

# *Newsletter*

*October and November 2009*

*New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society*

*P.O. Box 219*

*New Albany, Ohio 43054*

*(614) 855-9861*

*www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org*



*South and west sides of the newly restored Phelps House  
in the center of New Albany, Ohio*

### LOIS BRENNING ENGLISH (1937-2009)

Lois Ann English was a close friend of mine for 57 years. She was our class president when we graduated from New Albany High School in 1955. She began working at Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company (now AEP), where she met Don English. They were married on April 12, 1969. They built a house on Walnut Street and adopted a brother and sister, Shawn and Dawn. Lois gardened, grew flowers, collected animals (horses, dogs, cats), fed birds, and kept her home. St. Paul Lutheran Church was an important part of her life. She played the piano for Sunday School and attended regularly. She and Don became members of our Society.

When I returned to New Albany in 1995, our friendship picked up where it had left off. We talked about the good old days and decided that these are the good old days. We remembered our trip to Washington, D. C., and laughed over the pictures. We remembered the Van Cliburn concert and our "just so" seats where we could watch his hands on the keys; the movies, and the Columbus Symphony concerts we attended. We went to a couple of alumni banquets, but she was unable to attend our 50th class reunion, and she was missed by all.

Her husband passed away suddenly in 1997, and her son, Shawn, was killed in Iraq on Dec. 3, 2006. Her daughter, Dawn (Chris) Carroll, and her five grandchildren, Christopher and Samantha Carroll, and Nathan, Noah, and Austin English survive. Lois was the daughter of Russell and Hazel (Schleppi) Brenning; a granddaughter of Leo and Ethel Schleppi.

I will remember Lois the way she would want me to remember her: that big smile of hers and her laughter. Oh yes, let there always be laughter.

-- Liz Feichter

### NEW RULES FOR HARVEST THE ARTS

On Saturday, Oct. 10, the annual Harvest the Arts Festival will take place at Dorans' farm, 5462 Babbitt Road. But some things will be different, due to stricter rules by the Franklin County Board of Health. We WILL have our Scarecrows and Candle-dipping as usual, and also the Bake Sale, but now we will need to attach ingredient labels to each package (see below). We will not be allowed to make soup in an open kettle or sell home-made sandwiches. But we still look forward to a good time on Oct. 10th.

### LABELING ITEMS FOR THE BAKE SALE

Every package must have a label with the following information:

1. Name of the organization. In our case, **New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054.** (We do not need to include the name of the person doing the baking, only the name of the organization.)

2. Every food item for sale needs a name.

**Example: Grandma Kirby's Biscuits**

3. The ingredients should be listed by weight, from heaviest to lightest. Just try your best with that. This, to me, is the hardest step, because you can't list ingredients in the order in which you add them. It's not a recipe, but an ingredients list.

**Example: Flour, water, butter, baking powder, salt**

(Remember that the ingredients that are often added last--nuts, raisins, chocolate chips--are often the heaviest.)

4. If you use an ingredient that is itself made of other ingredients, you have to break that down. This will be especially important if you use mixes. Just copy the ingredients off the package, since those are already listed by weight, and list them in parentheses.

**Example: Chocolate chips (evaporated cane juice, unsweetened chocolate, cocoa butter, soy lecithin, ground vanilla beans).**

*Minutes of the Meeting of the  
NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

*August 6, 2009*

President Kin Cathell called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the New Albany Library.

Minutes read were as printed in the *August September Newsletter*.

Minutes were approved as printed with the following changes: Date changed from June 4 to July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Regarding RTD House repairs: Correction to read "There has been a new bid presented for repairs to the RTD House soffits, and overhang. ... It is not for a complete replacement of the soffits on the main part of the house but to repair and paint what is missing or rotted.

Regarding Historical designation: Change sentence about National Registry Marker to read Ohio State historical marker for the Ealy House. Delete National Registry wording.

