



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

July 2012

New Exhibits

Over the last year, Society members have been working on several new exhibits. These include the refurbishment and reconstruction of the circa 1900 wooden North Baltimore Post Office panels. The panels have been reassembled and will be on permanent display in the Historical Center's garage. Inside the Center's main building, visitors can view a chronological arrangement of 19th- and early 20th-Century photographs showing the history of the North Baltimore area. There is also a new display on the Henry Opera House in the front parlor.

Visitors can view these exhibits, which are nearing completion, on Tuesday mornings or during North Baltimore's Summer Fest, July 28th, 10am until 3pm.

NBOAHS Welcomes Members

The Society welcomes new members, solicits their input, and encourages them to attend Board meetings—usually held at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month. Members can also help with tasks such as managing records, greeting visitors, or helping with displays. Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to renew or apply for membership. Annual memberships expire as of Dec. 31.



A 1944 photo of Mr. D. C. Fast's science class at NBHS
(NBOAHS digital photo collection)

Events at the History Center

- July 3, 10am, Discovery Academy Tour
- July 12, 9am, Crossroads Quilt Club
- July 12, 7pm, NBOAHS Board Meeting (changed from July 5)
- July 18, 7pm, Garden Club
- July 24, 11am, Crossroads Quilt Club
- July 28, 10am-3:00pm, Summer Fest
- Aug. 2, 7pm, NBOAHS Board Meeting
- Aug. 9, 9am, Crossroads Quilt Club
- Aug. 11, 12-5pm, Chase Family Reunion
- Aug. 15, 7pm, Garden Club
- Aug. 28, 11am, Crossroads Quilt Club

Society Acquires Items from Soon-to-be-demolished School

Through the cooperation of NBPS Superintendent Marlene North and her staff, the Society has acquired a number of items from the old South Second Street School Building. The building was originally constructed to replace a 1880s building, which was destroyed by fire in 1926, and was in use from 1927 until it closed at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Students will attend a newly constructed building beginning in September.

Items acquired include the photograph of George Washington which hung in the school's main entrance, senior class photographs, several old wooden classroom doors, and an original wooden storage cabinet like those found in each of the building's classrooms. The Historical Society also digitally photographed the interior of the school in July 2011 to create a record of what the classrooms and other rooms looked like in the early 21st Century. These items will become part of the Society's school- room collection.

No items or photos from the 1880s school building are known to have survived the 1926 fire, and nothing was formally preserved from other local school buildings when they were closed in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. NBOAHS' efforts will help ensure that the 1927 South Second Street building is remembered.

Case Study Illustrates Value of NBOAHS Archives for Research

One of the Society's missions is to make its collection of nearly 10,000 photographs, documents, and artifacts readily available for research to society members, genealogists, educators, historians, and the media. To help achieve this goal, volunteers have started inventorying and cataloguing items in the collection using the recently acquired Past Perfect computer program. As more items are inventoried, volunteer staff will be able to more efficiently retrieve documents and photographs for researchers.

The Society's volunteers are frequently asked to do limited research to answer inquiries, especially for individuals from out of town. The NBOAHS archives do not contain extensive genealogical material related to specific families. However, there is a wealth of historic documents that can shed light on their daily lives in the local area. While NBOAHS volunteers cannot do lengthy or detailed research they can help locate materials in our collection or direct researchers to other organizations where they may find relevant information.

A recent inquiry illustrates how NBOAHS can help. A genealogist from the Chicago area recently emailed the Society for information about photographers who were in business in North Baltimore in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. She had several old family photographs with the name J. Sweet listed as the photographer, and she wanted to know where Sweet's photography studio was located and when it was in business.

The Society has several potential sources of information in its archives to answer such an inquiry. In this case, North Baltimore business directories for 1898 and 1910 both gave the Sweet photography business location as 127 1/2 South Main St. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1913 confirmed this South Main Street location plus provided an interior sketch of the building. The Sanborn Maps also helped identify the Sweet photography studio building in a circa 1910 S. Main Street photograph. This photograph showed the building as it looked over 100 years ago. While not used in this case, the Society's copies of the North Baltimore Beacon newspaper often give additional information on local merchants.



Looking north in this circa 1910 photograph of South Main Street, the arrow points to the Sweet photography studio on the building's second floor. The ground floor housed a grocery store and a barber shop. This building still exists in 2012 and is occupied by the Crossroads Café and a physical therapy office. The Toledo, Bowling Green, & Southern Interurban Streetcar tracks are in the center of the street.

The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society

A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

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2012 Membership Application

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All membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

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