

# *Newsletter*

*February and March 2010*

*New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society*

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*The Doran-Shockey barn with Civil War-era American flag*

*(Photo by Henry Kempker)*

### OUR UPCOMING MEETING

**THURS. FEBRUARY 4** -- 7 p.m. Society Meeting at the New Albany Library.

**Program:** Ronda Anderson, on the "Inquiry Kids" project in the Elementary School, a video featuring Daniel Thompson, Theresa Kempker, and Catherine Saveson.

**Hostess:** Patty Zarley

### OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

**TUES. FEB. 23** -- 7 p.m., Board Meeting

**THURS. MARCH 4** -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Plain Township Fire Station.

**Hostess:** Helen Pestel

**SAT. MAR. 13** -- Regional Meeting in Lancaster (at the Ohio Glass Museum)

**TUES. MAR. 16** -- Board Meeting and Newsletter Deadline

**THURS. APRIL 1** -- 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the New Albany Library

**SATURDAY, MAY 15** -- **FOUNDERS DAY**

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### THE CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Thursday evening, Dec. 3, 2009, we enjoyed one of the nicest holiday dinners we have had. It was held in the Christmas-tree-decorated lobby of the United Methodist Church. Thanks to Sharon Carter and Naomi Fodor, the tables were very festively decorated. Jean Shafer and her young people served us delicious food in a very friendly and efficient manner. Afterwards, we were entertained by Willow Otten playing fiddle tunes and Christmas music on her violin, accompanied by her musical family. Then we sang Christmas carols (Liam Otten accompanied "Jingle Bells" on real sleigh bells). And Kathy Yager M.C.'d a Christmas trivia quiz in which everyone was a winner. A fine way to start the holiday season!

### THE EVANS-DORAN-SHOCKEY HOUSE

Everyone in Plain Township is familiar with the handsome old house at 6851 Bevelhymer Road and its barn with the American flag painted on it. The history of the property is briefly as follows. In 1818, Mark Evans of Franklin County, Ohio, received a patent for the property signed by President James Monroe. The abstract, with its accumulation of quit claims and warranty deeds, is still in the family.

After Mark Evans died in 1864, the property passed to his daughters, and was purchased around 1867 by Alexander Doran, who had married the daughter named Sophia.

Meanwhile, the Evans family had built a substantial house on the property, probably around 1845. This became the Doran and eventually the Shockey house still standing, as pictured below.



(Photo by Henry Kempker)

There was a cabin on the west end of the farm called the Heischman house. I remember the remains of that cabin in the 1940's or '50's. A granary had been built near the house, with a driveway running through it. It was a 2-story building with corn cribs on either side, and this building stood on a rock foundation. It also contained a corn sheller. When Marian and I moved there in 1967, we disposed of the old granary. Tomommy Thompson, my brother-in-law, bulldozed it and made the site into a "rock garden."

East of the present barn, there are rocks that once served as the foundation for a large barn, possibly the original barn, built as early as the 1840's by the Evans family. The present barn that we see on the property was built in 1874. After this barn was built, the original barn was dismantled and taken to the corner of Bevelhymmer and Johnstown Road and was re-assembled on the Leonard Doran property, where it stood until the New Albany Company bought that farm. The rocks used for the old barn remain on the original site.

After building the new barn, Alexander wanted to paint an American flag on it to honor two brothers of his who had fought in the Civil War. However, he needed a permit. So he went to Washington, D.C., obtained his resolution from Congress, and painted the American flag on the east side of the barn. The flag remains there to this day. It is worth noting that the number of stars represents the number of states at the date it was originally painted. Later, care of the flag was taken over by Rudy Sever, a history teacher at the New Albany High School, and I think he and his students repainted and touched it up over the years as a community project.

When Alexander Doran died in 1898, the farm was deeded to his son Frank W. Doran. Frank added improvements to the house in 1918: a foyer and staircase, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and also a front and a back porch. A Delco system was installed which generated electricity to a water pump and electric lights.

Next, the farm passed to Frank's son Chester and his wife, Gladys, who were married in 1922. They were Marian's parents. At this time the house had bedrooms and a bath on the second floor and a living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor. Chester and his brother Ora, who was also an heir, farmed the land together for many years. As the "Doran Brothers' Farm," they raised and sold chickens and turkeys and sold eggs on a regular egg route in Columbus.

In 1966, Marian and I bought a portion of the property, including the old house and barn, and now our son Brad Shockey and his family live there. This 160-year-old house has had only three families living in it--the Evanses, the Dorans, and the Shockeys, and all three families were related in a direct line of descent. Many other familiar local names were also linked to these three over the years, including Baughmans, Holters, and Bevelhymers. Not many houses can claim so much.

--John and Marian Doran Shockey

(With thanks to Dennis Keese for verifying some of the details.)

#### EALY HOUSE NEWS

The old back porch has been demolished and will be reconstructed, along with a handicap ramp, as soon as weather permits. During the autumn, Patty Zarley, Marilyn Regrut, Helen Pestel, and others did some cleaning inside the house.

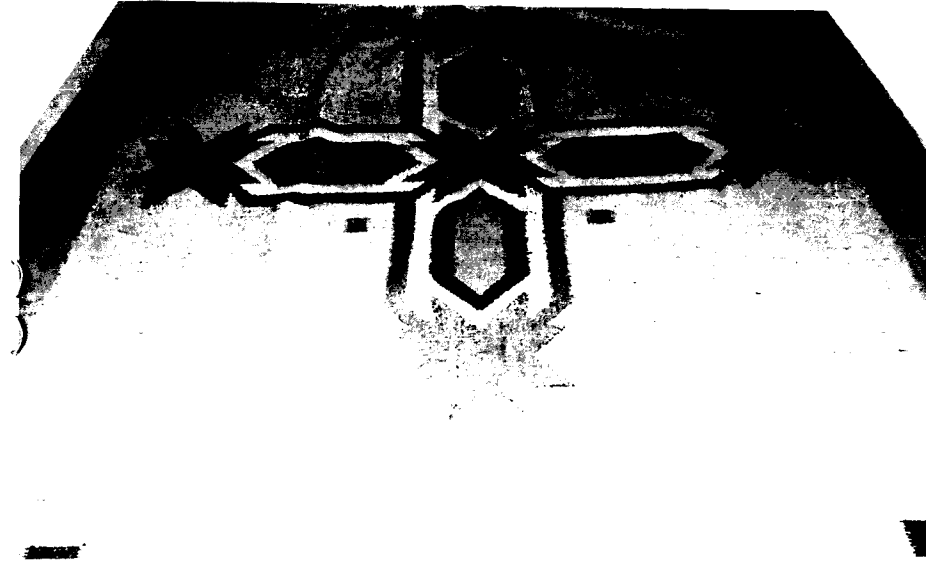
#### DRYER HOUSE NEWS

After the Boy Scouts' big yard-cleaning day in November, John Saveson continued the clean-up process. He organized the garage (where he found the 6 room-sized and 2 small rugs), cleaned out the old brick milk house (where he found useful left-over items from Harvest festivals), cleaned & straightened the area between it & kitchen, and started neatening up the big west front room, where the table is now usable once again. He discovered much stuff that ought to be sold. This will come up for discussion.

## Ruth Hilbert's Rugs

Six area rugs belonging to Ruth Hilbert, still on the floors of the Ealy House when NACO sold it to the Society, have come to light in the garage of the Dryer House. When laid out on the floor of the Savesons' barn, they were extremely dirty. And they had been badly treated. Some have damage from mice, moths, and handling that broke stitching.

However, as identified by Akbar, appraiser at the Haddad Oriental Rug Company, the rugs retain considerable value. Four are of Persian design, which Mrs. Hilbert obviously was fond of. The least valuable is an ivory-orange colored rug, about forty years old, made by machine in Belgium. Because of mouse damage, repairing it is uneconomical. Damage reduces its value, as is, to \$200. A similarly colored, machine-made rug of a similar age from Spain, is undamaged. If cleaned for \$250., It would be worth \$900. Again, if cleaned for \$250., a red rug, hand made in Persia possibly ninety years ago, would be appraised at \$1200. The last of the Persian rugs, one Akbar describes as "gorgeous," is predominantly blue. The rug is of a kind made in Persia for the European market. It may date back into the nineteenth century. Akbar appraises it at \$5000., but to reach that figure, it would need to be repaired and cleaned for \$3000.



Another very valuable rug, also described "gorgeous" by Akbar, is American-made perhaps ninety years ago. It aims at a Navajo-like design. Antique dealers would scramble for it, Akbar says. If cleaned and repaired for \$2000., this rug would be worth \$5000. The sixth rug, with large holes made by mice in one corner, is not worth having appraised. But the Society might be able to find use for it.

In addition to the six rugs, there are two throw rugs which Nancy Ferguson has had cleaned. The Society needs to decide whether to sell the rugs described above or use them in the Ealy and Dryer Houses. The rugs were made in 1860, of course; but Persian rugs have been around since the Middle Ages.

*Above, photo of the Navajo-like rug*

*Left, photo showing some of the Persian design of the Spanish-made rug. Both rugs are approximately 8'x11' in size.*

## THE MEMORIAL BRICK PROJECT

We have been talking for some time about memorial bricks, but now is the time to begin. The idea is to have individuals purchase paving bricks to honor family members, historical society members, friends who have passed away, members of the community, and so on. Each brick would cost the Society \$25.00, but would be sold for \$50.00, which would cover the cost of the brick and the engraving. Each brick would have up to three lines of text, with 17 letters per line. (Spaces and punctuation marks would count as much as letters). The engraved bricks would be inserted into our new front brick walk in place of plain bricks.

At our next meeting we will pass out forms for the purchase of bricks. The money earned by the Society in this project would naturally go into our Memorial Fund, which has gradually been accumulating funds, thanks to contributions made in memory of Society friends. Below is a report on the contributions made during the year 2009.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED DURING 2009

**In memory of Jim Fodor:** Robert & Debby Dean, Cecil & Arloia Walton, Rick Otten & Catherine Saveson, and the New Albany Company (many others had honored him in 2008).

**In memory of Aziel Shockley:** John & Marilyn Saveson (again, many others had honored her in 2008).

**In memory of Ileana Dickendeshier:** Naomi Fodor, David Cline, Helen Pestel, Kenneth Dutton, Melvin and Marlene Thomas, David Dickendeshier, John & Marilyn Saveson, Edwin & Helen Holter, Beverly Reed, Marjorie Pestel, Cecil & Arloia Walton, Willard & Patty Zarley, Emily Eby & Mark Baranoski, and Rick Otten & Catherine Saveson.

**In memory of Ann Ranney Abbott:** Lois Whealey and Willard & Patty Zarley.

The total amount added to the Memorial Fund in 2009 was \$1,070.00. The total amount in the Memorial Fund is now \$5541..

## MEMBER NEWS

**Don Shoemaker** was honored at a surprise party following a Township Trustees meeting on December 16. Many people spoke, praising him for his years of dedicated service to the township and the whole community. Among the speakers were Eileen Hull, Fire Chief Hoovler, and the Township Trustees. The large crowd of well-wishers included Bob Goodrich, Bob Dickendeshier, & John & Marty Saveson. Almost stealing the show from Don and everybody else were Don and Carol's 15-month-old twin granddaughters.

**Jim and Mary Heischman** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 12 at a very nice party given by their daughter, Kathie, at the Sunflower restaurant in Dublin. They are still living at the Masonic retirement center in Springfield, but Jim is alone in the apartment now, while Mary is in the Alzheimers unit. Their address is 9 Masonic Drive, Apt. 9125, Springfield, OH 45504.

**Mark Baranoski and Emily Eby's** house was featured on Sunday, January 10, in a story in the Columbus **Dispatch**. The article's sub-title sums up the theme: "Historic homes in the suburbs preserved by caring owners." Mark and Emily, as our members know, live in and are at the same time restoring the 162-year-old Archibald Smith house on Kitzmiller Road. Mark is using wood from trees on his own land, just as Archibald did, in making his repairs and doing the restoration work. The article also features historic homes from Grandview Heights, Worthington, Bexley, and Gahanna. The Gahanna building, unbeknownst to the author of the article, also has a Plain Township connection. That old brick building, at 74 Mil Street, originally an inn, was for many years the hardware store owned by E.W. Clouse, who also owned a farm on Route 62 near what is now Clouse Road.

**NO MINUTES**

Since the December Society meeting was not a meeting, but rather our Christmas dinner, and since the January meeting was cancelled due to snow, there are no minutes for this issue of the Newsletter. The Board, however, carried on business as follows:

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETINGS**

Dec. 8, 2009 -- Work started on Ealy porch today. Everything is gone, down to the joists. Rubble will be disposed of, partly by filling in the old cistern. Anything we don't salvage within a week (rafters, joists, etc.) will be dumped.

Bricks -- There is a stack of new bricks to be saved, a second stack of bricks from the old house, and a third stack from the old buried front walk. The new bricks are to be saved for the Memorial Brick project. The best of the old bricks will be used for piers under the porch.

Rugs -- John Saveson passed out photos of 6 rugs which came from the Ealy House when we first acquired it. Several of them are in good condition; several are quite old. We need to get them appraised and decide whether to use any of them in the Ealy House.

Surplus building materials at the Dryer place: shall we offer them for sale?

Jan. 19, 2010 -- Upon hearing the Treasurer's report, the Board decided to have the Finance Committee meet to discuss what to do about the matured bond and the accrued interest from the Ameriprise investments.

The problem of the visible white paint on the back wall of the Ealy porch was brought up by Neil Kirby & John Saveson. Cost to remove it would be about \$2000. To make the back of the house look as it once did, this paint needs to come off, but do we want to spend the money? This will be brought up at the February meeting.

<u>Income</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Decer</u>
Bake Sale Donation	\$ 50.00	
Christmas Dinner	65.00	\$ 26
Postage Donation	5.00	
Dues (Yeager, Farber)	10.00	10
Checking Interest	1.51	:
Applebutter	<u>56.00</u>	<u>50</u>
Total Income	\$ 187.51	\$ 32

<u>Expenses</u>		
AEP - (Ealy \$137.97,\$124.98; RTD \$4.94,\$4.94)	142.91	\$ 129
Print Xpress	55.00	
Henning Company (Porch down payment)	2,150.00	
AT&T	22.15	22
Water & Sewer Service City of Columbus	25.92	
AmeriGas (tank rental)		147
New Albany UMC (Christmas Dinner)		325
Brink's		<u>107</u>
Oakland Design Assoc.	<u>750.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 3,145.98	\$ 732

<u>November 1st Balance</u>	\$ 17,562.09
Income	508.78
Expenses	3,878.02
<u>December 31st Balance</u>	\$14,192.85
Hold for Computer	1,800.00
Hold for Quilt	1,500.00
18 Month CD Balance 2.47% Annual Int.	5,541.37
Vanguard Fund Balance 09/30/09	16,723.94
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 09/30/09	60,257.27
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 09/30/09	31,985.73
Ameriprise 10/20/09	89,504.34

Respectfully submitted, Helen Pestel, Treasurer

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