

President Message

Hello Fall!

Ralph Tolbert has included a story or two in this issue of The Niles Register to keep the reader informed of Niles happenings.

The story of Harry Stevens and the hotdog by *Stan Boney* on WKBN created quite a stir on Facebook. The reaction of Nilesites to fact versus legend is a great lesson for those who would like to rewrite history. Ralph has added several new articles to the website for your enjoyment. www.nileshistoricalsociety.org

Heritage Day 2022

September is the month for Heritage Day and Yard Sale. This event will take place on Saturday, September 10, 2022 on the grounds of the Ward-Thomas House. The yard sale hours are 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. The Heritage Day events will be 12:00 PM-3:00 PM. Ralph will present Niles history topics in the newly renovated Westenfield Room. Musical presentations and demonstrations will take place under tent. The Steel Valley Ukers under the leadership of *Richard Wyant*, a great hit in 2019, will perform at 1:00 PM. The Society is planning events for the young of all ages. We are also seeking vendors and crafters to present their wares.

Yard Sale 2022

The Society is accepting donations for the Yard Sale beginning August 27, 2022. Home goods, tools, books, games and toys are a favorite. Clothing and electronics are not accepted. Please contact *Anna Marie* at 330-719-5716 or *Sandy* at 330-652-8329 to schedule a donation or for additional information.

As presented in previous newsletters, the barn roof is in disrepair. Replacement of the roof with shingles rather than slate and repair of the eaves and spouting is approximately \$45,000.

The Society is grateful to the donors who have contributed \$1050 thus far to this cause.

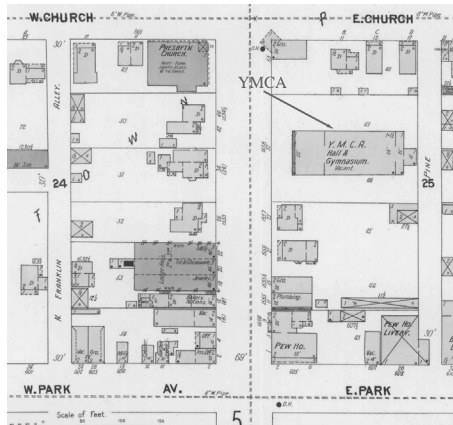
—*Anna Marie Beagle*, President

According to the 1902 Sandborn Fire Insurance Map of Niles, there was a YMCA building located across from the future McKinley Memorial grounds.

The building had previously been a skating rink and dance hall.

This building was located where the Main Beverage had been located. The beverage store was one of the buildings not torn down during urban renewal on Main Street.

The Cadence Coffee House is now located here.



Cadence Coffeehouse and Creperie



<https://www.facebook.com/CadenceCoffeeCreperie/> Information

Cadence Care Network is an organization that has provided social services to children and adolescents throughout the four most Northeastern Counties in Ohio since 1990.

Our social enterprise seeks to offer job training and employment opportunities for at risk youth served by our organization, all while supporting programming that builds resilient and strong young adults with surplus revenue over direct business operations.

This project has two distinct targets: Empowering youth with issues that may put them at risk (mental health, substance abuse, child welfare and juvenile court involvement, developmental disabilities) to gain important life skills, while serving up the finest espresso based drinks and crepes in the area!

The Cadence Coffeehouse and Creperie is located in historic downtown Niles, directly across the street from the President McKinley Memorial Library, at 31 North Main Street.

The coffee house will be located on the first floor of the Carmella Building with a large outdoor seating area. The coffeehouse and creperie will have a bar service area, 2 ADA-approved bathrooms, seating for 24, a kitchen, a small area to present art and read, and a community room for utilization by the residents of the community. The parking lot can accommodate 28 parked cars and there is ample curbside parking across the street.



Main Street across from the McKinley Memorial downtown before urban renewal in 1976: Main Beverage, site of new Cadence Creperie; Niles Cab, Niles Dry Cleaners, Rudy's Diner, Pugh Hardware, Mervyn's Jewelry and the Antler Hotel.



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

...Continued from Page 3

On December 16, 1773 a group of men, all members of the Sons of Liberty, met in Boston to protest the tax on tea imposed by England. When their protest went unheeded, they disguised themselves as Mohawk Indians, proceeded to Boston harbor, and dumped overboard 342 chests of English tea.

During the Revolutionary War, members of secret societies quenched their council fires and took up muskets to join with the Continental Army. To the cause of Freedom and Liberty they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors. At the end of the hard fought war the American Republic was born and was soon acknowledged among the nations of the world.

Following the American Revolution many of the various secret societies founded before and during the conflict continued in existence as brotherhoods or fraternities.

For the next 35 years, however, each of the original Sons of Liberty and Sons of St. Tamina groups went their own way, under many different names. In 1813, at historic Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia, several of these groups came together and formed one organization known as the Society of Red Men. The name was changed to the Improved Order of Red Men in Baltimore in 1834.

At Baltimore, Maryland, in 1847, the various local tribes came together and formed a national organization called the Grand Council of the United States.

With the formation of a national organization, the Improved Order of Red Men soon spread, and within 30 years there were State Great Councils in 21 states with a membership of over 150,000. The Order continued to grow and by the mid-1920s there were tribes in 46 states and territories with a membership totaling over one-half million. By 2011 enrollment had decreased to 15,251. With permission from: Red Man Museum and Library.

Calendar of Events:

Heritage Day

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Heritage Day presentations

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Heritage Day Yard Sale

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Donations for Yard Sale

Accepted beginning August 27, 2022

Please call 330-719-5716 or 330-652-8329

September Open House

Saturday, September 10, 2022

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM as part of Heritage Day

Westenfield Room Meetings:

October business meeting: October 1, 2022

October Open House

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Last tour at 4:00 PM



The Niles Improved Order of the Redman met and held dances on the second floor of the Morgan-Williams Building located on South Main Street between West State and Water Streets. The East Ohio Gas Company and Niles Daily News offices were on the first floor.

Genesee Tribe Instituted In Niles In March 1904

Genesee Tribe No. 15 of Niles, Ohio, was instituted in March 1904. The first meeting place was in the Frech building now occupied by the American Legion, with the following officers in charge: Prophet, *A.D. Williams*; Sachem, *L.W. Bach*; Senior Sagamore, *E.V. Rader*; Junior Sagamore, *Robert McCarty*; Collector of Wampum, *I. Campbell*; Keeper of Wampum, *I. Don Holeton*.

Genesee Tribe met in this location for two years until the completion of the Morgan-Williams building which was designed especially for the order and is still the home of the Redmen.

A feature peculiar to the Redmen is the care of the orphans of deceased members. They maintain no orphan's home, but contribute to the support of the children in their own homes.

The degrees of the order are founded on the customs and traditions of the American Aborigine and the League of the Iroquois. The motto is Freedom, Friendship, and Charity.

Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday evening in Redmen Hall in charge of Sachem, *Edward Reese*; Senior Sagamore, *Roy Campbell*; Junior Sagamore, *A. Zigler*; Prophet, *J. T. Rose*; Collector of Wampum *Al Tailbitzer*; Keeper of Wampum, *Hoyt Campbell*; Keeper of Wampum *D. L. Boyd*; Trustees: *Charles Duff*, *C. A. Edwards*, *J. T. Rose*.

From September Centennial Issue of Niles Daily Times submitted by: *Al. Tailbitzer*



A photo of the members of the Niles 'Red Man Lodge' in front of the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street, October 12, 1918 for a special Columbus Day Parade.

"Who Are The Red Men?"

The fraternity traces its origins back to 1765 and is descended from the Sons of Liberty. These patriots concealed their identities and worked "underground" to help establish freedom and liberty in the early Colonies. They patterned themselves after the great Iroquois Confederacy and its democratic governing body. The Iroquois System system, with elected representatives to govern tribal councils, had been in existence for several centuries.

After the War of 1812 the name was changed to the Society of Red Men and in 1834 to the Improved Order of Red Men. They kept the customs and terminology of Native Americans as a basic part of the fraternity. Some of the words and terms may sound strange, but they soon become a familiar part of the language for every member. The Improved Order of Red Men (IORM) is similar in many ways to other major fraternal organizations in the United States.

The Improved Order of Red Men is a national fraternal organization that believes in...

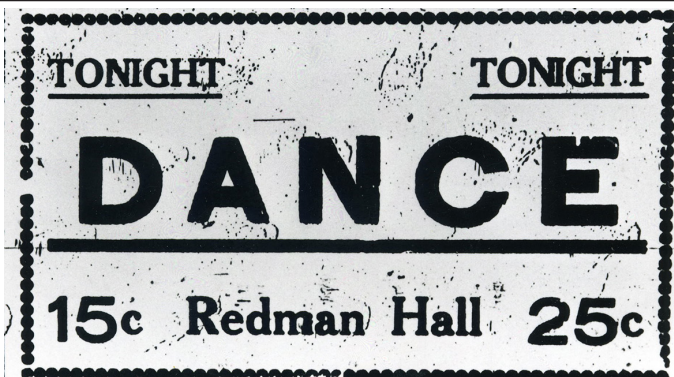
- Love of and respect for the American Flag.
- Preserving our Nation by defending and upholding the principle of free Government.
- America and the democratic way of life.
- Preserving the traditions and history of this great Country.
- Creating and inspiring a greater love for the United States of America.
- Helping our fellow men through organized charitable programs.
- Linking our members together in a common bond of Brotherhood and Friendship.
- Perpetuating the beautiful legends and traditions of a once-vanishing race and the keeping alive some of the traditional customs, ceremonies, and philosophies.

Legally, The Improved Order of Red Men is a patriotic fraternity chartered by Congress. It is a non-profit organization devoted to inspiring a greater love for the United States of America and the principles of American Liberty.

