

## Spring Is On It's Way

Last year we hardly ever saw the ground with all the snow, but this year we have been very lucky so far with Ohio weather being very mild. We are all looking forward to warmer weather and spring.

In the fall we brought the geranium plants in from the gardens, in the hope of keeping them over the winter months. Later we cut them back and replanted them in good fresh soil. I walked out into the greenhouse the other day and looked at all the beautiful little geraniums starting to grow and I saw the Christmas Cactus in full bloom. *Mary Straight* gave the cactus to us before she moved down south with her son and his wife. How happy Mary would be to see it blooming again. Of course a black and white picture doesn't do it justice as seen here, but we do enjoy the beauty of flowers in the greenhouse in the winter.. Preserving and restoring the greenhouse in 2005 was a major project, but the joy of having it makes it well worth it.



In the last newsletter there were pictures of neighborhood grocery stores and dairies scattered within walking distance of your home. Here is a typical view of the inside of a small store. It's a view of *William Whitney's* store located at 614 Warren Ave.



Pictures l-r: *William Whitney*, owner, *Mary Rounds Tock*, (*John Rounds* sister), *Helen Stanford*, and *Russ Whitney*

He was a member of the **Handy Service Stores**, as *Mrs. Trimbur's Grocery* on Maple Street and many other small stores were. There you could buy all the staples you needed and many of the grocers would allow you to buy on credit. You would pay your bill at the end of the month. It was easy to send a child to the store to pick up a loaf of bread and then pay for it later. This made it very convenient, but then the stock market crashed followed by the Great Depression

People didn't and couldn't pay their bills. The grocers had to pay their suppliers and that caused some big problems. These were rough times, very rough times. Many small stores that had extended credit to their customers, lost everything, not only the store, the delivery truck, but also their home.

**Mr. Farmer==**

Do you want the Best, Freshest, most Prolific Farm, Field and Garden

**SEEDS**

to be bought in Trumbull County? We Sell them in Retail or Bulk.

Do you want the best

**Staple and Fancy Groceries?**

Come to us

Bring us your Butter and Country Produce.

We pay the Highest Market Price.

**B. F. PEW** GROCER AND SEEDSMAN.

41 FURNACE ST., NILES, OHIO. Both Phones.



During the Depression, many families survived on the food they could raise in their backyard garden. If they had any surplus they would trade their fruits and vegetables for cash at a produce market.

## Low Prices 2009

This picture was taken in the winter of 2009 at a gas station on Vienna Ave in Niles.

Price of gas was \$1.79 a gallon.

And we thought that was bad...



Remember the 'Gas Wars' of the sixties when there was a two or more service stations at the same location and the price would be lowered by one, then even lower by another. This was when gas was around 30 cents/gallon.



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

Non-profit  
Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Niles, OH  
Permit #337

Visit our Website: [www.nileshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org)  
and check out the Photos and Stories links.

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



**The Hilltop Team**

Bat Boy: *Dave Jenkins*

First row l-r: *Howard Williams, Bob Jenkins, Jim Jacoby, Dick Roach, Eddie Hayes, George John & Foxy McNamara*

Back row *Bill John, Slim Morris, & Jessie James*

Howard Williams, was an excellent catcher and he lived down on South Main at the time and Jim Jacoby lived way up on Summit Street. The rest of the boys lived from Washington Ave. and on up the hill, so they chose the name "Hilltop" for their team. They played together in 1940 when this picture was taken.

**Our sincere Thanks to all for their contribution to the Building Fund**

**Recent donations for the new building were received from:**

*Altobelli Real Estate Co. Michelle & Glenn Griffiths*  
*Paul & Janet Hill Adele Jones*  
*The I.J. Van Huffel Foundation*

**In Memory of**

*James & Rose (Altiero) Bernard from..... James Bernard Jr.*  
*Atty. Paul Z. & Isabelle Hodge from .....Nancy Hodge Valentine*  
*Atty. Paul Z. & Isabelle Hodge from .....John R. Hodge*

Dec. 2011 news letter ~ Correction needed

Donation received;

**In Memory of :**

*Norma Jenkins McBride from .....Gillian & Dave Jenkins*

**In Honor of**

*Neal McBride from .....Gillian & Dave Jenkins*

We welcome the following NEW Niles Historical Society members for 2012  
(Rec'd from Nov. 1- Dec. 31,2011)

*Dorothy Barto*  
*Gary Coupland*  
*Elizabeth Fiorenzo*  
*Barbara Hamilton*  
*Daniel Hogan*  
*Richard T. Lewis*  
*June Lucas*  
*Mr. & Mrs. David O'Neil*  
*Micheal Salerno*  
*George Thompson*

