VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2 April–June 2022

Randolph Times...

"Uniting the Past with the Future"

Visit our website: www.rths.org

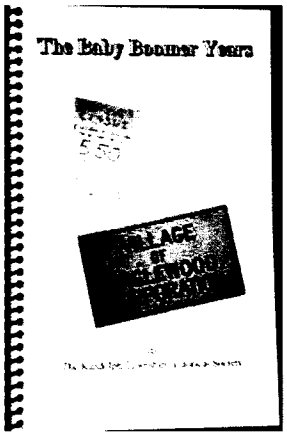
Quarterly Newsletter of Randolph Township Historical Society, Inc., 114 Valleyview Drive, Englewood, OH 45322
Dedicated to Preserving the History of Clayton, Englewood, Union, and the Surrounding Areas.

Officers

President: Doug Allen *Vice–Pres*: Robin Perkins
Recording Sec'y: Kay Dawson
Corres. Sec'y: Terry Guerra
Treasurer: Doris West
Ops. Dir.: Kristina Balside

Directors

Barb Eller (2022)
Mary Geiger (2022
Bill Gothard (2022
Ron Papp (2022)
Craig Falknor (2022–2023)
Jeffrey Harding (2022–2023)
Glynn Marsh (2022–2023)
Wilma Schroeder (2022–2023)



(See P. 6)

Like us on Facebook

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

From the desk of ... Kristina Balside

When I was offered the position of Operations Director at the History Center, I was overjoyed at spending time with all the amazing museum pieces that we have in our collection, reading family histories from the area, and hearing stories of how pieces were passed down through generations and then donated to the Museum. These precious items can now be shared with others and kept safe for future generations. I've been a "History Nerd" since I was a really young kid, so the Historical Society Museum feels like it's the place where I belong.

One thing I hadn't realized though, is how many amazing people I would meet! I've had the pleasure of getting to know the members and volunteers here at the museum and see how much they care about preservingthe history of Randolph Township. Their dedication has kept the RTHS growing since the founding in 1998.

I have also met amazing visitors and new members who have come in with personal stories of growing up in the area, objects they found when they were kids, memorabilia, and discoveries of relics that they would like to find more information about. Each time I hear a family story or get to share in the excitement of a discovery, is like a new adventure for me. I've learned so much more than I knew before of our local history, and I've heard remarkable stories. Please share your memories with your family, write them down, pass them on! Always feel free to share with US. Your personal histories help build the foundation of our region, and we want to keep it alive and growing.

☞☞ UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS ☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

April 13: 7:00 p.m./business meeting, talk by Martin Gottlieb
May 11: 7:00 p.m./business meeting
June 8: 7:00 p.m./business meeting

Special Events

April 13: Martin Gottlieb, *Lincoln's Northern Nemesis*, 7:00 p.m.
(see p. 5)

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

January 2022: The treasurer's report showed a slight decrease in total income. The total cash assets of the Society on Dec. 31, 2021, equaled $31,440.36. Furnace repairs have been completed, Doug Allen donated a new clock for the Museum. Kristina Balside, Doris West, and Kay Dawson will serve as a committee to consider changes to the newsletter as part of the renewal of normal activities. Work is progressing on updating the members list. Kay said an official of another organization old her PayPal operates by taking a small percentage of everything paid, and Glynn advised avoiding electronic payments as providing too much opportunity for problems. There was no program following the meeting, but cake was enjoyed to celebrate the new year.

February 2022: The cash assets for the RTHS increased by $3,230.35 during the month of January, with a balance of $13,478.25 in the checking account. Kay produced a letter to the chairman of social sciences at Northmont, offering the RTHS's services to his departments on projects and making his students welcome at the Center. Members discussed holding a car show as a fund-raiser later in the year. Mary Geiger suggested a quilt exhibition and said one of her friends would be happy to help. Cleva Collar suggested inviting people from assisted living facilities in the area to attend. Robin Perkins said Martin Gottlieb had accepted an invitation to speak on Clement Vallandigham, a Civil War leader of the Peace Democrats, at 7:00 on April 13. His book, *Lincoln's Northern Nemesis : The War Opposition and Exile of Ohio's Clement Vallandigham.* will be available for purchase. (*See p. 5.*) Glynn Marsh and Kristina suggested arranging a program about the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphanage Home in Xenia. At a board meeting on Feb. 9, the board voted to have 35 copies of the booklet "The Baby Boomer Years" printed at $5.00 each. (*See p. 6.*) Members also voted to arrange with a local printer to print T-shirts with logos of old businesses. Kristina said First Financial Bank can set up a link on our website allowing people to pay for memberships and donations. The board decided to see if the web master could do something similar and voted to gather more information. The board also voted not to join the Englewood Chamber of Commerce.

