VOLUME 24, ISSUE 3 **July–September 2022**

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.



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Doug Allen and Kristina Balside

As we approach the middle of 2022, we have progressed in a few areas. Our membership has steadily increased, and we are enjoying new and younger members who have a lot of enthusiasm. Some have families that have lived in the area for hundreds of years. Our programs have been well attended and enjoyed by many.

We're greatly anticipating our first annual RTHS Car Show!!! We hope this program is going to be so successful and fun that we can do it bigger and better each year! We are seeking donations from local businesses to raffle off with proceeds going to the History Museum.

We are enlisting the help of a local Boy Scout troop to help with some outdoor sprucing up around the History Center building. They are also working towards an Eagle Scout award by planning on restoring one of our significant artifacts to be displayed in the museum when completed!!

New and exciting displays and programs are on the horizon! Stay tuned……

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

July 13, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting
Aug. 10, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting
Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting

Special Events

July 17, 1–6 p.m. Car Show at History Center
September (TBA): Quilt Display
(*look for details on Facebook)*

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

April 2022: The History Center had 10 visitors since the last meeting. Kristina Scott presented a list of members who had died in the past few years. The checking account showed a loss, partly due to the postage for the newsletter and the annual insurance payment, but the total cash assets of the Society equal $30,370.75. A donation covered the $100 expense of printing *The Baby Boomer Years* booklet, and as of the meeting eight of the booklets were still unsold. Any new business was set aside as not being urgent so the speaker could begin. Martin Gottlieb, author of *Lincoln's Northern Nemesis: The War Opposition and Exile of Ohio's Clement Vallandigham*, spoke on Vallandigham's career, focusing mostly on his arrest, trial by military tribunal, exile behind Confederate lines, and his subsequent political career. (*See p. 5*.)

May 2022: The History Center had three visitors since the last meeting, but lack of volunteer hosts kept the Center from opening every Sunday. RTHS has added five new members in the past month with three renewals. Despite the cost of the annual HVAC checkup, the cash assets increased by almost $2,600.00, totaling $32,970.27. Board members present agreed to meet on May 18 to discuss the quotes received for the drainage problem. In addition, Doug Allen arranged an appointment with a pest control company to deal with mice in the basement and was making arrangements to check on a water leak in the men's restroom, all matters to be discussed at the board meeting. Robin Perkins reported on the display committee's work. As Kristina Scott has been doubling as membership secretary, the RTHS asked for a volunteer to take over that job. Robin Perkins announced that Rex Maggert would speak about "Privates of the Civil War" in June. After the meeting, Jason Antkiviak presented a miniprogram on the Sheets rifle, with artifacts he had found and photos site along the Stillwater River he believes to be the site of the Sheets Boring Mill. (*See p. 5.*)

At the board meeting, members chose a contractor to deal with the water problem and decided to deal with the rodent infestation without sprays or professional help.

June 2022: The History Center has had seven visitors since May. Memberships total 177. There was no treasurer's report because the treasurer is on vacation. The water leak in the restroom turned out to be very minor. Collins Waterproofing & More had come to fix the water problem in the basement but found it couldn't dig farther down than three feet due to the solid limestone bedrock in this area. (*See p. 6.*) Craig Falknor is taking steps to control the pest problem. The RTHS scheduled a car show on Sunday, July 17, 2022. Terry Guerra has resigned as membership/correspondence secretary, and Robin Perkins has resigned as vice president. Anyone who would like to hold these positions for the rest of the year (or longer) should contact the center. The board will also consider whether one individual can hold two offices or if offices can be consolidated. After the meeting Rex Maggert presented a miniprogram on camp life during the Civil War. (*See p. 5.)*

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

Upcoming shows at Center

The RTHS will hold a car show at the History Center on Sunday, July 17, from 1 through 6 p.m. Registration of cars will cost $15 and will be at the Center on that day. There is no fee to attend as a spectator. There will be food trucks, trophies will be awarded, and the Center will be open to visitors.

The Society is planning a display of quilts in September, but details have not been finalized. Check Facebook or the *Brookville Star* in August or early September for more information.

Randolph Ramblings

by Ron Papp

Cannonballs



Along the bordering wall of the RTHS's south yard is an arrangement of fragments from Sam Gingrich's "monument to the trees." Interspersed within them are silver cannonballs.

The monument was one of several on Sam's home and tree nursery on Covington Pike. Those concrete, stone, and glass constructions were destroyed in June 1997. Many of those were salvaged in the aftermath and stored at my mother's property in Irvington plat. I used some granite-topped segments of Sam's pond edging to form a ring around Mom's flower bed of irises and marigolds. The flower bed is where a round swimming pool stood. Applying the pond segments there may have been behind my idea.

Two blocks directly east of Sam's property on Irvington Avenue is a home with a grooved stone retaining wall along its curved driveway. The wall is also stepped, and perched on each. step "tread" was a silver cannonball in the 1960s. Too tempting for boy pranksters, the ornamental shots were periodically pushed off to fall and thump and probably roll on the driveway below. The toppling could be on Halloween or occasional lapses spurred by meanness. In the late '60s, my teen friend/neighbor/classmate, Doug Wagner, and I were playing in the shallow storm creek behind the Irvington resident's place. Clowning in the creek bed, we discovered what turned out to be one of the cannonballs. Fetching a shovel, we dug and pried it up from the mud. Soon we found four more. Apparently, the owner got tired of replacing his heavy driveway decorations. Getting Doug's wagon (a nice one with removable sides built by Doug's dad), he and I carted our haul down Melody Road to my mom's shed. There they rested on the cement floor for some 35 years.

Around 2002, I rolled them out. As the cannonballs had blotchy surfaces of old paint and rust, I sanded them down to the steel, then treated, primed, and painted them silver again. I made little cone-shaped basket bases that supported them on the round flower bed in a pentagonal array.

Seventeen years later, in 2019, the RTHS began putting Sam's pieces along the History Center's south wall. For decoration and to segregate blocks of writing that belonged together, the steel balls were painted again and incorporated into the scheme. Yet the design is symmetrical, so five cannonballs make it unbalanced. I surprised my old friend recently with my "unbalanced" idea to return to the creek with a metal detector to maybe find an overlooked sixth ball. Doug donated to the RTHS Center four cube-shaped planters that had been made by Sam.

As far as I've known, our cannonballs have been ornamental. There are about eight inches in diameter and weigh over 40 pounds. However, there were projectiles that size. So far, I haven't been able to identify them.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The RTHS regrets the passing of long-time Englewood resident Carolyn Fitzgerald. She was not a member but our members Jim and Carolyn Van Dyne chose to memorialize her with a donation to the RTHS.

Memberships Processed
April through June Meetings

During this period the RTHS received five new individual, one new sustaining, two family, one sustaining, and one individual renewal memberships, making 177 members as of the June meeting.

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.

MEMORIES

The History Center is often a destination for Northmont alumni attending high school reunions. On June 8, 2022, the Class of 1971 celebrated their 50th reunion (one year delayed by the pandemic) by visiting the RTHS museum.

Twenty-seven people came, arriving about 10:45 a.m. with the last guests leaving after 1:00 p.m. Anita Bannerman, one of their members and a member of the RTHS, provided cookies and drinks. The Center displayed the bound copy of the *Englewood Independent*, showing a page devoted to Northmont news, a yearbook, and other memorabilia.

Doug Allen, the RTHS president, spoke to the group about being teenagers in the '70's. He reminisced about Burgin's Pizza, Flint's, and other locations around town. He had the crowd laughing and relaxed by the time Kris Balside, operations director of the RTHS, spoke to them.

Kris spoke about the history center, memberships, and donations and explained the difference between a township and city. Rex Maggert is a 1971 graduate as well, and Kris also discussed the program he would give after the RTHS meeting that night.

The group then enjoyed a game of Guess Who. Kris had created a PowerPoint slide show with 20 random senior pictures from the class. The group had to "Guess Who" the students in the pictures were 50 years later. (*See photos, p. 7.*)

Earlier in the summer, Kris Balside asked Facebook members to share their memories of childhood summers in the area. Some of the memories are printed here.

Doug Allen: Walking to the Englewood Plaza pharmacy and getting a couple comic books, a Bub's Daddy and a lime phosphate at the soda fountain. Anybody else remember phosphates?

Beth Cuff: Recreation day camp at Englewood Elementary. The Masonic lodge's annual chicken barbecue. Riding bikes, and riding bikes, and riding bikes.

Mo Dearth: Catching crawdads at Clayton Park.

Jackie Fox Dent: Walking along the drainage ditch, aka "creek," to Englewood Hills Swim Club.

Tom Carroll Eastridge: The Englewood Legion-Lions Carnival and the Ice Cream Social at the church at Walnut & Herr streets.

Dave Eley: Playing at Englewood Elementary summer Recreation!

Chet Estridge: I went swimming with friends in a gravel pit late one night. In the middle and couldn't make it. A friend saved my life that night.

Anna Gagaris: Walking from football games at O. R. [*Edgingon*] to Burgin's and everybody beeping their horns when TBolts had a win. Great times!!

David Hanley: Spent hours at Aullwood. Also having the Englewood Reserve as a playground.

Charity Irwin: Walking from Union to the Dairy Queen in Englewood.

Sue Martin: We were so blessed to grow up in a beautiful small town!!

Hermetta Pillion: Free movies (we called them "free shows") behind the City Hall building, Friday night Burgin's Pizza, the Englewood Carnival, walking to Ben Franklin's to buy felt and other materials to troll doll clothes, walking to the Englewood Bakery on Saturday mornings for donuts or a chocolate éclair (short walk, I lived on Wolf Avenue), walking to Dairy Queen for a Mr. Misty, picnics at Englewood park with my family, Trick or Treating on Halloween where we didn't have to x-ray candy and we stayed out a lot later than kids can now, free movies at Englewood Elementary (my brother Larry would walk me there but I had to walk 10 or 12 feet behind him so as not to appear that he knew me), in high school hanging out at Flint's hoping to catch a glimpse of cute high school boys. Not that I'm sentimental about "back in day"…

Jody Deime Sampson: Northmoor pool.

Doris West: Visiting my Koogler grandparents at their home on Chestnut Street. Riding my bicycle on the sidewalks and alleyways. Knocking on the old screen door (and remember the sound it made) on the house that used to be on corner of Chestnut and Main and asking. Aunt Emma for candy (I was three or four and suspect she was a Fetters relative of my grandma). Also, I would walk to the old house on Chestnut (long gone and an apartment building is there today) to visit my friend, Mrs. McKinney and daughter, Mable. Mrs. McKinney was quite old and had been a schoolteacher or Sunday School teacher and loved children. I guess that is why she seemed to enjoy sitting on her front porch swing and entertaining me with her stories. When I was preteen, I would walk to my relative's house several blocks away and my Aunt Mary Jane Koogler would invite me in and I would lay on the living room floor and read the one foot high stack of my cousin Bruce's comic books.

Dave Wilson: Movies behind City Hall.

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

With the easing of the pandemic, the RTHS has resumed regular meetings and programs.

Clement Vallandigham talk


Martin Gottlieb signs copies of his book.

In April, former *Dayton Daily News* writer Martin Gottlieb talked to the Society about *Lincoln's Northern Nemesis*, his account of Clement Vallandigham's political life.

A former Congressman from Dayton, Vallandigham became a leader of Northern opposition to the Civil War. After a speech critical of the North's policy, he was arrested by General Ambrose Burnside (an act that caused a riot in Dayton), tried by a military tribunal despite being a civilian, and sentenced to prison. Lincoln, not wanting to make a martyr of him, commuted the sentence to banishment behind Confederate lines. From there, Vallandigham made his way to Canada and continued his opposition.

Gottlieb related Vallandigham's political actions and his postwar career in a talk that offered not only history but humor.

After the talk, he signed copies of his book for purchasers.

Search for Sheets Mill

The last issue of the "Randolph Times" mentioned that a person had contacted the RTHS seeking information about the Sheets rifle he had bought. At the May meeting, Jason Antkiviak, the purchaser, told of his efforts to find the site of the Sheets Boring Mill in Union where the rifle was made. He and Doug Allen, along with people from the Dayton Diggers, a group of metal detection enthusiasts, searched the banks of the Stillwater River near Old Spring-field Road.


Jason Antkiviak displays his rifle to Monty Mercer. Mary Geiger, and Cleva Collar.

Antkiviak, displayed his rifle and showed slides of the site he thinks is the correct one, along with some artifacts such as a bullet and some metal that may have been used. He also found evidence that may mark the site of the Hoover Flour Mill.

He has contacted the archaeology departments of local universities to see if further work can be done.

Civil War Camp Life

After the June meeting, Rex Maggert talked about daily camp life in the Civil War. He presented first-hand accounts from diaries by Charles Smith in the 32nd Ohio and Charles Grosvenor in the 147th Ohio, unit from Troy and excerpts from letters written by Patrick Atkinson in the 22nd Michigan to his wife.

