

# SAHC eNews

Volume V, Number 1  
October 2010

## Canal Days Come to Life at SAHC Membership Meeting



Andy Hite of the Ohio Historical Society will share the story of the Miami & Erie Canal at the SAHC's Sixth Annual General Membership Meeting on November 11 in Evansport. (Andy Hite photo)

**T**he Stryker Area Heritage Council will revisit Ohio's first major public works and transportation project when Andy Hite of the Ohio Historical Society brings the story of the Miami & Erie Canal to life at the SAHC's Sixth Annual General Membership Meeting in Evansport on November 11.

From the 1820s to the 1850s, long before modern highways crisscrossed the Buckeye State,

Ohio's canal system provided more rapid transportation of goods and agricultural products to and from eastern markets than overland routes.

The Wabash & Erie Canal connected the Wabash River in Indiana with Lake Erie, while the Miami & Erie Canal connected the Ohio River and Lake Erie. The two canals intersected at Junction southwest of Defiance in Paulding County.

The canals' influence extended into Defiance and Williams counties. Fueled by speculation that the Tiffin River might become a canal feeder, a number of towns were platted along this waterway between 1835 and 1850. Evansport and Lockport, as well as the ghost towns Williamsport and Southport, were surveyed during this period, with the "port" suffix in their

names reflecting the hopes of Bean Creek becoming a transportation thoroughfare.

Beginning in the 1850s, construction of railroads provided a more rapid and convenient transportation alternative, leading to the canals' demise.

Andy Hite will elaborate on why Ohio undertook the Miami & Erie Canal project, the canal's impact on the young state, and how the canal system operated.

Hite holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from The Ohio State University and has earned graduate credit in Education Administration from the University of Dayton.

Before joining the Ohio Historical Society, Hite taught American and Ohio History in the Northern Local Schools and in Licking County Joint Vocational School's adult education program.

In 1997, Mr. Hite was appointed Site Manager of the Ohio Historical Society's Johnston Farm & Indian Agency in Piqua, where he works with staff, volunteers, and teachers to create programs that supplement and expand on classroom

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work designed to address Ohio Department of Education requirements.

The SAHC Annual General Membership meeting begins at 6 p.m. on November 11 at the Evansport United Methodist Church, 1560 West Street, Evansport. The meeting will feature a banquet style dinner (including salad, two meats, potato, vegetables, roll, dessert, and drink) and is open to members and the public.

Reservations may be made until November 1 by sending a check or money order for \$8 per person to the Stryker Area Heritage Council, P.O. Box 180, Stryker, Ohio 43557, by emailing [info@strykerahc.org](mailto:info@strykerahc.org), or by calling SAHC Secretary Phil Short at 419.682.6421. Payment may be made at the door, but reservations are required

by November 1.

Members will also elect representatives to the organization's Board of Trustees and receive an update on the Stryker Area Heritage Council's 2009-2010 activities and progress.

Tiffin Township firefighters and their guests will also be in attendance that evening in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire department's organization in 1940.

For additional information, check the SAHC website at [www.strykerahc.org](http://www.strykerahc.org).

**N**otice—The State Department of Health requests that all inside toilets should drain to a cesspool and from there to the sewers. All outside toilets in the business section should be removed; and those in the outlying parts of the village should be put in repair. Parties who do not have septic tanks

are known and will be prosecuted if they do not cooperate.

By order of the village council.

Pearl H. Bailey, Clerk  
*Stryker Advance November 20, 1952* 🐾

**A** telephone exchange is to be built in Stryker as soon as the poles and wires can be placed in position. Williams County will soon be about as well supplied with telephones as any in this part of the country. *Bryan Press April 13, 1899* 🐾

The SAHC eNews is an occasional publication of the STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL, a non-profit organization. Complimentary subscriptions are provided to SAHC members. To join, contact the SAHC at P.O. Box 180, Stryker, OH 43557, by telephone at 419.373.0310, or via email at [info@strykerahc.org](mailto:info@strykerahc.org). The SAHC eNews is edited by Kevin Maynard, 1436 Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402; email [kevinmaynard@woh.rr.com](mailto:kevinmaynard@woh.rr.com).

### STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL 2010 Annual General Membership Meeting Reservation Form

I would like to reserve \_\_\_ meals at \$8 each for the 2010 STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL Annual General Membership Meeting, to be held November 11, 2010, at the Evansport United Methodist Church. I have enclosed a check or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. *Make all checks and money orders payable to the STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed reservation form with payment to:**

**STRYKER AREA HERITAGE COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 180  
Stryker, OH 43557