

Newsletter

June and July 2013

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



The Rose Taylor Dryer House at 7569 E. Walnut Street, a spring-time view showing the weeping cherry tree on the east side. See page six for an article about the future of this appealing house built by the Alspach family in the 1870's. (The present name of the property honors the mother of a later owner.) A very large old barn and four smaller out-buildings, remnants of a long-ago farm, also stand on the three-acre property.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAYS AT THE EALY HOUSE -- 9:30-12:00 -- 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. JUNE 6, 6 p.m. — ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC -- at the Saveson barn, 8370 Clouse Road. The Board will provide several main dishes. Everyone else please bring a salad, or side dish, or dessert to share. Iced tea, lemonade, and ice water will be provided. Also, please bring your own table service (extras will be available). All members are urged to come, and guests will be welcome. A short meeting may take place after the meal. For more information, call Marty Saveson at 855-9809.

THURS. JULY 4 — Independence Day Celebration in New Albany: The Parade will include our own Society's horse-drawn wagon. The Ealy House will be open for tours from 1 to 3 p.m. (See the local paper for details about New Albany's celebration.)

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR SOCIETY MEETING IN JULY.

THURS., AUGUST 1 -- 7 p.m. -- Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station.

SAT. & SUN. AUGUST 17 & 18, — Harlem Township Days in Center Village. On the Sunday, our Society will have a booth and display our Heritage Quilt. We urge you all to attend this very colorful and impressive event, which includes Civil War encampment scenes, antique farm equipment, and much more, on both Sat. & Sun.

Late August and early September -- We expect to be giving tours again to the New Albany 8th-Graders. If they are like last year's there will be tours in the mornings AND the afternoons of six different days. Obviously, we will need all the docents we can get. There will be more details in the next Newsletter.

Thurs. September 5 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station.

FOUNDERS DAY 2013 -- A DAY TO REMEMBER

The Founders Day Committee planned and executed a wonderful celebration on Saturday, May 18 -- a celebration to help make residents aware of times past.

The Parade was fun to watch for its examples of old-fashioned transportation which included horse-drawn wagons, old cars, old tractors, and of course walkers of all ages. The carnival area had much activity all day long.

The Elementary School Gym showcased history in a special way, utilizing people and resources gathered from surrounding areas. Our neighbors from the Harlem Township Historical Society provided narrative, pictures, and examples of stone items and hand-made bricks, information about Civil War soldiers and their letters and information about the old cemeteries. A wealth of information was presented by these industrious and well-informed members.

A model of a canal boat was brought from Roscoe Village, with a person to explain it. A costumed lady, also from Roscoe Village, demonstrated weaving on a loom. Jean Champeau from Westerville displayed and explained chatelaines (which are small groups of household tools or keys usually chained together or arranged on a pin or brooch, worn by the lady of the house or a trusted maid to manage the household). Marilyn Regrut displayed buttons which would have been used on garments of people from the time the Ealy House was built (1860) into the early 20th century.

The Civil War display provided by Dennis Keesee drew much attention; everyone stopped to visit the manikin dressed in a Union uniform. The artifacts were of great interest. They included a huge sword, a hand gun, spurs, tintypes, and letters. This was New Albany history at its best.

The Heritage Quilt, designed and made over a period of five years by members of the NAPT Historical Society and other local quilters, attracted visitors interested in the houses, roads, and what was where. Some identified family homes with the capable help of Joanne Windle, one of the quilters. Life-long Plain Township resident Ethel Schleppe was honored with a display of her art. Mrs. Schleppe was a self-taught artist who graduated from Otterbein University when it was unusual for a woman to attain a four-year college degree. The Schleppe art coordinated with the student art displayed in the hallways.

Meanwhile, at the Ealy House, members of the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society welcomed visitors from 2 to 4 p.m. Many people enjoyed touring the Museum. We always appreciate the opportunity to make this wonderful historic house available to the community. (The next time it will be open to the public will be on the Fourth of July, following the parade.)

-- Marilyn Regrut

PATRICIA (Patty) ZARLEY (1927-2013)

Patty came to the Plain Township New Albany School from Gahanna with her older brother, Ray, when she was in the 6th grade, after they had moved to Ulry Road. I remember Patty as Ray's cute blonde sister. As I have heard, Willard was attracted to the "new girl" in the school, and this became a relationship that continued through graduation, led to marriage in 1944, and lasted for over 68 years.

