VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4 **OCTOBER–DECEMBER 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

Hello, everyone! Are you ready for pretty leaves and cooler weather? Fall is upon us. Enjoy!

We have been very busy at the History Museum these past three months. Two glass-doored upright bookcases were donated and have been refitted with glass shelves and lighting. These will be perfect for our World War II and Civil War memorabilia.

Other large donations have also kept us busy. We received five fireman helmets that were in use when we were Randolph Township and two very old brass fire extinguishers. On page 4 you can read about some of the sports items Coach Rick "Fireball" Roberts collected during his 35 years coaching Northmont baseball and football. (We featured many of these items at our booth during the Fine Arts Festival back in August.)

We are so excited to bring a "new" person into our Board of Directors for the 2020 year. Angie Hoschouer of Union, whom you may have heard about, is Manager of Development and Marketing at Woodland Cemetery and Aboretum. At our September meeting, she gave a nice slide show and talk about the meanings and significance of symbols such as angels, sheaves of wheat, hands, etc., found on tombstones and also spoke about funeral customs around the world. She is not only a life member of RTHS, but also one of the small group of folks who met years ago for the purpose of getting the RTHS started. You will see her name on our slate of officers and directors (enclosed).

Have a pleasant autumn and remember RTHS when you do your end-of-year giving.

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

Oct. 9, 7:00 p.m./business meeting/ miniprogram: Restoring cemeteries and gravestones, with Misti Spillman

Nov. 13, 1:00 p.m. (*note time change*)/business meeting/miniprogram: TBD

Dec. 11, 1:00 p.m./business meeting/miniprogram: TBD

Special Events

Oct.–Dec.: "No-Bake" bake sale

Dec. 6 & 7: Used books and holiday decorations sale

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

JULY 2019: Visitation at the History Center has increased, with five visitors in the past month. The Northmont Class of 1964 and the Randolph Class of 1959 made the Center part of their reunions. The City of Englewood repaved History Lane and Valleyview Drive, Cable Brothers mulched the flowerbeds and trimmed the shrubs around the History Center, and Deeter's Nursery has planted several pine trees, 12 to 16 feet tall, along the north edge of the front lot. On the downside, Ivan has been unable to persuade Rumpke's drivers not to drive over the lawn to get to the apartment house's dumpster. Doris reiterated that she will not serve as president next year and urged people to consider taking on the position. Angie Hoschouer said Misti Spillman, who works with her at Woodland Cemetery, specializes in cemetery restoration and conducts sessions on how to restore old gravestones. Angie urged members to attend Spillman's classes and suggested the Holt-Rinehart Cemetery could be worked on this fall. Board members present approved spending $350 for a photoelectric light to improve visibility and security in the parking lot after dark, and Jim Eidemiller offered to donate the money to the RTHS. After the meeting, Steve Woolf, Clay Township trustee, administrator of Jefferson Township, and a member of the board of the Ohio Township Association, spoke about the history of Randolph Township and townships in general in Ohio.

AUGUST 2019: Eight people visited the Center in the past month. Deeter's Nursery watered the pine trees throughout the August heat. The paving on Valleyview altered the water flow, with water running through the north lawn and eroding the edge of the bluff at the drainage tile. The City of Englewood denied any responsibility for either drainage or a warning sign at the bluff. It would cost the RTHS more than $2,000.00 to have it done and $432.00 to do it ourselves. Since the paving, drivers on Valleyview are driving faster, but the city said the current speed limit signs at each end of Valleyview are sufficient and suggested the RTHS could erect a "SLOW" sign at our own expense or a sign on History Lane. An injury to a Glow Electric worker has delayed the lighting of the parking lot. The RTHS booth at the Englewood Festival on July 10 and 11, with Northmont memorabilia donated by the family of Rick Roberts, was well attended. Robin Perkins notified the RTHS she will not be able to serve as treasurer next year. After the business meeting, Sinclair librarian Andrew Walsh presented a miniprogram on "Lost Dayton" and signed books for some members.

SEPTEMBER 2019: The History Center had six visitors during the last month. Ron Papp planted mums in the flower beds in front, and a new photoelectric light has been installed at the peak of the roof outside to give light on the parking lot and front door at night. Ivan Clark is still waiting on a third quote on a drain for the north lawn. The Center needs volunteers to pull weeds around the new shrubs. Possible improvements to be considered for the future include new heaters in the restrooms and LED lights in the office. The RTHS received donations of two display cabinets, and Ivan replaced the wooden shelves in them with glass shelves and installed lights. They are on either side of the dais at the front of the meeting room. The Center also received donations of firefighter hats and equipment, fire-related knickknacks, and toys. The donors suggested if the items were not suitable for display they could be sold to raise money for the RTHS. Glynn Marsh has agreed to be nominated for president, and Doris is urging Jack West to be nominated as treasurer. After the business meeting, Angie Hoschouer offered a miniprogram featuring pictures and explanations of the symbols on tombstones and funeral customs around the world.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

The Montgomery County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is sponsoring its annual genealogy seminar on Oct. 12 at Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Rd., Kettering. Conducted by Certified Genealogist Dana Palmer, the workshop will cover such topics as finding burial locations, military research using fold3, understanding county boundaries that may have changed since the ancestor lived there, and using residences to find ancestors.

