

Newsletter

December 2012 and January 2013

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



The annual Harvest the Arts Festival at Dorans' Farm was held on October 13 at the height of the pumpkin season. Seven-year-old Liam Otten, like all the other kids there, enjoyed our Society's scarecrow-making and candle-dipping activities and the live-stage performances provided by the Arts Council.

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.

Fri. Nov. 23 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 1 -- Deadline for reservations by mail for Holiday Dinner. Desperate last-minute phone reservations may still be made until 9 p.m. Sunday evening. See below.

Sun. DECEMBER 2 -- 1-3 p.m. Ealy Open House

Thurs. Dec. 6 -- HOLIDAY DINNER

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Place: New Albany United Methodist Church

Menu: Pork Loin or Italian-style Chicken (choose one), twice-baked potato, orange-glazed carrots, salad, rolls, choice of beverage, choice of dessert

Price: \$14.00 (\$7.00 for children)

Reservations: Mail check and choice of entrée to Helen Pestel, 8355 New Albany-Condit Rd., Westerville, OH 43081, by Sat., Dec. 1. Or phone Helen at 855-3765 or Marty Saveson at 855-9809 by 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. Be sure to mention choice of entrée.

There will be decorations, music, delicious food, and excellent company. We look forward to having a good crowd.

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Scratch off THURS. JANUARY 3, 2013 -- NO SOCIETY MEETING

MON. Jan. 21 -- Newsletter Deadline

THURS. FEBRUARY 7 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the Fire Station
Dennis Keesee will present a program, details in next Newsletter.

NOTE: A Society or Board meeting will be canceled if it falls on a day when New Albany schools have been closed because of severe weather.

LUCIUS SMITH'S DIARIES

By John E. Saveson

On July 25 of this year, Professor Lewis Ulman, a member of OSU's English Department, and his wife, Pat, visited the Ealy House seeking information concerning the pioneer Archibald Smith family. Smith family members are well known to the Historical Society. The Society published Archibald's *Autobiography* in 1999. Listing of it on the internet, among the Society's other publications, caught the Ulmans' attention.

Professor Ulman's interest, however, is not so much in Archibald as in Archibald's oldest son, Lucius. We know that at least in the 1850's, 60's, and 70's, Lucius kept a record of what he did every day, and what certain of his neighbors, friends, and relatives did, and that often he offered reflections on what he recorded. To read Lucius is to immerse yourself in an almost startling way in daily life in Plain Township in the middle of the nineteenth century.

We have the coverage dates above from the fact that the OSU Library (its rare-book room) has two diaries, one from 1859-60 and another from 1862. Dennis Keesee has two diaries he bought, one from 1855 and another from 1864. And I have a transcription of a fifth diary from 1869-72. There must be others but we only know that the ones above exist.

The uncertainty results from the fact that we do not know how many were for sale, when the diaries came on the market, or who besides Dennis and the OSU Library bought them. We do know that Lucius' diaries until recently were in the possession of Lucius' great-grandson, Harry Lewis, by occupation a jailer who lived in Linden, and, according to Harry, they were also in the possession of his sister. Brother and sister were reluctant to let anyone use the diaries. But through the good offices of John Fisher, another of Archibald's descendants, Harry's wife, Delores, made a typewritten transcription for me of the '69-72 diary above. We assume that these later owners are deceased or themselves auctioned off Lucius' recordings.

To return to Professor Ulman. On October 6 he brought a class he is teaching in manuscript editing to the New Albany area (1) to search the Society's archives for any help the archives can give in annotating a selection of entries Professor Ulman has made from the '62 diary. The class is organized around that project. Professor Ulman intends eventually to put its work on the internet. The class came also (2) to visit Archibald's house on Kitzmiller Road, built in 1848, now owned by Emily

Eby and Mark Baranosky. Lucius, unmarried, still lived there in 1862. What the class took away was Archibald's ledger, loaned by Mark, and my transcription of Professor Ulman's selections which he had made available to me on the internet earlier.

What is opening up is an opportunity for the Society to sponsor in some form readable versions of Lucius' record of nineteenth-century life. The librarian in the rare book room at OSU has agreed to provide me with a disk of the entries of the '62 diary which Lewis Ulman did not select so that a complete, readable transcription can be made. The librarian, I believe, will make available also the '59-60 diary. I am talking to Dennis about his holdings. Hopefully we can make all the texts we know about readable to the public.

SOME SELECTIONS FROM LUCIUS'S DIARY

Monday 4 and Tues., 5 Aug., 1862: Worked at my building [a cane house for making sorghum]. Newton [a brother] & Father finished the hay and thrashed out some wheat. Night, Tues. John [another brother] come sick having had a slight touch of bowel complaint. Today's paper, Tuesday, brings an order from the Secretary of War calling for an unconditional draft of three hundred thousand more men in addition to the same amount of volunteers previously called for some time ago. The order was issued yesterday morning. That amount of men will tell hard on the people.

Wednesday, 6 Aug., 1862: Last night had a good rain. Today Newton, John, & me quarried and hauled stone from Cambells. Hauled five loads. They are for my well. Night went over, all of us, to a party at Roll Evans. There was a great crowd there. But a poor party, as old Anna would not let them play. They paraded around in the lane until late and dispersed, the girls having a lot of spoiled dresses.

Wednesday, 13 Aug. of 62: Today all went to the Celebration Sunday School except Dad and Augustine [younger, sickly, brother]. Forenoon Mr. Taft gave the Sunday School a lecture. After dinner Mr. Cancey [Chauncey?] Olds, Sam Box, Sam Galaway made war speeches. There was a large turnout of people, several thousand. Evening, rigged up the cane house with lights. I put up three coal-oil lamps on the beams and it made it very light and nice. There was a large turnout, over a hundred; and we had a right good party as to the place. It was a perfect love of a place for a party. It lasted until midnight. I was tired near out by standing around all day at the Celebration and then at the party.

LILLIAN SHANNON (1920-2012)

A devoted member of our Society, which she joined in 1994, Lillian will be remembered as a hard worker in our various enterprises and events. She was in on the beginning of the acquisition and restoration of our first museum, the 1881 Kern-Harrington House. In the midst of the most daunting challenges, her sense of humor helped keep us all going. She continued to attend our meetings and to participate in Founders Day and Harvest the Arts until just a few years ago.

We all admired her for her adventurous spirit, exemplified in her going up in a hot-air balloon at least three times at a relatively advanced age. And just recently we heard that she had actually ridden a camel at the Columbus Zoo. Her favorite activity was quilt-making. She was a true artist as a quilter, and probably the most enthusiastic and imaginative member of the group that made our famous "Heritage Quilt."

Born in Columbus to Lucy and Ralph Crossley, she married Walter R. Shannon soon after graduating from Central High School. They moved to New Albany in 1950, and built a house on Morse Road, where the 5 children were raised and where Lillian lived for many years as a widow. Preceded in death by her husband and son Samuel, she is survived by sons Robert and Tom and daughters Jeannie Radford and Sherry Blackford, 7 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

THOMAS GRIFFITHS KEESEE (1928-2012)

The son of Everette Lenwood and Catherine Griffiths Keese, Tom Keese grew up on Route 605 in the big old green farmhouse still standing near Central College Rd. He attended New Albany schools until grade 4 or 5, when his family moved to Columbus. He graduated from North High School in 1946 and served in the Navy during WW II. He and Marjorie C. Doran of New Albany were married in 1953. They moved back to New Albany in 1964, where they built their present home on Central College Road, less than one mile from where Tom had lived as a small boy. He became owner of New Albany's famous Eagles Villa Pizza and Johnstown's Villa Pizza in the early 1970's, and was known as "Boss" by hundreds of employees over the last 41 years.

Tom participated in many local organizations, including our own Historical Society. He is remembered for his "quick witted sense of humor" and his generosity in quietly helping many, many people over the years. Besides Marjorie, Tom is survived by sons Gary and Dennis, daughters Krista Eldridge and Rhonda Adams, 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 GENERAL MEETING
 OCTOBER 4, 2012
 PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Marilyn Regrut. Liz Feichter read the minutes and John Ayres moved they be accepted. Sharon Carter seconded and the motion was approved.

Helen Pestel read the Treasurer's report and David Cline moved it to be approved. Sharon Carter seconded and the motion carried.

The roof has been repaired by Durable Slate and the cost was \$300.

Harvest of the Arts: Marilyn requested everyone wear their t-shirts.

Calls will be made for donations for the bake sale, workers for it as well as candle making, scarecrows, miscellaneous/antique table and for a membership drive.

Memberships were discussed and the annual dues are as follows:

Students	\$	4.00	Lifetime Memberships:	
Individual		10.00	Individual	100.00
Couple/Family		20.00	Couple/Family	200.00
Organization		100.00		

For the membership drive, a membership purchased for one year, will receive the second year free. David Cline made this motion and Marty Saveson seconded. The motion passed.

Helen Pestel will be in charge of the bake sale. Marty Saveson and Catherine Saveson will handle the scarecrows. David Cline and John Saveson will be in charge of the antique and miscellaneous table. We will need help with the candle making which involves lifting hot wax from the fire and putting it in cold water. Marilyn Regrut will cover the table for memberships.

The Ealy House will be open November 23 from 1 PM to 3 PM. We will clean on the 19th. The New Albany holiday events are scheduled for December 2 and the House will be open that day from 1PM to 3PM. We will clean and decorate on November 26th. Cleaning times are 9:30 AM.

All officer terms and one trustee/board member term are up for election. The other trustee/board member terms are as follows: For Robert Dean (2013) and David Cline (2014).

We discussed the sign for the Ealy House and it will be bronze with green. The William H. Resch Park will be included. The home of the Doran family for over 100 years will also be included on the sign.

Liz Feichter made a motion to approve the sign and Sharon Carter seconded it. The motion passed. We will have some small signs made to hang on the sign to announce open dates and times of the museum.

The electrical estimates we have been trying to get are still not available. There has been a lot of resistance and a lot of interest in doing this. No decisions or motions were made. Further discussion will wait for estimates.

The NA City Grant application is due November 26. We will need to discuss areas and items needing funding. A few things mentioned were funds to clean up the Dryer house, pavers, parking area, electric fixtures and an upstairs-video for the handicapped.

Harlem Township has invited us to a meeting November 8 to a program by Jim Williams. He is a surveyor from Gahanna, Ohio and his program will be on Ohio's original land subdivisions.

Thursday and Friday, November 8 & 9, first graders will tour the museum. Each day there will be two groups. The children are doing a unit on "long ago."

Before adjourning, Catherine Saveson presented her timeline of the museum. It was a fantastic history of the people who have lived in the house as well as a history of the community. She has asked the society members to include any additional relative events to it.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were provided by Marty Saveson and Marilyn Regrut. John Saveson presented the program and read from the diary of Lucius Smith on the way of life in New Albany in the 1860's.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 1, 2012
HOME OF BILL AND PAULINE RESCH

President Marilyn Regrut called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

The minutes were read by Secretary, Liz Feichter. A correction was noted by Marty Saveson and Catherine Otten's name was corrected to Saveson. Kathy Yager moved the minutes be accepted and Betty Maynard seconded. The motion passed.

Helen Pestel read the treasurer's report and Marty Saveson moved it be accepted. Naomi Fodor seconded and the motion passed.

Marilyn Regrut presented the slate of officers by Theresa Kempker. As there were no nominations from the floor, Marilyn Regrut, President; Neil Kirby, Vice-president; Liz Feichter, Secretary, and Helen Pestel, Treasurer, were nominated for two-year terms. Trustee/Board member, Sharon Carter was nominated for a three-year term. Marty Saveson was nominated for a two-year term as alternate trustee/board member. Bill Resch made a motion to accept the nominations and Kathy Yager seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Durable Slate has not retrieved their ladder from the roof of the Ealy House.

We have had no response from Ciminello on the Dryer House.

Electrical Contractors: We have received three estimates for Ealy electrical work: Rardain's Electrical Service, Columbus, Ohio, estimate of \$2,115; Cory Lewis Electric of Granville, Ohio, estimate of \$3,790, and an estimate from Walls-Carroll Electric Service of Westerville, Ohio, \$2,240 which included overhead lights in five rooms. The estimates were discussed and debated for most of the meeting. Helen Pestel then

made a motion that we accept the estimate by Walls-Carroll Electric Service. Bill Resch seconded the motion and it passed.

Lighting was discussed for the office and John Ayres brought up the practical idea of closed fluorescent light(s) in the ceiling. Bill Resch made a motion to do it and Liz Feichter seconded. The motion passed.

Another suggestion John Ayres made was torchiere lamps/lights. They can be moved from one area to another; they can be set in corners, and small enough to be stored in a closet. Kathy Yager made a motion to look into this and procure a torchiere to check it out. John Ayres seconded the motion and it passed.

John Ayres made a motion to add a receptacle in the basement room with the fireplace to be installed on the side of a joist and on a separate current. John Saveson seconded the motion and it passed.

Many suggestions for different light fixtures and overheads and outlets, were discussed as well as lighting of the basement and attic stairways, and illumination of the names on the attic wall(s). It was suggested we have lights in the basement for possible meetings.

The Christmas dinner will be at the NA Methodist Church on December 6. Times, menu and costs will be in the newsletter. We will invite the pastor and his wife as guests.

The board meeting will be at noon at the Ealy House on November 27.

First-grade student tours are scheduled for November 8th and 9th.

The annual turkey dinner at Franklin Church is November 8 from 4 to 7 PM and the meeting at Harlem Township on Ohio land subdivisions will be held at the Township Hall at 7 PM.

Bill Resch gave the Society a tour of his new green home. Following the meeting, he and Pauline served refreshments and bags of goodies to take home. (I truly regret I was not able to report all of the innovations of this home for the minutes).

The Board meeting is scheduled for November 27th at noon at the Ealy House.

There will be no general meeting in December.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

NOTES & NEWS

SAVE YOUR COPIES of the "Best of New Albany" supplement to the Nov. 15 This Week/New Albany News. An article on page 8 describes the founding of our Historical Society, our purpose, and our activities, with a good photo of the Ealy house.

Robert Dean and John Saveson attended a meeting on Sept. 27 of the **BUILDING DOCTOR** in Gahanna. This is a sort of clinic giving very practical advice on taking care of old buildings. It was given by the Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society.

FIRST GRADE TOURS: On Thurs & Friday, Nov. 8 & 9, We had a lot of fun showing 7 classes of New Albany 1st-graders through the Ealy House. These youngsters mainly went in all directions at once in each room, asking a million questions, wanting to play with all the toys and try all the tools. The corn-sheller was by far the most popular item in the house. We have never before seen such interest and excitement in our tour groups.

THE CLOUSE CONNECTION: Several descendants of the first John Clouse in Plain Township (1758-1822) have contacted John Saveson (himself a Clouse descendant) recently. On Oct. 10, Tina Reed and a cousin, both from Indiana, visited John & Marty and shared genealogical information. The first John Clouse, incidentally, bought land where the Dryer House now is. Tina and her cousin are descended from that John Clouse's son George. Two days later, we heard from another descendant of the first John Clouse, the Rev. Ronald Murdock of Pickerington, Ohio, whom we look forward to meeting. Other descendants of the first John Clouse in our Society include Robert Dean and our cover boy, Liam Otten.

THANKS to BOB DICKENDESHER for donating various interesting items to our Society from his now-demolished house in the center of old New Albany. They include an old wooden carpet sweeper, some old books & magazines, oil lamps, unusual & very old tobacco tins, and a wooden curiosity which may have been a horse-feeding trough.

On Nov. 8, David Cline, Robert Dean, and Nancy Ferguson attended a meeting of the **HARLEM TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY** in Center Village. An excellent program on Ohio's original land divisions was presented by historian-surveyor Jim Williams of Gahanna, who is about to publish a book on this same subject. We hope to have him talk to our group in the spring.

DONATIONS to the Society of 1860-ish Plain Township items, as follows, would be appreciated: a couple of small lamp tables and one long, narrow table that would fit in the Ealy entrance hall.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
Treasurer's Report September/October, 2012

<u>Income</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Donation Jar	\$ 13.00	
Newsletter Donation	100.00	10.00
Memberships (J & D Goedeking, M Campbell, D & S Carter, S & C Buzza)		70.00
Harvest of the Arts Donations		110.00
Harvest of the Arts (see breakdown below)		861.50
Checking Interest	<u>2.17</u>	<u>1.95</u>
Total Income	\$ 115.17	\$1,053.45
 <u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$61.59,\$32.30;RTD\$6.21,\$6.26)	\$ 67.80	38.56
AT&T	25.90	26.05
Durable Slate (Ealy Roof Repair)	300.00	
Applebutter supplies		<u>115.10</u>
ADT Security	<u>107.97</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 501.67	\$ 179.71
September 1 st Balance	\$ 23,893.54	
Income	1,168.62	
Expenses	681.38	
Balance October 31 st	<u>\$ 24,380.78</u>	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 09/30/12	21,310.54	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 06/30/12	67,184.03	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (9/30/12)	123,817.03 (includes 8,227.89 (6.66452%)	(Memorial Money)
 <u>Harvest of the Arts</u>		
Bake Sale	\$171.75	
Candles	322.00	
Applebutter	130.00	
Scarecrows	95.00	
Antiques, Tools, Gourds	<u>142.75</u>	
Total	\$861.50	

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

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In this issue:

The Lucius Smith diaries, p. 3

Lillian Shannon, p. 5

Thomas Keesee, p. 5

*The Ealy House will be open to the public
from 1 to 3 p.m. on
Fri. Nov. 23 and also Sun. Dec. 2*

*The NAPTHS annual Holiday Dinner will be
on Thurs. Dec. 6 at 6:15 p.m. Make
reservations now. Details on p. 2.*