History of the Red Men

The Improved Order of Red Men traces its origin to certain secret patriotic societies founded before the American Revolution. They were established to promote Liberty and to defy the tyranny of the English Crown. Among the early groups were: The Sons of Liberty, the Sons of St. Tammany, and later the Society of Red Men.

Continued on Page 4



An advertisement for a Redman's Lodge dance at the Redman Hall. Run in the October 17, 1914 edition of the Niles Daily Times.



Harry Stevens residence at 1210 Robbins Avenue(ca 1915)



Harry Stevens residence undergoing renovations in July 2022.

NILES, Ohio (WKBN) – The people of Niles have been led to believe that the city’s late businessman Harry Stevens invented the hot dog. But it turns out, that may not be true.

On the webpage of the Niles Historical Society, it states that Stevens “gave the world the hotdog.” That Stevens had the first hotdog sold at New York’s Polo Grounds in 1900. Turns out, there’s a college professor in Missouri who says the Harry Stevens story is not true. “So there is no way, no way on God’s green earth that Harry Stevens invented the term ‘hotdog,’” said 81-year-old Dr. *Gerald Cohen*.

“Harry Stevens never claimed that he invented the term ‘hot dog,’ just that he was selling hot sausages in a bun,” Dr. Cohen said.

Dr. Cohen also says the first time Stevens admitted to selling hotdogs was in 1906 during a bike race at Madison Square Garden. But it was the idea of his son *Frank*, not Harry’s. The next day, newspaper cartoonist *T.A. Dorgan* published a cartoon with hot dogs. All this coming six years after the original story supposedly took place.

Printed with permission from WKBN

The television report by *Stan Boney* that coordinated with National Hotdog Day, the third Wednesday of July, has caused many Nilesites to question whether Harry M. Stevens really was ‘The Hot Dog-King’

Warren native *Nick Spano* said, “If he didn’t do it, I don’t think it would take away, it wouldn’t detract from the story of Harry Stevens.” Spano is a foremost expert on Harry Stevens.

So Harry Stevens may not have invented the hotdog but he did make it a part of the baseball experience and Niles Hot Dog Festival hopefully will return each year on the 4th of July Weekend.

Grilled franks in a split roll were first served around the turn of the century by concessionaire *Harry Stevens*, according to the Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins. Sports cartoonist *T.A. Dorgan* gets the credit for naming them “hot dogs,” presumably because many people at the time thought they were made from dog meat. On cold days, Stevens would shout, “Get your red hots!” So Dorgan, who signed his drawings TAD, put two and two together. He even drew the hot dog as a dachshund on a roll, leading the indignant Coney Island, N.Y., Chamber of Commerce to ban the use of the term by concessionaires. They could be called only “Coney Islands,” “red hots” or “frankfurters.” But it wasn’t long before “hot dog” was the one and only name that would do.

<https://www.tampabay.com/archive/1995/07/16/cartoonist-named-the-hot-dog/>
Published Jul. 16, 1995|Updated Oct. 4, 2005

1984 Sesquicentennial Edition of the Niles Daily Times written by: *Gene Antonio*.

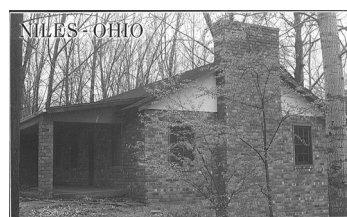
Niles’ most famous and prosperous businessman, turned a hot sausage into a million-dollar fortune and gave the world the hot dog.

Stevens was known throughout the world as a caterer but it was the first hot dog sold at the New York Polo Grounds in 1900 that sealed his fortune. Sausage had been sold in rolls before that time, but the hot roll and mustard and pickle were Stevens’ own idea. The delicacy became popular immediately and quickly developed into an American tradition.

A little less known than the hotdog was Stevens’ business operations with double-jointed peanuts. Stevens was known as “The man who parlayed a bag of peanuts into a million dollars.” The businessman leased many acres of land in Virginia where he grew peanuts and shipped them to New York by the carload.

Born in London, July 14, 1855, Stevens came to this country in 1892 and settled in Niles where his wife had friends. After working as an iron puddler and book salesman, he hit upon what turned out to be his life career. The idea came as he sat watching a baseball game. Stevens noticed the scorecards were amateurish and contained no advertising. Soon he obtained the concession for selling scorecards at a Columbus ball park and quickly lined up advertising, then expanded into other ball parks and selling refreshments as his next step.

Stevens’ promotions of the hotdog and other ventures brought him an international reputation. He returned to Niles many times during his lifetime. He died May 3, 1934, and is buried in Niles’ Union Cemetery.



The Stevens Youth Cabin was built in 1948 to commemorate their contributions to the City of Niles, especially the land that was donated for Stevens Park in 1936 by the Stevens Family.

For complete story of the Stevens family:
<https://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org/harry.htm>