For more information or to register, go to www.mcc.ogs.org.

THE FAMILY TREE



by Kay Dawson

Genealogy revitalizes history

"Why do your ancestors matter?"

This is difficult for genealogists to explain. Obviously, you are no better or worse a person for being descended from a Medal of Honor winner or a horse thief.

But genealogy remains a fascination for many of us, and the best explanation is that it puts a face on historical facts. We learn the facts of the American Revolution or the Civil War, but it's sometimes hard to remember that these events were carried out by real people.

Intellectually, we realize immigrants left relatives behind, but my family has a letter dated 1718 to John King, who settled in Palmer, Massachusetts, in 1712. His mother wrote from England that she is glad he is well but "I shall never overcome my grief . . . that I have but little hope of ever seeing you again."

RTHS members enjoyed Scott Trostel's presentation on the Lincoln Funeral Train, describing how people in Piqua came to the station at midnight to pay their respects. But I remember my mother relating the story she heard from her grandfather telling how, as a nine-year-old boy, he had been awakened near midnight, told to dress in his Sunday best, and walked with his family across farm fields to stand in a silent crowd beside the tracks as the train passed west of Piqua.

William Faulkner once said, "The past isn't dead. It isn't even past." He was referring to the Southern devotion to the Lost Cause, but when I stood in Woodland Cemetery, looked at the grave of my Civil War ancestor, and realized he died only a few months before my father was born, I realized the connection with the Civil War is not that far back.

Genealogy also fills us with wonder at the sheer luck that goes into our existence. My maternal great-great-grandfather came to the Piqua area to work on the Miami & Erie Canal and liked the farmland he saw. Had he stayed in the east, my grandfather would not have been in a position to move to Chicago to work, where he met my grandmother. My grandmother was there because her father in Germany had reasoned the Chicago Fire of 1871 would offer opportunities for a builder.

There is a genealogy workshop on October 12, sponsored by the Montgomery County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. (*See p.2 for details.)*

In addition, the Randolph Township Historical Society is beginning to collect genealogical materials on the first families who lived in rural areas and villages within its boundaries. Eventually, we hope to have a genealogy focus group and make our materials available to others for research purposes.

If you wish to donate copies of genealogical items in your possession, or are willing to let us copy your materials, the Society would be happy to work with you.

We already have some information in our files on the following families: Beery, Betz, Brown, Brumbaugh, Cassel, Coppock, Deeter, Deubner, Dohner, Engle, Ewing, Frantz, Harbaugh, Hocker, Hoke, Hoover , Horner, Hoschouer, Inman, Jackson, Jay, Landes, Miller, Moist, Mote, North, Olinger, Rasor, Robers, Rinehart, Royer, Seibel, Shaeffer, Sheets, Sibert, Spear, Turner, Waler, Warner, Whiting, and Young.

Membership Report
by Wilma Schroeder

Please check the mailing label on your newsletter. If 12/19 appears in the upper right corner, your membership is about to expire. Unless you renew, the January 2020 issue could be your last. Memberships run from January to December, and people joining or renewing between now and the end of the year will be members through December of 2020. While we hate to discontinue the newsletter to anyone, we simply can't afford to keep mailing it to non-members. If you think the expiration date is in error, please contact us with the details.

Memberships Processed
July – September

Family: Luke & Jessica Bergman (R)
Individual: Arthur Brumbaugh (R, for 2 years), Romaine Gilleland (n), Myron Mann (r), Judy McDowell (r), Patricia Saylor (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.

ACQUISTIONS

For years, the late Rick "Fireball" Roberts was a teacher at Northmont. Among other duties, he taught driver's ed (although whether that brought him credit or blame varied). He was also a coach. Carol Roberts and the family have donated much of his material to the Historical Society, and it is being catalogued. Some of it is listed below. If something is not listed, it is not because the RTHS doesn't appreciate it but just because it has not been entered in the records yet.

"Northmont Thunderbolts" 1966 football brochure;

10"X12" wood-mounted color picture of 1975 Northmont High school football team with names;

10"X12½" wood-mounted color picture of 1983 Northmont baseball team, with names;

10"X12½" wood-mounted color picture of 1978 Northmont High School Troy champion baseball team, with names;

10"X12½" wood-mounted color picture of 1979 Northmont High School MCC champion baseball team with names;

10"X13" wood-mounted plaque of 1977 Northmont High School football team;

10"X8" wooden plaque presented to Rick Roberts when inducted into Northmont High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012;

11"X14" color photo of Northmont 1970 football varsity team;

11"X14" color picture of Northmont baseball team, date and names unknown;

11"X14" color picture of Northmont varsity football team, date and names unknown;

13"X17½" black framed homemade tribute to Northmont 2001 football state playoffs with color pictures of football team and autographs;

1967 SWBL Football and Cross-Country Sports Banquet handout;

1967 football schedule;

1968 football schedule;

1969 football schedule;

2012 Northmont Athletic Hall of Fame program;

23" long triangular green and white pendant saying "Ned's night May 2, 1986" and "Thanks Ned for 24 great years! 1962–1985"

3"X3" wooden plaque labeled "champion softball team, 2nd summer session 1962";

3"X5" black and white photo of Northmont 1979 varsity football team;

3"X5" color snapshot of Northmont baseball team, date and names unknown;

5"X7" black and white photo of Northmont reserve cheerleaders, date unknown but name on separate sheet;

5"X7" black and white photo of Northmont varsity cheerleaders, date unknown but names on separate sheet;

5"X8" black and white photo of Northmont baseball team, date and names unknown;

7"X9" wood-mounted brass plaque saying "Rick Roberts (The Bolts are Back!) 1989 Varsity Football";

8"X10" black & white photo of 1968 Northmont football reserve team;

8"X10" black and white photo of Northmont football team, date and names unknown

8"X10" color photo of 1980 Northmont varsity football team;

8½"X1" green-on-white booklet named "A Night with Ned," May 2, 1986;

9"X12" green and white metal plaque with black and white photo, 1972 Northmont football SWBL champions, with names;

9½" X 12" wood-mounted plaque of 1980 Northmont High School football team;

Four issues of "The Northmont Spirit" dated Oct. 7 through Dec. 22, 1966;

Seven issues of "The Northmont Spirit" school newspaper Feb. 17 through Oct. 20 of 1967;

Green Northmont baseball-type cap with front brim;

Handwritten "T-Bolt Song" by seniors of 1972 football team;

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Part of being a good neighbor is keeping the property looking nice, and the RTHS has been working to make sure the History Center is an asset to the area.

Greenery

Last fall the City of Englewood donated the lot north of History Lane to the RTHS. Over the winter, it looked like what it was: a vacant lot. With the coming of spring, a member arranged with Deeter's Nursery to plant eight large pine trees along the north side of the lot, and an anonymous member generously donated the payment. The project had to be postponed due to the wet spring and then due to cleaning up fallen trees in the area after the tornadoes.



Before planting



During planting



After planting

But last July the Society's turn finally came. Over the course of a few days, the nursery planted the trees and watered them in the August heat to give them a good start.

The trees not only add to the appearance of the lot but provide a natural line between the Society's property and the apartment building next door and, of course, trees always add to the ecology of the area.

Ivan Clark also arranged with Cable Brothers to mulch and clean the flower beds around the History Center.

Let There Be Light

The Society has long been concerned with the darkness in front of the building. While during the winter, meetings are moved to the afternoon to keep members from having to drive after dark, there are still times when spring or fall meetings run late or someone has to come after dark to do some work, and navigating to and from the front door after dark can be hazardous. And this poses a security problem. While the Englewood police are very vigilant, after dark the building was invisible from Main Street, and a police officer or even a casual passerby wouldn't be able to see anyone causing a problem.

At the July meeting, the board members present voted to have a photoelectric light installed to improve visibility and security in the parking lot after dark. Another member offered to donate the money for this.

The project had to be postponed when a Chase Electric employee was injured in a motorcycle accident, but the light was installed in late August, and the building is not only visible at night but safe for members.

In Memoriam

Lifetime member George Ledford died last January. He joined the RTHS in the summer of 2010 and soon after upgraded to a life membership. He attended meetings regularly for several years. The Society extends its sympathy to his sons, Timothy and Gregory, who still live in the area, and to the rest of his family.

The RTHS lost another member when Baxter Schroeder, the History Dog, died last summer. Wilma Schroeder gave a membership in his name during a membership drive, and Baxter quickly became a welcome member. He carefully inspected the poodle skirt displayed during the Society's 1950s program and urged people to donate to the drive for the new "roof, roof." An honorary member of the Board of Directors, he listened carefully to proposals and seemed to approve, even though he lacked a vote. But sadly, an aggressive form of cancer took him in July.

MINIPROGRAMS

Township

In July Steve Woolf addressed the RTHS about townships in Ohio. Woolf is president of the Clay Township Board of Trustees, a member of the Ohio Township Association, administrator of Jefferson Township, and a life-long resident of this area.

Twenty states still use townships, a local jurisdiction beginning with the Puritans. The largest township in Ohio is Westchester Township in Butler County, with more than 60,000 residents, and the smallest is Jefferson Township in Guernsey County (not the same township Woolf works in), with a population of only 86 people. Often multiple townships in the state had the same name. At one time there were two Randolph Townships, but when the Village of Clayton and Randolph Township merged to form the City of Clayton, only the township in Portage County remained Randolph Township.

Woolf concluded by telling members that townships were important in the history of the area and praised the RTHS for "keeping the history alive."

Finding Lost Dayton

In August, Andrew Walsh spoke to the RTHS about "Lost Dayton." The author of a book by the same title, the Sinclair research librarian showed photos of areas and buildings in Dayton that have disappeared or been altered. He was able to take pictures inside the dilapidated penthouse atop the Center City Building, and he had Sanborn Fire insurance maps showing what used to be located in the Oregon District.

Some of the audience of nearly three dozen people had lived in some of the areas he talked about and were able to add their own reminiscences to his talks.

Many also bought his book to learn more than he had been able to cover in his talk. A transcription of his talk will be put in the RTHS archives.

Cemetery Symbolism

After the September business meeting, Angie Hoschouer showed photos of and explained the symbols on tombstones, using pictures of tombstones in Woodland Cemetery in Dayton. For example, an arch could symbolize victory over death, and a tree trunk could indicate a life cut short. Some tombstones carry Masonic symbols or other symbols indicating the deceased's role in life. She had a photo of the tombstone of the parents of John Aull, appropriately showing a tree. She also explained the Jewish custom of leaving stones on the grave as originating in the desert, where stones provided extra protection to necessarily shallow graves, and the custom of leaving coins as commemorating the idea of paying the mythological ferryman Charon to carry the deceased's soul across the River Styx to the underworld. The use of the word "urn" for the container of the ashes left by cremation comes from the Latin verb *uri*, "to burn." She also had very intriguing photos of funeral customs around the world.

HELP THE RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A few months ago, we received a nice surprise in the mail. One of our members had authorized their financial planner to issue us a check for $2,000 from their current IRA distribution.

After so many garage sales, antique appraisals, and used-book sales, we are about buzzed out. We have a handful of worker bees who actively participate, but their ages are between 70 and 85. How will we raise funds in the future without expending all the physical energy and taking so much time away from our homes and families? We may have to rely on donations of one sort or another.

We are having our annual "No-Bake Bake Sale" this fall, when, instead of actually baking, members donate the amount they would have spent baking and buying treats. There are forms on p. 7 for these donations.

We are also planning a used-book and holiday-decorations sale after Thanksgiving.

Another historical society's newsletter included a form to facilitate a person's wish to donate once, directly from that year's IRA distribution. The RTHS has created a form for making such a donation to our History Museum. If you would like to consider that option, phone the office and leave a message and we will see that you get a copy.

Thank you for helping keep history alive in our tri-city (Clayton, Englewood, and Union) area.

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

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Many RTHS members provide painless donations by linking their KrogerPlus card to the RTHS.

Kroger awards money to nonprofit organizations registered with the program. The money is a percentage of the total allotted by the company and reflects the percentage of the total spending by the members of each organization.

Each year, the RTHS receives hundreds of dollars through this program, dollars donated by members who are only buying what they would normally buy.

If your card is already linked, this will be noted at the bottom of your receipt. If it is not, you can go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com on any computer or call 1-800-837-4483. Enter your KrogerPlus card number and link the card to RTHS (NPO #81403). Reports sent to RTHS only show the customer's name, KrogerPlus Card number, and the donation amount.

This is an excellent way to help the RTHS with no added strain on your budget.

"No-Bake" Bake Sale

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ **Email (optional):** _____

I would like to donate to the "No Bake" Bake Sale: **$**_____

Please send completed form with check to:

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

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 2019

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

Monthly Meetings:
2nd Wednesdays

Oct. 9, 7:00 p.m./
"Cemetery & Gravestone Restoration,"
by Misti Spillman

Nov. 13, 1:00 p.m.
(*note time change*)

Dec. 11, 1:00 p.m.

Visitors' Hours at the History Center

2–4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 6 & 20

Open other times by appointment.
Call (937) 832-8538 and leave message

Work Sessions:

Wed. and Sat. afternoons
1–4 p.m.

Special Events:

October–December/ "No-Bake Bake Sale"

Dec. 6 & 7/
Used books and holiday-decorations sale,

Exhibit:

Rick "Fireball" Roberts and Northmont sports memorabilia