

Newsletter

August and September, 2011

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



The Historical Society's newly acquired 19th-century spring wagon in the Founders Day parade, May 21, 2011, with local 4-H Club members enjoying the ride.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs. AUGUST 4 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station. Refreshments -- Nancy Ferguson

Wed. Aug. 17 -- 6:30-7:30 Birthday Party for Naomi Fodor at the home of Nancy Ferguson, 4789 Yantis Drive, New Albany. All members of the Society are warmly invited to help celebrate. Note -- no presents, please, just the pleasure of your company.

Sat. Aug. 20 -- 9-6, Harlem Historical Society event at Center Village. For details, see Marilyn Regrut or Nancy Ferguson.

Tues. Aug. 23 -- Board Meeting

Thurs. Sep. 1 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at Fire Station. Refreshments: Helen P. & Marty S.

Sat. SEPTEMBER 3 -- YARD SALE, 9-3, at the Dryer place,

Tues. Sep. 20 -- Newsletter Deadline

Tues, Sep. 27 -- Poard Meeting

Thurs. OCTOBER 6 -- Society Meeting at Fire Station

Sat. Oct. 8 -- HARVEST THE ARTS FESTIVAL at Dorans' Farm on Dabbitt Road.

NOTE: Every Monday, from 9:30 till noon, a group will be working at the Ealy House. Come join us to sort stuff and spiff up the house for upcoming tours. (Call first to make sure, 797-4490 or 939-0590.)

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

George and Christy Arenschield

6911 Harlan Square
New Albany, OH 43054

Jean Diehl

1986 Randi Drive
Aurora, IL 60504

(Note: Jean grew up in the Ealy House.)

NOTES & NEWS

FOUNDERS DAY, May 21, was a big success. Our own parade entry (see cover photo), our bake sale, our display in the gym, and our open house all went very well.

FOURTH-GRADE TOURS -- On May 27 we hosted our last tours of the school year--thanks to Marilyn R., Nancy F., Theresa K., and John S. for serving as docents.

The **YARD SALE** on May 28--was our best ever, and it did not end completely on that day. We kept on selling chairs, blacksmith tools, etc., long after the event (see Treasurer's Report, p.11).

The **JULY FOURTH** events were a big hit--both our entry in the parade of a borrowed wagon drawn by eight miniature horses (see photo below) and our open house.

OUR ANNUAL BARN POTLUCK on July 7 was, as always, a pleasant gathering with wonderful food.

THANKS to the following trusty members: **Robert Dean** for moving a stone slab from the Kern-Harrington grounds to the Ealy property; **Rick Otten** for mounting the old dinner bell in the back lawn of the Ealy place; **Steve Bevelhymmer** for taking our antique spring wagon to an Amish workman and bringing it back and storing it at his own place temporarily; **Henry Kempker** for catching two groundhogs on the grounds of the Ealy House (their ultimate fate is not public information); and **David Cline** for countless useful jobs including making the cellar doors work..

LILLIAN SHANNON now lives at Traditions at Stygler Road (Room 206), 167 Stygler Rd., Gahanna, OH 43230. Phone: 473-3930.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY for Naomi Swickard Fodor is being planned for August 17. We are all invited. See details on page 2.



LETTERS FROM SIXTH-GRADERS

In the last Newsletter we reported that 139 New Albany sixth-graders had toured the Ealy House on April 28. Well, later on we received a packet of letters from 70 of those students, and some of us have had the pleasure of reading all of them. Here are a few excerpts:

Ryan K.: "Thank you for taking your time and effort to give us a tour of the Ealy House. My favorite things that you showed me were the two-person saw and the iron. I found that interesting that the iron was so heavy and small."

Janine A.: "I learned some neat things I never knew about the 1800's. My favorite objects in the House were the doll, the bed, and the organ. It was very fun comparing how the 1900's was different and similar from now."

Victoria B. "I thought it was interesting that they would paint their wood to look like Oak. It looked so realistic!"

Jacob E.: "I loved everything, especially the basement. I loved seeing all of the tools and learning about the mill. The other thing that I thought was really cool was the room with the old book case and the game board."

Brian S.: "When I first stepped into the house I was filled with awe and excitement because there were so many things to see, like the egg beater in the kitchen."

Jordan N.: "It was cool how you didn't need to bring the plates around to the kitchen after dinner. You put them through the pass-through cupboard. What was also funny and cool was how a little kid who once lived in the house rode down the stair railing and went through the front door and landed outside. The stereoscope was really cool too because it looked 3-D! I also remember how they didn't have bathrooms in the house, so they had to use the outhouse."

Kamron: "The Ealy House was the most historical place I've been to."

A NEW INTEREST IN OUR OLD SCHOOLS

A recent article in one of our local papers described a new arrangement for students in the New Albany High School: all the students, from freshmen through seniors, will be divided into 8 "Houses," each of which will be named after one of our former one-room schools. Each House will have about 150 students, from all four classes, who will be able to have a sense of belonging to a smaller group than the huge student body. They will do various projects and activities together.

This news has inspired at least one teacher at the High School, Greta Manning, to want to find out more about the school for which her group will be named and of which she will be "House Dean." She has chosen the Science Hill School because she teaches science. Her mother, Betty Kenny, an avid local-historian from Sunbury, has joined with us in finding out how to ferret out the history of the old schools. She has already done a tremendous amount of work on the history of the Genoa Township schools.

The following article by John Saveson is intended to help individuals go about investigating the history of our own Plain Township one-room schools.

Sources for the History of ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS IN PLAIN TOWNSHIP

Sources for the history of one-room schools in Plain Township are as follows: Number One, recollections of old-timers who attended the schools. Arloia Walton collected their anecdotes sometime after the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society was founded in 1975. Old-timers provided locations, incidents, physical details. Kenny Bevelhymmer, for example, remembered the apprehension he felt at being seated on the same bench next to a student subject to epileptic fits.

A second source is deeds recorded in the County building, by means of which farmers gave gratis half an acre or so on which to build a schoolhouse. An exception was the last one-room school built in the Township, the so-called "Science Hill School" on the Wexner estate. By the time it was built in the 1890's, Trustees were obliged by law to purchase school land.

A third source is the 1856 and 1872 maps of Plain Township on which then-existing schools are represented and usually labeled "SH." They reveal some inconsistencies on a poster map drawn up to show the results of Arloia Walton's interviews. "Alspach School" was at the intersection of Walnut and Peter Hoover Sts., not Walnut and Bevelhymer as the poster map has it. Also the poster map does not show the first of the one-room schools built before 1823 on the same parcel of ground still occupied by the old cemetery between Routes 62 and 605 on Central College Road. That school was presumably demolished not long after 1872. Arloia's old-timers were not old enough to have attended there.

The fourth source is the Autobiography of pioneer Archibald Smith (1803-1883) published as a pamphlet by the Historical Society in 1999. Archibald does not have a whole lot to say on the subject, but, examined carefully, his recollections give insight into how a system of education came into being in a pioneer territory--a system that in Plain Township lasted for a hundred years.

Archibald reports that the "first school was kept" in the Township in 1820 or 1821--he isn't sure which. It was "kept" by Joseph Smith, probably one of Archibald's relatives. Jacob charged \$1.50 "per scholar" because, Archibald explains, "we had no public money for school purposes in those days." We know that in 1825, in step with the third article of the Northwest Ordinance ("schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged"), Ohio passed a law which required local governments to provide public education.

Archibald is certain in the same paragraph that the first temperance meeting was held in 1823 "in the old school house near Mr. Wagners." Archibald's mind has moved by association from instruction in the first schoolhouse to another worthy activity carried on there. His reference to "Mr. Wagners" is enormously helpful. The 1856 and 1872 maps show the old cemetery on Central College Road, mentioned before, and a schoolhouse on the same parcel butted on the west up against Wagner land. In 1998 our Historical Society placed an historical marker at the cemetery as site of the first school in the Township.

Situating graveyard and school on the same bit of land may seem bizarre, but there is a ready explanation. In the absence of churches, pioneers used log schoolhouses as meetinghouses. It's

understandable that attendees might come to think of the building as a church and its grounds as a churchyard for burying the dead.

Archibald reports in another passage that in 1837 residents in his vicinity petitioned Township Trustees to have "our school district divided," the schoolhouse--presumably the one we have been discussing--"being entirely out of the center of the district." The effort failed, but succeeded when petitioners tried again in 1838. Township Trustees created new District Number 10. Schools and schoolhouses surely were designated officially by such district numbers and not by names such as "Softhead School" attached unofficially to them over the years.

Under the heading of "1839," Archibald writes: "This year we built our hewed log schoolhouse by subscription." Residents raised \$64. and Archibald donated half an acre at the intersection of Central College and Kitzmiller Roads and Route 62. Archibald calls the document he signed a "lease" because it provided for returning the land if the school failed. The parcel reverted to an "assignee" in 1925 when Township schools were consolidated.

In 1861, by contract with Trustees for \$300, Archibald replaced the old log schoolhouse with a brick one. Thus it became one of eleven very familiar red-brick landmarks spaced at something like one-mile intervals throughout the five-square-mile Township.

What is especially gratifying in Archibald's narrative is the hands-on involvement of ordinary people in bringing education to life in an unsettled region. They understood its importance to stability in community life. They understood, not so profoundly as Thomas Jefferson perhaps, but they understood the necessity to democracy of an educated citizenry.

--John E. Saveson

EARLY HOUSE UPDATE

Duct work in the basement has been done per estimate. The intrusiveness of the ducts has been much reduced, making three rooms now more usable: the farm museum room, the restroom, and the large room with the outside entrance.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Meeting, June 2, 2011

President Marilyn Regrut called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The society has acquired a stone slab from the Kern Harrington House.

Minutes of 5-May-2011 read by Helen Pestel. John Ayres moved to accept, seconded by David Cline.

Treasurer's report was given by Helen Pestel. David Cline moved to accept, seconded by Nancy Ferguson.

Old Business:

Founders Day-

John Ayres reported that what we do (bake sale) does not require a permit. No bill as of yet. Nancy Ferguson took notes on Racky Campbell and his sister Jean Diehl's recollections at the Ealy House. Proposed for the bake sale: let's not make change but charge even dollar amounts. Had 1 request for apple butter. T-shirts and hats did not sell. Are we short a tent? We need to ask Kim. Discussion of the quilt: where's it kept, folding it, etc. (Right now at Ealy House). Joanne Windle had asked. There was a discussion of how to hang it. There is a quilt show coming up. The wagon out front of the Ealy House was a good thing. Brad Shockey can keep it as long as we cover it and execute a hold harmless agreement with him. John Saveson moved that we execute such an agreement, seconded by Nancy Ferguson, motion passed. Steve Bevelhymer will call Brad Shockey about moving the wagon. Nancy Ferguson or Bill Resch will get a tarp for it. There is a bell up at Ealy. Sounds good. The other bell got sold at a yard sale.

Yard Sale:

A request was made for written prices, please. We had great help and made good money. It was good to have an auctioneer help with the prices. Marilyn Regrut's ads and the parade flyers worked well. The

loom went to Pataskala to a family of weavers. They'd be happy to come out and help us set up our loom.

Nancy Ferguson talked to Critter Control today (Thursday 2-June-2011). They will be out on Monday (the 6th) at 9:30 AM and she will be there to meet them. There was a question about arrowheads in the basement. Our efforts to deal with the groundhogs is a work in progress.

Basement Ductwork:

The inclusive estimate is the lower one. Best one is \$350 to move the condenser and \$1400 for the rest giving \$1750 total. FavRet was \$1850+\$2500. Hetter gave \$2215 for the third estimate. A great deal of discussion ensued. Nancy noted that the New Albany grant would leave about \$1300 we could apply to the basement (\$3,500 for critters plus \$2,200-3,300 for the sign from the \$7,000 grant). John moved that we accept the Best company \$1750 estimate, seconded by John Ayres, motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Ferguson asked that the finance committee come up with a budget for the Ealy House along with the society's income (including the yard sale).

New Business:

There is a cracked fan blade on one of the heat pumps. Believed to be the unit for the upstairs. \$200-300 to fix. Nancy Ferguson moved that we have the Best company fix the blade, not to exceed \$500. John Saveson seconded the motion, which passed. John Saveson will call the company.

The hay wagon needs a new home. We can get it moved but need a place to store it. Short term perhaps the New Albany service garage. Long term we can get rid of the reaper and store the wagon at the Rose Taylor Dryer house. Nancy Ferguson will draft a letter to International Harvester about it (it's a Deering). It predates the combine, but is too advanced for the Amish. Perhaps we could take it to Mt. Hope in the

TREASURER'S REPORT—May/June 2011

spring. There's always e-bay. Better yet is the MOMCC (living history).
Nancy moved that we sell it on living history or failing that e-bay.
Seconded by John Ayres, motion passed.

Bob Dean reported that the barn door rollers at RTD are bad. He will drop one of the rollers so that we can get a replacement when he gets back from vacation.

Marilyn Regrut will ask Kim about fetching the wagon.

Bill Resch offered thanks for the giving of tours and booklets.

Can we move the christening gown out of the kitchen?

4th of July: the parade is Monday the 4th. Ealy House will be open after the parade, about noon to 2:00 PM. Last year we had lemonade and cookies on the back porch. Sine Marie Ayres offered to make rose water cookies.

Nancy Ferguson knows a guy who might want to buy the RTD. We heard a couple of estimates of \$200,000 and one at \$300,000 of the value of the property. Much discussion ensued.

Nancy also wants to explore options with Bob Evans and the Alspachs before going back to Joe Cimenello. Neil Kirby's notes of the 4-November-2010 meeting show a prior motion regarding this matter. Nancy moved that we won't initiate talking to Joe Cimenello until 1-October-2011 or the end of investigations, whichever comes first. Seconded by Neil Kirby, motion passed 9 for to 2 against.

At this point the meeting was adjourned and refreshments provided by Naomi Fodor and Sine Marie Ayres were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by Neil Kirby, vice president.

<u>Income</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Memorials (Walton, Goodrich & Campbell)	90.00	
Memberships (Connie Folk & Carol Van Deest)	20.00	
New Memberships – Jean Diehl, 1986 Randi Dr, Aurora, IL 60504, George & Christy Arenschield, 6911 Harlan Sq., New Albany, OH 43054 (Life Family)		\$210.00
New Albany Founders Day Bricks	100.00	
Newsletter Postage Donation	40.00	
Founders Day Bake Sale	219.50	7.00
Pamphlets sold at Founders Day	11.50	4.00
Pamphlets for School		258.00
Donation for Horse and Driver Fee	200.00	
Yard Sale	840.25	316.00
Checking Interest	<u>1.03</u>	<u>1.24</u>
Total Income	\$1,522.28	\$796.24
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP – (Ealy \$117.92, \$38.84; RTD\$5.61, \$5.93)	\$ 123.53	\$ 44.77
AT&T	24.23	24.17
Rumpke	18.47	
Columbus City Treasurer-Water & Sewer	25.23	
Brinks		107.97
Buckeye Belgiums (horse and driver for parade)	200.00	
John Saveson Ealy Basement Waterproofing	369.00	
Print Xpress (\$45.60 newsletter; \$79.99 flyers Founders Day)		124.60
Marty Saveson – flyers for yard sale		<u>37.09</u>
State of Ohio – VFIRS fee	<u>100.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 860.46	\$338.60
May 1 st Balance	\$ 14,911.61	
Income	2,318.52	
Expenses	1,199.06	
June 30 th Balance	<u>\$ 16,031.07</u>	
Hold for Computer Software	600.00	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 3/31/11	20,339.23	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 3/31/10	69,668.88	
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (5/31/11)	113,067.98 (includes \$7,535.41 (6.66452%)	
		<u>Memorial Money)</u>

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



Marilyn Regrut
6600 Meadow Glenn Drive
Westerville, OH 43082
Y 11/11

The next Society meeting will be at 7 p.m.
Thursday, August 4
at the Plain Township Fire Station

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