

Newsletter

October and November, 2011

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society



Our Heritage Quilt was displayed by Marilyn Regrut at the Harlem Township Days in Center Village on August 20.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thurs. OCTOBER 6 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the Fire Station

Program: Mr. Jim Morgan, one of the Social Studies teachers whose 8th-graders toured the Ealy House (see p. 5) will tell us how the tours tie in with the Middle School curriculum.

Business: There will be elections of a Secretary and of two Trustees to serve on the Board. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Sat. Oct. 8 -- **HARVEST THE ARTS FESTIVAL** at Dorans' Farm at 5462 Babbitt Road. Details on p. 7.

Hours: Workers: 10-5. Open to public 11-4.

Wed. Oct. 26 -- 7 p.m. Board Meeting

Thurs. NOVEMBER 3 -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the Fire Station

Program: Daniel Thompson will tell us about the Swickard collection of Indian artifacts, which he has mounted for display.

Wed. Nov. 16 -- 7 p.m. Board Meeting and Newsletter deadline

Thurs. DECEMBER 1 -- **NOTE: NO MEETING**

Sun. Dec. 4 -- Open House at the Ealy House. Details in next Newsletter.

Thurs. Dec. 8 -- 6:30 p.m. Holiday Dinner at the New Albany Methodist Church. Details in next Newsletter. Save the date!

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, Marilyn at 797-4490 or Nancy at 939-0590.)

NEW MEMBERS

C. Rolland (Racky) and Louise Campbell (614) 279-8930
3628 McDermot Court, Columbus, OH 43228
(Note: along with his sister, Jean Diehl, Racky grew up in the Ealy House.)

Memories Inspired by AN OLD-FASHIONED BIRTHDAY PARTY

I want to thank the Historical Society and Nancy Ferguson for my "old-fashioned" birthday party on August 17. The balloons, horns, candies, donkey game, and the unique hat birthday cake made all of us feel young again.

Everyone enjoyed visiting and relating the many experiences we shared as a historical family. There were so many people who had worked diligently through the years who were unable to be with us, but we remember what they did.

After I came home, I enjoyed reading the messages on the many cards I received.

Historically, Nancy's home was located on the farm where my great-great-great grandfather Daniel Swickard built his first log cabin when he came to Ohio. The early pioneers left the culture of the East, came to live off the land, and worked with other families to build churches, schools, roads, and new homes in the township. Today we can celebrate the fact that their little village of "Hope" is now the city of New Albany.

We also are proud of the Ealy House and all of those people who are working to make it an "image of the past" for future generations to enjoy.

Thanks for the memories.

Naomi Swickard Fodor



HARLEM TOWNSHIP DAYS

Last spring members of the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society were contacted by Vicki Tieche, who lives on New Albany-Condit Road, just south of Center Village, Ohio. Vicki is a very knowledgeable historian and has worked for years collecting information about Harlem Township (Delaware County), its residents and its history. She is also very active in the Harlem Township Historical Society and helps organize "Harlem Township Days" each August.

Vicki visited the Ealy House this summer because she was trying to help an out-of-state resident track down information about her family. The family had resided in both Plain and Harlem Townships in the early 1800s and Vicki was copying Plain Township maps showing the exact location of the farms they owned on Harlem Road, just north of Warner. At the conclusion of her visit, Vicki invited the members of our organization to participate in "Harlem Township Days" on August 20th.

Caught up with Vicki's enthusiasm, Marilyn Regrut and Nancy Ferguson set up the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society display at Harlem Township Days in Center Village. The display included maps of Plain Township, booklets featuring Plain Township history and the Heritage Quilt. As the morning went on we had many people stop by with questions about our history and even present-day activities in New Albany/Plain Township. We learned that many Harlem Township residents had ancestors in Plain Township or family members there and others even lived in Plain Township themselves at some point in their lives. Many invitations were extended to attend our monthly meetings at the Firehouse.

Next to our display was a display by the Big Walnut Area Historical Society with information about the Myers Inn (stagecoach stop) on the square in Sunbury. Our two groups hope to have a joint meeting and tour of the Myers Inn, sometime in the next year. In the meantime, the Big Walnut Area Historical Society will celebrate Heritage Days on October 2nd and all are invited.

The Big Walnut Area Historical Society is also affiliated with the General Rosecrans military re-enactment group which had a very elaborate "camp" at Harlem Township Days. With a pot of stew on the campfire, a covered wagon, "lectures" on life during the Civil War, and many other period details, a great deal of history was learned and a great time was had by all.

EALY HOUSE A BIG HIT WITH EIGHTH-GRADERS

The new school year started with much activity at Ealy House as eighth grade American History teachers introduced their students to information about early New Albany. Over a period of three weeks, over 300 students visited Ealy House with their teachers to get a first hand glimpse of how early residents lived. The docents made it clear that the gracious house was built after several generations of early settlers developed and farmed the land. The prosperity George Ealy achieved was due to the hard work and ingenuity of his ancestors and himself. The students heard information on land acquisition, early pioneers and the Ealy family.

Ealy House is divided into four areas for student tours. The basement is often the most interesting because the "tool museum" contains many interesting items. Artifacts include old farming implements, old tools and even some "weapons" as described by some student visitors. The basement docents explain the importance of the huge fireplace to house and farm operations, and also point out interesting structural details such as the sand stone walls. The sand stone came from the nearby creek.

The kitchen is very interesting as students learn that the water source for the house was a well in the back yard and view burn marks on the wood floor demonstrating that hot embers fell from the wood stove. Early cooking utensils are shown, students guess what they are and sometimes they do not guess, they really know. There are many very special things in the kitchen; pots and crocks, heavy flat irons, canning jars, a carpet beater, and razor strap to name a few.

We progress to the parlor, the place where Mrs. Ealy entertained guests and children were not welcome. The massive bookcase filled with books always provokes questions. The stereoscope was available for quick look. In the back parlor, more artifacts demonstrating early life created more good questions. The dining room with the kitchen pass-through and a large working fireplace continued to interest the students. The furniture is old; as we discussed the pie safe, some boys were concerned about the status of one of the chair seats. It was great to see them on the floor examining the bottom of the chair and voicing their concern.

Up the lovely staircase to the second floor, the students are reminded of life without electricity. The pump organ in the upstairs hallway and the treadle sewing machine provoke curiosity and interest. The spinning wheel and loom make it clear that early settlers had to be self-sufficient. The rope bed, chamber pot and wash stand in the bedroom show that life was harder in the early days, even in a grand house.

The docents were pleased with the enthusiasm, questions and respect shown by the students. They are welcome to return, and we hope it will be soon..

-- Marilyn Regrut

OUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND SALE

On the Friday and Saturday before Labor Day, we opened the Dryer House, "pump house," garage, and two sheds to a constant stream of people coming to look, "pick," and buy. The weather was very hot, but we all survived the two long days pretty well, because the customers were friendly, helpful, and interested, and mainly because they bought so much stuff. We made over \$1500, but the count is not finished. We have been selling some items since the official sale, and so you will have to wait for the next Treasurer's report to know the final results.

Readers of this Newsletter may be interested in some of the following rather special items which we are still offering for sale: **ANTIQUE SAWS** -- some two-man saws, some one-man, and some which can be used by either one or two men. There are three handsome buzz-saws, big, middle-sized, and small--but these may well be gone before you see these pages. The saws will be featured on our Antiques table at the Harvest the Arts Festival.

Something else of considerable value which we are trying to sell is a large **DINING ROOM TABLE** (c. 1960's) of beautiful wood in perfect condition. It comes with two arm chairs, two side chairs, and a matching 3-person bench. Two extra leaves are included, and even a full set of protective pads. Call John Saveson at 855-9809 if you are interested in any of these things.

HARVEST THE ARTS FESTIVAL Saturday, October 8, 2011

We are preparing for our usual activities at the annual Harvest Festival at Dorans' farm, 5462 Babbitt Road. Again we will sponsor scarecrow-making and candle-dipping, a bake sale and home-made apple-butter. A new attraction will be an Antiques Table, where antique logging saws, horse shoes, pulleys, and other interesting old hardware items will be offered for sale, along with some antique oil lamps and canning jars. (These items have come to light in the recent cleaning out of sheds and cupboards at the Dryer property.)

We will be calling you for donations to the bake sale. And, as before, each package needs to be labeled for the State Board of Health. See below for instructions.

We will also be asking for your help at one of our 4 stations--Bake sale, Scarecrows, Candles, or Antiques table. Choose a 10:30-1:00 or 1:00-4:30 shift.

LABELING ITEMS FOR THE BAKE SALE

Every package must have a label with the following information:

1. It must say "Homemade."
2. Name of our organization: New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 219, New Albany, OH 43054. (Your own name is not necessary, oddly enough.)
3. Name of the food item. (For example, "Brownies")
4. The ingredients, listed by weight from heaviest to lightest. Just do your best with this. (Remember that the ingredients added last are often the heaviest, like nuts and raisins.)
5. If you use an ingredient that is itself made of other ingredients, you have to include those as listed on the package they come from.

MEMORIES OF OUR FORMER ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS
from Old-Timers of Plain Township
as Gathered and Recollected by Arloia Walton

In 1996, at the time that the present high school library was dedicated, there were 13 schools located on a Township map donated by Cecil Walton and now stored in the archives of the Faly House. These consisted of 11 one-room schools in Plain Township and two schools in the village of New Albany. There were no schools before 1820, but we know that school classes were held in the Adam and Seville Huffman Baughman cabin before 1820, so the early pioneers were believers in education.

Most of the following information about the 11 one-room schools is hearsay from our celebrated old timers, including Jimmy Doran, Ethel Schleppi, Clark Ranney, and others. Though it may not be completely accurate, it does give us a general picture of our former schools. There were eventually 11 Districts, loosely arranged so that each pupil would not have to walk much more than one mile to school. We are using the District numbers as recalled late in life by Ethel Schleppi.

1. Wagnor (or Wagner) School, on Central College Road, near the Wagnor cemetery across from Cedar Brook. This log school was built in 1820 and probably also served as a church, as suggested by the old cemetery still on that site. The first teacher, Jacob Smith, taught the students for \$1.50 each (since there was no public funding for education). This school was moved to another site in 1860.

2. Pleasant Hill School, less elegantly known as the "Softhead School," first constructed in 1839 as a log building used also for church services. It was later replaced by a brick structure, still standing today (remodeled into a home) at the intersection of Kitzmiller & Central College Rds. and Rte 62. (District No. 6 according to Ethel Schleppi, but No. 10 according to Archibald Smith in his Autobiography.)

(NOTE: from here on, the dates of the other one-room schools are unknown, and the order is random.)

3. Park School -- on Central College Rd. west of Harlem Rd., built on land belonging to Walter Daily's forebears, the Parks. It was turned into a home which stood in the same spot until it was demolished in the 1990's.

4. Noe School, or Cornmeal or Babbitt Road School (District 11), on Babbitt Road (which was originally Cornmeal Ave.) This was turned into a home, which is still standing.

5. Taylor School (District not given) -- built on Anthony Taylor's land at the corner of old 161 and Harlem Rd. Martha Taylor Ranney began her schooling there. On the first day, her grandfather walked her to the school and left her there, but on his way home he got only as far as the bridge on old 161, when he looked back and found a wailing Martha not far behind.

6. Forest (Forest Hill) or "Frog Eye" School (District 10) -- located on Harlem Rd. between Rte. 62 and Morse Rd. The building was in a wooded, swampy area which attracted frogs.

7. Nafsger School (District 9) -- located on Hamilton Rd. a little north of Thompson Rd. on Nafsger land.

8. Franklin School (District 5) -- located on the SE corner of State Rte. 605 and Central College Rd., across from the current Lions Club (formerly Franklin U.B. Church).

9. Miller School (District 2) -- on Schleppi Rd., on land donated by Ethel Miller Schleppi's parents, operated from 1835 to 1911 and 1915 to 1925. An old-timer described the school thus: School started at 9 a.m. and closed at 4 p.m., with an hour for lunch and two 15-minute recesses. "It had an old pot-bellied stove in the center of the room which roasted the people that sat close to it. . . There was a corner shelf that held the water bucket and tin cups. The pupils carried the water bucket from the neighbor's house next to the school."

10. Alspach School (District 3) -- at the NW corner of Walnut St. and Peter Hoover Rd (now enclosed by a modern house), on land donated by the Alspach family.

11. Science Hill School (District 8) -- originally built on Kitzmiller Road with a name that Mrs. Ollie Margarum did not like, so she persuaded the Trustees to tear it down. The second school was built on Margarum land and named by her Science Hill. This was the last of the one-room schools built in the Township and the only one of the eleven which still looks like a school. It has been handsomely restored by the Wexners, on whose property it stands. The bell, mounted on a post in front (instead of on the roof where it would have been originally), came from the Cornmeal Avenue school. It was lent to the Science Hill School by the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society.

In 1925, all the one-room Township schools were closed and the school system was consolidated into one central school in the village of New Albany. School busses began transporting students to the new central building. In the next issue of the Newsletter, the story of our local schools will continue.

-- Arloia Baughman Walton

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes from the Meeting of August 4, 2011

Meeting held at the NAPT Fire Station, called to order at 7:16 by President Marilyn Regrut.

Marty Saveson introduced member Lois Wheeler, whom we do not get to see very often because she lives in Athens, Ohio. Lois is the great-great-granddaughter of John Ranney, Dr. Sylvester Ranney's younger brother who moved to Kansas.

Minutes of the July meeting were read by Helen Pestel. Motion to accept by David Cline, seconded by M. Saveson.

Treasurer's report by Helen Pestel.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of spring-wagon discussed. It can remain at Steve Bevelhymmer's until the end of summer. Then we will need to find a new place to keep it.

Ealy Bats: Nancy Ferguson reported that they are gone. Master-Clean came out to give an estimate to clean the attic of bat dung; they gave an estimate but declined the job.

Arrowhead collection discussed: Naomi Fodor reported that it is in the custody of Daniel Thompson, who is studying, sorting, and arranging the collection in five cherry display boxes. As he researches the items, he is keeping a written record. They can be displayed at Ealy House. Discussion of display area followed. They will never be in the basement. Those present thought the upstairs room presently containing medical artifacts might be an appropriate place.

Groundhogs at Ealy are being controlled by Henry Kempker and his family. Thank you.

Storage of the large hay wagon was discussed. It is presently in the NA service garage, where staff are evaluating repairs needed prior to parade use.

The "Weekly Work Group" recently spent time at the RTD House and went from room to room identifying items to save, items to

sell, and trash to dispose of (esp. fallen plaster). Nancy Ferguson has volunteered to rent a dumpster (for a week maybe) to dispose of the trash. Robert Dean knows someone who might do this.

Robert Dean also reported that he and Debbie have secured some of the small wheels needed to repair the RTD barn door. These were available from a structure being torn down. Thanks to the Deans and the "finders."

NEW BUSINESS

The Yard Sale over the Labor Day weekend was discussed. John Saveson moved that we have a two-day sale on the Friday and Saturday (Sept. 2 & 3). Seconded by Liz Feichter. Motion carried. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Refreshments were provided by Nancy Ferguson.

John Saveson displayed several two-man saws he has rescued from the RTD sheds and cleaned up. There is some value to these saws per E-Bay sales.

-- Kathy Yager, Sec. pro tem.



Society members enjoying Naomi's Birthday Party

NEW ALBANY-PLAIN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minutes from the Meeting of September 1, 2011
at the Fire Station

President Marilyn Regrut called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the prior meeting were read by Helen Pestel. Motion to approve them was made by David Cline and seconded by John Ayres. The treasurer's report was given by Helen Pestel. A motion to approve was made by John Saveson and seconded by David Cline.

Old Business:

The hay wagon is now in a garage at the RTD house. Thanks go to Nancy Ferguson and David Cline. The spring wagon comes on Monday to be chained in place. Thanks go to Steve Bevelhymer for all his efforts.

The Ealy house bats are gone. The bees are back. John Latshaw, a beekeeper, is coming this Monday. It is possible that these are wasps that we are dealing with.

The weekly work group at the RTD has no dumpster yet but it's coming soon. Thanks to Robert Dean. We still have an issue with the front entrance. The bolt is broken (the door is locked but rather difficult to get open).

The yard sale is ready to go. We had lots of help, including from an Eagle Scout. We will need help to staff the sale. Robert Dean pointed out that this might be a good time to see if anyone wants the RTD house. While we can not take offers in good faith, we can get names and contact info of anyone who shows interest. We've had a few inquiries off the internet. There will be 8 saws for sale at ebay comparable prices. There are great lists of sale items – 4 sheets – with prices no less. Nearly everything is priced.

New Business

Harvest the Arts: The usual activities are planned; scare crows, bake sale, candles, and apple butter. Discussion of just having one bake sale a year, and it would be at Harvest the Arts. This would make Founders Day much easier with one less thing to do.

A motion was made by David Cline and seconded by Naomi Fodor that we all wear matching t-shirts at harvest the Arts (and to sell the remaining shirts).

Bill Resch offered thanks to the docents who conducted all of the Ealy House tours for the school children. Perhaps in October we can have a presentation from the teachers. The slot is open and the teachers expressed great interest. Bill will coordinate with Marty Saveson. The teachers get a lot of benefit from the tours. John Saveson moved to accept this offer, seconded by David Cline.

October refreshments – Marilyn will help (along with many others).

A nominating committee is needed for the upcoming October elections.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Neil Kirby, Vice President.

NOTES & NEWS

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS, continued -- Arlee Walton's article on pages 8 and 9 is part of a series on local schools, begun in the August-September Newsletter with the article by J. Saveson on sources of information about the history of such schools. In the next Newsletter (Dec.-Jan.), there will be an article on the New Albany village schools. Meanwhile, at the suggestion of Dennis Keesee, the N.A. High School has adopted the names of eight of the Township's one-room schools for the newly created eight "Houses," or divisions of the student body. The eight names chosen are these: Alspach, Forest Hill, Miller, Park, Pleasant Hill, Science Hill, Taylor, and Wagner. Apparently the nicknames "Frog Eye" and "Softhead" have not caught on.

GROUNDHOGS, continued -- Henry Kempker and his family have eliminated three more of these pests at the Ealy House since the last report.

BARN DOOR, continued -- Robert and Debbie Dean have obtained the right sort of rollers from another old barn to repair the door on the Dryer barn.

DRYER HOUSE OFFICE-- The Monday Work Group pretty much cleared out the remaining furniture and boxes of "stuff" from the former office room next to the kitchen. Some items went to the Ealy House, some to the staging area for the next yard sale, and much to recycling, and even trash.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- Come join us on any Monday morning at the Ealy (or sometimes the Dryer) House to sort, organize, clean, exchange ideas, show visitors around, etc. Call ahead so we know you are coming (Nancy at 939-0590 or Marilyn at 797-4490).

MEMORIAL BRICKS -- Have you noticed lately what a nice showing the memorial bricks are making in the front walkway? If you are interested in ordering a brick, please get in touch with Helen at 855-3765. She will give you the guidelines. The price is \$50 per brick.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER -- are welcome. Please contact the editor, Marty Saveson, at 855-9809. Note Newsletter deadlines listed in "Dates to Remember" on page 2.

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

Treasurer's Report -- July/August, 2011

<u>Income</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
Memorial Sidewalk Bricks	50.00	
Newsletter Postage Donation	5.00	
Founders Day Bake Sale Donation	5.00	
Pamphlets (including \$12.50 donation)	25.00	
Yard Sale	50.00	
Membership (Shannon)		10.00
Anonymous Donation		160.00
Checking Interest	<u>1.37</u>	<u>1.37</u>
Total Income	\$ 136.37	\$ 171.37
<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP -- (Ealy \$18.06, \$48.51; RTD\$5.61,\$5.53)	<u>23.67</u>	\$ 54.04
AT&T (2 months)		48.47
Columbus City Treasurer-Water & Sewer Ealy		29.07
Print Xpress (Newsletter)		47.50
Best Services (Basement work Ealy)		<u>1,400.00</u>
Total Expenses	23.67	\$ 1,579.08
July 1 st Balance	\$ 16,031.07	
Income	307.74	
Expenses	1,602.75	
August 31 st Balance	<u>\$ 14,736.06</u>	
Hold for Computer Software	600.00	
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00	
Hold for Ealy Sign	3,500.00	
Vanguard Fund Balance 6/30/11	20,373.08	
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 6/30/11	69,766.42	{ includes \$7,173.88 (6.66452%) Memorial money)
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 1/21/10	closed	
Ameriprise (7/31/11)	107,642.91	
Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer		