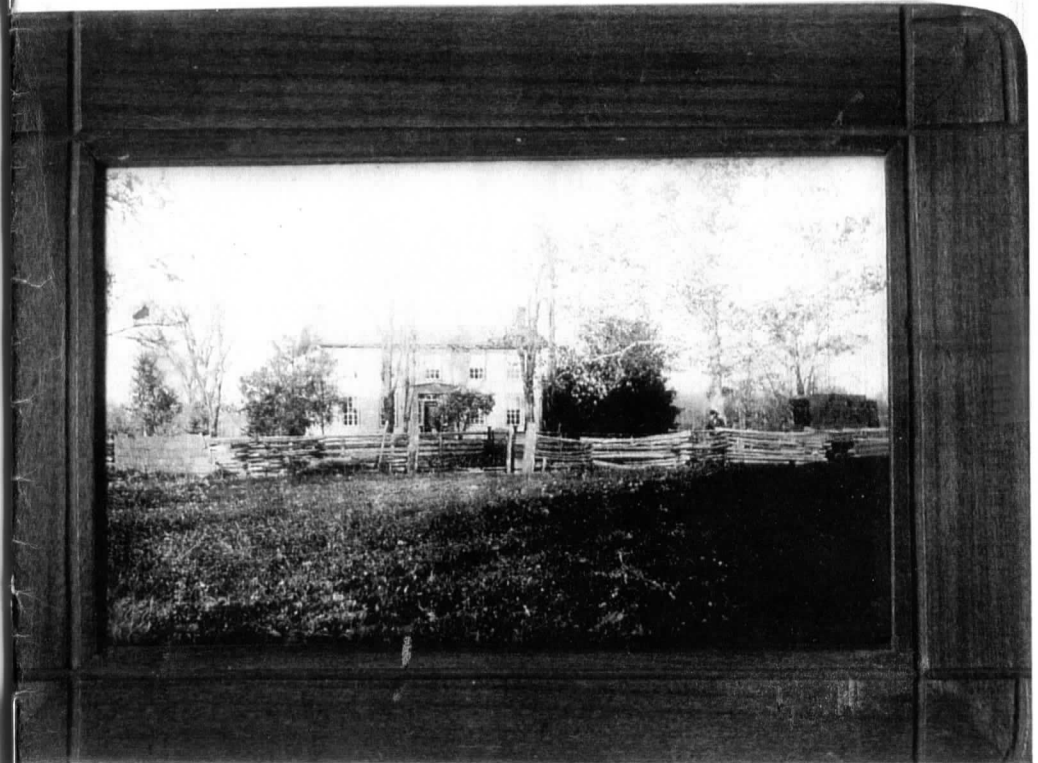


Newsletter

February and March 2013

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Very old photograph of the house built in 1848 by Archibald Smith on Kitzmiller Road in Plain Township. It is in the frame made for it by Archibald himself. Lucius wrote in his Diary, "It is so pleasant over there. Nice shade and grass." It is said that the figure behind the fence may have been Archibald.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

MON. Feb. 4 -- 9:15 a.m., NAWN Tour of Ealy House

THURS. FEBRUARY 7 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station.

Program: Dennis Keesee will talk about the Lucius Smith Diaries and what they tell us about how the Civil War affected New Albany.

SUN. Feb. 10 -- 2 p.m.. Talk on Ohio's role in the Underground Railroad, at Battelle Hall on the Otterbein campus, followed by a tour of the Hanby House. (See p. 6 for details.)

Wed. Feb. 20 -- 12 noon, Board Meeting at the Ealy House

THURS. MARCH 7 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station.

Program: High School senior Justin Varney will present a video of "The Dogs of War," a one-act play which he wrote, directed, and produced for his Senior Project. (See p. 6 for details.)

SAT. MARCH 16 -- Annual meeting of District VI (central Ohio) of the Ohio Historical Society. This will be held in Lancaster in "The Georgian," a beautiful 1830's mansion. Tours of it and of the Decorative Arts Museum and the Ohio Glass Museum will be offered after the meetings. Helen Pestel will have all the details by the time of the Feb. meeting. Phone her for your reservation (855-3765).

Mon. March 18 -- 6:00 p.m., Brownies tour of Ealy House

Tues. Mar. 19 -- Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. Mar. 21 -- 4-7 p.m., Business & Community Expo at the Church of the Resurrection. We will have a booth there and the Ealy House may be open for part of the time.

