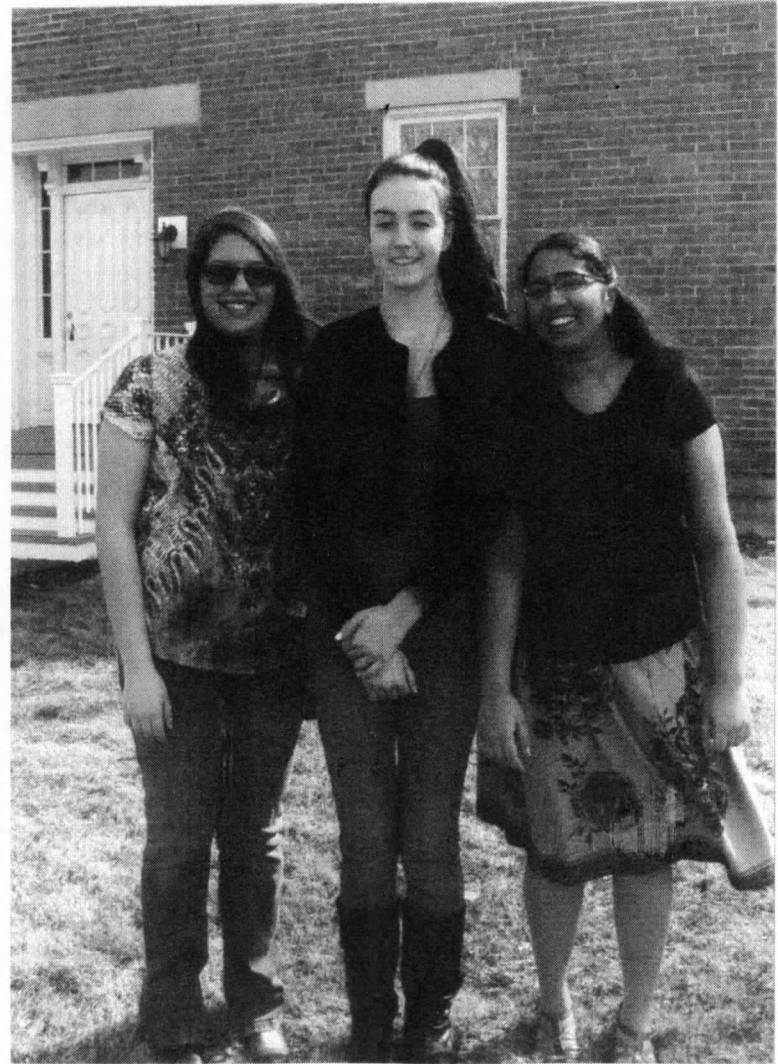


Newsletter

April & May 2015

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



We are fortunate to have three high school freshmen volunteering as docents at the Ealy House this year. Say "hello" to Grace Mancini, Willow Otten, and Meghana Ravi (l. to r.) next time you visit us for an open house.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL & MAY

MONDAYS at the EALY HOUSE — 9:30-12:00. We meet, exchange ideas, get a few chores done, show the occasional "walk-in" around the house. It's a good idea to call first (Ealy House phone no. is 855-9861).

MON. APRIL 6 — 10 a.m. **BOARD MEETING** at the Ealy House.

THURS. APRIL 9 — 7 p.m. **Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station.** **NOTE THE DATE** (2nd Thursday of the month).

Program: Jillian Carney from the Ohio History Connection (which is the new name of the Ohio Historical Society) will tell us about the advantages and techniques of making electronic versions of our photos and documents. We would then have an easy way to send copies to out-of-state descendants and of course would also have our own safe and accessible set of organized materials.

Ms. Carney is in charge of digitizing at the Ohio History Connection and also of an interesting project called "Ohio Memory."

Refreshments: Jeri Merritt

SAT. APRIL 11 — **Historic Dressmaking Workshop**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ohio History Center (800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus). Participants will learn how to make an 1860's work dress. Cost: \$50. Reservations are needed (800-686-1541). Catherine Saveson is planning to go. She has all the details. Her number is 614-218-0609.

