

Randolph Times...

"Uniting the Past with the Future"

Visit our website: www.rths.org

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: Dave Evans
Vice-Pres: Craig Falknor
Recording Sec'y: Kay Dawson
Treasurer: Kathy Allen
Op. Dir.: Kristina Balside

Directors

Mary Geiger (2025–2026)
Dave Evans (2024–2025)
Teresa Greer (2024–2025)
Jeffrey Harding (2024–2025)
Monty Mercer (2024–2025)
Ron Papp (2024–2025)
Wilma Schroeder (2024–2025)
Drew Smith (2024–2025)



It's spring! (Sorry.)
But how many of us had a
Slinky when we were
young?



Office Phone: 937-832-8538
Email: info@rths.org
www.rths.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dave Evans

Hope my first message finds you all well and looking forward to warm weather, family outings, festivals, and your favorite summertime event.

Keep some space on the calendar for the Randolph Township Historical Society. Our Fundraising Chairperson Teresa Greer has lined up the first event on April 2 at Buffalo Wild Wings, 891 S. Main St. in Englewood. RTHS gets 10 % of the proceeds between the hours of 11 a.m. and midnight. All you need to do is turn in a yellow ticket with your bill. A print or a screen shot of the Facebook page will work.

Also from Teresa's committee is the Englewood City Garage Sale. The RTHS sale will be at the History Center on May 30 and 31 from 9 a.m. until 5p.m. Members can donate items at the History Center starting April 9. We will have sign up sheet for workers available.

Aug. 2 is the annual RTHS Car Show at Hardscrabble Park in Old Clayton. More details will come, but we know it will be a full day of cars, trucks, music, food, and fun. Again, volunteers will be needed.

On March 15 we had a work day at the Center. We rearranged the lobby and the office areas cleaned the basement. We had an infestation of Box Elder Beetles: one, then two, and then hundreds. As fast as they appeared they seemed to die. The basement seemed to be a prime area for their demise.

We have changed some displays, dismantled some items for better storage, secured storage areas, and installed security cameras in the museum area. We would love to see you at our meetings.

👉👉 UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS 👉👉

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

April 9, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting
May 14, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting
June 11, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting

Special Events

April 2, 11 a.m. to midnight: "Eat and Raise Funds" at Buffalo Wild Wings (See p. 6.)
May 14, 7:30: talk on the restoration of the Overfield Tavern in Troy
May 30 & 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Garage sale at the History Center.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

January 2025: Teresa Greer raised the problem of the outside lights being burned out, and Dave Evans announced that two estimates have been given for replacing them. Drew Smith said he would find an electrician for a third estimate. Vital Signs has said that they would replace the lights if RTHS buys the fixtures, and they would provide free labor. All agreed with Drew that the building needs electrical outlets outside. A Junior Membership for students was addressed with no conclusion at this time. Dave announced that all 2025 meetings and programs will be listed on a dry-erase calendar in the meeting room. There will be board meetings every other month, with the first to be held in February. Programs are reserved for months when there is no board meeting. There will be standing committees with a board member chairing each committee and other members of the Society can volunteer to be on any committees they are interested in.

February 2025: The meeting was postponed from Feb. 12 to Feb. 19 due to illnesses among the officers. There are now mailboxes in the lobby for officers and board members to receive memos and announcements. Dave Evans announced committees and their heads: Craig Falknor will head the finances and tellers committee, Mary Geiger will take charge of the programs committee, Drew Smith will supervise the maintenance of the building, Ron Papp will continue as the groundskeeper, Kris Balside will take charge of tracking and entering the donations, and Teresa Greer will take fundraising projects. Several members suggested possible programs. Kay Dawson suggested the RTHS try to reschedule some of the speakers whose programs had to be cancelled due to the 2020 pandemic. Kris said a police officer was available to speak on scams, and Mary said she wanted to get an official from the Overfield Tavern to speak. There were also fundraisers suggested or scheduled; there will be an ice-cream social and concert by the Englewood Civic Band on July 8, and the annual car show will be at Hardscrabble Park on Aug. 2. Kris has also set up a table in the basement for donations for a garage sale to coincide with Englewood's annual garage sale, and Kay and Mary explained how the "No-Bake" Bake sale worked (*see p. 6*). On Feb. 5, twenty-one people from Empowerment Community Services, a facility for disabled adults, visited, and the members present said it was very successful. Kris explained the history behind two oil paintings the RTHS recently received (*see p. 3*).

March 2025: Dave Evans reminded those present of the workday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, and said there would be food available. The insurance has been paid, costing \$2,894.00 per year. The terrorism clause was removed, and the event insurance, costing \$600.00 per year, has been removed. If a future event should need insurance the RTHS could buy single-event insurance. Dave said several security cameras had been donated, which give alerts of activity to certain members' cell phones. Teresa Greer was absent but sent word she has applied to Buffalo Wild Wings for a donation day. (*See p. 6*) If the RTHS is chosen, on a specified date 10 percent of all the profits will be given to the RTHS. The RTHS will join in Englewood's citywide garage sale on May 30 and 31. There is a table in the basement for donations, and Kris suggested if enough people volunteered to help no one would have to work more than two or three hours unless they wanted to. Craig Falknor suggested holding it in the front yard for better visibility to the public. There was no miniprogram due to scheduling problem, but members enjoyed cake for Monty Mercer's 80th birthday and cupcakes and refreshments in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Don't fire unless fired upon. But, if they want to have a war, let it begin here."

--Major John Pitcairn of the Lexington Militia, as the British troops advanced on the Lexington green on April 19, 1775.

Randolph Ramblings By Zelma Roth Studebaker

(ED: Zelma Roth Studebaker donated paintings of Colestin and Elnora Leiber to the RTHS, along with the following letter, written in 1984.)

My maternal grandfather, Colestin Leiber, was born in Niedereschach, Germany in 1832, and came to America in 1850 at age 17, with a sister Theresa, and brothers John and Anthony. They left their homeland, their parents and two sisters and two brothers, because of severe stress and economic pressure due to Prussian oppression.



Sailing from Rotterdam in July, their sailing vessel was blown back toward Europe twice, and delayed by severe storms, until they reached New York harbor in early October.

Grandpa stayed at a boarding house in New York for a few weeks in order to get his bearings, and lay plans to head west on Old National Trail. A fellow traveler tried to convince Grandpa that he needed a wife before setting out and suggested that he consider a certain German waitress who worked there. In spite of Grandpa's reluctance, the gentleman persuaded him to cooperate in a little scheme: when this certain waitress would come through the door to serve food, the man would wink at Grandpa. Grandpa would observe her and if he liked her, he was to wink back and the man would introduce the girl to him.

Grandpa winked, and two weeks later he and Elnora Sunkle were married and came west, settling at Harrisburg (now Englewood) Ohio. Both lived in the same house on the corner of National Road and Walnut Street the remainder of their lives.

Grandpa was trained as a veterinarian as a youth, and followed that profession until he retired. He and his youngest son, Less [ED: apparently a nickname for Colestin] also had

a woodworking shop where they made farm wagons and carriages. There were ten children in this family, of which my mother, Nora, was the youngest.

Grandpa's family was Catholic. When the children came to America, their father encouraged them to align themselves with a church as soon as they found a home, whether or not it was Catholic, he would leave to their individual decisions and conscience. Grandpa became a member of the



German Baptist Brethren (Wolf Creek Congregation) and Grandma is listed as a member of Happy Corner Church at the time it was German Baptist Brethren.

Grandpa's older brother, Fredolin, was an artist of some note in Germany, and he painted Grandma's and Grandpa's portraits in oil, from a photograph of them.

(ED: Niedereschach, Germany, is on the eastern edge of the Black Forest. Germany was unified in 1871; before that the town was part of the Duchy of Württemberg, controlled by Prussia in the 1840s. The political and economic turmoil that followed numerous revolutions in Europe in 1848 led many to come to the United States.

The RTHS has several Edwin Sinks photos of the Leiber family at their home on North Main Street. A picture of the blacksmith shop operated by Colestin's son Augustus ["Gus"] has long been part of a display of early Englewood businesses. Several Leibers, including Colestin and Elnora, are buried in Fairview Cemetery, although the names are spelled differently. But in those days, people often paid little attention to the spelling of names. The Leiber name lives on in the area, most notably in the Christena Leiber Community Center in Golden Gate Park in Brookville.

ACQUISITIONS

History, of course, is more than just wars and politics and settlers. It is residents' everyday lives, including their recreation.

The History Center is lucky to have quite a bit of memorabilia of local sports.

There are mementos, pictures, and reminiscences of the Northmont and Randolph High schools. Glenn Brumbaugh, for instance, remembers that during World War II gas rationing, the Randolph basketball team had to find someone with enough gas to drive them to away games, and with the speed limit at 35 to save gas, it took a while to get anywhere. And he remembered that in his senior year the baseball team won the county tournament.

But there were nonschool activities also. The Clayton Little League is supposedly one of the oldest Little League organizations in Ohio. And in the past, the developments of Morgan Place, Irvington, and Greenview were all separate neighborhoods, each with its own social life, which often included baseball. Bill Kern, who grew up in Irvington, told the RTHS, "We played Greenview probably three times a week. We'd ride our bikes up to Greenview or they'd come down to Irvington and play."

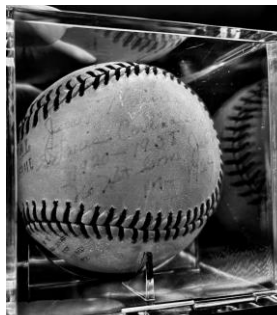
Many of the players undoubtedly dreamed of becoming professionals. One did.

Jesse Haines was born in Clayton in 1893 and grew up in Phillipsburg. He pitched on his grammar school team, and after the eighth grade, he played for the Phillipsburg All-Stars (hiding the uniform in a neighbor's corncrib, since his religious parents objected to him playing on the Sabbath). He also played semiprofessionally on teams organized by Standard Register and National Cash Register, and in 1913 he pitched on game for the Dayton Veterans of the Class B Central League.

In 1914 he earned \$135 a month playing for the Fort Wayne Railroaders of the Class B Central League. This started what Gregory Wolf, of the Society for American Baseball Research (<https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/jesse-haines/>), described "a grueling and frustrating six-year odyssey which included injuries and league closings with stops on at least eight minor-league teams, tryouts with major-league clubs, and a return to semipro ball." At one time his salary with the Saginaw Ducks was \$115 per month. He was on the roster of the Detroit Tigers for two months in 1915, but health problems kept him out of official games. He credited Ty Cobb with encouraging him to remain in baseball.

His major-league debut was on July 20, 1918, as a relief pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds but was let go shortly after. He returned to Phillipsburg but signed with another semipro team, and in 1920, Branch Rickey borrowed \$10,000 to purchase him for the St. Louis Cardinals. Haines was a three-time 20-game winner and retired at the end of the 1937 season at the age of 44 as the big leagues' oldest player. He was the only St. Louis Cardinal to play on the first five National League pennant winners in franchise history, in 1926, 1928, 1930, 1931, and 1934.

Two of the RTHS's artifacts are a woolen baseball uniform from Phillipsburg during Jesse Haines's era and a baseball autographed by him (items pictured below).



RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Visitors

Between the weather and various officials getting sick, the RTHS has not been as busy in the first quarter as we would hope. But we have managed to keep the Center open most Sundays (when there weren't four inches of snow on the streets) and have had many visitors.

On Feb. 5, a group from Empowerment Community Services, a facility at the corner of Union and Overla boulevards that serves disabled adults, visited the Center. Kris Balside and several other members volunteered to show them around, and they reported the visitors were very interested and asked many questions about the exhibits.

The RTHS is hoping to be available for similar visits by other groups in the community, such as senior citizens groups or people from local nursing homes.

Improvements

Like a lot of organizations, the RTHS took a hit during the pandemic. (Was it really five years ago?) In addition, we had a turnover of officers right afterwards. But we have been working to get back up to speed.

The outside lights need replacing, both for building security and visitors' and members' safety. A major drawback has been that the fixture at the peak of the roof is impossible to replace without special equipment; our building committee chairman is asking electricians for alternative suggestions. We also are hoping to install outlets on the outside of the building. At the Englewood Trails festival, we had to leave the front door ajar, run extension cords out to portable lights, and try to tape a mat over the cords! Obviously, another solution must be found.

Work Day

Kris and Dave scheduled a work day for Saturday, March 16, and ten people agreed to work at various times.

They rearranged the furniture in the lobby and the office and vacuumed the basement (which, miracles of miracles, is staying dry).

They took the dolls out of the display and are replacing it with new material.

One person with knowledge worked on Kris's computer because it seemed to be slower to deliver information than the Pony Express. And she now has more memory in it.

Kris treated the volunteers to a platter of Firehouse subs, chips, and soda. She also served the birthday cake left over from the observance of Monty Mercer's birthday after the March 12 meeting. (See what goodies volunteers often get?)

While work days are not officially scheduled, we try to have one once a year, sort of like a spring cleaning.

Volunteers needed

The board has revitalized the committees, naming chairpersons. (*See p. 2.*) In most cases (building maintenance, for instance), the chairperson cannot do the job alone and needs help.

Please consider offering some time. We can use volunteers on a one-time basis or for a regular stint. For example, if we get enough volunteers to help with the rummage sale, people can put in two or three hours at the sale and then leave. Or someone could show up ahead of time to help put items out and then go home. Or maybe you know someone who has an interesting program and you can help Mary Geiger make arrangements. Maybe you could donate an afternoon to helping Kris address and mail the newsletters.

UPCOMING EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Fundraising proposals

On April 2, the RTHS will be the recipient of “Eat Wings and Raise Funds” at Buffalo Wild Wings, 891 S. Main St., Englewood (next to the UPS store and Tim Horton’s). Teresa Greer, fundraising chairwoman, has filled out the forms explaining the RTHS’s mission and the need for funds. All the profits from that day will be donated to the RTHS.

The RTHS will participate in the Englewood areawide garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 30 and 31 with a rummage sale of our own. This will take place on the lawn in front of the History Center (weather permitting, of course). A table in the History Center has been designated for donations of clothing, books, knickknacks, etc.

The Englewood Civic Band will entertain at an ice cream social on July 8 at the History Center. This will be free to the public, although of course donations will be welcome.

The annual car show will again take place at Hardscrabble Park on Aug. 2. With any luck, the weather will be a bit less muggy.

At a recent meeting, Kris Balside asked about the “No-Bake Bake Sale” mentioned in old newsletters. Long-time members explained that the RTHS had tried holding a conventional bake sale and found it was not too profitable. First, a lot of organizations held bake sales around the same time, and our location off the main highway hurt us. (All too often, explaining that we are on Valleyview Drive brings a blank look and the question, “Where’s Valleyview Drive?”) Also, bake sales lost popularity as people became more concerned with allergens and less willing to trust items made by strangers. Many of our members simply aren’t bakers and donated cookies purchased at stores. Too often the bake sale merely involved members buying cookies to donate and purchasing others at the sale. About a dozen years ago, Sue Cummings proposed that people should estimate what they would spend on supplies, time, and purchases and donate that amount of money instead of baking something or donating purchased goods. This also permitted more distant members to participate. We made more money this way than we did selling real baked goods! So the RTHS will probably hold a similar event this year.

There will be more details about the last four projects in later newsletters as the dates are set and become more current.

Programs

The board of directors decided recently that board meetings will follow immediately after the business meetings in February, April, June, August, October, and December. After the business meetings in the other months, there will usually be miniprogram. This will be a talk by someone on a topic of interest to the members or possibly a discussion in which members share memories of the area. Mary Geiger is the program chairwoman to arrange for these programs and any larger general programs (such as the ice cream social), but any suggestions of an interesting speaker can be sent to the RTHS by email or telephone. These programs will start about 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

Anyone, member or not, is welcome to attend the business meetings and miniprograms, so if you know someone who is interested in a program, be sure to mention it to them. All members are also welcome to attend the board meetings, although only officers and board members can vote on the issues dealt with.

Glynn Marsh was fond of saying, “It’s not *our* (his and Sue’s) historical society, it’s *yours*.” The officers still feel the same way; all suggestions for fundraising or programs are welcome and will be considered.

Membership Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address (optional) _____

Date _____ New membership _____ Renewal _____ Gift _____

Membership Level (Check One)

____ Individual @\$20.00/year

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

____ Family @ \$30.00/year

____ Corporate @ \$200/year

Extra Cash Donation: \$ _____

Enclosed is my check for _____

Please send completed form with check to:

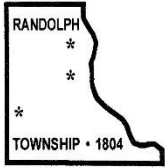
Randolph Township Historical Society
RTHS History Center
114 Valleyview Drive
Englewood, OH 45322-1324

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. Only the check is sent to the RTHS; the organization receives no information about the customers or their purchases. (But the RTHS is grateful to all who do designate the society as the recipient.)

To register your KrogerPlus Card, go to 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 the organization. Last year the Society earned about \$500 through this program.



RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INCORPORATED

114 Valleyview Drive - Englewood, Ohio 45322

"Uniting the Past with the Future"

Clayton - 1816 Englewood - 1841 Union - 1816

Dates to remember

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

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

- April 9, 7:00 p.m.
- May 14, 7:00 p.m.
- June 11, 7:00 p.m.
- July 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 13, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 8, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10, 7:00 p.m.

The History Center is open for visits from 2 p.m. through 4 p.m. on Sundays when the OPEN sign is out at Main Street and other times by appointment. Call (937) 832-8538 and leave message

Special events

- April 2, 11 a.m. to midnight: "Eat Wings and Raise Funds" at Buffalo Wild Wings. (See p. 6.)
- May 30 and 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Garage Sale at History Center
- May 14, 7:30: talk on the restoration of the Overfield Tavern in Troy

2025 Corporate Members

- Carra Builders Comm. Const. Inc.
- City of Clayton
- City of Englewood
- City of Union
- Gem City Pawn and Loan
- Kindred Funeral Home
- Vital Signs
- Wagoner's Power Equipment

Thank you!

We list our valued sponsors on our website.

