

Newsletter

November & December 2014
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Ealy House Kitchen

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAY WORK-~~and~~-ORGANIZE DAYS AT THE EALY HOUSE — 9:30-12:00.
It's a good idea to call first (Ealy House phone no. is 855-9861).

SUN. OCT. 26 — Ealy House open, 1-3 p.m. (4 or 5 docents needed).

MON. & TUES. NOVEMBER 3 & 4 — First-grade Tours of the Ealy House at 9:30, 10:30, 12:30, & 1:30. All docents please let Marilyn Regrut know (614-797-4490) if you will be available for one or more of these times.

THURS. NOVEMBER 6 — 7:00 p.m. **Society Meeting** at the Fire Station.
Program: Bob Mowery will tell us about teaching calligraphy to children and adults, and will perhaps give us a sample mini-lesson. Bob is an artist and retired high-school art-teacher.

ERI. NOV. 28 — Ealy House Open 1-3 p.m. (5 or 6 docents needed).

Thursday, DECEMBER 4 — ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Time & Place: 6:15 p.m. at the New Albany Methodist Church

Menu: Ham Loaf OR Baked Chicken Breast OR
Tomato-based Vegetable Lasagna (choose one entrée)
Tossed salad OR Crispy Slaw (choose one)
Twice-baked potato, vegetable, choice of dessert

Price: \$15.00 (\$7.50 for a child)

Reservations: Make your reservations at the Nov. 6 meeting or mail check and choices of entrée and salad to Helen Pestel, 8355 New Albany-Condit Rd., WESTERVILLE, OH 43081 by Sat. Nov. 29. Or phone Helen at 855-3765 by 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1st. Again, please specify entrée and salad choices.

There will be seasonal decorations and music, delicious food, and, best of all, good company, so note the date and sign up soon.

SUN. DEC. 7 — Ealy House open, 1-3 p.m. (5 or 6 docents needed).

THURS. JANUARY 1 — New Years Day. **No Society Meeting.**

THURS. FEBRUARY 5 — 7 p.m. **Society Meeting** at the Fire Station.

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

THANKS TO MARILYN REGRUT

Her name reminds us of the word "regret," which applies to our present situation in that we really regret having her retire from the presidency of this organization. However, after four years of dedicated service and countless accomplishments, and hundreds of round trips between her home in Westerville and our Ealy House, she much deserves at least a semi-retirement from the large responsibilities of leading our Society.

First of all, we all know her as an efficient presider over our Society meetings, never allowing them to become contentious or trivial. She conducts them with a purposeful direction and respect for each member.

Now let me list the accomplishments (some of them, anyway) of the years under her leadership: the Ealy House itself has gone from an unlit, unfinished condition to having good lighting everywhere, a finished pantry, a presentable basement, a security system, and a usable attic which can now be open to visitors.

The tours and open houses have become a very big part of our work and our influence in the community, thanks to Marilyn's steady contact with the schools and local organizations and her own welcoming presence at nearly every Ealy House event. Our annual generous grants from the New Albany City Council have become an important source of support and surely reflect the respect the City has for the work we have been doing under her leadership.

And just look at the outside of the Ealy House and the grounds and new parking area. Not only did Marilyn identify the problems to be fixed in the parking area, porch, ramp, and steps, but she was on the spot when these big improvements were being made, and she personally directed the plantings and stonemovings. These are just a few examples of her dedication and expertise.

All of this would defeat a lesser person, but not Marilyn, who has remained enthusiastic through it all and encouraging and helpful to the rest of us. And she says she looks forward to continuing her connection with the schools and helping with the training of docents and maybe getting involved in some new projects at the Ealy House.

So—many, many thanks, Marilyn, and we look forward to working with you on your favorite activities in the months ahead.

SCHLEPPI DESCENDANTS VISIT THE EALY HOUSE

On October 6th, Marianna Smith Glaze and Don Smith, grandchildren of Ethel and Lao Schleppi, visited the Ealy House to look at the Historical Society's Local Family Files. These files were assembled by one of our founders, Arloia Baughman Walton, and several other members of the Historical Society in the 1970's, '80's, and 90's. Arloia's goal was to preserve information about long-time residents of our community and their ancestors. These files have become an invaluable resource to our Society when descendants and genealogists contact us for information.

Most in the community recognize the name Ethel Schleppi as the namesake of the Ethel Schleppi Art Show, an annual event at Founders' Day. Ethel Dent Miller was the daughter of John L. Miller and Celia Miller, who purchased 265 acres of land and a 4-room house at 7938 Schleppi Road in 1865. The home was enlarged in 1901, taking almost a year to complete, at a cost of \$1200, according to Marianna. John Miller served as a Township Trustee, and the Millers also donated land for a one-room school house (the "Miller School"), near their home. This school was attended by Ethel, her brothers Roy and Russell, and other neighbors, including young Lao Schleppi. Ethel was always interested in art and wanted to further her interest by taking art classes. She became one of the first female students to attend Otterbein College, where she graduated in 1906. In those days, very few women, anywhere, attended college, and only a small percentage of those graduated with a degree.

