

Newsletter

February and March 2012

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Rose Run below the Ealy House

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.

THURS. FEBRUARY 2 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station
Program: Theresa Kempker will tell us about teaching English as a foreign language to some pretty interesting students.

TUES. Feb. 7 -- 10 a.m., Tour of Ealy House for Sunbury women's group

WED. Feb. 22 -- 12:00 noon, Board Meeting at Ealy House

THURS. MARCH 1 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station
Program: More Curious Antiques from our Attic, and you are invited to bring your own for show & tell.

TUES. Mar. 20 -- Newsletter deadline. If you have material for the Newsletter, contact Marty Saveson at 855-9809.

SAT. Mar. 24 -- Regional Meeting at the Franklin County Genealogical and Historical Society in Grove City. Contact Helen Pestel for details and for registration information. Perhaps a group of us could car-pool.

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.

THURS. MAY 3 -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station

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

NOTE: If the New Albany Plain Local schools are closed due to bad weather on the date of one of our meetings, you can assume that that meeting will be canceled.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012

(The following remarks were a highlight of our Christmas Dinner Party on Dec. 8, 2012. Just before these remarks, 5 members had presented a kind of skit on Society Christmases Past and Present, listing our Society's many, many accomplishments during 2011. Marilyn was asked to continue the theme with "Christmas Future.")

I will follow the presentation of this past year's activities by saying a heartfelt THANK-YOU to all. Everyone contributes, and that is the only reason for the accomplishments. I will not attempt to list individuals because everyone does so much.

I do have a few ideas for next year: First and foremost is membership. This can be best accomplished by developing a good reputation in the community and being well known. The activities with the school children contribute much to that awareness and we will always welcome student tours for any school. We will also welcome groups from your organizations, churches, or neighborhoods. Think about whom you want to invite.

You can also invite former members, your friends, to return to more active participation. This is a group where people can move in and out as life dictates. People get busy and drop out. Some people don't like meetings, but when we ask for help the answer is always yes. We need you. Everyone who was, or is now, or might become a member is important to the success of our mission.

Secondly, I would like to develop a relationship with the Harlem Township Historical Society. They do a lot of good work. We can learn from their ideas. Perhaps we should consider identification of the old homes in New Albany and Plain Township as they are doing in Harlem Township.

We will continue working on the Ealy House as finances allow. We want to disinfect the attic and add storage units as we continue to organize things. Electrical work will enhance the house in several ways. The pantry is still "rough." We can improve it to reflect early times.

The computer data is of great importance at this time. We will return to cataloguing items when we have the technical ability to do so. This is something I would love to see up and running very soon.

We will have another productive year because of you the members. Thanks so much.

-- Marilyn Regrut, President

Once again we enjoyed a friendly and festive evening with Christmas decorations, delicious food, and enjoyable entertainment. Thanks once again to the Methodist Youth Group for a well-served, appealing meal, with special appreciation to Jean Shafer for the excellent food. As you will see in the next story, the New Albany Methodist Church wins the election for favorite venue for our annual Christmas dinner party.

For entertainment, Christmas music was provided by what is now a family quartet: Rick Otten (banjo), Catherine Saveson (guitar), Willow Otten (age 12, violin), and Liam Otten (age 7, violin). Liam believes in dancing to the music while playing it, thus adding a visual dimension to the musical one. After the music, there was a performance of sorts by Kathy Yager (M.C.), Marty Saveson (Xmas Past), and Helen Pestel, John Ayres, and John Saveson (Xmas Present), followed by our President, giving her hopes for the upcoming year.

Thanks to Marilyn Regrut, Naomi Fodor, and Sharon Carter for the pretty table decorations.

PARTIES OF CHRISTMASSES PAST

Our Society has had Christmas parties as far back as some of us can remember. Helen Holter and Arloia Walton helped us assemble the following list of most of the various locations of those parties:

1. Old Summit Inn (Helen Holter remembers this)
2. The Buxton Inn in Granville (1990 & '91)
3. The Granville Inn ('92 & '93) Helen H. says she nearly froze to death there, and the food was cold, too.
4. Home Town Buffet (breakfast, '94) (Aziel's recommendation)
5. The Inn at Chestnut Hill ('95 & '96?) The Inn provided the food, and we put on a vintage style show one year (or both?)
6. The Colonel Crawford Inn at the Ohio Historical Village ('97)
We remember that Isabelle Betts & Evelyn Cabbage complained about not getting any muffins.
7. Franklin U. B. Church ('98 & '99) John & Marty recall that their granddaughter Willow was born just after the '99 lunch.
8. The MCL cafeteria in Westerville (2003).
9. Vito's at the Links (2008)
10. The New Albany Methodist Church, thanks to the Young People's group, for at least 10 Christmases, including 2011.

The Ealy House was appealingly decorated for the holidays, with plenty of holly (from Marilyn's yard), a beautiful wreath on the front door (thanks to Joey Thomas), and a pretty tree in the parlor, festive with bows, candles, strings of popcorn, and a collection of antique dolls and toys around the base. Christmas music emanated from the organ upstairs (played by Catherine Saveson), accompanied by Willow Otten on her violin. Docents included John & Sine Ayres, Helen Pestel, Nancy Ferguson, Monica Morgan, Marty Saveson, and David Cline. Outdoors, Neil Kirby directed parking and Bill Resch gave creek tours, which were very popular, especially with the children.

TOURS BY BILL RESCH

Tours of the Ealy House were not the only tours going on all year. Bill Resch, who is of course a member of our Historical Society, is also an environmental teacher and resource person for the New Albany schools. In both capacities, he has arranged and led tours of the outside of the Ealy House and its surroundings, including Resch Park. He has done this for the same 130 6th graders whom we showed through the house on April 28, and the 330 8th-graders for whom we gave house tours over a two-week period at the end of Aug. and beginning of Sept. Also, on Staff Day in August he gave a similar tour to 18 teachers and administrators, preceded by a historic overview of New Albany by Dennis Keesee at the Eagles Pizza and followed by a tour of the Ealy House.

On these outdoor tours Bill correlates the Ealy House with the land, pointing out how the bedrock from the creek supplied stone for the foundation, and the trees were used in the structure. He points out where the old dam and Crystal Lake used to be, and where the old mill was. He includes information on the rocks and minerals, and on the plant and animal life. His minnow traps in the creek are always a big hit with the youngsters.

He has told us that the Ealy House and land are now "imbedded" in the American History unit of the 8th grade at the New Albany Middle School. From now on, the 8th-graders will all be coming for tours of the Ealy House and its surroundings every year during the first two weeks of school. (So we are now fore-warned and must plan our vacations accordingly.) New Albany students are indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to see the connections between the land and life in a house such as the Ealy House, and to learn the history of the place where they live.

COLONIAL DAY WITH THE FIFTH GRADE

On the day before Thanksgiving vacation (Nov. 22), the New Albany fifth-graders celebrated the culmination of their studies of the American Colonial Period with a multi-faceted gala in the 1925 Building (they call it the 5th-grade Annex). Our Society had been invited to participate, so we spread out two eye-catching displays in the gymnasium: (1) Daniel Thompson had brought several boxes of his Indian artifacts, and (2) John Saveson had brought part of our big collection of farm and carpentry tools, selecting ones which were similar to those used in the Colonial Period.

Furthermore, Marty Saveson had rounded up 4 antique quilts so that one authentic quilt could be displayed in each of 4 "Colonial Crafts" classrooms, where, among other things, students could study quilt designs and create paper "quilts."

The "Crafts" classrooms were supervised by teachers and parents, but we took care of the displays in the gym. That is, Daniel Thompson, David Cline, Nancy Ferguson, and Helen Pestel stood guard and talked about the artifacts and tools. Helen reports that there were "bunches of kids" because all 16 or so classes of fifth-graders were attending the event. They came in large groups, often too many at a time for our 4 members to handle (so next year, we will be recruiting several more helpers). But she stresses that it was well worth doing, for the students "got a lot out of both collections." She suggests that we keep our extra tools as a "traveling collection" for just such occasions. She and the other three enjoyed the afternoon; Helen's feeling was that it was a "very good use of our time." We admire the fifth-grade teachers for putting on such an ambitious event and look forward to working with them next year. Erica Walsh was the chairman of the project.

EALY HOUSE UPDATE

The cold-air return to the attic furnace (omitted in the original work) was recently installed. Happily, no damage was done in the process to the plaster or paint in the upstairs hall. Also, warm-air registers (bleeders) have been added to the ductwork in each of three rooms in the basement (the bathroom already had one).

AN OLD CURIOSITY TURNS UP IN EALY ATTIC

Following the business meeting on Jan. 5, David Cline displayed what looked like an old radio, which he said he had found in the Ealy attic some time ago. But it didn't look quite like a radio, either, so he did some research and discovered that it was a 1912 wireless receiver for Morse code. Such receivers were popular in pre-radio days, especially for ships at sea. They needed tubes to operate, and such tubes at that time were scarce and tended to wear out (like light bulbs). During World War I, citizens on land were encouraged to give up their own tubes for the war effort. That is probably the reason why our machine does not have any tubes in it. There is an original earphone with it, however. Who owned our wireless receiver, and what did he use it for?

After doing the above research on the Morse code receiver, David was curious about the history of radio and found the following facts: the earliest experiments with radio were in 1820; Thomas Edison later experimented with it, but gave up on it in 1878, not seeing any purpose in it. In 1887, Heinrich Hertz, a German, obtained a patent on a wireless receiver, recognizing that it would be useful at sea. The first broadcast of music on radio took place in 1906; the first news broadcast (from Detroit) was in 1920.

Next, David was curious about TV. He found that the first image (non-moving) was transmitted in Russia in 1881. In 1928, the first moving picture was transmitted (it was of "Felix the Cat"). The 1936 German Olympics were broadcast on TV by cable. At the 1939 New York Worlds Fair, the TV display was a big sensation, but of course World War II delayed its widespread use.

RESTORATION OF THE STRAIT HOUSE

The house at the corner of Kitzmiller Rd. and Dublin-Granville Rd. is being restored by the New Albany Company. In recent years known to us as "the Garner house," it was built in the 1850's by Dennis B. Strait. Some of us once saw a photo of the house taken in the 1920's, showing a picket fence around the yard and Clark Ranney in a snazzy open car in front. We are looking for that photo. If you have it, we would like to borrow it. There will be more on the Strait house in the next issue of the Newsletter.

NEW ALBANY PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JANUARY 5, 2012 MINUTES
PLAIN TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION

The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Regrut at 7:25 PM.

The minutes of the November meeting were read by Secretary Liz Feichter. Marty Saveson made a motion to accept them as read and the motion was seconded by David Cline. The motion was approved.

Helen Pestel gave the Treasurer's report and Debbie Dean made a motion to accept it. Robert Dean seconded the motion and it was approved.

Theresa Kempker mentioned how beautifully the lights from Resurrection Church lit up the Ealy House on Christmas Eve. If anyone has a picture, it would be appreciated for our archives.

Marilyn Regrut and Marty Saveson will make a presentation to City Council for the uses of a grant.

John Saveson brought up the furnace cold-air return. Best Heating and Cooling originally installed a system to add heat and air. They put the register in the bathroom. They were supposed to add a register in each of the other three rooms in the basement, which they forgot to do.

David Cline investigated the heating system upstairs and discovered that there is no cold-air return to the furnace in the attic. David and John then had Best come out to check on finishing the basement job and to look at the attic. Best then found they had never cut the hole for the return. David asked about adding a register in the attic and they will do that at no cost because the upstairs heating has been so inefficient.

Best is to come on the 13th of January to add the three registers in the basement, one in the attic, and run a duct through the attic floor and front wall of the storage room. Because of inclement weather, the date was changed to the 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

We have received a bid from Serv-Pro for cleaning the attic floor. They have recommended we also do the walls, ceiling and stairs. Their cost for the floor is \$1,494.46. The cost for the entire area to be decontaminated is \$4100.00.

Envirotech estimated 1500 square feet at \$150.00 per square foot.

Master Clean withdrew their bid.

Marilyn will seek another estimate from a fourth company.

It was mentioned to preserve the writing on walls in the attic and kitchen with plexiglass. There is some stenciling on the ceiling in the parlor which could also be preserved.

Further discussion is needed.

Nancy Ferguson presented samples for the Ealy House sign. We tentatively selected a green with bronze trim. The wording will be Ealy House, and it will indicate the "home of the Doran Family...." An open portion may include dates the house will be open or there could be a "hang-on" sign showing this information. Further discussion is needed. Yet to be decided is a sign for the William H. Resch Park.

There was some discussion regarding a township/village picnic on July 4th. We are checking to see if it is doable.

The quilt frame and the computer need to be completed.

Our many thanks to Catherine Saveson for her work on the Society web site; and to Rick Otten and Catherine Saveson and family for the wonderful entertainment at the Christmas party.

Thanks also to Sharon Carter for the decorations.

Board meeting January 25th, 12 noon at the Ealy House.

--Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

Liz Feichter was introduced at the Christmas dinner as our new Secretary. Thanks, Liz, for taking on this position.

Also at the Christmas party, Marilyn Regrut made a point of thanking, on behalf of the Society, David Cline and John Saveson for acting as "watchdogs" of the Dryer place. Each of them goes over there from time to time to check on things. David keeps an eye open for things that need fixing, and then he fixes them.

Marilyn also thanked Catherine Saveson for taking care of our Society website and relaying messages via E-Mail to the right people.

Marjorie Pestel has sold her house to the New Albany Schools, but has retained the right to occupy it for two more years. Her health is not good, but she manages in her own home, with the help of her two daughters.

You may have read in the local paper that Florence Bevelhymers' house and 5-acre lot have been bought by the city of New Albany. Eventually the land will be used for expansion of the Service Department.

The Chamber of Commerce recently gave us a nice surprise: a collection of photos of old Plain Township buildings, a book of beautiful photographs of Ohio buildings and places (compiled for the 2003 Bicentennial), and 5 assorted "Cat's Meow" representations of New Albany buildings. We can certainly use all these things to good advantage.

Steffanie Feichter, daughter of Liz, is working for Chase Bank in New York City as an Assistant Vice President and Project Manager in the "Business Solutions" Department. She has been with Chase since December 2005, working in Columbus until this past September, when she was assigned to New York. She comes home for the weekend about twice a month. Congratulations, Steffanie!

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
Treasurer's Report November/December, 2011

<u>Income</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Membership (Lifetime Daniel Thompson, Annual Gorsuch, Regrut, Yager, Farber, Hess, J & D Goedeking)	\$ 130.00	
Applebutter		40.00
Christmas Dinner	40.00	80.00
Harvest of the Arts Donation	124.00	266.00
Donations	10.00	
Pamphlets	205.00	48.00
Cat's Meows (2 credited to pamphlets)	7.50	7.00
Brick	30.00	40.00
Checking Interest		50.00
	<u>1.41</u>	<u>1.47</u>
Total Income	\$ 547.91	\$ 532.47

<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$76.01, \$123.38; RTD \$5.53; \$5.64)	\$ 81.54	\$ 129.02
AT&T	24.31	24.34
Columbus City Treasurer (Water & Sewer)		25.23
Purchase of 1925 School Building 25 Cat's Meow	125.00	
Amerigas Tank Rental		135.00
ADT Security	<u>107.97</u>	
Print Xpress		45.60
Christmas Party Dinner		<u>390.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 338.82	\$ 749.19

Nov. 1 st Balance	\$ 17,365.74
Income	1,080.38
Expenses	1,088.01
Dec. 31 st Balance	<u>\$ 17,358.11</u>
Hold for Computer Software	600.00
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance 9/30/11	18,315.07
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 9/30/11	61,661.69
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed
Ameriprise (11/30/11)	104,153.96 (includes \$6,941.36 (6.66452%) Memorial Money)

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
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The next Society meeting will be at 7 p.m.
Thursday, February 2
at the Plain Township Fire Station