VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2 **APRIL–JUNE 2019**

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.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Doris West

Whenever warmer weather arrives, we shall have more spring in our step. The sunshine has a great effect on our attitudes and brings back our enthusiasm.

We want to spruce up outside our entrance. This will not only make the area more attractive but also eliminate those pesky weeds. To do this, two of our fundraiser projects this spring are a book sale in April and a garage sale in May, both held at our Center. Please donate used books, VHS or DVD movies, VHS and DVD players (in working order), sheet, music, vinyl records, and cassettes or DVDs of music. Items can be dropped off Wednesday or Saturday afternoons or phone us for pick up.

Please hold onto garage sale donations until the first part of May. About any clean item is acceptable, but no large, heavy items, big furniture, or clothing (except vintage ladies' hats). All types of linens are needed. Children's toys usually sell, and jewelry is desirable.

Here's hoping you will catch that spring fever soon and be boxing some donations for our fundraiser sales!

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

April 10, 7 P.M. business meeting/miniprogram: TBA
May 8, 7 P.M. business meeting/miniprogram: TBA
June 12, 7 P.M. /business meeting/miniprogram: TBA

Special Events

Book Sale, April 26 (10 A.M. to 6 P.M.) & 27 (10 A.M. to 2 P.M.) at the History Center

Garage Sale, May 30 & 31 (8 A.M. to 4 P.M.) & June 1 (8 A.M. to 2 P.M.), at the History Center

Visitors Hours

April 7 & 14, May 5 & 19, and June 9 & 23, 2 to 4 P.M., at the History Center

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

JANUARY 2019: The Society ended 2018 with 182 memberships, the same as in 2017. The memberships brought in approximately $2,625.00, and $990.00 came in extra donations with renewals. Dayton Power & Light trimmed the trees members had been worried about. In an attempt to attract more families when public hours resume, the RTHS is planning a display of antique toys. The water problem in the basement has been almost solved. The front doorknob now has a plastic grip to make it easier to open, and there is an LED light on the inside of the door that turns on when tapped so people coming in at night can see to locate the foyer and meeting room light switch. Work on the outside lighting will have to wait until spring.

FEBRUARY 2019: After all the expenses last year, it was nice to hear from Treasurer Robin Perkins that the cash assets had increased in the past month. Kate Evans brought County Auditor Karl Keith and two co-workers in the auditor's office to hear her father, David Evans, speak to the meeting. The acquisition of the new lot means the RTHS had to prove tax-exempt status again, and Ivan Clark is working on the paperwork. Glynn Marsh told the Society that it would be unnecessary to have the lot surveyed before beginning landscaping, as the City of Englewood would have done so before turning the lot over to the RTHS. He promised to help with updating the maintenance manual. The Northmont Class of 1964 will tour the Center as part of its reunion in July, and the scoutmaster of Troop 325 is trying to arrange to hold a troop meeting at the Center. Doris West said the RTHS will hold a book sale and, later, a garage sale in conjunction with the city's garage sale. Ivan reported the heavy rains in the past week had only left less than five gallons of water in the basement. After the business meeting, Dave Evans, former Police/Fire Chief of Clayton and long-time Randolph Twp. firefighter/paramedic, spoke on his experiences

MARCH 2019: Assets were down again, but this was due to expenses involving the PastPerfect and Web site. Memberships, on the other hand, are slightly above this time last year. A local Boy Scout troop planned to have a meeting and tour of the Center, and it was possible some Scouts might help with the flower beds as a merit badge project. Various members are obtaining quotes of fertilizer and seed and investigating what permits, if any, are needed for shrubbery, fencing, or possibly a gazebo in the new lot. (Suggestions for improving the look of the areas to each side of the front door are welcome.) The operations manual is being updated. The Society has filed the paperwork to prove tax-exempt status to the state auditor and started preparing the end-of-year reports. There are two new displays. "Local Businesses" in the northeast corner of the meeting room shows photos of long-departed businesses, and "Toys from the Past" on the lower level displays playthings that amused children of past years. The RTHS will hold a book sale on April 26 and 27 and a garage sale on May 30 and 31 and June 1. After the business meeting, Ruth Ann Peck, a former Northmont Middle School teacher, presented a miniprogram on her great-grandfather, a Civil War soldier.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

In Memoriam

The January newsletter carried an announcement of Glen Wagoner's death but there was no time for more information. Wagoner grew up on the farm on Union Road, currently the site of J. D. Custard and the car wash. Learning the nursery business at Deeter's Nurseries, he started Wagoner Landscaping and Garden Center on W. National Road in 1965. Now Wagoner Power Equipment, Inc., it is still operated by Wagoner Family members and will celebrate its 54th anniversary this year. He became a lifetime member of the RTHS in 1999.

Robyn Oldham Jepsen died in January. She had been a life member since 2004.

Jane Woolery Schumacher died in January. A 1968 Northmont High School graduate, she had been a member of the RTHS since 2012.

Ed Boshinski died in February. He had not been a member as long as the others, but will be missed.

Joanne Gambee, who died last fall, was not a member of the RTHS, but many will remember her book, *The Dam Battle*, and the talk she gave in 1993 on the opposition in the northern Miami River Valley to the building of the Conservancy Dams.

THE FAMILY TREE



by Kay Dawson

Looking It Up

This a wonderful time for historical or genealogical research.

Originally, historians had to travel to do research. Records might be in various museums and archives according to where the event took place. Researchers wanting records might have to go to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., get permission to research, sign in, leave all belongings but a pencil (no pen) and paper in storage, and then spend the day carefully leafing through papers, some so delicate researchers had to wear cotton gloves to avoid damaging them with oil from the skin.

Other records on the same topic might be in state libraries or museums on the other side of the country. Some were in other countries with their own regulations. Newspapers might be in storage in public libraries or even in the newspaper buildings themselves, and some did not survive.

In the 1960s and 1970s, microfilm and microfiche improved matters. Now microfilmed records could be borrowed from the National Archives or other libraries. But the researcher still had to use them in a library.

These sources still exist, of course. The recently renovated Dayton Metro Library now makes its archives available for casual browsing, without the need to decide which dates of a paper you need and requesting only that microfilm. (But PLEASE rewind the microfilm afterward!)

The archives of the RTHS are available, with family histories, cemetery records, the *Englewood Independent* from 1975 through 2008 and some copies of earlier papers such as the *Argus-Sentinel* from the 1960s.

But the Internet has opened up the world to researchers. More and more archives are being digitized and can be accessed from any computer.

Anyone in the area with a Dayton Metro Library Card can obtain a PIN number with a librarian's help, enter http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/, click on the "RESEARCH TOOLS" link, and find links to various databases containing scholarly journals, old newspapers, and items from the library's Dayton Archives. A few databases, such as Ancestry.com, must be used on the library computers, but most are available from any computer with an Internet connection. And if you are not very proficient with the Internet, you can ask for a tutorial from a librarian.

One of the most interesting databases is the Oxford English Dictionary, not only defining the word but tracing its first appearance and its changes over time. It will tell us, for example, that *history,* in the sense of a chronical record over time, first appeared in a recognizable form in the late 1400s.

The Dayton Metro Library has also added Heritage Quest Online, ProQuest African American Heritage, and Fold3 Library Edition, which has military records.

There are other databases giving access to old newspapers. The *Lewisburg Leader*, from 1898 to 1982, with news of Preble County, is available online at from http://lewisburg.advantage-preservation.com.
And https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/, through the Library of Congress, offers a directory of U. S. newspapers from 1690 to the present and digitized copies of papers from 1789 through 1963.

Besides research, these are interesting reading. But be careful. In college, I used to spend lunchtime in the college library reading old newspapers and magazines. Unfortunately, one winter my next class was clear across campus, was not my favorite subject, and was taught by a professor with an impenetrable accent. I sometimes spent that class period in the library reading old newspapers, too!

Membership Report by Wilma Schroeder

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.

Memberships Processed January–March

Family: David & Belinda Bleam (r); Carolyn & John Bruns (r); Gordon & Bonnie Harris (r); James & Donna Hendrickson (r); Chris & Jaime Klein (n); Karen & Don Sodders (r); Jim, Carolyn, & Carla Van Dyne (r); Ron & Mary-Ann White (r); Susanne Wertz (r); Ray & Judy Wollenhaupt (r).
Individual: Cathy Allison (r); Anita Bannerman (r); David Bowman (r); Thomas Eastridge (n); Marilyn Ekberg (r); Barbara Eller (r); Sarah Grantz (r); Carol Hoke (r); Myron Mann (r); Inge Pierce (r); John Ruel (r); Jerry Sherman (r); Gloria Warner (r); Lenette Newel Wilde (r).

ACQUISTIONS

The Randolph Township Historical Society has reached a milestone: it now has a contracted part-time person, Jennifer Woods, to record our acquisitions backlog. She puts in a couple of hours now and then to help us get caught up.

There are several ways to think of this development. Members can be very proud of ourselves that we managed to do this task ourselves for 20 years. For more than 10 years, this was done by hand and on Sue Cummings' computer at her home. Then, thanks to Sue's research and creativeness, after moving into the History Center the RTHS was gifted with computers for the Center and purchased PastPerfect software, a program designed for museum acquisitions. Volunteers installed the computers, and Jennifer Woods and Doris West worked very hard along with Sue to enter all the previous acquisitions while keeping up with new ones. Many local historical societies never have members with the expertise to do this or the willingness to devote the necessary time.

The Society can also be proud that it is on a firm enough financial footing at present to be able to hire someone to do this.

In either case, we can all be grateful to the Board of Directors for arranging this and to Jennifer for being available.

From Cleva Collar: WWII radio used by her husband Jay in New Zealand and New Caledonia;
Army boots (on loan);
Mustache cup (on loan);
Little Boy Blue bluing package.

From Larry Crowell: One white enamel chamber pot with handle (missing its lid).

From estate of Kevin Kern: Book of Englewood Fire Department 1999;
City of Union Police arm patch;
City of Union Police Officer hat of Kevin Kern;
Englewood Fire Department helmet of Kevin Kern;
Newspaper clipping (two copies) of Randolph Township Volunteer fire workers;
Newspaper clippings of VFW Post 5434 seat belt education program;
Northmont Band hat of Kevin Kern;
Picture of City of Union Police officers with Kevin Kern second from right;
Picture of Northmont Band on parade;
Picture of Northmont Band;
Randolph High School Commencement program, May 27, 1949;
Shadowbox of award to Union Police Officer Kevin Kern upon retirement (served Oct. 1990–Oct. 2011);
Two Northmont marching band epaulets, 1977;
Two pictures of police officers in D.A.R.E. program;
Union police large coffee mug, black with gold trim.

From Monty Mercer: Old cake carrier.

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Correction

At the January meeting, members questioned the 1725 date on the plate donated by David Hoke containing the picture of the Hoke meeting house. A closer check found the plate said the 1700s.

According to the Hoke (Hock) Family History in the RTHS archives, David Hock ran a grocery on the site. One winter evening, a person bought a gallon of liquor from him, drank most of it on the way home, passed out, and died from exposure. In his guilt, Hock quit selling liquor and built a church on the site of the grocery.

In an addition to the story, Jesse W. Hoover, author of the family history, adds that the story cannot be true as it mentions a date of 1758, and David Hock was not born until 1789. (It couldn't have been his father George, either, as that person was born in 1750.) The oldest readable tombstone near the church has a date of 1780.

Hoover refers to a letter from an ancestor which mentions a church service there when the ancestor was 20. Doing the various math calculations, Hoover says the church had to be built earlier than 1850.

So the dates remain uncertain, but 1729 is almost certainly too early for the church.

In any case, the RTHS is very grateful to have both the plate and the family history.

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Recently, some changes have been made to the Center, some to the building and some to the contents.

Building Improvements

Perhaps the most welcome news about the building is that the after 10 years of mopping, wet vacuuming, installing new spouting, and sealing walls, we seem to have won the battle of the basement. After a recent record-breaking rain, the water amounted to only a few gallons and was quickly removed with the wet vac.

The doorknob on the outside of the entrance door has always been highly polished smooth metal. This has been very attractive. It has also been very frustrating, especially for people who have any arthritis in their hands or wrists or for people carrying things. There is now a plastic grip on the doorknob that makes it easier to grasp.

There is also a light on the inside of the left-hand door at the entrance. Members entering the foyer at night, or entering from bright daylight and finding it difficult to adjust to the dimness, no longer have to grope past the fire extinguisher to turn on the lights. Merely reach to your left, locate the light on the left-hand door, and press it. It will give you enough light to navigate to the light switch you want. Press it again to turn it off.

Finally, the thick carpet has been removed from the back steps, making the treads noticeably longer with no danger of shoes catching in the pile of the carpet. There are also rubber strips on the treads for better traction. This staircase is still steep, so the front stairs are more widely used, but the back staircase is no longer heart-stopping.

New Exhibits

Last year the RTHS decided to make the exhibit in the southeast corner of the meeting room a rotating exhibit. Some of you will remember that a display of old tools succeeded "Grandma's Kitchen."

The tools have now been moved to the lower level, and in the corner, Doug Allen has assembled a group of photographs and memorabilia of old Englewood businesses. Do you remember the Burger Chef? Or the PDQ Market in the Englewood Plaza? And how many of us picky eaters were told by parents, "If you don't like what I serve, take your allowance and go to Shaw's"? (Maybe you were on the Northmont Amateur Baseball Team that Shaw's Inn sponsored and got a free meal when the team won the championship.)

And in the lower level is an exhibit of "Toys from the Past." These include games and toys enjoyed by youngsters from the 1940s on. In addition to the toy Army truck with a cannon mounted on it, produced by the Noma Company during World War II to keep the company's name before the public, the exhibit included a game of Tiddlywinks, doll beds, other trucks, and a model railroad once belonging to Ron Papp. In the center of the oval of the railroad track is a turnpike service plaza.

Now that public hours are resuming on April 7, come in and see the improvements.

Needed for Fundraisers

The RTHS will hold two fundraising events this quarter. There will be a used book sale on April 26 and 27, featuring not only books but CDs, cassettes, DVDs, and records. (There may be another such book sale near Christmas.)

And on May 30 and 31 and June 1, the RTHS will again hold a garage sale in conjunction with the Englewood area garage sale.

While we do have some things left from last year's two sales, one of which was hampered by horribly hot weather and the other which threatened to be rained out, we can always use more, especially for the book sale. Bring items to the Center on work days or the public days. We can also use volunteers. Last August, Jack West was very helpful, even though he had to run back and forth as Doris was confined to her home with a broken ankle. She has promised to try to stay on her feet this year, but Jack did more than his duty last year and is entitled to take the day off.

"I believe it is important for any community to collect and preserve its history for future generations."
Alex Heckman, vice president of Dayton History

MINIPROGRAMS

Occasionally, daily home tasks (or Miami Valley winters) overwhelm us and we can't arrange a mini-program or can't arrange it in time to publicize it. The difference was noticeable between the February talk by Dave Evans, which we were able to get into the media and which attracted some nonmembers, and the March talk by Ruth Ann Peck, no less interesting but arranged too hastily to get a notice in the paper. Doug Allen tries to announce these on our Facebook page, so some of you local people might check there to see what's happening. And if you do see a notice of a talk, please notify any of your friends and neighbors who might be interested.

Dave Evans

After the February meeting, Dave Evans, former Police/ Fire Chief of Clayton and long-time Randolph Twp. firefighter/ paramedic, presented a miniprogram on his experiences. He discussed the early EMT and paramedic programs and the changes in care provided at the scene. As the area's first EMT, he remembered how the approved first aid for poisoning was burnt toast and tea, neither of which was obtainable when the local funeral director doubled as an ambulance service.



Dave Evans shows his Randolph shield and the white leather helmet he bought as Phillipsburg fire chief.

He also reminisced about his experiences during the Xenia tornado of 1974, the Blizzard of 1978, and several notable fires. Like other local firefighters, he remembered the tragedy of the fire that killed Northmont teacher Eloise Rosser's husband. The night was so cold that firefighters got frostbite and equipment froze to the ground and had to be replaced.

"This was January," he recalled. "I think it was March before we got the hoses frozen to the ground out of there. Some of the equipment wasn't back in service totally for two or three weeks, because we had to find parts for them."

Ruth Ann Peck

In March, Ruth Ann Peck, a former teacher at Northmont Middle School and a local author, talked about her Civil War ancestor. After her father's death, Peck and her family found a box in his closet. Inside were letters from her great-grandfather, David Smith, written to his family during the Civil War. Peck read excerpts from the letters and some poems she had written inspired by his Civil War actions.

Smith enlisted in the 95th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1862 and participated in the siege Vicksburg in 1963. On June 4, 1864, he was captured at Brice's Crossroads and spent the rest of the war in the notorious Confederate prison camp at Andersonville.

After the war, the freed prisoners boarded two steamboats, the *Sultana* and the *Baltic*, and started north on the Mississippi River. Near Memphis, the overloaded *Sultana* exploded with many deaths. Smith was on the *Baltic* and arrived in Memphis safely.



Ruth Ann Peck shows photos of the visit she made to Smith's grave in Memphis.

Here his luck ran out. Sympathetic Union soldiers fed the freed prisoners too generously, and like many others, Smith died of digestive problems.

For years, Peck said, the family thought he had been buried elsewhere, but when she finally located his grave in Memphis, she visited it, and she showed the RTHS the photos she took of it.

The author of *Rowing through the Night,* a book of poetry, Peck was inspired by her ancestor's story to write several poems about the Civil War.

Both talks are being transcribed for the oral history file at the Center

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 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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RTHS A PRESENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Many of us dinosaurs who don't use social media don't realize the following the Randolph Township Historical Society has on various sites.

Currently, our Web site is sadly out of date, but Doug Allen has been very active in getting the RTHS exposure over many sites.

The RTHS has a Facebook page with 134 members (https://www.facebook.com/RandolphTwp/). Doug often posts on this page when he intends to be working at the History Center, and several people who have seen this have visited at those times.

In addition, Doug has made sure we are linked to several other sites.

"I Grew Up in Englewood, Ohio" (https://www.facebook.com/groups/206968599429766/) has about 6,000 members who share their memories of Englewood over the years. More than 1,000 members of "I Grew Up in Union, Ohio" (https://www.facebook.com/groups/460352897342337/) do the same.

It may not seem like the 77 members of "Village of Old Clayton, Ohio" are a lot, but it is for people who grew up in the old Village of Clayton, which at its largest had only a few hundred residents! (It was the sort of place where people not only knew each other, but they also knew each other's dogs.)

Nearly 4,000 people share memories of deceased Northmont students, teachers, and administrators on "Northmont Thunderbolt students gone but not forgotten," (https://www.facebook.com/groups/120448461303699/).

Another site, "Northmont Local Information and Discussion," (https://www.facebook.com/groups/864755356917583/), with about 1,300 members, offers news and discussions concerning Englewood, Union, and Clayton.

RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Clayton - 1816 Englewood - 1841 Union - 1816

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER REMAINING IN 2019

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

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

April 10, 7:00 P.M.
(*note time change*)
May 8, 7:00 P.M.
June 12, 7:00 P.M.
July 10, 7:00 P.M.
Aug. 14, 7:00 P.M.
Sept. 11, 7:00 P.M.
Oct. 9, 7:00 P.M.
Nov. 13, 1:00 P.M.
(*note time change*)
Dec. 11, 1:00 P.M.

Work Sessions:

Wed. & Sat. afternoons
1–4 P.M.

Visitors' Hours at the History Center

Usually first & third Sundays,
2–4 P.M., April–October
Apr 7 & 14
May 5 & 19
June 9 & 23

Open other times by appointment
Call 836-6751

Special Events:

Book Sale:
April 26 (10 A.M.–6 P.M.)
April 27 (10 A.M.–2 P.M.)
at the History Center.

Garage Sale:
May 30 & 31 (8 A.M.–4 P.M.)
June 1 (8 A.M.–2 P.M.)
at the History Center

New Exhibits:

Englewood Businesses

Toys of the Past