VOLUME 24, ISSUE 4 **October–December 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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Doug Allen

The Earl Heck Center is remodeling! We were recently blessed here at the Randolph Township Historical Society with multiple acquisitions from their walls and archives. Included with their donations are several very large framed photos. One shows a car on the old D.C. & P. traction line. Two photos are of the covered bridge over the Stillwater River, another looks east from the Englewood Elevator (now the Englewood Post Office) towards Dayton-Covington Pike.

Ryan Kruse, director of the Heck Center, also donated a quilt sewn by Earl Heck Quilt Club with names of local citizens embroidered on each square, including Earl Heck, Edgar Brasier, Osie Johnson, Bill Denlinger, and Nellie Mains.

The Earl Heck Community Center building started out in 1867 as the second brick school in town. Later it was used as the Englewood Municipal building housing the police department and offices. In 1978, the building was remodeled and named after Earl Heck with a dedication ceremony that Mr. Heck attended.

Mr. Heck held government offices in town, worked hard to preserve the history of the area, and wrote a manuscript about the History of Englewood. He appealed to local residents to form a local Historical Society but sadly never succeeded. (Our founding members have achieved your goal, sir!)

The most recent remodeling of the Earl Heck Center was completed in 1992 when the North Hall was added onto the original building. Congratulations to the Heck Center on their brand-new renovations. We are so excited to visit when it's completed!

☞☞UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS☜☜

All functions are at the History Center unless otherwise noted.

Meetings on 2nd Wednesdays

Oct. 12, 7:00 p.m./ business meeting

Nov. 9, 1:00 p.m./ business meeting
(*note time change*)

Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m./ business meeting

Special Events

The Ohio Soldiers & Sailors Orphans Home
(*no date yet; watch Facebook and local papers*)

QUARTERLY SUMMARY

JULY 2022: The RTHS cash assets at the end of June totaled $29,206.88, a downturn of $1,989.11, with a checking account balance ending June at $7,987.95. The retro T-shirts are now available. (*See P. 4.*) The society scheduled a car show for July 17. Kris Balside reported that Cable Brothers had mulched and trimmed around the building, but she said the expense for service on the front lot was prohibitive and spraying weed-killer around the trees was sufficient. Glynn questioned whether the board of directors had voted on the contract for trash pickup, as ongoing expenses need to be, and Doug Allen agreed to call a board meeting. In addition to the work of the director producing more trash, Kris explained she lost interest in taking the trash home when she found a dead mouse in the wastebasket! Since the by-laws don't seem to prohibit one member holding two positions, Kay Dawson agree to serve as corresponding/membership secretary on a temporary basis pending a volunteer. Mary Geiger suggested Sunday, Sept. 11, as the date for the quilt show, and Kris said the talk about the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Home was being planned for late fall or winter.

AUGUST 2022: The RTHS took in an excess of $1,387.20 in July, and the month ended with cash assets totaling $30,594.08. Record rains postponed the car show until Aug. 7, but 16 vehicles registered, people visited the Center, and the RTHS made $307.00. (*See p. 5.*) The commemorative T-shirts Kris purchased sold well. Kris reported that areas sinking in the front lot will need attention before the lot is used again. Doris suggested the RTHS might put future shows in Centennial Park, but members agreed we wanted to attract people to the History Center. The Society also agreed to send a thank-you note to Kevin Irwin, owner of the property next door, for loaning his sound system for the show. By the meeting date, 15 of the retro T-shirts had been sold. (*See p. 4.*) The two excavating companies Kris called about installing a sump pump in the basement are busy through the winter. Sept. 11 was confirmed for the quilt show, but Mary Geiger's absence forestalled other plans. Craig Falknor promised to look at the recalcitrant printer, and members authorized Kris to call a repairman if he couldn't solve the problem. The RTHS is welcome to any artifacts that will not be used after the Earl Heck Center is remodeled, and management contacted the Center about photos to display.

