

## New Flag Flying on Heritage Day 2010

On Heritage Day, 2010 we hoisted a new flag thanks to the generosity of *Jim Williams* from the Holloway-Williams Funeral Home. The flag proudly flies in front of the Ward-Thomas Museum. The weather cooperated giving us a beautiful day to enjoy the gathering of friends and family to the museum grounds.

“Heritage Day” represents the best of our community. It’s a great day to see family and neighbors in a beautiful setting. Taking a relaxing stroll around the grounds of the Museum, enjoying nature at its best with the old trees shading the lawn and the fragrance of the flowers in the garden is pure joy.

The information at the displays in the museum and the throughout the grounds were interesting and educational for families to share.

*Rick Muccio* kept busy creating his popular caricatures. *Barbara James* shared her beautifully display of buttons and answered questions about them. *June Karovic* demonstrated the nearly lost art of hand quilting. Her display showed untold hours of work. *Ken Meek* family from the Ohio Volunteer Infantry Co. “D”, were here to show the clothing that was worn in the Civil war days, guns and equipment display. *Ray O’Neil* informed the visitors about the construction and tribulations of the Conestoga wagon.



Neil McBride and caricature by Rick Muccio.

*George John* proudly displayed his collection of wood samples, sighting many are no longer available on the world market. *Nick and Nancy Carano* brought their bird “*Ouija*” to perform for the crowd. Along the driveway, *Carol and Doug Babayak* and *Jo and Gary Coupland* displayed their beautifully restored cars. Of course there was the background music of “*Little Joe*” and lots of food available for the hungry.

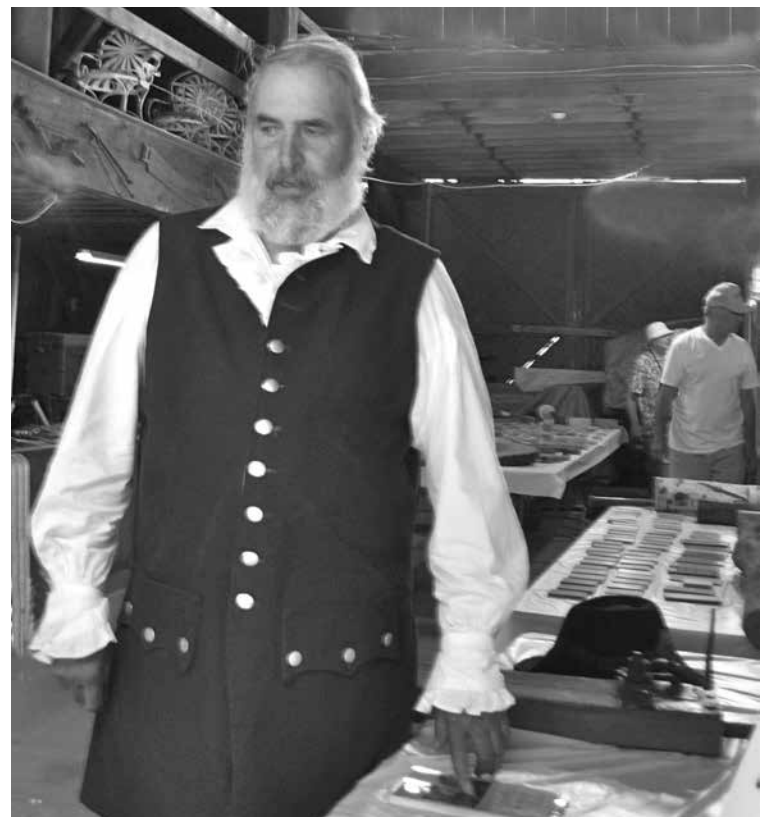
To the many volunteers who worked to make the day possible, we say “Thank You”... *Sue Larsen, Roselyn Watson, Patty Burgess Fisher, Lynn Gombos, Dot Leo, Jessie Scott, Garnet Smith, Marilyn Rankin, Joyce Mahan, Lois Davison, Carrie Faith, Gerrie Miller, Betty Whitney, Frank Burke, Nancy Malone, Carol Souder, Ruth Van Huffel, Sofia Froom, Neil McBride, Lena Fateley, Georgia Mae Jones, Fremont Camerino, Mary Alice and Bill Neiss, George and Audrey John.*



1860 Replica kitchen on display in the barn.



Ken Meek and family in authentic Civil War clothing.



Ray O’Neil informed the visitors about the construction and tribulations of the Conestoga wagon.



Niles Historical Society  
P. O. Box 368  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
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Visit our Website: [www.nileshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org)  
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar	
<p><b>Public Open House</b> The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.</p> <p>Private tours may be scheduled by calling: The office 330.544.2143</p> <p><b>Membership meetings</b> – 10:00am The first Saturday each month <b>Executive meeting</b> – 9:30am prior to membership meeting.</p>	<p><b>Trustees:</b> Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson</p> <p><b>Officers:</b> Fremont Camerino .....President Patricia Nelson ..... Vice-President Nancy Malone .....Recording Secretary Betty Whitney.....Corresponding Secretary Ruth Van Huffel.....Treasurer Frank Burke ..... Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Anne Townley ..... Program Editor Chairman Audrey John ..... Research Editor Nancy Malone ..... Education Editor Ralph Tolbert..... Technology Editor</p>



Bonnie Losey from Southington was awarded a copy of the Niles "Pictorial History" book for her correct guess.

