

Newsletter

August and September 2012

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



The Founders Day Committee

L. to R.— David Cline, Beckie Knore, Marcy Steckman, Linda Honaker, Alec Steckman, Jenny Sage, Jeff Steckman, with Stacy Adkins in front. Missing is Don Shoemaker. For an account of the early history of Founders Day celebrations, see p. 8.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAYS AT THE EALY HOUSE -- 9:30-11:30 -- Come to paint, clean, sort, organize, and catch up on our news. Phone one of the officers first to make sure we are going to be there.

THURS. AUGUST 2 -- 7 p.m. **Society Meeting** at the Fire Station

Program: Jean Champoux will give a program on chatelaines--she will show part of her collection of these old-fashioned attachments for carrying sewing accessories and keys, and talk about their history.

MON. AUG. 6 -- 10:00 a.m. -- Planning meeting at Ealy House

SAT. AUG. 18 -- 1 to 3 p.m., Ealy House open for tours (during car show on grounds of Resurrection Church across the street).

Also on Aug. 18 -- Harlem Township Days in Center Village. Several members of our Society plan to attend this very colorful & interesting event. We will have a display of our own, including the Heritage Quilt.

MON. AUG. 20 -- 10 a.m. Meeting with new docents to plan the 8th-grade tours

Wed. & Thurs. AUG. 22 & 23 -- Eighth-Grade Tours of Ealy House

THURS. AUG. 23 -- Board Meeting

Wed. & Thurs. AUG. 29 & 30 -- More Eighth-Grade Tours

MON. SEPT. 3 -- **LABOR DAY YARD SALE**, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at the Dryer House, 7569 E. Walnut St.

Wed. & Thurs. SEPT. 5 & 6 -- More Eighth-Grade Tours

THURS. SEPTEMBER 6 -- 7 p.m. **Society Meeting** at Fire Station

Program -- Marty Saveson will more or less review some of the highlights of Bill Bryson's book "At Home," on the curious and colorful histories of all the things associated with a home in Victorian times, including furniture, cooking, cellars, bathing, weaving, corsets, servants, you name it.

THURS. SEPT. 20 -- Board Meeting & Newsletter Deadline

THURS. OCTOBER 4 -- 7 p.m. **Society Meeting** at the Fire Station

SAT. OCT. 13 -- **HARVEST THE ARTS** festival at Dorans' farm

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **Jon and Suzanne Lucas**
3760 Prestwoud Close
New Albany, OH 43054

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

MARY CAMERON
6128 Renwell Lane
Columbus, OH 43230

WILBUR KINDLER
515 Mechwert Place
Gahanna, OH 43230

A BIG LABOR DAY YARD SALE is in the works for Monday, Sept. 3, at the Dryer House. We look forward to clearing out the remainder of our Society's superfluous stuff. If you have your own unneeded stuff, in good condition (but no clothing or big furniture), get in touch with a board member about dropping it off. Offer to help on Sept. 3--or you will be drafted.

MEMORIALS -- The sad news in this Newsletter is a reminder that our Society offers two very appropriate ways to memorialize friends and family. Donations may be made in someone's honor to our Memorial Fund, or a memorial brick may be purchased (see our web site for more information). In either case, we inform the family of the gift, and you yourself receive an acknowledgement for tax purposes. Our Treasurer, Helen Pestel (614-855-3765), can answer questions about these options.

CHARLES ROLLAND (Rackie) CAMPBELL (1920-2012)

On the morning of June 5, 2012, just two weeks after Founders Day, when he had been the center of attention in the Ealy House, Rackie Campbell died. He was a person full of love for his large family and his many friends. He was soft-voiced, with a ready smile and a frequent chuckle. He was a good friend of our Historical Society, cheerfully providing us, in recent years, detailed and fascinating accounts of his growing-up years in the house we now call the Ealy House.

Charles Rolland Campbell was born to Robert Henry Campbell ("Bert") and Olive Evangeline Doran on August 14, 1920, in the Ealy House. He was named for his beloved maternal grandfather Charles

JIM and MARY HEISCHMAN

("Charlie") Doran, who was the founder of the Crystal Lake Fruit Farm that produced apples from its nearly 75 acres. The nickname "Rackie" was given to the boy by himself because he couldn't say "Rolland" plainly. According to his sister, Jean, he was innovative about many things.

Rackie graduated from New Albany High School in 1939, having attended all 12 years in the same building. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. Meanwhile, he had met, at Eagles Pizza in New Albany, a beautiful red-haired girl named Martha Louise Thomas. They were married in San Rafael, California, on Dec. 7, 1942 (1st anniversary of Pearl Harbor). That happy marriage lasted 69 years, 5 months, and 29 days.

Part of Rackie's service time was spent in South America. One day in April 1943, he drove a gasoline truck onto the runway to refuel airplanes on their way to North Africa. One of those planes was piloted by Cecil Walton, a New Albany classmate! One can imagine the smiles and handshakes that took place!

At the end of the war, the Campbells started their married life in Columbus, Ohio, in an apartment. Later they purchased a home in which they lived for over 50 years. They moved to their lovely current home in recent years. After the age of 80, Rackie became interested in singing karaoke, and, with a group of men of all ages, spent many hours entertaining senior citizens and church groups.

Rackie is survived by his wife, Louise, and by their four children: Cheryl Schanher, Mark, David, and Danny; siblings Jean Diehl and Alden Campbell; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and countless friends. (See photo in *Weekend Party* issue, p 1)

Some will remember the ice-skating parties at Crystal Lake, many will remember Rackie's stories that he told of his youth, and others will recall his songs that he sang so beautifully. Some of us still marvel at his creations of wood, a hobby that started from whittling as a youngster.

We are grateful to have known him and will long appreciate his contributions to New Albany history. Every school child who visits the Ealy House will go away remembering Rackie Campbell, who was born here, grew up here, did chores in this house, and--most memorably--slid down the bannister and straight out the open front door.

-- Arloia Walton

Member of our Society "Jim" Heischman (real name, Orville Wesley Heischman) died at the Masonic retirement home in Springfield on May 18, 2012. He had suffered from lung cancer and other ailments. Jim's wife, Mary, died, in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's disease, at the retirement home on June 4, 2012. Their children arranged for the husband and wife to be buried in the same coffin.

Jim, born in 1928, grew up on Columbus' near-north side where his parents operated a small neighborhood grocery. After high school at Linden McKinley, he served in the army and later had a twenty-year career as a civil engineer in the Division of Water of the City of Columbus.

Mary (maiden name Parmiter), born in 1927, grew up in Amesville in southeastern Ohio. She trained as a nurse at Grant Hospital's School of Nursing and also worked as a nurse there.

Jim and Mary came to the Society as a result of Jim's effort to trace his ancestry. Just before the Civil War, Jim's great-grandfather Andrew Heischman (1835-1904) migrated with his brother Henry (1841-1918) from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia to Plain Township, settling on a property where the Cedar Brook development is now. Later, his descendants moved into Columbus.

Henry settled in the village of New Albany, where he had a blacksmith shop on Second Street. In the 1880's his name appears frequently in the minutes of the town Council, of which he was a member. From 1897 to 1938, Henry's son Frank, a carpenter, served in various town offices. He was mayor for seventeen years. Frank's sons were prominent as local athletes and as administrators in the Columbus area's educational systems. Frank's son Walter became superintendent of schools in Upper Arlington. The Heischmans were a local legend well known to older members of our Historical Society.

Jim's search for his relatives led him to Clarence Heischman, owner of a farm on Morse Road in Jersey Township and also to John Saveson, who had retired to his great-great-grandfather Clouse's farm in Plain Township. Clarence and John were descended from two Heischman brothers, respectively Abraham and Nicholas (first cousins of Andrew and Henry above), who had fled the devastation in the Shenandoah Valley at the end of the Civil War. Abraham and Nicholas had married Souder sisters and settled on Souder lands between Gahanna and New Albany.

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

Jim's energy took him beyond the local scene. He attended Heischman gatherings in Virginia and Indiana, a result being that he contributed extensive Heischman genealogies to our Society's archives. These and other materials that he contributed, together with the Society's own researches, contain bits of regimental history which formal histories rarely get down to. For example, Philip, cousin to all the Heischmans above, served with Stonewall Jackson's force and also with the 18th Virginia Cavalry. Philip was captured at Winchester in the Shenandoah on January 3, 1863. He was then confined for a part of the war at Camp Chase in Columbus.

Jim's materials allow one to compare Philip's service with that of his cousin Levi Heischman, who enlisted in the 49th Indiana Volunteer Regiment, organized on October 21, 1861. The 49th was first assigned to guard the Cumberland Gap against the entry of enemy forces into West Virginia and Kentucky. Later, it participated in the fighting around Vicksburg, where Levi died, it seems, on June 7, 1863. The comparison illustrates a frequently made point, namely, that through patriotic motives, close relatives frequently found themselves on opposite sides of a bloody war.

-- John Saveson

Note: More information on the early history of the Heischmans is given in John Saveson's booklet "Heischmans Before and After the Civil War: Legacy of an Ansbach Grenadier," available from the Society.

The parade was the first of the many events of this very hot day, starting off at 10 a.m. Our horse-drawn antique spring wagon carried two of our most intrepid members, Helen Pestel and David Cline. Our open house did not attract as many visitors as usual, probably due to the heat, but those who came were very appreciative.

The new events included an all-Township picnic at 5:30 on the high school lawn, followed at 6:30 by the much-advertised panoramic photo of Township residents. The wonderful result is spread out on this page, or, rather, a tiny version of it is. We counted 100 people in the picture. If you are not in it, then you should be vowing to appear for the next one, whenever that may be.

TO ORDER a full-sized copy of the panoramic photo: Only one size is available, 10" x 40", and of course it is in full color. The price of \$50.00 includes shipping and handling. It will be mailed flat, directly to your home. To order, go to the following web site:

www.DeCampPhotoWorks.com/events/NAB--PTHS

Complete directions for ordering and for payment are given at the above web site. If you have any questions, call Helen Pestel at 855-3765.

Proceeds from this project will go toward completing the restoration of the Ealy House.



Plain Township Picnickers in front of the New Albany High School Library, July 4th, 2012

EARLY HISTORY OF OUR FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

In 1976, at the time our nation was preparing for its Bicentennial celebration, the Business Men's Association of New Albany wanted our community to celebrate also. A meeting was called that resulted in schools, churches, youth organizations, adult organizations, and more attending, and plans were laid for a parade to be the highlight.

The parade was a success with firemen, policemen, horses, antique cars, community organizations, school officials, and town officials, all led by U.S. Congressman John Ashbrook, owner of the local newspaper. Blue, red, and yellow ribbons were awarded to parade participants. Entertainment afterward included a few speeches and the school children doing a May Pole dance. It was rather a short event. The expense was less than \$5.00. However, the community seemed to enjoy getting together.

The next year, 1977, the Historical Society ran a notice in the paper that a meeting to plan another celebration like the one in 1976 would be held at such and such a place and time. Guess what? Only two people came to the meeting, both from the Historical Society. However, the editor of the New Albany-Plain News, Jean Barnes, decided not to let such a successful community event disappear, and with that support the Historical Society proceeded to make plans. Thus Founders Day was born, with Mr. Rudy Sever at the helm, and with our Historical Society being the sponsor donating the funds.

My hat is off to the wonderful community people both past and present that have made the celebration a yearly event. The celebration grew so fast that the New Albany businesses were solicited for finances. Because it was one of the first spring events of fun and history in the area, outsiders began to participate and attend. After several years of growth, Founders Day had become too big an event for our small historical society to handle, and a Founders Day Committee was formed. Thanks to them and the community support, we can count on Founders Day celebrations continuing for many years to come.

This is the personal recollection of a 91-year-old, who has left out many memories, but who is so happy to have been a part of Founders Day from the very beginning.

-- Arloia Walton

NAPTHS ANNUAL PICNIC AT SAVESONS' BARN and brief meeting, June 7, 2012

FOLLOWING our usual delicious potluck dinner, a short meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Regrut. Liz Feichter read the minutes that were approved after a motion by John Ayres. There was no Treasurer's report.

NANCY Ferguson has a photographer for the picnic on July 4th. He is a former photographer with the Dispatch and specializes in panoramic photography. His fee will be a split of profits from the sale of the pictures. The company who will actually make the picture charges \$20 each so our charge would need to be in the range of \$50 to \$60. The photographer met with Nancy and Marilyn and wants the picture taken on the steps of the library in front of the flag, for background. The schedule for the picture is after the first band break around 5:30 PM. Pictures will be sold as unframed and orders will be taken that evening of July 4th. Pictures will be available online at a higher cost.

He took photos of our pictures of previous picnics and will digitalize them.

Two weeks before the 4th, there will be a double page ad provided by the Events Council and Nancy Ferguson will donate the cost of a smaller ad before the picnic.

On a motion by John Ayres, we will sell one size picture, unframed for \$50 on July 4. Orders online will deal with the company providing the pictures and will be charged postage and handling. Helen Pestel seconded the motion and it passed.

Neil Kirby made a motion to sell the Cats Meow items we have. The motion was seconded by John Saveson and approved. Robert Dean purchased them.

The reconstruction of stairs and hand rails by Ron Davis had a total cost of \$1,486.00. Previous amounts stated in the minutes over the past couple of months were wrong.

Software has been installed in the new computer and is ready to be transported to the museum.

NEW BUSINESS

The high school project under Chad Schuler has produced 30 family folders copied and returned.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
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(614) 855-9861
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Thurs. August 2 — next Society meeting
Mon. September 3 — Yard Sale
Thurs. Sept. 6 — Society Meeting