



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 2014

NB HISTORICAL CENTER 2014 SUMMER HOURS

The North Baltimore Historical Center will be open to the public during the Good Ole Summertime Festival on July 26th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The Center will also be open on Saturday, August 30th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The Historical Center will continue to be open each Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Special tours can be arranged at other times by calling the Historical Center's phone number 419-257-2266.

HISTORY OF THE NORTH BALTIMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 19TH CENTURY HOSE CART WHEELS



These wooden wheels were once mounted on the North Baltimore Fire Department's (NBFD) 19th-Century fire hose cart. The fire department used the hose cart until approximately 1915. The wheels were later removed and stored by the department. It is unknown what happened to the hose reel itself. There are no known photographs of the NBFD hose cart, hand pumped fire engine, or the Buckeye Hose Company firemen.

In April 2014, the family of Harold "Fuzz" Crouse donated this pair of the old hose cart wheels to the North

Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Center, in honor of Lee Crouse, a former NB Fire Chief.

THE FIERY ELEMENT

Makes a Most Unwelcome Visit to Our City Again

Five Business Rooms and Two Dwellings Burn at a Loss of Not Less Than \$26,000

About 4 o'clock Saturday morning, the frightful yell of fire in connection with the peals of the fire bell, aroused nearly the whole city from deepest slumber. The writer was soon on the ground and plainly saw that a frightful destruction of property was inevitable. The fire communicated in some way, in W. I. Chalfant's grocery and bakery; the prevailing opinion is that the irregular gas pressure that night was the cause, the gas having been left burning, both lamp and stove, a very careless trick, practiced by many of our business men. When discovered, the building in which the fire originated was well nigh consumed and Frank Clark's drug store, in the upper part of which Dr. Reddin resided and had a office, was also a flaming coal on the north side. Dr. Reddin and wife were as yet unconscious of their danger, and when awakened, barely had time to make their escape through a front window. The doctor carried his wife, who is somewhat of an invalid, to the window from which she was dropped to willing arms below, after which he succeeded, after running the fiery gauntlet, in securing a drawer containing valuable papers, also a few books, which were all that were saved. Not even a shirt was saved, and one of his friends provided him with one of those necessary articles. The fury of the flames spread in both directions, and all efforts by the fire companies seemed to avail but little toward impeding its progress. From Clark's drug store the fire leaped to his dwelling, and in a few minutes reduced it to ashes, all household goods having been saved. The furniture rooms directly in the rear, next took fire, and all were entirely consumed, but willing hands removed the furniture some distance away, dropping a piece here and there in the snow. By superhuman efforts the fire was stopped from going farther south than the Clark residence. In the

meantime Charles Pifher's saloon was being devoured, and there being no hope for Knoke and Dirk's hardware store, the goods were hastily removed. Right here a grand mistake was made which added the Henry Opera House to the destroyed. It was proposed to tear out the frame building, owned by S. M. Bower, in order to save the Henry building, but through the differences of opinion entertained by one or two having control of the Hook and Ladder Co., this was not done. From this building the Henry building took fire in the cornice, and the building being built of timber, lined outside with brick, soon became an unmanageable sheet of flames. In the meantime the dry goods stock of G. F. Brenner, was removed. All hands now consolidated on saving Richcreek's store and the remainder of the block, and tearing away wooden buildings in the rear. The firemen and others seemed determined on stopping the devastation, and after a four hours fight, succeeded. Men stood strictly at their posts of duty with flames almost surrounding them, and smoke so dense that it was impossible to see. Several times all hopes seemed to vanish, and Richcreek's drug and furniture stores, Bushong & Spitler's dry goods house, Stouffer's hardware and the Beacon office appeared to be doomed, but by the energy of the firemen and deep snow covering every roof, the fire was gotten under control, after seriously damaging Richcreek's building and its contents.

Never has a fire of such great magnitude visited our city before, and just at this time, while prosperity seemed to be smiling upon us, it casts a gloom and woe-begone appearance, almost discouraging; however, it is to be hoped that the present appearance is but temporary, and that fine brick structures may soon occupy the present deserted lots.

[Originally printed in the *Weekly Beacon* on March 30, 1888.]

PIONEER FIREMEN

Judge Taylor First Secretary of the North Baltimore Fire Company

A Meeting of the Village Firemen, in which the Pioneer Firemen of the City were Invited to Take Part

On Monday evening the fire company held its regular monthly meeting. Previous to the meeting all old firemen who had at any time been members of the company, had been invited to be present. A goodly sprinkle were there and listened to the proceedings, which reminded them of the days when gray hairs were not so numerous among them. One could not help but think of the time when a little hand engine, diminutive in size but mighty in weight, especially when it had to be

hauled through the mud by a dozen willing, voluntary hands, anxious to preserve what little there was of North Baltimore at that time, was the motive power. A few yards of hose and a hole here and there in the street constituted the paraphernalia of the Buckeye Hose Co. From this primitive beginning the company has grown to its present modern condition, ranking with the first in the country.

The usual monthly proceedings were gone through with and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:

G. B. Smith, Secretary.

Fred Rockwell, Foreman Hose Co.; Billy Bond, Assistant.

B. H. Peters, Foreman Hooks; Wm. Partlow, Assistant.

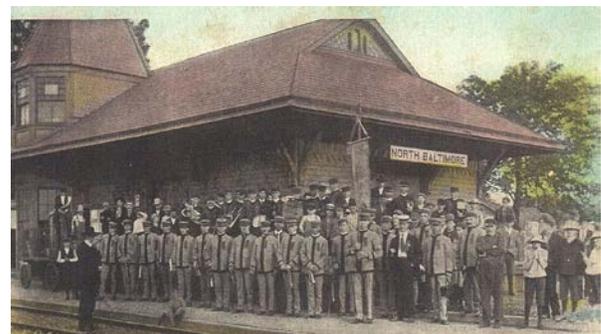
Frank Hatch, B. B. Rockwell, Arthur Rogers, B. B. Bower, nozzelmen.

G. B. Smith and Chas. Hamman, hydrant men.

At this time ex-firemen present were informed that they had been asked to attend the meeting for the purpose of inviting them to become honorary members. After some little discussion it was agreed that the secretary should draw up a document for the signature of all old members who cared to be so identified.

During the reminiscences the secretary referred to the old minutes of the company away back in the 80's. The books show that Judge Taylor was the first secretary, and L. D. Arnold, chairman. Since that time the fire apparatus has gone through quite an evolution. Nearly all the old residents of town have at some time been members of the company, and, if all will take hold, quite an interesting organization can be effected.

[Originally printed in the *Weekly Beacon* on April 13, 1900.]



NB Fire Department & Band in front of Depot ca. 1910

Fire! Fire!!

Old Billy Stone, who lives alone,
His company to keep ---
His pipe he'd light 'most every night
An' smoke his-se'f to sleep.

So to his nest, one night to rest,
Old Billy did retire;
With his first snore the pipe turned o'er
An' set the bed on fire.

In flames an' smoke, Old Bill awoke
T' strangle an' t' koff;
The fire spread fast until at last
It singed his whiskers off.

Now Bill will swear that not a hair
Was injured on his head,
Tho' people knows, while Billy blows.
No more he smokes in bed.

The above pathetic lines were not fostered by the
"muse." They are the natural offspring of a
circumstance.

[Written by George M. Pilcher, a NB resident during the
1890's, and originally printed in the *Weekly Beacon* on
January 3, 1908.]

CORRECTION

The name of the NBOAHS Wreath Fairy was incorrectly
listed as Elaine Cheney in the April newsletter. The real
Wreath Fairy is Cappy Cheney. **Thank you Cappy!**

CONSIDER MEMORIAL GIFTS

A gift to the NBOAHS in memory of a loved one who
has passed away can be an especially fitting tribute for
those who have been long-time residents or have been
interested in history. Such gifts benefit the community
and future generations and may provide a tax deduction
for the donor.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Now is the time to renew your annual membership -- or
become a new member! Please use the form below to
renew your membership or to apply for a new
membership.

The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society

229 North Main Street, P.O. Box 174
North Baltimore, Ohio, 45872
(419) 257-2266

Email: nbahs@wcnnet.org

Web address: www.northbaltimorehistory.org

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

2014 Membership Application

(January through December)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email (optional) _____

New Member

Renewal

Individual	\$10
Patron	\$50
Single life	\$200
Couple life	\$300
Donation	\$ _____

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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