SUN. APRIL 19 — 1-3 p.m. **OPEN HOUSE** at the Ealy House.

THURS. MAY 7 — 7 p.m. **Society Meeting AT THE EALY HOUSE.**

Program: Constance Mengel, an expert in 19th-century grain painting, as well as other types of "faux" painting, will analyze the grain painting on the woodwork in the Ealy House.

Refreshments: Dr. Marsh

FRI. MAY 15 — 4:00 p.m. **Ribbon-cutting for Resch Park.**

SAT. MAY 16 — **FOUNDERS DAY.** See page 3 for details.

THURS. JUNE 4 — **ANNUAL BARN POT-LUCK PICNIC** — 6 p.m. at the Saveson barn, 8370 Clouse Road. Details in next Newsletter. (No regular Society meeting.) **SAVE THIS DATE!**

FOUNDERS DAY 2015: "40 YEARS -- LET'S PARTY"

If you count from 1976, when the village of New Albany put on a huge bi-centennial celebration, Saturday, May 16, 2015, will be the 40th big party. It is technically only the 39th actual "Founders Day," though. According to our authority, Arloia Walton, the term "Founders Day" was first used in 1977, when our Historical Society decided to take advantage of the great success of the Village's 1976 celebration to come up with a reason for celebrating every spring. The Historical Society's first actual Founders Day was therefore in 1977, making this year's only the 39th. Anyway,, the theme of this year's event is "40 Years -- Let's Party!" So let's not quibble. Let's party!

The layout will be a bit different this year because of the construction of the new "1 to 8 Building." The main site of the event will be behind the original Elementary School building, but the art show and our Historical Society displays will remain in the Elementary gym. The main entrances will be on the back side of that school. Surely, there will be plenty of signs pointing us all in the right direction.

As for our displays, we will have quilts, maps, photos, and antique items as usual. The "What Is It?" collection of curious items will be featured again, with different mysteries to solve this year. We are still looking for more kinds of displays. And we will need volunteers to take two- or three-hour shifts at our tables between the hours of 10 and 5.

The Ealy House will be open to the public right after the parade, that is, from about noon until 4:00 p.m. We will need at least 5 docents in the house at all times, and one person outside to direct traffic. Shifts can be arranged to suit you.

As for the parade, we plan to enter our antique spring wagon again, but it badly needs painting. Rather than accept a bid for \$2000 to have it painted professionally, David Cline and Robert Dean have kindly volunteered to do the painting themselves.

If you can help out either in the gym or at the Ealy House on May 16, please call David Cline at 614-855-3122. Shifts can be arranged to fit your schedule.

BOB DICKENDESHER (1927 - 2015)

Robert Dean Dickendesher grew up in Gahanna, the son of Albert and Arline Hartsock Dickendesher. Before graduating from Gahanna Lincoln High School, he dropped out to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1945 to 1947. Then he returned to school and graduated in 1947. He and Florence Ileane (née Hartsock) were married on January 18, 1957.

During his working life Bob was a professional electrician. He was President of his Local 683 chapter of the IBEW at one time. But he had more irons in the fire than just being an electrician. He and Ileane owned a hardware-and-electronics store near the corner of Main and High Streets in New Albany and in fact lived in the same building, to which they added a second floor. Later they bought the building next door and started the pizza shop which eventually became the Eagles Pizza. Bob had many friends, who appreciated his good nature and his good stories. He died this past January 29.

He was preceded in death by Ileane in 2009 and by his two brothers, David and Eric. He is survived by his children, Gene Swickard, Nancy Seligman, and Mary Beth Fry, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, his sister Mary Gayek, sisters-in-law Patty Dickendesher and Marlene Thomas, and many other family members.

Ileane appreciated Bob's devotion to herself and to their three children, two of whom were from Ileane's first marriage. Bob was a devoted caretaker of Ileane during her final illness. They had always enjoyed doing things together. For example, when Bob needed to attend an IBEW convention in the West, Ileane went along, and they included a visit to Bob's sister in Los Angeles. Another memorable trip was to New York City to participate in a festival of boats. They sailed Bob's outboard craft down the Hudson into New York harbor. And they were enthusiastic campers.

