

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

January – May 2023

SMALL SCRAPS OF PAPER IN HAND

by Dennis Keesee

During the summer of 2020 while looking at lots offered online by Cowan's Americana Auctions, I came across a group of receipts for purchases in Franklinton, Ohio, during the war of 1812 with other early Ohio papers. Most of the Franklinton receipts were for food and supplies needed for the many soldiers stationed there during the summer of 1814. A few of the receipts were signed by Lucas Sullivant, who in the year 1797 while surveying and locating land warrants in the Virginia Military District west of the Scioto, laid out and platted the town of Franklinton, which has grown into the giant city of Columbus, Ohio.

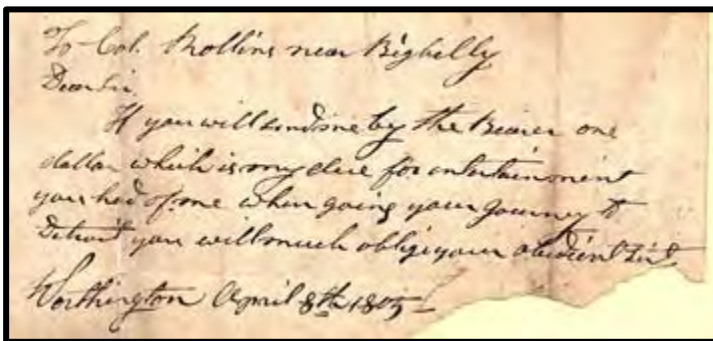
Mixed amongst the 50 some documents were even a few legal documents including this extremely early reward notice:

TWENTY DOLLAR REWARD

Broke jail of Newark, Licking County Ohio on the night of the 30th Inst. two young men who was arrested for passing Counterfeit Money. One by the name of Lathrop Randel, but his name is William Norton, about five feet ten inches high, fair complexion, Blue eyes, Dark Coat, Stripped vest, Dark Pantaloons. The other John Reed, but his name is Baney Night a small man fair hair, blue eyes, sickly look, broke out in sores, Dark Coat, light vest, Velvet Pantaloons.

Whoever takes up said men and delivers to the jail of the county shall (receive) the above reward.

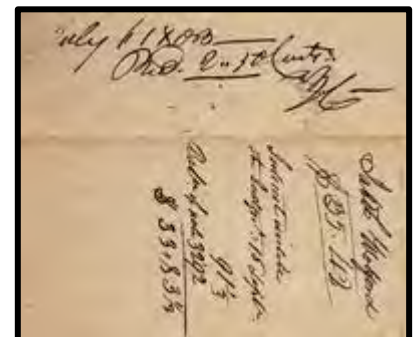
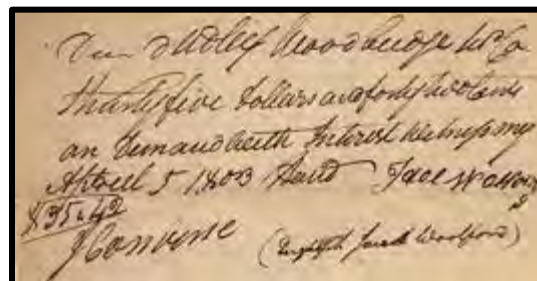
October 31, 1815 Andrew Allison Sheriff



The reward document was interesting, but I was next shocked to see a little note written to Colonel Rollins near Big Belly. The 1805 Worthington, Ohio, note asked Colonel Rollins for one dollar owed to the unknown sender for playing music for the Colonel while he was on his journey to Detroit. The shocking part to me was to see the location as Big Belly which was the early name for Gahanna, Ohio. Two stories conflict on the name of Big Belly. The first states that Gahanna in the local Native American dialect meant Big Belly which is what they called the area because so many saloons were there, and all the men had big bellies. The

second is that Rocky Fork curves there in the shape of a big belly. At any rate, I had read that somewhere in a book when I was a young man, or heard it from someone years ago, but here in front of me was proof that Gahanna was once called Big Belly before officially named Gahanna.

As neat as the Big Belly note and everything else, the prize found by me was two promissory notes issued to the famed Dudley Woodbridge of Marietta, Ohio. Both were dated 1803 and only had the amount owed, unfortunately not what was purchased.



Continued on page 3

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

ANTARCTICA:

JOURNEY TO OUR LAST CONTINENT

MARCH 9 -- 6:30 p.m. Meeting -- 7:00 p.m. Presentation

New Albany Methodist Church, 20 Third Street, New Albany

Society members Dave & Betty Maynard will show photos and talk about the trip of a lifetime to their last continent. This event is open to the public.



THE MUSIC OF THE CIVIL WAR

APRIL 13 -- 6:30 p.m. Meeting -- 7:00 p.m. Presentation

New Albany Methodist Church, 20 Third Street, New Albany

Steve Ball will outline some of the most popular Civil War songs, the composers, and the events that helped inspire the songs. He will perform with an 1851 Martin guitar while dressed in period attire. This event is open to the public.

FOUNDERS DAY PARADE AND OPEN HOUSE AT THE EALY HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 20

FUTURE EVENTS TO BE DETERMINED

Check www.newalbanyhistory.info for updates

Notice of meeting cancellation will be sent by email

BOARD MEETINGS

JANUARY 5

FEBRUARY 2

MARCH 2

APRIL 6

MAY 4

JUNE 1

**6:30 p.m. at Franklin Church,
7171 Central College Road, NA**

If bad weather, meeting
will be held via zoom

Continued from page 1

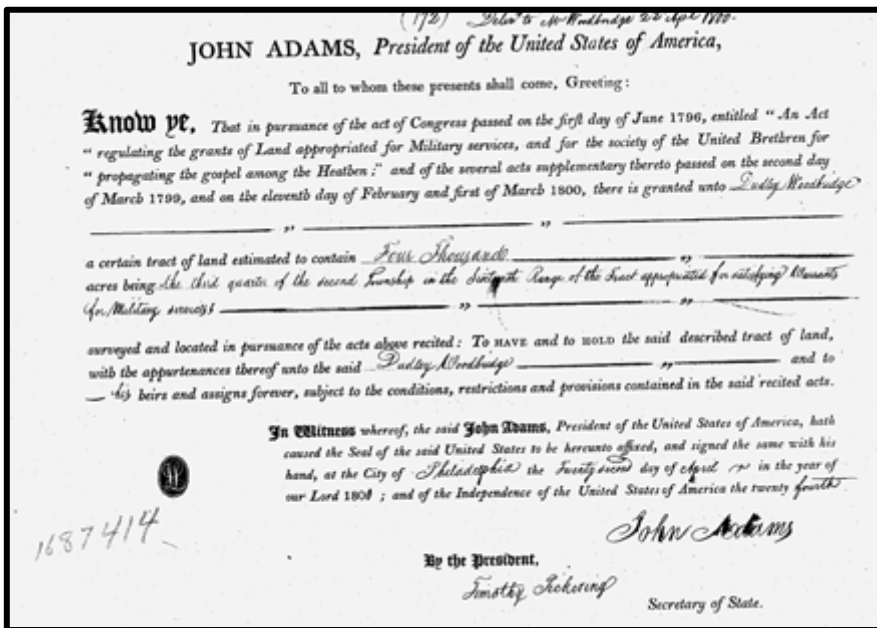
The next question being asked by many readers at this point is, how does this fit into a historical society newsletter from New Albany, Ohio? For that answer we must first learn who Dudley Woodbridge was.

Dudley Woodbridge was born in Stonington, Connecticut, on October 9, 1749, to parents Sarah (Sheldon) and Dr. Dudley Woodbridge Sr., who had graduated from Harvard in 1724. The younger Dudley also excelled in school and graduated from Yale in 1766. On April 28, 1774, Dudley married Lucy Backus and together they started a family. It was not long afterwards the two moved to Norwich, Connecticut, as prospects seemed better there for the ambitious young Dudley. Soon he was an acting lawyer and had established a handsome mercantile business with which he had started trade as far away as the East Indies. Unfortunately, the young father and lawyer had to leave Lucy at home to tend to his affairs when war with England erupted. Dudley went away as one of the many minutemen fighting for independence. After these stressful times for all, Dudley returned home where he found that Lucy had kept everything in order. Soon he was back to managing his business and even became the first postmaster of Norwich in 1782.

Following the War of Independence, a small group of men founded the Ohio Company, which set into motion claim after claim being brought forth for land in the territory northwest of the Ohio after the area was offered by the United States to those who had fought during the war. In 1786 Fort Harmar was built by the Army near the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers. During the following year the Ohio Company laid out the town of Marietta nearby after the first party of 22 men arrived. One of the first to venture to the region was Lucy's brother James who went to Marietta in 1788 as a surveyor. Another Backus relative was a member of the Ohio Company so it was only reasonable that soon Lucy and Dudley would also want to venture west.

With Lucy's prodding, as noted in her journals, Dudley left for Marietta and arrived on May 9, 1789. He soon was at his mercantile business as usual and practicing law. Lucy with her children in tow started in the fall of 1789 also for the frontier land of Ohio. Dudley, always the businessman, continued to bring vessel after vessel to Marietta and is regarded as one of the first merchants in Marietta, if not all of Ohio. He sold everything that was in demand in a wild country: powder and shot, tobacco and whiskey, spinning wheels and shoes. All had to be brought west with many trips taking months for the goods to arrive. Yet all around was land and if one was diligent and wise, he could make money buying land warrants earned by soldiers in the east who had no intention of leaving home.

On April 22, 1800, President John Adams signed his name transferring ownership of "a certain tract of land estimated to contain Four Thousand acres being the third quarter of the second Township in the Sixteenth Range of the Tract appropriated for satisfying Warrants for Military service." With his signature yet smeared with ink on the A and D of Adams, the United States transferred ownership to Dudley Woodbridge, one fourth of what we now call Plain Township. Two years later Dudley sold his 4,000 acres for 4,000 gallons of whiskey at the price of one dollar per gallon to John Huffman. What a story it would be if we only knew how many times those acres have been sold through the years.



But for someone like me who loves history so much that I would recognize the name Dudley Woodbridge and how important to the history of New Albany and Ohio he was, while viewing a bunch of scraps of paper, is what makes history fun. Oh, and in case you are wondering what I paid for those little torn pieces of paper, I paid about the same as a specialty drink at Starbucks for each little scrap. Not bad considering each is well over 200 years old.



FIRST GRADERS TOUR THE EALY HOUSE

by Valerie Bevelhymer

Historical Society docents (pictured on back cover) Doug Tracy, Helen Pestel, Valerie Bevelhymer, Nichole Foreman, and Marilyn Regrut welcomed the New Albany Early Learning Center's first graders to the Ealy House on November 1st and 2nd. It has been several years since students were able to tour due to the pandemic, so it was particularly inspiring to see them back. Approximately 370 first-grade students, 20 teachers, and many parent volunteers from 15 classrooms rotated through four areas of the house during these two days. We are fortunate that students can easily walk to the house for

this field trip. We are pleased to offer this local enrichment that contributes to critical-thinking skills, historical empathy, and appreciation of local culture. Research suggests that students actually retain a great deal of factual information from tours and that tours help increase their ability to understand and appreciate what life was like for people who lived in a different time.

Highlights for docents included these humorous comments collected from enthusiastic first-grade students:

- "Can I touch your mustache?" (Doug of course said yes!)
- After explaining that the house is 162 years old, one girl shouted, "Are you 162?"
- Many kids asked the same question when they walked into the tool room in the basement, "Is this the torture room?"
- Several students asked if we lived in the house and if we were bored at night with no television or internet.
- Numerous students asked if the house was haunted or if we had seen ghosts here.



Highlights for students included passion for ringing the bell out back, and hands-on experimentation with kitchen utensils, tools, toys, and games from New Albany history.

We hope the first graders enjoyed their tours as much as the docents did. Please contact us if you would like to become a docent. We will provide training. There are many opportunities to volunteer, including daytime school tours and Open House dates such as Founders Day, 4th of July, and Black Friday.



FESTIVE HOLIDAY DINNER

by Betty Maynard



Our December 8th holiday dinner at the New Albany Methodist Church was enjoyed by 24 members and guests. Delicious food was prepared and served by Jean Shafer and New Albany Youth. We

participated in a singalong, accompanied by members (upper left) Catherine Saveson (guitar), Rick Otten (banjo), Liam Otten (bass), and Chandler Kisiel (fiddle), who are very talented musicians. Dennis Keesee read the Year in Review - 2022. He also talked about "What is a happy day or moment." The attendees all introduced themselves and spoke about their relationship to New Albany. Richard Whitelock told a wonderful story about friend Bill Resch. He rang the sleighbells in memory of Bill and other members who have passed away. We ended the evening by gathering for a group photo.



Most festively dressed: Mark Baranoski, Emily Eby, and Kenna Zeppernick with her father Richard Whitelock



(L to R) Front: Doug Tracy, Billy Martin, Dennis Keesee, Teresa Keesee, Catherine Saveson. Standing: Debbie Tracy, Rodney Eldridge, Emily Eby, Mark Baranoski, Sandy Noonan, Kenna Zeppernick, Richard Whitelock, Aimee Jankura, Doug Braher, Helen Pestel, Robert Dean, Adry Tomer, Debbie Dean, Marty Saveson, Brian Tomer, Chandler Kisiel, Betty Maynard, Rick Otten. Not pictured: Liam Otten



THANK YOU FOR 2022 GRANT!

The New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society received an \$8,000 grant from the City of New Albany for 2022. We are very grateful for these funds that were used toward:

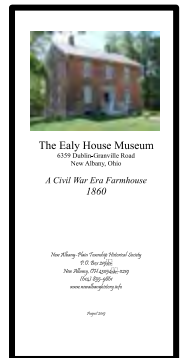


EALY HOUSE: tree removal for parking lot expansion and tree trimming (left), dining room wall repair, shelving

COMMUNITY AWARENESS: additional newsletters, Ealy House trifold brochures (far right)

EVENTS AND OPEN HOUSES:

supplies, flyers, banner (right), cleaning services for Ealy House, presenter fees, design of memorial statue, meeting room



NAPTHS YEAR IN REVIEW – 2022

Applied for City of New Albany Grant (January) – Received \$8,000

Nine persons joined our Society in 2022

Gave 5 private tours of the Ealy House

Nichole Foreman and Catherine Saveson elected as Trustees, with a three-year term commencing on November 1. Thanks to Marty Saveson for her many years of service.

Members Mary Cameron, Wilbur Kindler, and Bill Resch passed away during the year

NEW ALBANY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Tours of the Ealy House:

1st Grade (one class – May 23)

8th Grade (about 400 students – September 12, 15 & 16)

1st Grade (about 370 students - November 1 & 2)

Ealy House Museum trifold brochures printed and distributed to the 1st and 8th grade teachers

PROGRAMS:

“Taylor House” by Doug Tracy and Dennis Keesee (March 10)

“A Terrible Mishap, the 1943 Plane Crash Near New Albany, Ohio” by Dennis Keesee (April 14)

“Meet the Streets” by Doug Tracy (June 9)

“Finding Sconiers” by Pam Whitelock (September 8)

“The Mike Butsko Vietnam Gold Star Memorial” by artist Mike Kraus (October 13)

“The Ealy Brothers in the Civil War” by author Larry Strayer (November 10)

EVENTS:

Founders Day Parade, with Robert and Debbie Dean showing off their 1937 Studebaker Coupe, and Open House (May 21)

Independence Day Parade with Robert and Debbie Dean riding in horse-drawn carriage, two artists plein air painting on front lawn, and Open House (July 4)

14 of us enjoyed “The 70’s Musical Explosion in Columbus, Ohio” exhibit at Columbus Historical Society (July 14)

Society Potluck at the Saveson barn, with a belated birthday celebration for Marty Saveson (August 13)

Top Gun Naval Aviator Display and Open House (August 20 & 27)

Black Friday Open House (November 25)

Holiday Dinner at New Albany Methodist Church (December 8)

NOTES & NEWS

THE MIKE BUTSKO VIETNAM GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

At the October 13 meeting, sculptor Mike Kraus discussed the proposed New Albany Vietnam Memorial. Tim Butsko spoke about his family and his brother Mike who was killed in Vietnam.

Pictured at right: Tim Butsko (on left) and Mike Kraus next to the Butsko family home's door with the gold star still hanging



EALY BROTHERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

For the November 10 presentation, author Larry Strayer (at left) dove into the history of the Ealy brothers who all left New Albany, Ohio, to fight for the Union.

At right: Peter Ealy, son of Daniel Ealy, in his Civil War uniform



WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Sandy Noonan

NAPTHS BOARD	
PRESIDENT	
Dennis Keese	614-563-5228
VICE PRESIDENT	
Doug Brahler	614-906-1122
SECRETARY	
Chandler Kisiel	614-915-1222
TREASURER	
Helen Pestel	614-855-3765
CO-CURATORS	
Beckie Knore	614-855-1950
Doug Tracy	614-361-5308
TRUSTEES	
Valerie Bevelhymmer	614-619-0555
Robert Dean	614-288-9263
Nichole Foreman	513-240-4654
Betty Maynard	614-855-2543
Catherine Saveson	614-843-9505

NEWSLETTER EDITORS	
Betty Maynard & Marty Saveson	

BLACK FRIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Ealy House was decorated and open for tours on November 25. Docents were Neil Kirby, Helen Pestel, Catherine Saveson, and Doug Tracy.





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

(614) 855-9861
www.newalbanyhistory.info

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Grant funds provided by the City



JANUARY – MAY 2023

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Upcoming Events
First Graders Tour
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Thank You for 2022 Grant!
NAPTHS Year in Review
Notes & News

EARLY HOUSE DOCENTS FOR FIRST-GRADE TOURS

Doug Tracy, Helen Pestel,
Valerie Bevelhymmer,
Nichole Foreman, Marilyn Regrut