Patty accompanied Willard as he served his country for several years during World War II. After they returned to New Albany, they built a house on Babbitt Road, where they lived with their children, Mark, Steve, and Pam. They were always active in school and community affairs.

Patty started her agricultural business, "Zarley's Berry Patch," and customers were always elated picking the beautiful strawberries in her highly organized patch, where you knew which berries were ripe and ready to pick.

When Patty and Willard joined our Society, most of our possessions and records were in the Waltons' basement, where Arlee had collected, organized, and preserved them. We began to collect other items from barns, garages, attics, and several 150-year-old houses that were being sold or torn down. Since Patty had been a volunteer assistant curator for the Ohio Historical Society, her passion for preserving history and artifacts led her to provide help for our struggling society. When we acquired the Kern-Harrington House, she served as curator and spent countless hours with us cataloging and photographing items in our collection.

Patty was a member of the Heritage Quilt Club. Through her efforts, many of our old quilts were registered with the state Historical Quilt Society. She worked with other devoted members to

produce our "masterpiece," our "Heritage Quilt," with its map of old New Albany. This quilt has drawn praise and admiration from all who have viewed it.

Through the years, Patty was involved in most of our Society's activities, and often helped organize them. At our first Harvest of the Arts Festival at the Doran farm, we tried to recreate life in Old New Albany by demonstrating cider-making in an old cider press, cooking apples in an open kettle over a fire and making apple butter on the spot, and even making bean soup in another kettle over another open fire. She arranged for us to do corn-shelling, soap-making, corn-popping, and candle-dipping, and we had a clothesline with long underwear, dresses, and pants waving in the breeze.

And of course it was Patty who planned the vast number of displays in the school gym for Founders Day in those early years--art show, quilts, sewing implements, Depression glass, and much more.

After the Kern-Harrington House was sold, Patty instructed us how to pack all our artifacts carefully for preservation and storage. Her health began to fail as we moved our artifacts and furnishings into the newly restored Ealy House. We are still grateful for her leadership and for the dedication of the group of workers who have spent endless hours preserving our historic pieces of furniture and glassware, toys, tools, and all the other items that are appreciated today by the school children and various groups who tour the Ealy House.

Patty was a good friend and tireless worker and we will remember all she did as we worked with her.

-- Naomi Fodor

LETTERS FROM THE FIRST-GRADERS

From Lia: "Today I went on a field trip to the Ealy House. It is almost 150 years old. Upstairs I saw lots of the mom and dads stuff. I saw a quilt that the mom made. She made it out of clogs (clothes) that did not fit. She did the same thing with rugs."

From Edison: "In the basement I saw corn. they used lots of saws. Upstairs there were toys. We did not touch them."

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE DRYER HOUSE?

At the April 4 meeting of the Society, Joe Ciminello discussed the Dryer House situation, expressing his concern over the poor condition of the house. He is not exactly blaming the Society--he understands our money problems and the limitations of our ability to take care of two properties. But the Dryer place is "an eyesore," causing some of the neighbors to complain.

He and his partner, Vince Romanelli, want to "live with" the original contract, which allows for the property to return to Mr. Ciminello if we cannot take care of it and use it for historical programs and community events. There are 10 years left on our contract. We do not have the right to sell the property before 2023.

Messrs. Ciminello & Romanelli will "do their best" to preserve the house, but it would be very expensive to do so. If they do preserve it and make it saleable and sell the house & acreage and if there is a profit from such a sale, they might at that time "make a donation" to our Society.

In answer to questions from the members present, Joe said (1) he would try to preserve the barn, and possibly sell it with the house. (2) We would have 3 to 4 months to get our stuff out of the house and other buildings. (The most important items are the big wagon for floats, the smaller spring wagon, the antique sleigh, and the reaper.) (3) He would keep us apprised of what they are planning to do.

His final words were that he and his partner would "just act in good faith--not promise anything in advance; keep it simple. If we try to save the place, that will take time." (To raze the house "would be quick and more profitable.")

The 17 members present decide to postpone the official vote until the May 2 Society meeting. Meanwhile, another possibility came to light: there is a person who might be willing to act as caretaker (as allowed in our contract) for the next 10 years in lieu of paying rent, and, at the end of that time, to buy it from the Society. The 16 members present at the May 2 meeting decided to postpone making a final decision until we know more about this potential caretaker/purchaser's intentions and the legal ins and outs for all the parties concerned.

LETTERS FROM THE FIRST-GRADERS

(Following their field trip last November, a class of First-Graders sent us a packet of letters. Some excerpts are included below and also on page 5.)

From Addy: "Today I went to the ealy house. I was sprised that they made sope. And they made candels it was prety inpresif. I was relly inpresd a lot. Then we went upstars. Thar was a rope bed it was cool. And toys from a long time ago. There was a tea set they had tea partys and marbels to play games. They also had bord games. Then we went down to the basement. There were lots of tools there were sharp tools. The tools were dangris."

From Kendall: "Today I went on a feld trip to the Ealy House. Wen I got on the bus I sat in seat 2. Then wen I got off the bus I went insid with the kids. First I went down into the basmint. I saw a lot of sharp things. One sharp thing was for shep to get the sheps coat clean."

From Ariana: "We saw the elay house and we learned all About People that lived long ago and they dident have TVs and they dident have nothing to eat they eat corn." (Where did she get this idea?)

From Abby: "Today I went to the Ealy house. We went on a bus. I was in seat 16.....(There was) a chamber pot under the bed because it is for if the family had to go to the bathroom. They had a cep (sheep) brush it was very spiky I got to touch it."

From Jackson: "They had a candle becace when it was dark at night. They had a lot of toys for the kids."

From Zayne: "It was asome (awesome) to see and toche the interesting things. My grop went to the basement first. The tour guy (David Cline) shod (showed) us a corn shreter (shredder). He put fake corn (no, Zayne, it was REAL corn!) into a hole. He grinded it."

From Jillian: "On the first floor there is a kitchen and in the kitchen there was soap. She (M. Saveson) said 'do you see the teeth marks?' We said 'yes.' She said 'do you no what there from?' I said 'baby.' She said 'a mouse.' On the 2nd floor there was 4 rooms. She (M. Regrut) took us into a bedroom. She said 'their bed was made out of rope.'"

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
APRIL 4, 2013

In Marilyn's absence, Vice President Neil Kirby called the meeting to order.

The Minutes were read by Secretary Liz Feichter and approved by a motion made by Betty Maynard and seconded by David Cline.

Helen Pestel mentioned the checking account has been changed by Fifth Third Bank and we will no longer receive interest. She read and explained the financial report. It was approved by a motion made by Kathy Yager and seconded by John Saveson.

Neil introduced Joe Ciminello who then discussed the Rose Taylor Dryer House and what he could possibly do to reconcile the problem by either renovating or razing the house depending upon costs.

After Joe left, Nancy Ferguson suggested we try to find someone to clean the house out. This would involve removing the plaster and other debris from the rooms upstairs and down, and the carpeting.

David Cline mentioned there is a lot of mold in the house. Having mold makes homes uninhabitable and this could keep us from attempting to contact someone to consider renovation and being a caretaker in exchange for paying the Society a set number of dollars for the house at the end of the 25 years.

There were a lot of pros and cons and more discussion on this issue of keeping the property or giving it back.

David Cline informed the membership that the pantry will be completed by May 9th. Mr. Davis will start on it next week.

Township Days at Harlem Township will have room inside or outside for our participation. The dates are August 17 and 18.

Founders Day is May 18 and we will need workers in the gym and also at the open house.

The Board had discussed Ealy House maintenance issues of the roof and the furnace. The Board approved both to be taken care of and Marilyn will contact Durable Slate this week. David will coordinate the furnace with the pantry work.

It was decided at the November 2012 meeting that fluorescent lighting be installed in the office. Further discussions with people who work in that room indicate that can lighting will be more flexible and preferable. During the discussion, fluorescent lighting won out. John Ayers is to pick out the fixture. Monica Morgan advised "price is no object, pick out a good one."

The meeting was adjourned but there were those of us who discussed the issue in little groups as we enjoyed refreshment furnished by Liz Feichter and Naomi Fodor. Our May meeting, May 2nd, will be held at the home of Mark Baranoski and Emily Eby.

*Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary*

(Note: The above minutes have been abridged in order to avoid duplication of information given elsewhere in this Newsletter. The above contents were approved at the May 2 meeting.)

(Another note: The Minutes of the May 2 Society Meeting, held at the home of Emily Eby and Mark Baranoski, were not ready by the time this Newsletter had to go to the printer's. They will appear in the next Newsletter.)

**We are happy to welcome
THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:**

Michael Blanchard

5803 Dover Court
Worthington, OH 43085

Chandler Kisial

P.O. Box 422
New Albany, OH 43054 (614) 915-1222

Ben and Janet Simms

5375 Snider Loop
New Albany, OH 43054 (614) 949-8483

NOTES & NEWS

SEVERAL SPRING TOURS OF THE EALY HOUSE have kept us busy--the "Dream Achievers" 4-H Club on May 9 and a Girl Scout troop on May 17, and of course the Founders Day Open House on May 18.

THE EALY HOUSE PANTRY has been restored to its former bright and clean glory, thanks to the hard work of our expert handyman, Ron Davis. We are no longer afraid to let visitors see it. It now adds considerably to the story of the way of life of the Ealys and the Dorans.

The DRYER HOUSE GROUNDS had a good stick-picking-up day prior to the lawn-mowing season, thanks to two young people from the Resurrection confirmation class, who worked on the smaller twigs and branches, and to Frank and Becky Knore, who dealt with the big branches and piles. Also, thanks to a third confirmation class member who picked up sticks from the Ealy lawn.

TWO CHAIRS were forgotten and left behind at Emily and Mark's house on May 2. If you come for them when nobody is home, you will find them on the little porch near the driveway.

THANKS TO HELEN PESTEL for entering the catalog of our "collection" into our new computer. This involves converting the paper records, including the pictures, into the computer format. She is also making sure we still have the actual items and recording their location in the Ealy House.

KATHY MAYHORN has told us of an intriguing discovery on the grounds of the former Cabbage House on Schleppe Road. A very old tombstone is leaning against a tree in the yard near where the cellar door once was, the tombstone of JACOB WAGNER with his birthdate (1784?) but no death date, for the stone is broken. We know that a Jacob Wagner was born in 1784 and died in 1838 and that the Cabbage land was previously owned by the Wagners. But why did a tombstone turn up when the house was demolished? Kathy is looking into the mystery. We hope to continue this story in a future Newsletter.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER will be later than usual, coming out after the August meeting. So hang on to this one and make sure you remember the dates of the Barn Party (June 6), the 4th of July open house at the Ealy House, and the August 1st Society Meeting at the Fire Station. Board Members will be called about Board meetings, and quite a few of you will be called to serve as docents. Enjoy your summer!

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Treasurer's Report March/April, 2013

	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Memberships (Diehl, Folk, Stoia, Mowery, Adams; new:Jeri & Jerry Merritt, 8144 Parsons Pass, New Albany, OH 43054; Michael Blanchard, 5803 Dover Ct., Worthington, OH 43085)		\$ 80.00
M Pestel Memorial		10.00
L Shannon Memorial		10.00
Donations		15.00
Checking Interest	1.95	2.76
Total Income	\$ 1.95	\$117.76
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$480.88,\$324.00;RTD\$6.17,\$6.07)	\$ 487.05	\$330.07
AT&T		55.33
ADT Security	107.97	
Marilyn Regrut-name tags	91.91	
New Phone with answering machine		49.99
Newsletter printing Print Xpress		45.60
Durable Slate Co. - Slate roof repair		<u>375.00</u>
US Postal Service-PO Box rental one year	54.00	\$855.99
Total Expenses	\$ 740.93	
March 1 st Balance	\$ 32,995.85	
Income	119.71	
Expenses	1,596.92	
Balance April 30 th	<u>\$ 31,518.64</u>	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 03/31/13	23,083.06	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/12	70,207.22	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (3/31/13)	<u>133,420.49</u>	(includes 8,890.84 (6.66452%) Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

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Upcoming:

Thurs. June 6, 6:00 p.m. Barn Party

Thurs., July 4 — Ealy House open, 1-3 p.m.

NO REGULAR SOCIETY MEETING IN JULY

Thurs. Sept. 5, 7 p.m., Society Meeting

Details on page 2