

Newsletter

April and May 2010

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 219

New Albany, Ohio 43054

(614) 855-9861

www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org



The 1852 Job Wilson house

Now nestled among modern houses in the Links community, this house was once clearly visible on the north side of Central College Road just west of Johnstown Road.

(Photo by Henry Kemper)

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The next Society meeting will be at 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 8
at the Plain Township Fire Station

OUR NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 7 p.m.
at the Plain Township Fire Station

NOTE: This is the *SECOND* Thursday instead of the first Thursday of the month, due to Maundy Thursday & School Break. Note also that the meeting place had to be changed to the Fire Station.

Program: Betty and Dave Maynard will describe their trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Hostess: Naomi Fodor

MORE DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues. APRIL 13 -- Board Meeting

Tues. APRIL 27 -- Board Meeting

Thurs. MAY 6 -- **SOCIETY MEETING** at the Plain Township Fire Station

Tues. MAY 11 -- Board Meeting, Founders Day plans

Saturday, MAY 15 -- **FOUNDERS DAY**

Tues. MAY 18 -- Board Meeting & Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. JUNE 3 -- Society Meeting at the Fire Station

Thurs. JULY 1 -- **BARN POT-LUCK PICNIC** at the Savesons'

MORE ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This house is entered on the 1856 Map of Plain Township; owner of the property, "Job Wilson." The 1872 Map prints the owner's name as "Capt. J. Wilson." The change results from the fact that Job Wilson captained the National Guard contingent from New Albany that saw action at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia, in the summer of 1864. The present owner of the Wilson house, Curtis Bortz, has taken wonderful care of it, making it a handsome historical feature of the surrounding development. Thanks to Joe Ciminello, both the Wilson house and the Dryer house were preserved in the midst of a modern golf course community.

FOUNDERS DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 15

Plans are afoot for our participation in Founders Day, though final decisions have yet to be made. We have been allotted space in the Elem. School gym for displays and activities; we usually have a bake sale outside the gym. And there is the possibility of opening the Ealy House to the public. We will need the help of every able-bodied member and friend, so please stand by to lend a hand.

A HISTORICAL MARKER FOR THE EALY HOUSE

An Ohio State Historical Marker is in the works for the George & Christina Ealy House. It is expected to be ready for Founders Day, May 15. This year is the 150th anniversary of the Ealy House, and thus a fitting opportunity for the dedication of the Marker in conjunction with the official opening of the house.

BRICK PAVERS FOR FRONT WALK

Enclosed in this Newsletter is an application form for ordering a brick to be engraved with the name of someone whom you wish to honor or memorialize. Each such brick will be installed in the front walkway of the Ealy House, replacing one of the present plain bricks. Feel free to duplicate this form.

CORRECTIONS

The last Newsletter had the wrong dates on the cover. If you still have your copy, with the photo of the Doran-Shockey barn on the cover, please cross out "December 2009 - January 2010" and write in "February-March 2010. Also, on page 3, at the end of the second paragraph, cross out "Sophia" and write in "Cynthia." The editor is very red-faced about these goofs.

At this time we are confident that Akbar Hadjarpour at the Haddad Oriental Rug Company has identified Persian rugs in Ruth Hilbert's collection accurately. We believe that his estimates of their value are right so far as estimates are ever right.

We are not confident that Akbar is equally familiar with the weavings of southwestern American Indians. He used the one word "Navajo" in his appraisal of another of Mrs. Hilbert's carpets to describe its "location." When pressed to say what he meant by that, he insisted only that it was American made. He never actually said made by the Navajo.

We never believed that it was. True Navajo rugs do not have fringe; the warp thread is continuous. Navajo rugs have flat selvages in contrast to bulkier ones resulting from "bundled" wool threads at the sides. Mrs Hilbert's rugs have fringe and bundled selvages as do the weavings of many non-Navajo weavers.

Marilyn Regrut consulted an important dealer in Navajo rugs in California concerning Akbar's appraisal. He chided Akbar for identifying the Hilbert rug as a Navajo weaving although it's questionable whether Akbar meant that. A more serious matter is the discrepancy between the California dealer's estimate of the rug's value (\$300.) and Akbar's (\$5000. if repaired for \$2000.). The California dealer called Mrs. Hilbert's rug a "Dhurrie" rug, which usually means a low-value rug made in India. Weavers there sometimes used southwestern Indian designs.

We know that Mrs. Hilbert's rug is a "Valero star" weaving: eight-pointed stars in the corners and in the center a cross-shaped medallion with legs of equal length. (See last issue of the Newsletter, p. 7.) The medallion represents the morning star; all stars represent spirits with symbolic values. The Valero star design is common to both the Navajo and other southwestern Indian tribes. It originated centuries ago among the Spanish in Mexico. To determine value, we are left with the question: was this rug made by weavers in the Southwest, Mexico, or India. Stay tuned.

As reported before, Mrs. Hilbert's Persian rugs are displayed on the floors of the Ealy House where members can see them and decide whether to use or sell them. A misconception has circulated in the Board that handicapped-accessible historic houses must have bare floors (see Board minutes). From reading the ADA Standards and consulting the ADA Hotline in Washington, we know that this is not true.

THREE MEMBERS ATTENDED REGIONAL MEETING

Willard and Patty Zarley and Naomi Fodor enjoyed the programs and activities at the annual meeting of Region 6 of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums. This year the meeting was held in Lancaster, and was hosted by the Fairfield Heritage Association.

Topics covered by the speakers included "Promoting your Local Historical Society," "Selling Museum Store Merchandise," and "Ohio's Civil War Sesquicentennial as an Opportunity for Local History Groups."

Our group displayed a photo collection of the Ealy House, and some of our brochures. At the end of the day they enjoyed a tour of the Ohio Glass Museum, where the meetings were held. Of special interest was the collection of antique lamps.

Report on EALY HOUSE BACK PORCH

Paint has been removed from the brick of the porch wall. Framing of porch and ramp is complete. The porch roof is on. Flooring on the porch and the ramp is laid. An attractive rear façade is shaping up; also, an unmatched vantage point from which to look down to the creek.

WALLACE P. HOUSE, 1951 - 2010

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Wally House on February 5, at the age of 58, after a short illness. Wally was the husband of Sharla Holter House, and the father of Michelle and Brent. He and Sharla had been long-time members of our society, though too busy with their jobs and many organizations for us to see them very often. We send our sympathy to Sharla and the children and also to Sharla's parents, Ed and Helen Holter.

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 4, 2010

Meeting was called to order by President Willard Zarley at 7:10 at the New Albany Library.

Minutes of the November 5 meeting were read by Marilyn Regrut. Motion to approve made by Kathy Yager, second Marty Saveson. All ayes.

Treasurer's report was distributed by Helen Pestel. Helen explained that the renovation account has been closed and funds transferred to the checking account. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Neil Kirby, second David Cline. All ayes.

The proposed budget for 2010 was distributed by Helen Pestel, Rationale for changes from the previous year's budget were explained and discussed. Motion to accept the budget as presented made by Marilyn Regrut, second David Cline. All present in favor.

Ealy house progress was reported by Neil Kirby who stated that work has resumed and is progressing. The issue of the white paint on the back of the house brick where the porch had been attached was brought up. Neil explained the removal process available from the contractor for a cost of \$2400.00. Discussion ensued regarding various options including how much of the paint will be covered by the new porch, leaving it alone or paint removal after new porch is on. (This is not a viable option). Marty Saveson moved that we arrange to have the contractor remove the white paint. Second by Robert Dean. Motion passed, vote by majority show of hands.

John Saveson distributed pictures of rugs that were in the garage at RTD House. Three have been appraised and are at Ealy house for members to see so a decision can be made regarding their use. John stated that they can be rolled and placed in the RTD upstairs for storage. It was again explained that American Disability Act requires bare floors in accessible areas.

Marilyn Regrut moved that the rug with the Native American motif be sold. Second by Marty Saveson. All ayes.

Sidewalk brick fundraising project was mentioned. People have voiced interest, however, the forms are not available at this time. No action.

Announcements: Marty Saveson introduced two guests: Carol Van Deest and Jeanne Voight. They are cousins and are descendants of the John Alspaugh family. John Alspaugh built a house on Peter Hoover Rd. and his brother Jacob built the RTD house.

Lillian Shannon will be 90 on Saturday.

Sine Ayres is in the hospital having surgery.

Ed Holter's son-in-law is ill.

Ed Holter is in Hospice care.

A great program was presented by John Shockey, with input and support from his wife Marian. They shared much historical information about their farm on Bevelhymmer Rd and other farms owned by the original family. The original abstract which they showed was very interesting and clearly demonstrated the longevity of area properties.

Refreshments were provided and served^{by} the Zarleys and Naomi Fodor.

Submitted by:

Marilyn Regrut, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEB. 23 & MAR. 16 BOARD MEETINGS

GRANTS -- Helen P. has a notice for us to apply for a grant from the Village. The Board decided to apply for it and to designate the grant for landscaping around the Ealy House.

John Saveson was designated to apply for a grant from the Ohio Cultural Facilities, this grant (if received) to go for landscaping also, and possibly fixing up the basement. In connection with this grant application, John suggested inviting our State representative, Marian Harris, to tour the Ealy House.

RUGS -- M. Regrut suggested storing the "Navajo" rug and the other two Hilbert rugs that have not yet been cleaned until we know what to do with them. These can go temporarily into the upstairs east bedroom of the Dryer House.

INDIAN ARTIFACTS -- Daniel Thompson has agreed to work with the Society in identifying our collection of American Indian projectile points and tools.

Meeting was called to order by President Willard Zarley at 7PM at the New Albany Fire Station.

Minutes of the Feb. 4 meeting were read by Marilyn Regrut. Motion to accept as read made by Helen Pestel, second David Cline. All ayes.

Treasurer's report was circulated and explained by Helen Pestel, balance of \$32,463.24 on Feb 28, 2010. Motion to accept by Sharon Carter, second Kathy Yager all ayes.

Mr. Zarley requested that the minutes of the Feb. 23 Board Meeting be read.

New Business:

Regional meeting in Lancaster March 13. Deadline for registration and transportation opportunities mentioned.

Old Business: Helen Pestel reported that Henning Company has given a completion estimate date of April 1, 2010 on the Ealy porch construction.

John Saveson reported that the application request to the State of Ohio for funds for continued restoration of the Ealy House has been submitted. A copy was available for review.

John discussed the text for the Historical Marker and passed a document with text for two sides of a marker.

John Saveson announced that there are three estimates for landscaping Ealy House. This will be discussed at the April meeting, after the Board reviews the applications/estimates at the next board meeting.

Discussion of using Craig's list for selling items from RTD house and garages. Patty Zarley reminded us that there is a committee charged with working on decisions re sale of items. John Saveson stated that items in the garage area are building materials, stilts, a table and rocking chair, none of which are antique.

Bob Dickendeshier reported on attempts by himself and Theresa Kempker to meet with officials at the Links Golf Course regarding items stored in and

around the RTD Barn and damage to the structure. The scheduled meeting was cancelled by Links personnel. They have rescheduled another meeting for March 10. They will request that items in and around the barn be removed and that damage done to the barn be repaired.

April meeting will fall on a day of conflict for some members. Motion to change meeting to April 8 by Theresa Kempker, second Kathy Yager. Vote by show of hands, motion passed. Next meeting will be 4/8. Marty stated that she will have to reschedule a meeting place and program; this will be in the next Newsletter.

Bob Dickendeshier asked if anyone had information about a proposed Retirement Center in the area. He requested that members of this group be involved in planning. No valid information about such a project available within the group.

Motion to adjourn by Marty Saveson.

Marty introduced teachers Susie Norman and Ronda Anderson who spearheaded the summer project "Inquiring Kids?" The presentation of a video prepared during the project was most interesting because it showed some of our own (Catherine Saveson and Theresa Kempker) discussing historical items and quilt making. This video is available for use in elementary school classes.

Submitted by Marilyn Regrut

P.S. Thanks to Helen Pestel for providing the delicious refreshments.

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome new member **Carol Needles Van Deest**. She is descended from John Alspaugh (Alspach), the brother of Jacob, who built our Dryer House. John Alspaugh, who built an excellent brick house still standing on Peter Hoover Road, married Catherine Bevelhymer. Their daughter Christine married Sam Needles. Carol hopes to make contact with other descendants of the Alspaugh, Bevelhymer, and Needles families. Her address is on p. 11.

Report on the DRYER HOUSE PROPERTY

In accordance with the Society's wishes (see the Nov. 5 minutes), Theresa Kempker and Bob Dickendeshier wrote a letter to the management of the New Albany Links requesting the removal of their property from behind and inside the barn. On Wednesday, March 10, a meeting was held at the Links club house to discuss our grievances. Before anything else was said, Joe Ciminello (owner) and J.T. Thompson (grounds manager) announced that they completely agreed with us, that they were at fault in the matters of trash and so on, and would within a month correct all the problems we have been complaining about.

Specifically, they will remove the old tires from behind the barn and get rid of the other trash. However, they would very much like to make an arrangement with us to keep on storing some items in the barn, at least for a while. Something they indicated they might be able to do for us would be to have the golf course crew take care of the deadwood and fallen branches on the Dryer lawn.

They plan to take steps to verify and display their proper street number, which is 7571 (whereas, OURS is 7569 Walnut St.). As to the golf ball problem, the Links has already moved a certain tee farther away from the Dryer property so as to prevent so many balls from landing there.

On their part, however, they rightfully complain that we have not been able to keep up our side of the bargain, in that we have not put the property to educational use, as agreed to in our original contract.

Other Dryer House news: The garage, "pump room," area way, "mud room," and dining room have all been organized and "neatened up" to the point where a person can walk around safely and see what's what. It seems possible now to plan a sale using the garage as a main area. Thanks to J. Saveson for single-handedly doing so much.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Treasurer's Report -- Jan./Feb. 2010

<u>Income</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
Postage Donation	5.00	
Dues (Gorsuch, Stoia, Bobo, Bulderbergs, Hess, Mowery/Adams)	10.00	\$ 60.00
New-Carol Van Deest, 137 N Main St., Johnstown, OH 43031		10.00
Checking Interest	1.25	1.20
Close out of Renovation Fund at NA Comm. Found.	31,703.79	197.14
Memorial to Wally House II		25.00
Toboggan Sale		35.00
Recycling of Gutter metal	4.02	
Pamphlets	<u>30.00</u>	
Total Income	\$31,754.06	\$328.34

<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$205.59; RTD \$4.94)	\$ 210.53	\$235.69
Henning Company (Porch demolition & footers)	12,262.00	
AT&T	22.30	22.25
Westfield Insurance		943.00
Checking Maintenance Fee		15.00
Print Xpress		<u>43.70</u>
Rumpke	<u>57.54</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 12,552.37	\$1,259.64

<u>January 1st Balance</u>	<u>\$ 14,192.85</u>
Income	32,082.40
Expenses	13,812.01
<u>February 28th Balance</u>	<u>\$32,463.24</u>
Hold for Computer	1,800.00
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Hold for Historical Marker	1,550.00
18 Month CD Balance 2.47% Annual Int.	5,541.37
Vanguard Fund Balance 12/31/09	17,331.12
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 12/31/10	62,455.14
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed
Ameriprise 12/31/09	91,152.07
Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer	