

New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

April-June 2026 Newsletter



AMERICA 250

New Albany celebrated Independence Day 2026 in true community style, marking both America 250 and the 55th anniversary of Eagles Pizza, a beloved local landmark. The day began with a complimentary breakfast at Eagles Pizza—an appreciated and delicious start to the festivities. Guests also enjoyed a special display, pictured top left with employee Will Martin and Dennis Keesee with his grandchildren, Mack and Delta Savage.

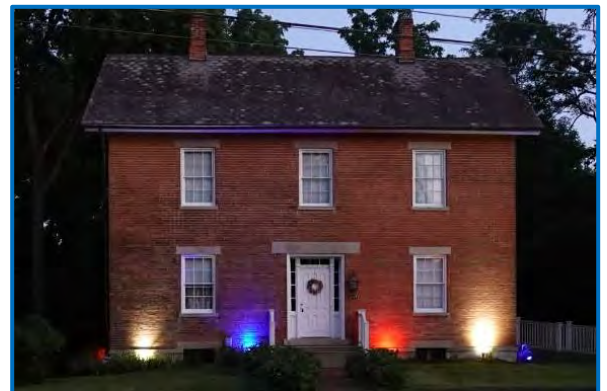


Despite the heat, many spirited participants joined the parade and helped bring the celebration to life. NAPTHS was proudly represented by Robert and Debbie Dean in their red 1963 Studebaker Champ truck, displaying the historical society banner in the back. Walking behind them were (center right, L to R) Catherine Saveson, Rick Otten, Mark Baranoski, Emily Eby, Beckie

Knore, and Chandler Kisiel, who handed out Ealy House magnets (left), designed by Marcy Steckman, to the crowd along the parade route.



As evening arrived, the Ealy House glowed in red, white, and blue spotlights. The occasion was a joyful reminder that history lives not only in buildings and displays, but also in the people who gather to remember, honor, and pass it on.





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

SUMMER OPEN HOUSES AT THE EALY HOUSE

SUNDAYS -- JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

6359 Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany

OHIO OPEN DOORS – EALY HOUSE MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 13 (Sunday)

Open House -- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

6359 Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany

We're participating in Ohio Open Doors by offering tours of the Ealy House that include a special exhibit featuring information about the Taylor House, the brick house at the new Taylor Farm Park. Brought to you by the Ohio History Connection, Ohio Open Doors is a statewide event when local sponsors open their historic buildings and landmarks to the public for special tours and programs. Join us in honoring the history of New Albany and Plain Township!



ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 13 (Sunday) -- 5:00 p.m.

Saveson barn, 8370 Clouse Road, New Albany

Members and guests are warmly invited to enjoy an evening of delicious food, friendly conversation, and fellowship. Please bring a favorite main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert to share, along with a serving utensil. Table service and water will be provided. We hope to see you there!

MEMORIAL TO THE FALLEN:

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

SEPTEMBER 2 (Wednesday) -- 7:00 p.m.

New Albany Library, 200 Market Street, New Albany

NAPTHS member David Gerhardt will present a special commemorative program honoring the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. He will share powerful stories connected to that day, including the last firefighter out of the North Tower, Ashley the FDNY firehouse dog, and the fire truck crushed by the North Tower, now on display at Motts Military Museum. Join us as we reflect, remember, and honor the enduring legacy of service and sacrifice.

Event is free and open to the public.



OHIO: GATEWAY TO AMERICA

OCTOBER 7 (Wednesday) -- 7:00 p.m.

New Albany Library, 200 Market Street, New Albany

Dr. Dan Rager, an author and historian based in Northeast Ohio, will present his latest book, *Ohio: Gateway to America*, discussing Ohio's rich history in ground transportation, from 1776 to the present. His talk will include fascinating insights into the development of transportation that benefitted our community during our long history, from Indian trails to railroads and beyond. Join us for this presentation that is perfectly timed with the America 250 Project.

Event is free and open to the public.

Check newalbanyhistory.info for updates

Notice of meetings and cancellations will be sent by email

* * * **SAVE THE DATE** * * *

HALLOWEEN FAMILY DAY

OCTOBER 25 (Sunday)

THE LAND BENEATH OUR FEET

Reprinted from Blessing of the Land Ceremony on June 7, 2026, at Rose Run Presbyterian Church
Based on a history compiled June 1, 2026, by Marcy Steckman of New Albany Historical Society

The property where Rose Run Presbyterian Church now stands has been a place of welcome and community since before memory recorded it. The first European settlers to put down roots here were Adam and Priscilla Huffman Baughman, who arrived around 1803, traveling on horseback through mountains and rivers with their young family to build what is believed to be Plain Township's very first log cabin on Sleepy Hollow Road - just northeast of where we stand today, in what is now the New Albany Country Club development.

From the beginning, it was more than a homestead. Within just a few years neighbors were gathering in that cabin for worship and for school. A traveling preacher named Joshua Williams came regularly from 1805 to 1808 and was welcomed there - the Baughmans opening their home so that a scattered community could gather and pray together. The cabin became a place where a young settlement formed its spiritual and civic life.

The land itself fed this community for generations. Families farmed it, tended orchards, and drew their sustenance from this soil across the better part of two centuries. That was simply how life worked — so ordinary it went unrecorded — but the land was doing what good land does: sustaining the people who depended on it.

Not far from where the food pantry will soon be built, on Harlem Road between Route 62 and Morse Road, neighbors also gathered to educate their children at a one-room schoolhouse affectionately known as "Frog Eye" named for the wooded, swampy ground that drew frogs to the area. Feeding, schooling, worshipping: the rhythms of a community taking care of itself, all within a short walk of this place.

That history did not end when Rose Run Presbyterian Church came to this land. It is continuing today. When we bless this ground and welcome the New Albany Food Pantry to build here, we are not doing something new. We are joining something very old — neighbors helping neighbors, on land that has always been a place of gathering, welcome, and sustenance.

The land has fed members of this community before. **It will again.**

THE BAUGHMAN BREAD TROUGH

by Theresa A. Kempker

In the 1980s, the NAPT Historical Society had a small display in the lobby of the Fifth Third Bank. The item that fascinated me was the bread bowl or bread trough (at right), donated by Arloia Walton. It is one of the oldest artifacts from non-natives in the Ealy House Museum, from the early 1800s. Arloia's ancestors, Adam and Priscilla Hoffman Baughman came to Plain Township around 1803. While they may have brought the trough from Pennsylvania, it was probably made here in Plain Township. Arloia explained that she had been told that dough would be mixed after supper in the bread trough, allowed to rise at night in the trough, and then baked in the morning.



I could not understand how this was done. My mother baked our bread, and while she had, on occasion, let the dough rise a third time, she'd never let it rise for hours.

Learning how this worked involved learning about the wheat that was grown in the 1800s here in Ohio. According to the Agriculture Research Service in Wooster, American Banner (soft white wheat), Goens (soft red winter), and Red May (soft red winter) were cultivars of wheat grown in Ohio in the early 1800s. These types of wheat yielded a flour that was higher in protein. It may have needed less kneading than our bread does today and more time sitting to hydrate the flour. That would explain the story that had been handed down in Arloia's family through the years, losing a few details along the way. So they would mix the dough, probably knead a bit, let it rise all night, and then knead a bit more in the morning while the fire in the fireplace was fanned back into flames to bake the bread. Coming in from chores to have warm bread would make a cabin a home.

An interesting note: Over this Independence Day weekend, my husband Neil Kirby and I had a chance to visit the home of President James A. Garfield. One of the first artifacts I spotted in the Visitor Center was a bread trough (at right), that the Garfield family used when the president was a boy living in their cabin. Note how rough it is compared to the polished and smooth Baughman trough. I think the Baughman trough, since it is smoother, would be easier to use.





THE TAYLOR FAMILY AND THE TAYLOR HOUSE AT NEW ALBANY'S TAYLOR FARM PARK

by Doug Tracy

New Albany residents have been enjoying the wonderful new Taylor Farm Park for many months now. Many wonder what the story is behind the boarded-up house at the entrance to the park and often ask docents at the Ealy House what we know about it. While we do not know what future plans the City of New Albany has for the Taylor House, we do have many artifacts retrieved from that house and have much to tell about the Taylor family and their connections to the Ealy family and other pioneer families of the area.

Thanks to the foresight of former New Albany mayor Nancy Ferguson, who 'rescued' many artifacts from the Taylor House when they were put up for public auction following the death in 2021 of Eleanor Taylor, daughter of Clare and Elma (Oldham) Taylor. Eleanor was the last resident of the house. Those priceless artifacts are now stored at the Ealy House, including the large portraits of the Taylor family that once graced the walls of the Taylor House.

Those large Taylor family portraits will be on display this summer at the Ealy House every Sunday during June, July, and August from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



The Taylors were among the earliest residents of Plain Township. Anthony Wayne Taylor and his wife, Melinda Trumbo Taylor rode to Plain Township from Hardy County, Virginia (now West Virginia), arriving on April 8, 1822. Their oldest son, John Pike Taylor, reported in the *Columbus Gazette* 50 years later, that he turned one year old on the day he arrived in Plain Township. His mother had "carried me all the way from the headwaters of the Potomac, in Virginia, in her lap on horseback." Anthony and Melinda went on to have five more children in Ohio and eventually acquired approximately 600 acres of land in Plain Township.

The earliest map of our area showing property ownership in Plain Township, shows that the Trumbo family settled on land abutting the Taylor's land, to the north and accessed from what is now Warner Road. While other Taylor family members settled in other parts of Ohio, Anthony and Melinda probably separated from the rest of the Taylor family and settled in Ohio because Melinda wanted to be close to her family.

Shortly after arriving in Plain Township, Anthony Wayne and Melinda Taylor built a log cabin "on a hill" to the west of the big Taylor house. That "hill" is believed to be the one where a roundabout was recently constructed between the Target store and the entrance to the Albany Park subdivision. There is also some support for the contention that this "hill" was actually an Indian mound. Several other cabins were also built adjacent to it, as their children grew up and started their own families. Their oldest son, Pike, eventually built a home on Harlem Road near today's intersection of Harlem Road and Addenbrook, on the west side of Harlem.

Anthony and Melinda's second son, Lorenzo Taylor (1828-1910), and Lorenzo's wife, Martha Whitsel Taylor, lived for six years in one of those log cabins on the farm. In 1863-64 they built the beautiful brick home we see today.

Lorenzo Taylor was a prominent figure in the community, elected Justice of the Peace in Plain Township for 21 years. According to oral family history, Lorenzo conducted court in the basement of the Taylor House. Justices of the Peace presided over minor criminal cases, issued warrants and set bond in more significant ones. It is not known whether Lorenzo Taylor had any formal legal training, but it would appear so from his record books and law books currently in the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society's (NAPTHS) possession.

Records in the NAPTHS archives show both the Ealy house and the Taylor house were built by the Schott family of brick masons who lived on Schott Road a few miles northwest of the home. The Schotts were prolific masons and were likely the builders of the J.J. Beecher house (across from the New Albany Post Office), the Triplett/Dean house (7206 Central College Road), the Doran/Shockey house (6851 Bevelhymer Road) and others. Family descendants reported that the bricks in the Taylor home were

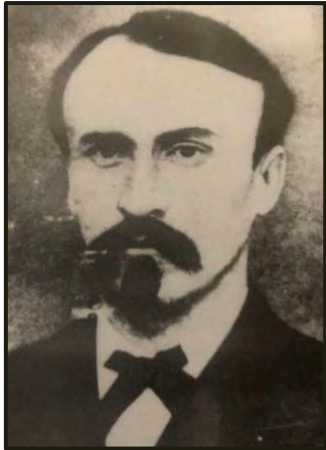
made from clay in the nearby Sugar Run Creek on the east side of the property and stones for the basements came from a quarry on Clark State Road (possibly the Souder quarry).

Woodwork, floors, windows and framing for the house were milled from trees in the Taylors' woods across Dublin-Granville Road from the house. Most were made from walnut, a prolific tree in the area that produces extremely hard wood. Visitors to the Ealy House will note that the walnut beams in the basement are still as straight and true as the day they were placed, as are the door and window frames.

The large barn that once stood behind the house was built in 1914-15 during Herman Taylor's ownership. It was razed along with other outbuildings when the Taylor Farm Park was built.

In the 1800s, the road in front of the house was called Anthony Wayne Taylor Pike aka Taylor Pike between the New Albany Village limits and Hamilton Road. It is now known as old 161. Oral history indicates President William McKinley may have stopped at the house on one occasion during a trip from Granville to Columbus.

Lorenzo Taylor's great-great grandson, Doug Tarbert, and other Taylor descendants have shared their memories of the house and farm and several older pictures of the house with NAPHHS. Among the surprises was Doug's description of several dams which were built on Rocky Fork Creek to the rear of the house. These dams helped provide pools of water for the cattle which were raised on the farm.



BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN

by Dennis Keesee

June 25 and 26, 2026, marked the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Most in New Albany today have no idea that one of our own soldiers, Lemuel Edwin Bobo, was killed during Custer's Last Stand.

Edwin, as he mostly went by, was born in Plain Township in the year 1845 to Jonathan and Catherine Bobo. By 1860 his parents had purchased a house on South High Street where they were living when the Civil War erupted in 1860. On March 31, 1864, Lemuel Edwin Bobo enlisted in Company G, 13th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry at the age of 18. The 13th was the last cavalry unit organized in the state. During its first few months the regiment served as infantry although wearing the standard yellow trimmed cavalry jackets. They were one of the units ordered into the hellhole of the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia, on July 30, 1864, where they sustained many casualties. On December 18th they were finally issued mounts and served the remainder of the war as cavalry. They were instrumental in the Appomattox campaign and were present when General Lee surrendered the Army of Virginia on April 8 and 9, 1865.

After the war Edwin moved away from New Albany, living in New York and other places. He married Missouri Ann Wycoff and had two children, Charles F. and Frank E. Bobo.

On December 27, 1867, he once again joined the Army and became a member of Company C, 7th U.S. Cavalry. Company C was commanded by Tom Custer and 1st Sgt. Lemuel Edwin Bobo was the most senior sergeant in the unit, a very respected member. His body was found near the remains of Captain Myles Keogh in a heap of soldiers. He was identified due to the fact his wife Missouri had recently knitted him a pair of red socks that were still on his person after his death and his horse was nearby. On April 12, 1877, his widow married Sgt. Daniel Kanipe, a survivor of the battle, and together they had one son.



2000 - Rudy & Elaine Sever



2004 - Steve & Valerie Bevelhymer



2005 - Don & Carol Shoemaker



2012 - Helen Pestel

50TH NEW ALBANY FOUNDERS DAY

May 16th began with thunderstorms, but by parade time the weather had cleared for a memorable 50th Founders Day celebration. Sixteen former grand marshals—nine of them New Albany Historical Society members (pictured)—rode proudly in eight golf carts, adding a special touch of history to the procession. Chandler Kisiel joined the parade in his 1994 Saab, with his brother Cameron along for the ride and a “Visit the Ealy House Today!” sign displayed on the side of his car. The open house was well attended, making the day even more meaningful. Thank you to Emily Eby, Theresa Kempker, Neil Kirby, Catherine Saveson, Betty Maynard, and Reba Teiga who greeted many visitors at the Ealy House.



2015 - Robert & Debbie Dean





A DAY TO REMEMBER

by Betty Maynard



Chandler Kisiel and I became members of the official Studebaker Family for a day on June 27 at the Studebaker Homestead of 50 years. The event offered a memorable look at the family's heritage, the historic grounds, and 11 Studebakers displayed at the car show. Many activities took place at the gathering, including a log-sawing competition and challenging wheelbarrow races. We watched a blacksmith demonstration, explored the buildings and grounds with all things Studebaker, and purchased items from the general store.

A highlight of the day came when Chandler rode with Robert Studebaker in his 1922 Studebaker 2-Passenger Roadster "Special-Six." The Roadster is a true survivor and extremely rare pre-war car in which only two others are known to exist in the world. It is unrestored and is repaired only to maintain the drivability and integrity. The car was hidden away for 55 years and still has the factory exhaust. It was first shown to the public in 2019. When new, the 1922 Studebaker Roadster listed for \$1,425, compared with \$319 for a 1922 Ford Model T.

We enjoyed talking with Studebaker family members. This once-every-five-year celebration was well worth the trip to Tipp City. Of course, the day would not have been complete without a stop at Buc-ee's on the way home—a perfect return to modern times.

NEW ALBANY'S PAST AND PRESENT

During May of this year, NAPTHS President Dennis Keesee spoke to over 400 fourth graders for Entrepreneur Day about his 55 years working at Eagles Pizza in New Albany. Congratulations to the Keesee family for the 55th anniversary of their business.

Also, Dennis gave a history talk and walking tour of New Albany for the Chamber of Commerce Leadership group on July 15. Once again, he put a spotlight on our historical society. Thank You, Dennis!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Denise & George Spear

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SONGS OF STEPHEN FOSTER

May 6, 2026



Historian and musician Steve Ball brought the story of Stephen Foster to life in a lively program celebrating the composer known as “the Father of American Music.” Born on the 4th of July 200 years ago, Foster left an extraordinary musical legacy despite his untimely death at the age of 37. Through a blend of songs, storytelling, and historical insight, we learned about Foster’s inspiration, the popularity, or lack thereof, of some of Foster’s most popular tunes in American culture today. We heard a dozen familiar and lesser-known Foster tunes, and the stories behind them, as well as the myths generated over the past 160 years. Included were “Oh! Susanna,” “My Old Kentucky Home,” and “Nellie Bly,” performed on a vintage 1855 Martin Guitar Model 1-26. Other selections, such as “Hard Times Come Again No More,” “Old Dog Tray,” and “Beautiful Dreamer,” were accompanied by a replica 1843 Boucher banjo. It was a memorable evening of music, history, and discovery.

CLIMBING THE CHARTS

CENTRAL OHIO ARTISTS ON THE WCOL-AM TOP-40 SURVEYS

June 3, 2026

Society member Doug Tracy treated us to an enjoyable trip down memory lane, bringing back the sounds and spirit of Columbus in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Many of us remembered being teenagers with a transistor radio close at hand, tuned in to WCOL-AM and ready for the next big hit. It was the golden era of AM radio, when rock ‘n’ roll was taking over the airwaves and every countdown felt like an event.

APRIL - JUNE 2026

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Climbing the Charts

Doug highlighted WCOL-AM’s weekly Top-40 charts, which could be found in record stores throughout the area from 1958 to 1978. Those charts offered more than just a list of popular songs; they captured a moment in local music history, especially with Columbus-area artists appearing alongside national favorites. As he shared the stories behind the charts, Doug played selections ranging from doo-wop and rock ‘n’ roll to soul and country, reminding us how varied and vibrant the local music scene truly was. By the end of the program, the familiar songs and shared memories had filled the room with smiles, proving that a good tune—and a good story—can still carry us right back to where we first heard it.

