

Newsletter

November and December 2013
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Two classes of first-graders arriving at the Ealy House for tours while two other classes are returning to their school, October 2013. (See page 3 for more details.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAYS AT THE EALY HOUSE -- Usually 9:30-12:00, but not on such a regular basis this time of year. Call first.

THURS. NOVEMBER 7 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at Fire Station
Hostess: Kathy Yager

Fri. Nov. 29 -- 1-3 p.m. Ealy House Open House

THURS. Dec. 5 -- HOLIDAY DINNER

Time: 6:15 p.m.

Place: New Albany United Methodist Church

Menu: Ham Loaf with sweet & sour "gravy" OR Hawaiian Chicken breast OR Spinach Lasagna (choose one entrée)

Tossed Salad OR Crispy Slaw (shredded cabbage, green onion, almonds, ramen noodles, etc.) (Choose one type of salad)

Twice-baked Potato, Vegetable, Rolls

Choice of beverage, choice of dessert

Price: \$14.00 (\$7.00 for a child)

Reservations: Make your reservations at the November 7 meeting or mail check and choice of entrée and of salad to Helen Pestel, 8355 New Albany-Coxdit Rd., Westerville, OH 43081, by Sat., Nov. 30. Or phone Helen at 855-3765 or Marty Saveson at 855-9809 by 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2. Again, please specify entrée & salad.

There will be festive decorations and music, scrumptious food, and a friendly crowd, so mark this on your calendar **right now**.

MORE DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

SUN. DECEMBER 8 -- 1-3 p.m. Ealy Open House

THURS. JAN. 2 -- NO JANUARY MEETING

WED. JAN. 15 -- Newsletter deadline

THURS. FEBRUARY 6 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at Fire Station

NOTE: In case of inclement weather bad enough to cause the local schools to close, we will not have a Society meeting that day.

MORE TOURS & MORE GIFTS

SIXTEEN CLASSES of FIRST-GRADERS toured the Ealy House during the first four days of October. They learned about chores, candles, oil lamps, chamber-pots, sleigh bells, farm implements, and old-fashioned dolls and games. They got to look through a stereoscope, lift a heavy iron, peek through the pass-through cupboard, and turn the handle of a corn sheller. They saw old quilts, real braided rugs, butter churns, a rope bed, and a pie safe. And the docents learned that first-graders, though less history-oriented, can be every bit as absorbent of information as 8th-graders.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, about 25 "**Daisies**" from 2 Girl Scout troops, plus 6 parents, picked up 3 big lawn bags of **BLACK WALNUTS & STICKS** from the Ealy House lawn. In the process, they learned a few things about life on the farm that once was there, explored the creek down below, and also (at their request) had a little tour of the main floor of the house itself. Nancy Ferguson reports that one of the first-graders in the group pre-empted her talk by telling the other Daisies all about the parlors, passing on her knowledge gained in her recent tour with her first-grade class.

RECENT GIFTS to the Society: **Cathe Ealy Zitko** and her brother **Tom Ealy** have presented us with 2 very old tools from the Ealy family, namely, a draw knife for shaping wood and a ladle for pouring molten lead. These belonged to their grandfather, Luther Melvin Ealy of Gahanna. Melvin, Cathe, & Tom are descended from Peter Ealy, the brother of George who built our Ealy House. Cathe came to our last Society meeting to present these tools, and we were very pleased to meet her. John Saveson, incidentally, remembers Melvin Ealy very well, for Melvin was a good friend of his Grandfather E. W. Clouse.

Liz Feichter has donated a very handsome antique lamp table which came from her Park family forebears. Briefly, it was a wedding gift to Liz from her mother's cousin Rachel, who had inherited it from her mother, Jenny Park. It had been given to Jenny when she was married. Most likely Jenny received it from her father, Jonathan Park, who presumably inherited it from one of his forebears. The table is a mid-Victorian piece which is perfect for the 1860 Ealy House. Liz will contribute a story to the next Newsletter about her Park ancestors in Plain Township.

BETH COBLE (1939-2013)

Elizabeth Ann (Beth) Wilder Coble was born in Kentucky to Noah and Hazel Cheek Wilder. She came to New Albany in the early 1970's. Beth was preceded in death by her husband, Earl Coble, and survived by their three children, Michael, Deanna, and Debora.

Beth was a charter member of the NAPT Historical Society and its first secretary-treasurer. She computerized the Society's first Telephone Directoy, a huge job. She was on the committee for our first Founders Day Celebration and was one of the two people who turned out in 1977 to plan future Founders Day celebrations. These are, of course, still going on.

At one time Beth served as Plain Township Clerk. She also was a member of the New Albany Fire Department's Women's Auxiliary and spent many hours manning the Fire Department's radio (as a volunteer). She was New Albany's "First Lady" when her husband, Earl, served as mayor of the village.