Lao Schleppi grew up right around the corner from Ethel on Walnut Street, across from what is today known locally as "Easter Oil." Lao's home was built on land purchased by Louis and Elizabeth Schleppi in 1887, and later was inherited by Lao's sister, Gertie Schleppi, another well-known local. When Ethel and Lao were married in 1909, Lao moved into Ethel's home on Schleppi Road, where they lived throughout their 65-year marriage. Ethel continued to pursue her interest in art, creating many paintings in watercolor, oil, ink, and charcoal, several of which are in the community today. She also sculpted wood furniture and other items out of wood, taught piano lessons to area residents, and was an excellent seamstress. Lao and Ethel owned one of the first cars in Plain Township, and it is believed Ethel was the first woman to drive a car in Plain Township. Lao went on to serve on the school board for 24 years, and the name of the road in front of their house was changed to "Schleppi Road" in Lao's honor, according to notes made by Arloia Walton.

Marianna and Don helped us fill in some blanks in our copy of Ethel and Lao's family tree, gave us more information about Ethel's art work, and shared several family stories. They plan on attending a meeting of the Historical Society this winter, to share more information about their family and early life in Plain Township. We are all looking forward to it!

-- Nancy Ferguson

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Most of you already know David Cline, but you may be surprised to learn about his very varied and unusual past. He was born and grew up in Kenton Ohio in Hardin County, north of here. After one year studying Agriculture and Business at Clark County Technical College, he was sent to Vietnam, where he served as a Helicopter mechanic until he was seriously injured (by a typhoon, not enemy fire) and Agent Orange.

He came to Columbus in 1976, where he earned a degree in Business Administration at Franklin University. He worked for the Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft for 28 years, first as a computer coordinator and later as an Information Network Administrator. David moved to New Albany in 1995 and joined our Historical Society in 2004 after he retired.

As a member of our Society, he has been an indefatigable fixer of almost everything that has needed fixing at the Dryer House and the Ealy House. He has been a member of our Board for the past several years, and a reliable docent qualified to give a tour of the whole house, but specializing in the basement. He is also a member of the Founders Day Committee, which is a big advantage to us in that he can coordinate our Founders Day activities with the plans for the whole event.

Like Marilyn, he has made countless trips to the Ealy House to deal with workmen, security system problems, extra tours, and handyman odd jobs both big and small. He is the watchdog for our Dryer House property. In other words, we couldn't do without him, and now he is willing to take on the presidency in addition to what he has been doing all along. And he is as friendly and easy-going a person as you will ever meet to work with. So thank you, David, for taking on this big job.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SECRETARY

Richard Whitelock, one of our newest members, has been elected to the position of Secretary for our Society. He and his wife, Pam, found us last year thanks to their then-first-grader granddaughter, who had been so enthralled with the Ealy House when her class visited it that she persuaded her grandparents to come to one of our open houses. By now, many of you have met Richard either in his capacity as an Ealy House docent or as our speaker at the September meeting (see p.7).

The Whitelocks came to New Albany 8 years ago after living in Panama City Beach, Florida, for 35 years. There Richard was employed in merchandizing with Sears and Home Depot, while Pam served as a Dean at Gulf Coast State College. In fact, Richard also taught evening Business courses there. Both Richard and Pam, after retiring from those professions, earned real estate licenses in Florida and practiced there for 3 years just before moving to New Albany in order to be near their grandchildren. One of Richard's most enjoyable retirement activities is volunteering at the 2nd grade of that same enthusiastic granddaughter mentioned above. He is well prepared to be our Secretary, and we appreciate his taking on this duty. Thanks, Richard.

NEW THINGS TO SEE AT THE EALY HOUSE

The first new thing you will notice upon driving in is the improved **PARKING AREA** on your left. The ground is at first glance grassy, but there is actually a strong grid in place which can support the heaviest vehicles, we are told. So the first 5 or 6 cars to arrive get a nice, safe spot next to our driveway. The overflow must, as before, cross the street and park in the Resurrection Church lots (but, please, not in any numbered spot during school days).

Inside the house, there are **NEW LIGHT FIXTURES** in both downstairs and upstairs hallways--very attractive hanging ones that suggest perhaps 1880's or '90's and which give an attractive soft glow to the area. And in the office upstairs, there now is a neat-looking long, thin fixture giving terrific light for reading and writing.