THURS. APRIL 4 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station, details in next Newsletter

May 17 4-5 Brownies

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

Our Annual CHRISTMAS DINNER, Dec. 6, 2012

The party was very festive with pretty decorations, cheerful guests, delicious meal, and musical entertainment supplied by the Otten family. Our President summed up our very productive year with the following encouraging remarks:

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2012 WRAP-UP

Merry Christmas to you all as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2012. Thank you to the Pastor, staff and students for making this wonderful facility available to us year after year. It is obvious we enjoy coming back.

When I think about what has been done in 2012 I could be very frustrated because it is easy to see the work that remains. I do know, however, that the year has been very productive. It has been one of laying the building blocks so that in 2013 we will have several large projects completed.

We started the year with big drainage problems, fixed! We have concerns about the RTD house and the items that remain on that property; negotiations have been restarted and many items have been removed. We had serious safety issues on the basement and attic stairs, fixed!

Increasing Community availability and awareness was a goal. Over 500 persons visited.

Participation in Founders Day events and parade, Ealy House open to the public.
Memorial Brick-laying event in cooperation with the Founders Day Committee, Ealy House open to the public.

Community Photo at July 4 Holiday event, Ealy House open to the public.

Black Friday, Ealy House open to the public.

NA Holiday Event, Ealy House open to the public.

Members attended Harlem Township Historical Society meetings.

Newspaper publications and the Newsletter continue to showcase the Society activities and Ealy House.

Involvement with NA Schools:

Four enthusiastic new docents were added. They contributed greatly to the process by sharing personal knowledge and designing innovative documents.
Over 800 students were hosted this year. The 6th & 8th graders returned; first graders visited for the first time. Several first graders brought their families to recent open houses.

HS honors students began the task of digitizing early family records, for eventual placement on the Web site

A senior class project involving a historical skit was filmed at Ealy House in the back parlor and entrance hall.

Operational issues:

The computer is up and running; work has begun identifying and locating items previously catalogued.

A grant request for 2013 has been submitted to the City of New Albany (they have generously supported us in the past).

The attic has not been available for use because of bat infestation. With much research, hard work and determination, the attic is now clean and decontaminated. The floors are beautiful; recent guests loved the attic. The attic was the problem that had to be resolved before we can finish organizing the house.

Spiders and ground hogs are under control.

Academic involvement with OSU:

Scholarly research and study by a Graduate class who analyzed a diary written in 1862 by Lucius Smith, son of Archibald Smith. The professor and his students visited both the Archibald Smith House and the Ealy House. Important and interesting local history is evolving from these endeavors. They tell us about life in those times.

A heartfelt THANK YOU for your contributions to a successful year. When everybody does what they can, good things happen.

GOALS FOR 2013:

Increase membership

Complete lighting project

Restoration of the Pantry

Utilize the attic effectively

Begin/ continue to catalogue new and old acquisitions

Conserve garments

Display the Heritage Quilt

Visit other historical properties

Please make suggestions, Organizational goals are a group project!

Thanks so much,
Marilyn Regrut

The following **NEW MEMBERS** have joined our Society recently:

Garrett & Shelby Rhyne
6848 Rosewell Lane
New Albany, OH 43054

Barbara Pruett
10744 Johnstown Road
New Albany, OH 43054

FAREWELL TO HARVEST-THE-ARTS

The Harvest-the-Arts Festival will be no more, alas. Kathy Mayhorn has written us that "With the dwindling attendance due to other local competition and the stricter rules on craft vendors and food handling, [The Arts Council] could no longer sustain the financial commitment to the Harvest Festival without returning a profit for our efforts."

But she emphasized how much she had "looked forward to Harvest Fest each year. It was probably the one event the Arts Council did that required the most amount of work and effort for a one-day event and I relished every minute of it. Perhaps it was getting together with old friends from 'old New Albany,' and reliving the good old days with the help of the Historical Society, and introducing new community members to what it was like to live on a farm that was the most enjoyable. Maybe it was just the fact that we all worked together to make it happen, then could enjoy a relaxed day in our jeans and flannel shirts. Even the bad-weather days were fun."

She ended her letter by thanking the Society "for being a most willing and wonderful community partner in this event for so many years. Your contributions to this event were invaluable and a great history lesson for many. I believe we had a good run. Thanks for the memories."

We, in turn, thank Kathy Mayhorn and the Arts Council for having included us in the Festival for those 19 years. They did the basic organizing of all the booths, entertainment, publicity, food, vendors, tents, and much more. Of course, the Festival could not have happened without the Dorans, who laid the groundwork, providing spaces under trees and spaces in barns, bales of straw, pumpkins, parking, and most importantly the farm itself. Nor should we forget the tireless efforts of Patty Zarley, who master-minded our Society's original numerous old-time activities and who persuaded most of our local Society members plus a good many non-members to participate. It was indeed a great cooperative community affair. Now we should consider what we might as a Society do by way of a different autumn event.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: The Cathell family now lives at
193 Johnstown-Alexandria Road
Alexandria, OH 43001

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN OHIO

On Sunday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m., Cathy D. Nelson, of the Ohio Humanities Council, and Founder of the Friends of Freedom Society, will give a talk about the significant role Ohio played in the development of the Underground Railroad. For starters, Ohio had more than 1,000 documented sites in the Underground network.

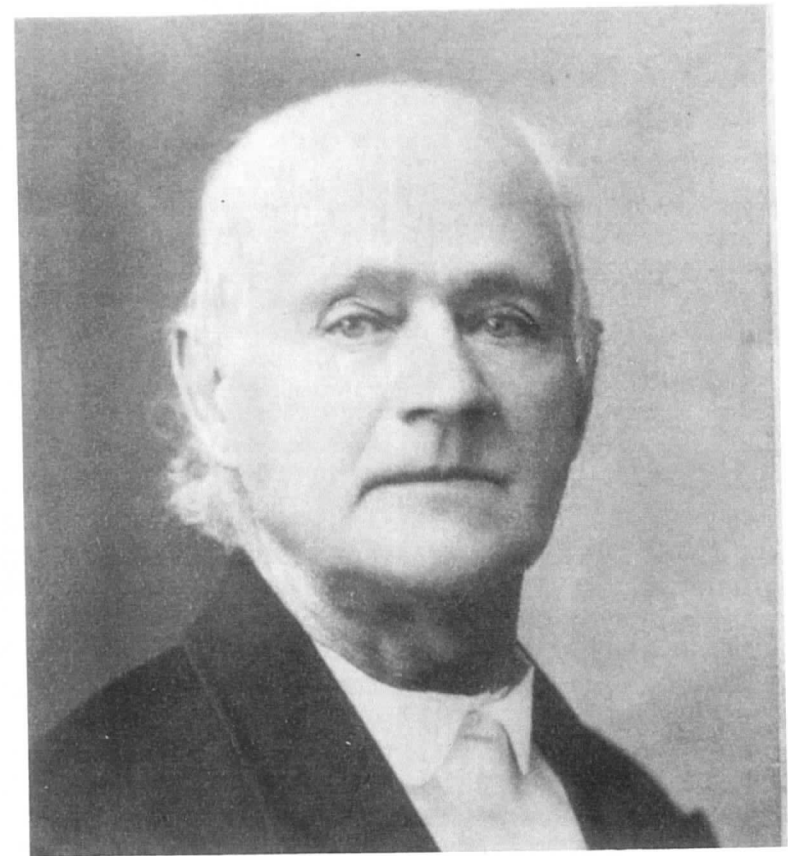
The talk will be given in the auditorium of Battelle Hall on the Otterbein campus. It is sponsored by the Friends of the Otterbein Library. Refreshments will be served. Following the program, Hanby House, a former Underground Railroad station, just a 5-minute walk from Battelle Hall, will be open for tours for program participants. The cost for the whole event is \$10.00 for adults (free for students). If you need directions to Battelle Hall, call Marty Saveson at 855-9809.

"THE DOGS OF WAR"

Justin Varney, a New Albany High School senior, has written and videotaped a short play for his Senior Project **which we will be privileged to view at our March 7 Society meeting.** The plot is based on the imagined attempt by the Swiss president, in July 1914, to arrange a council of the leaders of the chief European powers to try to prevent war. Seven students act the parts of seven of those leaders, including Czar Nicholas of Russia, King George V of Great Britain, and Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany. Four additional students act as servants and guards. The council supposedly takes place in a "mansion," represented by our own Ealy House, in which the back parlor serves as the "War Room." The play will last about 20 minutes, and Justin will be on hand to comment on it.

DIARY NEWS

On December 3, John and Marty Saveson attended the **"Launch" of the Website of the 1862 Lucius Smith DIARY** studied, transcribed, and annotated by the graduate class of Dr. Lewis Ulman at OSU. (See the Dec.-Jan. Newsletter for a full explanation.) It was gratifying to see the original diaries and also the annotated versions done by the class, and to talk to the students and Prof. Ulman, and the Rare Book Room Librarians, all of whom were very much excited about the diaries. This event was held in the OSU library.



You may recognize Archibald Smith, above, because the same excellent portrait of him is on the cover of his **Autobiography** (written in 1877 and published by our Society in 1999). Now that his son Lucius is in the limelight for us because of his Diaries, we need to supply our readers with a few background facts about the family. Archibald (1803-1883) built his house (see cover) in 1848. He and his wife, Maryann, had 8 children, as follows: Lucius Clark (b. 1834), John Wesley (b. 1838), Isaac Newton (b. 1842), twins Melissa and Melsena (b. 1844), Eliza Elon (b. 1849), & Archibald Homer (b. 1850). An eighth child, Augustine, is mentioned by Lucius in his 1862 Diary, but is not included in Archibald's rundown of family members, so we assume he died in childhood. Lucius's oldest child (Baby Harry in the Diaries) was Harry E. Smith, whose grandson, Harry A. Lewis, inherited the Diaries.

More Selections from LUCIUS SMITH'S DIARY

Most of the following passages were read as part of the program at our Christmas dinner. Some were chosen to show what Lucius did on holidays such as Thanksgiving and his own birthday. Others were chosen to reveal Lucius's concern about his life's direction, and the importance to him of his diary, which we believe he wrote for most of his life, starting at least as early as age twenty. Note the little human details, such as those regarding his baby, Harry. Of special interest are his comments on the abolition of slavery.

HIS BIRTHDAY

"Friday, November 12, 1869. Today is my birthday. I am, I believe, 35 years old. More time, I presume, than I will live over again. But be that as it may, the present is all we can claim. . . . Health to me and mine & I hope yet to be in more independent circumstances. Riches I don't care now so much about. A comfortable home free of debt, and I think I will be contented. My driving ambition, I find, is quite subdued. Not like days gone past. With enough for wife and baby, I will be contented."

ON KEEPING A DIARY (Nov. 12, 1869, cont'd):

"Sometime I get out of patience of keeping a note of passing time. Yet I have done it so long & it is sometimes of value to me in different ways; so I still keep on at it. Generally in a very hurried, mixed way though."

THANKSGIVING

"For the week ending Saturday, November 16, 1870 -- Wednesday got up some wood & shucked some corn. Thursday went over home [to Archibald's house] & got John [a brother] to help me haul up wood. It is Thanksgiving today and our third wedding day. Had oysters on it. Uncle Thom O'Harra came out on Monday and went home on Thursday."

(Note: Lucius Smith and Maggie O'Harra were married on Thanksgiving Day 1867. Baby Harry was born in January 1869.)

BABY'S ADVENTURES

"May 26, 1870 -- Finished planting corn & rolled my ground & got it nicely mashed up. Harry walked today for the first time. He has taken a few steps before but today he found out he could walk & he tried so hard & fell. So proud of it. He has never crept any

except to hitch along on the floor from one side to the other. He is 16 months old the 26th."

"Sunday, Sept. 11, 1870 -- Maggie & me went over home. I went to get one of the boys [his brothers] to come & help me cut corn. Harry fell into a tub of water. Fortunately his mother saw him fall in or else he might have drowned."

THE 15th AMENDMENT:

"Thurs. Jan. 20, 1870 -- Thursday afternoon I went up to the Legislature, to the House, to see the fifteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed. It passed the Senate last week by one majority. The vote was not taken until late at night, so I did not witness it. It resulted in 57 for and 55 against; so Ohio has again ratified it, as last winter. The democracy rescinded the ratification of the winter before; 26 states have now ratified. Two more wanted."

"April 6, 1870 -- The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America was last week declared by President Grant to be adopted, and the colored population of Ohio voted last Monday for the first time. So has terminated the rebellion instead of making slavery permanent. It has brought entire freedom & universal suffrage for the nation. Truly we live in an age of advancement. It is good to realize how well all things come around. Hail to Freedom!"

APPRECIATION OF HIS OLD HOME, WHICH WE NOW KNOW AS THE ARCHIBALD SMITH HOUSE:

"Sunday, May 22, 1870 -- Maggie & me went over home. Come back in evening. It is so pleasant over there. Nice shade and grass."

NEW YEAR'S EVE THOUGHTS:

"Dec. 31, 1870 -- Thursday winds up the old year. Ends as must all things. Gone with all its hope, pleasures, & troubles, never to return. So we enter a new one, ever hoping for the better."

VALENTINE'S DAY:

To end on a timely note: On Feb. 14 in his 1855 Diary (when he was 20 years old), Lucius confided that he had received his "first Valentine." (Was it the first of the day or the first in his life, and who sent it?)

NOTES & NEWS

Our two **OPEN HOUSES** between Thanksgiving and Christmas (on Nov. 23 and Dec. 2) were huge successes, with many, many visitors old and young. We were especially gratified that "Black Friday" proved to be such a popular date for visiting the Ealy House. We even gained some new members that day. Thanks to all the docents who helped on those two days, including Cath Saveson and Willow Otten, who provided organ and violin music.

A "**SCAVENGER HUNT**" has been prepared by Catherine Saveson for the children who tour the Ealy House. The youngsters have a lot of fun trying to spot 40 items in the house (to check off on their lists, not to take home). Some items they must look for are the ox yoke, a washboard, the rope bed, four dolls, a stereoscope, 2 working fireplaces, 6 false fireplaces, a corn sheller, a hidden pass-through between two rooms, a spinning wheel, and an organ.

Daniel Thompson, whom many of you know as our Indian-Artifacts expert, had a very serious accident just before Thanksgiving. While helping a neighbor trim a tree, he was hit by a branch and knocked to the ground. He ended up with a fractured skull and severe concussion. He was in the hospital for a month, while he regained his faculties. Now he is at home, being cared for by his wife, Karen, and doing much better. He continues to receive professional therapy.

The family's address is 189 Granville St., Alexandria, OH 43001.

MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

President -- Marilyn Regrut (614-797-4490)
Vice-President -- Neil Kirby (614-855-2623)
Treasurer -- Helen Pestel (614-855-3765)
Secretary -- Elizabeth Feichter (614-623-4543)
Curator -- Nancy Ferguson (614-939-0590)
Board member -- David Cline (614-855-3122)
Board member -- Robert Dean (614-855-9327)
Board member -- Sharon Carter (614-939-5292)
Alternate Board member -- Marty Saveson (614-855-9809)

Income	November	December
Donation Jar (Open House)	\$ 70.00	\$ 17.28
Donation for Ealy House use		250.00
Memberships (new: Garrett & Shelby Rhyne, 6848 Rosewell Ln New Albany, OH 43054-9488; New: Barb Pruett, 10744 Johnstown Road, New Albany, OH 43054) Renew: Farber		
Yager	20.00	30.00
Apple Butter	60.00	82.00
Anonymous donation	2,000.00	
Christmas Dinner	48.00	301.00
Donation for Apple Butter Supplies	41.00	
Lillian Shannon Memorial	100.00	
Newsletter Postage Donation	25.00	
HOTA Bake Sale Donations	20.00	
HOTA Antique Sales	20.00	
Pamphlet	3.25	
Checking Interest	2.05	2.04
Total Income	\$ 2,409.30	\$ 682.32

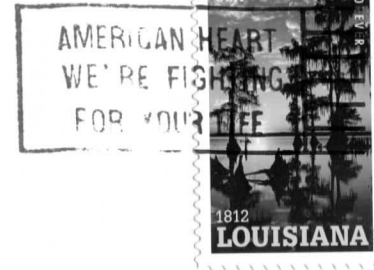
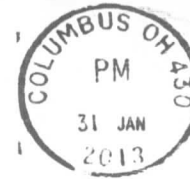
Expenses		
AEP -- (Ealy \$139.04,\$274.56;RTD\$6.26,\$6.27)	\$ 145.30	\$ 280.83
AT&T	26.01	26.08
New Albany UMC (Christmas Dinner)		349.00
Amerigas Propane Tank rental		140.00
Print Xpress -- Newsletter		47.50
Print Xpress -- Membership & Ealy brochures		113.60
ADT Security		107.97
Columbus-City Treasurer-Water & Sewer	30.91	
Total Expenses	\$ 202.22	\$1,064.98

November 1 st Balance	\$ 24,380.78
Income	3,091.62
Expenses	1,267.20
Balance December 31 th	\$ 26,205.20
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance 09/30/12	21,310.54
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 09/30/12	69,382.37
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed
Ameriprise (11/30/12)	124,074.61 (includes 8,268.98 (6.66452%) Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
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Marilyn Regrut
6600 Meadow Glenn Drive
Westerville, OH 43082
Y 11/12

Thurs. Feb. 7 — Next Society Meeting
Dennis Keesee on Diaries & Civil War

Thurs. Mar. 7 — Society Meeting
Student video: "The Dogs of War"

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