VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1 **JANUARY–MARCH 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.

Officers

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

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Cleva Collar (2019)
Glynn Marsh (2019)
Ivan Clark (2019)
Shirley Whiting (2019)
Barb Eller (2019 & 2020)
Bill Gothard (2019 & 2020)
Monty Mercer (2019 & 2020)
Ron Papp (2019 & 2020)

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ivan Clark

I want to thank all of the officers and directors of Randolph Township Historical Society for making my year a great one! I feel we accomplished much during the year, but we have a lot more to do in the coming year.

We still need volunteers. Help with planting flowers, weeding, and watering will be needed in the spring. General maintenance inside the building sometimes needs attention, such as emptying waste baskets, sweeping floors, and dusting.

Donations of artifacts continue to come in. These enable us to create new displays and add to existing ones. Our next display, now in the planning stages, will be "Toys of the Past." To be located in the lower level, it will be of interest to the young ones and the young at heart. We are focusing on very early toys up to and including those of the 1970s vintage. Please contact us if you have something for consideration.

We continue to add to our police and fire departments displays.

As you can see, I am rambling on about different happenings here at the History Center.

It has been a rewarding year for me, with many new experiences. Thank you for letting me serve.

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

Jan. 9/business meeting, installation of new officers/ miniprogram: TBD

Feb. 13/business meeting/
Dave Evans, former Clayton Police/Fire Chief
& Randolph Twp. firefighter/paramedic

March 13/business meeting/miniprogram: TBD

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2018: The Center had 13 visitors last month. The October newsletter was delayed so the slate of officers could be mailed with it. The City of Union has agreed to provide a base for the toolmaker statue that used to stand in front of the Te-Co building. Union's City Manager John Applegate contacted the Society about the house he owns on N. Main Street in Union. This was the second brick schoolhouse in Union, and he and the owner of the first brick schoolhouse, on E. Martindale Rd., would like to get plaques on the houses designating their history. Glynn said they are not eligible for National Historical Buildings because of structural changes but suggested the owners could have plaques made on their own. The board of directors voted to accept the offer of Lot #31 from the City of Englewood, free of any costs or restrictions. [*See p. 6.*] The RTHS should get two trees on the south lawn trimmed before winter weather comes, and the Center needs better lighting and security in the front. Glynn Marsh suggested the RTHS look into hiring Jennifer Woods, who helped set up the PastPerfect system, to catalogue acquisitions for RTHS. The 2019 slate of officers was presented.

NOVEMBER 2018: Wilma Schroeder reported that the Society has gained four new memberships. The History Center had 20 visitors in October. Officers for 2019 were elected. [*See p. 1.*] The City of Englewood has turned over the deed to the lot north of History Lane to the RTHS, paying all the fees involved. There is no increase in the RTHS insurance, and the mowing will only cost an extra $35. The trash dumpster serving the adjacent apartment has been moved. Tree trimming will have to wait because Chris's Tree Service is busy. Ivan asked for volunteers to help update the maintenance manual to list new vendors. The History Center passed its fire inspection. Jennifer Woods has been working on office matters in PastPerfect. After the business meeting, Gerald Peters of the Brookville Historical Society presented a miniprogram on Model A cars. His own restored Model A was parked outside the History Center.

DECEMBER 2018: Before the meeting, several members enjoyed a holiday carry-in dinner on the lower level. The RTHS has received 10 new memberships this year. There have been nine visitors during the past month, despite no public hours. These people possibly came because Doug Allen has been publishing on Facebook when he will be working at the Center and welcomes people then. The No-Bake bake sale brought in $130.00. The RTHS is still on a waiting list for the installation of the Te-Co statue and the tree-trimming, and no progress has been made on the lighting. (Neither the city of Union nor the tree company is giving poor service; they are both very busy and we'll just have to wait our turn.) The paperwork transferring the front lot to the Society has been completed, but any discussion of landscaping can be postponed until closer to spring. Ivan ended the meeting by saying it had been very rewarding to serve as president. After the business meeting, Mark Brownfield, Public Safety Director of the City of Englewood presented a miniprogram on his years as an Englewood official.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

In Memoriam

Glen Wagoner, a lifetime member since 1999, died in October. Members of the RTHS extend their sympathy to his family.

