

By now you have received a letter from us asking you to join the society with your dues/ subscription of the Historical Society newsletter.

**Membership/ Subscription for one year:**

**\$15.00 single - \$25.00 Family**

**Send check to:**

**Niles Historical Society**

**P. O. Box, 368**

**Niles, Ohio 44446**

If, however you are a "Life Member", or have already paid dues for 2012, you are listed in "good standing" with the Society, showing an asterisk (\*) on your mailing label. Please check your mailing label. As we receive the checks, we post them and put \* on the appropriate labels. If you have any questions, or you feel your label is incorrect, please call the office 330-544-2143.

We ask you to join every year to help us cover the cost of publication of the newsletter and help pay for some of the expenses we have in caring for the museum. We have long since had to have a lawn service cut the grass, trim bushes, and rake the leaves. This cost alone is over \$3,000 annually. We have found it necessary to rely on other contracted services to do other work around the museum also. We do have some special tours which pay a small fee to tour the museum, but basically our main source of income has become your subscription to the newsletter and dues. This amount adds up to help us pay our bills and we do appreciate your dues and monetary donations to the Society.

In the fall the stones which edged the stone walkways in the gardens were straightened by *George John, John Hoso* and *Frank Burke*. This may seem like a simple job, but it was by no means easy. The stones were set years and years ago, and had become crooked and lopsided. Some of the stones



were buried in the ground over 12 inches deep, making it a real job to remove them in the first place. Then they were

carefully reset, allowing about six inches exposed above the ground. Tons of new river wash gravel was purchased and spread between the stone edges. This is labor intensive work but it makes a beautiful presentation of the flower gardens.

**Memories of Niles**

So many towns have lost their identity with the loss of their written history, but Niles has never lost its identity, for its long and colorful History is its Identity. The landscape has changed; but it's always changing and will continue to change for years to come. Your history grows and grows with every passing generation. We all have so many memories, but with the documented facts and pictures preserved through the years by the society you can always "go home again".

Long ago there were little houses all up and down on both sides of Main street similar to McKinley's house which was on the west side of the street. McKinley's house was converted to a store "*Benedicts*" with a "*Pabst*" store next which sold wine and beer.



As people built other homes, away from Main street, and the town developed, those houses often became little stores on Main street. These little stores would sell groceries, dry goods and provide services to the public. At that time in our history, there were wooden sidewalks in front of the stores, with unpaved streets.



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

## Books for Sale

We have inserted a flier with the list of books available for sale. They make wonderful Christmas gifts for your friends and family. **Order early.** You may save postage by picking the orders up at the museum. Call for details: 330-544-2143.

## Christmas Open House

We will be having our "Christmas Open House" on December 4, 2011 at the Ward-Thomas Museum. As usual we are busy decorating and making plans for new and different displays. We hope you can come and bring your friends, from 2-5 pm on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Decorations will remain in place for our January open house also. Hours for the January open house, (Jan 1, 2012). are 2-5 pm. So if you want to come back again, you'll have a chance to see it all again. We are always glad to "show off" our museum for we know you will need more than one trip to see everything. There are so many things to see and with every item in the museum there is a story to tell.

## Memorial Plaques in the new building

The Building fund will be growing slowly we know, but we will not lose sight of our goal. We need the space to have programs for the youth and adults in Niles, research area, and additional storage for newly donated items. Our future lies in the ability to create an interest in the preservation of history with our younger generation. For over 30 years we have worked to create the museum that Niles can be proud of and we have succeeded in creating the largest museum in all of Trumbull County. It takes true dedication and it was all done by volunteers, laying the foundation for the next generation to carry on with the project.

Memorial plaques are a wonderful way for you to honor someone, at the same time, helping us carry on the work of the society. Mail the form below to: Niles Historical Society P.O. Box 368, Niles, Ohio 44446 Thank you.

## In Memory of Lou & Bessie Tabor

Many of you will remember the *Lou Tabor* family; I was especially touched by the comments made by *Tim Tabor* when he sent the memorial gift in memory of his parents. I am sure he wouldn't mind my sharing it with you. He listed all his siblings individually then he commented on how both of his parents loved Niles and the "safe haven it provided for them in rearing us".

The truth of the matter is that Niles loved Lou Tabor. His students respected him and learned so much from his kind and gentle ways. I remember Lou talking to our society at the spring dinner in 2007. He told the story of his life and it was not an easy life by any means. His talk was transcribed and we have made it available to the public. When you read his story in print, you can hear his voice and remember the man who made a real difference in the lives of many children.

We have over 600 people currently members of the Niles Historical Society who enjoy reading "The Niles Register" and support the Ward-Thomas Museum..

**We are glad to welcome the following new members for 2012.** (New memberships received by Nov, 1, 2011)

<i>Ryan &amp; Christa Altobelli</i>	<i>Bill Alfonsi</i>
<i>Adrian Biviano</i>	<i>David Arthur Bohn</i>
<i>Daniel Campana</i>	<i>Pete Cavacos</i>
<i>Sue Collins</i>	<i>Colleen Ferguson</i>
<i>Judge Diane V. Grendell</i>	<i>Geraldine Hart</i>
<i>Sandra Hochadel</i>	<i>Jack Liberatore</i>
<i>David Pappada</i>	<i>Mary Ann Smith</i>
<i>Martha Ann Theis</i>	<i>Drew Verbosky</i>

## Report for the New Building Fund

We will report the donations as they are received. We deeply appreciate support from the following people.

(Donations Rec'd by Nov.1,2011)

<i>Connie Gatta</i>	<i>Tee's Dental Lab</i>
<i>Judith S. Wiand</i>	<i>Sandra Bilovesky</i>
<i>Barbara Long</i>	<i>Anne Kaczmarek</i>
<i>T. J. Lynn</i>	<i>Louis Ralston</i>
<i>Martha Ellers</i>	

### Given by

### In Memory of:

<i>Richard &amp; Joyce Mahan.....</i>	<i>Bill &amp; Marilyn Thorp</i>
<i>Richard &amp; Joyce Mahan.....</i>	<i>Richard &amp; Margaret Mahan</i>
<i>Albert A. Salerno.....</i>	<i>Martha C. Pitts</i>
<i>Frank &amp; Lois Burlingham.....</i>	<i>Brad Burlingham</i>
<i>Angela Kaercher.....</i>	<i>Joseph &amp; Agnes Ballotta</i>
<i>William &amp; Renee Ruman.....</i>	<i>Paul &amp; Delores Kramer</i>
<i>Karl Zipf, Jr.....</i>	<i>Col Karl A. Zipf</i>
<i>Gus C. Cost.....</i>	<i>Barbara Ann Cost</i>
<i>Gillian &amp; David Jenkins.....</i>	<i>Norma Jenkins McBride</i>
<i>Betty Whitney.....</i>	<i>Charles Harris</i>
<i>Betty Whitney.....</i>	<i>Jane Whitney</i>
<i>Jan Ward Chambers.....</i>	<i>Richard Troutman Ward</i>
<i>Gillian &amp; David Jenkins.....</i>	<i>Neil McBride</i>
<i>Tabor Family.....</i>	<i>Bessie J. &amp; Louis Tabor Sr.</i>

*Martha J., Janet L,  
Louis Jr. Joseph E.  
Timothy A., Cynthia E.,  
Geoffrey T., Leslie A.*

### Given by

### In Honor of:

*Gillian & David Jenkins.....Neil McBride*

## Niles Historical Society Building Fund

Please designate my gift for one of the memorial plaques.

**I would like my gift to be:**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

_____	Platinum	\$35,000 - \$49,999
_____	Gold	\$20,000 - \$34,999
_____	Silver	\$5,000 - \$19,999
_____	Bronze	\$1,000 - \$4,999
_____	Other	\$ _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for making a difference in the preservation of history

*We are a 501c3 tax exempt organization* Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

As time went on, these little stores were replaced with fancy brick ones, some two and three stories tall with tops of fancy pediments and cornices. These were used to give a building a greater feeling of height and a better sense of proportion, style and character. The oldest building that remains on Main Street was built in 1897.. Though some changes have been made through the years to this building, the date is clearly marked in the brickwork at the top. This building sits just south of the Niles Bank building, where it was once the home of the Doubet Jewelry store.



Some of our members can still remember the old wooden creaky staircases going to the second and third floors of some of the old buildings such as the *Ideal Department Store*.



What did you think when you saw the little metal car riding the 'wire' in Hoffman's Department store? This was how your purchase money and bill was sent to the account cashier in the middle floor. Remember the old wooden structures on State Street that barely hung over the Mosquito creek? The backs of those building were a sight to see.