*Dean & Betty Brown*  
*Mary Jane Davies*  
*Jim & Patricia Fowler*  
*Rebecca Hanks*  
*Ery Kurowski*  
*Larry Lobaugh*  
*Dr. & Mrs. Michael Neapolitan*  
*Stephen Papalas*  
*George Sigle*  
*George Tricomi*

Please become a member, membership dues for the Niles Historical Society.  
\$25.00 Family or \$15.00 Individual

Mail to: **Niles Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 36**  
**Niles, OH 44446**

THANKS to all who have renewed membership for 2012.

Check your mailing label.

If there is an asterisk (\*) by your name, you are a current member and we deeply appreciate your support.

## Visitor To The Ward-Thomas Museum

Our largest and most popular collection is the "President's First Lady Gown Collection". The many style shows and the trip to Washington D.C. are all wonderful memories, for the ladies who were lucky enough to have worn one of the 43 dresses.



Recently, *Catherine McMurray* and her daughter, *Judy*, visited the museum and they viewed the dress that Catherine wore during that wonderful time in our city's history.

Catherine McMurray portrayed *Mary Harrison McKee*, President *Benjamin Harrison's* daughter, who took over the responsibilities of official hostess upon the death of her mother in 1892. We are told Mary McKee made a great many friends and preformed her official duties with dignity.

Her gown is champagne-colored brocade, mustard-colored velvet and gold-colored satin. The basque bodice has a draped velvet neckline edged with heavy embroidered scrolls of beaded lace which is repeated on the collar, cuffs and hip line. A fishnet-like bib of beads ends in long beaded fringe. The redingote type skirt shows the velvet underskirt and falls from a bustle into a sweeping train.

We are so grateful that so many of the ladies donated their dresses to the museum. It provides others an opportunity to view the beauty of the dresses up close and remember the contribution the ladies made to the Bicentennial Celebration in Niles.

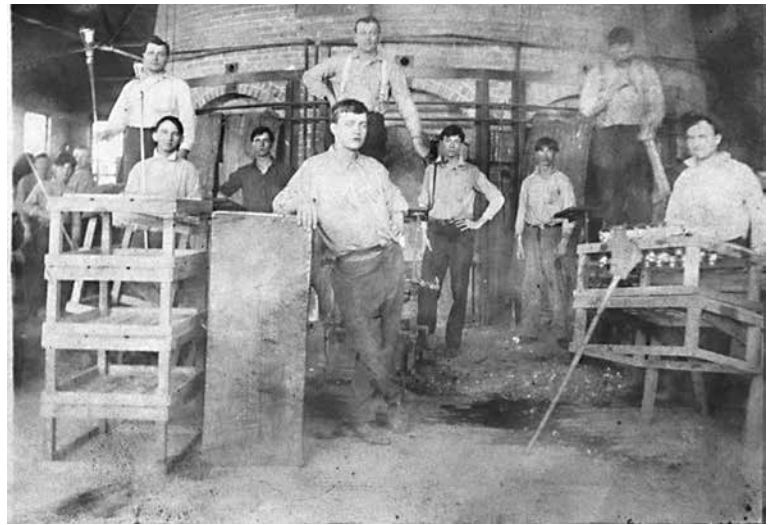
All the Niles dresses are replicas of the "First Ladies" dresses as seen at the **Smithsonian Institute** in Washington D.C.. Most of the school children that tour our museum will never get to Washington to see the dresses in person, so if we can preserve these dresses, they become a wonderful visual tool in the teaching of history, manners and life style. The gowns in the collection are priceless and this is one reason we want to build a new building with humidity and temperature control to help save these wonderful dresses for future generation to see.

## Bradshaw Pottery



Bradshaw Pottery, which provided employment for over 200 people, ranked high in the industrial development of Niles just after the turn of the century. In early 1901, an announcement was made regarding the construction of a pottery, which was to be built on 11 acres of land between the P. Y. & A. Railroad right-of-way and Hunter Street.

On March 27, 1901, a local newspaper announced that the new pottery, with four kilns and two decorating kilns, planned to start operations Aug. 1, employing 150 persons. The 190 edition of Jervis' "**Encyclopedia of Ceramics**" lists the following as officers when this pottery went into operation: *T.R. Bradshaw*, manager and president; *A.C. Bradshaw*, assistant manager; and *J.A. Watkins*, secretary, with *W. Silverman* in charge of the decorating department. Watkins was from Pennsylvania and, prior to joining Bradshaw, he had been in the pottery business in Pennsylvania for 12 years. The Bradshaws were from East Liverpool, and had been connected with the Bradshaw Pottery in that town.