They joined our Historical Society back in the early days of our acquisition of the Kern-Harrington House, and both were very helpful in getting that going and keeping it going. They also pitched in during the Dryer House days of repairs and picnics and sales. They stuck with us during the early days of our transition to the Ealy House. One of the high points of their life, according to their son, Gene, was acting as Grand Marshals in the Founders Day Parade of 2003. We are indebted to them both and will miss them both for a long time.

-- M. Saveson

FOUNDERS DAY HONOREES

The 2015 Founders Day Grand Marshals will be our own **ROBERT & DEBBIE DEAN**. Look for them in the parade riding in their own poppy-red 1937 Studebaker coupe. This will be Robert's 39th annual Founders Day Parade, but the first one as a Grand Marshal.

The Deans have been members of our Society for a very long time and members of the community for even longer. Robert and Debbie both have ancestors that were among the first settlers in Plain Township. Robert is a descendant of the Clouse family and Debbie is a descendant of the Mathias Dague family. More important than their ancestry are their enthusiasm and hard work. Thanks to both for helping us in many, many ways.

A brick in their honor is being given by the Founders Day Committee and will be added to our Ealy House front walkway near the bricks of previous Grand Marshals.

A second new brick will honor the Kiwanis Club and its affiliated Key Club for young people as this year's "Community Connect" choice. Each year, the Founders Day Committee recognizes a local organization in this way for its community service. Congratulations to Robert and Debbie and to the Kiwanis and Key Club members!

DONNA HUFF (1932 - 2015)

We were sorry to hear of the passing, on January 24, of Donna Huff, a long-time member of our Society. The daughter of Oscar Dean and Nellie Vesta Laviers Needles, Donna graduated from North High School and from Otterbein University. After working at the DSCC for 39 years, she was inducted into the DSCC Hall of Fame. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carroll Huff, in 2012, and by her sister Irene Allen and brother Don Needles. She is survived by her two daughters, Carol ("C.J.") and Maria, and one brother, Nelson Needles, besides many cousins, nieces, and nephews. Donna, Carroll, C.J., and Maria were loyal supporters of our early dinners, sales, and other activities. Some of us still appreciate Donna's numerous contributions to our Society cookbook, the Crossroads Cookbook.

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by David Cline, President.

General members in attendance are as follows and as supported by the attached sign-in sheet: David Cline, Neil Kirby, Helen Pestel, Richard Whitelock, Jerry Merritt, Jeri Merritt, John Saveson, Nancy Ferguson, Glyde Marsh, DVM, Robert Dean, Debbie Dean, Walt Sharp, Nancy D. Sharp, Kathy Yager, Marty Saveson, Betty Maynard, Marilyn Regrut.

Minutes for the January 2015 General Meeting were read by Richard Whitelock, Secretary. Nancy Ferguson moved that the minutes be accepted as read. Glyde Marsh seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Helen Pestel, Treasurer, gave a brief Treasurer's Report. The society's cash on-hand ending December 31, 2014, was \$10,916.15. After a close review of income and expenditures, Betty Maynard moved that the Treasurers' Report be accepted as read. There was no discussion; the motion was seconded by Richard Whitelock and passed by unanimous vote of the membership in attendance.

The 2015 grant request of the New Albany City Government has been submitted for approval. The board is awaiting the city's appropriation, at which point money will be tentatively budgeted for specific projects, subject to general membership approval. Neil Kirby moved that we accept the grant application as submitted by the board; Marilyn Regrut seconded the motion, which passed by majority vote of those members in attendance. Glyde Marsh, DVM opposed the motion.

Security system charges continue to escalate. David Cline volunteered to investigate alternate vendors for this important service and will report back to the general membership at the March general meeting.

Sadly, the society has lost members due to death. Members who have passed include Bob Dickendeshner, Donna Huff, Norma Gorsuch, and Tom Ealy, great nephew to George Ealy.

Sharon Carter broke her arm and, currently, is residing at a rehabilitation center; hopefully, she will return home soon.

The March 5 and April 9 general meetings of the society at the New Albany-Plain Fire House located on Johnstown Road.

The board will next meet at Noon, February 16, at the Ealy House.

Jeri Merritt presented a program on "Li'l Ones" and many in the group tried to make them. Debbie Dean supplied the membership with refreshments. Thanks to both for a job well done.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Whitelock, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual dues are \$4.00 for a student, \$10.00 for an individual, \$20.00 for a couple or a family, and \$100.00 for an organization. Lifetime memberships cost \$100.00 for an individual, \$140.00 for a couple, or \$200.00 for a family.

To join the Society, send your check to the Treasurer, NAPT Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054. Include your name(s), mailing address, E-Mail address (if any), and phone number. Call Treasurer Helen Pestel for more information at (614) 855-3765.

Jeri Merritt's "Li'l Ones"

Jeri Merritt has a full-time hobby which has turned into almost a full-time career. She makes adorable little porcelain-like figurines depicting brides & grooms, snowmen, Santas, animals, athletes, high school graduates, you name it. These are meant as decorations—they may be hung or they may be placed in the center of cakes, or used in any of dozens of decorative ways. Each piece is unique with great attention to detail and color. Faces are often copied from the real faces of the persons who are graduating or having birthdays, as the case may be.

At our February meeting, Jeri brought along 30 or 40 examples of her art and all the materials needed for us to create some pieces of our own. Imagine our surprise to see a bread-making machine, a gallon of liquid Elmer's Glue, and several loaves of Wonder Bread. The bread was torn into small bits and thrown into the bread machine along with a cup or so of glue and some coloring, then whizzed on the "dough" cycle until the mix was like Play-Dough. Each of us was handed a glob of this and told to shape it into a rabbit (one individualist made a cat). Jeri took our creations home, added a few finishing touches such as whiskers, and then somehow dried and glazed them and returned them to us at the March meeting. Our menagerie of pink Easter bunnies (& one white cat) was something to behold! Thanks so much, Jeri!

CARING CORNER

John and Sine Ayres have suffered the loss of a son recently. This tragic news reached them during some health crises of their own. We have learned about this too late to give more information in this Newsletter, but we want their friends to be aware of their grievous loss.

Sharon Carter is home and spending most of her time doing therapy to get her left arm going again. It all started with a bad fall two months ago, causing multiple breaks, followed by serious surgery. Thanks to her husband, Dave, and her therapists, she is gradually healing.

REGIONAL MEETING IN GAHANNA

On Saturday, March 21, the Regional Meeting for Historical Societies in Central Ohio was held in Gahanna at the old "Sanctuary." President David Cline and past president Marilyn Regrut represented our Society at the all-day event, which included breakfast, meetings, lunch, and tours of the three Gahanna Historical Society buildings: the 1820's log cabin, 1820's John Clark frame house, and early 20th-century Lily Stone bed-and-breakfast house.

The talks were on such topics as getting more volunteers and attracting more school children (we could tell others how to do that), but David reported that to him the most interesting topic was on historical myths that are frequently presented as facts. Some examples had to do with American Indians, whose colorful traits were mainly created by Hollywood movies (for instance, there was no such thing as an "Indian princess"). The speaker also pooh-poohed the story that quilts were used to convey secret messages about the Underground Railway. And we are to inform all docents that "coffin doors" are just another myth. If you see an extra-wide door in an old house, it was built that way for moving furniture through it, not in the expectation of a need for a coffin exit. (No problem for us at the Ealy House—we have not yet heard any rumors about a "coffin door.")

Marilyn was impressed with the fact that no matter how different the circumstances of the various Societies, all of us face the same challenges in maintaining our buildings and getting enough working members. Both Marilyn and David very much enjoyed meeting and exchanging information with delegates from the other Societies. And guess what? At the end of the day, each of our two delegates won a nice lavender plant as a door prize.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

If you wish to honor or memorialize someone through our Historical Society, there are two ways of doing so. First, you may make a donation to our Memorial Fund, which is an account that is kept separate from our everyday expenses. Or you might like to purchase a brick for our walkway honoring or commemorating an individual or family. Each brick costs \$50.00. There are certain restrictions in lettering on a brick. Get in touch with Helen Pestel (614-855-3765) for more details. Checks should be mailed to the NAHT Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054.

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Highlights of the Meeting of March 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The electric service at the Rose-Taylor Dryer House will be disconnected and the propane tank will be removed from the property.

A smoke detector will be added to the current alarm system at the Ealy House after we shop around for the best provider.

The HVAC system at the Ealy House should be professionally serviced every spring and fall.

We have found an expert weaver, Robin Schuricht, at the Ohio History Connection, who is willing to come look at our big loom in the Ealy House and help us re-string it. We will try to arrange this in the summer.

Two or three summer OUTINGS to nearby historical sites are being planned for the Society. We are also considering a picnic at one of these events. Candidates for these trips are (1) the Hilliard historical village, (2) Slate Run Farm, and (3) the Orange-Johnson House in Worthington. (See the next Newsletter for details.)

FOUNDERS DAY will be May 16. We are in the process of getting an estimate to paint our antique Spring Wagon for the parade.

An APRIL OPEN HOUSE will start our Ealy tour season on Sunday, April 19, from 1 to 3 p.m.

PROGRAM: A MARVELOUS SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THEIR TRIP TO RUSSIA was given by Betty and David Maynard, who traveled last fall by riverboat from Moscow to St. Petersburg. We were shown beautiful gardens, fall foliage, rainy and sunny weather, the Volga River (plus connecting rivers), small towns, markets, schools, palaces and modest homes, many onion-domed churches, -- in other words, a very impressive view of a fascinating country.

The evening was finished off with excellent American refreshments, thanks to Helen Pestel.

-- Richard Whitelock, Secretary

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
 Treasurer's Report – January/February, 2015



When asked about their experience in the Ealy House, our three freshmen docents said the following:

Meghana (far right): "My favorite room is the doctor's room with all the pill bottles, the wheelchair, and the baby walker. My favorite thing is the organ in the upstairs hall. In the bedroom, it's always fun asking the kids about the chamber pot under the bed."

Grace (middle): "Every single time I come here I learn something new about the Ealy House. History becomes real when you see it in person, and that's when it means the most."

Willow (left) wrote a haiku: "History is cool
 So come to the Ealy House
 And learn a lot more."

Income	January	February
Memberships –Farber, Thomas, Hess, Fisher		\$ 50.00
Regional Meeting		60.00
Pamphlets		5.25
JP Morgan Chase Foundation-Volunteer Grant-John Conners		150.00
Memorials (Dickendeshler & Gorsuch)		\$ 120.00
Total Income	\$ -0-	\$ 385.25
Expenses		
AEP – (Ealy \$611.64;\$770.10;RTD\$9.12;\$13.75)	\$ 620.76	\$ 783.95
OLHA – Ohio Local History Alliance dues	35.00	
AT&T	<u>37.95</u>	37.93
Columbus-City Treasurer-Water & Sewer		32.37
AEC Printing, L.L.C.		\$ 76.50
Westfield Insurance		<u>1,116.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 693.71	\$2,046.75

Jan 1 st Balance	\$ 11,609.86
Income	385.25
Expenses	2,740.46
Balance February 28th	\$ 9,254.65
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance 12/31/14	29,102.13
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/14	79,911.88
Ameriprise (1/31/15)	142,243.56 (includes 9,479.85 (6.66452%) Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 219

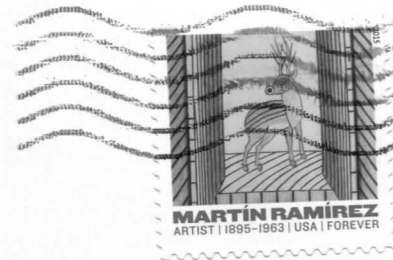
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Upcoming:

Thurs. April 9 -- Society Meeting

Sun. April 19 -- Ealy Open House

Thurs. May 7 -- Soc. Meeting at Ealy House

Sat. May 16 -- Founders Day

(See p. 2 for details)

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