



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

Summer 2016

**Good Ole Summertime Fest
Saturday, July 30, 2016**

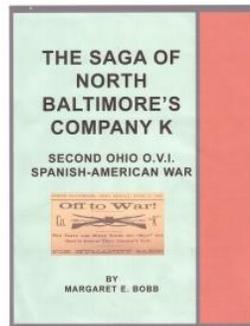
**NB HISTORICAL CENTER
OPEN HOUSE
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

COMING SOON...

**Available at the NB Historical Center
July 30!**

**THE SAGA OF NORTH
BALTIMORE'S COMPANY K:
SECOND OHIO O.V.I. SPANISH-
AMERICAN WAR
By Margaret Bobb**

One hundred and eighteen years ago 75 men from North Baltimore and area answered the call from Uncle Sam to report for duty with Co. K, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry following the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor which led to President McKinley declaring war on Spain and the start of the Spanish-American War. Beginning with the creation of a National Guard unit in NB, **THE SAGA OF NORTH BALTIMORE'S CO. K: SECOND OHIO O.V.I. SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR** is the story of this group of young men from the time they boarded the train at the depot until the war ended and the company was mustered out. The book includes letters sent to the *Weekly Beacon* by North Baltimore resident, Lieutenant W. Sheridan Wilson. The letters provide an interesting insight into life in camp and



experiences the men had while training in camps in Columbus (OH), Tennessee and Georgia. The author is the great granddaughter of Lieutenant Wilson.



Margaret Bobb decorating the graves of the 20 men of Co. K who are buried at Maplewood Cemetery. (Grave of Pvt. Simon W. Dermer)

Looking for a speaker for your group or organization?

Rick Mays and his friend "Chandler" [the letterpress] are available to give presentations on how printing has changed over the years. Call Rick for more information or to arrange for a presentation (419-257-3659).

PARLOR REED ORGAN RESTORED

In the Fall of 2015 the NBOAHS Board of Directors decided to explore the possibilities of restoring the Center's reed organ to playing condition. The organ was donated to the Center by the Walter family. When the restorer inspected the organ, he discovered a handwritten pencil notation on the interior back panel which gives a complete history of the ownership of the instrument. It reads:

*Owners:
Ellen Henning – New
Bot Mrs. Anna Adams 1939
Loaned to Mrs. Apple
Loaned to Judy Lee Walter 1945*

The organ was made by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont probably in the late 1880's. The Estey Organ Company was founded in 1852 by Jacob

Estey, who was a plumber by trade. The company, which became the largest organ manufacturer in the United States, made pump organs (melodeons and American reeds), pipe organs, theater organs, and electronic organs and shipped products to Africa, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. Estey built 500,000-520,000 pump organs between 1852 and 1955. At its height, the factory complex had more than twenty buildings, many of which were interconnected by raised walkways and covered bridges.

The Center's parlor organ was restored by Lima Pipe Organ of Elida, Ohio. According to Tom Holycross, owner of Lima Pipe Organ, the NBOAHS organ was one of the better organs made by Estey. It has several unusual features: the keyboard starts with the key of "F" rather than the usual "C", it is larger than the usual parlor organ and has an unusual number of keys—173. Unfortunately, the keys are not real ivory.

[Restoration work on the organ has been completed and we hope to have it back home in the parlor soon.]

IN OUR HOMETOWN

By

Larry E. Slaughterbeck

I recently spoke at the North Baltimore Lion's Club on behalf of the North Baltimore Area Historical Society. My talk was on some famous individuals who have spent time in North Baltimore.



John Philip Sousa Band on stage at the Henry Opera House (NBOAHS)

On September 22, 1903 a conductor from the Romantic Era (late 1800's-early 1900's), John Philip Sousa, and his band performed at NB's Henry Opera House. Sousa had just returned from a tour of Europe and the British Isles where his band performed 362 concerts. I assume he and his 40 piece band stayed at the Columbia Hotel (where the Virginia Theatre building is located) which was close to the Henry Opera House. The opera house

seated a thousand people. It burned down in 1888, 1894 and finally 1911. Sousa is most famous for composing our national march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and the Marine march, "Semper Fidelis." His band was the "President's Own Band" for five presidents including three from Ohio: Garfield, Hayes and Harrison.

Another famous person who spent time in North Baltimore was Clark Gable. He spent Novembers from 1937 to around 1946 hunting in Findlay and NB and even knew some of our citizens by their first name. It is rumored that Carole Lombard and John Wayne accompanied Gable on one of his pheasant hunting trips here.

One time movie star and vaudeville entertainer, Joe E. Brown owned a small farm southwest of NB. He was rumored to have sold the farm because the people in town ignored him. Mr. Swope told me he had seen Joe E. Brown drinking a milkshake at K.O. Hoffman's drug store and regrets he never spoke to him. Ray Vandersall tells of the times Joe E. Brown would eat with his family at their home on Rudolph Road.

The "Handcuff King," Harry Houdini, brought his magic act to NB and Mayor Janet Goldner's father, Howard, was called on stage and helped Houdini demonstrate a slight of birdcage trick.

Several world famous actresses including Lauren Hutton, American Model and actress; Ms. Lillian Gish, the first lady of American Cinema;" and Oscar winning Eva Marie Saint have spent time at Dr. Ralph Wolfe's beautiful home on South Main Street. Dr. Wolfe and Ms. Saint are both recipients of the Bowling Green State University Distinguished Alumni Award.

I thought this was interesting: the NBOAHS house has a model of the Fulton Oil well derrick. What's significant is the Fulton's shot the first oil well in Wood County-Henry Township. On December 8, 1886 they hit oil. The well produced 720 barrels a day till 1897. It was located at the north-east corner of Mitchell and Oil Center roads on a farm now owned by Carl Meyer.

I called Carl Meyer regarding the oil well and we discussed the airport that was later located at the same site as Fulton's oil well. He confirmed that there was an airport but wasn't sure of the dates it operated. He said there was a landing strip and a hangar. Doug Troutner said that local philatelist, Mel Fleckner, had an air mail stamp cancelled from the NB Airport. Bonnie Knaggs told me that Carl Doyle, who later had a "high position" with PanAm Airlines, founded the airport. They even had air shows and Helen Rockwell took flying lessons there.

In the last quarter of 1925 the NB post office sold a "record" of 26,000 two-cent stamps. George Fulton, postmaster, was quoted in the NB *Weekly Beacon* as

saying, “more people sent out greeting cards and small packages” for the holidays.

In the same newspaper of January 1926 the editor wrote about a basketball game between NB and Bloomdale to be played in the Brown Gymnasium. I assume it was destroyed when the school building burned down. NB sure has had an interesting history.

P.S. Thanks to the Historical Center for preserving the history of our hometown. The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society (NBOAHS) membership cost is \$10.00 and you will receive a quarterly newsletter. You may mail a check to NBOAHS, P. O. Box 174, North Baltimore, OH 45872. For further info go to www.northbaltimorehistory.org.

We thank NBOAHS Life Member Tom Boltz for donating these scales to our collection.

FEATURED OBJECT



H. Emerson Boltz, founder of the North Baltimore News in 1933, used the scales pictured here to measure chemicals for developing photographs in his photographic darkroom in the 1930's and 1940's.

The scales' base is 6-1/2" long, 3-3/4" wide and 3" high. A 5" guide is attached to the front and measures "grains" (0-50), "grammes" (0-3.2) and "decigrammes" (0-32) : AVOIRDUPOIS AND METRIC SYSTEM. Each tray is 3-5/8" in diameter.

The manufacturer's name is illegible due to deterioration of the tinplate metal surface, although the number 2805 is clearly marked on the side of the base.

All six weights are in their slots in the base: 2 oz., 1 oz., 1/2 oz., 1/4 oz., 50 gr. and 50 gr. The scale works perfectly!

NORTH BALTIMORE AND IT'S PARK

By "Butch" Biehler

A park with a back-ground of beautiful trees
Is ours to admire, dear friends, if you please;
A place for the kids and grown-ups too,
Clean living it fosters for us—it is true.
There are slides and swings and a merry-go-round
While away in the corner a brick building is found
A grandstand graces the new ball field,
Three strikes and, "You're out," the umpire spels.
On the darkest night football they play
For there's light in the heavens, just like day.
This Fall, when Hallow'en rolled around
A parade came marching onto the ground.
Well I remember—will never forget
The good times I had riding Ol' Fred
And while I confess I couldn't see,
I'm sure there were blisters some place on me.
Oh, I'm getting too old to ride on a horse,
Too old for football and baseball of course
But I like every inch of my home town
And I will be here the day Gabriel comes 'round.
I'll tell him of our kids, of our band, of our school;
I'll tell him we live by the golden rule,
I'll tell him Heaven surely can't be,
Nicer than the town that belongs to me.

Butch Biehler, NB's "Milk Man," made home deliveries with his horse, Fred, for many years. This poem was originally published in <i>NB News</i> on December 15, 1949
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ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE HISTORICAL CENTER:

Black Swamp Soldiers: Henry Township Men in the
Civil War by Tom Boltz - \$5.00
Cemeteries in Henry Township and North Baltimore by
Wood County Genealogical Society - \$20.00
North Baltimore and It's Neighbors by Tom Boltz -
\$22.00
North Baltimore's Great Fire of 1891 by Tom Boltz -
\$8.00
Southern Wood County Oral History Project by Joseph
Arpad - \$25.00

The North Baltimore Ohio Area Historical Society

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