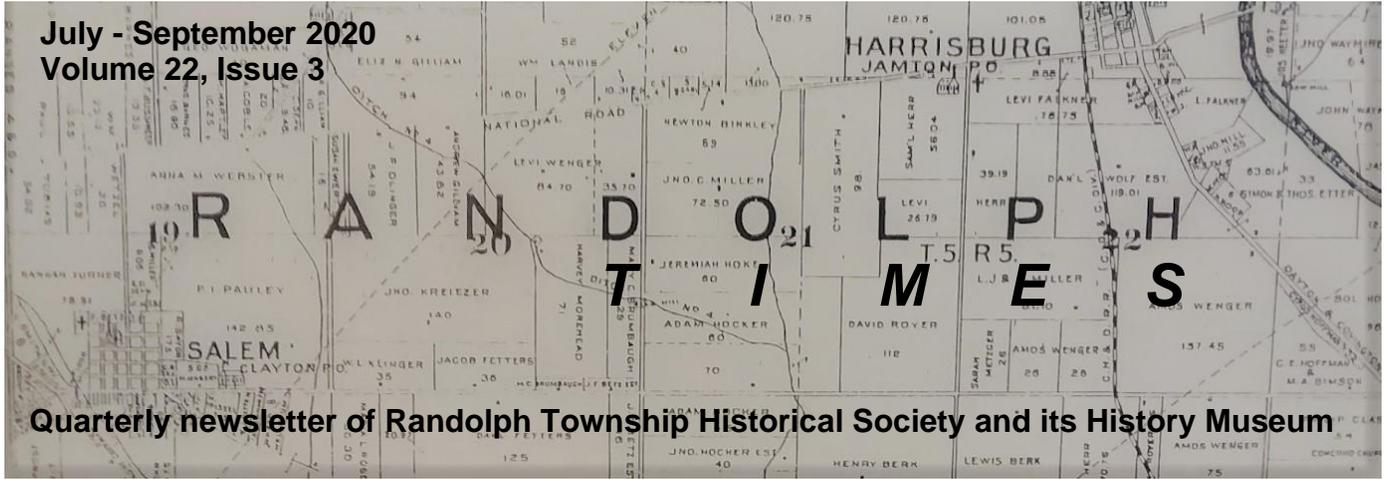


July - September 2020  
Volume 22, Issue 3



#### Officers

*President:*

Angie Hoschouer

*Vice-President:*

Doug Allen

*Recording Secretary:*

Kay Dawson

*Corresponding Secretary:*

Wilma Schroeder

*Treasurer:*

Jack West

#### Directors

Cleva Collar

Barb Eller

Bill Gothard

Glynn Marsh

Monty Mercer

Ron Papp

Robin Perkins

Doris West

### A Note from the President...

The first half of 2020 has certainly tested all of us in regards to planning, executing and reacting to the challenges presented during these unprecedented times. I'm pleased to report that the Historical Society continues to make good progress with projects and upgrades to our extremely outdated computer systems and software. At the time of writing this note, the new website is 98% complete and will launch in mid-July. Over the years we have received several collections of negatives and slides with no equipment to view them. A negative/slide viewer has been ordered that will allow us to finally view the negatives and slides and convert them into digital photos. Additionally, three new display cases have come into the History Center's possession and are being utilized to upgrade our historical displays.

As you can see, while we have made significant progress, the Society's needs are still great, and we continue to reach out to all for support. The pandemic has all but stopped visitors and thus our donations are down for the year. On a positive note, we recently received a generous donation of \$5,500 from the Northcreek Homeowners Association. When the HOA disbanded, their articles of incorporation stated that any funds left had to be donated to an organization that promoted the area. We are grateful to have received this unexpected donation and thanks to the generosity of organizations like this and individuals like you, it gives us the opportunity to continue to further our mission and keep the history of Randolph Township alive. I humbly request that you consider the Randolph Township Historical Society for an additional gift to assist us during the effects of the pandemic.

Take care and be well,

*Angie*



Office Phone: 937-832-8538

Email: [info@rths.com](mailto:info@rths.com)

[www.rths.org](http://www.rths.org)



## HISTORY CENTER HAPPENINGS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the History Center has been closed to the general public since March. There will not be a regular meeting in July or August. We hope to resume normal monthly meetings in September. Additionally, the History Center will remain closed to the general public until further notice. Visitors may request to visit by appointment only. Please call 937-832-8538 and leave a message so we may return your call. We thank you for your patience and understanding.



Two shelving units in the basement allow for better display of tools and implements.

The display case in the upstairs foyer is filled with fireman collectibles. These items are available individually or we will sell the collection as a whole and will consider a reasonable offer. If you are interested in these items, please call us at 937-832-8538 and leave a message.



### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Since the shutdown in March, there have been 8 renewals and 1 new membership. Thank you, Norman and Gayle Danes, James and Donna Hendrickson, Dane and Priscilla Mutter and Don and Karen Soddors for your renewal of your Family Membership. We also would like to thank Shirley Frick, David Hoke, Nancy Smith and Judith Wick for renewal of their Individual Memberships and to Keith Radick for becoming a *new* Individual member.

It is with great sadness to report the death of Christina Haas who died on April 25, 2020. She had been a Lifetime member since 2003. She lived in Nyack, New York and visited the History Center whenever she was in the area. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.





**RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

INCORPORATED

114 Valleyview Drive - Englewood, Ohio 45322

*"Uniting the Past with the Future"*

Clayton - 1816      Englewood - 1841      Union - 1816



Frantz farmhouse, circa 1920. In the photo is Edith Miller. Her parents rented the house from Mathias Heck who owned the Frantz farm at that time. You can see this photo and others in the History Center archives.

## DIARY NOTES



Mrs. Guehring

Mrs. Ollie (Waymire) Guehring was a native of Englewood and wife of Jacob Guehring. For many years, she lived on Burton Avenue on Main Street just north of downtown Dayton. Through a generous donation, the Historical Society received many years of her personal diaries. The story of this acquisition is related below.

In November 2010, the Society received a call from Elizabeth (Liz) Lowery, offering to donate a Waymire family bible and some handwritten diaries to our archives. Many different Waymire's settled in Randolph and Butler Townships in the early 1800s, so we jumped at the chance to preserve this part of local history. Liz's mother had been a neighbor of the granddaughter of D. W.

(Daniel Webster) Waymire of Butler Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. Upon her death, the granddaughter left her estate to her neighbors. While they were cleaning out her house, they came across a large cardboard box of handwritten daily diaries. Liz's mother saved them from the dumpster, even though she had no connection to the family. Liz found them a few years later in her mother's home, after she had died. Feeling they were of historical importance; Liz contacted the Historical Society to make the donation.

The family bible shows that D. W. Waymire (born 21 Aug 1839, Butler Twp.) married Amanda Miller (daughter of Phillip and Elizabeth Miller) in 1863. They had three children: Welby L., Eva A. and Carrie Olive (Ollie in the diaries). Society members may recall that Welby Waymire operated a general store in Harrisburg and was serving as postmaster in 1899 when the town's name was changed to Englewood.

The thirty-two diaries cover two generations: D. W. Waymire wrote in four of them with his earliest dated 1867. His diaries talk about seasonal life on the farm such as putting up fences, plowing, planting, harvesting, maple sugar making, butchering, etc. Waymire was a rather well to do farmer who hired much of his work done. The family traveled a lot to church meetings, took farm produce to Dayton for sale, and took excursions to Greenville and "the reservoir" (a.k.a. Grand Lake St. Mary's). He mentions going to Harrisburg in 1879 to see the railroad tracks being laid across Christian Herr's farm. Names of many other local people are mentioned throughout.

Daughter Ollie completed four diaries before she married: 1894 to 1897. Her diaries, written while she lived at home, are more descriptive, telling of sleigh rides in winter, making ice cream, taking singing lessons, etc. Her father took in travelers along the National Road, fed tramps who stopped at the farmhouse asking for food, attended political rallies, and went to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Dayton. Ollie wrote her later diaries after she married Jacob Geuhring. She lists all the people who attended her wedding and the gifts they brought. During her married life, Ollie and Jacob lived in Englewood and also in Dayton. Her husband taught school in the early years and Ollie continued to make and churn butter for resale in the 'burg (Harrisburg, perhaps in Welby's store) and in Dayton.

The diaries end in 1954 with Ollie's daughter's entry "Mother died today."

It's 1920 and Ollie writes in her diary:

July 8: Cloudy and cool and rained in the P.M. I went to town this morning. Got a pair of shoes, paid 4.95 and a couple of gingham dresses for Margaret. Went out to the L.A.S. with Mrs. Hoffman. Mrs. Ira Mumma, Mrs. Harley and Esther went with us. Coming home, we ran over a little Neilson boy, six years old. A terrible time. Jake came up after us.

July 9: Clear and cool. I cleaned up a little [but] did not feel like it on account of being so nervous from the accident.

The accident that happened on July 8, 1920 surely was tragic for the ladies and more so for the Neilson family. A quick search of the Dayton newspapers at the time relates the following story.

## AUTO ACCIDENTS TAKE YOUNG LIVES

### TWO BOYS DEAD OF FRACTURED SKULLS

#### EDWARD NIELSEN.

As the result of concussion of the brain caused by being struck by an automobile, Thursday evening, Edward Nielsen, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Nielsen, 2708 North main street, died early Friday morning at St. Elizabeth hospital. The accident happened near the boy's home.

#### LITTLE VICTIM OF STREET ACCIDENT



Alfred Edward Nielser.

#### Six-year-old Edward Nielsen and Walter Evans, 17, Are Victims of Accidents on Streets Thursday Afternoon.

As the result of wounds suffered when they were struck by automobiles, two boys died at local hospitals, one late Thursday night, the other Friday morning. A fractured skull was received in each instance.

Edward Nielsen, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Nielsen, 2708 North Main street, died at St. Elizabeth hospital early Friday morning. He is said to have been struck by a machine driven by Mrs. Jeanette Hoffman, 34 Burton avenue, as he was crossing the street near his home.

Mrs. Hoffman told police the boy ran across the street, and as the machine approached nearly opposite him, turned and ran directly in front of it, and was thrown to the street. He was taken to the hospital by a police ambulance crew.

Walter Evans, 17, 60 Costello street, died at Miami Valley hospital at 4:45 o'clock Thursday afternoon from injuries received when he was hit by a machine said to have been driven by M. A. McLain, in front of the N. C. R. factory Wednesday afternoon.

According to police investigations, the accident was unavoidable, as the youth jumped from a dray and ran into the car. The driver, it is said, was unaware of the accident until informed by pedestrians he had struck the youth. McLain lives at 37 Corona street.

Articles and headlines taken from:

*The Dayton Herald*  
Friday, July 8, 1920.

Visit our Facebook page to see a daily posting of newspaper articles relating to Salem (Clayton), Union, Harrisburg (Englewood) and the other smaller communities in the township and surrounding area.