

Newsletter

October and November 2012
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



A class of 8th-grade students in the Ealy House back yard following a tour of the house in late August. They are in front of an old bell, which they have been taking turns ringing. Social Studies teacher Jim Morgan stands behind the group, next to the bell post.

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

Business: There will be elections of officers and one Trustee. A slate will be presented, and nominations may also be made from the floor.

Program: John Saveson has been reading the 1862 diary of Lucius Smith which is being analyzed by Dr. Ulman's graduate class at OSU (see August 2 minutes, p. 8). For our program, John will reveal some of this diary's very interesting contents--material which relates to the way of life in New Albany in the 1860's.

Sat. OCT. 13 -- **HARVEST THE ARTS** festival at Dorans' farm at 5462 Babbitt Rd. (between old 161 and Morse).

Hours: Workers: 10-5. Open to public: 11-4.

Details on page 3.

Thurs. Oct. 25 -- Board Meeting

Thurs. NOVEMBER 1 -- 7 p.m., **Society Meeting** at the new "Green" residence of Bill and Pauline Resch, 5610 Morgan St. (Morgan St. is just west of the Catholic Church, off Dublin-Granville Rd.).

Thur. Nov. 8 -- Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. Nov. 22 -- Thanksgiving

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

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

Thurs. Dec. 6 -- Save this date for our annual Holiday Dinner.

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.

HARVEST THE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 13, 2012

We will be participating, as always, along with the Arts Council, in the annual autumn celebration to be held at Dorans' farm, 5462 Babbitt Road. We will have our regular scarecrow-making, candle-dipping, apple butter, and bake sale booths, plus one new and different attraction: an Antiques/Collectibles table, where we will offer for sale antique and vintage tools, books, glassware, china, linens, and whatever else comes to light as we sort through our holdings.

We will call on our members to help keep these five booths going. We can arrange for morning shifts (10:30-1:30) or afternoon shifts (1:30-4:30). Also, of course, we will be asking for contributions of homemade baked goods for the bake sale. As you know by now, and though you dread and fear this news, we must comply with the State Board of Health's labeling requirements. See below for instructions.

LABELS FOR THE BAKE SALE ITEMS

Every package must have a label with the following information:

1. It must say "Homemade."
2. Name of our organization: New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054. (Your own name is not necessary, oddly enough.)
3. Name of the food item. (For example, "Brownies")
4. The ingredients, listed by weight from heaviest to lightest. Just do your best with this. (Remember that the ingredients added last are often the heaviest, like nuts and raisins.)
5. If you use an ingredient that is itself made of other ingredients, you have to include those as listed on the package they come from.

DONATIONS STILL WELCOME

We still need (1) old candles for candle-making; (2) old long-sleeved button-front shirts, pantyhose, hats, and blue jeans for scarecrow-making; and (3) pint and half-pint canning jars for apple butter. Call Marilyn Regrut (797-4490) or Marty Saveson (855-9809) to arrange pick-up. The above items are needed ahead of Oct. 13, but baked goods should be brought to the festival on the morning of Oct. 13, preferably by 10 a.m. If you can't donate ANYthing from above lists or for the bake sale, we are always happy to receive cash contributions.

**A HISTORY OF THE
NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

by Arloia Walton

Rudy Sever, New Albany High School Social Studies instructor, thought that his students would like to know about the community in which they lived. Thus, in August 1974 he ran a short 'blurb' in the local paper, the **New Albany-Plain News**, that read, "Everyone interested in forming a local history society please attend a meeting to be held in the administration office of the New Albany High School."

A good number of residents came. Among them were the following: Clark and Martha Ranney, who donated the first money to be used for future needs; James and Willis Doran, who were brothers and who had both taught in the school system; Alice and Herschel Boesch, new residents in 1974; Reggie Beurnier, also new to the area; Beth Coble, who later became the Secretary-Treasurer and kept splendid records (her first book is in the Society's inventory); Naomi Swickard Fodor, whose Swickard ancestors were among the first arrivals in Plain Township; Cecil and Arloia Baughman Walton. The Baughmans came to Ohio in 1803. Naomi, Cecil, and Arloia had all graduated from New Albany High School. Cecil was a Lieutenant Colonel, retired from the U.S. Air Force and a veteran of WW II. And there were others. Our Society has newspaper photos and articles on file about the formation of the Society. (Editor's note: See also our NAPTH Society Newsletters of April 2003 through Oct. 2004 for a very detailed, year-by-year history of the Society, also written by Arloia Walton).

Rudy did all the work to organize the Society. The name was debated, but "New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society" was decided upon as indicating clearly that the Society was meant to be a community-wide organization. Rudy also served as President for a while (and even furnished refreshments!).

Jean Barnes, the editor of the **New Albany-Plain News**, joined, and totally supported the new organization. Many of her weekly issues featured news of our group on her front page. The owner of the paper was John Ashbrook of Johnstown. He was also the U.S. Representative from our district and a friend of New Albany.

As the local people became more interested, we began to meet in members' homes. Students joined the Society. History (in the form of photos, antique objects, diaries, old schoolbooks, toys, a wedding

gown, furniture, etc.) began coming out of the closets of long-time residents, to form a growing collection. A great amount of information about the history of our area was gained, and eventually published in a booklet: **The History of New Albany . . . A Framework** (1984), now out of print.

The first elected officers were Elwood ("Slim") Kennaw as President, Arloia Walton as Vice President, and Beth Coble as Secretary-Treasurer. Dues were set as follows: Students, \$1.00; single adults, \$2.00; married couples, \$3.00; corporations, \$5.00; "sustaining members," \$10.00. A life membership cost \$25.00. Our most successful early fund-raiser was delivering telephone books.

The **New Albany Plain News** had put together a Telephone Directory to be given free to all residents, and the newspaper offered a payment to the Society to deliver them. An idea sprang into Hersh Boesch's head: In order to get the free book, you had to join the Historical Society. The membership leaped in numbers, but none of the rest of us had the courage to copy his technique. We often thanked Hersh for building up our membership so quickly. Meanwhile, the **New Albany-Plain News** gave us a very good record of printed articles about our activities, with many original photos.

A building of our own was always in the plans for the future. Our first attempt was to reconstruct a log cabin which had been donated through the efforts of Rudy and "Slim" Kennaw. The cabin came from Slim's home place in southern Ohio. This cabin was hauled to a plot at the Plain Township Park (corner of Harlem and Central College Roads). Money soon became a problem, and volunteers were few. The half-finished two-story cabin was an eyesore to the Trustees. They ordered it to be moved or they would burn it down. That really made the front page! Ultimately, the membership did tear it down and at first stored the logs on the Walton farm on Central College Road. Soon afterwards, the members moved them to the schoolgrounds, but despite all efforts, the logs began to rot. (I have no memory of the final story.)

In 1994, the Kern-Harrington House on E. Granville Street came up for sale, and through the leadership of Ralph Lowell Parrell, a Society member and former resident of New Albany, the Society obtained a loan. It was an ambitious move, but many people worked diligently to meet payments and to restore the house to its 1881 appearance.

For the Society to become accredited as a member of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, Rudy Sever, and Willard & Patty Zarley gathered information such as news clippings,

photos, budget records, and more to submit an application to become an official member, as a Society and as a Museum. From then on, we took part in the annual meetings and were kept current with valuable programs that the larger Society offers. By the late 1980's and early 1990's the NAPTHS had become a valuable part of the community.

Meanwhile, Joe Ciminello, a developer, had been purchasing farms in the northern part of the Township and was building the sub-division "The Links." The McElwee farm on Walnut Street was part of that acreage. Mr. Ciminello gave our Society the lovely brick farm house and its barn, garage, and other out-buildings on three acres of land. Mrs. McElwee (Evelyn Dryer) requested that the name of the property be the Rose Taylor Dryer House, because the money used to buy the Walnut Street property had been inherited from Evelyn's mother, Rose Taylor Dryer. The NAPTHS membership has used the property for sales and some other events over the years, but never as a museum.

In the early 1990's Leslie Wexner discovered Plain Township and liked the land that he saw. Many lives were changed as people sold their properties to him. Some of them stayed in this beautiful area, and some moved elsewhere. When large, beautiful homes were built, newcomers moved to Plain Township, and an outstanding new school was built. Through it all, the Historical Society grew and now has become an important and useful organization helping residents (especially school students) to learn about our local history.

One time, Rob Hull, one of the New Albany Company's planners, came to see Cecil and me. He had mental plans of using the site of the old Shell filling station for a library. And even at that time, he thought that what we now know as the Ealy House would make a very nice historical museum. He would have been so pleased to see that that has happened.

The story of our Historical Society will surely continue for years to come. How very proud I am to have been a part of its history. Hats off to the wonderful people who have given so much to New Albany and Plain Township.

My heart is still with all of you. I miss you all, but Georgia can grow on a person.

June 20, 2012

Sincerely,

Arlee

**NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes from the Meeting of August 2, 2012
at the Plain Township Fire Station**

Meeting called to order by President Marilyn Regrut at 7:10 Pm at the NA Fire Station.

Minutes from last meeting read by Marty Saveson. Motion to accept the minutes as read, by Kathy Yager, second Sharon Carter.

Financial report distributed and explained by Helen Pestel, motion to accept David Cline, second Marty Saveson

OLD BUSINESS

Harlem Township Historical Society Event, August 18, will include the quilt display. Nancy Ferguson is unable to participate as planned; we need another person to help set up and share the quilt. Liz Fleicher has already volunteered.

Ealy Open House Aug 18, in conjunction with car show at Resurrection parking lot.

Docent training will occur August 20; several interested persons will attend.

Money is available to have the electrical work done, need three estimates. Contractor will be at Ealy Aug 7, 9:30, to give first estimate; all interested members welcome to participate.

Pantry restoration needs contractor estimates, need names of 2 more possible contractors.

Labor Day Yard sale at Dryer will require a work day, August 13, at RTD instead of the Ealy House. [Editor's note: sale was later canceled.]

NEW BUSINESS

Dryer House: vandals have damaged the house, much broken glass. We are attempting to contact Joe Ciminello. Members interested in attending a meeting with Joe are Neil Kirby, David Cline, and Marty Saveson.

Graduate student from University of PA is collecting data on why people work/volunteer at museums. Sign-up sheet passed to those present.

David Cline discussed lack of weather stripping on exterior Ealy House doors and the fact that daylight shows. He made a motion that we ask Ron Davis to install weather stripping to cost no more than \$150.00. Second by Helen Pestel, all present in favor.

**NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes from the Meeting of September 6, 2012
at the Plain Township Fire Station**

Marty announced that Sharon Carter has provided an updated membership list.

Harvest of Arts October 13: Marty said we have jars for apple butter; two people volunteered to make it. She will need panty hose for scarecrows.

John and Marty Saveson discussed a contact made by an OSU Professor of English, Louis Ulman. OSU has acquired 2 original diaries written by Lucius Smith, son of Archibald Smith. Dr Ulman visited the Ealy House with the Savesons and also the property which was the home of Archibald Smith (where Lucius grew up). This is now the home of Mark Baranosky and Emily Eby. Dr Ulman is using the diaries in a graduate class he is teaching this fall, and may visit NA properties again with some students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Program on Chatelaines by Jean Champoux of Westerville who is a Docent at Hanby House. She showed and discussed her chatelaines (meaning chains) as "holders of tools and items needed for life." Items with loops on chains attached to your waist band or hung around one's neck. The chatelaines began very early, holding keys to prosperous homes, and evolved into jewelry.

-- Respectfully submitted, Kathy Yager, Secretary pro tem

NOTES & NEWS

15 CLASSES OF 8th-GRADERS were given tours of the Ealy House during the first three weeks of school. Social Studies teachers Jim Morgan, Gabe Heselton, and Erin Farley work together to incorporate the experience of touring our 1860 house with their American History program. They want their students to start the year finding out that history is all around them here in New Albany. The kids seem to lap it up.

We are very happy to have **FOUR NEW DOCENTS**. As much fun as it is showing students the house, some of us oldies do get tired from 3 and even 4 tours in one day, so we really appreciate having Sally Hess, Susie Banchevsky, Catherine Saveson, and Bill Resch join our ranks. They declare that they enjoy these tours and will be glad to help us out again.

WILLOW OTTEN (daughter of Cath Saveson and Rick Otten), who is a 12-year-old whiz on the computer, put several years of back issues of our Newsletter onto our Society website during the summer. When she has time, she plans to continue this project and also to start an index to the topics covered in the Newsletters. Thanks, Willow!

President, Marilyn Regrut called the meeting to order. The minutes were read by Liz Feichter. Sharon Carter made a motion to approve as read and David Cline seconded. The motion passed.

Helen Pestel detailed the financial report. Liz Feichter made a motion to accept as read and Sharon Carter seconded. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

15 8th grade American History classes toured the museum; 28 students per class. Four new docents helped with the tours. We are pleased to welcome Catherine Saveson, Sally Hess, Suzee Banchevsky and Bill Resch.

We still need Ealy work estimates for electricity in certain areas and the pantry.

The yard sale has been postponed. We discussed having a table with sale items at Harvest the Arts. There just isn't enough help to have things ready and to conduct the sale. Liz Feichter made the motion and Helen Pestel seconded the idea of a table. The work-day to select items from the Dryer House will be October 8th at 9AM. We will take the items home, clean them and then take them to HA on the 13th.

Harvest the Arts is October 13th. We will need workers for apple butter. Naomi Fodor and Sharon Carter will make apple butter. Liz Feichter will provide some 1/2 pint jars.

Helen Pestel will be in charge of the bake sale. We will still have the candle-making and scarecrows. We will have the canopies if needed for the booths/tables for our displays.

Catherine Saveson has written a wonderful tri-fold brochure on the Ealy House Museum. We are having 100 printed and will be given to teachers before the tour to familiarize the students on the history of the house. She is developing a scavenger hunt for the students and has also suggested a time-line of historical events with people who have lived in the Ealy House.

Sharon Carter made a motion to accept the brochure, and to have it printed. David Cline seconded and the motion passed.

Board members were contacted by phone to accept the \$300 bid from Durable Slate to repair and replace roof slate, seal around the chimneys and tighten the ridge. This was brought before the membership and approved.

Nancy and David presented the problem with the bats and advised Critter Control is under warranty to get rid of bats after the repair and replacement of the roofing slates. Nancy wants a sealant between the roof and the window, 3 or 4 feet long. Nancy and David will take care of this and if it shows, will cover it with a board.

All officers are up for reelection and we need to elect one board member for a three-year term. Theresa Kempker and possibly Kathy Yager will be the nominating committee. (Neither was at the meeting in September!)

Robert Dean announced the Building Doctor would be in the area on September 27 and 28. He and David Cline may attend.

Marty Saveson gave an interesting program on the home of President Warren Harding, the 29th President of the United States who was elected in 1920. The home was built in 1891. He replaced a wooden porch in 1903 with a large rounded stone porch where he conducted the final front porch campaign in the country. The home is in Marion, Ohio, and has been renovated into a museum. It was turned over to the State of Ohio to operate and the State in turn has given the Ohio Historical Society rights of operation.

This would make a great road trip for the Society sometime.

-- Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

(Minutes yet to be approved)

CARROLL WILLIAM HUFF

We were very sorry to learn that our long-time member Carroll Huff had died on July 31, at the age of 83. The son of Clarence and Dorcas McElwee Huff, he was a member of a large family of eight boys and one girl. He graduated from Gahanna High School in 1946, served in the U.S. Army, and later graduated from the Ohio State University. He worked as a certified public accountant in New Albany for many years, and also was a farmer. We send our condolences to his wife of 58 years, Donna Needles Huff, and their two daughters, Carol Jean and Maria.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society Treasurer's Report July/August, 2012

<u>Income</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Donation	\$ 150.00	
Panoramic Picture	175.00	
July 4 th & August 18 th pamphlets & donations	20.00	\$ 8.00
Pamphlets	2.50	9.00
Membership (Connie Folk-renewal)		10.00
Checking Interest	<u>1.90</u>	<u>1.92</u>
Total Income	\$ 349.40	\$ 28.92
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$44.89;\$79.10;RTD\$5.90;\$5.90)	\$ 50.79	\$ 85.00
AT&T	25.93	25.98
Columbus-City Treasurer -Water & Sewer		31.43
James D DeCamp (4 large & 1 small panoramic pictures)	163.25	
OLHA (Historical Museum Association dues)		35.00
Print Xpress (Newsletter)		<u>56.60</u>
Max Spangler, Buckeye Belgians (July 4th Parade)	<u>450.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 689.97	\$ 234.01
July 1 st Balance	\$ 24,439.20	
Income	378.32	
Expenses	923.98	
Balance August 31 st	<u>\$ 23,893.54</u>	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 06/30/12	20,546.56	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 06/30/12	67,184.03	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (7/31/12)	121,665.33 (includes 8,108.41 (6.66452% Memorial Money)	

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

MORE NEWS — A NEW BROCHURE about the Ealy House has been created by Cath Saveson, following her experience helping with the 8th-grade tours. It gives some background information on the house and the families who lived there and includes brief descriptions of the rooms included in the school tours, with emphasis on the way of life in a farmhouse of the Civil War period. You may access this brochure on our web site (see back cover).

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

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www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org

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Marilyn Regrut

6600 Meadow Glenn Drive

Westerville, OH 43082

Y 11/11

Remember these Dates:

Thurs. Oct. 4 — Society meeting at Fire Station

Sat. Oct. 13 — Harvest the Arts Festival

Thurs. Nov. 1 — Society Meeting at Resch home