

# GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER

October / November / December 2024



## • BY MY • LANTERN'S • LIGHT •

### Cleveland Avenue Cemetery Walk

**Sat Oct .19 & Sun Oct. 20  
from 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

Tours start every 15 minutes,  
Last tour begins at 4:30pm

\$5 per person— age 5 and under are free  
(pay the day of, at the cemetery) Children  
must be accompanied by an adult.

Please join us to meet some of  
Amherst's historic spirits who will  
share their stories of days gone by!

**Cleveland Avenue Cemetery  
590 Cleveland Avenue, Amherst, Ohio**

Parking is at St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
115 Central Drive, Amherst, OH 44001.

Thank you to St. Paul Lutheran  
Church for providing refreshments  
(donations appreciated) as well  
as parking and restrooms!

For more info, please contact the  
Amherst Historical Society at  
440-988-7255 or  
[office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org)



## The Best Years of Our Lives

**Sat Nov. 9 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sun Nov. 10 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**FREE  
LIVING  
HISTORY  
EVENT!**

It is November 1945. WWII has ended, and millions of servicemen and women are returning home to a greatly changed United States. Immerse yourself in the music, fashion, and culture of the era, and join us for a glimpse into The Best Years of Our Lives at this free living history event!

Displays included but not limited to:

1945 American Legion / 1945 Department Store

1945 Fire Department / Vehicle displays

Clothing and fashion displays



## German Christmas

**Holiday Celebration at Sandstone Village**

**763 Milan Avenue, Amherst Ohio 44001**

**Saturday, December 7, 2024 • 4:00 - 8:00 pm**

**FREE TO ATTEND!**

Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. • Shop local crafters and vendors  
at an outdoor German Christmas Market and Food trucks.

Visit the beautifully decorated Village Buildings.

Shop at the Sandstone Village Shops,  
and items made by our Blacksmith!

Hot chocolate for a donation and so much more!

For further information, please contact the Amherst Historical Society  
at 440-988-7255 or [office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org)



# A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Fall is here and the holidays are soon to follow. It's amazing how quickly time passes. Currently, we are preparing for our annual One Room Schoolhouse program. This year, we have third graders from Amherst Exempted Village Schools, third and fourth graders from St. Joseph Parish School, third graders from Clearview Local School District, and two homeschool groups scheduled to participate. Special historic tours are also conducted upon request for individual groups and preschool programs. It's always exciting to see The Village full of young people learning about history.

Of course, we will continue our annual tradition of lighting up The Village and have scheduled a special German Christmas event to celebrate the season.

Thank you for a very busy and exciting 2024. AHS is successful because of the support and volunteer hours you so generously provide. We have several new projects planned for 2025, so be sure to read your Grindstone, follow us on Facebook, and check out our website to be aware of upcoming events.

May your holidays be joyful and healthy.  
Sandy

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## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AMHERST COMMUNITY



### Friends of the Amherst Public Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Amherst Public  
Library Fall Book Sale is  
**Friday, Nov 1 and Sat, Nov 2**  
**from 10am-4:45pm!**  
[amherstpubliclibrary.org/](http://amherstpubliclibrary.org/)



### Small Business Saturday

**Saturday, November 30, 2024**

is Small Business Saturday – a day to  
celebrate and support small businesses  
and all they do for their communities!

Please remember to shop local and  
support small businesses!



### Miracle on Main Street

Main Street Amherst and Sliman's  
presents Miracle on Main Street  
holiday extravaganza on  
**Friday, December 6, 2024 in**  
**downtown Amherst starts at 6 p.m.**

[mainstreetamherst.org/](http://mainstreetamherst.org/)  
[miracle-on-main-street](http://miracle-on-main-street)





# History of Amherst, Ohio

## 223 CHURCH STREET

by George Siss

Furniture and beer – mostly beer – has been sold from 223 Church Street ever since the two-story brick building was constructed, which was sometime before 1893.