SEPTEMBER 2022: A board of directors meeting preceded the open meeting. Craig Falknor was appointed vice president. Operations Director Kris Balside has asked that members bringing in items to donate leave their names and a note about what the item is. Doug apologized for contracting for trash pickup without consulting the board and said if members decided against it he would pay for the months already billed. After some discussion, the board voted not to continue the contract. Suggested alternatives were to pay the neighbor a small fee to add the Center's trash to his, Glynn offered to take it home, and Kris offered to pay the fee herself.

The total cash assets of the Society equaled $29,381.71 at the end of August. Many of the people who came to the quilt show read about it on Facebook. Kris and Doug accepted items offered by the Earl Heck Community Center, which is undergoing remodeling; Doug said they had taken anything available that looked significant and the RTHS will decide later which items to keep and display.

AREA NEWS AND NOTES

Correction

The last newsletter said the RTHS had been fighting the problem of water in the lower level for 20 years. A member with more mathematical ability than the editor pointed out the RTHS has only occupied the Center for 14 years. (It just feels like we've been mopping up water for 20 years!)

Randolph Ramblings

by Susan Weeks

Visit to the history center

How can so many unique items fit into this small historical church building, now the museum of the Randolph Township Historical Society?

My initial visit proved that a wide variety of everyday household items and tools and implements of early settlers to this area, as well as Randolph and Northmont school yearbooks and other memorabilia, were just a part of what I saw during a recent (my first!) visit to the Randolph Township Historical Society here in Englewood.

My cousins, Joyce Woolery Martin and her sister Jane Woolery Schumacher, had often mentioned donating various family items to the RTHS, but I'd never had the opportunity to visit. On a recent trip to see Roger Martin (husband of Joyce) and Tom Schumacher (Jane's husband), the three of us stopped by for an afternoon visit. Kristina Balside, the operations director, was on hand to answer our many questions about items currently on display.

This museum has a wide variety of interesting exhibits including, but certainly not limited to:

- Children's clothing and common household items, such as everyday items used in kitchens and clothing from bygone eras;
- Tools used in clearing the dense forests encountered by settlers in the early 1800s to make way for homes, farmland, and businesses;
- A wagon seat manufactured by Elias F. Younce and his father, David Younce, in the late 1800s;
- Three rifles made by the Sheets family of Union (1805–1812);
- Uniforms and related wartime items commemorating the many men from this area who fought and sacrificed for our country in the 19th and 20th centuries;
- Maps of historic interest.

Many photos of buildings and places that have been replaced or repurposed will impress visitors.

For those interested in reconnecting with school friends or simply reliving their own schooldays, the museum has a nearly complete collection of Randolph and Northmont school yearbooks and other school memorabilia.

Another item from my family I'd had never previously seen, but had heard about, was a Civil War diary written by George W. Eby during his service in the 131st Ohio National Guard. George W. Eby (1837–1913) was the father of my grandmother Jennie May Eby, married to Elias F. Younce of Union, Ohio. A transcript of the diary that traces this soldier's time of service in the Union Army is available for visitors to view.

Families, school groups, and individuals alike will gain real insight into how settlers and residents lived from the initial settlement of the area until more recent times by checking out the exhibits here and comparing them to today's modern conveniences and electronics. What a contrast!

The museum recently had a special exhibit of antique quilts on display and sponsored a popular car show event. Watch for notices of other upcoming events and special exhibits at the museum to get acquainted with Randolph Township's history.

Membership Report by Kay Dawson

This year, the RTHS has welcomed as new members:

Jackie and Mark Allen,
Jason Antkoviak,
Tim Balside,
Bonnie Binkley Chima,
Gail Collins,
Susan Couch,
Bruce Dewey,
Craig Falknor,
Capt. David Gray,
Mike and Teresa Greer,
Teresa Guerra,
Scott Knowles,
JoAnne Taylor,
Carol and Doug Wagner,
James Walker,
Susan Weeks,
Tina Witters.

Memberships run from January through December, and those added during the last quarter of the year are good for the rest of this year and all of the following year.

RTHS members are very loyal, with a high rate of renewals. Many even remembered to renew during the pandemic shutdown.

Inevitably, we lose some of our valued older members to death or relocation. In September, we lost Larry Drusan, a longtime member whose wife, Beverly, is still a member. All our lost members are sorely missed.

If anyone has friends who would be interested in the RTHS, why not give a membership as a gift? (*See p. 7 for a membership form*.)

ACQUISTIONS

The RTHS is very grateful for the items that are donated to our collection. Our members were very supportive during the pandemic shutdown, and between that and several changes of leadership, we are still updating records, so if we have not yet acknowledged your contribution, please be aware that we appreciate it and will get to you.

The RTHS wants to thank the following for recent donations.

Doug Allen,
Maxine Elliott,
Brad Herr,
Doug Kauffman,
Tim Kauffman,
Jill Kirby,
Galen Meeds,
Michelle Stoltz,
Jack West,
and Jenny Wood.

Some of the items contributed include school memorabilia from Northmont and Randolph schools, items from and information about Englewood Hills Little League, photos and newspaper articles about the Hoover and Rasor families, old tools, diaries and scrapbook form the 1860s, files from the Bergman turkey farm, and a city of Englewood blanket throw. We also have received a slide projector with slide reels, which can be put to good use in programs.

Names needed

On the subject of donations, while Operations Director Kris Balside is delighted that so many members bring donations to the History Center, she asks that members bringing them when she is not there please be sure the donor's name and contact information and some information about the item is left with the item. She's a very good historian and is working very hard at organizing the donations. But she is not a mind reader.

Fundraising

Like most such organizations, the RTHS needs to raise funds to support our projects. There are two fundraising projects that are in time for the holiday season.

"Blast from the Past" shirts

Did you eat at Burgin's Pizza, take a date bowling at Thunderbowl Lanes, or enjoy Flint's Hamburgers? Did your family shop at Imperial Foodtown or enjoy Empire Restaurant or Western Pancake House?

The RTHS has available shirts with the logos of these past area businesses printed on them. Ranging from $15.00 to $25.00, they come in a variety of sizes and styles. They can be ordered online at https://stores.inksoft.com/blast_from_the_past. This link is also on www.rths.org, under the "Events" tab, but do not order from the Historical Society. The Society gets a generous part of all the money spent on the shirts.

Baby Boomer booklets

The RTHS will also reprint *The Baby Boomer Years*, the booklet of memories of this area by those who grew up here between the end of World War II and the mid-1970s. This is available from the Historical Society. It costs $5, and if you want the booklet shipped by the RTHS, the postage is $5.00. There is an order form on page 7 of this newsletter. The Society gets the entire profit from the booklets.

These items would make excellent holiday gifts for your friends or relatives who grew up in this area. They certainly would be things they are unlikely to get in most places!

Allow about three weeks for delivery of the shirts, and if you are not picking up the booklet at the History Center, allow delivery time for it, too.

RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE RTHS HISTORY CENTER

Car show a success

The car show was scheduled for July 17, but decided 2.65 inches, which would have caused the cars and the food trucks to sink into the grass, required a postponement. Thanks to Facebook and the *Brookville Star*, the word got out that the new date was Aug. 7. Sixteen exhibitors registered their cars. Many of the visitors tore themselves away from the cars long enough to visit the History Center, and not just for the restrooms. The food trucks had to leave early due to other commitments on the new date, but they were well patronized until then, and the T-shirts commemorating the show, which Kris Balside had supplied, sold well. The raffle prizes donated by area merchants were all awarded.



Jerry and Ellen Hogan's 1950 Chevy Truck won first prize.

The only problem was the discovery of several sunken places in the front lot, but Kris marked them with pails or other items, and there were no injuries. (They'll be filled in before we use the lawn for anything else.)

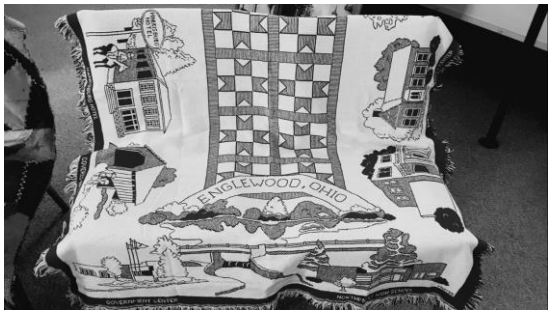
The registration and the raffle of items donated by generous area merchants enabled the RTHS to raise $307. Kevin Irwin, the owner of the property next door, was very helpful, loaning the Society his sound system for the car show. A prospective future RTHS member, Konner Gore, also helped by drawing the raffle tickets. The winner of one prize, a child's bicycle, donated it back to the RTHS, which awarded it to young Konner for his help.

Quilt Show

The RTHS held a quilt show in September. Three of the quilts are the property of the RTHS and will be displayed from time to time. One of these was made over the course of a year or so for the Englewood Sesquicentennial in 1991, and the RTHS recently acquired a blanket throw from the Earl Heck Center. Both of these show scenes significant to the area. Doug Wagner also donated to the society a quilt made by his mother and grandmother. Several people also loaned the society their quilts to display and over three weeks, many people visited to view them.



Englewood Sesquicentennial quilt. (The paper on it is a key to the sites pictured.)



Blanket throw showing scenes of Englewood

"History is, by and large, a record of what people did, not of what they failed to do."
Carr, Edward, in *What is history?*

VISITORS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Open most Sundays

As you see from the schedule on the back page, the History Center is open on most Sundays except holidays from April through October. "Most Sundays" means if anyone will volunteer to be host. So far, we've managed to open pretty regularly, but we can always use more volunteers. Could some of the local people find a few hours? The Center is open from 1 through 3 p.m., and it takes about 10 to 15 minutes before and after to put out and bring in the flags and OPEN signs, fix the lights, and open and close the blinds. Occasionally no one comes and you can read or get better acquainted with the displays, but lately we've had more and more visitors. Please donate your time occasionally if you can. In addition to helping the RTHS, you get to meet many interesting people.

Fox Dairy

One member who has volunteered as a host is Teresa Greer. In addition, she lives on property on Fox Road that was once Crown Hill Dairy, owned and operated by Webster J. Fox. Teresa has gotten to meet Webster's descendants, and she met with them at the History Center. We not only have a dairy display that includes pictures of Webster Fox and his family, but the History Center has a Crown Hill Dairy milk bottle, the only one the family has seen.



First row, L to R: Don Fox, Larry Fox, Karen Fox-Black, Sharon Fox-Miller, Roger Fox. Second row, L to R: Brenda Fox, Melody Fox, Dave Black Emma Miller (granddaughter), Richard Miller.

Class of 1972

Visits to the History Center are becoming popular as class reunion activities, Last spring, the Northmont Class of 1971 held its 50th reunion, delayed by COVID. On Sept. 23, about eight members of the class of 1972 came as part of their 50th reunion. Some made donations and one became a member. RTHS member Ron Papp guided his classmates through the Center, showing them Northmont memorabilia, including their yearbook.

A special member of the class was Doug Wagner. In the last newsletter, Ron's explained how the two of them had pushed the cannonballs off their perches on the retaining wall along Sam Gingrich's driveway and later salvaged them. They are now at the History Center. Doug also donated four cube-shaped planters that Sam Gingrich had made, and he and Ron enjoyed reliving their youthful pranks while viewing the cannonballs and the planters. Doug said later the Center was much more than he expected.



Members of the class look at a newspaper from that time.



Doug Wagner with cannonball he and Ron Papp recovered and with stonework by Sam Gingrich on side lawn of Center.

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

Please send _____ copy(ies) of *The Baby Boomers*.

Name(s) _____

Address_____

_____

City/State/Zip _____ **Number of copies** _____

Make checks payable to**:** **X $5.00 each** _____

Randolph Township Historical Society **Postage $5.00 each** _____
RTHS History Center
114 Valleyview Drive **Total** _____
Englewood, OH 45322-1324

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

Dates to remember

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

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Wednesdays

Oct. 12, 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 9, 1:00 p.m. *(Note time change.)*
Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m.
Jan. 11, 1:00 p.m.
Feb. 8, 1:00 p.m.
Mar. 8, 1:00 p.m.
Apr. 12, 7:00 p.m. *(Note time change.)*

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

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