

Randolph's St. Joseph's School Celebrates Over 170 Yrs. in Education

St. Joseph School, Randolph, Ohio established in 1832 is believed to be the oldest Catholic elementary school west of the Allegheny Mountains. Those who organized St. Joseph Parish knew, that for its future, a parochial school was necessary. They realized that education does not consist of mere intellectual knowledge, but of moral and religious knowledge. A one-room log cabin served as the first schoolhouse. The first teacher was Mr. Joseph Schroeder. In 1835 a newer log schoolhouse was built to replace the original.

Students at the school were instructed by lay teachers until 1885 when the pastor engaged the Sisters

of Notre Dame from Cleveland, Ohio to staff the school. Also, in 1885 the log cabin was replaced with a two-story frame building, housing grades one through six. In 1922, under the leadership of Fr. George Reber, the oldest portion of the present school was built as a cost of \$50,000.00. Due to increasing enrollment credited to the post-war baby boom, a large six classroom addition was constructed on the east side of the existing building in 1958. Today, St. Joseph School continues to build upon the strong family values evident in the rural parish. Students are motivated to develop their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical gifts to their fullest potential.

The Randolph Historical Society will reprint 1902 Centennial Souvenir Book

The *Randolph Centennial Souvenir 1802-1902* will be reprinted by the Randolph Historical Society. This is a very difficult book to locate, and the Historical Society felt that beginning our third century it was a wonderful idea to make this book available to the citizens of Randolph.

The book is already in production and we hope to be able to start selling the book by early March. The price will be \$10.00 if you have any questions please contact Carey Steele at 330-935-2421.

Newsletter Staff:

Kathy Lang
Howard Mangold
Richard Staats
Carey Steele

Anyone with any ideas or stories concerning the history of Randolph please contact the R.H.S.

The Randolph LEGACY

The Randolph Historical Society Newsletter

Letter from the President,

**Attention family historians, wanna-be researchers, and local history lovers:
The Randolph Historical Society wants your help!**

Randolph is a unique and wonderful town. As we start our third century, it's appropriate that we spend some time and effort gathering and sharing our most valuable treasures: our families' role in the legacy of Randolph. My family has only lived in Randolph for less than three years, but the hospitality and welcoming spirit of this town has made us feel as if we have always belonged. And I have come to realize this: You don't have to have been raised here to have pride in Randolph's rich history. Whether your family's ancestors can be found on the 1874 map or your family is so new, you're not even listed in the telephone book, this town is yours. The voices of those who have walked these streets decades and centuries before us are all of ours to be heard for the asking.

Each family that calls its home Randolph has a part to play. If your house is older, have you researched it's history and those who have owned it? If not, we can help you with the research. Are there treasures awaiting you in a box in your parents or grandparents' attics? Old deeds, pictures, family histories, and other documents are truly gold to our historical society and in turn, to all of us. I ask you to consider making your family's history a project this year. We would love any duplicates of family documents that you might want to share. Consider asking questions of those in your family who are older than you. They have great wisdom and stories to tell.

Finally, if you are new and just beginning your family's life in Randolph, consider spending some time this year learning about our town's 200 year old legacy of courage and fortitude. The best way to learn is to research. There are many documents and archives in our area still left untapped and could provide valuable information. We welcome anyone who would like to join us and offer their time, effort, and ideas. Come, be a part of what I hope will be a very exciting year!

Carey Steele



The Randolph Historical Society
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Randolph Historical Society member gets published

Heritage Books, Inc. recently published *A Grassroots History of the American Civil War*, volumes III and IV, written by Richard J. Staats. This documented series relates the experiences and thoughts of the citizens and soldiers in our area. Through letters, contemporary newspaper articles, official war records, and other printed matter, the reader learns what our people experienced day by day, not knowing what tomorrow might bring.