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY Highlights of the Meeting of September 4, 2014

OLD BUSINESS: a new meeting format begins this evening. The business meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., should last only 30 minutes, to be followed by the program at 7:30.

The eighth-grade school tours are going well, thanks to all who have participated. The hall light fixtures have arrived, and the sump pump has an installation date. As for the Dryer House, there is no sale news.

NEW BUSINESS: The Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society has donated an index to the casebooks kept by Dr. Sylvester Ranney, an early New Albany physician. The index and copies of many of the casebooks are located in the Ealy House office.

As we plan ahead for holiday open houses, the Ealy House could use a thorough cleaning. (No discussion or action).

Memorial Bench: Nancy Ferguson passed around a photo of a "deacon's bench" for sale at Grandview Mercantile. Naomi Fodor reminded the group that Donna and Ralph Lowell Parrill left a significant amount of money to the Society, and at that time the membership decided to honor them for their years of work with a memorial bench. All present agreed to purchase the bench if the price comes down to \$450 or less.

Nominations will be needed by our next meeting for officers and trustees.

PROGRAM: New member Richard Whitelock gave us some interesting little known facts about the Revolutionary War, centering around historical figures which he labeled "Heroes" or "Zeroes." Of course, the heroes were the familiar ones -- Washington, Jefferson, and Patrick Henry, but included some less well known ones like Dr. Benjamin Rush and Henry Knox. The "Zeroes" were the villains, starting with King George III, and General Cornwallis, and Benedict Arnold, who was a "brilliant general, but was "mishandled." The term "Founding Fathers" ought to refer to the Puritans and Pilgrims, rather than George Washington, who had no children. A nice extra -- Richard had a drawing for two first-edition copies of Lydia Bailey, a historical novel (on the Revolution, of course) by Kenneth Roberts. The lucky winners were Glyde Marsh and Monica Morgan.

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Highlights of the Meeting of October 2, 2014

OLD BUSINESS: Light fixtures have been installed in the Ealy House hallways (both upstairs and down). The school tours were a success, with almost 400 8th-grade students and their 3 Social Studies teachers attending. The memorial bench for the Parrills has been purchased and is presently in the Ealy front hallway. It will be marked with an appropriate plaque.

NEW BUSINESS: We will again be giving tours for all the first-graders on November 3 & 4.

We discussed opening the Ealy House for tours on a regular schedule, such as the last Sunday of each month. Neil Kirby suggested we try out the plan by hosting an open-house on Sunday, Oct. 26, during the early afternoon. The group agreed to this (see Dates page). Nancy Sharp commented that we should always have at least 2 docents present when the house is open.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: According to the Constitution, an election of officers for the expiring terms of office should take place in October. That means now.

Sharon Carter has resigned her position as Trustee. There is one year remaining on her term. We thank Sharon for her many years of service.

After the September meeting, Marty Saveson and Neil Kirby volunteered to work on a slate of officers. It is as follows:

For President: David Cline	2-yr. term
For Vice-President: Neil Kirby	2-yr. term
For Secretary:	2-yr. term
For Treasurer: Helen Pestel	2-yr. term
For Trustee: Richard Whitelock	1-yr. term
For Trustee: Marilyn Regrut	3-yr. term
For Alternate Trustee: Marty Saveson	3-yr. term
For Curator: Nancy Ferguson	3-yr. term

Nominations from the floor: Richard Whitelock for Secretary.

Nancy Sharp moved that nominations be closed, seconded by Helen Pestel. Vote by show of hands. All present in favor, none opposed. Trustee Robert Dean continues with two years of his 3-yr. term remaining. (Addendum: the positions of secretary and trustee cannot be held by the same person. The position of Trustee for one year should be filled at the November meeting.)

Oct. 2 minutes, cont'd

Meeting adjourned at 7:35, followed by a presentation by James Wooten on how land in Ohio was sectioned after the Revolutionary War. Following the program, refreshments provided by Naomi Fodor were much enjoyed.

PROGRAM: James Wooten gave a very informative presentation on the various methods by which the lands in the Northwest Territory (which included Ohio) were surveyed and divided and sectioned by the government after the Revolutionary War. We learned about the "Seven Ranges," the Refugee Tract (for Canadian sympathizers with the American colonies), the Fire Lands, the U.S. Military District (which included Plain Township), and much more. We each received an excellent handout with maps and more details.

LUCIUS SMITH DIARY NOW AVAILABLE AS A KINDLE BOOK

The 1869-1871 Diary of Lucius Clark Smith, which has been a link in our Society's web page for some time, is now a Kindle Book, available from Amazon. Lucius (1834-1915) was the son of Archibald Smith (1803-1883), Plain Township pioneer. The house Archibald built on Kitzmiller Road in 1848, in which Lucius grew to maturity, is now owned and occupied by Society members Mark Baranoski and Emily Eby.

