

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

Old Fashioned Christmas

The annual Old Fashioned Christmas will be held Sunday, December 4th. A wide variety of activities include a Christkindlmarkt, Quilt Show, a German Carol Sing, and Taste of Christmas Dessert Sampling. A wide variety of music includes strolling musicians, hammered dulcimers and performances by local ensembles. Enjoy making German paper stars, observing a woodcarver or taking a carriage ride. End the day with a traditional carol sing and lighting of the village Weihnachtsbaum. More activities will be offered in a posted schedule or call 618-580-5875 for more information. Anita Muertz

Frauenabend Invitation

Ladies, don't forget you are invited to Frauenabend or Ladies' Night, Friday, November 18th from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Luminaries will light the way as you ride along the street in your complementary carriage ride to enjoy shopping, pampering and eating. Specialty vendors, new and old, will be waiting for you in the Rock Mill and Corner George Inn. Stores will be open and waiting for you while Vici's Front Porch and Tea Garden will be serving a menu of soups, salads and desserts. Hint: a new clothing vendor will be offering styles in all sizes and for all ages and enjoy some unique food samplings. For more information please call 618-458-6660. Anita Muertz

Best Year Ever?

The 36th Annual Oktoberfest just may have been the "best year ever", or do I say that every year? The weather was ideal for a fall day, sunny and not too warm or too cold. There was an exceptionally sizable friendly crowd of visitors, a pleasing variety of vendors, and lots of fun foods.

Hours prior to the start, I may not have thought it possible that this could be the "best year ever". It takes many devoted Preservation members and friends of Maeystown, much energy and an abundance of optimism to manage this large of an event. With almost 70 art, craft, antique and food vendors, plus their support people to man their booths, all the local villagers, then add several thousand visitors to town, it's inevitable not all can be delighted. This year was no exception. Problems always arise. A vendor not thrilled with our uneven grounds in Maeystown, or one vendor who shows up with no contract or space at all, another wanting to be next to the creek, and even visitors unhappy with where they had to park and grumbling about having to walk up that hill are just a tiny sample of problems that can exhaust you.

Then hours later, you get to walk the event. First you hear a little girl giddy because she got a Halloween hair bow that's larger than her head. A woman passes showing the handmade glass wine bottle stopper she bought for her sister. Then there's the gentleman enjoying his large German beer pretzel. Among the pumpkins a young boy is trying to find the strangest one. Of course, no one could ignore the four foot tall pink twig pig that brought smiles to everyone passing. But what you hear and see most often are the vast number of visitors in awe of the beauty

of the rock bridge, the creek and even the entire village. You realize how fortunate we are to have this treasure to share. So, I guess I will continue to believe this was the "best year ever".

Anita Muertz

Apple Butter in Maeystown

In preparation for the 36th annual Oktoberfest, apple butter peelers and stirrers turned out en masse on Friday and Saturday, September 23 & 24, 2016. We thank the following 34 apple peelers for a job well done - Whip Hesterberg, David Braswell, Anita Muertz, Christy Muertz, Julia Muertz, Linda Green, Harvey Ries, Vivian Horn, Marcia Wendland, Jean Knobloch, Ken Knobloch, Jim Mersinger, Patricia Klopmeier, Rosemary Bechtoldt, Lynn Cereghino, Loretta Siekmann, Joe Siekmann, Jean Rahn, Nancy Uhl, Carol Bay, Mary Lou Galle, Louise Myers, Ron Upchurch, Rosemarie Upchurch, Sandy Tutka, Jane Schmitt, Gloria Knoke, Joanne Goeddel, Donna Meidinger, Barbara Curtis, Ginny Humphrey, Renie Potocki, Vicki Eader, and Kevin Eader.

And, in addition, we thank the 52 apple stirrers - David Braswell, Chris Muertz, Kaylee Muertz, Christy Muertz, Julia Muertz, Karl Kuehn, Kathy Kuehn, Ashlyn Crouch, Jason Crouch, Linda Green, Anita Muertz, David Muertz, Elise Finnerty, Harvey Ries, George Obernagel, Jane Schmitt, Gloria Knoke, Fay Ross, Julie Whitlock, Rigby Whitlock, Loretta Siekmann, Joe Siekmann, Brad Finnerty, Susan Barker,

Shirley Asselmeier, Tiffany Taylor, Harper Taylor, Joanne Goeddel, Kevin Eader, Whip Hesterberg, Sandy Tutka, Ron Upchurch, Rosemarie Upchurch, Rob Schulz, Allison Steppig, Tom Courtney, Helen Murray, Alynda Komora, Marie Gagliano, Gene Gagliano, Kim Brown, Phil Brown, Glen Hoffmann, Kay Hoffmann, Rob Hoffmann, Charley Hoffmann, Kathryn Finnerty, Michaela Finnerty, Rei Oliveros, Dorothy Brandt, Samantha Roulanaitis and Dawn Roulanaitis.

If we left anyone out, please accept our apologies... and let us know... We will add your name in our next newsletter.

David Braswell

Thank You for Apple Butter Sponsors

The Society would like to thank the people who sponsored kettles for the making of apple butter. The sponsors were the Family of David Asselmeier, Joanne Goeddel, George & Linda Green, Kaylee and Julia Muertz & Easton Birk, George Obernagel, Ray & Nancy Reed, George & Nancy Uhl, Dorothy Brandt, Robert & Jackie Zeitinger, in memory of Bernie Ross by his family, in memory of Fred & Lilian Pieper by their family, in memory of Charles & Doris Kuergeleis, T. Walster of Maeystown, and Ron & Patricia Klopmeier.

Thank You for Country Store Workers & Donors

A HUGE thanks to all of you for the time and effort that went into making/growing/bringing the wonderful baked goods and craft items for the Country Store.

Another HUGE thanks to all of our tireless workers for helping clean up the Mill, set up the tables and tents, and then do it in reverse on Sunday

afternoon. Another HUGE thanks to everyone who worked in the Country Store on Sunday. Oktoberfest is a great success every year because of you!

Maeystown Rock Bridge in Need of Major Repair

Because of our stone arched bridge, outbuildings, stone walls, flagstone gutters, structures built into the landscape, and common nationality, Maeystown, in its entirety, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 - one of only a few villages in the State of Illinois to be so honored.

At this time, the 135 year old bridge has passed Monroe County inspection, but much damage was noted. Due to its age and construction, costly repairs require skilled stonemasons and labor intensive work. Costs are estimated at upwards of \$30,000. Our village simply is unable to find that kind of money anywhere in the budget. They are attempting to locate a grant, but at this time none of significant monetary value has been found. With the size of Maeystown being "one block big", we are aware the expense cannot be covered by just the village citizens. Losing the bridge would be devastating.

The purpose of the Maeystown Preservation Society is to "preserve the culture and history of Maeystown". A "restricted fund account" has been set up to save the bridge. Because we are a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. If you prefer not to donate on this site, checks can be written to "Maeystown Preservation Society, Save the Bridge" and sent to Christy Muertz, 3265 Bushy Prairie Road, Fuels, Illinois 62244.

On behalf of Maeystown, we are reaching out to all friends, visitors, photographers, businesses, and historians. We sincerely appreciate any help you can give us to save the bridge. In our case it's going to take more than just "a village".

Donations

The Society has been the recipient of many donations during the last months. It is through gifts such as these that the Society is able to carry out the effort to preserve the history and culture of Maeystown and the lifestyle that it represented.

Listed below are the wonderful gifts that have been recently donated.

Sharpening stone – Carol Simpson, daughter of Esther Asselmeier Petterson

Two apple butter stirrers – made by David Muertz

Blacksmith vise – Nancy Hoffmann Younger

The following articles were received from Ruth Faus Stumpf: Maeystown High School typing table; kitchen tongs from Maeystown State Bank; cast iron wax melting pot (used by Emma Miller Faus, mother of Ruth); Elmhurst Church Hymnal (given to Ruth when she was confirmed in 1935); iron trivet from American Foundry (sold in Ruth's grandfather's store – Jacob Miller's Store); black crocheted shawl belonging to Ruth's grandmother, Gertrude Miller; bundt pan belonging to Gertrude Miller which was sold in Jacob Miller's tin shop); two muffin tins and one tin flour scoop made by Jacob Miller and used by his wife Gertrude); Golden Book of Favorite Songs (copyright 1923) used by Ruth when attending grade school at Posten School; German Bible (copyright 1907) that belonged to Emma Miller; German hymnal (copyright 1895) belonging to Albert Faus; German prayer book (circa 1890) belonging to Ruth's grandmother, Mrs. Louis Faus (nee Eleanora Hartman).

Membership Renewals

It is that time of the year when it's time to renew memberships for the year 2017. Enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal form for your existing membership for 2017. We would appreciate it if you would review this and renew your membership as soon as possible. It will save the Society both time and expense if renewals are made promptly to avoid future follow-ups, postage and duplicate forms. We thank you for your support and understanding.

If you are a Life Member of the Society you did not receive a renewal notice, but you have received an envelope to be used if you wish to make a donation to the Society. We again thank our many Life Members for their support over the years.

Meeting Changes

Because of Thanksgiving, the monthly meeting in November will be held November 15.

As is the usual custom, no monthly meeting will be held in December. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting, January 24.

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Calendar

November 18	Frauenabend 4:30-8:30 p.m.
December 4	Old Fashioned German Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.
February 28	St. John UCC Church Fastnacht 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 18 & 19	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 7	Frühlingsfest/Springfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
May 13	Hoyleton Hike & Bike St. John UCC 9:00 a.m.
June 16 & 17	Maeystown Homecoming
August 5	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 8:00-12:00 p.m.
August 20	Maeystown Fire Dept. BBQ & Show Us Your Ride 9:00-4:00 p.m.
September 22	Apple Peeling 8:00-2:00 p.m.
September 23	Apple Butter Stirring 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 8	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
December 3	Old Fashioned Christmas 11:00-5:00 p.m.