Captain Cotter's Battery, volume III, focuses on Capt. Chas. S. Cotter's local artillery battery that existed in Ravenna prior to the war. This band of men became the nucleus of Battery A, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, which saw hard service in the western theater of the Civil War. Cotter briefly was a resident of Randolph Township, and

many of Battery A's soldiers came from Randolph. Bruce Stanford, whose great-uncle Vactor Stanford served in Battery A, contributed excellent firsthand information to the project.

The Life and Times of Colonel William Stedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry, volume IV, turned into a 416-page work of love. The author was amazed that no previous book existed on this famous man from Randolph. Even as a young man, Stedman was an ardent abolitionist who was active in the Underground Railroad. He strongly supported the women's rights and temperance movements as measures to improve the human race. His neighbors in Randolph elected him a justice of the Peace, and in time he represented them in the Ohio State

Assembly. Stedman brilliant service with the 6th Ohio Cavalry was documented in the Official Records of the war and in his soldiers' letters. Although he was a highly principled man, Stedman was not a mean-spirited, pinch-faced abolitionist of the John Brown stripe. His friends and neighbors liked Stedman's manner and sense of humor. By reading the correspondence of his wife and children, one learns that Stedman was a respected and loved husband and father. However, tragedy seemed to haunt him and his family.

To purchase *Captain Cotter's Battery* or *The Life and Times of Colonel William Stedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry* at a discount contact the Randolph Historical Society.

The Historical Society's Activities for 2002

In January of 2002 Dan Kolasky was elected President, Russ Morris Vice President, Audrey Smith, Treasurer and Carol Mangold, Secretary.

Carol Hunt, (7th grade teacher at Waterloo Middle School) spoke to the Historical Society about a history of the Randolph School House that her English class was writing and asked that any alumni who had memories of the past years contact her class and record their experiences for the book. A picture of Justin Belding's Store was approved for our 7th wood cut, and we approved the purchase of 6,000 post-cards of Randolph's roads circa 1900's to have printed and sold for 6 for \$5.00. We also donated one of our tote bags and one each of our wood cuts to the Waterloo Band Boosters for their auction.

In February we made plans for a Bicentennial Birthday Party to be held on April 6th at the Senior Center and Town Hall. One thousand Bicentennial buttons were purchased and a list of

questions regarding the family ancestry of Randolph residents was presented at the Bicentennial Party. A descendent of Bela Hubbard came to the party with Bela's bible and part of a spinning tool. The party was a success lets plan another in 2003.

On a sad note the Davis House was demolished at the corner of Waterloo Rd and Rt. 44, Dan Kolasky was able to save some papers, a lighting rod and woodwork from one of the windows.

At the August meeting the society members were invited to Tim Freshley's home and were presented a program by Tim Freshley and Dennis Wray on the history of the Crosley Company. Tim and Dennis are avid collectors of Crosley cars and the many other products produced by the Crosley Company.

Carey Steele's research on Randolph's role in the Underground Railroad inspired the Historical Society to purchase a marker from the Freedom Foundation celebrating the courageous work of the abolitionists in Randolph

during the year of 1847.

The presentation of the marker took place September 28, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the Randolph Heritage Festival. On October 5, 2002 at 10:00 am a reception was held at Town Hall dedicating the marker and installing it in front of Town Hall. We were honored to have some descendants of the original abolitionists on hand to celebrate this dedication with us. Jim Caccamo coordinator of the North East District Friends of Freedom Society died unexpectedly a few days prior to our slide show on the *Underground Railroad in Randolph* scheduled for November 13, 2002 at 7:00 pm. Carey Steele, Richard Staats and Mary Bernower moved ahead and presented an outstanding program and dedicated it to Jim. We also had another wood cut of the Stedman House made.

The Society pledged a \$100.00 scholarship to a student studying history. Michael Horning who will be attending Kent State Stark campus will receive the scholarship.

Bela Hubbard Marker and Dedication Scheduled for March 31, 2003

Please join us on March 31, at 7:00pm for the dedication of the Bela Hubbard marker, the first settler of Randolph. A reception will follow the dedication. Below is the inscription on the marker.

