Society for an evening reception and a fantastic dinner at Vici's Front Porch in Maeystown. It was a good possibility to get to know each other first.

On Saturday morning, David Braswell received the visitors in historical clothing for a guided tour in German and English language to present Corner George Inn.

Following, the group went to Prairie du Rocher to visit the historic French Fort du Chartres and had lunch together with some residents from Waterloo, who also are heirs of settlers from Bellheim at Lisa's Bar & Restaurant.

On the way back to Columbia they made another short stop to revisit the Salem Cemetery at Wartburg.

The next day started with an excellent breakfast in the historic dining room of the Corner George Inn, where Marcia and David Braswell presented culinary delights for the guests.

After a tour through Maeystown, the visitors had the honor to take part in a church service at St. John Church with Minister Patrick Poole and together with many members of the Maeystown parish. The service was co-designed by the church choir of St. John under the leadership of Marcia Braswell.

And then came the climax of the program for the visitors. A great reception for all visitors and guests presented and organized by the Maeystown Preservation Society in the

Rock Mill. The members of MPS handed over many novel gifts to the visitors. The visitors as well presented a lot of presents like historical and current maps of Germany and Palatinate, photos of the Evangelical and Catholic churches of Bellheim and a flag of the Bellheim community brought for their hosts.

Many new contacts could be forged, not only to descendants of the families that came to Maeystown, but also to descendants of settlers from Waterloo. Some of the guests promised to visit Bellheim in the near future.

The next Sunday, morning church services at St. Paul United Church in Columbia were attended.

Monday the group made a farewell visit to St. Louis with a walk on the Mississippi River Trail. At the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery they were witnesses to a spectacular military funeral.

The next day three of the visitors had to say goodbye and left Columbia to fly back home to Germany. Ute and Klaus Schäffner, as well as Bernd Schuler, were prepared to continue the trip together with Shirley and Buzz Asselmeier south to New Orleans. New Orleans was a further highlight of the journey. For two days the travelers explored "The Big Easy". On the way home they made stops at Baton Rouge to visit the State Capitol, Natchez and Jackson, Mississippi. Another night in Columbia and the visitors started the way back, with many souvenirs in the luggage and specially many remaining memories of an unforgettable visit in a faraway, but very grown fond of and amazing familiar community.

Klaus Schäffner

Gifts from Bellheim

When Ute and Klaus Schäffner, Sigrid and Hermann-Josef Schwab, Bernd Schuler and Dirk Schäffner went back to Germany, they left us with more than extraordinary memories of a wonderful visit. They gifted to our

society many kind and meaningful pieces. Numerous maps were presented. Some of the maps show the topography, physical features and even bicycle routes of the present Bellheim region. The beautiful vintage maps depict the topographical region in 1836-1841, the dialects found in the Rheinland Pfalz, and still another shows a plat map of the ancestral names all in the Bellheim area. We also received the red, yellow and black flag from their village as well as an artistic photograph of their protestant church, which we hope to soon have framed and hanging. The books presented to us are also significant. Two of them are about the history, then and now of Bellheim. Another is written very similar to our "Grace in the Past", but is their protestant church history. These also are especially helpful because they contain information on our Maeystown families who came from this area. Plans are being made to have all our gifts from Bellheim in their own display. Our German friends are deserving of a special thank you. We are forever grateful to them for helping to bridge the connection from Bellheim to Maeystown.

Anita Muertz

Annual Spring Art Show to be March 19-20, 2016

The annual Maeystown Spring Art Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

The featured artists this year are Clara Lewis of Maeystown and Jane Washausen of Waterloo. They will be displaying a mixture of acrylics, oils and photography. Their artwork will be displayed at the Preservation Society Mill and Museum and the Corner George Inn Ballroom. There is no admission charge for the art show.

The purpose of the Spring Art Show is to promote and recognize local artists. It is sponsored by Historic

Maeystown and the Preservation Society.

For more information please call 618-458-6660.

Marcia Braswell

Maeystown Plein Air Paint Out is Moving Back to June

The fourth annual Maeystown Plein Air Paint Out will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Artists who enjoy painting plein air--in the open air--are invited to come join other artists from throughout the metro area. The public is encouraged to come and observe the artists painting throughout the day. The artists will offer their paintings for sale at the end of the day at a reception at the Mill. The Paint Out is truly one of the most creative and beautiful events that the village hosts throughout the year. For more information, please email Marcia Braswell at mbraswell@htc.net. The Paint Out is sponsored by Historic Maeystown.

Monroe County Bicentennial

The Monroe County Bicentennial celebration has begun! The Birthday Bash was a huge success with one hundred on a waiting list to get in. There are many more opportunities for you to celebrate. You may wish to attend wheat cutting and threshing demonstrations, a ceremonial meeting at the first county seat, reenacted Lincoln speech, Civil War band and encampments, musical "Salute to the Bicentennial", naturalization ceremony, time capsule dedication, Gala of dinner and dancing and of course the unique Monroe County "Opening the Doors to our Past" displays at the local museums. Our museum doors feature Monroe County stone bridges and German heritage.

Please check www.moco200.com and on Facebook, "Monroe County, Illinois Bicentennial" to find more and complete listings of the events.

Anita Muertz.

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2016. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2016. 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.

More News from the "Republic Times" of Waterloo

The following article from the "Republic Times" is from the Ethan May donation reported in a previous Volksblatt.

*Obituary
March 2, 1917*

Berneking

Fred Berneking died at his home near Boxtown Saturday afternoon after a lingering illness aged 60 years. He leaves his wife and two or three grown children. For many years Mr. Berneking occupied the Henry Pinkel farm near Burksville. He moved to Boxtown about three years ago.

His remains were laid to rest in the Waterloo cemetery Tuesday afternoon. The members of the Waterloo Camp No. 2018, Modern Woodmen of America, of which deceased was a member, attended the funeral in a body and conducted ritualistic ceremonies at the grave.

The bereaved family has the sincere sympathy of all in their hour of deepest sorrow.

Calendar

- February 9 St. John Church
 Fastnacht
 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- March 12 & 13 Spring Art Show
 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 1 Frühlingsfest/Springfest
 Antique & Garden Show, Food Fair
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- May 7 Hoyleton Hike & Bike
 St. John UCC
 9:00 a.m.
- August 6 Trash & Treasures Village
 Yard Sale
 8:00 12:00 noon
- August 21 Maeystown Fire Dept.
 BBQ & Show Us Your Ride
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- September 23 Apple Peeling
 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- September 24 Apple Butter Stirring
 6:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- October 9 Oktoberfest
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.