



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Knowing where you've been, helps you see where you're going

A Periodic Publication of the North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society

October 2011

Upcoming Events

- Monthly meetings are held at the History Center on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm. If a change is necessary it will be announced in local media. All members are welcome.
- On October 19, 2:45-3:00 pm, children in the NB Public Library reading program will visit the museum.
- On December 3, 1-4pm, the Society will hold its annual Christmas open house. The event is open to the public and free of charge. This year rooms will be decorated by Helen Swope, Pam Cheney, Caprice Cheney, Red Hats, and museum staff.
- This History Center is open every Tuesday morning from 9 to 12, March through December.

This Old House: The History Center

NBOAHS houses its collection of documents and artifacts in an elegant Queen Anne-style house at 229 North Main Street (pictured at the top of this newsletter). The house was built in 1879 by Jacob Dirk, one of the prominent founders of the town. It was purchased by local entrepreneur Jefferson Richcreek and his wife Martha in 1884. Richcreek is credited as the builder of the prestigious First National Bank building. He was also an undertaker and owner of a drug emporium, furniture store and other businesses.

The house continued to serve as a private residence for many notable citizens of the community until 1948 when it was purchased by the Church of Christ. It was used as a parsonage until 1976, when William C. Ankney, Sr. bought the property for use as his insurance office. The North Baltimore Public Library Board of Trustees purchased the property from his widow, Doris Ankney, in June 1998 for use by the Historical Society.

North Baltimore has many old homes with interesting histories, and NBOAHS would like to occasionally profile one in the newsletter and website. If you know the history of your home and would like included, contact the Society at nbahs@wcnnet.org or at 419-257-2266.

Board Election Results

Society members recently elected the following Officers by secret ballot. All will assume office on October 1.

- President - Tom Boltz, a life-long historian and author, grew up in North Baltimore. In 2008, he returned to NW Ohio and has become increasingly involved in local history, including NBOAHS.
- Vice President - Janice Emahiser, a charter member and life-long resident of North Baltimore, has spent many hours on Society business.
- Secretary - Paula Miklovic will be serving her second term as Secretary. Paula grew up in North Baltimore and has maintained her connections with North Baltimore and the Society.
- Treasurer - Gwenn Mauk, a charter member and retired NBHS teacher, will continue as Treasurer. Gwenn has lived in North Baltimore since 1960 and has actively supported the Society for years.

In addition to the officers listed above, the Board will include immediate past President Phyllis Mercer, as well as Rick Van Mooy and Pam Siler.

Newsletter Delivery

Email or Snail Mail; The Choice is Yours

Email is the least expensive and quickest way for the Society to deliver the newsletter to individuals. However, if you don't use email, the Society would be happy to send you a printed copy. Also, a large-print version is available by special request. If you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please let the Society know at nbahs@wcnnet.org.

Did you know?

Until 1918, you could take a train to Weston via Tontogany on the Cincinnati, Hamilton, & Dayton Railroad. The CH&D once had a depot on East Broadway.

Plans for Computerizing Museum Inventory Records

One of the most important initiatives underway at NBOAHS is improving records of documents and artifacts in our collection. More complete, computerized records will allow us to better account for and protect our collection and allow individuals to efficiently search and locate items of interest.

The effort involves purchasing a new computer (dedicated to collection management) and specialized software. The software we are planning to buy, called "Past Perfect," is used by many museums, including the Wood County Historical Museum. It will allow the society to fully document an item's description, provenance (origin and history), and donor. It also stores scanned photos of artifacts and documents, a feature that is especially useful since it allows researchers to read and reprint documents and photos without handling the often-fragile originals. In short, a computerized data-base will make our collection a much more useful asset for the local community and others, including students, genealogists, historians, and those of us who are just interested in the history of our community. Original paper records will be maintained in case they are needed.

The cost of the computer and software will be approximately \$3,600. NBOAHS has already set aside about \$2,500 for the project—funds that were primarily donated by individuals specifically for this effort. Plans are underway to solicit local organizations for additional contributions. One donor has promised to match donations from individuals up to a total of \$1,000.

In the meantime, NBOAHS members are working to organize, verify, and supplement existing paper documentation so that data will be ready to input when the new computer system is up and running.

Both Newsletter and Website Provide Information on Society Events

The NBOAHS newsletter provides information that is of particular interest to members. The Society website (www.northbaltimorehistory.org) includes some of the same information but targets a larger audience.

Check our website at
northbaltimorehistory.org
for new history articles
and Society news.

Vanished North Baltimore:

Herman Schrage's Blacksmith Shop

By Tom Boltz

Herman Schrage operated a blacksmith shop on North Main Street from 1906 until approximately 1917.



Three men stand in the doorway of Herman Schrage's blacksmith shop.

The business was located in a building where the North Baltimore Public Library is now

located. After closing his business, Schrage was later employed by the France Stone Company where he worked until he died in 1924. He and his wife and two daughters lived at 402 West Water Street.

Schrage's great niece, Marilyn Wilson, sent digital images of these photos. Marilyn, who lives in California, has been researching her family's North Baltimore roots with the aid of the Historical Society. The Society has furnished her with digital images of the France Stone Company and other historical photos from its archives. Although Marilyn retained the original photographs of the blacksmith shop, through her generosity the Society now has digital copies of these valuable historical photographs in its collection. Visit the History Center to take a closer look at the photos.



Herman Schrage is on the right in this c1913 photo of his blacksmith shop.

Share Your Historical Photographs

The Society can scan old photos of the NB area in order to create digital images for our archives. Originals will be returned. If you have photos to share, contact Tom Boltz at 567-336-6040 or any Society Board member.

New Members and Membership Renewal

NBOAHS always welcomes new members. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to renew your annual membership or to apply for a new membership. Fees are due by January 1, 2012.

Members who have a few spare hours a month can get to know others better by helping with a variety of tasks including keying data into our computerized inventory records, greeting and assisting visitors, and helping maintain our building and display cases. Perhaps most importantly, membership gives you a say in what's going on at your local museum and a way to become involved in the village's civic affairs.

Consider Memorial Gifts

Often, when a loved one passes away, friends and family are asked what memorial gift would be appropriate to honor the deceased. A gift to the North Baltimore Historical Society can be an especially fitting tribute, especially for those who have been long-time residents or have been interested in history. Such gifts—large and small—benefit the community and future generations and may provide a tax deduction for the donor.

NBOAHS Achieves Official Tax-exempt Status

The Internal Revenue Service recently granted 501(3)(c) tax-exempt status to The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society, Inc. (NBOAHS), effective retroactively to November 9, 2009. As a result, people making contributions to the NBOAHS can now deduct their donations on their federal income tax filings with official authorization of the IRS.

The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society

229 North Main Street, P.O. Box 174

North Baltimore, Ohio, 45872

(419) 257-2266

Email: nbahs@wcnet.org

Web address: www.northbaltimorehistory.org

2012 Membership Application

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (optional) _____ Email _____

Individual \$10
Patron \$50
Individual life membership \$200
Couple life membership \$300
Donations \$_____

Make checks payable to NBOAHS

Mail to: NBOAHS
PO Box 174
North Baltimore, OH 45872

All membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

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