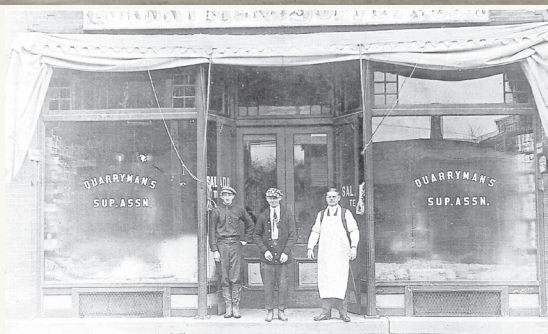
The current beer-centered venue is Ghost Tree Brewing. Dan Blatt established the business in June 2020. Blatt and his partner, John Rush, have a passion for brewing. Original recipes, including 'Ca\$h After Ten' and 'Coffee Stout,' are brewed in the building. Major renovations were completed, including the addition of a custom-built smoker. The most important renovation was creating enough space to house a five-barrel brewhouse to brew a variety of pilsners, lagers, and Belgian-style beers. The brewery has become well known for its creative pizzas, salads, and subs. As Dan Blatt points out, the motto for the Ghost Tree Brewery is "celebrating community, craft, and culture."

The first known use of the building is the Amherst Furniture store, which opened in 1892. Edward C. Schuler was the manager until October 1895. The company was a first-class furniture business; however, it would soon close in 1897. The Quarryman's Supply Store leased the building from Mr. Horace G. Redington in 1897 and remained until 1918, selling supplies useful for the many quarries in the area.

In 1921, the Amherst Furniture Company moved to this location, with Walter Moebius as manager. He managed the business until 1928 when his brother, Edward, took over and stayed until 1961. The store closed in 1968. The Knights of Columbus were located there until 1973. The next tenant was a Veterans of Foreign Wars post (VFW) that operated there 1975-1987, when the members moved to their new club on Cleveland Avenue.

In 1987 Neil Dunfee opened his bar and deli, calling it Dunfee's Comedy Night Club Bar & Deli. As a tavern owner, Dunfee believed that his new bar would enhance evening traffic for all of Amherst's businesses. The bar included dance facilities and had a reputation for serving great food and an assortment of beer and liquor. Dunfee's closed in 2001. Continuing the tradition of serving beer, Joe's Brewhouse had the location from 2001-2004, followed by R.C's Brewhouse from 2004-2020.

(historical pictures are courtesy of the Amherst Historical Society)



QUARRYMAN'S SUPPLY ASSN. - 223 CHURCH STREET - 1900



JOHN BROWN'S HARNESS SHOP - 221 CHURCH ST. (LEFT)  
NORTH AMHERST FURNITURE - 223 CHURCH ST. (RIGHT) - 1914



AMHERST FURNITURE CO. AT 223 CHURCH STREET-1935





## 1930s Hooverville Living History Event

This event gave a glimpse into life during the Great Depression and told the story of how people in the Amherst community helped hobos and each other during that difficult time.

Thank you to all the reenactors, volunteers, and attendees for making this second time event so wonderful! We look forward to next year!



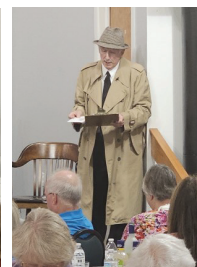
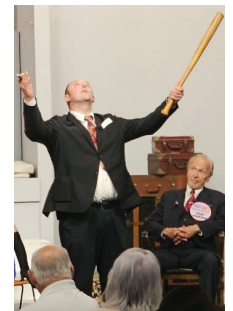
## "Murder on the Petulant Express" Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre



Thank you to everyone for your support with three sold out performances of "Murder on the Petulant Express," a murder mystery play written by Jack Pachuta and directed by Valerie Farschman.

A huge thank you to the incredible cast and production crew for generously volunteering their time and talent, and thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in many ways for this production!

Planning for next year's dinner theatre has already started!







# The Miller Family Offered a Helping Hand During the Great Depression

By Norm Miller

Norman B. Miller and Edna Miller, grandparents of Norm Miller, would give attention to the travelling hobos of the time since the New York Central Railroad cut through the center of their farm. This gave many a man an opportunity for work, a meal, and clothing and shoe repair. Those who were fortunate enough to spend a minute or two in the blacksmith shop would have the chance to have a snort of Applejack, which Norman had learned to make during Prohibition. He had a license to make vinegar, and it would often turn into hard cider.

Edna had a sewing machine that was always ready to patch and sew clothing for hobos passing through. Norman would repair worn shoes using cast-off refrigerator belting that had gone around the axles driving the refrigerator cars. This belting would break and fall off along the train tracks. He would cut the belting into small pieces, then use them to resole and reheel shoes. This was done for hobos, who would help the Millers on the farm as payment for their labors as they were passing along the nation's byways.

