

Recollections from:

ALONG SHADE CRICK



Spring Newsletter 2024

Chester, Ohio

Volume 44

Chester Shade Historical Association

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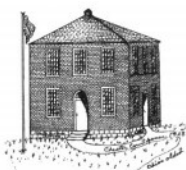
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Friday & Saturday, 10:00 am — 4:00pm

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From the Bench – March 2024

Spring is just around the corner and planting season will begin for the year 2024. CSHA Trustees have been busy planning the upcoming year of events for the organization.

As always, our monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of every month, all members are welcome to attend.

(continues page 2)

From the Bench, Continued

At the beginning of the new year CSHA membership dues are due to be paid. Our fiscal year runs from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

We had a successful Open House at the Courthouse, December 2, 2023, with the Eastern High School Band performing for members, parents, and the public. Refreshments were served after the program in the Dining Hall of the Academy Building.

Thanks to Sue Tuttle and Julia Will for their volunteer work in getting the Courthouse Decorated for the Open House.

I would like to announce our latest project being built on the property owned by CSHA.

(front page photo)

We are installing a sixty-eight (68) foot internet tower for wireless internet service to our Academy building and Courthouse building. This internet tower will also provide service to Chester Fire Department and to the community of Chester. This will be a combined project of CSHA and New Era Broadband. New Era Broadband will be in charge of the business part of this project, and maintain the service to the community of Chester. (see page 7 for more)

Susan White from the Meigs County Chamber of Commerce and CSHA conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday Feb 29, 2024 to unveil the new internet tower.

We are now accepting donations of good quality items for our dinner/auction event on April 19, 2024 at Syracuse Community Center. There will be more details on our website and Facebook page.

I send out a BIG 'thank you' to all members who helped keep the Courthouse and Academy Open.

Sincerely,

President James M. Smith



Eastern High School Band amidst museum artifacts

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The “Silver” Cash Register

Submitted by Dan Will

Recently, the Chester Shade Historical Association became the recipient of a silver colored National Cash Register (NCR) cash register.

It was donated by Gayann (Gaul) Clay in memory of the Gaul families and their three-generation operation of Gaul grocery store(s) in Chester and Sumner.

Research on this cash register, Serial Number 132044, Model 14 reveals this unit was patented in 1882, but was shipped November 22, 1897.

A label pasted to the underside of the cash drawer, dated “12/14/1897”, indicates “THIS REGISTER WAS BUILT FOR”, then a hand-written name “A. F. Barton, Pomeroy, O.”

(as best I can determine- it is faded, almost illegible)



These registers came in two materials, brass and cast iron, and in three finishes: bronze (red brass), nickel and copper oxidized. Most NCR cases are made of brass (bronze) and can be nickel plated or copper oxidized. This register is nickel plated cast iron (a magnet is attracted to it); it has a “silvery” appearance and is very heavy, weighing in excess of 100 pounds!

NCR began as the National Manufacturing Company of Dayton, Ohio around 1884 and was established to manufacture and sell the first mechanical cash register invented in 1879 by James Ritty. In 1884, the company and patents were bought by John Henry Patterson and his brother Frank Jefferson Patterson for \$6,500 and the firm was renamed the National Cash Register Company. Patterson formed NCR into one of the first modern American companies by introducing new, aggressive sales methods and business techniques. He established the first sales training school in 1893 and introduced a comprehensive social welfare program for his factory workers.

(continues page 4)

The “Silver” Cash Register, cont.

In 1894 NCR constructed a new and larger “safety conscious” facility in Dayton. A year later, Thomas Watson was hired and quickly rose through the sales ranks to become a sales manager in New York. Watson led the campaign to reduce competition and by 1897 the competition had been reduced to three companies, down from more than 80 a decade before. In 1900 NCR employed a record 2,269 people, and reported the sale of its 200th cash register.



Interior of Gaul's Market in Chester, 1950s
Courtesy of Steve Badgley

That means the unit donated to CSHA was one of the first of 200 produced by NCR!

