

Newsletter

August and September 2010

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Florence Bevelhimer on her Wedding Day, June 5, 1933

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Tues. Aug. 17 -- Board Meeting

Thurs. SEPTEMBER 2 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at
the Plain Township Fire Station

Tues. SEPT. 14 -- Board Meeting

Tues. SEPT. 21 -- Newsletter deadline

Tues. SEPT. 28 -- Board Meeting

Thurs. OCTOBER 7 -- Society Meeting at the
Fire Station

Sat. OCT. 9 -- HARVEST THE ARTS FESTIVAL

WE WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS

John and Patricia McDonald
26 Pickett Place, New Albany

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Memorial Bricks may be ordered at any time for a donation of \$50.00 per brick. Each brick may have an inscription of up to 3 lines, with a maximum of 17 characters per line (spaces and punctuation count as characters). For more information, call Helen Pestel at 855-3765, or write her at P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054.

Third of July FLOAT

Our impressive Ealy House float was once again featured in a parade, this time with flags adorning it. Our young 4-H friends were happy to ride it for the second time this summer. Thank you, kids, mothers, and 4-H leaders, and thanks to Willard Zarley for pulling the float with his tractor.

INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE EALY HOUSE

The Ealy House provided a wonderful setting on a warm July afternoon, with the thick brick walls keeping the house cool, and the windows opened to allow cross breezes. People dropped in as they walked back from the parade or drove to parking at Resurrection Church and walked over; some even called more friends to stop by, until we had forty entries in our guest book. This means that we easily had twice that many people, since many were family groups.

Dedicated volunteers guided people through the house, told the history of the Ealys and New Albany, and explained the use of older furnishings. Visitors were delighted by the shady back porch, where they could enjoy cool lemonade, iced tea, or punch while viewing the sloping yard and Rose Run below. Society members who served as docents, drink servers, and hall monitors were Patty Zarley, Kathy Yager, Marilyn Regrut, Helen Pestel, Neil Kirby, Theresa Kempker, Naomi Fodor, Robert Dean, Debbie Dean, Sine-Marie Ayres, and John Ayres.

The docents noted that visitors commented on and really liked artwork on the walls. Children took great delight in talking through the windows without screens. (Are screens not movable these days on new houses?) People really enjoy finding out who used to live where their house is now and what their land was used for. They also like to learn the history of area landmarks.

Points to remember: (1) We need to watch visitors closely, so that they do not handle the displays. Two families sat down, opened the organ, and started playing before a shocked Marilyn could get to them. (2) The restroom mildews badly; perhaps we should keep our eye out for a dehumidifier.

--Theresa Kempker

FLORENCE BEVELHYMER (1911-2010)

Florence was born to Rex and Minta Moreland McIntosh on July 20, 1911, when her family lived on Broad Street, west of Pataskala. They moved to Summit when Florence was 6, and lived on a 70-acre farm from which they sold milk and vegetables. Florence's only sister, Mary, and her two brothers, Lester and Emerson, all preceded her in death, as did her friend and guardian, Dan Mooney. Sadly, Florence died on Easter Sunday, the last of her family, far from home, in Normal, Illinois, where she is buried.

However, she had a remarkable life. After graduating from Lima Township High School in Summit (now Licking Heights H.S. in Summit Station) in 1929, she enrolled in an office training school, which prepared her for her first "real" job, at the W.F. Hutchinson Furniture Store, beginning in June 1930.

In 1932, Kenneth Bevelhymer saw Florence's picture on the piano of her cousin's house and wangled a way to join the cousin and her boyfriend (who was Kenny's best pal) at a square dance where Florence would be also. They danced every "round dance," and he signed her up for a date, which led to another date, and another, and so on. They were married in June 1933.

