

# *Newsletter*

*April and May 2013*

*New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society*



*First-graders visiting the Ealy House on November 8, 2012  
This shows them in the back parlor, naturally drawn to the  
old games.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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

Program: What shall we do about the **DRYER HOUSE?**

Joe Ciminello will be present to offer his ideas, and our Dryer House Committee will explain the Society's requests. Come with helpful suggestions of your own.

**THURS. MAY 2-- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the home of Emily Eby and Mark Baranoski**, 6320 Kitzmiller Road. This is the handsome 1847 Archibald Smith house, exhibiting the fine carpentry skills of Archibald himself, and also of Mark, who has been carefully restoring the building, using Archibald's own techniques.

**Thurs. May 9** -- 6:30 p.m., 4-H Club Tour of Ealy House

**Fri. May 17** -- 4-5 p.m., Tour of Ealy House for Girl Scout troop

**SAT. MAY 18** -- **FOUNDERS DAY.** Ealy House open 2-4 p.m. See p. 3 for details about our other activities.

**Mon. May 20** -- Newsletter Deadline

**THURS. JUNE 6** -- Barn pot-luck picnic in Savesons' barn, 8370 Clouse Road. Details in the June/July Newsletter.

**THURS. JULY 4** -- Independence Day events (**No July Society meeting**). Details on 4th of July activities in the June/July Newsletter.

## MEMBER INFORMATION

**NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome **Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Jeri Merritt** into our Society. They live at 8144 Parsons Pass in New Albany, phone 989-7800.

**CORRECTION:** **The Cathells' new address** was incorrectly given in the last Newsletter. It is actually 194 W. Main Street, Alexandria, Ohio 43001.

## FOUNDERS DAY 2013 -- "HONORING EXCELLENCE"

This year's Founders Day will take place on Saturday, May 18th, and it promises to be even bigger and better than ever. For example, in the Elementary School Gym there will be a display from Roscoe Village, with a canal boat replica, and weavers working at a loom. The Harlem Township Historical Society will be present with displays of antique implements. Jean Champoux will be there with her collection of chatelaines (remember her program at our August meeting?) and Marilyn Regrut with a button display. Dennis Keesee will also be there with a Civil War exhibit. Our own Society booth will feature the Heritage Quilt and various old maps and photographs. Both old and new Township Picnic photos will be spread out with the hope that visitors will be able to identify some of the faces. Quite a few in the 2012 photo were identified at the recent "Spring Fling."

The whole day will open with the Parade, led by the new Grand Marshal(s), whoever he, she, or they may be, and in the Parade will be our Society's antique spring wagon drawn by a horse.

From 2 until 4 p.m. our Ealy House will be open for tours. We will of course need docents, preferably about 5, plus an outside person. At our booth in the gym, we will need four people in two shifts of two each, covering the time between about 10 to about 5.

## NEW ALBANY LIFE & the NAPTH SOCIETY

Our Historical Society has been invited to submit an article each month to the recently launched New Albany Life magazine, beginning with the July issue. This will be an interesting opportunity for us to share local history with readers, most of whom will be relative newcomers to our area. Diane B. Garrett, the journalist in charge of this assignment, tells us that the magazine will be delivered free to 5000 local households.

In the June issue of New Albany Life, Ms. Garrett herself will write an article about our Society, by way of introducing us and the regular column to follow. Marty Saveson has agreed to coordinate our submissions and plans to call on various other members of our Society to write pieces from time to time. Each article is to be only about 500 words long, so not an overwhelming assignment. And we will need to include old photos. Now be sure to look for your copy of New Albany Life in your mailbox each month!

### MARJORIE PESTEL (1926-2013)

The daughter of Clarence and Thirza Piper, Marjorie Ellen Piper was born on February 15, 1926, in Harlem Township, Delaware County, near Center Village, where she was raised along with two sisters and five brothers. She married Rollie Pestel on June 29, 1947. They moved to Plain Township at that time and resided at both of the Pestel farms until 1984, when they moved to a house a couple of houses north of the New Albany Schools on State Route 605. Margie was widowed on November 17, 2007.

Margie was active in farm organizations, the New Albany United Methodist Church, and the New Albany Lions Ladies Auxiliary, in addition to the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society. She was best known in our Society for volunteering at the Tuesday morning work days at the Kern-Harrington House, stirring apple butter at the Harvest of the Arts Festival, and as a call committee member. We all appreciated her kind spirit and good nature. She enjoyed traveling with the Still Going Strong seniors group from Westerville and with World-wide Country Tours. She died this past January 31, survived by two daughters, Wilma and Diana, their spouses, two grandchildren and their spouses, four great-grandchildren, and three brothers.

-- Helen Pestel

### RECENT MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts received since May 2012 are as follows:

In memory of **Marjorie Pestel**, from Naomi Fodor and the Savesons.  
In memory of **Lillian Shannon**, from Naomi Fodor and the Savesons.  
In memory of **Jim and Mary Heischman**, from the Savesons. Included in these gifts were two memorial bricks, one for Lillian, and the other for Jim and Mary.

**Note:** The Society itself always makes a contribution to the Memorial Fund for each member who has died. Anyone who wishes to make such a donation should send a check to the NAPT Historical Society at P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054, indicating the person(s) to be honored. The family will be notified of the gift (but not the amount). Note also the possibility of donating a memorial brick for our walkway. Contact Helen Pestel (855-3765) for details.

### THE ROCKY FORK METRO PARK & THE NAPTH SOCIETY

At the request of Bill Buescher, landscape architect for the Franklin County Metro Parks, John Saveson and Dennis Keesee met with him to provide historical information about the Plain Township land which is destined to be included in the Rocky Fork Metro Park. Of particular interest to Mr. Buescher is the parcel acquired a few years ago in the vicinity of the Walnut-Harlem intersection, where Rocky Fork Creek crosses Walnut Street. This parcel originally included a very old house built by the Cashner family. In recent times known as the Garrett home, it was torn down a few years ago. A Cashner saw mill is shown at the same location on the 1872 Plain Township map. Mr. Buescher has the idea of making a small park area on that property, perhaps with a picnic area.

In preparation for the meeting (which took place on March 5 at the Ealy House), John Saveson wrote a 2-page summary of the historic features of the future Metro Park area. He indicated the locations of the 2 one-room schools, the old houses (some of which are still standing), the sites where Indian artifacts have been found, even the location of a former church. On the 1856 map, this building is called the Temperance Church; on the 1872 map it is called the Albright Church -- some interesting history right there. Some of the old family names in the future park area are Alspach, Bevelhymmer, Brooks, Butsko, Miller, Cabbage Needles, Pestel, Schleppe, and Tippett. For anyone interested in reading John's whole report, it is accessible on our Society web site.

### RECENT ADDITIONS TO OUR SOCIETY'S WEB SITE ([www.newalbanyhistory.info](http://www.newalbanyhistory.info))

1. A transcription of Lucius Smith's Diary for the years 1869-1872. His Diary offers insight into daily life in central Ohio in the mid-19th century.
2. A history of the area of Plain Township that is slated for the Rocky Fork Metro Park (written by John Saveson).
3. A time line connecting the Ealy House with the settlement of Plain Township, the history of New Albany, and events in the Ealy and Doran families.
4. A link to the digitized archive of local family documents created by the Advanced Placement U.S. History class at N.A. High School.

**NOTE ALSO:** The Ealy House Museum has a page on Facebook. If you use Facebook, please consider sharing the page with friends to help connect us to a broader on-line community.

-- Catherine Saveson

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 GENERAL MEETING  
 FEBRUARY 7, 2013  
 PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

The meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Regrut. She introduced special guest John O'Connor. Other guests attending were Linda and Michael Myhal and Louis Schultz.

The minutes of the November meeting were read by Secretary, Liz Feichter. There were no corrections and David Cline made a motion to accept. Helen Pestel seconded the motion and they were approved.

The Treasurer's report was read by Helen Pestel. Betty Maynard made a motion to accept the report, Liz Feichter seconded and it was approved.

The 2013 budget was read and approved. Liz Feichter made a motion to accept the budget and David Cline seconded. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Thanks to David Cline and Nancy Ferguson for the days spent with the electricians. We have lighting in the attic which displays the names on the walls, now easy to read. We have lights on the stairs to the basement.

We still need estimates for the repair of the pantry.

The New Albany Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Spring Fling Business and Community Expo on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The Historical Society has been asked to participate with one table. The hours are 4 to 6 PM and set up at 3PM. We can display anything. The Ealy House will be open from 3PM to 5PM.

Because our reconstruction jobs are relatively small, it has been difficult to obtain three bids. Marilyn suggested we have a committee to review the Constitution and By-laws and make suggestions to the Board for revisions and approval by the Society. Liz Feichter, Marty Saveson, David Cline and Monica Morgan will serve on the committee.

David Cline made a motion to purchase a telephone-answering machine. It was decided the phone should be cordless and the answering machine to have remote access.

The Society has received notice from the New Albany Arts Council that Harvest of the Arts will be discontinued. It was becoming difficult for our small organizations to follow all of the food handling guidelines and attendance has been down. There has been some difficulty in getting workers and we have had considerable competition from other venues.

Catherine Saveson announced she had made some changes to the web site.

Marty Saveson announced a program at Otterbein on history of the Underground and an open house at Hanby House following the program.

Dennis Keese presented our program on a diary he purchased off E-Bay written by a Plain Township resident during the Civil War. Dennis always has an interesting program and I regret we were unable to tape this.

The Board will meet February 20 at the museum at noon. The next general meeting will be March 7, 2013 at the Plain Township Fire Station.

-- Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

**2013 Budget**

American Electric Power (Ealy House all electric)	\$3,200.00
AT&T	310.00
Amerigas	200.00
City of Columbus – Water & Sewer Service	150.00
Security System	500.00
Insurance	1,200.00
Rumpke	100.00
Newsletter	400.00
House Repairs and Improvements	9,000.00*
Office Supplies	600.00
Advertising	180.00
Miscellaneous & Events	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,440.00</b>

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2013

Several months ago the Board gave approval to Justin Varney to use the Museum for his senior project. The project was to be a video of meeting of Heads of State preceding the onset of World War I. The meeting was filmed in the back parlor. Before our March meeting, Justin and his group presented the video of his Senior Project entitled THE DOGS OF WAR. It was most impressive and appreciated.

Margaret Regrut, President, called the meeting to order. Liz Feichter read the Minutes of the February meeting. Helen Pestel made a motion to approve and Kathy Yager seconded. The motion passed.

Helen Pestel gave the financial report and David Cline made the motion to accept. Betty Maynard seconded and the motion passed.

We finally received a second bid, of sorts, for reconstruction of the pantry from Davyd Miller. There was no final cost, just \$80 per hour plus material. He stated drywall for the walls, not plaster, and laminate for the flooring instead of the hardwood.

During the discussion of this bid and the one from Ron Davis, Liz Feichter mentioned what Mr. Davis had done before and how well satisfied we have been. His estimate was between \$4620 and \$5000 and did include plastering walls. Helen Pestel made a motion to accept the bid of Ron Davis. Robert Dean seconded and the motion passed. One more item on our "to-do-list" accomplished.

The attic is almost complete except for the pipes.

No information on installation of the sign.

A resident near the Links e-mailed that he is appalled by the condition of the Dryer House. There has been no reply to our letter to our letter of February 19<sup>th</sup> to Joe Ciminello.

The COC Spring Fling is March 21<sup>st</sup> and the Museum will be open. We will have one table and will have our brochures; picture of the July 4 Community <sup>PICNIC</sup> will be available. Naomi Fodor will be available in the front <sup>Early</sup> parlor to greet guests.

Founders Day is May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will need help in the gym and also at the Open House. In the gym, we will display the quilt, Schleppe art,

and other artifacts. We were told there will be people from Roscoe Village and also our neighbors in Harlem Township attending. Harlem Township Days are scheduled August 17 and 18.

Name tags approved by the Board are in progress. The cost is \$86.00.

A reporter from New Albany Life Magazine met with some of the Monday morning workers. We will be included in the June issue and have the opportunity to have a small article in monthly. It presently goes to 5,000 residences.

There was no report from the Constitution-ByLaws Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the home of Liz Feichter.

Monica Morgan asked that we send Dennis Keesee a thank you note for his meeting in February as well as one to Justin Varney. Liz Feichter will do so.

Nancy Ferguson made a motion to get some estimates to make the Dryer House presentable by removing plaster, cleaning out the house of debris and carpets.

Monica Morgan talked about the 200 Year celebration of Columbus and the exhibit at COSI. It will be there until the end of May.

-- Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

(Note: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Society)

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#### THE WIDELY SCATTERED SMITHS

Over the years we have been getting requests from Plain Township descendents around the state and around the country for genealogical information and pamphlets. Well, by far the most of such requests come from Smiths, all descended from either Archibald himself or from Archibald's own forebears. We have heard from Smith descendents in Maine, New York State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, California, and of course Ohio. Due to all these Smiths and their requests for pamphlets, we have had to order big batches of reprints in recent months of The Autobiography of Pioneer Archibald Smith and Revolutionary War Veterans in Plain Township: John Clouse and John Smith.

RECENT SOCIETY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

DENNIS KEESEE'S talk at our Feb. 7 meeting added to our information about Lucius Smith, son of Archibald and indefatigable Diary-writer. Dennis owns Lucius's 1855 and 1864 Diaries, which he brought along to show us. There is a tremendous amount of information in these Diaries about life in Plain Township--for instance, photography in the 1850's (Lucius was a photographer's assistant for a time). Dennis is particularly interested in Civil War details. Lucius records in 1864 that all men aged 18-45 were to be drafted. He names men who went to war and mentions battles. Dennis added further information, making Lucius's material even more interesting.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN OHIO was the subject of a talk at Otterbein University on Feb. 10. The seven members of our Society who attended found the talk very informative. We did not learn of any Underground stations in Plain Township, but the speaker did not rule out the possibility. We had the privilege of touring the Hanby House (a well-documented Underground station) after the talk. Our whole Society was invited to come for a special tour of it sometime.

The film of a one-act play, THE DOGS OF WAR, by high school senior Justin Varney, created a dramatic opening to our March 7 meeting. The play had been filmed in the back parlor of the Ealy House, with students taking the parts of 7 European leaders (including Czar Nicholas, King George V, Kaiser Wilhelm, etc.) supposedly meeting in July 1914 in a futile attempt to avoid World War I. It was a very ambitious project, which doubtless taught the students a lot of history in doing it.

On March 18 a TROOP OF BROWNIE SCOUTS provided the next bit of excitement. They loved their tour of the Ealy House, especially since each girl was provided with a "Scavenger Hunt" list and a pencil. They were especially excited about finding the 4 dolls, the pump organ (which caused confusion in some with the water pump outside), the stereoscope, and--the real high point--the "secret pass-through cupboard."

Three days later, ANOTHER TOUR, this one for adults who were also visiting the "SERING FLING" EXPO across the street. We had a small but enthusiastic crowd in the Ealy House and even signed up two new members. Meanwhile, at the Expo, our Historical Society's booth attracted some interest, especially for our old maps displayed on easels, and for our 2012 panoramic group photograph (with a few more identifications being made).

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Treasurer's Report January/February, 2013

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Income		
Memberships (Regrut, Hess, Gorsuch, Fisher, R&J Thomas)	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
New: John O'Connor & Debbie Moore, 627 College Crest Rd., Westerville, OH 43081		
Donation	10.00	60.00
Applebutter		15.00
City of New Albany Grant		10,000.00
Brick for Lillian Shannon	50.00	
Marjorie Pestel memorial		150.00
Pamphlet	4.05	8.00
Checking Interest	<u>2.16</u>	<u>2.28</u>
Total Income	\$ 96.21	\$10,285.28
Expenses		
AEP - (Ealy \$396.43,393.08;RTD\$6.10,\$6.10)	\$ 402.53	\$ 399.18
AT&T	25.90	25.93
Columbus-City Treasurer Water & Sewer		24.30
Westfield Insurance		<u>1,058.00</u>
Walls-Carroll Electric Services LLC (Ealy House lighting)	<u>1,655.00</u>	\$ 1,507.41
Total Expenses	\$ 2,083.43	
January 1 <sup>st</sup> Balance	\$ 26,205.20	
Income	10,381.49	
Expenses	3,590.84	
Balance February 28 <sup>th</sup>	<u>\$ 32,995.85</u>	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 12/31/12	21,513.79	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/12	70,207.22	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (12/31/12)	122,090.03 (includes 8,133.71	
	(6.66452%) Memorial Money)	

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

*New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society*

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*www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org*

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*In this issue:*

*Rocky Fork Metro Park*

*Margie Pestel*

*NAPTHS web site*

*Upcoming:*

*Thurs. Apr. 4 -- Society meeting at Fire Station*

*Thurs. May 2 -- Society meeting at Archibald Smith house*

*Sat. May 18 -- Founders Day*

*(Details on p. 2)*