NCR evolved in the 20th century, complementing its production of cash registers with the introduction of accounting machines in the 1920s, electronic products during World War II, business forms and computer hardware and software in the 1960s, and microelectronics in the 1970s. In the latter decade NCR continued to develop new technology and expand its markets, but the company also underwent a thorough reorganization that included a sharp reduction in its labor force and the decentralization of its operation away from Dayton. Its headquarters are now in Atlanta, Georgia. NCR is also known as Global Information Solutions, National Cash Register Co.

1940 Grocery Prices

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| milk | 10¢ per quart |
| eggs | 33¢ / dozen |
| coffee | 57¢ for 2lbs |
| beef ribs | 53 ¢/ lb |
| grapefruit | 4 for 19¢ |

(Prices taken from period advertisements, Ohio)

Interior of Gaul's Market in Chester, 1940s
Courtesy of Steve Badgley

The "Silver" Cash Register, cont.

Focusing back on the original owner(s) of this cash register, the Gaul family and the history of the stores:

Frank Gaul (1885-1968) owned and operated around 1910 a general store in Sumner, which was previously owned by his uncle, George Gaul. Frank sold this store to his brother Oris a few years later and bought Shank's Store in Chester in 1915, moving his family there in 1916. In 1916 he became one of the first Chevrolet dealers in Meigs County, and later a Pontiac dealer.

The first store was located across SR 248 from where Baum Lumber is today, previously the site of the Kautz Feed Store. This store burned in 1923. The store was then re-established in the building beside the brick building that is now Shade River Masonic Hall / post office / beauty salon. In 1928 Frank sold the store to his son Eldon Gaul (1908-1972) and afterward opened a general store in Racine in 1934. He operated this store until retirement in 1945 at which time he sold this store to his son Jacob.

Eldon operated the Chester store until his death in 1972. Shortly after, Eldon's son Richard Gaul (1936-2021) purchased the store from his mother, Evelyn Ebersbach Gaul; at that time, Gayann (Gaul) Clay, Eldon and Evelyn's daughter, requested to acquire the "silver" cash register to cherish as a family heirloom.

Frank, Eldon, and Richard all operated the store in Chester at the same location until it permanently closed on November 4, 1992. Today, the building is owned and operated by Baum Lumber as their hot tub sales center.



Store in Chester, 1960s
Courtesy of Steve Badgley

Chester Township Tidbits

March 8 is International Women's Day.

Honor the Pioneer Women of Meigs County by guessing which famous deed 'Aunt' Rhody Knight is known for:

- Answers:**
- A) This was done by Polly McFarland.
 - B) Correct! Union troops caught up to Morgan in the Battle of Buffington Island.
 - C) This was Annie Oakley.
 - D) This happened last week at Summerfields.

- A) Killed a rampaging bear, butchered it, and fashioned a bearskin rug while alone on the homestead.
- B) Waded into Shade River in her night clothes with a lantern to guide Union troopers pursuing Morgan's Raiders.
- C) Hit a target behind her back using a pistol and a mirror.
- D) Challenged an entire bar to a drinking contest, and won.

THE GREATEST GENERATION, #6

Submitted by Greg Bailey



Lt. Victor Bahr



The 450th Bomb Group, Bahr and Viar's unit, in action over Europe

Image source - USAAF via National Archive

As you know, through these newsletters, I've been trying to keep the experiences of the Greatest Generation alive, especially for Millennials and younger groups. Mostly I've used the WWII bombing missions of pilot Lt. Victor Bahr of the Chester area and his B-24 crew members.

But my major intent has been to show that the everyday bravery was the accepted norm for the boys that served - Lt. Victor "Bahrhead" "Greaser" Bahr was only one of many heroes.

Victor was a friend to many of us, and I still have contact with some of his family. One of his relatives gave me an article from a past Daily Sentinel written by our dear Charlene Hoeflich.

Charlene interviewed Bahr and got some personal recollections from him for her original article. This December will be 80 years from December 1944, when Bahr and his crew crashed twice within a month but walked away both times without serious injury.

