

Newsletter

April and May 2012

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



*The 1851 Garner/Strait House as it appears in 2012
at the intersection of Kitzmiller Road and Dublin-Granville Road*

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAYS AT THE EALY HOUSE -- 9:30-11:30 -- Come to paint, clean, sort, organize, and catch up on our news. Phone one of the officers first to make sure we are going to be there.

NOTE: The April Society Meeting will be on the **SECOND** Thursday of the month (April 12 instead of April 5).

THURS. APRIL 12 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station.
Program: Susie Banchefsky will display and talk about antique dolls.

THURS. APRIL 26 --(a.m.) Sixth-grade Tours of Ealy House
7 p.m. -- Board meeting at Tim Horton's

THURS. MAY 3 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station
Program: Richard Banks will talk about the collection of historic Plain Township photographs, papers, and books which he rescued from the old Nafzger house on Hamilton Road before it was demolished (see story on p. 3). The items will be on display at the meeting. Old-timers, please come and help identify some of the photos, most of which are unlabeled.

SAT. MAY 5 -- 11 a.m. **FOUNDERS DAY MEMORIAL BRICK CEREMONY**
Dedication of 55 Memorial Bricks honoring all Founders Day Grand Marshals, past & present, plus 5 "Community Connect" designees. Many of the former marshals and C.C. representatives will attend. Family members, friends, Society members, and any other interested people are all invited to attend. The event will take place in front of the Ealy House (6359 Dublin-Granville Rd.) and will be followed by refreshments and tours of the house.

SAT. MAY 19 -- **FOUNDERS DAY**

TUES. MAY 22 -- Newsletter Deadline. If you have material for the Newsletter, contact Marty Saveson at 614-855-9809.

THURS. JUNE 7 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the fire station.

DONATIONS OF HISTORICAL ITEMS

Richard Banks' recent gift to our Society of local historical materials (see p. 3) should remind us all to look through our own piles of old papers and photos. If you have items connected to the history of New Albany and Plain Township that you would like to donate or would allow us to copy, please contact Marilyn Regrut, President, by E-mail at pregrut@aol.com or by phone at 614-797-4490.

A TREASURE TROVE OF LOCAL HISTORY

In February, President Marilyn Regrut received an E-mail from Richard Banks of Mount Vernon, Ohio, who informed us that he had some photos of Plain Township he wanted to share with the Historical Society. A few days later, he appeared at the Ealy House during one of our Monday morning work days and brought along two large boxes of photos, papers, and books. The items had been discovered by Mr. Banks the day the Nafzger family house was being demolished, about 15 years ago. With a longtime interest in history, he literally held up the demolition crews a few minutes so he could save the artifacts.

In the early 20th century, several generations of the Nafzger family lived in the southwestern part of Plain Township, on the north side of Broadview Road just west of Hamilton Road. One of the Nafzgers' daughters, Bertha, taught at a nearby one-room school known as the "Nafzger School." This school was located on the east side of Hamilton Road, north of Thompson Road. Many of the books, papers, and pictures saved by Mr. Banks were connected to the Nafzger family, the school, and its students.

In the early 1900s, the school year usually ended when planting time arrived and children were needed to help plant the fields. Those students who completed the school year were given a small booklet called a "School Souvenir" listing the names of the teacher, superintendent, school board members, and students. Included in Mr. Banks' boxes was such a "souvenir" from 1918. Bertha Nafzger, the teacher at the "Nafzger School," was photographed for the front. Listed inside were the names of the Superintendent (J.E. Clum), the school board members, and the students. Many of those names are familiar to us today: Swickard, Miller, McElwee, Burnside, Babbitt, Schneider, Thompson, Williamson, and Aitken. Even the teacher's younger sister was one of the 24 students there: Myrtle Nafzger.

Included in the boxes were books Bertha Nafzger probably used during her days teaching at the Nafzger School or later when she taught in Gahanna and Lancaster. Also included were pictures of family, friends, the Nafzger house, the school in New Albany, and many students who attended Plain Township schools. The boxes even included a few small children's toys: an iron bank, a double slate chalk board, a pencil box, painted toy dishes, a glove box, and even a Valentine! To learn more about this generous gift to our Society and to meet Mr. Banks in person, join us for our May 3rd Society meeting at 7 p.m. at the Plain Township Firehouse.

-- Nancy Ferguson, Curator

THE STRAIT/GARNER HOUSE

The old brick house which is pictured on our cover was built by Dennis B. Strait, probably in 1851, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Kitzmiller Road and old Route 161. In recent years it has been known as the Garner House, because Sled and Josie Garner lived in it for over 60 years. The house is now owned by the New Albany Company, which is restoring it. In his March 1989 NAPT Historical Society Newsletter, John Saveson wrote a 6-page account of both the house and its inhabitants. Half of that material will be re-printed in these pages, and the rest of the article in the next issue.

* * * * *

The Strait/Garner house sits on one of the original 100-acre tracts (lot 22) into which the southeast quarter of Plain Township was divided for the purpose of redeeming warrants given to Revolutionary War veterans. Most veterans sold their warrants.

Several surnames familiar in Plain and Jefferson Townships appear on the early deeds for lot 22. William Headley bought the tract at a sheriff's sale in 1830 and sold it to Henry Havens in 1831. Havens sold it to Jonathan Bobo in 1832. Bobo sold it to Dennis B. Strait in 1851; and the property remained in the Strait family until 1947, when Whitney Strait's daughter Ona and her sister, Gloria, sold the house and 108 acres to William J. (Sled) and Josie Garner, who had already been renting the house since 1926. Around 1970 the Garners sold their land to the Perry developers, retaining a life tenancy of the house. The New Albany Company later acquired the property.

The 1860 Census tells us that Dennis B. Strait was born in New Jersey and came to Ohio in or about 1851. In 1860 his household included three children, all born in Ohio: Whitney (age 7), Cordelia (4), and Ann (2). It included also a servant girl, Eliza Davenport, then 13, who was born in New Jersey.

In several ways the house is typical of farmhouses in Plain Township dating from the mid-nineteenth century, with cut-stone sills, lintels, and foundation and solid brick walls. The exterior resembles that of Pike Taylor's house (5581 Harlem Rd., since demolished) and the house that George Clouse built at the end of Clouse road. All three houses were made from bricks burned on their own land; and probably the lumber in all three came from nearby woodlots. The basement of the Garner house, like the basement of the

Clouse house, served as a sometime kitchen. It had a brick floor and a fireplace. When the Garners moved in, the fireplace still held an iron kettle for rendering lard (the Garners made use of that kettle).

The woodwork and the downstairs floors are walnut. Whitney Strait told the Garners that his father (Dennis B. Strait) and his grandfather cut the lumber in the woods on the south end of the tract and themselves made the paneled doors and the handsome front stairs. Presumably, also, they made the fine mantels for fireplaces in the living room, dining room (since removed), and one upstairs bedroom, and all the rest of the woodwork.

The Garner house on the inside is essentially one long rectangle from west to east, the rectangle being divided into three rooms opening into each other: a living room or front parlor (16' x c.15'), a dining room or everyday parlor (16' x c.15'), and a kitchen (16' x c.10'). The three bedrooms above, reached by a front and a rear stairway, correspond to the three rooms below and also open into each other.

A distinctive feature of the Garner house is the fact that the front stairs are enclosed in what might be called a two-story vestibule on the south, which gives the otherwise rectangular interior the shape of an L. Along the south side of the house, east of the "extension," originally there was an open porch (closed in by the Garners, but now gone). West of the "extension" was a small stoop (also now gone) covering the front entrance. . . . The vestibule also had, also, a "back" door to the back porch.

In addition to the access to Kitzmiller Road from the front entrance of the house, a door from the dining room gave access to the side yard and 161. The porch gave access to the barnyards. Josie Garner remembers a pitcher pump on the porch, which allowed the women to carry in water under cover and the men, coming from work, to wash up.

The plan of the Strait/Garner house, whether taken from the Builders Book or from the minds of its builders or from both, is simple, logical, even elegant.

-- John E. Saveson

(In the next Newsletter we will reprint the rest of Dr. Saveson's article, including Josie Garner's memories about living in this house.)

PLANS FOR FOUNDERS DAY, MAY 19

1. Participate in the Parade with our antique spring wagon drawn by a horse. We will invite the 4-H kids to ride in it again.
2. Open the Ealy House to the public from 2 to 4 p.m.
3. Have displays in the school gym: the Heritage Quilt, Ethel Schleppe paintings, historic photos and maps showing the changes in the town over the last 150 years.
4. NO BAKE SALE.

The theme for the event this year is "This City is Our City."

EALY HOUSE UPDATE

The Ealy House basement now has an attractive main room, with newly painted woodwork and clean walls (thanks to John Saveson). It just needs a table--a nice big old table for displays or craft projects or meetings. We would love to be given such a table. Other news is that Nancy Ferguson and David Cline have covered the handwriting on the walls of the attic with plexiglass. More writing kept appearing as they worked. David did some research on some of the newly discovered names and determined that they belonged to grandchildren of George Ealy.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED DURING 2011

In memory of Cecil Walton: Ben Hale, Marjorie Pestel, Robert & Betty Ann Underwood, Fred & Betty Ehrman, Martha & Charles Campbell, Arloia Walton, Mike & Connie Carr, Naomi Fodor, Eileen Hull, Carl & Doris Brenning, Linda Martin, Eleanor Butsko, John & Diane Goedeking, and Carole Walton.

In memory of Agnes Campbell: Eleanor Butsko

In memory of Robert Goodrich: Eleanor Butsko

Note: Memorial donations received during 2012 will be recognized early in 2013. Note also that the Historical Society itself always makes a contribution to the Memorial Fund in honor of each member who has died. Anyone who wishes to make such a donation should send a check to the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society at P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054, indicating the person(s) to be honored. The family will be notified of the gift (not the amount).

**NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 2, 2012
PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE HOUSE**

The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Regrut at 7:20 PM.

The minutes were read by Secretary Liz Feichter. Kathy Yager made a motion to accept them as read and David Cline seconded. The motion was approved; however, John Saveson objected to the minutes because it contained a statement regarding the museum sign. In discussing the sign at the previous meeting someone mentioned adding "the home of the Doran family." The minutes were corrected to show this was a tentative suggestion.

Helen Pestel gave the Treasurer's report. There were no questions or discussion and John Ayres made a motion to accept and Marty Saveson seconded the motion. It was approved.

Helen Pestel presented the 2012 budget and explained the costs. We may have to increase the AEP amount since they have raised rates. The horse rental for the Founders' Day parade was added at \$800, increasing the budget total to \$16,705. Liz made a motion to accept the budget and David seconded. The motion passed.

The Society greatly appreciates the thought process and work Helen has put into preparing the monthly Treasurers' report as well as the budget.

Dublin Wildlife Control Company has been contacted to give us a bid on cleaning the attic.

A group from the Sunbury United Methodist Church will tour the museum on February 7th, at 10:00 AM. We will clean on the 6th at 9:30 AM.

There is a problem with a drain at the museum. The backyard has water and seems to have a stoppage under the stone walk. Water should drain to the driveway. Robert Dean will check into it and let us know what is needed.

The duct work has been completed.

City Council was concerned with what our plans were for the grant money. John Saveson made a motion to provide additional financial disclosures in regards to the application. During discussion it was agreed that it wasn't necessary and the motion failed for lack of a second. *(If anyone wishes to read John Saveson's motion regarding the additional financial disclosure, it is filed with the Feb. minutes.)*

Feb. minutes, cont'd

David Cline had discussed the wireless receiver we found in the attic with Rackie Campbell. It was made or modified by Evan Doran for Maynard Doran to receive broadcast radio in the mid 1920's. They used a 6-volt battery to power it.

NEW BUSINESS

The Founders' Day Committee wants a special day for the installation of the bricks honoring all of the FD Grand Marshalls. It will be scheduled for a weekend in April. The museum will be open. The committee will help with refreshments.

Helen has sent the bricks to be engraved. Many thanks to Helen Pestel, David Cline, Naomi Fodor, John and Sine Ayres and Marty Saveson for checking the correct spelling of each name.

Marilyn Regrut, Nancy Ferguson and David Cline will attend the quilt show in June to check out the magnetic quilt hanging apparatus.

Founders' Day is May 19, 2012

The theme is "This City is My City."

We will display photos, maps, quilt, tools, arrow heads, etc.

The Society will participate in the parade.

The old andiron in the fireplace in the basement has a piece broken off in the back. Nancy Ferguson asked Steve Bevelhymer if he could weld it. He can.

Liz made a motion to accept this and David seconded. The motion passed.

Nancy has some old pictures of Ruth Doran and her sisters and brothers. We are looking for more old pictures of the Doran and Ealy families.

The program was presented by Theresa Kempker and she talked about her experiences teaching English as a second language. Most of her students were Asian and all were adults. It is difficult in this modern country we live in to imagine the clash of cultures she told of. We don't think anything of women lawyers, doctors or teachers; yet in some cultures women are not permitted to interact in this way with men. I can only imagine the shock when Theresa entered that classroom for the first time and announced she was the teacher. A great program, Theresa, thank you so much.

February Board meeting is Feb. 22, 12 noon, at the Museum.

B -- Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2012
PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE HOUSE

The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Regrut. Liz Feichter read the minutes and Marty Saveson corrected a portion of the description of Theresa's students as Saudi instead of Asian. Helen Pestel then made a motion to accept the minutes and David Cline seconded. The motion passed.

Helen Pestel read the financial report and the \$8000 grant from New Albany City Council has been received. Kathy Yager made a motion to accept the report and David seconded. The motion was approved.

Marilyn made note of those members who performed some projects and made donations: John Saveson for all of his work in the basement of the museum which included painting woodwork and walls, having bricks replaced as needed and tuck-pointing; Robert and Debbie Dean for checking into the drain problem in the museum yard; David Cline and Nancy Ferguson who cleaned walls in the attic and covered the signatures with plexiglass; Helen Pestel for transporting and planting bricks; and Naomi Fodor who donated three oil lamps. One of the lamps came from Blanche Fravel, one from her mother and the third was a lamp Jim had intended to electrify.

Liz Feichter nominated Robert and Debbie Dean as Founders Day Grand Marshalls. Monica Morgan seconded the nomination and the motion passed.

The basement wall will be watched for signs of wetness. The drain has been opened.

Nancy Ferguson will discuss the attic decon problem with Glyde Marsh. The latest problem brought to our attention is the guano under the floor boards and if it needs to be cleaned because of allergens.

The Community Events Board will discuss the feasibility of a Plain Township Picnic that we would like to schedule for July Fourth.

The regional meeting is being held at Grove City on March 24. Registration is required by March 19th.

New Albany High School History teacher, Chad Schuler, is offering student involvement with computerization technology, an area we need help with.

A blacksmithing seminar is available on March 24th in Fort Hill, Ohio.

The Westerville Library will present a program on the history of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans Home in Xenia, Ohio. On March 29th at 7PM, William Chavonne will discuss the book, A Home of Their Own, written by Ed Lentz.

-- Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

NOTES & NEWS

SHOW & TELL-- Following the business meeting on March 1, we enjoyed trying to identify the various unfamiliar old objects brought in by members. Some of the hardest to figure out were a bell-shaped ice-cream mold, a fence stretcher, a meat hanger with vicious-looking hooks, a horn beaker, and huge tongs meant for either ice blocks or perhaps for logs. It was unanimously agreed that whoever has any additional curious antiques should bring them to one of our meetings.

On February 7, a group of **ten members of the Sunbury Methodist Church** toured the Ealy House. They were very much taken with the house and furnishings, and we all had a good time comparing notes. As often happens with adult visitors, we got at least one mystery item identified: a curious wooden object which resembles a child's airplane turned out to be a butter press!

Jim and Mary Heischman were visited recently by John Saveson, who reports that they are both in poor health. Mary is helpless at this point, and Jim feeds her most of her meals. He himself is undergoing treatment for lung cancer, but maintains his good nature and his independence. We are still grateful to him for running our auctions at Founders Days in the past and for compiling our **Crossroads Cookbook**. Both Jim and Mary were very faithful members of our Society as long as they still lived in Columbus. Their address is Apt. 9125, 9 Masonic Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45504-5606.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
Treasurer's Report January/February, 2012

<u>Income</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Febru</u>
Membership -Stoia, Carter, Fisher, R & J Thomas	\$ 10.00	\$
Pamphlets	3.50	
Applebutter		
Bricks		2.4
Checking Interest	<u>1.48</u>	
Total Income	\$ 14.98	\$ 2.9

<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$359.37,\$359.37;RTD\$5.97,\$5.97)	\$ 365.34	\$ 3
AT&T	26.26	
Columbus-City Treasurer (Water & Sewer)		
Westfield Insurance		1.0
Print Xpress (Newsletter)		
Total Expenses	\$ 391.60	\$ 1.4

Jan. 1 st Balance	<u>\$ 17,358.11</u>	
Income	2,520.85	
Expenses	1,884.78	
Feb. 29 th Balance	<u>\$ 17,994.18</u>	
Hold for Brick Order	750.00	
Hold for Computer Software	600.00	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 12/31/11	19,534.94	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/11	64,839.78	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (1/31/12)	113,067.15 (includes \$7,513.54 (6	(Memorial Money

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasur

MAILING LABELS

Without 104 accurate mailing labels, Newsletters would never make it to you readers. Many thanks to Sharon Carter for keeping the mailing list up to date printing out the labels.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

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Thurs. April 12 — next Society meeting

Thurs. May 3 — May Society meeting

Sat. May 5 — Memorial Brick Ceremony

Sat. May 19 — Founders Day

(Details on p. 2)