As a young man, Lucius kept several diaries, which have been coming to light in recent years. Dennis Keese owns two of them; the Ohio State Library's rare book room owns two more. Some time ago, Delores Lewis, wife of Harry Lewis, descendant of Lucius and Archibald, made a transcription of the 1869-71 text for John Saveson, who then annotated it.

Anyone interested in the details of everyday rural life in central Ohio in the Civil War period cannot do better than to read Lucius' observations. Proceeds from the Kindle version go directly to the Society. Members may want to recommend Lucius to their friends.

— John Saveson

(NOTE: See Newsletters of Dec/Jan 2012/13 and Feb/Mar 2013 for earlier articles on the diaries.)

NOTES & NEWS

8th GRADE TOURS -- Following what has now become a back-to-school tradition, we again welcomed 15 Social Studies classes (3 teachers and almost 400 students) during 6 days at the end of Aug. and start of Sept. Each class gets divided into 4 groups of 6 or 7 students each. The groups then rotate through four different areas of the house, each area with a different docent. The 14 docents who were involved commented on how much they enjoy showing the house to the students.

The **INDEX TO DR. SYLVESTER RANNEY'S CASEBOOKS**, a copy of which was recently given to us, was compiled by Jayne Davis at the Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society. This is a truly impressive accomplishment. There were at least 10 Casebooks, of which we have copies of about half. These list the treatments of patients, day by day, year after year, through the second half of the 19th Century. Payments are usually included, sometimes cabbages or chickens. Sometimes events such as Lincoln's assassination are mentioned in passing. The Index itself is 200 pages long, organized alphabetically by last names of patients, with refs. to volume and page numbers in the casebooks themselves, so it is easy now to look up almost any Plain Township resident in the late 19th century and find out something about him or her. We want to plan a program around this project in the coming year.

OUTING TO GRANVILLE -- Twelve of our members had a great time in Granville on Sept. 27, lunching at the Buxton Inn and touring the beautiful Robbins-Hunter Greek Revival house, with its impressive Greek-influenced columns, folding window blinds, gorgeous carpeting, and elegant antique furniture. Some of our group even took advantage of the Antiques Fair which just happened to be taking place at the same time.

OUTING TO GALLANT FARM -- Seven of us thoroughly enjoyed our outing on Oct. 18 to the Gallant Farm (one of the Delaware County Preservation Parks) with its comfortable 1930's-style farmhouse, so reminiscent of houses our grandparents and even some of our parents used to live in. We were put right at home, in fact, with hot tea and coffee and homemade cookies! We also checked out the huge old barn, with a number of our own Society's contributions among the vintage farm machines, and two newer farm buildings, one used for more machinery and the other featuring a very fine all-purpose meeting-room. The old farm machines are actually used for seeding, plowing, and harvesting on this working farm.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
Treasurer's Report -- August and September 2014

<u>Income</u>	<u>August</u>
New members (Nancy & Walt Sharp, & Richard Whitelock)	\$ 30.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
AEP -- (Ealy \$96.04; RTD \$9.10)	\$ 105.14
Ron Davis (Window repair & deck & porch resurfacing)	\$ 3050.00
Columbus City Water & Sewer (Ealy)	49.23
AT&T	\$ 34.77
<u>Total Expenses for August:</u>	<u>\$ 3239.14</u>

<u>Income</u>	<u>September</u>
Memberships (Richard & Jane Yantis)	\$ 20.00
Donations	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,220.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
AEP -- (Ealy \$119.26; RTD \$9.09)	\$ 128.35
Four hall light fixtures (Marilyn Regrut)	923.60
Minuteman Press (Newsletter)	69.45
ADT Security (3 months)	116.07
Wall-Carroll Electric (install hall fixtures)	381.00
AT&T	<u>39.12</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 1,657.59</u>

Sept 1 st Balance	\$ 14,003.94
Income	1,220.00
Expenses	1,657.59
<u>Balance September 30th</u>	<u>\$ 13,566.35</u>
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance 06/30/14	27,895.20
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 06/30/14	80,377.04
Ameriprise (8/31/14)	149,359.91 (includes 9,954. Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 219

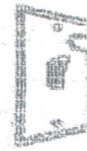
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Upcoming:

Sun. Oct. 26 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3

Thurs. Nov. 6 -- Society Meeting, Fire Station, 7 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 28 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3

Thurs. Dec. 4 -- Holiday Dinner at Methodist Church, 6:15 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 7 -- Ealy Open House, 1-3 p.m.

Thurs. Feb. 5 -- Society Meeting, Fire Station, 7 p.m.

(See details on all these events on page 2.)

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