Ironically, when ground was broken for the foundations of this new pottery in late April, a large bed of clay of the type used in making red building bricks was discovered. There are no records as to how that clay was disposed of, but the main building was constructed on that spot and it was built of brick and tile, 72 feet by 400 feet. By late October of that same year, Bradshaw Pottery was in full operation, producing tableware with a decalcomania style decoration. By December, the company had a large domestic trade established and was also exporting ware. In fact, during the last week of December, they shipped tableware to Honolulu.

Continued on Page 4

A fire in October 1904 caused by a faulty kiln in the decorating room, caused \$10,000 damage. But by early November, some 50 employees in the decorating department were back to work and full operations resumed shortly afterwards. By 1906, this pottery had expanded its facilities to include a large one-story modeling shop and a two-story building to house the decorating department. There are apparently no records as to the number of kilns, but photographs indicate there were probably at least six. Only the latest and most improved machinery was used and the highest skilled labor employed in producing good quality earthenware. Most of the raw materials used by Bradshaw were imported and only the best that could be purchased was used on their production line. The company was progressing remarkably well and was recognized widely as a valuable asset to the town of Niles. However, by 1910, Bradshaw was in receivership.



Many skilled workers stayed at the Fostoria (Later to become the Allison Hotel, then the Antler Hotel).

### Tritt China

Because he was interested in getting the Niles pottery back into operation, *Frank A. Sebring*, the prominent pottery man of Sebring, purchased the business. In 1912, he had the firm incorporated under the name **The Tritt China Company**, a subsidiary of Sebring Pottery Co. Tritt China made improvements at the pottery and new kilns were built in order to produce porcelain tableware. *Austin Clewes* and *William Mellor* of Niles, who were employees of Sebring Pottery, built the new kilns. During their working years, these two men built kilns for pottery companies in such places as Canada, New Jersey and East Liverpool, as well as at Sebring and Niles, and were well-known for their ability and skill. William Mellor patented a rotating kiln which he had developed while working in this area.

Tritt China operated for about eight years. Since production didn't meet the criteria of Frank Sebring and the other officers of Tritt, the plant was sold, but the molds were kept.

### Atlas China

At that time, in 1921, *A.O.C. Ahrendts* and two associates purchased the property and assets and formed **Crescent China Company**. In 1923, the company's name was changed to Atlas China Co. and the business began to develop and expand, employing 345 persons at peak periods. During the next year, \$250,000 was spent on improvements at the plant. But a fire that started in the boiler room swept through Atlas China on March 30, 1925, leaving the firm with a huge loss.

Fortunately, there was enough ware on hand to fill orders for the next 30 days.

In the meantime, the chief stockholders purchased a plant in Cambridge, Ohio that had suitable facilities for the manufacture of dinnerware and a new company, **The Globe China Co.**, was organized

### Atlas-Globe China Company

In 1926, Atlas China of Niles and Globe China of Cambridge were consolidated, resulting in The Atlas-Globe Co. During the later part of 1927 and early 1928, all operations of the Niles plant were phased out. Sometime during the 1930s, the Niles properties were sold for salvage purposes.

### Trademarks

The trademark for Bradshaw China was a brad or nail piercing the word "Shaw." an example of which may be seen on Page 74 of *Lois Lehner's* book, **"Ohio Pottery and Glass Marks and Manufacturers."** The book will also give you much information on the trademarks of Crescent China, Atlas China, and Globe China. A collector interested in Bradshaw China ware is seldom successful in adding any pieces of it to his collection, for it is very rare.

However, there are still people living who remember Bradshaw's successor, Tritt China, and pieces of this porcelain tableware are still available. It is frequently marked in gold lettering on the underside "Hand painted By Tritt Studio." And occasionally, pieces of ware made by Crescent China, or Atlas China or Globe China, do surface. But complete table services? Almost never!



We do have a complete set of Atlas China Co. dinner ware in our dining room. A floral pattern with 110 pieces, each one of which has 18 carat coin gold trim around the edge. The trademark "Atlas China Co, Niles, Ohio" appears on the bottom of each piece. We also have a mold that was used in the production of a small bowl on display in the kitchen of the Ward-Thomas Museum. Most people are surprised that Niles ever produced chinaware, but yet over 100 years ago, it was a thriving business in Niles.