He also had items he uses as a re-enactor. In addition to a gun, he had a tent inscribed with the battles that the unit originally fought in and equipment that a Civil War soldier would have carried with him.


Civil War cartridge box and forage cap

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CENTER

"The best laid plans"

For 20 years, the RTHS has struggled with water collecting in the basement of the History Center. We have mopped, we bought a wet vac, we installed two dehumidifiers, we have coated part of the wall.

The dehumidifiers help in removing the humidity from the air and thus preserve the artifacts, but the basic problem is water entering the basement. Apparently when the lobby was added, the joint between the two parts was not sealed tightly and water enters the joint. Different-sized down-spouts on the two parts also kept water from draining properly and let it gather at the joint.

Finally, the board of directors decided the time had passed for do-it-yourself fixes and the budget allowed professional services. Two companies contacted recommended digging up the floor and not only sealing the foundation but installing a sump pump. The third company said a sump pump was unnecessary and agreed that the joint between the two parts was the problem and a drain should be buried under the ground along the foundation to empty into the bluff behind the Center.

The board chose the third company, and workmen came out in early June. But developments millions of years ago undermined their efforts.

As Earl Heck explained in his *History of Englewood*, the Stillwater Valley was formed 45 million years ago when the glaciers carved the river out of Brassfield Limestone. This formation, nearly half to three-quarters of mile wide, runs from approximately Forest Park to north of Union. It is extremely hard, resembling granite in its "workability."

So what does this have to do with water in the basement?

The company called President Doug Allen, reporting this bedrock kept them from digging deeper than three feet, and could not lay a drain to the bluff behind the building. This also accounts for the lack of headroom in the basement; the church fathers who tried to dig the basement under an already standing church simply gave up.

The board has not given up but will consider other measures to deal with the water.

"Of mice and men"

The RTHS is thus far uncertain of the success of other problem the board dealt with mice in the basement. Apart from the health hazard and the general unpleasantness of the mice, they threaten the artifacts.

The board acquired quotes from two pest control companies. Both recommended using bait traps, spraying, and other measures. Besides members' general reluctance to spray chemicals around, the board was uneasy at having chemicals around a building that invites children in.

Craig Falknor offered to put bait traps around the building. These work by attracting the rodents to the poisoned bait, which is inside a container unavailable to anything larger than a rat and thus safe from people. The poisoned rodent become quite thirsty and leaves the building seeking water, only to die in another area.

Because the rodents die elsewhere, we have no clear idea how it is working (and no one is particularly interested in poking about in corners for mice). But we hope to report fewer sightings in the near future.

Trash talk

When the Center opened in 1998, each meeting produced only a little trash from the refreshments, and the RTHS decided not to contract for trash pickup. After each meeting a member would volunteer to take a bag of trash home to put in their trashcan. Increased activities and the work by the operations director produces more trash, and this arrangement was no longer sufficient.

The History Center now has a trash dumpster and regular collection.

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 **_____Sponsoring @$75.00/year**

_____Family @ $25.00/year **_____Individual Lifetime @ $250.00 (one-time)**

_____Sustaining @ $35.00/year **_____Corporate @ $150/year**

Extra Cash Donation: $_____ **Enclosed is my check for** _____

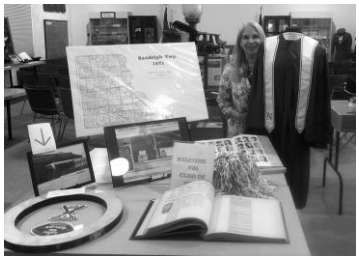
Please send completed form with check to:
Randolph Township Historical Society
RTHS History Center
114 Valleyview Drive
Englewood, OH 45322-1324

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 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.



Left: Memorabilia of the Northmont Class of 1971 displayed at the History Center

Right: RTHS President Doug Allen, Northmont Class of 1971, talks to classmates attending their 50th reunion.

(*See p. 4.*)



RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
114 Valleyview Drive - Englewood, Ohio 45322
"Uniting the Past with the Future"
Clayton - 1816 Englewood - 1841 Union - 1816

Dates to remember

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

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

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.

Open for visits from 1 through 3 p.m. on Sundays when the OPEN sign is out at Main Street and other times by appointment. Call (937) 832-8538 and leave message

Car Show
July 17th 1 through 6 p.m.

2022 Corporate Members

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