

# *New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society*

## **NEWSLETTER**

### *June – September 2023*

#### 2023 NEW ALBANY FOUNDERS DAY



May 20<sup>th</sup> began as a rainy day but cleared up before the start of the parade and open house. We are proud of Dennis and Teresa Keesee (above) who were named 2023 Founders Day Grand Marshals. Not only are they very active NAPTHS members but Dennis has also been the Historical Society's president since November 2018.



Several NAPTHS members contributed to the success of Founders Day. Helen Pestel and Dennis Keesee (left) installed the Grand Marshal and Community Connections bricks on the Ealy House sidewalk in preparation for this event. Artist Marvin Daniels (right) captured the parade in paint. Robert Dean's 1937 Studebaker coupe (below left) was displayed with a sign about open house. Docents waiting to welcome the many visitors were Chandler Kisiel, Neil Kirby, and Nichole Foreman (below right). Doug Tracy was also a docent.



## **\* \* \* UPCOMING EVENTS \* \* \***



### **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**TUESDAY, JULY 4**

**Parade -- 11:00 a.m.**

**Open House at the Ealy House -- 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

### **OPEN HOUSES AT THE EALY HOUSE**

**SUNDAYS -- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**during June, July, and August (closed July 2)**

The June 18<sup>th</sup> Open House was enjoyed by visitors from far away and close to home. NAPTHS members Debbie and Robert Dean are pictured with Michael Muwonge from Kampala, Uganda, Africa, and Pastor Mike Brown of the Franklin UB Church, New Albany.

### **THE ART OF EDOARDO ALFIERI**

**JULY 13 -- 7:00 p.m. -- Columbus Historical Society, 717 West Town Street, Columbus**

Edoardo Alfieri is best known in Columbus as the creator of the 1955 Christopher Columbus statue that was presented as a gift from Genoa, Italy, to Columbus, Ohio, and stood at Columbus City Hall. This exhibit features 59 pieces by Alfieri including 19 original sculptures and reliefs, one of which is the original plaster model for the Christopher Columbus statue, and 40 original drawings.

### **ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC**

**AUGUST 12 -- 5:00 p.m. -- Saveson barn, 8370 Clouse Road**

All members and their guests are invited to this very friendly and informal event. Please bring a main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert to share and its serving utensil. Table service and water will be provided. For more information, call Marty Saveson at 614-855-9809.

### **VIETNAM WAR STORIES**

**SEPTEMBER 14 -- 6:30 p.m. Meeting -- 7:00 p.m. Presentation**

**New Albany Methodist Church, 20 Third Street, New Albany**

Retired U.S. Navy Commander Roger Kisiel will talk about his Vietnam experiences. This event is open to the public.

### **FUTURE EVENTS TO BE DETERMINED**

**Check [www.newalbanyhistory.info](http://www.newalbanyhistory.info) for updates**  
Notice of meeting cancellation will be sent by email

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

**JUNE 1**

**JUNE 29**

**AUGUST 3**

**SEPTEMBER 7**

**OCTOBER 5**

**NOVEMBER 2**

**DECEMBER 7**

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

If bad weather, meeting  
will be held via zoom





## UPDATE: MIKE BUTSKO VIETNAM WAR GOLD STAR MEMORIAL

by Dennis Keese

The Historical Society has opened a checking account for the Butsko Memorial and has collected a little over \$10,000 to date. If you would like to be an early bird donor, please send a 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.

Mike's brother Tim has around 30 or so images of Mike which we will be sharing during the next two years. Hopefully they will help potential donors as they show the true personal cost of the Gold Star Families. Here is one of Mike as a New Albany Boy Scout.

## FURTHER ADVENTURES OF THREE FORMER EALY HOUSE DOCENTS

by Marilyn Saveson

Grace Mancini, Meghana Ravi, and Willow Otten, all of whom graduated from New Albany High School in 2018, have spent the last five years earning college degrees. Grace graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a degree in Accountancy (and minors in Economics, Finance, and Leadership). She has been offered a position in an accounting firm and recently she officially joined our Society.

Meghana earned two Bachelor's degrees from Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, Maryland, one in pre-med and the second in creative writing, and has now been accepted into the medical school of The Ohio State University.

One year ago, Willow (at right with French horn) received her Bachelor's degree in music from the Peabody Institute of Music at Johns Hopkins University. This past May, Willow completed the first year of her two-year Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She has been invited to play her French horn this summer in the orchestra for two operas at the Saluzzo Opera Academy Festival in Saluzzo, Italy. She will be there during July and August, practicing, performing, studying Italian, and soaking up a whole new culture. She is very excited about it. On June 4, she gave a very polished and enjoyable solo concert at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus featuring music on the French horn from the two Saluzzo operas. And her brother, Liam, added an effective trombone accompaniment to one of the pieces.



## LIAM OTTEN HAD HIS OWN INTERESTING ADVENTURES

by Marilyn Saveson



Liam's senior year at New Albany High School put his parents (Rick Otten and Catherine Saveson) and grandmother (Marty Saveson) to the test constantly with a barrage of concerts to go to, music lessons to work meals around, and rowing schedules sadistically designed to prevent parents from having humane meal schedules with their own child, and from knowing when their own car (or truck) would be available. However, it all paid off in the end for Liam (and even his parents), with trips to important competitions, a national award in internetworking, participation in musical concerts with important musicians, and healthy exercise from rowing, even during the pandemic. Liam (at left with his cyber security teacher Mr. James) graduated from high school with a nice collection of honors, including the John Philip Sousa award for musicianship, the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, and having his name now included on the Band Room Plaque. He also earned the "Best in Technology" award and graduated "Magna cum Laude" in the biggest-ever senior class of New Albany High School. Congratulations, Liam!

Liam is very happy with his choice of college: Milwaukee School of Engineering, which is a medium-size university that also has a serious rowing program. Now his parents and grandmother will have the opposite problem -- no excitement, dull, boring meals on time, no bass, violin, trombone, or piano practicing going on or concerts to spot him in. And Nanny will miss having him pop into her kitchen almost every day after school -- for snacks and the day's news and a chance to pet Juno the cat.



# ANTARCTICA: JOURNEY TO OUR LAST CONTINENT

by Betty Maynard



My husband Dave and I took the trip of a lifetime during Christmastime 2022 to visit our last continent. At the March 9 Society meeting, we had the pleasure of sharing our photos and stories of this adventure with many NAPTHS members and guests.



Hydruga Rocks

We couldn't imagine sailing two days on the usually rough Drake Passage, so we chose the "Antarctic Express: Fly the Drake" trip which is only a two-hour flight. Our journey to Antarctica began in the city of Punta Arenas. It is in Chile's southernmost area called the Magellan region, which is part of Patagonia, and is the fourth windiest city in the world.



Graham Passage



Meusnier Point



Danco Island

A minimum of 1.1 miles of visibility and ½ mile cloud height is required for the pilot to see and land on the gravel runway on King George Island. For several days, we were on standby. We had to keep our bags packed and be ready to depart at a moment's notice until the weather became favorable. We finally departed from Punta Arenas on December 23, the fourth and final day to attempt the flight before we would have had to return home without visiting this bucket list destination.



Duperre' Bay

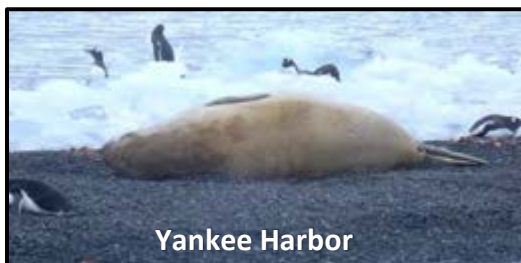


Fort Point

After landing, we took a short ride on a bus and then a zodiac to board the *Ocean Adventurer* (top left), a six-deck ship with 119 passengers. We sailed a total of 480 nautical miles (552 miles) and did dry or wet (stepping into water or onto ice – below left) landings or cruises in a zodiac at seven destinations (pictured). The spectacular views included many snow-covered mountains, icebergs, humpback whales, and seals. We saw lots of penguins (adelie, chinstrap, and gentoo) that live in colonies and create trails known as penguin highways.



Yankee Harbor  
- Wet Landing



Yankee Harbor



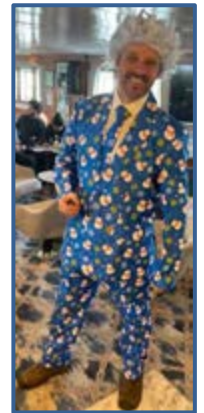
Yankee Harbor



Antarctica's summertime provided many hours of daylight with temperatures ranging from 42 to 44 degrees each day while New Albany was being hit by a winter blast. Before boarding a zodiac, we dressed in three layers: BASE thermal tops and pants, sock liners and socks; MID (right) warm shirt and pants, Merino wool socks, warm neck scarf, warm hat covering ears, thin touch screen compatible fleece gloves; OUTER (right) waterproof pants, muck boots, a hooded parka with detachable fleece jacket, waterproof gloves, lifejacket, waterproof and float phone dry bag. These layers became too warm at times.



When our group (one of four) was announced for disembarkation, we headed to the zodiac boarding room where our ID cards, in a transparent pocket on our parka sleeves, were scanned and then again upon return. We cleaned our boots in the pan of water with built-in brushes before boarding a zodiac (10-passenger inflatable boat - left) and after returning to the ship to avoid spreading contamination. Safety precautions required us to use the sailor's grip (closing fingers and thumb around wrist of each other) with crew members while getting in and out of the zodiac.



Many activities were offered on the 42-degree Christmas Day. Morning landings at Danco Island and afternoon zodiac cruises at Duperre' Bay were followed by the Polar Plunge (above left) into 33-degree water, a special treat for more than 60 brave souls. Jumping into frigid water was not our idea of fun so we stayed warm inside the ship. We enjoyed our holiday dinner of herb roasted Tom turkey, sweet potato duchess, sausage and onion stuffing, broccoli, cranberry relish, giblet gravy, and bourbon pecan pie. Then we went to the Main Lounge to participate in a trivia contest, as a team with a couple from England, during Christmas Fun Time that was emceed by a crew member (above right).



The weather was also unfavorable for flying on the last day of our trip, so the flight was postponed a day before returning to King George Island on December 27. It had become cold and windy with ice blocking the shore, so we had to disembark the zodiac onto a ramp (left). If our flight had not been possible on that day, we would have had to sail the Drake Passage after all because it was the final Fly the Drake trip of the season for Quark Expeditions and the ship had to be back in Argentina by the 28<sup>th</sup>.

All passengers stayed in shipping containers converted into waiting areas (right) until boarding time to Fly the Drake. We flew over the Strait of Magellan (channel linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans), arriving at Punta Arenas, Chile, for one final night before returning home. When Dave and I added the pin for Antarctica, our last continent, to our world travel map, we felt very fortunate for the experiences of this amazing journey!



## **ROBERT (BOB) V. UNDERWOOD**

**October 10, 1925 – March 22, 2023**

NAPTHS lifetime member Bob Underwood passed away on March 22, 2023, at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by his parents Howard R. and Mildred M. Underwood and his first wife Marilyn Edler Underwood.

Bob was born in Columbus, Ohio, on October 10, 1925, the only child of Howard R. and Mildred Martha (Babbitt) Underwood. Bob lived much of his life in New Albany, Ohio. He enjoyed growing up in smalltown New Albany and he would tell many stories of life on the farm, tending the animals, growing crops, working the fields, and school days with his friends. Bob graduated from New Albany High School where he was class president. Bob attended The Ohio State University College of Business and graduated in 1949. While at OSU, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi and fraternity president. He enlisted and served in the U.S. Army during World War II as Captain.

Bob's business career started in 1952 when he was employed at North American Aviation, Columbus, Ohio. In 1960, the company transferred him to California. His employment with NAA/Rockwell/Boeing spanned 33 years. He retired from Rockwell in 1981 as Director of Human Resources.

In 1981, Bob married Betty Ann Pollaccia and they moved to New Albany to be with Bob's mother Mildred. While there, Bob raised chinchillas. In 1988, the Babbwood Farm at 7103 East Granville Road, New Albany, was sold and Bob and Betty Ann moved to Fallbrook, California, where Bob grew avocados, blood oranges, grapefruit, and flowers on his four acres. Bob absolutely loved the outdoors and nature.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Betty Ann, and his two sons Scott and Kyle and four grandchildren. He is greatly missed.

## **KATHY YAGER RESEARCHES COOK FAMILY GENEALOGY**

by Marilyn Saveson

Kathy Yager, a past resident of New Albany, and long-time member of our Historical Society, has become an expert genealogist during her recent retirement in Connecticut. After her daughter, Kristin, married David Cook, whose family had long ago settled in Harlem Township, Delaware County, Ohio, next door to New Albany, Kathy got interested in the Cook genealogy, especially since there are many Cooks living in Connecticut, near where Kathy now lives. Using all the modern genealogical resources and her own persistence and know-how, she has now produced a family tree of 12 generations of Cooks, from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1645 to the present time, culminating so far with her four young Cook grandchildren. It is too late to include the whole story in this newsletter, but I hope to put more detailed information (from the material Kathy has sent) in a future issue.

## **THE MUSIC OF THE CIVIL WAR**

At the April 13 meeting before the presentation, Marty Saveson (below right) was honored for her many years of service to the Society. She was presented a certificate signed by President Dennis Keesee and Secretary Chandler Kisiel, flowers, and a box of chocolate treats.



The Music of the Civil War by Steve and Lisa Ball (left) outlined some of the most popular Civil War songs, the composers, and the events that helped inspire the songs. Steve performed with an 1850s Martin guitar and his wife Lisa joined him on upright bass and vocal harmonies. Some of the favorite songs performed were "Dixie" by Daniel Emmett, "Aura Lea" (one of the most popular love songs of the Civil War from which Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender" song was adapted), and "Goober Peas."





**THANK YOU FOR 2023 GRANT!**

The New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society received a \$10,000 grant from the City of New Albany for 2023. We are very grateful for these funds.



**DAR MEMBERS TOUR THE EALY HOUSE**

by Valerie Bevelhymmer



On May 13, it was a pleasure to welcome the Gahanna DAR Chapter. DAR members (left) toured the Ealy House with docents Valerie Bevelhymmer, Nichole Foreman, Helen Pestel, and Doug Tracy.

Daughters of the American Revolution is a group of women who are passionate about community service, preserving history, educating children, as well as honoring and supporting those who serve our nation. DAR has been in existence since 1890 with the simple mission of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism. These women come from a variety of backgrounds and share a common bond of having an ancestor who helped contribute to securing the independence of the United States of America.



**MEET & GREET AT THE EALY HOUSE**

On June 8, we gathered on the front lawn of the Ealy House for a Meet & Greet. Valerie Bevelhymmer, Helen Pestel, Beckie Knore, Catherine Saveson, and Dennis Keesee (above) enjoyed looking at old files and pictures of the Ealy House before its restoration. Other attendees were Teresa Keesee, Chandler Kisiel, Betty Maynard, Dave Maynard, Marty Saveson, and Brian Tomer. We also gave tours of the Ealy House for visitors who stopped by.

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\*\*\*\*\*

***NEWSLETTER EDITORS***

Betty Maynard & Marty Saveson

***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS***

Joanne Bogner  
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Arline Weston  
Robert Weston



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Grant funds provided by the City



## FOUNDERS DAY GRAND MARSHAL PROCLAMATION

presented by City of New Albany Mayor Sloan Spalding  
to NAPTHS members Teresa and Dennis Keesee

### JUNE – SEPT 2023

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