

President's Message:

Peace on earth, goodwill to man!

Happy Holidays to all and a Happier New Year! Our hope is that you are all staying safe and healthy. Due to current events all activities at the Ward-Thomas Museum are on hold. However, the Society is participating in "The Festival of Christmas Trees" at the McKinley Memorial Museum. We are also partnering with the McKinley Memorial Library and the McKinley Memorial Museum and Birthplace in a program called "Christmas-To-Go" providing gift bags to children who register.

The Society also has historical publications on Niles history for sale which can be viewed on the website. Cleaning cloths are also available at \$6.00 plus postage. Please call Sandy at 330-652-8329 or Anna Marie at 330-856-5274 to order.

The October Yard Sale was a success. Thank you to all who donated items for sale and to those who purchased items. Our dedicated volunteers deserve our thanks for their time and talents.

The Society will again partner with the Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS). *Annie Talmadge* is the current intern provided by Americorp-Ohio History Corps Region 4.

Among Ms. Talmadge responsibilities will be coordination of nine local historical societies in a National Endowment for Humanities initiative called "More Perfect Union" to plan events for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. The Society will also partner with the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau with programs to highlight the area.



Remember when... *Helen Cost Kaniclides* worked in the theater building and went out on the Robins Theater marquee sign with a friend to take the pictures of the 1950 Thanksgiving snow storm when over two feet of snow fell.

History of Niles Schools — Part 2.

Written by *Frank O. Robbins*, Class of 1875, in 1915. Ed. there have been no grammar corrections.



Picnic at Central School, formerly Union School

In 1867 there were three schools in District No. 8, one high school taught by *Andrew Dienst*; the old White School, taught by *Miss Olive Allison*, now Mrs. George Harris, and one taught by *Miss Josie Hardman*, either in the old Town Hall or in the old Furnace office, which stood in the southeast corner of the present Union School yard.

An election on the Union School law under act passed by the legislature of Ohio in 1849 was held on April 12, 1869 resulted in 102 votes being cast, 101 being for and 1 against. By this vote, the schools within the village of Niles were consolidated and on April 29th, six directors were elected. They were *Josiah Robbins, Jr.*, *T. C. Stewart*, *S. D. Young*, *Col. Wm. Davis*, *Wm. C. Mann* and *Wm. Campbell*.

This board had its first meeting in the Town Hall on the evening of April 30th and organized. On the following day another meeting of the Board was held, at which *H. H. Mason* was present as delegate from Sub-district No. 6 to petition that portion of Sub-district No. 6 not within the limits of the corporation of Niles be included in the Union School District. Mr. Mason's petition was granted. The Niles Union School District in the beginning comprised only the 6th and 8th Districts of Weathersfield Township and was extended with the corporation limits. It was not until about the year 1912 that District No. 9 west of town was taken into the Union School District.

On May 4th, 1869, action was taken by the Board to purchase from *Mrs. Elizabeth Heaton* what was known as the old furnace property, whereon had stood the charcoal furnace built by the Heatons. This was said to be the second iron industry in the state and first in the Mahoning Valley. At a meeting of the qualified voters of the District, held on the evening of Saturday, May 22, 1869, it was unanimously resolved that the Board of Directors be empowered to purchase a site and erect thereon a suitable school house and authority was granted to levy a tax of \$15,000.00 on the District for this purpose.

In September, 1869, *Rev. T. O. Stewart* was selected by the Board as first Superintendent or acting manager of the Niles Union Schools. On March 1, 1870, the electors of the District empowered the Board to make an additional levy of \$10,000.00, as the Board had found that at least \$25,000.00 would be required to erect a building suitable for the needs of the District.



Ward-Thomas Museum
Home of
The Niles Historical Society
503 Brown Street
Niles, OH 44446

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

Preserving and promoting Niles' History for future generations

Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org
Check out the Photographs and Stories links.

Monthly Calendar	Officers
Museum 'Open House' The first Sunday of each month, 2-5 Last tour begins at 4 pm	<i>Anna Maria Beagle</i>President <i>Dave Martin</i>Vice-President <i>Lynda Ralston</i>Treasurer <i>Coleen Tominey</i>Secretary <i>Ruth Van Huffel</i>Corr. Secretary
Membership Meetings	
10:00 am First Saturday of each month Call for private tours to be scheduled 330.544.2143	<i>Audrey John</i>Curator <i>Ralph Tolbert</i>Newsletter and Website Trustees: <i>Anne Townley, Nancy Malone, and Sandy Bilovesky</i>

On May 18, 1870, the Board let the contract for the Union School building to a Cleveland firm of contractors for the sum of \$27,950.00, payment to be made in 8 per cent bonds.

The heating and furnishing increased the cost of the building to approximately \$31,000.00. The first Board meeting in the new school building was held on March 10, 1871, and the building was accepted May 24, 1871. In the new building, the High School occupied the entire west side of the second floor and continued to occupy that room until the holiday season of 1888, when the crowded conditions of the schools necessitated abandoning the third floor as a 'Union Hall' and converting it into school rooms.

L.L. Campbell was elected Superintendent April 24, 1871. He was succeeded by *Miss Stewart* in the fall of 1875, whose occupancy lasted only two terms. She was succeeded by *Mr. Hitchcock* in the spring of 1870. Mr. Hitchcock was succeeded as Superintendent in the fall of 1879 by *Mr. Bulla*, who served until 1883 when he was succeeded by *Mr. Wight*. In 1888 Mr. Wight was succeeded by *Mr. Roller*, who guided so ably and satisfactorily the affairs of the Niles schools for 22 years. He was followed by Mr. *W. C. Campbell*, the present Superintendent.

Under Mr. Campbell's efficient management, the Niles Union Schools are rendering a great service to the youth of the community and occupy a front rank among the schools of the state. There is an enrollment at present of 1752 pupils, of whom 240 are members of the High School and 120 are in the grammar grades. These 360 now occupy the Central building. This building for ten years has been condemned by the state

authorities as unsanitary and as a veritable fire trap.

On May 12, 1913, an election was held on the question of a bond issue of \$195,000.00 at 4-1/2, per cent, for a new High School building and for improvements on two of the Ward buildings. The election carried, there being 427 votes for the issue and 203 against. Later the Board purchased the present site for the new school for approximately \$40,000.00, and on July 6, 1914, ground was broken for this fine High School building which will cost complete, ready for occupancy, approximately \$160,000.00. Ed. This McKinley High School later became Edison Jr. High Sc

Calendar of Events

Order the perfect Christmas gift for friends and family. The Niles Historical Society is selling their 2021 calendar which features 13 historical photographs and stories about Niles sports events from 1898 to 1963. The cost is \$10 pickup plus \$2 if you want it shipped.

Information on the 2021 membership drive will be mailed soon.

Visit our website:
www.nileshistoricalsociety.org



The Vienna Avenue store soon after Henry Rider had opened in 1905. Pictured: Henry F. Rider, Howard H. Rider, Jr., Myrtle, Elizabeth and Clyde Rider.

Rider's Grocery Store.

Henry F. Rider was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on May 15, 1860, the son of *George* and *Margaret Rider*. The early years of his life were spent at his birthplace and he came to Niles in 1864, where he took an active part in the civic and church work of this community.

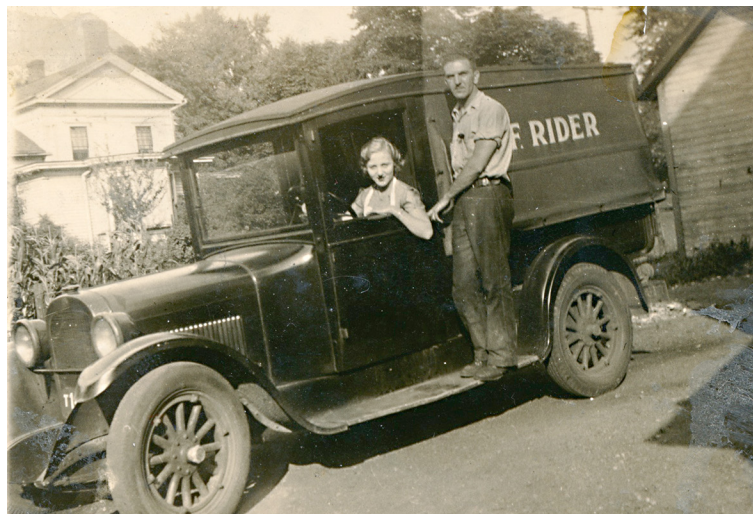


On August, 29, 1889, he was united in marriage with *Miss Elizabeth Stein*. In 1905, he started the grocery business which he conducted until the time of his death and in the same location in which it has always been located (142 Vienna Avenue). Henry and his wife lived in the second floor above the store. His son, *Howard*, has been associated with his father in the store.

Surviving him are his wife, Elizabeth; a son, *Howard*; two brothers, *Leonard* and *John Rider*, both of Niles; and two grandchildren, *Myrtle Ann* and *Howard Rider, Jr.*



Henry and Elizabeth (Stein) Rider standing on the side of H.F. Rider Grocery Store at 142 Vienna Avenue.



The modernization of the method for delivering food to customers. *Chester Hughes* is shown hanging on the side of the truck. Chester delivered the groceries to city customers.

Pete Rider then took over the deliveries in 1941. During the WW2, Pete had his drivers license at 14, but was only to use it delivering. Always carried a pound of coffee in the back when doing other things. Needless to say he was very popular with the guys and gals.

Carol Rider Hill—Howard H. Rider was born on Circle Street (apartments now). Howard H. Jr. (my dad) was born in the house on corner of Cedar and Hughes (next door to where I grew up). I am so proud of my parents and family. They had a terrific effect on Niles and Trumbull County in so many ways!

Thomas G Rider—When Riders closed in 1957 the Macali's bought most of the hardscape from inside the grocery store.



Henry behind the store with one of the horses that pulled the H.F. Rider Store wagon to deliver groceries and dry goods.



Pictured in the photo above are: Howard H. Rider, Sr., the shorter woman is his sister Myrtle Rider, who died at the age of 28 and sister Clyde Rider. She never married and taught at the old Cedar Street School. She lost her sight but received her second sight.

Rider memories:

When H.H. Rider was born, his sister Myrtle had wanted a ‘Peter Rabbit’ instead of a baby brother so he was called ‘Pete’ from then on. Now you know the rest of the story.

Rider’s allowed credit during WWII to families that couldn’t pay and always gave cookies to the children.

H.H. Rider, Sr. and Herb and Russ Stein were first cousins, so Elizabeth Stein was a sibling to the Stein’s father. H.H. Rider played football with the Steins and said that Herb Stein was a bugger to tackle. In those days, you had to say that you were down to be tackled. Follow the link to read about the Steins:

<https://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org/stnfb.htm>

If you have your own family stories of growing up in Niles, Ohio, please consider sharing those memories with the Niles Historical Society. Contact: *Anna Marie Beagle*: 330-856-5274 *Sandy Bilovesky*: 330-652-8329 or *Ralph Tolbert*: 330.651.2482



“This is the house on Circle Street that Henry built and HH grew up there. When Henry died, his wife Elizabeth moved to the apartment above the store building and lived there with Myrtle and Clyde while HH lived here on Circle Street until he was married and built a house at 621 North Cedar.

My father, HH jr (Pete) and his sister Myrtle Ann were born in the Cedar Street house and my father bought the house on Circle Street. They took down two coal sheds in the back of the Circle Street house to build a cabin in 1946 on land in Howland on a dirt path that became Warwick Drive by what is now the back entrance to the mall. They would go there on weekends.

HH Sr. built a house on that property and moved there in 1951, the year I was born as my father purchased the home of Dr. Roy Davis at 615 Cedar Street after Doc Davis purchased the 621 Cedar St. From HH Sr. Confusing isn’t it?” — Tom Rider



The building that was formerly Rider’s Grocery Store still stands and is occupied at 142 Vienna Avenue.