March 2022: The RTHS scheduled a car show for Sunday, July 17, 2022. September was decided on as a good month for the quilt display. Doug Allen, Wilma Schroeder, Doris West, Kristina Balside, and Robin Perkins agreed to try to design a floor plan for the meeting room that would maximize displays and meeting space. Kay suggested displaying maps and maybe some photos in an upright poster display. Robin suggested a space for temporary exhibits. Kay also suggested considering a brochure to explain displays to cut down on the space needed for signage. The members voted to seek three estimates on solving the water problem in the basement, and Doug volunteered to handle that.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

Sheets Rifles

Sheets rifles manufactured in Union, Ohio were milled during the 1800s. Although intended for hunting, there is some possibility that the government contracted with Martin Sheets of Union to purchase 100 rifles during the War of 1812.

Any owners or collectors of any Sheets rifles are encouraged to contact the History Center. Call 937-832-8538 or email: info@rths.org.

RANDOLPH RAMBLINGS

by Kay Dawson

Clean Clothes

Over the years, this area has had around four laundromats, sometimes more than one at once.

There were, at one time or another, Monday's Maid at 531 S. Main Street (the current location of Beeco Plumbing), Castle Cleaners at 1075 W. National Rd. (in Englewood Plaza), Englewood Self Service Laundry and Dry Cleaners at 15 W. National Rd. (now the location of Visiting Angels), one at the northeast corner of Wenger and Union roads, and for a short time one in the Northmont Plaza shopping center on Taywood Road. Laundromats first opened in Texas in the 1930 s but they really became popular in the 1950s and early 1960s. Despite postwar prosperity, home washers and dryers were still an expensive luxury, and many inexpensively built homes or older homes had no room or adequate plumbing.

But folks saved their change to pay to use coin- operated machines and were more than willing to abandon the old wringer washers. These were tubs with an electric motor below them that powered an agitator and two cylinders fastened together on top of the tub in a frame that could be swung to the side.

Women filled the tub with soap and water and an adjacent tub, or sometimes two tubs, with clear rinse water. If she had a "modern" house, she filled the tub with a hose attached to a tap in the laundry room. If not so lucky, she carried buckets of water (and for a while my mother had to heat the water on the stove). After the machine had been plugged in and the clothing agitated a proper amount of time, the wringer was swung over the rinse water and the clothing was pressed between the cylinders, dropping into the rinse water with most of the soapy water squeezed out. More than one person had a finger or hand crushed between the wringers.

If the area had "hard" water (containing iron and fluoride and other minerals), she added a fabric softener or vinegar to the rinse water. In the 1950's homes had private wells, and some towns did not get their water service from Dayton, leaving hard water for the residences. Brookville water contained so much iron that it often discolored clothing.

Meanwhile, the next load was started. Often, the clothing was squeezed again into a second rinse, but in any event, it finally passed from the wringer into a clothes basket, carried outside, and hung on a line. In bad weather it might be hung on a line in the laundry room or basement.

Line-dried clothing had a smell that dryers can't duplicate. However, it also collected pollen, was the target of birds, and often had to be hurriedly brought in while damp if rain threatened. Clothing not brought in before a rain started sometimes had to be run through the wringer again to squeeze out excess water and rehung to dry.

And my mother discovered another hazard when my brothers tied their pet goat too close to the hanging laundry. By the time she noticed it, the goat was happily chewing one of her undergarments! It's no wonder people were so happy to take a handful of quarters and go to a laundromat, where they could do several loads at once, sit and read, watch TV, drink coffee, or chat with their friends, and in about an hour take home dry clothing?

Membership Report

As of March 9, two new members have joined the RTHS in 2022. Seven members have renewed, and three have upgraded their memberships. Also, Carra Builders has renewed its corporate membership.

Please check the label on the back of your newsletter to see if you need to renew.

Memberships run from January to January, but people joining in the last quarter of the year have until the end of the following year to renew.

2021 Corporate Members

CARRA BUILDERS, INC.
CITY OF CLAYTON
CITY OF ENGLEWOOD
CITY OF UNION
KINDRED FUNERAL HOME
LANDES FRESH MEATS, INC.

IN MEMORIAM

Canceling our meetings during the pandemic helped keep our members safe, but it meant we lost touch with many and are just now learning of those we have lost.

- Joann Connors had been a member from 2008. Until her health no longer allowed, she always volunteered her services in some capacity at programs and other events.
- Joyce Ann Martin passed away in December 2020, after being a member since 2012.
- Rita Boshinski, a member with her husband since 2017, died in June 2020.
- Viola Richardson Olinger left us in October 2020. She and her husband, Dick, had joined the RTHS in 2018.
- "Susie" Wertz died in March 2021. She had been a member of the RTHS since 2018.
- Roger Rhoads passed away in April 2021.
- Arlene Szkudlarek left us in December 2021.
- Jo Ann Renner died in January 2021.
- Dave Christian left us in June 2021. He had been a life member since 2008.
- Virginia Wolf passed in March 2021. She contributed an oral history to our archives.
- David Nicholson died in October. While we are of course sorry to learn of his death, we appreciate that his wife, Terry Nicholson, has replaced their family membership with her own individual one. We hope she will continue her participation for many years.
- Bob Peters passed in November 2021. He had been a member almost since the start, having joined in January of 1999.
- Larry Crowell died in December. He was a member since 2007 and, like Joann Connors had contributed many services to the RTHS.
- Loren Butterbaugh left us in December 2021. He, too, had been a member nearly from the beginning of the Society and over the years had contributed many invaluable services. He is responsible for the cemetery readings in the archives that preserved the records of fading tombstones. He played a major role in the purchase of the History Center, serving on the board of directors that approved the purchase. He provided one last service when his family suggested donations in his memory to the RTHS.
- Doug Balsbaugh passed away in January. The owner of Balsbaugh Excavating, Inc., he had been a lifetime member since 2007.
- Marilyn Baker died in January 2022, after being a member since 2008.
- Mary Ann Mehaffie also left us in January. She had taught for 34 years at Northmont and had been a lifetime member of the RTHS since 2012.
- Glenna Dohner died in February 2022. She had been a member since 2001.

No matter how long they have been members or how much they were able to participate, the Randolph Township History Society is grateful for their support over the years, and to their families, we offer our sympathy!

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

As things open up again, the RTHS is again planning programs. All programs are free and open to the public.

Program by Martin Gottlieb

After the regular business meeting at 7 p.m. on April 13, Martin Gottlieb will present a program on Clement Vallandigham. Mr. Vallandigham had been a prominent attorney and Congressman from Dayton at the beginning of the Civil War. He quickly became the leader of the Peace Democrats, a Northern party that favored peace even if it meant accepting slavery.

His arrest by the military in 1863 sparked a riot that left Dayton under martial law. He was convicted by a military tribunal, but President Lincoln commuted his sentence to exile behind Confederate lines. Vallandigham made his way to Canada and continued his agitation. After the war, he returned to Dayton and rebuilt his career. He died at the Golden Lamb while preparing to defend Tom McGehan against a charge of murder.

Mr. Gottlieb retired from the Dayton Daily News after 27 years, and has written *Lincoln 's Northern Nemesis: The War Opposition and Exile of Ohio's Clement Vallandigham*, which will be available for purchase at the program for $25 (cash or check only) Attendees should plan to arrive about 6:55. Light refreshments will be served.

Car Show Scheduled

The RTHS will hold its first ever car show on Sunday, July 17. The entry fee will be $15.00 with registration at the History Center as the date approaches. Awards will be given for different categories. Godown's Fixin's will be available, serving their amazing menu items. Check the Web site or our Facebook page for details on when registration is available.

