

The Niles Register



Niles Historical Society
PO Box 368
Niles, OH 44446

September-October
2025

Shaker Store and Family

The Mango Block Building was built in 1894 by *Vincent Mango* where Park Avenue ended at Furnace St. (State) and no bridge across the Mosquito Creek existed. At that time, the streets were not paved.

The wooden building to the left of the Mango Building, H.Hicks Shoe Making & Repairing, was torn down in 1906 and the East Park Avenue Bridge was built to span the Mosquito Creek waterway.

The Niles Cash grocery was one of the first occupants of the first floor of the Mango Building. In 1906, Vincent Mango rented two upstairs rooms to the Italian immigrant workers of Niles as a location to hold Catholic Mass.



The Mango Building as it appeared in 1895. Photo from Artwork of Trumbull and Ashtabula Counties published by *H.W. Kennicott*.

On March 20, 1907, *Isaac Shaker* and *Joe Abraham* in partnership opened a shoe and clothing store on the corner of Furnace Street and Race Alley (Location of Valsi's Cleaners in 1972). Their business was so successful, the partners needed larger quarters, and in May 1913 they purchased the Mango Building on the southeast corner of State Street and East Park Avenue where they remodeled it for a general merchandise store featuring 'Ladies' and Gent's Furnishings'.

Mary Alyce Shaker remembered her grandmother telling the story "that the two men had quite a fuss as to whom would get top billing on the store's name. Isaac won out and the letters S&A were scribed in the tiled floor outside the door's entryway."

In 1923 the Abraham & Shaker partnership was dissolved and at that time, Joe Abraham opened a similar store on Pine Street in Warren. From 1907 to 1966 Nilesites continued to purchase clothing in the store from the Shaker Family. The store was first named Shaker and Abraham, then Shaker Brothers, I. Shaker and finally Shaker's.

The Shaker store remained in business until 1966 when it was closed. One of Isaac's three sons, *Simon Shaker*, converted it into his accounting office from about 1966-72. The Mango Building was demolished in 1975 to make way for the new bridge on East Park



The Shaker Store located in the Mango Building on East State Street. The two Shaker brothers, Isaac and *Akel*, ran the store until Isaac bought Akel's share of the partnership out. Akel then moved to Warren where he opened a grocery store. Continued Page 4...



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



Scan the QR code to visit the Niles Historical Society website.

Visit our Website: www.nileshistoricalsociety.org

Check out the Photographs and Stories links.

Preserving and promoting Niles' History for future generations.

Monthly Calendar

Museum 'Open House'
The first Sunday of each month, 2-5
Last tour begins at 4 pm

Membership Meetings

Westenfield Room
10:00 am First Saturday of each month

Call for private tours to be scheduled

330.544.2143

Officers

Anna Maria Beagle.....President
Dave Martin.....Vice-President
Lynda Ralston.....Treasurer
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Audrey John.....Curator

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Trustees:

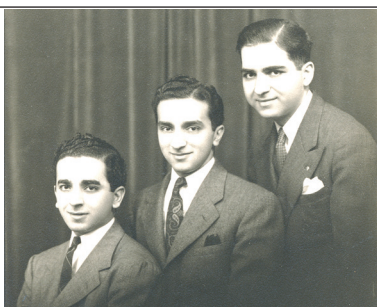
Anne Townley, Nancy Malone, and Sandy Bilovesky



Interior, 1935 ca, of the Shaker store with Isaac in the center.

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Niles Daily Times September 4, 1943. Three blue stars are proudly displayed in the window at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Shaker for their sons in the Army, Navy and Air Force. PFC Simon Shaker, Midshipman Mitchell Shaker and Aviation Cadet Joseph Shaker.



Simon managed the family store until 1966 and operated a public accounting practice in the Niles Bank Building.

Joseph Shaker was involved in advertising and later became a philanthropist, raising funds for St. Jude's Childrens Research Hospital.

Mitchell served as Niles City Law Director for 22 years and later became a Common Pleas judge in 1983 serving until 1997.

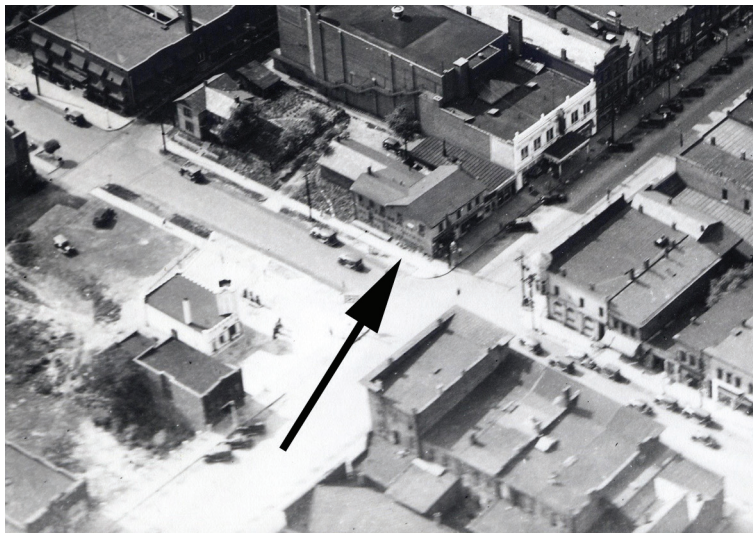
Read more about the Shaker story at:

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

One of downtown's older buildings is getting a face-lifting, a new look, and a new store. Reisman's store which has stood on the corner of South Main and West State Streets for several years is currently undergoing a \$20,000 remodeling which will improve the appearance of the downtown area and fit in with current urban redevelopment plans.

Max Reisman, owner of the building, says his "new complex" will include a family clothing store and an adjoining furniture shop. Current plans are to put a new front on the building that will house a separate clothing and furniture store, both to be known as Reisman's. The interior of the furniture shop and clothing store that will be next door will both be remodeled. Reisman hopes the entire project will be completed by the start of heavy Christmas shopping and that the stores will remain open during construction.

Reisman said, "faith in the downtown district of Niles prompted him to remodel and stated that despite the Eastwood Mall and other strip plazas there is a firm place for the downtown shopper and businessman." He expressed the view his remodeling coupled with urban renewal development will breathe new life into downtown Niles.



1930 aerial view of the future location of Reisman's furniture store on the corner of State and Main Streets next to the Robins theatre.



1972 urban renewal aerial view of Reisman's furniture store showing the changes from the original building shown above. The house on the back of the lot is gone as well as the original wooden structure on South Main Street.

To view more historic photographs and read the Reisman's story:
<https://www.nileshistoricalsociety.org/Stories2/Reismans.htm>

To view more photographs from the Vendor's Market Day:
<https://nileshistoricalsociety.org/Stories2/vendorsday.htm>



Laura Altobelli, Brittany Jarrett, Sally Bogdan in the greenhouse.

Ward-Thomas House Vendor Market a Resounding Success!

The grounds of the historic Ward-Thomas House were buzzing with activity on June 29th as the Niles Historical Society hosted its first major event in recent years: the Ward-Thomas House Vendor Market. And what a comeback it was! With over 300 attendees and 35 diverse vendors, the market was a vibrant community gathering that exceeded all expectations.

This fantastic event was spearheaded by the efforts of Brittany Jarrett, who organized the market. She received invaluable support from Laura Altobelli, Sally Bogdan, and *Ashley Lokash*. Brittany and Laura dedicated two months to meticulously preparing the sprawling 5.5-acre property, transforming it into a picturesque venue. Their hard work was augmented by the generous help of volunteers who trickled in to assist with preparations.

On the day of the market, even more volunteers stepped up to ensure everything ran smoothly. We send a special thank you to *Patrick Moro*, who expertly manned the grill, keeping everyone fueled with delicious hot dogs. And a shout-out to Niles High School Feature Twirler, *Delaney Alexander*, who brightened the day working the always-popular lemonade stand!