### Guess The Rings On The Tree

During Heritage Day celebration we asked people to guess the number of rings that were on the white pine tree that was cut down earlier this year. People guessed up to over 400 rings, but the winner was only 87 rings. *Bonnie Losey* from Southington was correct with her guess. Bonnie was awarded a copy of the Niles "Pictorial History" book for her guess. Bonnie said this was the first time she visited the museum but she certainly plans on returning again and bring family members too.

The preserved cutting will be on display at the museum as a teaching tool for the students. This clearly shows the years of growth and how the tree grew during certain periods of its life, rainy seasons and dry periods for the past 87 years.

### Luncheon in the Westenfield Room September 25, 2010



We are going to try something a little different this year and have a luncheon inside instead of the usual outdoor event. The date is September 25, 2010 and the luncheon will be served at 12 o'clock noon.

The speaker will be *Shirley L. Griffin* from Salem, Ohio. Her subject is "Mary and Martha's Apron" Remember Grandma's apron and all the many uses she had for such a simple piece of fabric? Shirley takes an everyday item and adds a touch of humor to it.

Tickets for the event are \$20.00 each and all seats are reserved and limited.

Please send your check to:

Niles Historical Society  
P. O. Box 368  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Deadline for reservations is September 18 or earlier.  
Questions? Call office. 330-544-2143.

## Head Stone Replaced

On July 23, 2010 a ceremony was held at the Niles Cemetery to replace the head stone of Anne Campbell Allison.

Member *Sue Larsen* spearheaded a drive to replace the headstone of *Anne Allison*, the maternal grandmother of President M<sup>c</sup>Kinley. *Judge W. Wyatt McKay* played the bagpipes and *Mary Ann Creator* (photo below) from the Lisbon and Girard Historical Societies conducted the ceremony.



“Anne Campbell Allison left this earth over 160 years ago yet her legacy lives on. Her grandson was a mere 3 years old when she died. Nobody knew then that he would become President of these United States and martyred early in his second term in office. We don’t know much about her life here in Niles, only the birth and death dates, but can speculate on the time between those 2 dates. She outlived her husband Abner by 20 years, he was a veteran of the War of 1812 and is buried in Lisbon where both the Allison and M<sup>c</sup>Kinleys lived when first coming to Ohio.

After Abner died she lived with her daughter Nancy M<sup>c</sup>Kinley and moved with them to Niles where her son in law was involved in the iron manufacturing business.

Anne’s original tombstone gave way to the elements and lay facedown in the soil, deteriorated until the inscription could barely be read. It is fitting that we pay tribute to this woman and erect this replacement stone in her honor.”



President of Niles Historical Society, *Fremont Camerino*(l) and *Judge W. Wyatt McKay*(R).

Anne died on Nov. 6, 1846 and her stone is located next to President M<sup>c</sup>Kinley’s sister, Abigail, who died January 26, 1846 at the age of just over 7 months. They are located in the old section of the cemetery off Niles -Vienna Rd.

Thanks to the Niles Cemetery Department for their help on this project and to Diane Corbin from the Warren Marble and Granite Co. for her assistance. Special thanks to Sue Larsen for her persistence in this matter.



Flower garden in back by the greenhouse.

## Flower gardens

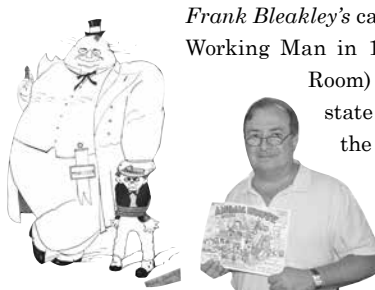
Before the snow flies, and summer comes to an end, we hope you will come to visit the flower gardens at the museum. They have been exceedingly beautiful this year. Maybe it was all the rain we had, or maybe the deer were not as plentiful this year. We did have some bunnies which ate nearly all the geraniums and played havoc with the marigolds. The lilies are over, but the mums are starting and there is still plenty to see and enjoy.

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possible. Many stories are told of the heroism of *W. R. Burford*, undertaker, who walked into a stricken household often alone, for help was hard to find. Only a few could be found to risk exposure to the fatal malady. In the stillness of the night the rattling of the wagon wheels told the story- of another death.

No minister was present to offer prayer or give scripture comfort and so Mr. Burford who had some reputation as a reader, would stand by the gravesite and repeat a scripture. No mail was permitted to leave the village and all business was at a standstill.

It was a happy day when all bans were lifted, and although at least once since that time, public liberty has been somewhat restricted due to the “small pox scare”, the scourge has been in a milder form and has not taken the toll of life it did in 1902.



*Frank Bleakley's* cartoon about Big Business and the Common Working Man in 1919(which is hanging in the Westenfield Room) and *Rick Muccio's* lampooning of local/state government officials in 2008, illustrates the phrase,“the more things change, the more they stay the same”.