At the furniture store, meanwhile, the girl who had replaced Florence was making too many mistakes, and so Mr. Hutchinson persuaded Florence to return to work in Dec. 1933. She worked 43 years at the furniture store, 13 while Mr. Hutchinson was living, then 15 years as part owner (Mr. H. had left the store to his three most loyal employees), then 10 in a formal partnership with one of the co-owners; and finally Kenny and Florence bought the remaining shares and Florence ran the store until 1973. At one time she had as many as 8 employees.

For the first 17 years of their marriage they lived with Kenny's parents on Walnut Street in Plain Township. Kenny worked full-time on the family farm there, while Florence drove every day to work at the Furniture Store on Mt. Vernon Ave. in Columbus. Her memoirs tell of many adventures, including robberies, hold-ups, and a terrible car accident in which her most trusted employee was killed. She gives several accounts of the dedication of her staff. Once, when her black delivery-truck driver was denied service at a restaurant where

she and several of her employees wanted to stop for lunch, she told the restaurant manager that NONE of them would eat there, and so they all marched out.

Finally, in 1949, Florence and Kenny acquired a house of their own, but not without first using some persuasive techniques, for Kenny's parents did not want them to move out of the family home. Now comes one of the many colorful and dramatic incidents which Florence wrote about in her memoirs: Old Mrs. Bevelhymer got mad at old Mr. B. over the plans for a new bathroom, which he was dead-set against installing (the outhouse was good enough for him), and old Mr. B. actually ran away, temporarily. Florence cleverly used this incident to argue that old Mr. B. really needed old Mrs. B. to take care of him without having others living in the same house. So Florence & Kenny finally moved into their own home, near the furniture store, at 964-6 Livingston Ave. It was a duplex, one floor of which they rented out.

But in 1965, Kenny's dad broke his hip, so Florence and Kenny sold the Livingston house and moved back to the farm to help take care of him. He died in 1969. Kenny's mother lived until 1979. Somewhere along the line, old Grandpa Bevelhymer had come & lived in the same house too (3 generations under the same roof). Florence nursed all these old folks, one after the other, even while working at the store. Her own father had problems, also, and she bore the brunt of arranging his affairs. She even brought him to the Walnut St. house for a time.

In the years after she retired from the store Florence threw herself into many community projects. For example, she wrote countless letters to help get Fire Chief Fred Whitehead exonerated. She helped in the campaign to elect Dave Curtis as a Township Trustee (again, many letters, and even a campaign song!). In more recent years, as most of us remember, she fought to get the spelling of "Bevelheimer" Road changed back to "Bevelhymer" Road, as it now is on all the maps. And she was a terrific worker in our Society, especially on Founders Days and at Harvest Festivals and yard sales.

Her memoirs and scrapbooks are a real treasure. These will be placed in the Ealy House archives. They record 99 years of local history in a detailed and colorful way and will serve as a valuable legacy to her friends and to her community.

--Marilyn Saveson

MINUTES OF THE NAPT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING of JUNE 3, 2010

Willard Zarley opened the meeting at 7:10 at the NA Fire Station. Minutes of the May 6 meeting were read by Marilyn Regrut. Change from post cards to note cards requested by Patty Zarley. Motion to accept with change by John Saveson, second Neil Kirby,

Treasurer's report distributed in the absence of the treasurer. Sharon Carter stated that she has a \$20.00 donation from Founders Day, cash from jars and \$1.50 for pamphlets for total of \$46.65. Sharon will hold for the treasurer. Motion to accept treasurer's report as distributed by Kathy Yager, second Sharon Carter.

Landscaping: Oakland Nursery does not require a down payment; John Saveson stated that they will start work in the next few days.

Dryer House: The barn door is now down, leaving contents open to all comers. There was a discussion of the track vs the door itself as the issue. Members reported more new holes in the roof, probably from golf balls. Naomi Fodor reported that she was told a tree went down in last night's storm.

The problem of the barn door was tabled by President Zarley.

John Saveson asked about the future of Dryer House and where we are with Mr. Ciminello. Discussion ensued about cost for maintaining the property, needed repairs, and possible change of the contract to allow sale or rental. The historical importance of the property, house and barn to township and the Historical Society was discussed at length. Neil Kirby will check on the possibility of dividing the property.

The possible removal of the 25-year restriction discussed at the March meeting was again mentioned. An in-depth plan is needed. Tabled. Will discuss at the board meeting

Ealy House: Mr Zarley announced the formation of a committee to organize the office in one of the upstairs rooms consisting of, Theresa Kempker, Helen Pestel and Marilyn Regrut.

Patty Zarley identified a problem with the latch on the ramp gate. After discussion it was decided that directions should be posted next to it.

Patty also mentioned that David Cline might consider being curator. She generously offered to be of assistance in the learning process.

The "faceless girl" picture now has facial features. No action taken.

Nancy Ferguson made contact with a member with questions about our status as a tax-exempt organization. Discussion ensued and it was felt that Helen Pestel has taken care of it as demonstrated with an expenditure in the financial report.

NEW BUSINESS

July 4 event: Parade will be on July 3. Sharon Carter has the paperwork for parade entry, no fee required. Plans are to use the Founders Day Float which is in Kim's barn. Marty has invited the 4H kids to participate again. The Ealy House will be open following the parade until 2 PM. Theresa stated that we must have a member in each room during the open house. Marilyn Regrut moved that we sell beverages on the back porch, second by Theresa. Type of beverages to be decided.

Computer: The Society needs a new computer. Neil reported that we may have access to the High School prices. We have \$1800.00 budgeted. Willard noted that the soft ware may have to be enhanced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Marty Saveson stated that the plow recently offered to the Society is not worth taking.

Marty announced that the new sign is in process of being made.

Marty announced that John's sister Joey Thomas is a docent at the Governor's Mansion, discussed how interesting the house tour is.

Jim Rousseau, a local Scout Master, was introduced as a guest.

Motion to Adjourn Kathy Yager, second Sharon Carter.

Submitted by,
Marilyn Regrut, Secretary

Marty Saveson displayed pictures given to her by Dan Mooney. They came from the Bevelhimer house.

THE DRYER PROPERTY

A recent storm knocked down a major piece of a huge tree. Thanks to Steve Bevelhymmer for cutting it up and removing the large trunk pieces. The golf course maintenance crew offered last spring to pick up debris in our yard, so we assume that they are the ones who finished picking up the pile of small branches after Steve took the main part of the tree. We certainly appreciate the help.

But no rest for the weary. We hate to report it, but there is another major leak in the Dryer house. Again, it is coming through the "raccoon room" down into the dining room, but in a different part of the room from the last big leak. The Society must make a major decision about this property. Please give it some thought before our August 5 meeting.

EALY LANDSCAPING PROGRESS

The Oakland Nursery has recently accomplished the following:

1. Removal of all rubble left from porch demolition.
2. Removal of all brush, a scrub tree or two, and vine roots.
3. Removal of 4 trees (including grinding the stumps.)
4. Removal of an old buried concrete sidewalk which led out from cellar and which would have hindered grading.
5. Reclaiming of land in the SW corner of the lot, which had been totally overgrown.
6. Placed stone slabs to make steps in slope near cellar door.
7. Placed stone slab outside cellar door.

Still remaining to be done: some minor grading and the plantings.

MINUTES OF THE NAPT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETING of JULY 1, 2010

At the potluck party held in Savesons' barn, Willard Zarley called the meeting to order.

No minutes were read. No treasurer's report.

Mr Zarley requested help for the open house at Ealy House July 3. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

John Saveson reported that he has gotten a bid from All Ohio Masonry Restoration for tuck-pointing work on the Ealy foundation.

Exterior work \$625

Interior work \$5600

John suggests we do the exterior work now and hold off on the interior work. Sharon reminded us that there were to be 2 bids. John stated that he got one and that was sufficient because the company has a good reputation. Discussion followed with comments that there should always be more than one bid on work being contracted.

Willard voiced his concerns about money being spent when we do not have it. He has serious concerns about an open area visible at the roof line on the west side of the house, and the status of grading around the foundation. There are also holes which need to be filled.