The funds raised from the concession and lemonade stands at the market will be dedicated to a vital cause: repairing the greenhouse on the Ward-Thomas House property. Your support directly contributes to preserving and enhancing this historical landmark.

The Niles Historical Society extends its deepest gratitude to everyone who attended, all the vendors, and especially our dedicated organizers and volunteers. This event was a true testament to what we can achieve together, and we look forward to more successful community gatherings in the future! By-Brittany Jarrett



Maggie Cameron, Owen and Jack Cameron, Sally Bogdan in front of a vendor's tent near the Westenfield Room Building.



Max Reisman opened his store next to the Niles Bank Building in 1935.

The Max Reisman Story

Max Reisman excerpts from Grace Allison's Dustin' the Cobweb series published in the Niles Daily Times.

Born in Budapest, Hungary on February 7, 1906, the son of *Louis* and *Goldie Reisman*, *Max Reisman* came to the Mahoning Valley while a young man. In 1924 he opened a furniture store in the old Murphy building. When Sam Murphy owned this building, he operated a harness shop and a white wooden horse always stood in front of his shop.

When the Murphy building was razed in October, 1935, Reisman and the Niles Shoe Shining Parlor found it necessary to find a new location for their businesses. During December of 1935, Reisman moved his business to a storeroom in the Niles Bank Building. At that site he carried a complete line of men's clothing.

While he operated his store in the Niles Bank Building, Reisman featured a "Pick N Pay" department which carried a full line of work clothes, women's apparel, shoes, curtains, sheets, blankets, etc... Reisman introduced the "Ten Pay Plan" for the convenience of customers who might be on a low or strict budget. Max Reisman established himself in the hearts of sports fans in Niles through his sponsorship of teens in the competitive participation of sports. As Max often said, "I get a thrill out of enabling the young fellows to be active in the organized sports here in Niles. It is a great factor in the building of healthy fair-minded citizens.

During his lifetime, Reisman served as a director and treasurer of the Lake-to-River Girl Scout Council, a director of Banc Ohio. Chairman for the State of Israel bonds and a director of the Niles Chamber of Commerce, which awarded him the 1989 Merchant of the Year Award.



This 1964 photo shows Heitman restaurant occupying the building where McCallister's Dairy was in 1948 next to the McKinley Theatre.

Niles Daily Times December 8, 1948

Temple McCallister of Warren will build a store room on property at 132 North Main Street owned by Max Reisman, local department store proprietor. The Room will be occupied by a McCallister Dairy store and will be one of eleven in the valley owned and operated by McCallister. The firm already operates a store at 830 Vienna Avenue. Reisman stated that the house now on the property which adjoins the McKinley theatre will be moved to the back of the lot.

Reisman also owns property at the corner of Church and Main, currently occupied by Niles Auto Parts, and at the corner of State and Pennsylvania (Arlington) and has repurposed a large number of homes for store rooms.

Niles Daily Times August 13, 1953

Work involving a major change in the downtown Niles business picture, a complete remodeling and lowering of the old three-story brick building at the southeast corner of East State and Main Streets, is underway and is expected to be completed in six weeks.



The three story building had the top two levels removed and Max Reisman moved his furniture business there. It was occupied later by J&J Discount store, was finally razed in 1972 when the Police-Fire Complex was built on that site.

Max Reisman, owner, announces that the top two floors of the building will be removed along with the frame addition at the rear while the back of the building will be sealed with brick and concrete block. The rear wood addition, formerly used as a shed will be removed. The front of the structure will also be completely remodeled.

One of the oldest landmarks in downtown Niles, the upper floors were used years ago as a meeting hall at one time or another by various organizations including the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges.



In 1954 the Style Shop and a grocery store occupied the future site of Reisman's. Max Reisman would move his store from the southeast corner to the northwest corner on Main and State Streets.