Even if you are not able to attend meetings because of health or distance, the RTHS is very grateful for your support, and we miss each member we lose.

Volunteers wanted

Too many organizations rely on one person to do a task, and if that person is incapacitated, no one else knows what to do. Our maintenance and procedures manuals are supposed to prevent that, but they haven't been updated lately.

If you would like to help update it, which is largely checking names and numbers and recording them on the correct page, please leave a message at the History Center.

THE FAMILY TREE



by Kay Dawson

Communications of the past

How many of us grew up with telephone party lines and rural route mail delivery?

I suppose the best way to explain a party line to youngsters is as a family plan for several houses. Each home had its own ring. People in one house, for example, would answer when they heard two short rings and a long one, and another family would answer one short and one long. Everyone on the line could hear every other conversation, and there was an accepted (but not always observed) etiquette. If you picked up the phone and heard conversation, you either hung up and waited or, if it was urgent, interrupted and politely asked to use the line.

My parents once discovered my older brother and his friends not only listening to a phone call between one boy's sister and her boyfriend but also taping it. Party line etiquette was sternly enforced that night by the various parents!

Long distance calls were special events, and unless it was a holiday a long-distance phone call was likely to be bad news. The call was especially frightening if it arrived during a weekday or if it was a person-to-person or collect call. Rates were significantly lower in evenings and on weekends You made a station-to-station call if you wanted to talk with anyone at the recipient's household, but if you needed to talk to a specific person, you paid more for a person-to-person call. (A familiar "scam" was for a family to agree on a code name indicating something, such as safe arrival at a destination. The caller would place a person-to-person call for that name and the recipient would say the person wasn't there. The caller avoided charges, but the recipient got the message.)

Collect calls, charged to the recipient if he agreed, were reserved for extreme emergencies or when someone had no money to call home.

When my father called his brother in Florida on Christmas, he called the operator in the morning and gave her the number. If all circuits were busy, as was usual on holidays, the operator put him on a list. Sometime later in the day, the operator would call to say the call was ready to be placed, and if this happened during dinner, everyone waited. If you passed up your chance, the call might not go through for the rest of the day.

Until the 1970s, Brookville was a long-distance call from most of the surrounding towns, except Trotwood. Many Brookville businesses paid for both a Brookville number and a Trotwood number. There were even people who had to call long distance to reach a neighbor across the road!

The mail was no less complicated. Some people rented a box in the post office, but most rural homes were on a Rural Route delivery. Rural areas lacked street numbers until 1973, and your address was the route number and the box reflecting your position on the carrier's route. (Ours was Rural Route #1, Box 272.)

People who lacked a stamp could fasten the correct amount of money to the envelope, and the carrier took it to the post office and bought the stamp for them.

This, by the way, explains some of the odd addresses in the area. For years Englewood had no motorized carriers, so when the town started expanding, some of the new houses had to get their mail from Clayton or Dayton.

[*Ed. note: While substituting for a teacher in an elementary school, I had to explain a party line to the students. I'm not sure they believed me*.]

Membership Report by Wilma Schroeder

All memberships except lifetime ones expire in January. If you join in October, November, or December, your membership expires in December of the following year, giving you a few bonus months.

Please check the date in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on this newsletter. We dislike losing readers, but it is unfair to send the newsletter after your membership has expired.

Memberships Processed October–December

Family: Cory, Jess, & Adeline Paul (n)
Individual: David Brust (r), Sally Carles (r), Cleva Collar (r), Kay Dawson (r), David Evans (n), Shirley Frick (r), Nancy Pfeiffer Katowik (n), Judy McDowell (r), Pat Mulso (n), Nancy Oren Smith (n)
Sustaining: Catherine Springer (n)

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

From Anonymous Donor: Law Enforcement award to Terry McCrary, former Englewood Police Officer, 1969.

From Sandy Benton: Picture of Randolph High School, all students and teachers taken on lawn, 1923; Picture of Salem (Clayton) School #8, taken 1911 showing all elementary students and two teachers in front of school building (stamp on back identifies this as Edwin Sinks photograph).

From Bonnie Dodge: Randolph Township School Report Card for 1893–1894 for Effie Reed, possibly at Happy Corner School (#6).

From Sandy Freeman: Various issues of "New Spirit," the Northmont High School newspaper, from Oct. 10, 1975 (Vol. I, Issue 1) through May 20, 1981, with some issues missing; Various issues of "The T-Bolt Tribune," the Northmont High School Newspaper, from Sept. 25, 1981 (Vol. I, Issue 1) through Feb. 26, 2010, some issues missing.

From Shirley and Glen Frick (many items from the collection of Shirley Frick's mother, Mary Stump): Dayton & Northern Utilities bus schedule between Dayton and Piqua through Englewood and Union, ca. 1932; News article about possible merging of Englewood and Union; Picture of Farmers State Bank, Englewood, in 1965, showing ladies who worked there and machines they used, with two women identified; Newspaper clippings and or photos: farm of Dwight Ullery on Kimmel Road, John Westerman farm on Montgomery-Preble County Line Road, John Harms farm at corner of Clayton and Amity roads, Walter H. Caylor farm at corner of Talmadge Road and Route 40, farm owned by Dr. Price on Westbrook Road west of Diamond Mill Road, Herschel Price farm at corner of Diamond Mill and Westbrook Road, farm of Albert Marshall on Sweet Potato Ridge Road just west of Brookville-Phillipsburg Road, farm of Herman Peck (also known as the old Noah Swank farm) near Route 49, Russel Brumbaugh farm on National Road two miles west of Englewood, Elbert Balsbaugh farm on Route 40 just west of Englewood, picture of Lloyd Metzger farm on Hoke Road one half mile south of Route 40, picture of Levi Landis farm/Klepinger farm on Sweet Potato Ridge Road east of Arlington Road, picture of Frank Brown/ Everett Hayes farm on Millers Fork Road; Auction bill of Dick Oldham farm at 3598 Sweet Potato Ridge Road.

From David Hoke: Plate with picture of the Hoke Meeting House built in 1720; "The Progressive Music Series," book 3, by Silver, Burdett and Company (note inside front cover: "Property of Randolph Twp. 1922.")

From Jack Honeycutt: Various patches (Haz-Mat, Fire & Rescue, EMT; 1964 Randolph Township Fire Department shield for helmet from station #1 in Union; Fire Department pocket watch; June3, 1990 photo of Jack Honeycutt at an accident scene.

From Myron Mann: Third-and fourth-grade class picture, (probably Clayton Elementary School, 1940–1941), with Miss or Mrs. Turner (the teacher) and with Myron Mann standing in middle row, third from right.

From Marianne Miller (collection of Helen and Ruth Miller): "The Bolt," (Northmont), 1967; Randolph High School class of 1946, 50th-year memory book; Randolph High School Alumni Directory 1881–1959; Randolph High School class of 1949, senior class photo; Randolph High School Class of 1949, 45-year reunion photo; Ceramic airplane ("Time Flies 1951–1986," "R.H.S. 35"); Ceramic mini-airplane with aviator ("Time Flies 1951–1986"); Green and white silk flower corsage; "R.H.S. 50" velvet ribbon.

From Luann Robinson: Painted glass angel with display case and light which used to hang in Fairview Brethren in Christ Church across from the cemetery.

"Gone but not forgotten" is the old expression for forgotten heroes.
But if not forgotten, they are not gone.
--David McCullough

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Miniprograms

At the November meeting, about two dozen people listened to Gerald Peters describe the history of the Model A Ford. A member of the Brookville Historical Society and a former Northmont teacher, Peters owns a restored 1930 Model A. He has driven it through Chicago and as far as Kill Devil Hill in North Carolina.

"I drove it over the causeway and was taking a picture of it next to the Wright Brothers' Memorial," he said. "A fellow came over and, when he saw the Ohio license, he asked how I got it there. 'I drove,' I answered. 'Well, how will you get it back?' 'Drive it.'"

Peters said Henry Ford was not the first to manufacture a car, but he made two significant developments. He adapted the assembly line to decrease costs and production time. And he paid his workers $5 a day for an eight-hour day, twice what most workmen earned for a nine-hour day.

"This made the car affordable to his workers," Peters said.

Before this, cars were mostly playthings for the wealthy rather than means of transportation.



Ron Papp dreams of yesteryear, admiring Gerald Peters' Model A Ford outside the history center.

Peters and his wife, Lynn, arrived at the Center in his Model A, and many audience members inspected the car after the talk. When one asked how fast it traveled, Lynn Peters replied, "It depends on whose foot is on the pedal!"

The Model A and the Model T were produced and sold all over the world, and Peters said today there are over a million of them maintained by enthusiasts in many countries.

Mark Brownfield told members at the December meeting about his 35-year career in Englewood government. When he first arrived, he and Caroline Bergman began interviewing older residents for the sesquicentennial in 1991. This was an eye-opener for him coming from California and Kettering, Ohio. The interviews introduced him to terms like "slop jars" and "honey dippers." (Noting that Englewood maintains the wastewater plant, he joked, "I guess we still are honey dippers!")

He interviewed Polly Leiber, who was amused to go into homes and find people proud of a slop jar they had bought and were keeping on their mantle, with no understanding of what it had been used for.

He talked of senior citizens talking about the trolleys.

He remembers that Union Boulevard used to be two lanes and often drifted over in snowstorms.

"Sometimes we couldn't even find it to plow."

When he started on the force in 1984, he said, officers only had a radio, a gun, and a stick. "Now we have all kinds of guns, tasers, pepper spray, body cameras, in-car cameras."

But the biggest change has been in professionalism. "I was right on the transition," he said, remembering that he was unusual in that he had a college degree (in accounting). Some of his colleagues took pride in not needing backup to handle a suspect, accused him of being "too nice" to criminals, and told him he believed in "killing them with kindness." This was one motive he cited for moving on to the positions of personnel director and finance director before returning to the police force as safety director.

Now, he said, college degrees are normal for officers and they see their task more as peacekeepers and public servants than one of attacking criminals. He quoted other police chiefs as telling suspects, "Why did you commit that crime in Englewood? You know they'll get you."

Glynn Marsh credited Brownfield and Bergman with accumulating many of the interviews and pictures the RTHS has in the archives, and Brownfield promised to send to the Center the PowerPoint presentation he has made of all the Englewood police chiefs.

He's never lost his interest in history.

"When I drive past older houses in town, I want to know who built it and who lived there."

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCREASES ITS PROPERTY

The RTHS is very appreciative of all the help received from the local cities over the years. Without it, we would have had much more difficulty surviving the early years and paying off the Center. Recently we received a donation from Englewood that left us stunned.



The house that stood on the lot years ago is now gone.

The City of Englewood offered us Lot #31, the vacant area between Valleyview and Main Street north of History Lane. This was given at no charge, with no restrictions on use other than the ordinary zoning laws. After a discussion and some research into insurance and maintenance costs, the board of directors determined the insurance will not increase and the extra mowing will not be significant and accepted the offer. The deed was transferred on Oct. 24.

Until 2008, the county tax records show, the lot was owned by George and Helen Farrier, and since then it has been owned by the city.

The 0.2-acre lot increases our property by about one third, and gives us a large flat area. Possession also guarantees no house or business will be built there that would block the view of the Center by passersby on Main Street or who would be an unpleasant neighbor.

President Ivan Clark asked the owner of the apartment building to the north to have the trash dumpster moved off the grass. The owner was more than co-operative, but explained the trash haulers kept moving it. Ivan spoke to Rumpke, the trash haulers, who immediately agreed to move the object. There was a little confusion, as the first crew moved it *south*, farther onto the lot, instead of north to the apartment's property, but after this was straightened out the view of southbound traffic on Valleyview is no longer impeded for drivers arriving at the Center via History Lane.

Next spring the lot will need some landscaping, and it should probably be surveyed.

But what uses can we make of it? It might serve for parking for events, or possibly a future program could make use of old-time craft demonstrations or classic car shows. At the Tri-fold event last summer, at which the mortgage was burned, the city of Englewood showed some fire equipment there. (But only briefly because the department received a call and had to leave.)

It's a nice problem to have, and one that doesn't need to be addressed immediately.

If anyone has suggestions for use or landscaping, email the RTHS at rths@frontier.com or write to RTHS, 114 Valleyview Dr., Englewood, OH 45322.



The RTHS property now extends from Main Street back to the bluff above the river and on both sides of History Lane.

EVENT FROM THE PAST

This event has no connection with the area, but it seems too significant to let go unnoticed. As this is being written, the media is mentioning the flight of Apollo 8 a half century ago, when humans first saw the far side of the moon. And the summer of 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first steps on the moon.

Those of us who remember it should leave our recollections for those of our relatives too young to have any memories of an event that we all knew was not only historical for this country but occurring for the first time in human history.

For me, Walter Cronkite's reaction said it all. Having covered the space program since its early days and going through some of the training the astronauts did, he did a lot to make the technology comprehensible to the rest of us. He was well prepared for the landing.

He had also covered assassinations, funerals, riots, and conventions, often ad-libbing for hours with very little hard information.

And when the lunar module touched down on the moon, what did he tell viewers?

"Oh, wow! Boy!"

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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RAPP JEWELERS CLOSES

Englewood has lost another landmark with the closing of Rapp Jewelers after 64 years in almost the same location.

In 1954, Joseph Rapp opened a watch repair service in the Farmers' State Bank, on the corner of National Road and Main Street. For years watches had been very valuable objects, given as graduation gifts and in some cases handed down through generations, so watch repair was a profitable business.

In 1958, when Dr. Furnas retired, Rapp moved into the white frame building next to the bank. He began to sell jewelry and watches as well as repair them.

Time passes, of course, and eventually Joe Rapp wanted an easier life. In 1988, his son Ken took over.

Ken Rapp admitted that online shopping has had its effect, but said the main reason for closing was that "after 31 years, it's time to move on."



For many of us, Rapp Jewelers was the place not only to get expensive watches and jewelry repaired but to get watch batteries replaced, to have a new charm attached to a bracelet, or to have a new chain put on a medical tag. It was also a good place to have new watch bands put on without having to hunt in our carpet for the little post that was supposed to fit into the holder on the watch but somehow always flipped out and sprang across the room. The company still cleaned and repaired watches. Many people are wearing jewelry or telling time by clocks sold there.

The company was also a loyal sponsor of many area teams and a regular advertiser in local media.

RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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114 Valleyview Drive - Englewood, Ohio 45322
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Clayton - 1816 Englewood - 1841 Union - 1816

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER REMAINING IN 2018

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

Monthly Meetings:

2nd Wednesdays

Jan. 09, 1:00 p.m.
Feb. 13, 1:00 p.m.
March 13, 1:00 p.m.
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. and Sat. afternoons
1–4 p.m.

Visitors' Hours At The History Center

First and third Sundays,
2– 4 p.m.
April–October

Also open during scheduled work sessions when the flag & open sign are out

Open other times by appointment
Call 836-6751

Special Events:

Feb. 13: Miniprogram—talk by Dave Evans, former Fire and Police Chief of Englewood and former Randolph Twp. Firefighter

Upcoming Exhibit:

Toys of the Past