The first was after the crew's first radar bombing mission over Germany in heavy cloud cover. Sixty planes began the trip but fifty-nine turned back. Bahr's crew decided to "go on in" and dropped their pay load. On the way back, the plane iced up, lost an engine, and crashed on the island of Viz, off the coast of Yugoslavia on a strip "just a shallow spot between two hills."

The second crash came two days after Christmas after an engine had been knocked out on a mission over Austria. Bahr kept the crippled plane airborne long enough to crash land behind friendly lines in Northern Italy, again with no serious injuries to his crew.

The bulk of the article is a letter from S.W. Viar of Dyersburg, Tennessee, a gunner on a B-24 flown by Lt. Bahr, written to the editor of The Times-Sentinel in the late 1990's. (continues page 7) 6

THE GREATEST GENERATION, #6 cont.

(Reproduced from The Daily Sentinel)

Dear Editor

I saw a movie several years ago with John Wayne. There was a young girl in the movie looking for a man with a quality of what she referred to as True Grit. She found one in the person of John Wayne and off they went to find the bad guy who had earlier killed the father of this young lady.

In the world of today, were I looking for such a man I would have to go no farther than Long bottom, Ohio. Such a man lives in that small town that one cannot find on a road map. He cannot find it with an expensive computer. I had to go to the Bell System to find the place, and to find this man who I had thought about a thousand times in the past fifty years.

I called him and for thirty or forty minutes we chatted about all the things we had in common. Of course, he did not remember me nor did I expect him to. I was merely a spear carrier in a cast of thousands. I inquired about his health and he told me that he was having problems with his legs and a few other minor ailments associated with the aging process.

I met Victor Bahr for the first time in 1944, at a muddy, sloppy air base in Manduria, Italy. We were "dress alike" then, but here is where the similarities ended. He was a pilot of that cantankerous bomber, the B-24 Liberator, and I was a ball turret gunner. He was a second lieutenant and I was an enlisted man. Such matters did not interest Lt. Bahr in the least. He felt that an air crew shared everything, but it did not include the intrusion of caste.

The powers that be at this base chose him to

fly at night on harassing missions dropping a bomb now and then to keep the people on the ground aware, and most of all, awake. I recall the first mission they sent him on was to Blackheimer, Germany, where he got shot up pretty bad. He fought that wounded bird to within 100 miles of home, but alas, she gave out on him and he had to crash land on the Isle of Fiz in the Adriatic Sea, all hands safe and secure.

Back to Manduria he came for more of the same. During his tenure with the Fifteenth Air Force this man lost seventeen engines, crash landed twice, yet each time brought his crew safely home. There was one mission that took him nine days to complete and another that took four. Perform? You bet!! Courage? Deal him in. He had it in spades.

Today I am seventy-two years old and the memories are faint and far yet very dear to me. But I can tell you one thing, the sharpest memory that I have is of that Ohio man, one Victor Bahr, of Long Bottom, Ohio, who played the cards they dealt him and did it with uncommon courage.

General Patton once said that courage was "fear that held on a minute longer." There was a lady named Dorothy Bernard who said courage was "fear that had said its prayers." They could very well have been talking about Lt. Bahr. May this good man live forever. Here truly is a man of True Grit.

Yours truly, S.W. Viar

Again, I say, Victor Bahr was the norm for our "Greatest Generation."

Thanks to all our veteran generations, and God Bless America.



- Greg Bailey



New Era Broadband's new tower will serve community of Chester

by Lorna Hart
STAFF REPORTER

CHESTER, Ohio (WV News) — New Era Broadband (NEB) announced the launching of their newest tower at the Chester Courthouse Museum and Chester Academy with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday. The new tower will provide service to the Chester community along Ohio-248 and Ohio-7.

The project is a joint venture between New Era and the Chester Shade Historical Association (CSHA) that operates the Museum and Academy. According to NEB founder and co-owner Dave Hannum, the service will be a reliable alternative internet provider to the residents of Chester and a revenue stream for CSHA as New Era Broadband will share the proceeds with the Association.

NEB was established in 2007 by Hannum and serves Western and Southeast Ohio with a primary focus to provide broadband internet and phone service to underserved communities. The company is now co-owned with Larry Schriver.

"Our primary focus through the early years was simply getting Internet access to residents of Meigs County who had no other services available," Hannum said.

As time passed, he said there was a need for a viable alternative to the existing phone and cable providers. In the proceeding years



Photo courtesy of Susan White, director Meigs County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Chester Shade Historical Association President Jim Smith and Vice President Dan Will were presented with the official Meigs County Chamber of Commerce plaque following the ribbon cutting ceremony.

the company upgraded and continues to upgrade the network and said they have been competing head on with the larger providers.

He said they provide free service for county and township offices and emergency agencies. With the addition of each new tower, the coverage area expands.

"We provide free service to everyone we can reach," Hamman said. "This new

tower will provide the Chester Fire Department and Township building free internet service."

New Era currently has eight employees and owns or controls over 40 towers in Meigs, Athens, and Vinton Counties, as well as Mason County West Virginia, with plans to expand into several counties in Western Ohio.

See CSHA, A4



Photo Courtesy of Susan White, Director of the Meigs County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

CSHA (Continued from Page A1)

CSHA Vice President Dan Will said the joint venture will not only provide the Courthouse and Academy with reliable internet and a revenue stream, but it will also save the organization money over the years as New Era will be providing the internet service to them at no charge.

"We at CSHA want to do things to give back to our community," Will said. "This is something that will benefit everyone."

New Era Broadband announced the launching of their newest tower at the Chester Courthouse Museum and Chester Academy in Chester with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured are, Front row: Meigs County Sheriff Scott Fitch, CSHA Trustee Wendy Hannum, CSHA Trustee and New Era founder and co-owner Dave Hannum, CSHA President Jim Smith, CSHA Trustee Becky Grate, Meigs County Commissioner Jimmy Will; Back row: CSHA Trustee Sue Tuttle, CSHA Vice President Dan Will, CSHA Trustee Jim Stewart, New Era Justin Combs and Matthew Grubb, CSHA Trustee Julia Will.

CSHA Vice President Dan Will said the joint venture will not only provide the Courthouse and Academy with reliable internet and a revenue stream, but it will also save the organization money over the years as New Era will be providing the internet service to them at no charge.

Lorna Hart, *River Cities Tribune*, March 3, 2024

Members *Gina Tillis* and *Patty Cook* now lead CSHA's Genealogy efforts, and invite organization members and the public to a pair of ***Genealogy Days*** this summer.

The summer events will display CSHA's extensive library, answer questions about getting started, and promote general interest.

Gina Tillis - grtillis@gmail

Patty Cook - Jpnte1988@gmail.com

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|------------|-------------------|
| Genealogy Days | May 4 | 10am – 1pm | 1st Floor Academy |
| Genealogy Days | July 20 | 10am – 1pm | 1st Floor Academy |

Dan Will, Julia Will, and Sue Tuttle spent the lion's share of an afternoon in March cleaning the Courthouse.

With historic buildings, upkeep is a constant need.

Thank you MEMBERS for your volunteer effort.



2024 CSHA Membership

Memberships begin on January 1 and expire on December 31 of each year.

Please make checks to CSHA. Thank you.

\$15.00 Individual Adult, \$150 Lifetime Membership

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

(If email has changed, we are asking you to verify your email address)

Number of Persons: Individual _____, Amount to Pay _____

Number of Years Paid _____ Date Paid _____ Donation _____

(If you would like - please mark one of the following and a member of the CSHA will contact you)

I would like to volunteer at the Courthouse/Academy

I have a family history or other items to donate to CSHA

I have stories to tell

Thank you, we appreciate your support!

Yes, I would like to volunteer!

Name _____

I can volunteer: One day a week _____

Phone _____

One day a month _____

E-Mail _____

Occasionally _____

As needed _____

Preferred day: Friday _____ Saturday _____

We are open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am till 4 pm. Please call first. 740-985-9822

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Your Dues Count

The money that you pay for dues goes to promote our organization.

It helps us pay our utility bills and upkeep expenses, making it possible to keep the buildings open to the public, as well as historical programs for youth and adults. Please check out our membership page and sign up today. Memberships begin in January and end on December 31 of each year.