Seen here is *Ira Anderson* as he sits in front of his grocery store, typical of the stores in downtown Niles in 1919.



Talk to any Niles person who has moved away, mention the name "Niles". It conjures all sorts of memories for them..... Football games, Little League baseball, Weddell Park and swimming, neighborhood schools, Halloween parades, neighborhood hang-outs – the list goes on, all happy memories of Niles. That's why everyone likes to come back, if not in person, in memory, again and again. So as the town changes, your history goes on and on. The members of the Niles Historical Society are proud to be a part of this preservation project.

Many people would say, "when Hoffman's Store burned down in 1962, that marked the beginning of the end of the downtown as we knew it. The destruction of several key stores and the advent of shopping malls changed the shopping patterns of Niles".



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

#### Monthly Calendar

**Public Open House**  
The first Sunday of each month 2-5 p.m.  
Private tours may be scheduled by calling:  
The office 330.544.2143

**Membership meetings – 10:00am**  
The first Saturday each month  
**Executive meeting – 9:30am**  
prior to membership meeting.

**Trustees:**  
Fred Kubli, Jesse Scott, Roselyn Watson  
**Officers:**

Fremont Camerino .....President  
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

## Neighborhood Grocery Store

Around Cedar Street  
(Old Lincoln) School

**Fisher's Grocery** store was located on Ford Street and owned by *Elmer Fisher*, future Mayor of Niles. It faced the back of the Cedar Street School.

East of the school at the corner of Cherry and Harris Street there was another small neighborhood store called **Raftry's Groceries**. This picture taken by *Helen Crofford* from her front porch on Nov 25, 1950 during the big snowstorm



*Elmer Fisher*



That same little store was later called "Korner Dairy" when *Duane Pluche* owned it. Remember the Christmas tree he had on the roof, year round...



**The Cedar Street Grocery**, started in 1898 by *Frederick* and *Maria Harris*, was built at the corner of Cedar and Bean Alley, as a grocery store for Maria's brother, *William Kent Jr.*

In this photo are *William Kent*, his sister *Mara Harris*, unknown man, *Harry Harris* (Maria's brother-in-law) and *William Harris*. About a year after the photo was taken William Kent died in the Philippines as a soldier in the Spanish-American War, one of only a few from Niles to do so. *Richard Harris* sent us this picture, William Harris was his grandfather.



**James Dairy** was located at 641 Robbins Ave. in Niles. The store was started by *Mr. & Mrs. Sam Graham* in the early 30's, later they sold it to *Gerald Bennett* and his wife, who was a school teacher.

In May 1941, Bennett sold the business to *Elmer James*. He bought the store for his son *Donald* to manage; Don James loved it and always thought the decision was a great one and the entire James family worked together there. Early in 1944 Donald joined the Navy. He returned to the store and Don and his wife, *Mary Seefred*, operated the store till 1957 when he went to work in the banking business. "Our customers were very good to us for 16 years", Don said. Don and Mary James sent this photo to us for the newsletter.



**Macali's** first store was located next to **Woodcock's Pharmacy**, which is now **Troutman's Drug store** at 501 Robbins Ave. *Mrs. Isabelle Coates* had a candy store on the east side of Macali's grocery store.

Remember "**Pete's Dairy**" on Pearl Street? Try as we may, we couldn't find a picture of Pete's Dairy, but it is firmly implanted in the minds of all the children that walked down Pearl Street and bought candy there.

Editor's memories:

"There was a chest that kept pop cold by circulating ice-cold water around the glass bottles, it was a challenge to dip your hand into the water and pull out your choice: Black Cherry, Lemon-lime, Grapefruit, even Chocolate pop. The glass bottles had a small deposit so you wouldn't throw them away, we used to collect the bottles for pop-cash—2 cents for a small bottle and 5 cents for a quart bottle. In the early 50's Pete's Dairy had a few wooden booths and on your birthday you could get a free sundae of your choice. Most of us were in good shape because our Moms had us run to the store everyday for something she forgot to buy (this was a good time to buy some penny candy".

There were lots of other little grocery stores in every neighborhood. If you have a picture of one, we'd like to include it in our next newsletter. Or perhaps, you might send us a list of the stores and their locations that you remember.

The Society can scan and return your photographs, this way your history becomes documented and archived for the future generations to see. In addition to the photograph, any story or information adds greatly to the interest.

For information: 330-544-2143