Like many other people in the Amherst area, the Millers were goodhearted people during a very difficult time. They cared for others even though times were tough for them as well. Norman (or Buck Miller as he was called) would often say, "The best thing you can do in life is to help your fellow man. And also, the best place to find a helping hand is at the end of your own arm."



*The belting seen here is the very belting he would have used to repair the hobos' shoes.*



*Cora, Norman B.,  
Edna, Norman Jr. &  
Parker - 1938*





# DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE LOVED RADIO?

BY VIVIENNE BICKLEY (NOVEMBER 2013)

My love affair with the radio began when my Dad, who was a radio buff, made his first radio. He took it to a family gathering with a goldfish bowl. This was because it had to be heard with earphones. He put the earphones in the bowl and listeners bent over the bowl which amplified the sound by not much.

That's when I first heard Rudy Valee singing "My Time is Your Time." Dad sent his idea of using cloth on loudspeakers to a magazine and got a whole dollar from them! After that all the radios used the idea.

## Do You Remember Hurrying Home From School, Doing Homework Immediately So You Could Listen To:

"Jack Armstrong", the All-American Boy, "Little Orphan Annie" with Daddy Warbucks and "Arf" said Sandy—her dog, of course. Her sponsor, Ovaltine, offered a de-coder ring with coupons. Mom said she couldn't afford it so every time they gave the current message, I felt so deprived because I couldn't de-code it. Years later, I found out most of the messages were like, "Be sure to drink your Ovaltine", "Renfrew of the Mounted" a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman. The "Lone Ranger" with a Hi-O-Silver and his sidekick Tonto. Can you believe Tonto is currently played by Johnny Depp in a movie?



## At Night We Listened To:

"Lux Theatre", directed by Cecil B. DeMille, who used movie scripts on the show. "Grand Central Station" another dramatic series, hosted at first by Don Ameche, who left to become a movie actor then replaced by his brother, Jim Ameche! Red Skelton's many comic characters were great. My own favorite was a "baaad little boy." "Fibber McGee" whose wife, Molly, tried hard to make him behave, but he never did clean up his closet. On every show, when he opened its door, the sound effects man got a real workout. Listeners admitted to having their own "McGee's Closet" at home. Bing Crosby was the first singer to be called a "crooner." He went on to prove himself a good actor in movies. How about the variety shows with Bob Hope, Jack

Benny and others? Major Bowes was popular with his amateur show, giving people the gong when they were bad. Even as a kid I felt they were chosen to be bad—the gong was good for a laugh each time.

## Remember When It Was Fun To Be Scared?

Spooky "Lights Out" and "The Hermit" were my favorites. Altho they aired after my bedtime, luckily I could hear them in our one story home. (I had good ears then.) Scared, yes, but it was so good to snuggle down in your own safe bed and listen. Radios were certainly great for developing kids' imaginations! I still love my radio for news and political talk shows, and some of the music, especially golden oldies.







# **VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE CEREMONY**

## **14th ANNUAL**

**Monday, November 11, 2024 at 11am**  
**248 Park Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001**

The VMA and Fox 8 Anchor Lou Maglio  
will unveil 11 new commissioned  
patriotic paintings at Patriots Park!

**November 11, 2024—11:00am—248 Park Avenue**





**The Amherst Historical Society**  
113 South Lake St., Amherst, OH 44001  
440-988-7255 • office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org  
[www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org)

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## AHS 2024 / 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

**April 20 - Nov 2**



**Sandstone Village Shops**  
Open for the Season  
Sat. 10 am – 2 pm


**October 8**



**FREE**

**Operation Market Garden, WWII Presentation**  
AHS - 7:00 pm

**October 19-20**



**Cleveland Avenue Cemetery Walk**  
\$5 Donation  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**November 9-10**



**FREE**

**The Best Years of Our Lives Living History Event**  
Sandstone Village

**December 7**



**FREE**

**German Christmas Celebration**  
Sandstone Village


**January 11**



**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

**Annual Potluck & Meeting**  
Meeting at AHS  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm

**February 9**



**Super Bowl Fundraiser**  
Squares Are On Sale Now!

**April 6**



**Neil Diamond Tribute with Scott Brotherton**  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**June 13-14**



**FREE**

**The Taste of History 2025**  
Sandstone Village

You can visit us at [amhersthistoricalsociety.org](http://amhersthistoricalsociety.org), Facebook or Instagram