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Randolph Times...

"Uniting the Past with the Future"

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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.

We're back in action! Come up and see us sometime!

The History Center is open most Sunday's, 1–3. Check Facebook or look for the flag on the sign at Rt. 48 and History Lane.

Officers

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

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)

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Doug Allen

With the new year upon us, we are looking at a period of reorganization here at RTHS. First, let me say that I'm very pleased to be chosen as the new president. I look forward to working with our members who have been appointed to new positions. Robin Perkins is our new vice president, Doris West our new treasurer, and Terry Guerra our new membership and correspondence secretary, and our new board members are Jeff Harding and Craig Falknor.

In November, the board voted to contract with Kristina Scott to be our new operations director from December 1, 2021, through November 30, 2022. Kristina will be responsible for recording acquisitions, managing membership expansion and donation drives, and facilitating museum tours, among various other duties. We're all very happy to welcome her aboard and look forward to working with her.

We'd also like thank those who have stepped down from their positions: Cleva Collar, Wilma Schroeder, and Jack West.

We are all looking forward to a very successful 2022!

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

Jan. 12, 1:00 p.m./business meeting
Feb. 9, 1:00 p.m./business meeting
Mar. 9, 1:00 p.m./business meeting
Apr. 13, 7:00 p.m./business meeting (*note time change*)

Special Events

Currently no special events or speakers are planned until the evening meetings are resumed, although members may offer diary or other readings after meetings.

If you have any suggestions for a speaker you think might be interesting, please pass any contact information you have along to the historical society.

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

It's been a hectic, disjointed time for the RTHS, as for everyone. The board of directors met from time to time (carefully masked and socially distancing until members were fully vaccinated), discussing matters that could not be put off. President Angie Hoschouer reported on many of these decisions in past newsletters.

At the end of February 2020 the RTHS had $4,293.61 in the checking account and assets of $26,869.98. During the shutdown, the bills kept coming in, but our members stayed loyal and donated money, including a generous amount from an anonymous donor, and paid their memberships. At the end of November 2021 the checking account had $10,562.99, and the cash assets were $31,745.00.

In May, the board of directors decided to open the Center every Sunday except holidays from 1 p.m. through 3 p.m. until November, and at the November meeting Doug Allen suggested maintaining public hours through the winter, weather permitting and volunteers available. Between June 6 and Dec. 5, about five dozen people visited. Angie arranged to have some of the larger signs from the lower level hung on the walls of the meeting room. Misti Spillman resigned as executive director to take a full-time job.

In July, members considered Angie's suggestion to have the RTHS sell T-shirts with logos of businesses from the past as a fundraiser and having a "Class Wars" donation contest. Kay Dawson said she is preparing a booklet of memories on the Baby Boomer years in the area.

In August, Angie scheduled Tim Gaffney to speak at the October meeting, and in September Doug Allen reported he had replaced the front window damaged by a BB gun. There was no evidence that there had been an attempt at a break-in.

At the October board meeting, Angie Hoschouer announced her resignation as president. She left a resumé from Kristina Scott, recommending her to replace Misti Spillman as executive director. Doug Allen participated by phone, and Kay suggested we might want to consider this for future times when a quorum was in doubt. The regular business meeting followed the board meeting, and Tim Gaffney spoke about his book, *Dayton Beer: A History of Brewing in the Miami Valley*. Monty Mercer displayed some of his collectable beer bottles.

In November a new slate of officers was elected. (*See p. 1.*) Doug reported that the fall rains had left four inches of water in the basement and suggested the RTHS should give serious thought to finally settling the problem once and for all. Cleva Collar suggested raising funds by inviting residents of the assisted-living places in the area to tour the center, at possibly $1 a person.

Kristina Scott began work on Dec. 1 by preparing a phone tree so board members can get word to each other when necessary. She also invited suggestions from everyone, has started writing grants, and will contact members of her high-school class who may be interested in the RTHS. Robin Perkins invited suggestions for programs when they resume in the spring. After the meeting, Cleva showed some old and German Christmas decorations.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

Missing from Among Us

The area has lost several notable people over the past 18 months. Ivan Clark died in November 2020. He had been a long-time member of the RTHS and was at the time of his death serving as vice president.

Barbara Rapp died in June 2021. She and her husband, Joe Rapp, were well known in the area as they operated Rapp Jewelers for many years, and she was a member of the RTHS for several years.

Dorothy Lurz, a longtime member whose oral history is in the archives, died at age 104. She was a member of the historical society for most of its existence and in 2013 contributed an oral history interview to our files.

Dane Mutter died in October of 2021. In addition to being a member of the RTHS, he worked for Aullwood Audubon Farm, Five Rivers MetroParks, and Beavercreek Wetlands Association, and published two books on the natural and cultural history of the area.

The Randolph Township Historical Society extends sympathy to all the family members.

RANDOLPH RAMBLINGS



by Kay Dawson

Twenty-five years ago

The court ruled the election was valid.

Not *that* election. When Clayton and Randolph Township voters agreed in 1996 to merge into the city of Clayton, Englewood and Union challenged the vote, claiming residents of those cities should have a say in the matter as some of the police and fire services were mixed.

The RTHS History Center has a collection of bound copies of the *Englewood Independent* from 1975 through 2008. These are fascinating to look through, reminding us of what the area was like even a few years ago and often telling us of ordinary events that turned out to be significant later.

One of the points of dispute was over whether there should be a joint fire district. In February 1997 the Court of Appeals ruled the merger vote was valid. The decision said that when Englewood and Union incorporated as cities, they removed themselves from township jurisdiction, and the Ohio Revised Code did not allow municipal residents to vote on issues involving unincorporated areas of a township. But the court declined to rule on the question of a joint fire department.

This didn't end the disagreements, as after a discussion about the merger, local officials didn't even agree on what subjects had been agreed on. But in March, a new fire and EMS district for Englewood was formed, with the split between the Randolph Township and the Englewood Fire Districts to take place in six months.

Elmer "Buddy" Bergman became head of the Englewood Fire Department.

The controversy didn't seem to have played a part in the defacing of the fire station on South Walnut Street by racist and what the *Independent* termed "other inappropriate" remarks. Police quickly arrested a suspect, and resident Daniel Smith began removing the graffiti as a public service.

Of course, other things happened in the area. There was a stretch of sub-zero weather and snow, and the *Independent* ran the usual pictures of children playing in the snow and snowmen standing guard in lawns.

In January, Englewood acquired a wellfield on East Wenger Road to supply water to the city. This was a much better investment than officials could have foreseen at the time. In 2019, a water main break under the Miami River in Dayton and, five months later, the damage to one of Dayton's pumping stations by the Memorial Day tornadoes left much of the county without water and then with a boil advisory. Englewood, along with a few other cities whose governments had the foresight to acquire their own source of water, suffered no such problems.

But the same issue of the paper that reported on the acquisition of the wellfield reported a water main break on Tate Avenue.

Even though January weather is not usually conducive to construction, the extension of the Dayton Metro Library branch at the back of the government center was nearing completion. It has served the community ever since and will be replaced by the new building now under construction on National Road.

The lack of sewer facilities threatened the completion of the housing development at Westbrook and Crestway, but at the Northmont Government Round Table, "a spirit of cooperation" prevailed as local officials discussed a sewer district. They also opposed the relocation of the county courts to the Reibold Building in downtown Dayton. This relocation had been proposed to settle competition between New Lebanon and Trotwood for the court building.

Local residents made news. Marie Aull turned 100. She had donated the land that became Aullwood Audubon Center and Nature Center and enjoyed meeting children using the center. Ned Sifferlen, a local resident, became president of Sinclair Community College. In February Dick Cool, long-time band director at Northmont, died.

As spring arrived in March, Englewood was building Centennial Park

Membership Report

The memberships are still being updated.

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. Unless you are a lifelong member, there should be a date (12/21, 12/22, etc.) in the upper right of the label. If it is earlier than 12/22, your membership has expired and you need to renew. One effect of the pandemic for many has been a blending of 2020 and 2021 in many people's minds. We would not like to see you miss any activities.

The RTHS figures memberships to run from January to January, but if you joined the Society in October, November, or December, your membership includes those months as well as the following year.

ACQUISITIONS

Between changes in personnel, lockdowns, and computer problems, we have gotten behind in listing the acquisitions. None have been lost or misfiled, and all are appreciated. We hope to get a more complete listing in the near future.

Anonymous: Black cloth zippered money pouch, with lettering saying "Farmers & Merchants Bank of Englewood";
Clayton Junior High School diploma issued to Fred Baker in May of 1947;
Randolph High School diploma issued to Fred Baker in May of 1950.

Brad Herr: Two diaries and scrapbooks from 1860 owned by the Heck family.

Linda Overla Ireland: Quilt by Anna Rasor, 1901; Antique frames with Elsie Fetters Mumma, aged 6 to 8 months and aged three years;

Art Mumma: Fairview High School baseball and basketball team picture; Marriage license issued to Art and Elsie Mumma; High School diploma issued to Art Mumma;

Jack West: an old level.

Change of Personnel

As mentioned in the October 2020 newsletter, the RTHS hired Misti Spillman as the executive director. During the shutdown, she and President Angie Hoschouer worked to renovate the displays in the meeting room and to update records.

In May, Misti was offered a full-time job with benefits elsewhere and naturally did not feel able to pass up the offer. She said she intended to remain active in the RTHS when possible.

President Angie Hoschouer felt it necessary to resign as president at the October board meeting, and Vice President Doug Allen took over as acting president until the new slate of officers was elected at the November meeting. The board decided to look for another executive director and in November interviewed Kristina Scott for the position. The board also decided the title of Operations Director better described the duties of the position.

Kristina retired from the Dayton Metro Library where she spent years cataloging materials and learned the gravity of properly handling and archiving historical items being added to the collection. She is becoming well-acquainted with PastPerfect, our museum software in which the RTHS acquisitions are catalogued.



After 12 years as the corresponding/membership secretary, Wilma Schroeder has decided she would like to take a break. Terry Guerra has taken over that position.

Also, Craig Falknor and Jeffrey Harding are joining the board of directors, serving two-year terms.

Operations Director's Corner — by Kristina Scott

Happy New Year from the RTHS! With the approaching New Year, the Historical Society is excited for many new adventures!

We have had some exciting changes in leadership and are looking forward to new energy, programs, and members. We are planning on expanding membership with a drive to include more of the Gen X crowd. Those of us born in the '60s, '70s, and '80s hold fond memories of growing up within the Randolph Township boundaries, such as sledding at the Englewood Dam, homecoming parades down Main Street to the football field (then by O.R. Edgington School), watching movies at the Englewood Cinema, and hanging out at Godfather's Pizza. An amazing time and place to grow up!

As the new Operations Director, I am flattered and grateful for the warm welcome I have received by the Board of Directors and leadership of the Historical Society. Please follow along as we start a new chapter of growth in the coming year!

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Evening of Beer

At the October meeting, Tim Gaffney addressed the RTHS on the history of brewing in Dayton. He is the author of *Dayton Beer: A History of Brewing in the Miami Valley.*

Newcom Tavern had a brewery as early as 1809, and Springfield had one in 1804. Many of the early settlers were German and brought with them their tradition of brewing beer.

City Brewery discovered how to make cold, clear lager and spurred the growth of the industry in Dayton. For a long time the Schwind family dominated the industry; the Schwind Tower on First Street was the first skyscraper in the city. Later the Schantz family intermarried with the Schwinds, and the family dynasty dominated the industry for years.

The Sachs-Pruden brewery started by making ginger beer that was sold nationwide and then became a brewery. This building is still standing on Patterson Boulevard now houses the Dayton Metro Library offices.

Hollencamp was one of the few breweries to survive the Prohibition years. Improved refrigerated transportation helped hasten the end of the local breweries in the 20th century, although local microbreweries are a growing industry.

Monty Mercer displayed some of his collectible beer bottles (empty) in the lobby.

After Gaffney's talk, Angie Hoschouer passed along a story she had read in an old paper. Appearing in Dayton, the magician and escape artist Harry Houdini allowed himself to be chained and shut in a barrel at a brewery. Escaping from a container while chained was a specialty of his act. He escaped, but the fumes from the former contents of the barrel so affected the teetotaller that he had to go for a walk to clear his brain!

Christmas Decorations

After the December meeting, Cleva Collar showed some unusual Christmas decorations. Some of them were musical; one group played carols and lights twinkled when buttons were pushed. There were two figures made by the Amish and a family of Victorian carolers. There was also a windmill that rotated when the candles under it were lighted. (*See p. 8.*)

Water in the Basement

The History Center has always been plagued by water in the basement, but there has been some progress made.

Ron Papp purchased a second dehumidifier that is helping remove humidity, not only stopping condensation but helping preserve the artifacts stored there.

Extensions on the downspouts are helping divert some of the rain from the foundation. They should be buried, though, to avoid interfering with the mowing, and the last board meeting included a discussion of how to contact and pay for someone to repair and seal the foundation where the lobby joins the main body of the church and how to divert water from the emergency exit from the kitchen.

Last fall, Doug and Monty found several inches of water in the basement following the season's heavy rains. They spent a few hours removing it, and Doris West, Ron Papp, Mary Geiger, and Wilma Schroeder spent even longer cleaning mold from some of the items that were damaged.

And Doug and Monty found the rains brough an unusual visitor. A frog was seen hopping through the basement! Don't worry, animal lovers. They captured it, and Monty took it to the bluffs behind the Center so it had a chance to make its way home. Let's hope it is currently telling of its big adventure "the livelong day/To an admiring bog." (Apologies to Emily Dickinson.)

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Volunteers

The Historical Society has always been fortunate to have loyal volunteers who have donated lots of time. Not until spring of 2020 did the board decide that the RTHS needed more professional help, when Misti Spillman became the executive director. Now Kristina Scott has succeeded her, but the RTHS still has plenty of roles for volunteers.

A lot of people don't like being pinned to a schedule as though they were still working, and a lot of retirees are busier than when they were working. But there are plenty of "now and then" opportunities to volunteer.

For example, while we treasure all our historic artifacts, there is nothing historic about their dust. Maybe someone could stop by to dust and vacuum occasionally. (Supplies are provided.)

When programs resume, there may be a need for help setting up chairs or directing parking if there is a very popular program on a weekend. Maybe someone would like to help supply simple refreshments for these programs.

Once every quarter, we need a few people to help address and mail the newsletter. If there are enough volunteers to put it on an assembly line basis—one taping, one applying the address labels, one applying stamps, etc.—the work goes fast and is a bit reminiscent of the old quilting or corn-husking bees.

Occasionally, there is a one-time job. We may need extra hands to set up a display or move a display case. The flower bed may need mulching. (The RTHS hires a lawn-mowing service.)

And, of course, the Center can always use hosts to welcome visitors. Some hosts may want to come on a regular basis, and some may only be able to come once every few weeks, but any help is welcome.

Anyone who can donate a few hours occasionally or regularly or just wants to indicate a willingness to be asked can leave a message at 937-832-8538 or email info@rths.org.

Visitors

The RTHS decided last summer to keep the Center open to the public every Sunday instead of two Sundays a week. Several of us were dubious about this, but we were very happy to be proven wrong. Since July 11, about five dozen people have visited the Center on Sundays.

The Center has also attracted the notice of planners of high school reunions. Besides enjoying the general school memorabilia, these visitors can usually look through their yearbooks (laughing at the hairstyles they once thought were "cool"). If the graduating year is later than 1975, the host can make that year's copy of the *Englewood Independent* available for perusing.

At the November meeting, Doug Allen suggested keeping the Center open through the winter, assuming the weather permits and we can get volunteers. Glynn Marsh volunteered one Sunday a month. So far there have been enough hosts, but often the same people are doing this and the RTHS could use more hosts.

The Center is only open two hours on those days. If no one shows up the hosts can browse through the files and find interesting items. If visitors do come, usually their questions are answered by the signs on the exhibits or host can provide the information by looking in the file cabinets. Also, there is usually a second volunteer.

Currently the hours are 1 through 3 p.m., but there has been discussion about changing them to 2 through 4 p.m. Several hosts have noticed that more visitors arrive after 2 p.m. The hours and whether the Center will be closed on any given Sunday is on the RTHS Facebook page. Also, if you see the flag is hanging on the sign at the corner of History Lane and Rt. 48, the Center is open.

Membership Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address (optional) _____

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:

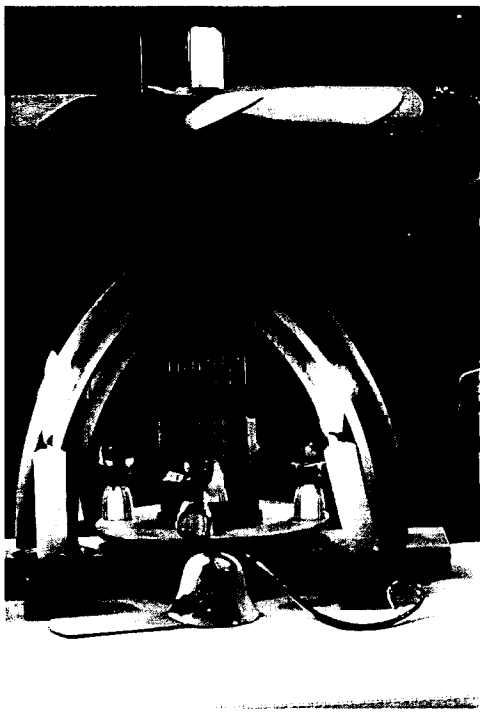
Randolph Township Historical Society
RTHS History Center
114 Valleyview Drive
Englewood, OH 45322-1324

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 show only 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 the RTHS as the your designated organization.





Cleva Collar shows the Christmas decorations she brought to the meeting. Some are old and handed down through her family and some she acquired in Germany. This windmill (L) rotated when the smoke from the lighted candles rose to the blades. (Photo by Kristina Scott)