

# Randolph Times...

*"Uniting the Past with the Future"*

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Quarterly Newsletter of Randolph Township Historical Society, Inc., 114 Valleyview Drive, Englewood, OH 45322  
 Dedicated to Preserving the History of Clayton, Englewood, Union, and the Surrounding Areas.

### Officers

*President:* Angie Hoschouer  
*Vice-Pres:* Doug Allen  
*Recording Sec'y:* Kay Dawson  
*Corres. Sec'y:* Wilma Schroeder  
*Treasurer:* Jack West

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Cleva Collar (2020–2021)  
 Glynn Marsh (2020–2021)  
 Robin Perkins (2020–2021)  
 Doris West (2020–2021)  
 Barb Eller (2020)  
 Bill Gothard (2020)  
 Monty Mercer (2020)  
 Ron Papp (2020)

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***We list our valued sponsors on our website.***



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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Angie Hoschouer

As we head into the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the 2020s, I want to take a look back before we look forward. For those who may not know this story, in 1998 I was one of the original group of people who founded the Historical Society. I was 31 years old and by far the youngest member of that group. Together we set forth and established a nonprofit organization with the purpose of preserving all historical aspects of Randolph Township.

Through the years I have drifted in and out of the society. I held offices including Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and Publicity Chair. Who knew that 21 years later, I would move up to President?

Those who know me know my love for history. I truly believe that everyone has a story. Thank you to everyone who has shared their family's stories, photos, and personal mementos. Our historical society would be in name only if it were not for your generosity. I hope you will continue to support the historical society through your donation of family histories, memorabilia, donations via membership and visitation, and donation of your time through volunteering.

I am thrilled to be leading this organization and I thank you for your vote of confidence.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

*All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.*

### Meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays

Jan. 8, 1:00 p.m./business meeting/  
 miniprogram: Englewood Fire Chief Buddy Bergman

Feb. 12, 1:00 p.m./business meeting/miniprogram: TBA

Mar. 13, 1:00 p.m./business meeting/miniprogram: TBA

## QUARTERLY SUMMARY

**OCTOBER 2019:** Glynn Marsh announced that after the September meeting, at which he agreed to be nominated for president, Angie Hoschouer had expressed a willingness to serve and he wished to step aside in her favor. In a meeting before the business meeting, the board of directors had agreed to have Cable Brothers install new paving blocks in front of the entrance and have Glow Electric install new heaters in the restrooms. New display cabinets on either side of the dais now have lights and display war and military artifacts. In accordance with the donors' suggestion, fire-department memorabilia donated recently are being evaluated for sale if they are not related to Randolph Township. Doris read the slate of officers to be voted on in November. After the business meeting, Misti Spillman presented a miniprogram on Cemetery and Gravestone restoration, showing photos of some of her work at Woodland Cemetery in Dayton and other cemeteries around the area.

**NOVEMBER 2019:** New officers were elected. (*See list of officers on p. 1.*) October's deposits to the checking account included an amazing (and very welcome) \$2,075.00 from donations, and \$1,010.00 from memberships. The History Center had five visitors, a Cub Scout pack planned to visit on Nov. 18, and Ivan Clark offered the History Center as a meeting place for the Northcreek Homeowners Association to discuss their disbandment. While Windows 7 no longer has technical support, Ivan questioned whether upgrading the old computers to Windows 10 was possible. An early cold spell stopped any progress on moving the Te-Co statue, installing the French drain along the north side of the building, or moving the Englewood Fire Station 2 plaque from the Ward Center to the History Center and interrupted the placing of the paving bricks at the entrance. There was no miniprogram.

**DECEMBER 2019:** Doris read a poem, "Snow Days," and several members shared memories of playing outside in winter in childhood. (*See p. 4.*) The Center had 23 visitors in the last month, including four Cub Scouts and five of their parents, and 14 members of a homeowners association used the Center as a meeting place. On Dec. 4, Kay gave a talk about Earl Heck, including excerpts from his history, to a group of senior citizens at St. Paul's Catholic Church. It was well received, and the group is interested in visiting the History Center in the spring. The used-book/holiday ornament sale on Dec. 6 and 7 brought in \$422. The paving blocks in the front entrance have been installed, look very nice, and, more to the point, provide a level, smooth approach to the front door. The bathroom heaters are on backorder. Outgoing President Doris West thanked all the officials who had served during the past year and the board members whose terms will last through this year. She turned the gavel over to new president Angie Hoschouer, who spoke briefly about her involvement with the RTHS since its beginning. (*See p. 6.*) There was no miniprogram.



### AREA NEWS AND NOTES

#### **Correction**

In the October 2019 newsletter, the outside lighting was mistakenly credited to the wrong company. Glow Electric actually installed the outdoor lighting.

#### **Caution urged**

This summer's repaving of Valleyview Drive seems to have increased traffic on the street. While this will increase the public awareness of the History Center, it does pose an increased traffic hazard. All members entering by History Lane or parking in the southwest parking lot are reminded to be careful crossing Valleyview Drive, as motorists aren't expecting to encounter traffic or many pedestrians.

# THE FAMILY TREE

by Kay Dawson



## Scenes of the Past

I once read about a person who, looking through an old family album, found a photo of people he wanted to identify. He consulted a photographer, purchased the recommended solvent, and carefully detached the photo from the page.

On the back was written, "The whole gang of us, a week ago Saturday."

I recently shared that person's frustration. In cleaning out some old items, I encountered photos older than I am. (Yes, young people, we did have cameras back then!)

A few were labeled. The portrait of a young girl and an infant was of my mother and her younger brother. The boy was brain injured and died when my mother was 10; they were never able to be playmates. I'd always known about him, and he is buried with my grandparents in Memorial Park on N. Dixie Dr., but until I saw the picture, I never thought of him as a real person, let alone as my uncle. Now I wonder how his existence, health, and death shaped my mother's personality and how different she, and my relationship with her, might have been had he lived to be her brother and my uncle. For one thing, she always exhausted herself trying to create for us the large family Christmas she had never had.

But other photos took some detective work. About two dozen small photos showed mountain scenery with young men planting trees, playing games in front of a barracks-looking building, or just posing for the camera. After I found the certificate discharging my father from the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, a little Internet research confirmed that I was looking at pictures taken at his CCC camp in Utah.



And when I scanned one photo into the computer and cropped and enlarged it, I realized it was a photo of my father at age 21. The ears and face and eyes were familiar; recognition had been delayed by the full head of hair he had then.

Others I could identify from family stories. My mother had told me of visiting Cincinnati in 1937 with a friend to see the damage from the Ohio River flood. And in her 80s, she

phoned from a hospital bed at midnight, befuddled by sedatives and insisting she was stranded in Cincinnati by floodwaters and asking for rescue. A historical society in Cincinnati confirmed the pictures I found were of that flood, and officials were pleased to have them.

Identifying photos is this winter's project. I'm going to try to project the color slides, some of them 75 years old, onto a screen, photograph them with my digital camera, and preserve them on a thumb drive. At least the ones I can identify.

Some, of course, are not worth preserving. On his first trip to Pennsylvania, my younger brother was fascinated by the mountains. Unfortunately, he didn't realize the viewfinder on his simple camera did not show the exact scene in front of the lens just below the viewfinder, and my mother wouldn't allow him to unfasten his seat belt. Would anyone like to see a lot of photos of the dashboard of a 1964 Ford Falcon? (I shouldn't laugh; years later I came back from a trip to England with several close-ups of my finger that had been in front of the lens.)

But too often many photos that would be of interest to a family, to family members of other people in the photos, or to local historical societies are lost forever.

Please identify photos you take before you forget what they are.

## Membership Report by Wilma Schroeder

### Memberships Processed October–December

**Corporate:** City of Union (r).

**Family:** David & Belinda Bleam (R), Carolyn & John Bruns (r), Gordon & Bonnie Harris (r), Charles & Phyllis Sheets (r), Ron & Mary-Ann White (r).

**Individual:** Allen County Public Library (r), Cathy Allison (r), Anita Bannerman (r), David Brust (r), Sally Carles (r), Cleva Collar (r), Kay Dawson (r), Bill Gothard (r), Dorothy Lurz (r), Judy McDowell (r), Barbara Weikert (r), Lenette Newell Wilde (r), Beverly Zellers (r).

**Lifetime:** Doug Allen (r), Phyllis Pence (r), Howard Ullery (r).

**Sustaining:** Clifford Humphrey (r).

The Society is fortunate to maintain a very high membership renewal rate. We continue to add new members each year, but lose some of our valued older members to death and relocation. We value each and every member and work hard to make the Society a valuable resource for history in the community.

## ACQUISITIONS

**From Shirley Frick:** Various newspaper articles from her mother's collection: "McGuffey's Readers Recall Early Heritage"; "The Waterwheel Farm Grist Mill on Rt. 48"; "Aullwood Center Farm Barn Burns and is Replaced."

**From Mary Geiger:** "Tail Light" lantern used on the back of Interurban trains in the late 1800s.

**From Angie Hoschouer:** Criss-cross directories: July 2004 Polk City Directory, Dayton, Ohio; July 2004 Polk City Directory, Dayton North Suburban; 2008–2009 Haines Directory of Dayton, Ohio, City & Suburban; 2011–2012 Haines Directory of Dayton, Ohio, City and Suburban.

**From Andrew Bliss:** Walt Disney's Ferdinand the Bull metal toy.

**From Glynn Marsh:** A three-ring binder with "Histories of Various Mennonite and Missionary Church Groups."

**From John R. Papp:** a large photo of 1961–1962 kindergarten class at Englewood Elementary School.

**From Barbara Weikert:** The "Randolphian," 1927 Randolph High School Yearbook; Randolph Shamrock newsletter of October 1951;

Randolph Shamrock newsletter of November 1951;

Randolph Shamrock newsletter of December 1951;

Randolph Shamrock newsletter of February 1952;

Randolph Shamrock newsletter of March 1952.

## PLAYING OUTSIDE

At the December meeting, members shared memories of playing outside in snowy weather.

As an only child, Doris West remember playing with her collie dog, which she trained to pull her on her sled.

Monty Mercer recalled sledding down the hills in Irvington Plat and that "I was always anxious to get out of school but we didn't get out very often." Ron Papp, also in Irvington, played along the river and played hockey on a creek that flowed into the Stillwater and "I remember one of my friends went out on the ice and broke through. We got him out."

Angie Hoschouer, 11 during the 1978 blizzard, said that no one could make it up Thelma Avenue, where she lived at the top of the hill, "so we built snow ramps and we started at the top and we could just start at the top and slide down." She also skated on the lake at the Englewood Dam, sledded down the side of Englewood Dam, and, thanks to an uncle living in Kettering, sledded down Suicide Hill.

Kay Dawson remembered one winter school break when her mother took her and her brother hiking in John Bryan State Park, promising them a special treat at lunch. The treat was s'mores, but "my little brother liked setting the marshmallows on fire and I liked eating the chocolate, and that was all we got out of the s'mores. She was so disappointed!"

Cleva Collar had a different experience, since she grew up in flat country 100 miles north of the area, but she remembered one year when snow drifted up against a fence and froze into ice. "We started hollowing out the drift and we had an igloo and it was fun to sit in there and talk and sing and do all sorts of things until it started to melt just enough that we didn't feel safe anymore."

If you have memories of childhood adventures during snow days or winter vacations, let us know. We can add them to our oral histories. You can mail them into the History Center on Valleyview Drive, email them to [RTHS@frontier.com](mailto:RTHS@frontier.com), or call 832-8538 and someone will be glad to tape-record them.

## **RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER**

### **New look inside and outside**

Some changes planned for this year didn't get done. The cement base for the statue that stood outside the Te-Co building could not be poured before the cold weather set in. Similarly, plans for a trench to drain water from Valleyview Drive to the bluff above the river and to move and arrange the Gingrich stones on the south lawn had to be put on hold. (We could use some young muscles to help with this.) And the City of Clayton has not found time to move the plaque identifying Firehouse 2 from the Janice Ward Center to the History Center. In addition, the hockey games the Tidy Bowl men hold in the toilet bowls will continue for a while; in other words, the new heaters for the restrooms haven't arrived yet.

The interior of the History Center has undergone some changes. Thanks to some generous donors, the RTHS has acquired some corner cabinets and has placed them at either side of the dais in the meeting room and in the foyer.

The cabinets in the meeting room contain artifacts and pictures relating to military service of local residents. The RTHS could still use any military memorabilia from the Korean War and Operation Desert Storm. Donated or loaned items should have some connection with the Randolph Township area. The society will accept items from the Civil War and World War I, but will only accept further WWII items if the Center does not have examples of these items.

The cabinet in the foyer contains items the RTHS has for sale.

The outside of the Center also has changed, primarily to provide more safety, although the new look is also attractive. The new paving blocks at the front entrance give a smooth entranceway and a very tidy look and should provide easier maintenance. The trees along the south fence have been trimmed to keep limbs from falling on adjacent property; the RTHS wants to be a good neighbor. And the new outside lighting makes it much easier to enter and leave the building after dark.



Anyone living in the area who would like to help with projects or would just like to contribute by coming once in a while to take a turn dusting or vacuuming is very welcome. And, of course, at business meetings or once public hours resume in April, everyone is welcome to view the new exhibits.

### **Talk Given to Senior Citizens**

In early December, Kay Dawson spoke to a group of senior citizens, part of the Catholic Community of Northwest Dayton, at St. Paul's Church in Clayton. She talked about Earl Heck and read several excerpts from his *History of Englewood and Randolph Township*, such as his account of the 1942 accident at Routes 40 and 48 in which a truckload of pigs upset. The listeners found it amusing that he carefully noted that none of the pigs was seriously injured but neglected to mention what happened to the driver.

She also read a lengthy excerpt of his account of the 1950 blizzard. He said he needed no photograph to remind him of the look of the snow against his east window, and his vivid prose left the listeners with no need of photographs, either.

Several of those present expressed interest in touring the Center, although they preferred to wait until spring.

Ruth Moran, a former member of the Clayton Homemaker's Association brought a briefcase filled with memorabilia from that group. It is now being sorted, evaluated, and logged in the Archives Room.

One member of the senior's group said she and her husband had discovered the Center while on a walk a few years ago. Finding the Western Reserve at Englewood Dam closed by high water, they wandered up Valleyview and passed the History Center. While we are glad to have people discover the Center almost any way it happens, we need to increase its visibility in the community. If you know of any groups who want to arrange a tour or a speaker, please recommend the RTHS to them. And if you would like to give a talk, please contact the RTHS.

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

### The old order passes, the old order returns

As required in the by-laws, the Randolph Township Historical Society elected new officers in the November meeting. At the December meeting, outgoing president Doris West thanked the officials who had served and were stepping down and those who had agreed to continue in office. She especially thanked outgoing treasurer Robin Perkins, who, although not able to attend all the meetings, had worked hard to set up a spreadsheet that will make the position much easier for her successors.

She then turned the gavel over to the new president, Angie Hoschouer. Angie is an example of the loyalty the RTHS inspires in its members, having been one of the charter members. She delivered a few remarks about that experience:

Thank you for trusting me with a key and a gavel. I hope not to have to pound that too often! It's been a pleasure to be a part of the Randolph Township Historical Society from the very beginning. I remember 98? [*Glynn Marsh: Don't ask me!*—I think it was 1998—when they made the announcement that the township was going to disband, the first thing I thought of was, “Oh, no, we can't let our history go away.”

Thankfully I had read in the *Englewood Independent* that there were other like-minded people in the community that were going to hold a meeting about creating a historical society, and I was thrilled. I went to that meeting and I don't know—there were half a dozen of us, maybe 10 people. Through the years we never had to cancel a meeting because we always had a quorum, but sometimes it was just the five of us. It's nice to see that there's 15, 16 people here now.



**Incoming President Angie Hoschouer (l.) takes the gavel from outgoing President Doris West.**

And I've been in and out of giving my time for the Historical Society and I'm looking forward to giving my time now. Thank you all for allowing me to take this and thank you all everyone who's given over the past 20 years. This was our ultimate goal and our ultimate dream and now that we have it, let's continue to move forward so that everyone knows we're here and let's get rid of the “I never knew that you were here” syndrome.

As she noted, she hasn't always been able to participate in activities. (In fact, a previous commitment will keep her from presiding at the January meeting.) But she has been active when time did permit and has offered suggestions from time to time. For example, after reading about the RTHS's interest in the Holt-Rinehart Cemetery, she suggested we invite Misti Spillman to address our October meeting about ways to restore old cemeteries.

Many people are hesitant to get involved with an organization because they can't devote much time or attend meetings regularly. While the RTHS very much appreciates those who can do so, we also have room for those who like Angie provide continuing membership and drop in and out of activities as their time permits. All the members are looking forward to working with Angie in the coming year.

*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*

**Marcus Tullius Cicero**

**Membership Information**

**Yes!** I want to become a Member of the Randolph Township Historical Society.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level (Check One)**

\_\_\_\_ Individual @\$15.00/year

\_\_\_\_ Family @ \$25.00/year

\_\_\_\_ Sustaining @ \$35.00/year

\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring @\$75.00/year

\_\_\_\_ Individual Lifetime @ \$250.00 (one-time)

\_\_\_\_ Corporate @ \$150/year

Extra Cash Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

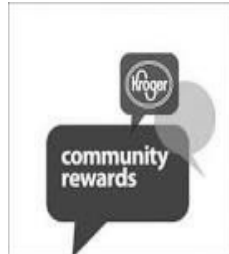
Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed form with check to:**

Randolph Township Historical Society  
 RTHS History Center  
 114 Valleyview Drive  
 Englewood, OH 45322-1324

**COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**



One way to donate to the Historical Society without hurting your budget is to link your KrogerPlus card to the Kroger Community Rewards program.

Each quarter, Kroger allots a certain amount of money for the Rewards budget and divides it among participating organizations according to each organization's percentage of the total spending by members of all the organizations. Reports sent to RTHS only show the customer's KrogerPlus Card Number, name, and the donation amount.

To register your KrogerPlus Card, go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and follow the instructions. Link the card to RTHS (NPO #81403). Those without computers or email can set up accounts at the public library or through another member. You can also register at 1-800-837-4483, with your KrogerPlus card and the RTHS number shown above. The bottom of each receipt should show your donation. Last year the Society earned about \$500 through this program.

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**SOME NEW YEAR'S DAYS IN THE PAST**

Here is a look back at bringing in the New Year.

**From the David E. Cassel Diary, 1887.** Saturday, January 1. Attended Uncle John Cassel's funeral. Bro. J.S. Hoke done the preaching. Uncle was aged 40 y's. 11 mo. 29 da's. He was buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

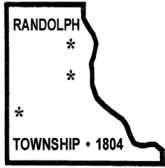
**From the diary of Clarence Furnas who was courting Ethel Baldwin.** January 1, 1915. Took my darling to spend the evening with Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Knife. Had very nice time. Lovely ride home. H.H.I.M.A's & K.H. After returning we spent a very happy evening in her home. H.H.I.M.A's & K.H. Oh, what a dear happy evening that was.

*Note: Not quite sure what the H.H.I.M.A's & K.H. stand for but one could surmise that H.H.I.M.A's could translate as "held hands in my auto" or "held her in my arms." as for K.H. it could only be one thing: "Kissed Her!"*

**From the diary of Mrs. J.W. Guehring.** Thursday, January 1, 1920. Clear part of the day and cold, getting colder this P.M. We were home for dinner. Went over to the auditorium to see the play, it was good. 10 degrees above zero this P.M.

Happy New Year, one and all!

**Contributed by Angie Hoschouer**



## RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

114 Valleyview Drive - Englewood, Ohio 45322

"Uniting the Past with the Future"

Clayton - 1816    Englewood - 1841    Union - 1816

### **SOME DATES TO REMEMBER REMAINING IN 2020**

*All events are held at the RTHS History Center, 114 Valleyview Dr., Englewood, Ohio, unless otherwise noted.*

#### **Monthly Meetings:**

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays**

Jan. 8, 1:00 p.m./miniprogram:  
Buddy Bergman

Feb. 12, 1:00 p.m.

March 11, 1:00 p.m.

April 8, 7:00 p.m.

(note time change) /miniprogram:  
David C. Greer

May 13, 7:00 p.m.

June 10, 7:00 p.m.

July 8, 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 12, 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m. (receive  
slate for 2021)

Nov. 11, 1:00 p.m.

(note time change)/vote for officers  
for 2021

Dec. 9, 1:00 p.m./installations  
of officers/annual noon carry-  
in

#### **Work Sessions:**

Wed. and Sat. afternoons  
1–4 p.m.

#### **Visitors' Hours at the History Center**

2–4 p.m.

Apr 5 & 19

May 3 & 17

June 7 & 14

July 12 & 19

Aug. 2 & 16

Sept. 13 & 27

Oct. 4 & 18

Open other times by  
appointment

Call (937) 832-8538 and leave  
message

#### **Special Events:**

May 28, 29, (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.),

May 30 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.):

RTHS Garage/used-book sale

#### **Exhibit:**

The RTHS is expanding its exhibits of military artifacts, thanks to the donation of two corner cabinets. The Society would like more military mementos from Korea and Desert Storm or from World War I. Items must have some connection with Randolph township residents.