Beth was a member of the New Albany Order of the Eastern Star, serving two different terms as Worthy Matron. An avid genealogist, she enjoyed searching for Wilder family history on the computer. She was a natural artist. She designed and made beautiful quilts. And she always painted her windows for the winter holidays with some amazing pictures.

Beth was friendly, warm-hearted, and a good neighbor. We are grateful that she lived in New Albany.

-- Arloia Walton

MELVIN ("Junior") THOMAS, Jr. (1936-2013)

Born to the late Melvin and Rettie Thomas in Co-Op, Kentucky, Junior came to New Albany in 1954, where he married Lola Marlene Benton in 1960. Marlene, along with their children, Kimberly, Shirley, and Christopher, survive him, as do 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandsons, one of his two sisters, and three of his five brothers.

Junior was a longtime member of the New Albany Lions Club, from which he received many awards. He served as a village councilman for New Albany and received a service award from the New Albany Police Department. Both he and Marlene were longtime members of our Historical Society.

He was, as Marlene puts it, a "jack of all trades," in that he was proficient in all aspects of construction and building projects, both indoors and outdoors. A gifted carpenter, he created many beautiful cabinets and pieces of furniture for their own home and for all his children and grandchildren. His last formal job was with Northland Refrigeration.

During their 53 years of marriage, Junior and Marlene enjoyed a great deal of traveling, including going on many cruises and visiting many interesting places, including a glorious 14-day trip to Alaska.

In addition to the funeral service on August 29, there was another very meaningful memorial service on October 27 at the Ohio State University Fawcett Center, for families of cancer patients who had recently passed away. He will be missed by his family and the community.

-- M. Saveson

NORMA JEAN GORSUCH'S ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

In the Oct. 24 edition of the *Columbus Dispatch*, you may have noticed a story (with photos) about an **1869 ONE-ROOM SCHOOL** in **GAHANNA** which was recently moved to a new location and beautifully restored. Our member Norma Jean Gorsuch had owned the building. In fact, her mother had attended school in it years ago. Through the efforts of many people, the school was painstakingly restored and furnished, and now is the destination for many school field trips.

OUR FARM MACHINES NOW IN A SAFE HAVEN

We have sent our big old hay rake and enormous old reaper (neither of which could we store or display properly ourselves) to the Gallant Farm Preserve of the Delaware County Preservation Parks system. These machines are now on display in a rebuilt old barn, where they are already being appreciated by visitors and where they will be safe and well taken care of. An old wooden ladder and several odds & ends of wood and slate have also gone there. More items are destined to go there soon. A full report, with photos, will appear in the next Newsletter. See the October minutes (p. 8) for an account of a visit several of us made to the Delaware facility recently.

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 MEETING
PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Regrut. The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. Helen Pestel gave the financial report. Motions for approval for both were made by Kathy Yager and seconded by David Cline.

\$20.00 was left on the dining room table and as no one had claimed it, Helen Pestel deposited it. This amount is included in the Treasurer's report as a donation.

Marilyn presented a recap of old business, the Dryer House, since the last meeting, August 1, 2013. The committee met and set requirements for a caretaker and prepared a document that was sent to Mike Blanchard. In the meantime, Marilyn had spoken to Joe Cimminello and he indicated he would allow us to sell the property to a specified person. He had further requirements as to whatever the rehab plans were and the time frame.

Marilyn asked Mike to comment on this and there were several points in the agreement he would want changed and further discussions before signing such an agreement. He further stated he didn't know what Joe wanted and does not want to negotiate with him. Mike wants a marketable title and has offered \$125,000 for the property.

Bob Dickendeshner wants to open up negotiations because that amount of money for 3 acres on Walnut Street is not enough. Robert Dean thinks the offer is reasonable. Glyde Marsh wondered if we would be permitted to sell without auctioning. There were other comments including a deed restriction to preserve the property and we would need a Plan B in case. (?)

Robert Dean made a motion that within two (2) months, we have Joe's intentions and requirements in writing and that we present our intentions and requirements at that time. Betty Maynard seconded the motion; 14 supported the motion and 1 did not; the motion passed.

The front porch on the Museum is treated lumber and it will be cleaned or repaired/painted as needed.

The Spring wagon has termites in all of the wooden wheels. We have repair and storage concerns. It will have to be raised on cement blocks once the repair is made. David Cline will contact Steve Bevelhy mer to help determine who and how to fix this.

Our quilt was displayed at the Harlem Township Days and was in a secured area inside the firehouse, locked in a room with other quilts from around the area. The exhibit was very interesting and had quilts that were dated from both the 19th and 20th centuries.

The yard sale at the Dryer House was a success. We made \$800 + got rid of a lot of "stuff". The sale lasted three days and does not include the times we spent sorting and pricing and clearing the garage. Thank you for all the help. We will need a further clean-up at the Dryer House soon to further clean out storage sheds and other items in the house and garage and possibly the barn.

We have completed 10 eighth grade tours and 5 more to go. Thanks to our returning docents and 6 new docents for making these tours possible. We discussed ending the 6th grade tours and the possibility of hiring someone to clean the Museum after the tours.

During the yard sale, a representative of the Delaware County Preservation Parks (DCPP) came to look at some of our antique farm implements. A reaper is of particular interest. If they ask to restore it for their museum, the Society will need to vote permission to donate it to them. They may also be interested in other old farm implements. Willard Zarley indicated some of the equipment may have some type of warrants included with anything donated to us so he will check on this through his records.

Marty Saveson made a motion that the Society donate farm implements to the DCPP such as the reaper, seed cleaners, hay rake, and extension ladder. It is further understood this will be adjusted for any and all encumbrances attached to them. John Saveson seconded the motion and it passed.

There are no officers or trustees to be elected for 2014 except Secretary. Liz Feichter wants to resign and anyone interested should call Marilyn Regrut.

First grade tours are scheduled for September 30 thru October 4 for all 15 sections. The tours were such a hit with students and teachers last year, they want to return with the classes this year. Who are we to say no? This has got to be the best publicity the Society can get and it's free!

*Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary*

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

Virginia McVay (Grand Marshal, 2013 Founders Day Parade) and Cathe Ealy Zitko were introduced. Cathe is related to George Ealy through her great-great-uncle, who was a brother to George Ealy. She brought and donated two items that belonged to her Grandpa Ealy.

Minutes from last meeting read by Marilyn Regrut in the absence of Secretary. David Cline requested a correction to read "they will try to find the Amish man who repaired the wagon in the past". Motion to accept with correction made by David Cline, second Betty Maynard.

Treasurer's report not available

Liz Feichter has resigned as secretary. Please volunteer to fill position if able.

Election of officers occurs in October; all present officers remain another year; however, there is one opening on the Board. Neil Kirby made a motion to reinstate Robert Dean for a 3-year term, second Marty Saveson. Unanimous approval. The Board members are: Robert Dean until 2016, Sharon Carter until 2015, David Cline until 2014, and Marty Saveson is the alternate.

Ealy Tours: 15 8th grade classes have visited, and 16 classes of first graders will have visited by the end of this week.

The reaper, hay rake and wooden extension ladder have been donated to the Delaware County Preservation Park. The sleigh, 2 seed cleaners and misc. wood will go to the Preservation Park in the near future. Marty Saveson gave us a description of the buildings at the park. There are barns, a storage shed, and a 1930's style fully furnished farm house surrounding a meadow. We are welcome to visit there anytime and to hold a meeting there.

Dryer Property: The items remaining from the yard sale have been almost completely disposed of.

Marilyn spoke with Joe Ciminello several times and he has agreed to change the previous title agreement, allowing us to sell the house, barn and property as long as he gets \$40,000 from the sale. The present deed/title has not been changed, as of now, until we come to him with an offer from us that we will pay him the \$40,000 upon sale of the property. Extensive discussion ensued with comments by Robert Dean, Monica Morgan, Neil Kirby, John Saveson, Kathy Yager, Glyde Marsh and Robert Dickendeshier.

Neil Kirby made a motion: To communicate to Joe Ciminello that we desire a clear title and we will agree to pay him \$40,000, when we sell the RTD property, and he will drop any claims against the NAPT Historical Society, upon sale and payment. Second, Willard Zarley. Vote by paper ballot, 15 yes 1 no.

New Business:

Discussion of need to clean Ealy House prior to holiday activities. Marty Saveson made a motion that we pay \$25.00 per hour to an individual, possibly using a team of two people. Seconded by Theresa Kempker. Yes-vote by show of hands.

Announcements:

Up & coming: two Ealy Open Houses, Nov 29 and Dec 8. Women's group will visit Nov 19.

An article related to NAPT Historical Society has been published in ^{Life} NA Magazine thanks to Theresa Kempker and Henry Kempker. Many members reported that they do not receive the publication.

The Christmas dinner will be scheduled for either the first or second Thur. in December, depending on Church availability. Thank you Marty Saveson. (See "Dates To Remember")

Meeting adjourned 8:45PM followed by a delicious repast provided by Naomi Fodor.

Submitted by Kathy Yager, Secretary pro tem

THE OLD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

For the November issue of the **NEW ALBANY MAGAZINE**, Theresa Kempker has written a brief story about the New Albany Telephone Exchange in 1940, when the dial system was about to supersede the switchboard. One of our Society's old photos is nicely reproduced (thanks to Henry Kempker), featuring "the last crew of switchboard operators with the original equipment, in the building that is now Wayside Flower Shop." They were Lois and Iva Near, Carrie Daily, Lula Near Richards, and **Arloia Walton** (at about age 18).

NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome Richard and Jane Yantis as new members. Dick is descended from William Yantis, co-founder of New Albany. Both Dick and Jane are serious genealogists. Dick has done a tremendous amount of genealogical research on Plain Township families. Their address is 265 Storington Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43054. Phone: (614) 882-1410

JANICE WHITEHEAD (1923-2013)

(The following information comes from Arloia Walton and her 91-yr-old cousin Oma, who dated Janice's brother at one time.)

Janice Fox Whitehead, was born in Licking County into a large family with more than 10 kids, including several sets of twins. Janice herself had a twin sister, Janet. Janice and her husband, Fred, were long-time members of our Society.

Fred Whitehead served as Plain Township Fire Chief for many years. During his time of service, the popular Fish Fry Dinners were served. The catfish were dipped in a secret beer batter; the dinners featured French fries and home-baked pies made by the Fire Department Women's Auxiliary. Janice was the Auxiliary organizer and participated in fund-raisers such as homemade bread (hot on Tuesdays) and uncooked pickle relish, both very popular. The fire station offered the community doughnuts and cider for Halloween Trick-or-Treat night, and children's treats at Christmas from Santa (the Fire Chief himself, who had the physique for the man in red). Janice was always at Fred's side, helping out. After his death in 1999, Janice soon left New Albany.

She loved to go to yard and estate sales, and at times she donated her antique finds to the N.A.P.T. Society. She was a quiet, happy, lovely lady, who had very curly hair.

-- Arloia Walton

MORE MEMORIES OF JANICE:

We could see Janice's curly hair as she worked among her many flowers in all but the worst weather. Some of the flowers can still be seen around the former Whitehead home, which is next door to ours, although her cosmos bed and many daffodils are gone. As Arloia said, Janice was quiet, and we often had to lean in to hear her speak. Her soft-spoken ways were partly a reaction to her bustling home. She had six lively children, including two sets of twins. She laughed that she went to work in a sewing factory to get away from the noise at home. She was a welcoming person who made our neighborhood stick together.

-- Theresa Kempker

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
Treasurer's Report August/September, 2013

<u>Income</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Sale of excess tools at July 4 th	\$ 18.00	
July 4 th Donations	2.00	
Brick	50.00	
Yard Sale		\$ 802.79
Donation	<u>20.00</u>	100.00
Membership (John & Diana Goedeking - 3 years)		60.00
New: Dr. Richard & Jane Yantis, 265 Storington Rd, Westerville, OH 43081, 614-882-1410		20.00
Cookbook		<u>8.00</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 90.00</u>	<u>\$ 990.79</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$86.83, \$88.74; RTD \$6.11, \$6.09)	\$ 92.94	\$ 94.73
AT&T	27.57	32.29
ADT Security (3 months)		116.97
Columbus City Treasurer Water & Sewer	28.67	
Ohio Secretary of State (five-year registration as 501c3)	<u>25.00</u>	
Advertising-Yard Sale		<u>193.53</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$174.18</u>	<u>\$ 437.52</u>

August 1 st Balance	\$ 24,571.66
Income	1,080.79
Expenses	611.70
Balance Sept. 18 th	<u>\$ 25,040.75</u>
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance 06/30/13	23,431.48
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 06/30/13	71,718.10
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed
Ameriprise (7/31/13)	135,915. (includes 9,013.83 (6.66452%) Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 219

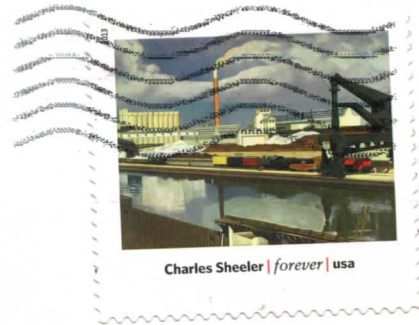
New Albany, Ohio 43054

(614) 855-9861

www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org

COLUMBUS OH 431

31 OCT 2013 FMS L



In this issue:

First-grade tours, p. 3

Beth Coble, p. 4

Melvin Thomas, Jr., p. 5

Janice Whitehead, p. 10

Upcoming:

Thurs. Nov. 7 -- Society Meeting at Fire Station

Fri. Nov. 29 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3

Thurs. Dec. 5 -- Holiday Dinner (see p. 2)

Sun. Dec. 8 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3

Thurs. Feb. 6 -- Society Meeting at Fire Station

43081635777