There was discussion re use of restoration funds. This will be discussed at the next board meeting and will include the exploration of areas needing attention and priority-setting regarding what to fund.

John Ayres moved that the bid from All Ohio Masonry Restoration for \$625 to tuck-point the exterior foundation above grade be accepted.

Second by John Saveson. Vote 7 in favor, 6 against Motion Passed.

Russell Watts, member of Masons, presented a detailed discussion of Fraternal Organizations in the community. He showed 3 frames of pictures of former Past Masters of Caledonia Lodge #416. These artifacts were offered to the Historical Society to keep and display. After discussion it was decided that there are other venues available that would allow safety and more visibility to the community.

Submitted by, Marilyn Regrut, secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETINGS

June 22, 2010

Mainly discussed upcoming July 3rd events--float, open house, etc.

Dryer House -- No decisions other than to look at Dryer expenses next time.

Computer -- Neil reported that we can get a good computer for our purposes for about \$1300. This would be set up in the little room at the head of the stairs.

July 20, 2010

Ealy House Priorities -- Willard wants to set up a system for determining priorities at the Ealy House. He proposes a committee to consist of himself and the Kirby-Ayres-Saveson Restoration Committee, to meet before the next Society meeting.

Harvest Festival Committee--this would be set up at the next Society meeting.

Sale(s) of excess goods -- If we are to have a Sale, we need to "get going." A group decided to meet at the Dryer House the next 2 Mondays (July 26 & Aug. 2) at 10 a.m. to decide what can and should be sold. Such a sale would take place in mid-September, on the grounds of the Dryer House.

SALE COMMITTEE MEETING, July 26

A preliminary committee consisting of Marilyn Regrut, Patty & Willard Zarley, Helen Pestel, and Naomi Fodor, met at the Dryer place to assess the possibilities for a big sale. John Saveson pointed out various groups of antiques, other furniture, old farm implements, etc., and the group decided that many things could be sold. Marilyn R. will consult a professional sales person for advice and possibly to handle a sale for us. Obviously, we are going to need lots of help from our members.

CANDLES ARE NEEDED

Looking ahead to Harvest the Arts and the popular candle-dipping activity, will you please save all your old candles for us? The big fat "pillar" ones are the very best, but we will accept all kinds.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Treasurer's Report -- May/June 2010

Income	May	June
Paver Project for Sidewalk	\$ 450.00	\$ 50.00
Memberships --Richard & Joan Thomas, Connie Folk	\$ 20.00	10.00
Memorial for Aggie Campbell	50.00	
Founders Day Donations	34.00	46.67
Pamphlets sold at Founders Day	17.70	1.50
Checking Interest	1.93	\$ 1.43
Total Income	\$ 573.63	\$ 109.60

Expenses		
AEP -- (Ealy \$11.83,\$12.11; RTD\$5.66,\$5.78)	\$ 17.49	\$ 17.89
Treasurer State of Ohio IRS Filing Fee	100.00	
The Henning Co., Ealy House Back Porch & Ramp	11,835.00	
Columbus-City Treasurer Ealy Water & Sewer	36.95	
AT&T	22.42	22.48
Columbus Art Memorial (Paver engraving)	187.50	
Newsletter labels	22.78	
Print Xpress (flyers for Ealy opening)		24.00
June & July Newsletter printing		41.40
Brink's (three months)		107.97
Total Expenses	\$ 12,222.14	\$ 213.74

<u>May 1st Balance</u>	\$ 27,533.80
Income	683.23
Expenses	12,435.88
<u>June 30th Balance</u>	\$15,781.15
Hold for Computer	1,800.00
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Hold for Landscaping	5,000.00
18 Month CD Balance 2.47% Annual Int.	5,541.37
Vanguard Fund Balance 3/31/10	18,086.53
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/10	62,455.14
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed
Ameriprise 5/31/10	86,558.25
Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer	