

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society January - May 2024 Newsletter

EALY HOUSE HALLOWEEN FAMILY DAY AND OPEN HOUSE



A Halloween Family Day and Open House was held on October 22, a beautiful fall day. Many children attended in costumes. All enjoyed Doug Brahler's display of vintage Halloween decorations (right), articles and pictures of the New Albany Jaycees' haunted houses (bottom right), the legendary stories of PIG BEAR (center) told by Dennis Keesee (bottom left), and the free treats. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this event a success.



Enclosed with this Society newsletter is the story of an intriguing adventure as undertaken by Society member Douglas Brahler. Enjoy!

*** * * UPCOMING EVENTS * * ***



Beautiful 1920s image of Taylor Barn that was torn down in 2023

HISTORY OF THE TAYLOR FARM

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 – 7:00 p.m.

New Albany Methodist Church, 20 Third Street, New Albany

To be presented by Dennis Keesee and Doug Tracy

This event is open to the public.

**FOUNDERS DAY PARADE AND
OPEN HOUSE AT THE EALY HOUSE**

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Parade -- 11:00 a.m.

Open House -- 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ealy House, 6359 Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany



OPEN HOUSES AT THE EALY HOUSE

SUNDAYS IN JUNE -- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Ealy House, 6359 Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany

FUTURE EVENTS TO BE DETERMINED

Check www.newalbanyhistory.info for updates

Notice of meetings and cancellations will be sent by email

BOARD MEETINGS

MARCH 7

APRIL 4

JUNE 6

JUNE 27

6:30 p.m. at Franklin Church,

7171 Central College Rd, NA

If bad weather, meeting will be held via zoom

QUILT DONATION

by Catherine Saveson

The Society recently received the generous donation of a quilt that was handmade in 1950 by Ruth Hilbert, a member of the Doran family and the last resident of the Ealy House. Entitled "Gay Nineties," the quilt shows appliqued scenes (pictured) of family life from the 1890s and exquisite hand stitching featuring musical notation. Ruth showed it at the fair and was offered \$500 for it, which she declined. We are delighted to have this charming piece of the Ealy House's history back in the house once again. The quilt was donated by Ruth's great-niece, Susan Wisniewski. Thank you, Susan!!



STORIES OF RUTH HILBERT SHARED BY HER GREAT-NIECE, SUSAN WISNIEWSKI

Aunt Ruth was a cat lover. She was not a cat lady; she had one cat at a time. She used to scorn people who gave cats "dime store" names. She had had a Charles and an Obadiah. At the time I knew her, she had Mitsue or MitSue, pronounced Mitt Sue. At the time it sounded to me to be a departure to a dime store name, but it is Japanese. Depending on the spelling, it can mean Bright River, Bright Wisdom, or Heavenly Staff. Ruth supported an organization, Cat Welfare, and used to torment my mother by saying she, Ruth, would leave her money to Cat Welfare! It was because of her concern for her cat that she finally decided my dad was a good person, despite his being male. There was a huge snowstorm, and Uncle Grant was ill or out of town or in some way unavailable. My dad drove over to Aunt Ruth's house and shoveled and made sure she had food and so on, including cat food. She was cordial to him from then on.

Aunt Ruth used to say that cooking was for women who couldn't do anything else. My mom said Ruth was a terrible cook. Uncle Grant did all the cooking! However, one school day when I was ill, my mom had to work, by this time being a schoolteacher. She reluctantly left me in Aunt Ruth's care. Aunt Ruth made me tomato soup. It was delicious! That is a big compliment from a child raised on Campbell's soup. I think she might have pretended incompetence to escape cooking duties.

In general, my mom's side of the family believed the social programs attempting to relieve the effects of the Depression were misguided at best. I think most of them came around to accept Social Security, but not Aunt Ruth. She railed against it and seemed to think anyone taking it was sponging off the American people. My great-uncle Maynard, her brother, was tickled to observe that she showed up right on time at her mailbox when the check was in there. (I have the idea they shared a mailbox, but at the least they were next to each other, and Uncle Maynard wouldn't have been above taking a peek into hers.)

Aunt Ruth was a collector. She would get books from the library and study about antiques and collectibles. She would go to flea markets and sales and try to get what she recognized as valuable items "for a song," as she would say. She also made little domestic scenes in boxes. The little people in them had heads of dried apples.

I have a very vivid picture in my mind of Aunt Ruth bringing a dustpan full of snow into the house, spreading it on the carpet, and sweeping it up into the dustpan. She told my sister and me that this was a good way to clean the carpet if you didn't have a vacuum cleaner. Even at the time it seemed awfully labor intensive to me. Now I wonder if they were too poor to buy a vacuum cleaner. I suppose most of their money was in their land, and the property taxes were a real drain. Still, Uncle Grant brought in at least some money, and there was that Social Security check! If we fall on hard times, and my vacuum cleaner dies, I am prepared.

MIKE BUTSKO VIETNAM WAR GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

Pictured are three images of the mold being made for the Butsko door. No harm was done to the historic door and the detail in the mold is outstanding. This will be a big year for the Butsko Memorial and we need everyone to help out. Please make a donation by check made payable to NAPTHS, with "Butsko" on the memo line, and mail to: "Butsko," NAPT Historical Society, PO Box 219, New Albany OH 43054-0219. Thank you. Dennis Keesee



ALICE (SCHNEIDER) WOOD

May 15, 1925 – May 1, 2023

Alice was born in New Albany, Ohio, in 1925 to Albert and Roma Kindler. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Paul Schneider, husband Wendell Wood, and brothers John Kindler and Wilbur "Wib" Kindler. She is survived by daughter Sharon (Don) Richards, son Craig (Barbara) Schneider, six grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

Alice lived in New Albany for 63 years before moving to Gahanna. She graduated from New Albany High School in 1943 and still had her high school ring, a prized possession. She was employed in several positions over her lifetime, including at Children's Hospital, and ended her career at The Kindler Company which was owned by her brother, Wib. She treasured her New Albany connections, including her group of "forever friends" who met in first grade and continued their friendships throughout their entire lives.

FIRST GRADERS TOUR THE EALY HOUSE

by Valerie Bevelhymer

On November 6 and 7, fifteen classes of more than 320 New Albany Primary School first-grade students toured the Ealy House. Students were intrigued to discover the many New Albany landmarks that were pointed out on the beautiful Historical Society quilt (right) by docent Stacie Miller. This quilt was created by Society members several years ago and is permanently on display at the Ealy House.

We welcomed new member and brand-new docent, Stacie Miller. She and her husband, Matt, are New Albany residents and busy parents to three children. Stacie graciously volunteered to help with the first graders' tours on November 6 and returned the next day as a parent volunteer to walk her daughter's class over to the Ealy House. Other docents were Valerie Bevelhymer, Dennis Keesee, Phoebe Lahmann, Helen Pestel, and Beckie Knore as timekeeper.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The entire Ealy House was beautifully decorated and enjoyed by many during the December 10 Open House. "Conductor" Richard Whitelock (below) delighted visitors who received tickets and boarded "The Polar Express." Docents were Valerie Bevelhymer, Debbie Dean, Robert Dean, Dennis Keesee, Betty Maynard, Helen Pestel, Doug Tracy, and high school student volunteer Aidan Millerick.



FUN HOLIDAY PARTY

Our December 14 holiday dinner at the New Albany Methodist Church was enjoyed by 27 members and guests. A delicious buffet that included baked spaghetti and meatballs was catered by Eagles Pizza and was followed by dessert. Betty Maynard read the Year in Review – 2023. Dennis Keesee talked about the Society's plans for 2024. The attendees all introduced themselves and said what they wished for the Society in the new year.



Our first ugly holiday sweater contest took place with attendees choosing Brian Tomer as the winner. Richard Whitelock (above) gave a presentation regarding the origin of the famous Christmas hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." We ended the evening with a singalong, accompanied by the Society's very talented members (left) Rick Otten (banjo), Catherine Saveson (guitar), and Chandler Kisiel (fiddle). Catherine played washtub bass for some of the songs.





THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to City Council for approving a \$10,000 grant for the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society for 2024. The funds will help us maintain the Ealy House and New Albany's Historical Collections, host events and open houses, and assist with the Butsko Memorial Committee's fundraising costs.

Our organization used the 2023 funds toward the west side paver walkway and heat pump replacements for the Ealy House, as well as expenses for events and open houses.

NAPTHS YEAR IN REVIEW – 2023

Applied for City of New Albany Grant (January) – Received \$10,000
Members Bob Underwood (March) and Alice Wood (May) passed away
DAR members of the Gahanna Chapter toured the Ealy House (May 13)
Marilyn Regrut and Marty Saveson were honored for their many years of service to the Society
Terms of reelected Board members commenced on November 1: President Dennis Keesee, Secretary Chandler Kisiel, Treasurer Helen Pestel, Trustees Valerie Bevelhymer and Robert Dean
Betty Maynard was selected to fill Vice President position vacated on November 1
Thank you to Doug Brahler for his years of service
High school student Aidan Millerick began as a volunteer (December 10)
14 persons joined our Society in 2023

NEW ALBANY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Tours of the Ealy House:
8th Grade (over 400 students – August 21, 22, & 30)
1st Grade (over 320 students - November 6 & 7)

PROGRAMS:

"Antarctica: Journey to Our Last Continent" by Dave & Betty Maynard (March 9)
"The Music of the Civil War" by Steve & Lisa Ball (April 13)
"Meet & Greet at the Ealy House" (June 8)
"Vietnam War Stories" by Retired U.S. Navy Commander Roger Kisiel (September 14)

EVENTS:

Founders Day Parade with Dennis and Teresa Keesee as Grand Marshals, Robert and Debbie Dean in their 1937 Studebaker Coupe, Artist Marvin Daniels capturing the parade in paint, and Open House (May 20)
Independence Day Parade with Robert and Debbie Dean in their 1967 King Midget, and Open House (July 4)
Outing to view "The Art of Edoardo Alfieri" exhibit at Columbus Historical Society (July 13)
Society Potluck at the Saveson barn with belated celebration of Marty Saveson's birthday (August 12)
Summer Open Houses (every Sunday during June, July, and August (except July 2)
Historical Society display at "Taylor Farm Park Event" (October 5)
Halloween Family Day and Open House with vintage decorations display and PIG BEAR stories (October 22)
Holiday Open House with Richard Whitelock telling "The Polar Express" story (December 10)
Holiday Dinner Buffet at New Albany Methodist Church (December 14)

**ETHEL SCHLEPPI'S GRANDSON
VISITS EALY HOUSE**

On January 14, Robert and Pamela Brenning of Urbana, Ohio, stopped by the Ealy House. Robert is local artist Ethel Schleppe's grandson and is also from New Albany.

Pamela and Robert stood next to one of Ethel's paintings, hanging over the mantel in the front parlor (right).



HISTORY OF NEW ALBANY

Our little village has transformed into an ever-growing city. Through that journey, a lot of fascinating people have lived here, and fantastic stories can be told.

NAPTHS President Dennis Keese was asked to share some history of New Albany and Plain Township on January 31 at the New Albany branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. This very interesting and informative presentation (below) was attended by 97 persons. Thanks to library employees Maura and Eugene for assisting Dennis with his presentation!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
 Lauren & Adam Davie
 Dennis James
 Jeremy James
 Stacie & Matt Miller

<i>NAPTHS BOARD</i>	
PRESIDENT	
Dennis Keese	614-563-5228
VICE PRESIDENT	
Betty Maynard	614-855-2543
SECRETARY	
Chandler Kiesel	614-915-1222
TREASURER	
Helen Pestel	614-855-3765
CO-CURATORS	
Beckie Knore	614-855-1950
Doug Tracy	614-361-5308
TRUSTEES	
Valerie Bevelhymer	614-619-0555
Robert Dean	614-288-9263
Nichole Foreman	513-240-4654
Dennis James	614-563-8376
Catherine Saveson	614-843-9505

<i>NEWSLETTER EDITORS</i>	
Betty Maynard & Marty Saveson	



New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society
PO Box 219
New Albany OH 43054-0219

(614) 855-9861
www.newalbanyhistory.info

Grant funds provided by the City



QUILT HANDMADE IN 1950 BY RUTH HILBERT

JANUARY – MAY 2024

In This Issue:

Halloween Family Day
Upcoming Events
Quilt Donation
Stories of Ruth Hilbert
Butsko Memorial
Alice Wood
First Graders Tour
Holiday Open House
Fun Holiday Party
Thank You!
Year in Review – 2023
Schleppi Grandson
History of New Albany
New Members
NAPTHS Board

In The Addition:

Intriguing Adventure

