

It has been a busy summer at the museum.

“Luncheon on the Lawn” July 27, 2009

The ninth annual “Luncheon on the Lawn” was a huge success this year. We were a little fearful of the pending rain, but it held off till after our event. As guests arrived, they toured the flower gardens at the museum, moving on to the large white tent which was set for the lunch. The tables were covered with white table cloths. **Reese Floral Art** donated crystal vases with spring floral arrangements at each table. The lunch was served to the 60 guests by *Helen DeMazio, Nancy Malone, Ruth VanHuffel* and *Audrey John* with *Frank Burke* and *George John* assisting.

Carol Weakland was introduced by *Nancy Malone* and she preformed a one woman production of “Jane Eyre” to the pleasure of the crowd. Door prizes were awarded to *Jean McComb, Gloria Meeker & Janet Conrad* from Poland, *Doris Imburgia* and *June Braun* from Warren, *Rosemary Taylor* from Mineral Ridge and *Colleen Ferguson* from Youngstown. Each floral centerpiece was awarded to one person at each of the 10 tables. Tours of the Ward-Thomas Museum followed the program.

“Heritage Day” August 2, 2009

As visitors toured the Ward-Thomas Museum they were greeted by *Helen DeMialo* who was demonstrating the fine art of tatting. In the library, the beautiful sounds of a harp being played by *Marian Mihas*, filled the air. Also in the museum, *June Karovic* demonstrated the art of quilting along with several quilts she had designed that were on display.



Marian Mihas



The photograph above features an item from *Dave Cover's* collection. Can you identify what it is?



June Karovic

Other displays were *Barbara James's* unique button collection, *Dave Cover* showed old fashion kitchen items and *George John* had his wood collection. There was plenty of special displays to see along with viewing the flower gardens and stately trees on the grounds.



Remember the old parking meters downtown?

Betty Whitney and *Julie Mischevich* sold light refreshment from the greenhouse window.



Barn Sale August 14-15



Our members save clean useful items all year and donated them to the society for the annual barn sale to provide some needed funds for the upkeep of the museum. *Sofia Froom* was

the chairperson of the sale and she did a wonderful job of organizing it all. She was assisted by *Nancy Malone, Dot Leo, Roselyn Watson, Betty Whitney* and *Jessie Scott*.

This event was previously held in the **Westenfield Room**, however with the large number of items to sell, we moved it to the barn where there is more space.



Nancy Malone, Sophia Froom, and Betty Whitney

The sale lasted 2 days and after that, any items that were not sold, were donated to **Niles Community Services**, where *Jean Williams*, director, gratefully accepted them.



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

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
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Permit #337

Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

<p>Monthly Calendar</p> <p>Public Open House 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>Membership meetings – 10:00am The first Saturday each month</p> <p>Executive meeting – 9:30am prior to membership meeting.</p>	<p>Trustees: Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson</p> <p>Officers: Fremont CamerinoPresident Patricia Nelson Vice-President Nancy MaloneRecording 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>
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On March 28, 1918 Private 1st Class *Victor E. Huber* died.

He was the first soldier from Niles that died during World War I. After the war, Niles honored 21 service people who died during the war by paying tribute to them and renaming streets after them. **Victor Avenue** was renamed in honor of Victor Huber.

Recently the Society received the 48 star flag that was draped over *Private Huber's* casket. Also a picture of the funeral procession was sent along with the flag. We are always pleased to receive documented items with direct association to Niles for our museum. The picture was slightly damaged, so *Bob Fowler* from **Frame Depot** restored it for our files.

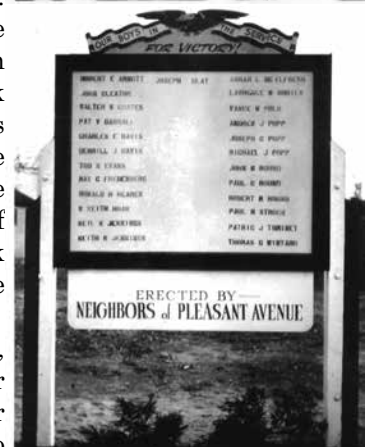
Upon receiving any item, the Society always has it cleaned before it is placed on display in the museum. I took the 91 year old flag to **Valsi Cleaners**. When I told the clerk, *Sue Williams*, about the flag she said that, "her son, *Rob Williams* is now serving our country in Iraq".



Audrey John and Sue Williams

That brought to mind the Service Name Board that was in front of the McKinley Library during World War II with all the names of those serving their country. There was also one in front of Mount Carmel Church and one at Pleasant Avenue area on the west side of Niles. The Niles Times used to put the pictures of the service people in the paper. The large red book (10"x 16") with all the pictures and write-up about each service person was printed after the war. We have several copies of that book for our visitors to look through when they visit the museum.

In our small little daily world, we go about our lives never thinking about that distant war our country is facing now. Who knows how many Niles boys & girls are presently serving our country. Somehow their sacrifice seemed closer when we saw those names on the board. Names on Pleasant Avenue below:
Robert E Arnott, John Cleaton, Walter S Coates, Pat V Darnali, Charles E Davis, Derrill J Davis, Tod N Evans, Max C Fredexberg, Ronald H Heames, W Keith Hoak, Keil K Jennings, Keith M Jennings, Joseph Hlay, Abram L McElfresh, Lawrence W OBrien, Vance W Polo, Andrew J Popp, Joseph C Popp, Michael J Popp, John W Round, Paul C Round, Robert H Round, Paul H Strock, Patric J Tominey, Thomas G Winyard



David Dull is a member of the 1943 graduating class of **Niles McKinley High School**. He wrote the following account for the *Class of 1943 News Letter* and he volunteered to share it with us.

“Niles was a safe city and a great place to grow up in during the 30’s and 40’s. As long as nostalgia has come over me, come let us walk through downtown Niles, circa early 1940’s. It will probably be a little strange for most of you because we are coming from the south side of town, over the viaduct. When I told my children that I had to walk to school, uphill, both way, it wasn’t a lie. Everyone had to go up over the viaduct no matter which way you were going –north or south.



Main Street 1950

In any event, we have crossed the bridge and traversed W. State Street. The first store we encounter is the “*Style Shop*”. We don’t want to buy anything but if we look in the window, we might see *Lois, Alice, Pat, Mary* or any of the other young ladies looking for that special blouse or skirt, or perhaps, a dress for the next dance.

Moving on, there is the **Kroger Grocery Store**. I worked there for four or five weekends, must have decided I did not want to be a grocer, nor do we want any groceries today. Our steps now bring us to “**Montgomery Drug Store**” We don’t want any prescription drugs, but we might see young *Don Montgomery* learning the business from his father.

Ah, the **Butler Theater** where Saturday night, with a little luck, we will be sitting in the balcony with our friend. Not seeing the movie – well maybe a little of the movie between necking and petting. After all we have to be able to tell our parents a little something about the show.

At the **Butler Soda Grill**, we wander in the door to the closing bars of Glenn Miller’s “Moonlite Serenade” and may see *Bob, Polly, Marilyn, Bill* and *Norma* discussing the latest knotty problems of student council. As we leave, some one has put a nickel in the machine and the glorious trumpet of Harry James playing “It’s Been A Long, Long time” reaches our ears.

We now pass the “**Arden Furniture Co.**”, but since it is too early for us to buy furniture we are not interested. Nor do we show any interest in “**Mears Real Estate Agency**”, because we are not yet interested in a home. Then the **McKinley Savings & Loan Association** where we see *Don Walton* dreaming of the day he will be sitting in the chair now held by *Mr. Evans*, President of the institution. Saving money is not our forte so we pass right by because we’re on our way to the “**Woolworth 5 & 10 cent Store**”.

After all, we have our allowances in our pocket and it must be spent on some unnecessary merchandise. There doesn’t seem to be anything you can’t find at **Woolworth’s**. In addition, you may see a number of your classmates and friends. You will probably see *Tom Stofac* who always said, “he met his ‘Million Dollar Baby’ (*Marion*) in the 5 and 10 cent store”.

If we go out the back door we may meet *Mike Popp, Chris Tabor* and others who were part of *Matt McGowan’s* boxing team on their way to the gym over the Police Department. But we are touring Main Street so we go out the front door and turn left.



Niles Police Station, circa. 1970

The City Loan & Savings Co. wants our money but they can’t have it because next door is a great den of iniquity, i.e.

Krieger’s Sport Shop.

That was a great place to learn all about hunting and fishing equipment, how to read a ticker tape, how to gamble and place a bet and, of course, shoot pool. *Nick Zamarelli*, the barber, made more money on the 9 ball table than he did cutting hair. Somehow I made a little also, but not until after I learned who was better than me.



In Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, they stood and watched the girls go by. In Niles we stood in front of **Krieger’s** to watch the girls go by, and of course to comment thereon. **Krieger’s** was a great learning emporium for a young lad with no father or older brother .

Max Reisman had a men’s store next to **Krieger’s** where a gentleman might purchase a new suit for prom and graduation or maybe just a sport shirt or a lowly pair of socks to replace the ones that had been darned one time to often.

We now stand in front of the **Niles Bank Co.**, with its seven floors, including the Penthouse where *P.J. Alfonso* would be taking your graduation picture. There would be no occasion to enter the bank building unless you wanted to see a dentist, insurance man, attorney, physician or wanted to have your hair fixed by *Tricomi* at **Vits’s Beauty Shop** on the sixth floor.”

Now we will leave *David Dull* as he strolls down Main Street and memory lane. Next time he’ll cross Park Avenue and continue on to **Calvin’s Drug Store**. Thanks for the guided tour so far, David.

Aerial view of ‘The Donut’ prior to Urban Renewal.

The tallest building is the Niles Bank Building as a point of reference.



Books for Sale at Ward-Thomas Museum The Pictorial History of Niles Ohio

It was first published in 1976 and is now in its sixth printing. It has 245 pages all filled with black and white pictures of the Niles area. 8" x 10" index—spiral softbound
\$25.00

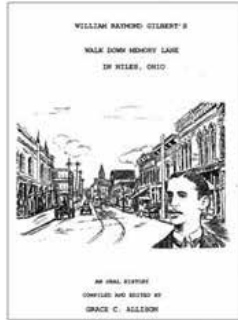


Walk Down Memory Lane in Niles, Ohio

William Raymond Gilbert's stories were published in the Niles Daily Times during the 1940's They were compiled and edited by Grace Allison in 2001 for this book.

Contains 80 stories of early 20th Century Niles.

8" x 10" index—Softbound 302 pages
\$20.00



Dustin' The Cobwebs in Niles

This book is a collection of articles Grace Allison wrote for the Niles Daily Times. Published in 1996. Contains over 100 stories.

8" x 10" index—Softbound 332 pages
\$25.00



Memoir of Rev. Joseph Badger

First itinerate minister in Ohio Western Reserve. Written in 1851 and reprinted in 1997. Writings of the stamina and spiritual needs of the people who settled the Western Reserve.

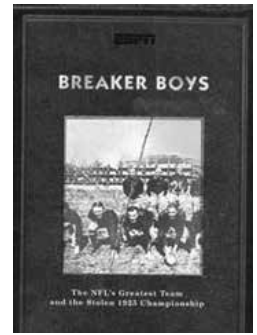
6" x 9" Softbound—169 pages
\$15.00



Breaker Boys

The NFL greatest team and the stolen 1925 championship Story of the Pottsville Maroons & fledging National Football League. Russ and Herb Stein from Niles, played on that 1925 team. Written by Dave Fleming, senior writer for ESPN Magazine.

9 1/2" x 6 1/2" Hardbound—311 pages
\$25.00



"The Story of My Life"

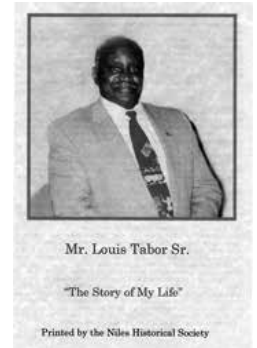
Mr. Louis Tabor Sr

1921~2009

Mr. Tabor's speech, given on 4/8/07 was transcribed

Printed by the Niles Historical Society

Size 9" x 11 1/2"—Softbound 13 pages
\$5.00



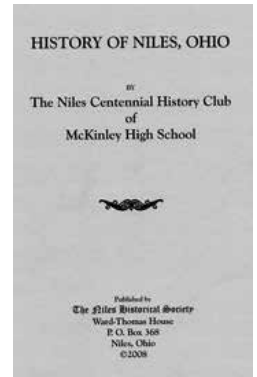
"History of Niles, Ohio"

Contains history of Niles
1755-1943

The Niles Centennial History Club of McKinley High School. First published in 1934 & reprinted in 2009

Some pictures, black & white.

Size 8 1/2" x 11"—Softbound 20 pages
\$10.00



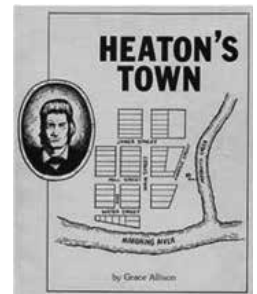
Heaton's Town

This book was written by Grace Allison in 1987 and is a collection of 42 stories of Niles History and its people.

Reprinted by request - 2008.

Black and white pictures

10 1/2" x 8 1/2"— Softbound 252 pages,
\$25.00



Books for sale

It may seem a little early to think about Christmas gifts, but this page describes the books that we have for sale. They make great gifts to give at any time during the year. Please take a moment to look them over.

Shipping and handling costs are \$5.00 for each book ordered.

Send your name, address and phone number. and check to cover costs to;

Niles Historical Society

P. O. 368,

Niles, Ohio 44446.

We will ship the book to you by return mail.

Thank You