

Newsletter

June and July, 2008

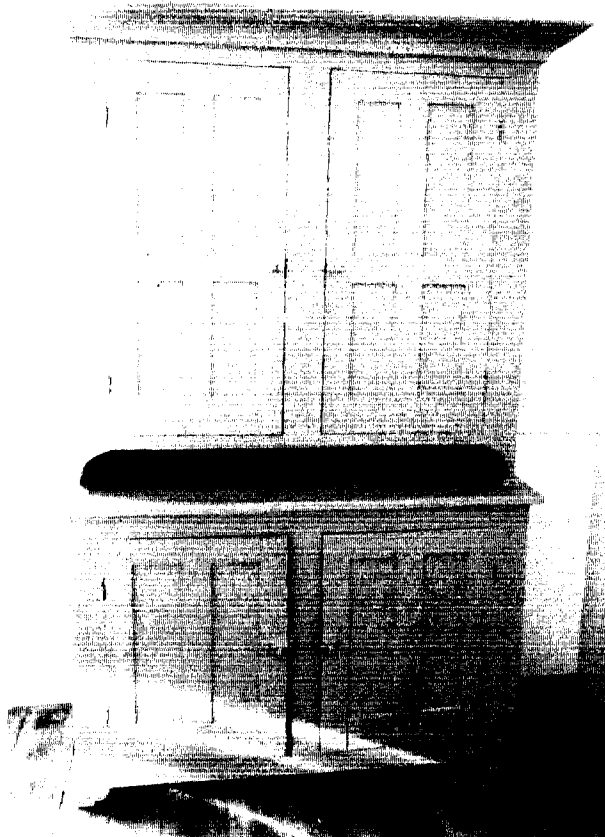
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 219

New Albany, Ohio 43054

(614) 855-9861

www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org



Two-piece walnut cabinet from the 1850's McCurdy house (demolished in 2003). Donated by Naomi Swickard Fodor, it is now in the Ealy House kitchen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR NEXT MEETING -- Thurs., June 5, at 7 p.m., will be at the Plain Township Fire Station. There is much news about the Dryer roof & the Ealy steps, a lot to be discussed & decided.

THE JULY GET-TOGETHER will be at 6 p.m. on July 10 (yes, the 2nd Thursday) at the Saveson barn. As usual, bring your own table service & a dessert or salad or side dish to share. The Board will furnish main dishes. Iced tea & hot coffee will be on hand.

THE AUGUST MEETING will consist of a tour of the new Performing Arts Center -- 7 p.m. on Thurs, Aug. 7. Necessary business will be conducted at all three of the above meetings (June, July, & August).

MARKET DAYS will be EVERY Saturday during June, July, and August (ending Aug. 23). The Chamber of Commerce is planning all sorts of games and music. Theresa Kempker will again master-mind the arrangements for our Society booth. Please be ready & willing to take your turn on one or two Saturdays during the summer. The hours will be 10 to 1:00.

HARVEST THE ARTS is scheduled for Sat., October 11. Write this on your calendar and burn it into your soul, for we will need every bit of help we can get. And please keep on saving pint and half-pint canning jars for apple butter, old candles for the candle-making project, and the following items for scarecrow-making: old caps & hats, long-sleeved button-front shirts, and old pantyhose (yes, pantyhose holds the straw for the scarecrow bodies).

A RUMMAGE SALE is on the list for "soon." We have a vast accumulation of items for it filling too much space in the Dryer house and outbuildings. So hang on to your excess stuff until further notice--and then feel free to donate it to our big sale. P.S. No clothes.

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

THURS. JUNE 5 - 7 p.m., Society Meeting at the Fire Station. (Not at Ealy House as previously announced, for the steps will not be ready.)

SAT. JUNE 7 -- First Market Day (10-1:00).
And every Saturday through Aug. 23

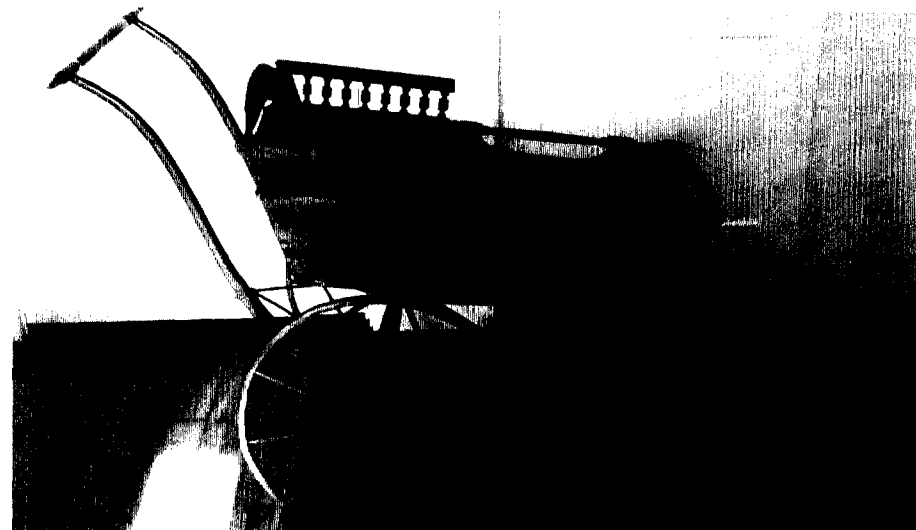
FRI. JULY 4 -- Independence Day activities

THURS. JULY 10 -- 6 p.m. Potluck picnic at Savesons' barn, 8370 Clouse Rd.
Bring table service & a dish to share.
Iced tea & hot coffee will be provided.
Call 855-9809 for further information.

TUES. JULY 22 -- Newsletter deadline

THURS. AUG. 7 -- 7 p.m., Society to tour Performing Arts Center, followed by a short meeting.

Sat. Oct. 11 -- Harvest the Arts



This 1840's baby carriage from the Schleppe family is part of our Museum collection.

MORE SMITH RELATIVES

John Fisher, our Maine member, writes that he has found more relatives of Archibald Smith's family in the far West. Sherrie Jackson, of Eagle, Idaho is descended from Daniel Smith, an uncle to Archibald. Other Smith relatives are Dorothy Alvis, of Hensley, AR and Edna G. Lee of Iowa Falls, IA. John is "boggled by the detail" Sherrie found in her genealogical research. For more information on the Smiths, get in touch with John Fisher, 207-787-3442, or our local member, Margaret Bobo.

--M. Saveson

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Many thanks to Kim and Sharon for producing the April-May Newsletter while I was recovering from surgery. We are now going to a new size of paper, which is easier to fold & also easier to make comply with new Post Office requirements. Past newsletters can be found on our web site, as well as lots of other information about our Society.

-- M. Saveson

OUR WEB-SITE

Our web-site was listed incorrectly in the last newsletter. It should end with .org instead of .com. Here is the proper form:

www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org

A shorter version sometimes works also:

www.newalbanyhistory.info

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President -- Kim Cathell	939-0089
Vice-President -- Steve Bevelhymmer	619-3744
Treasurer -- Helen Pestel	855-3765
Secretary -- Marilyn Regrut	797-4490
Trustee -- Jim Fodor	855-7739
Trustee -- Sharon Carter	939-5292
Trustee -- David Cline	855-3122
Alternate Trustee -- Marilyn Saveson	855-9809

FOUNDERS DAY 2008

Saturday, May 17, turned out to have decent weather and a huge crowd at Founders Day. Our Historic Society's main activity was the Bake Sale--quite success, bringing in over \$400. Thanks to Kim, Marlene, Sine & John Ayres, Helen, Joanne, Mart Naomi, & Sharon, the stand was staffed from 10 a.m. until about 5. Thanks to Steve Bevelhymmer for setting up the canopy & to Junior Thomas for the tables. The float never got made, due to lack of workers. However, several of our members were in the Parade in other capacities--Helen Pestel with the Lions, & the DeWitt family with the Studebaker Club.

The Ealy House attracted some interested visitors, the Waltons, Racky Campbell, and Bob Goodrich before the parade, and 15 or 16 people in the afternoon (thanks to Kathy Yager & Helen Pestel for hosting). Incidentally, Bob, Racky, & Cecil are the three musketeers who all graduated together from N.A. High School in 1939. We were pleased to have Arlee and Cecil Walton "home for the holidays" -- wish it could be more often.

HISTORICAL MARKER TO BE MOVED

Joe Stefanov, Village Administrator, has assured the Society that the Historical Marker commemorating the Founders of New Albany will be moved into its rightful location in connection with the present beautification of the original town center of New Albany. The marker at present is in front of the former police station. It is destined to be put on the site of Noble Landon's inn (where the old Shell Station still is), at the intersection of High St. and Main St.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER -- WE ARE GETTING CLOSER

On April 4 our application for including the George and Christina Ealy House in the National Register of Historic Places moved one step closer to final approval when it passed the Ohio screening committee. Now we are awaiting word from the National Park Service in Washington, D.C.

Evelyn Swickard, born and raised in New Albany, and a long-time member of our Society, died on April 7, just short of her 98th birthday. She was a graduate of New Albany High School and OSU, with a Masters degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Following a long elementary school teaching career, she became a principal in the Columbus elementary school system.

Her parents were O.C. and Nellie Swickard. She lived for many many years in the little house across the road from the Kern-Harrington Museum, and kindly gave us many of her old books and some antique furniture. She allowed us to store a lot of our Society antiques and not-so-antiques in her 2-story barn. She remembered us in her will (see minutes of May 1st), and her obituary asked that contributions in her memory be made to her church or our Historical Society.

EALY HOUSE LIBRARY UPDATE

Among the books John Saveson has donated to our Ealy library are several by Eric Sloane on early American woodworking and tools. Of special interest to members of the Historical Society is Diary of an Early American Boy, edited by Sloane. The boy, Joshua Blake, and his family homesteaded on land in Connecticut early in the 19th century. Like the Ealys, they built a bridge and a mill. The book is illustrated with Sloane's much-admired drawings of pioneer implements and structures.

Marty Saveson is donating 16 years of copies of Victorian Homes magazine, containing articles on Victorian houses & architecture, furnishings, & gardens.

It was not clear in the last Newsletter that Dennis Keesee himself donated a copy of his book, Too Young to Die (on young boys in the Civil War), to the Society. It is now in our Library.

WATER-POWERED SAWMILLS IN PLAIN TOWNSHIP

Two tributaries come together close to State Route 62 in the north end of Plain Township to form Blacklick Creek. One tributary comes in from the north; the other stretches east across the township into Licking County. These headwaters are little more than ditch-like rivulets until, lower down, the stream widens into intermittent pools fed by field tiles and springs. People question how such a stream could ever have supported sawmills. But so it was.

In 1834 pioneer Archibald Smith dammed the creek (presumably with a log-and-earth dam about eight feet high) on land he owned along Kitzmiller Road; and he built a mill of a rudimentary kind. Archibald's son in an address described the water wheel, known as the "Parker," as follows: "An oak tree could be turned the proper length, a cast-iron crank at one end and gudgeon at the other. Three or four rows of Parker buckets were fastened on this oak shaft." The up-and-down motion of the "sash-frame" saw, which the wheel powered, left straight, vertical marks easily distinguished from curving marks left by "circular" saws of a later time. Specimens of sash-frame lumber can still be found in old buildings in the Township.

Archibald's son names three other water-powered mills in Plain Township on Blacklick Creek below his father's. He mentions, also, two mills on Rocky Fork Creek: first, a "Swickard" mill, its site now on the New Albany Company's golf course. And secondly, a mill belonging to the Ealy family on the Dublin-Granville Road inside present Village limits. The mill itself is of course long gone, but the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society owns and is now restoring the George and Christina Ealy residence built there in 1860. Archibald's son estimates the output of these mills working day and night, at "two or three thousand feet of lumber in twenty-four hours." What he calls the "ceaseless war on the woods" replaced log cabins with "comfortable frame houses. The forests were cut, and the streams on which these mills were built were dried up."

THE SOCIETY MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order in the New Albany Library by Kim Cathell. The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved, and the Treasurer's report was approved. "Thinking of You" cards were signed and sent to members unable to attend.

Bids for the security system were presented, with the Board's recommendation to go with Brinks. Two motion detectors (one in the basement & one in the center hall to cover the front door) would cost \$284 for installation & \$35.99 monthly. There was a discussion about adding a 3rd motion detector in the kitchen, which would give us full downstairs coverage. John Saveson moved to accept the Brinks bid, contingent upon adding the 3rd detector at \$195. Motion passed.

Jim Fodor moved that we purchase a metal door to replace the wood basement door. Debbie Dean seconded, but this motion was tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements: A new membership brochure is being designed by Joanne Adams. The bookcase still at K-H is going to be moved to the Ealy House by the Village Service Dept. The telephone has been moved, though it is not yet operational. We need pictures of the original Ealy House steps for the building inspector, to see if we can get a pass on the wood steps we want to build (note: we have such a picture).

Nancy Ferguson moved that the Society pay the fee to file suit in Small Claims Court against the roofer at the Dryer House. Motion passed.

Following the business meeting, David Cline presented a very interesting program on cast iron toys made in Kenton, Ohio, in the early part of the 20th century. He had brought along several examples worthy of taking to the "Antiques Road Show." And then Marilyn Regrut served up some very tasty refreshments.

--Elizabeth Feichter, Secretary

THE SOCIETY MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Cathell in the N.A. Library. The Treasurer's report was approved. Due to the absence of Secretary Liz Feichter, no minutes of the Feb. meeting were available.

The Brinks Company has installed 3 monitors at the Ealy House for the price quote given to us at the Feb. meeting. The security system is now up and running (monitoring the front, back, and basement entries).

We are now ready for the Phase 2 work at the Ealy House. We are in need of bids to grade the lot (to stop water from draining into the basement through the entry door), inspect & clean the septic system (tank), and design & build walks up to and around the house. Are there suggestions for possible contractors?

We're making progress in getting the Ealy House listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Kim C. & John S. have spoken with the State Historical Preservation people, who have the opinion (based on photographs) that the back porch is not part of the original construction of the house, so we can feel free to make reasonable repairs & changes to the porch and it will not affect the application.

Kim now has the designs from the architectural firm of Melaragno Residential Design for the front steps, back porch, & handicap ramp, which we voted to have made. The State Preservation Office thinks they are fine designs, but suggests that the upright pieces in the railing for the ramp be spaced farther apart.

Our guest speaker was Daniel Thompson, a descendant of Noble Landon. He showed us keepsakes from Noble's family, who have had a farm on Bevelhimer Rd. for many years. Daniel gave us handouts showing his family's genealogy and the Landon-Thompson connection.

The hostess of the evening would have been Marty Saveson, who dramatically fell & broke her hip at the meeting & had to be taken to the hospital by the Rescue Squad. She is grateful to Theresa Kempker & Kathy Yager for taking over the serving of refreshments.

--Kathy Yager, Sec. pro tem.

THE SOCIETY MEETING OF APRIL 3

The meeting was called to order at the Plain Township Fire House by Treasurer Helen Pestel. President Kim Cathell was on vacation and Secretary Liz Feichter has resigned her post. The Treasurer's report was presented & accepted. The minutes of the March meeting were presented by Kathy Yager and approved, after one clarification by John Saveson: the State Preservation Office gave their opinion about the Ealy House back porch based on photographs, not a first-hand inspection.

We have found out that we cannot have a Grand Opening of the new museum, the Ealy House, on Founders Day this year because we will not yet have a safe entrance. So we'll just plan to have the house open informally that day in case any interested parties care to brave the steps. Members looked at a tentative brochure inviting sponsorships for the Ealy House. Suggestions were made for some clarification & changes.

A bid has been submitted for a Phase 2 project: to seal the 2 chimneys in the Ealy House. All-Ohio Masonry Restoration would charge \$590. to seal both chimneys, adding more to the price if one chimney is capped instead of being sealed. There was a discussion as to whether we should leave one chimney usable (which would mean getting it inspected & possibly repaired). The decision was tabled for a later meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Friday mornings, 9-12, will be work days at the Ealy House. The Chamber of Commerce is going to print a new map of New Albany & has invited us to be one of the sponsors, to the tune of \$79. We voted NO. Mark Baranoski is willing to remove the present steps at the Ealy House for free & take away the stone. As for the Rose Taylor Dryer House roof repairs, we are waiting for a date at Small Claims Court to get our money back. And, finally, our Board has voted to raise the price of 50/50 chips to \$1.00 per chip.

Our guest speaker was again Daniel Thompson, who showed us many of the Indian arrowheads & other stone tools

which he and his brother have found, over the years, on the family farm on Bevelhymer Rd. Daniel's family was the 7th generation to till the fields on this farm. He came with books about prehistoric Ohio to identify the points and tools. David Cline and the Savesons brought some of their own items for identification. Thanks Daniel.

Helen Pestel provided delicious refreshments. We all left satisfied & happy.

--Kathy Yager, Sec. pro tem

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 11 -- It was agreed that we would close the safety deposit box at the 5th/3rd Bank.

All agreed that Society should offer to pay Robert Dean for the parts to repair his truck, which was damaged during the move from the K-H House to the Ealy House. (Cost is below his deductible.)

Kim wants the Village to put in writing that they will approve our plan for front steps, ramp, & back porch before we start work.

MARCH 26 -- Liz Feichter has resigned as secretary. Board discussed possible candidates to fill in.

Board voted to raise cost of chips to \$1.00 for our 50/50 games.

DRYER HOUSE -- Discussion of major damage due to rain & un-repaired roof. Motion to get new bids for repair. Furnace also needs to be fixed (circuit breakers keep tripping, thermostat not working). Also kitchen door needs to be replaced.

A **YARD SALE** is on the agenda (when? where?)

APRIL 30 -- Market Days -- we will again participate.

DRYER HOUSE ROOF -- Jim Fodor will ask Carter Lumber for a bid on roof repair. Holley's Roofing should also be asked for a bid.

The **EALY HOUSE LIBRARY** (SE room at top of stairs) is now furnished with file cabinets, book cases, and table. The photos & files are back in their drawers. This will be a good place for doing genealogical historical research.

THE SOCIETY MEETING OF MAY 1, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Cathall at the Plain Township Fire Station. Kim began with a report of the recent review by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) of our proposals for the Ealy House. Approval has been obtained for the front steps, with some changes to the original plans. Changes required:

- 1) Landing size must be at least 3x5 ft. to fit with the front entrance size.
- 2) The positioning of the balusters at 45 degrees was questioned, but Kim explained that the rear porch has that same structure.
- 3) The hand rail must extend 12" beyond the bottom step.
- 4) A hand rail is required around the landing, though it will not be attached to the house. Paint colors are white for railings, risers, stringers, and all vertical surfaces. Horizontal surfaces will be natural cedar.

The ARB initially wanted a permanent or a portable handicap ramp to the front entrance; however, they agreed that that structure would be placed at the back porch. This ramp will not be built until the Village finalizes plans for the parking lot, so access can be made directly from the parking spaces to the ramp. Discussion of possible use of the Resurrection parking lot for handicapped parking resulted in the decision that it would not be feasible.

Minutes of the ~~March~~^{April} 3 meeting were read & approved, with clarification about the National Register application. The Treasurer's Report was distributed and explained by Helen Pestel & approved by the Society.

Founders Day plans were discussed. The bake sale is going forward, with plenty of volunteers. Coverage for the open house was also arranged with willing members offering their time. The float was ready to be decorated in Kim's barn, but more help is needed.

Kim announced that \$5,000. from the Village has been received. Also, the Society is the beneficiary of \$1,000 from the Evelyn Swickard estate (also a TV,

desk, small bookcase, & small jewelry cabinet). Our requests for the matching funds from NACO have finally met with NACO's approval and the entire \$50,000 will be forthcoming soon.

Kim brought us up to date on the Heritage Quilt display case. The Gabriel Logan Company in Logan, Oh. will prepare a design and submit a bid. Members present expressed concern that part of the wall on which the quilt case will be mounted is brick.

Chimney capping is pending, awaiting inspection of the chimney. The sewer tap fee will be \$3229, to be paid when application is filed at City Hall. Discussion ensued; sewer tap is mandatory & is based on occupancy.

Kim reviewed ADA requirements that the Village is enforcing:

1. An accessible route from parking site to house (Village has not yet designated exact location of parking lot.)
2. Accessible toilet (Museum is already OK on this.)
3. Accessible route to all spaces used by the public (again, we are OK on this)
4. No rugs or mats unless secured to the floor. Any area with rug will be roped off.
5. Displays intended for viewing can be no higher than 44" so that they can be seen by a seated person. The use of a video or scrap book was suggested for showing inaccessible areas.

Marilyn Regrut was nominated by the Board to be our new secretary and this appointment was unanimously approved by the members.

The 1940's "Decade Box" assembled by Patty Zarley & her committee was on display -- mainly very fancy hats, fun to look at. Kathy Yager served delicious refreshments which were much enjoyed by all.

--Marilyn Regrut, Secretary

EALY HOUSE NEWS

Thanks to Becky and Ray Burgess for their recent donation of a quilt rack to the Society (we are always in need of quilt racks to display some of our wonderful old quilts). They also helped move some furniture into position in the upstairs rooms.

And thanks to the New Albany Service Department for moving the huge Goodrich bookcase from the Kern-Harrington parlor to the Ealy parlor. It took four strong men, a large truck, and some very close calculations to move it intact. It came originally from the old Goodrich brick farmhouse, built in the 1840's, undeservedly demolished a few years ago.

More thanks to Mark Baranoski & John Saveson, who tore down the crumbling stone front steps of the Ealy House on Memorial Day week end. We were told by Racky Campbell the stones had been taken from the creek in 1930 for these steps, which replaced the original wood steps. At any rate, Mark and John Saveson, removed the steps & the rubble underneath them and carted everything away.

Once the steps were cleared away, it was revealed that the foundation wall of the house behind the steps needs tuck-pointing. This has to be done before the new steps can be put into place. It is hoped that the new steps will be able to be used by the time of our June 5 meeting.

And still more thanks, this time to Kim Cathell, Helen Pestel, and Sharon Carter for spiffing up the Museum for Founders Day. But why do Board members have to be the house cleaners? Next time, let's have more volunteers. Actually, it's pretty satisfying to work there, now that the walls and floors are beautiful.

Those of us who have been doing work at the Museum have appreciated seeing lilacs, daffodils, and now iris, phlox, and orange poppies blooming in and around the yard, descendants of old gardens. How about adding peonies, day lilies, roses, sweet peas, and other old-fashioned plantings?

TREASURER'S REPORT -- March/April, 2008

INCOME	MARCH	APRIL
Donations	\$205.75	\$450.00
Village Grant		5,000.00
Membership renewals (Bobo, Folk)		20.00
50/50	5.25	
Note Card sales	13.00	
Copper recycling		22.20
Checking interest	4.57	2.95
Total Income	\$228.57	\$5,495.15

EXPENSES

AEP (KH \$9.27, 8.97; RTD \$9.46, 10.01) (Ealy \$284.92, 255.83)	303.65	274.81
AT&T (includes 1/3 Ealy House installation)	85.07	21.60
OAHSM annual membership renewal	35.00	
ARB fee, Vill. of New Albany	250.00	
Brinks Home Security		104.32
Post Office Box rental	36.00	
Ace Printing		36.00
New Albany Founders Day		25.00
Citation Graphics (note cards)		480.00
Westfield Insur. (for changing policy)		11.00
Rumpke		48.96
Columbus Water & Sewer	36.90	
Total Expenses	\$746.62	\$1,001.69

SUMMARY

March 1st Balance	\$9,628.71
Income	5,723.72
Expenses	1,748.31
End of April Balance	13,604.12
Hold for Computer	1,800.00
Hold for Quilt Case	1,500.00
Vanguard Fund Balance, 3/31/08	18,026.80
Hold for transfer to NACF Ealy Renovation	7,505.00
Balance NACF Ealy Sustaining Fund 3/31/08	28,470.81
Balance NACF Ealy Renovation Fund 3/31/08	13,719.56

--Helen Pestel, Treasurer

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