**"Russia Field" in Niles**

In 1867, *James Ward II* sent a man to Russia to study the process of manufacturing "Russia Iron", a high grade and lightly finished product much in demand by stove manufactures, and very expensive after importation. Upon a favorable report by the expert, Ward and company constructed the Russia Iron Mill and attempted to duplicate the Russian product. This plant in 1874, was located on the north bank of the Mahoning River just east of the Lisbon branch of the Erie Railroad, and south of where the Niles Steel Products Company was located. It was the first plant to be located at a considerable distance from the original industrial site along the creek near its confluence with the river.



The Russian Mill brought Niles much publicity since here for the first time in the U.S. a certain kind of steel was manufactured that was much valued and used. Around this mill a settlement of workers' homes sprang up and people referred to it as "Russia Field".

After a time the Russia Mill was taken over by the *Summers Brothers and Co.* The name "Russia Field" still clings to that district.

The centennial paper also contained a section about our neighbors to the south, Mineral Ridge. I found the following article interesting considering it happened slightly over 100 years ago. I think you'll agree, we have come a long way in the health field in this country.

**"Black Small Pox Scourge in 1902."**

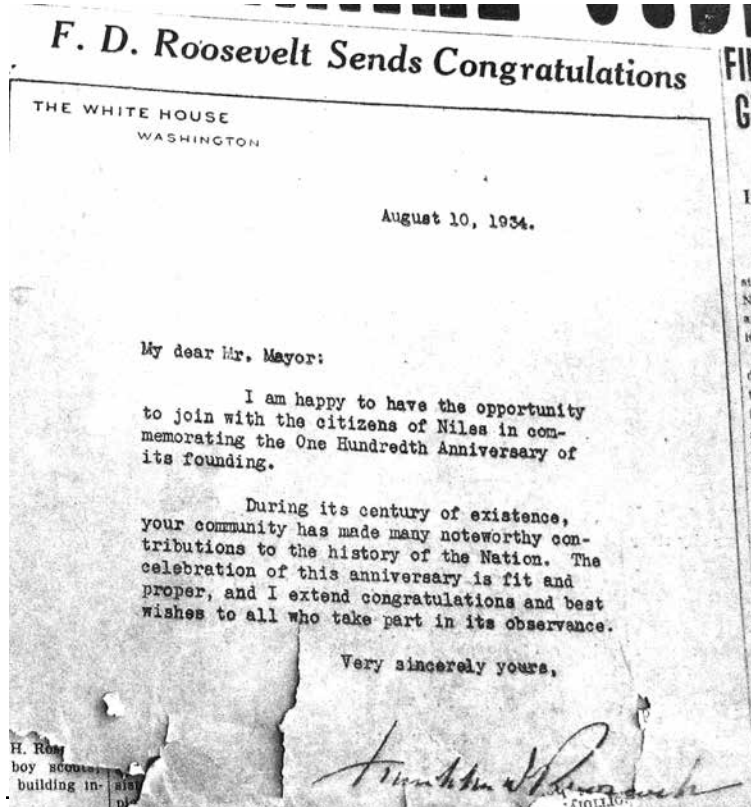
The village was deserted that September in 1902 when black small pox invaded Mineral Ridge, and took its toll. Schools were closed, no church bells rang, no entertainments or public gatherings were held. People were directed to stay on their own property, and officers of the law patrolled the streets to see that the rules were obeyed.

Not long before, *Elihu Ballard* had become ill and died. Many attended the funeral. Shortly afterward, the undertaker, *James Holloway* of Niles, contracted small pox. Others in the Ballard household were stricken. Several who attended the Ballard funeral became ill and it was realized that Elihu Ballard had died of small pox.

*Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Roberts*, their daughters, *Mrs. Maria Elias* and *Marian Shively* became ill. *Mr. Roberts* died and *Dave Ballard* died. In the *Eli Ohl* home, *Mrs. Ohl*, her son *Will*, daughter *Nelle* and granddaughter, little *Frances Ballard* were confined. *Mrs. Ohl* died.

Doctors were kept busy day and night vaccinating people of the town. After completing their calls on small pox patients doctors would destroy their clothes or place them in a bag containing a strong disinfectant before entering their own homes. Burials had to be made as soon after death as

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**Daily Times, Centennial Edition**

The Daily Times, Centennial Edition, was published in 1934. The paper contained over 100 pages, celebrating the first 100 years of Niles. It cost 15 cents. The copy we have is in deplorable condition and in order to preserve the written word, I must copy all the information to preserve it for our research department.

Newspaper is very fragile and as it is exposed to light and heat, it becomes very brittle. Copying it on the copy machine or scanning the article for the computer is about the only way to properly preserve the information on the paper. This edition makes for very interesting reading so it is well worth doing the labor intensive work of saving the written word.

Articles on churches, business, clubs, lodges and schools provide us with an excellent insight as to the way people lived and worked in Niles years ago. The following article is about how the "Russia Field" district in Niles received its name.