Quilt Shop

The RTHS is also discussing a display of local quilts. This will be held in September, and the next issue of the newsletter will contain more details.

Ideas for Programs?

If any local members have been doing any research into a topic that would be a suitable program, have discovered letters or diaries from an ancestor, or know of a person who would make an interesting speaker, please contact Vice President Robin Perkins at info@rths.net or 832-8538. And if any of our members, located out of state, have attended any programs that would lend itself to a local version, please contact us.

LOOK LEFT AND RIGHT

For many years, the History Center seemed to be the best-kept secret in town. When people asked where it was, "114 Valleyview Drive" often brought the puzzled response, "Where's Valley-view Drive?" Many people never noticed there was a street between Main Street and the bluffs above the river.

Lately, it seems people have discovered it. It's not a heavily traveled thoroughfare, but when arriving or backing out of the History Center parking spaces, please check all directions, including History Lane. We want all our members alive and well. PLEASE LOOK !!

HISTORY IS TODAY

Too often, people think of history as great events performed by people with old-fashioned clothing and hair styles.

For many years, history was taught as the accomplishments of great men. But in the 1970s, a new group of historians began studying "history from the ground up," looking at the lives of ordinary people as they went about their daily lives.

Below is an account of the memories of one local resident, Dave Oldham. A member of the Northmont Class of 1961. His memories here are of activities past and of places unknown to many later residents.

In 1956–57 we use to go horseback riding down by Carillon Tower in south Dayton on the Miami River. There was a riding stable along the river where we would rent horses by the hour. It was so much fun, but it didn't fill our thirst for horseback riding. That winter for Christmas I got a horse which made me so happy! So, on Saturdays in Spring and Summer we, Bill Josselyn, Bob Holloway, Mike Beriese, and I would take off on our horses and ride along the sides of the roads over to Millers Grove Pool and Drive-in Theater or other destinations as long as we stayed off the main highways.

One particular Saturday it started raining and we stopped by a farm to ask if we could put horses in barn until the rain stopped. I think we were there an hour or so, then left and made it home for our Oreo cookies and milk. Back in those days cars weren't as prevalent on the roads and drivers were courteous by not honking their horns and scaring our horses!

On Thursdays we would ride down to Randolph School and watch a football game or just stop to talk to some of the kids. Sometimes we would take some of the kids for a ride on our horses. So much fun! We would have liked to ride in the conservancy or park but I don't think we were allowed. That would have been the ideal area to ride with paths and woods available.

One year, before we got our horses, the Englewood carnival raffled off a large pony for the grand prize. Lots of kids wanted that pony but didn't realize where to put it or feed it if they won! I guess the idea of winning a pony, was a dream come true for young kids.

Years later they changed locations of the carnival to the playground of the Randolph school, and I don't know how many years it was held there.

There were free movies held on the side of the old Legion Hall; they put up a screen against building. Then they moved the movies to the Randolph playground on a screen in back of visitors' stands. They would get pretty large crowds at free movie, especially when held in town! THE END!

Baby Boomers

The RTHS has published a booklet entitled "The Baby Boomer Years". This compilation of stories was written by kids that were born after WWII, that grew up in our area. This generation saw rapid changes all around them. Randolph Township grew from three small towns with small schools to a suburban area with a large school district.

The booklet is available for $5.00 at the History Center. It is also available by mail, with a charge for postage. There is an order blank on Page 7.

Membership Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____ New membership: _____ 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 $ _____

Please send completed form with check to:

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

Please send _____copy(ies) of ***"The Baby Boomers"***

If ordering several copies, please attach a list of names and addresses on a seperate sheet.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make checks payable to:

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

Number of Copies $ _____

X $5.00 Each $ _____

Postage - $5.00 Each $ _____

Total $ _____

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 2022

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

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

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

Visitors' Hours at the History Center

The History Center is open on Sundays from 1 through 3, as long as members volunteer to host. If the flag and the OPEN sign are out by Main Street, come on in!

The Center is also open other times by appointment.

Call (937) 832-8538 and leave message.

Special Events:

April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Martin Gottlieb program on Clement Vallandigham

Sunday, July 17
1:00-6:00 pm:
Car Show