Motion to accept by John Ayres, second by Neil Kirby

Treasurers Report, distributed and explained. July 31<sup>st</sup> balance \$19,903.96  
Motion to accept Sharon Carter, second David Cline.

Kim presented a measured computer simulation of the proposed sidewalk done by Mr. Parish. The size and shape of the brick area at the base of the steps was discussed. Neil Kirby and John Ayres demonstrated the actual 8ft by 9ft proposed space using visuals on the carpet. It was felt this size is adequate for our needs. A curve versus a 45 degree angle where the brick pad meets the walkway was discussed. It was felt that a 45 degree angle better fits with the house design. The sidewalk is to be 4 ft (48 inches) wide and lead to the nature trail. John Saveson moved that we accept the specifications as stated, John Ayres seconded. Approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Official drawings must be made for the Village.

John Saveson moved to use Inspired Design as the contractor, Second Sharon Carter. All ayes

The Historical Marker application has been submitted to the Village, the marker will be placed on a post type sign

Harvest of the Arts: October 10, 2009

Board member responsibilities: Helen Pestel, bake sale; Kim Cathell, Soup corn bread, sandwiches; Marty Saveson, scarecrows; Presbyterian Church members, Candle making; Naomi Fodor, apple butter; Sharon Carter, rag dolls; David Cline, set up. Marty Saveson and Marilyn Regrut, calling.

Phone calls will include requests for bake sale donations and workers for the bake sale and food table and set up. Sign up sheets will be passed at the September meeting.

RTD Yard Sale: September 25 & 26. Help is needed to prepare for the sale and to work the days of the sale. Hours will be 9-4 on Friday, 9-2 on Saturday. Discussed having a give away pile with donations accepted. There has been one work morning at RTE House to begin sorting sale items, will work again Monday 8/10 from 9-12.

Ealy house Back Porch: Kim reported that the first drawing shows ramp over the property line, architect has been asked to change the angle to 90 degrees. This information came from a meeting attended by Kim and Helen May 27. Much discussion ensued regarding the validity of the Village claims that the ramp is over the property line and maintenance difficulty if the ramp is built at 90 degrees from the porch. John S stated that 60-62 degrees will be adequate. Neil Kirby stated that the specifications as previously drawn should meet ARB requirements.

Neil Kirby moved that the Society immediately submit to the village a package for ARB review that contains at minimum all the items that are required to obtain an occupancy permit for the Ely house. Neil Kirby will pay the \$300.00 submission fee. Submission will not be delayed for any items that do not prevent the Society from obtaining an occupancy permit. The Society authorizes specific people to sign the submission paperwork as agent and owner. Those specific people are the President, the Vice-President, John Saveson, John Ayres, or Neil Kirby.

Any other items needing ARB review but not required to obtain an occupancy permit will be submitted separately by the Society using the money already allocated for that purpose.

Addendum: Using the diagrams from Claggett dated 27 April, 2009.

Seconded by John Ayres.

Vote by show of hands, motion passed.

Adjourned 8:55 PM. Refreshments by Naomi Fodor and Marilyn Regrut

Submitted by: Marilyn Regrut, secretary

*Minutes of the Meeting of the  
NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

*September 3, 2009*

The meeting began with the secretary reading two letters. President Kim Cathell submitted her resignation in writing. Vice President David Cline submitted his resignation in writing. Neither was present. These letters are attached to the minutes of this meeting. Permission has been granted by the authors for printing in the Newsletter without any editorial changes.

Treasurer Helen Pestel opened the meeting. She stated that new officers will be named by the Executive Board as stipulated in the Bylaws. She introduced the Board members.

Helen immediately identified three issues that need attention: Garage sale, Back porch and Harvest of the Arts.

Minutes of August 6 meeting were read, motion to accept by Neil Kirby, second by John Saveson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report distributed and explained. Balance reported of \$19,921.28. Motion to accept by Neil Kirby, second John Ayres.

Walkway: John Saveson asked if Sharon has made arrangements for installation of the front walkway. She has not but is willing to do so. The contractor needs information regarding 45 degrees angle rather than a curve at base of the steps. Sharon has the information to communicate; Drawings will need to go to the Village for approval. The removal of the old bricks which remain buried was discussed. It was felt that Boy Scout assistance is not a feasible option. Sharon will ask the contractor to do this work.

Back Porch: Hearing will be held by ARB on September 14. Helen related construction specifics, material wood, and color white.

Garage Sale: Brief discussion about having the garage sale as scheduled resulted in consensus to postpone, possibly until the end of October. Monday mornings have been designated workdays for moving catalogued items to the Ealy House. Discussion of using Craig's List to sell desk tops and office type items that are not needed by the Society ensued. Heated discussion regarding activities by members at RTD house to prepare for Craig's list at a time that was not the designated work day and without the membership vote to list on Craigs List.

Patty Zarley reported that there are items that have never been catalogued at RTD house. Patty Zarley asked permission to check on the non catalogued items at RTD prior to the sale. Sharon Carter moved that Patty Zarley be allowed to check the non catalogued items prior to sale. Second by Marilyn Regrut. Addendum by John Ayres to include that Patty Zarley should remove from consideration for sale any items she thinks should not be sold. Second by Sharon Carter. Vote for addendum all ayes, vote for original motion all ayes. Carried.

Patty suggested hiring a professional garage sale person to organize and handle the sale. Patty will inquire about a contact to do this.

Bob Dickendeshler requested that the swedge he donated be returned to him if not being used or saved.

Theresa Kempker stated that the cubicle dividers might be utilized by Delaware County as homeless are housed at Vineyard Church of Sunbury. It was agreed by consensus to offer the dividers to them.

Neil Kirby announced that the Habitat Store on Sunbury Rd might be an outlet for "leftovers".

Harvest of the Arts: Helen discussed changes in available volunteers that will affect Harvest of the Arts. Theresa Kempker explained and distributed printed detailed regulations and instructions from the Board of Health regarding serving food. Soup and sandwiches will NOT be permitted. Bake sale items must be labeled with the name of the Society, the name of the item and a list of ingredients in order by weight. Sharon Carter offered to print labels for apple butter since all use the same recipe.

The need for tents for the bake sale discussed. Marty Saveson announced that Steve Bevelhmyer will help with set up, he knows where the tents are stored. Electricity is not needed.

Since the soup and sandwiches will not be sold, it was suggested that those people might help with the bake sale. The question of selling apple cider came up with no resolution. The Board will discuss Harvest of Arts at greater length.

RTD House: Helen stated that the electricity must be hooked up, she asked for volunteers to do it. She also stated that the furnace must be fixed, parts are available only through a York authorized dealer. Sharon Carter moved

that a York Authorized dealer be contacted to make the necessary repairs. Second by Kathy Yager. Vote passed with all in agreement.

Concerns about the condition of some books stored in the unheated structure were discussed.

Status of the soffit repair by Scott Clark was questioned. Helen stated that she has not provided any funds for materials. Will need to ask David Cline.

Key to the Ealy House was discussed with questions regarding the number of keys and who has them. The officers have possession of a key, with the exception of Helen Pestel who was not present when keys were distributed. Helen has the key that David Cline had. Neil Kirby moved that keys be made if 4 are not available, one for each officer. Second by John Saveson. all ayes. Helen noted that there probably are 4 keys now in existence. Heated discussion ensued regarding security of museum items. Prior issues involving removal of items (pictures) and donation to a school and sale of items deemed not for sale by the curator were presented as examples of security need. The issue of safety was discussed, persons not working for the society should not be in the house. An officer should be aware of entrance.

The kitchen lock off was discussed regarding keys to access only the basement. This was planned to allow educational space for environmental classes conducted by Bill Resch, without opening the upper levels. John Ayres noted that restrictions exist on the use of the property for meetings.

The question of the location of the deeds to the properties was brought up. Helen Pestel stated that she has the RTD deed.

Patty Zarley requested a vote of gratitude for the work done by John and Marty Saveson.

John Saveson requested that items not be accepted for the collection unless useful or saleable.

Alarm system was discussed. John Ayres moved that the alarm system at the Ealy House be turned on and made operable. Second by Sharon Carter. There was brief discussion but no decision on who should be notified when the alarm goes off.

Next meeting will be a business meeting rather than a wiener roast. Marty will contact the Library or Fire Department for a room.

The executive Board will meet next Tuesday at 7 PM at Tim Hortons. It is the responsibility of the executive Board to replace officers and board members. Any members who are interested in consideration for one of the vacant offices should come to the Board Meeting or make a remaining officer or a board member aware.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:50 PM by Neil Kirby, second Sharon Carter.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Regrut, Secretary

*(Note: the above minutes  
have been printed before  
being approved by the Society.)*

## **MORE LEGENDS ABOUT ST. ALBAN** *(continued from the last newsletter)*

*Following the refusal of the first executioner to behead Alban, because he had converted to Christianity, another executioner was found, either from the crowd or from among Alban's guards. After the beheading, the actual executioner's eyes popped out. A spring is said to have started near the place of execution. Some say it started at the top of the hill when Alban, who was thirsty, asked God for water. Others say that Alban's head rolled down the hill after the beheading and, at the place where it stopped, a spring gushed forth.*

*The site of Alban's death and burial became shrines. Eventually, a Benedictine abbey was built there and then the cathedral. The town's name also became St. Albans. At the time of the emigration of great numbers of British to the American colonies, the 1600's through the 1700's, the cathedral had fallen into great disrepair because of the religious conflict in the country. We know that the desire for freedom from such religious conflicts, as well as from the resultant civil and economic strife, has always brought people from around the world, including from St. Albans, to our country.*

*-- Theresa Kempker*

## **ANN RANNEY ABBOTT (1922-2009)**

*We were sorry to learn of the death on September 1 of Ann Ranney Abbott, a long-time member of our community and friend to many members of our Society. Her parents were Clark Ranney Sr. and Martha Taylor Ranney. She was a great-granddaughter of Dr. Sylvester Ranney, who was for over 40 years the one and only doctor in New Albany. Several years ago Ann lent the Society several of Dr. Ranney's casebooks, which are a mine of information about not only his patients (the forebears of many of us), but also the village of New Albany from about 1850 to 1895. We hope that the casebooks will be well preserved, whoever inherits them.*

LETTER OF RESIGNATION ADDRESSED TO THE SOCIETY

September 3, 2009

12 The New Albany Plain Township Historical Society was established to preserve, protect and educate our community on the history of Plain Township. The Society has an obligation to this community to honor this intention. The Society has received many donations of items that families have given to help preserve their piece of that local history. Their piece of that local history may have been something that was brought to this community when they arrived and passed down, something that someone crafted here out of necessity or something that was purchased and used by their family. This preservation is not an option, not based on someone's choice or period of time. The history of Plain Township is from its earliest inhabitants until today. A Collection Management Policy was put into place to add accountability to our task of preservation.

The Society adopted a Constitution and Bylaws to add order to the Society and create legitimacy. These must be adhered to and remain the basis for operations of the society. To cast aside these documents is the beginning of disestablishing the society and the loss of its charter. It has been difficult at best to find volunteer help within this group, to find people willing to serve as officers and trustees has been next to impossible. Those who have given their time and energy to fulfill these positions deserve your respect and appreciation. They have given countless hours, some not visible to you. They have consistently attended meetings, discussed, debated and tried to do what was voted best for the Society. That has always been their vision, what is best for the Society. We cannot allow ourselves to focus on the desires and agenda of a few. We cannot limit our focus to a single period or a single family.

In the last few years I have noticed the drop in attendance; many members have come to me and stated the trade in houses has caused them to stop participating. Some have said that rehashing of business that should be done at board meetings is the reason they quit attending. Others have said the society is losing its direction. I thought it would change. I tried to conduct the business at board meetings, I tried to reiterate the focus of the society, I tried to put programs in the general meetings. Many of the older members, who were long term community members, have told me they appreciated what we were trying to do, they knew the battles we were fighting. Many of them left for those reasons. They tried to keep supporting and encouraging the board members.

13 In the most recent newsletter, information was printed as to the location of my daughter. This was a violation of her clearance and Navy directives. If discovered, this ends her current Naval career. I had no advance knowledge or idea that this information would be printed. It is for these reasons that I am resigning the office of President. I feel that it is a futile effort to keep working and debating only to have members disregard the founding documents, vision and purpose of this society. At this point, I have accepted the resignation of David Cline as Vice President, and the trustees of this organization have the task to appoint a new President and Vice President, according to our Constitution. I wish them all well I and know they will do their best, they always do.

*Kimberly Cattel*

August 26, 2009

Kim Cathell - President:

14  
I joined the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society because I like history and working to preserve history. I accepted the office of vice president because Jim Fodor thought I should do it. I was reluctant because I did not grow up around here and have only lived in the area about 14 years. Jim said that did not make any difference. After Jim passed away, I felt I needed to do this for him. I am retired on medical disability, and find the Society to be very stressful. Part of my disability includes the ability to think quickly, I now have justified reasons, why I pulled the ARB. It was my decision based on review of the documents after I returned home. I now am finding more stress and I can no longer physically do the things I would like to do for the society or myself.

Therefore effective August 26, 2009. I am resigning as Vice-President of the New Albany Historical Society. I joined to enjoy it and I sure have not.

David Cline

*David M. Cline*

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society  
Treasurer's Report – July/August, 2009

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<u>Income</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Founders Day – Bake Sale	\$ 30.00	
Pamphlets	5.75	12.50
Membership (Shannon)		\$ 10.00
Donation		40.00
Checking Interest	<u>1.94</u>	<u>1.93</u>
Total Income	\$ 37.69	\$ 64.43
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP – (Ealy \$34.18, \$20.01; RTD <del>\$4.94</del> <sup>\$4.94</sup> )	\$ 39.12	\$ 24.95
AT&T	22.23	<u>22.18</u>
Rumpke	<u>53.44</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 114.79	\$ 47.13

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July 1st Balance	\$ 19,981.08
Income	102.12
Expenses	161.92
August 31 <sup>st</sup> Balance	\$19,921.28
Hold for Computer	1,800.00
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
18 Month CD Balance 2.47% Annual Int.	5,541.37
Vanguard Fund Balance 06/30/09	15,167.11
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 06/30/09	54,680.51
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 06/30/09	32,065.35

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer



### *The Phelps House*

Rollin and Nancy Clouse Phelps purchased this and 4 adjacent lots in 1855, 3 days before their wedding. Rollin Phelps, a carrier (person who works with leather), established his tannery just south of this building, on the corner of Main Street and Dublin-Granville, shortly after the purchase. The Phelps family built this home sometime between 1856 and 1868 and continued to live here until 1882.\*

In the first half of the 20th Century, this home was owned by Harry and Dora Taylor who raised a large garden in the rear of the property and sold vegetables to many New Albany residents. The Taylors built a bomb shelter in the lower level of the home which served as the headquarters for the New Albany Civil Defense system. Parts of the bomb shelter still exist today.

The New Albany Company purchased this house and adjacent properties in 2003. In 2006, Leslie and Abigail Wexner and the New Albany Company generously donated a portion of the land to the McCoy Community Center for the Arts, and donated this house and the remaining land to the Village of New Albany. In 2009, the Village of New Albany, with significant financial assistance from David and Ellen Ryan, restored the house for use as offices for the staff of the McCoy Center.

*\*See pp. 11-12 in **Historic New Albany** by John E. Saveson.*

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