

**Notice**

If you have recently called for information at the museum, and you did not receive a call back, please forgive us. The recording equipment for the telephone at the museum was not working correctly. There was so much static, it was hard to understand the voice at the other end. Everything seems to be in working order now, so please call again.

**Nick Name Book for Sale**

We still have Nick Name Books for sale. Just send \$17.00 along with your name and address to:

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

The \$17.00 covers the cost, plus postage and handling for each Nick Name Book. In the next mailing you will receive a complete listing of all books we have for sale

**Thanks to the Volunteers for "Heritage Day"**

We couldn't put an event together, as this one, without our fine volunteers. They are the life blood of the Niles Historical Society and nothing could be accomplished without their help. *Sandy Bilovesky, Pat Burgess-Fisher, Frank Burke, Betty Lou & Fremont Camerino, Jo and Gary Coupland, Lois Davidson, Carrie Faith, Sophy Froom, Lynn Gombos, George & Audrey John, Dolly Kircher, Dot Leo, Nancy Malone, Joyce Mahan, Gerrie and Bob Miller, Donna Nellis, Bill and Mary Alice Neiss, Kathi Nord, Pat Pfeifer, Letha Pihonsky, Carol Souders, Thelma Snyder, Garnet Smith, Ralph Tolbert, Roselyn Watson, and Betty Whitney* all volunteered for the day.

Donations of items for the bake sale and monetary donations were appreciated also.

**When life gives you lemons, you make lemon-ade**

The volunteer ladies in charge of the food and lemon shakes on Heritage Day 2011.



L-R Joyce Mahan, Carol Souders, Nancy Malone & Lynn Gombos.

**Pictures of Niles**

We are still looking for pictures of Niles to scan. Our committee is working on publishing a new Pictorial Book and always need more Niles pictures. Recently *Evelyn Rice* donated the pictures of the **Rice Electric building**.



This is a 1923 view of the inside of the Rice Electric store.



This photo shows the window display in 1938 featuring the evolution of the washing machine. The center washing machine is a 'Bendix'.

The Hoover Company representative is presenting a sweeper to Mrs. Oliver Williams with Don Rice looking on at the Grand Opening of the 15 N. Main Street building. March 26, 1960





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

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

<p><b>Monthly Calendar</b></p> <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</p> <p><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 Nancy Malone .....Recording Secretary Betty Whitney..... Corresponding Secretary Pat Burgess-Fisher.....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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## The Bridge is Gone



There has been another change in Niles. Remember the “Humpback” Bridge in Niles at the west end of Fifth Street? Well, about 2:45 in the afternoon on July 30, 2011 there was a terrible loud noise that shook the houses in the neighborhood. These residents are used to the noise of the trains going by on the tracks, but this was one that really got everyone running to see what happened. The large cloud of dust and dirt was just settling from some of the cars going off the track.

The train consisted of two engines pulling 50 cars and 15 of those cars were derailed. It was headed east from Chicago to Cumberland, Maryland when the accident occurred. There was no sign as to what caused the accident and it is still under investigation. One of the freight cars hit the post under the bridge so they had to remove the bridge in the clean-up process.

You will remember, this was the one lane bridge that went to Salt Spring Road from the west end of Fifth Street. Some people called it the “Rickety Bridge” or the “Humpback Bridge”, because of its shape or just “Fifth Street”. It had a 5 ton limit and was reinforced with steel frame with a wooden floor. It was constructed years ago and was raised in the middle to allow the trains to pass under it. The bridge served as a shortcut for anyone wanting to go to Salts Spring Road from the south side area of Niles. We have been informed by *Mark Hess*, City Engineer, that a new bridge will be replacing the old one before long.



## Heritage Day August 7, 2011

Heritage Day was held on August 7th and everyone seemed to enjoy visiting with their friends while they also viewed some of the displays. *Joe Cera* and his family visited for the first time and they were impressed with the museum and the caricature drawings that *Rick Muccio* created for each of his daughters.



Seen here are *Joe Cera*, daughters *Kacie* and *Carli* and wife *Denise* .



*Rick Muccio*, caricature artist, is well-known for his Editorial cartoons that appear in local newspapers.

## Visitors learn about historical collections

*Barbara James* displayed her unique button collection. There is a fascinating history behind the simple button we use daily. Not only is the shape and color of each button interesting to see, but *Barbara* explained how many of the buttons were manufactured and from what type of materials.



Do you have an interesting story about growing up in Niles, family memories, or special event? Contact the Curator about including it in the Newsletter. **330.544.2143**



*Colette Chuey* displayed her ornate Victorian purses, some dating to the early nineteenth century. One example was the miser bags or beggar's bags which came into fashion at the end of the eighteenth century and were used to hold coins.



## Report on the New Building Fund

We are starting to grow toward a desperately needed new building. We know it will take time, but with the friends and members of the **Niles Historical Society** we have the faith that it will become a reality before long. We deeply appreciate the donations from the following people.

<i>Jason Altobelli</i>	<i>Frank Burke</i>
<i>Mary E. Moritz</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Sue Bullock</i>
<i>David Prosser</i>	<i>Jean Williams</i>
<i>Vivian Whitney</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Stoll</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George John</i>	<i>Alice Slavokovsky</i>
<i>Joyce Hartzell</i>	<i>Tom Calderone</i>
<i>Brian Pritchard (AtoZ Plumbing)</i>	<i>Lippy Foundation</i>
<i>Nancy Mancini</i>	<i>Betty W. Chase</i>
<i>Virginia Harkleroad</i>	<i>Eleanor Fairbanks</i>
<i>Ellen S. Ford</i>	<i>Bob &amp; Gerrie Miller</i>
<i>Bill &amp; Arlene Fischer</i>	<i>Eva &amp; Bob Doyle</i>
<i>Margaretta Hosack Jones</i>	<i>Philip &amp; Tonya Penrose</i>
<i>Betty Sullivan</i>	<i>Nicholas &amp; Helen DeMaiolo</i>
<i>Patricia A. Pfeifer</i>	

### In Memory

<i>Neil McBride</i>	<i>Norma McBride</i>
<i>David &amp; Susan Pappada</i>	<i>Dominic Pappada</i>
<i>Holly Fillian Scott</i>	<i>John Linus Fillian</i>
<i>Martha Jensen</i>	<i>William A. Jensen</i>
<i>Beatrice Baer</i>	<i>William C. Baer</i>
<i>Mrs. Charles Adgate</i>	<i>Charles R. Adgate</i>
<i>Nancy Wick</i>	<i>R. Clare Westenfield</i>

### In Honor

<i>Paul Shaker</i>	<i>Genevieve Nader Shaker</i>
<i>Fred Fisher</i>	<i>Audrey &amp; George John</i>

Did you know about 100 years ago, the campaign to raise money to build the M<sup>c</sup>Kinley Memorial started? Not a penny of government money went into the construction of that building. It was all donated from school children, businesses, and individuals interested in the project.

What a credit to those who invested in the future with a library and memorial to our President M<sup>c</sup>Kinley. It was built for people to enjoy 100 years ago, today and years from now. If you are from Niles, perhaps your grandparents donated to the building fund for the M<sup>c</sup>Kinley Memorial.



Girard Community Swing Band performed many of the songs from the past that visitors remembered and enjoyed hearing again.

## Heritage Day Volunteer Performers



Carol and Doug Babayak pose in their Civil War 'Living History' clothing which are authentic as possible, from fabric to buttons.

Helen DeMalio, in the kitchen, showed visitors the many knitting stitches and hand made items she has made. Helen has won many awards for her talented knitting and needle work.



Ralph Chuey had a very interesting Civil War display on three tables. He shared the history of various items in his collection with the visitors.

For more years than we can remember, 'Little Joe' Latessa has played his Honky-Tonk piano for the Heritage Day crowd.



Why are we always asking for pictures of buildings, people, events, or families? 'Times are a-changing' as noted in the demolition of the Old Iron Bridge on the Southside of Niles, the items shown by presenters on Heritage Day, or by the three photos donated by Evelyn Rice.

Without a Historical Society memories soon fade. Remember the typewriter with ribbon, a movie projector with film, or a phone with wires as held by Pat Burgess-Fisher?



The Thomas House Museum can only display so many real items, but your photographs of your history of Niles can be scanned and the files takes only a little hard drive space.

To put change into an example that is easy to relate to, consider that the Class of 2011 students that just graduated has always had the Internet available to them.

Loan us your images of Niles to preserve our History.