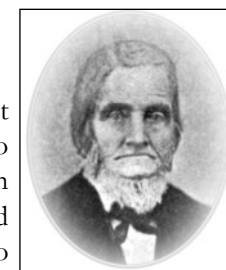
(side one)

In 1799, Bela Hubbard and Salmon Ward left their homes at Middletown, Connecticut and settled in Jefferson County, New York. Both arrived in Randolph on March 31 1802, Bela's 27th birthday. They brought a yoke of oxen, a cart, food supplies, and tools. The men built an 18' x 12' cabin with a split log floor. When Ward returned to New York, Hubbard spent six weeks alone in the wilderness before other pioneers arrived. In April 1806, Bela and Clarissa Ward were the first couple to marry in Randolph Township. Clarissa died in 1832. Bela's second

wife, Elizabeth, died in 1862. He had ten children.

(Side two)

Bela was the first to clear a field to raise wheat in Randolph and one of the first to plant an apple orchard. During the War of 1812, Hubbard was Captain of the Sterling Grays, a New York company, which served in spite of being exempted by age. He was elected Justice of the Peace for Randolph and he served as an elder in the Disciples Church. This plaque is dedicated on March 31, 2003 to Bela Hubbard and his fellow pioneers who created the first settlement in Randolph Township.



Myron Mullett's Wood Cuts Given to the Historical Society.

At the February meeting Myron Mullett presented his unique wood cuts of Johnny Cake Hollow to the Historical Society.

Myron and his wife are both from Randolph, and he has devoted time researching the businesses in the hollow during its heyday the early 1850's.

We would like to thank him for his unique gift and plan on putting the wood cuts on display at all future functions.

In our Summer Issue we are looking for pictures, stories, recipes reflections etc. on the Great Depression era in Randolph. How did your family celebrate the holidays?

We would also like to know any Randolph ghost stories, houses thought to haunted, etc. Please contact us with any information.

New Officers for 2003...

On January 28, 2003 the Randolph Historical Society held their first meeting of the new year with the election of new officers.

Carey Steele President
Dan Kolasky Vice President
Audrey Smith Treasurer
Carol Mangold Secretary

At present we have thirty seven members. Now is the time to renew your membership for the following year. We cordially invite all new members to attend our next meeting on April 22, 2003 at 7:30 pm.

If your interested in receiving the newsletter contact Carey Steele at 330-935-2421 or Howard Mangold at 330-325-8817.
e-mail: randolphurr@yahoo.com

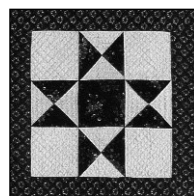
Mary Bernower Will Present a Program on Quilts as Signals on the Underground Railroad

On May 4, from 2-3:30 pm at the Senior Center, Mary Bernower will display her quilts and present her program on quilt signals for escaping slaves to follow on the Underground Railroad.

Retiring from teaching Mary a English teacher in North Canton, Lake and Louisville got interested in quilting. Her grandmother, mother, father and step-mother all quilted and she

believes she also inherited the quilting gene. Her interest in the Underground Railroad came about as a result of quilting.

More and more information about the quilt patterns have become available. Stories about the cleverness of people inspired her to keep reading about the successes



Ohio Star Pattern

Winner of the Blimp Ride Drawing...

The drawing for the two blimp rides was conducted at the potluck dinner of November 26. Richard Staats, a Randolph Historical Society member, was the lucky winner. In fact, Richard was a winner twice. The rides were scheduled for Sunday morning February 2nd for his daughter and five-year old granddaughter. At the last moment, there were two cancellations, so Richard and his wife Lora, received rides also. The flight went over the Staats' home in Suffield Township, the Rubber Bowl, and downtown Akron. It's a smooth ride on the The Spirit of Goodyear.

Fund Raiser for the Randolph Library will Feature Richard Staats and Dr. Stephane Booth

The Friends of the Library and the Randolph Historical Society will co-host a two day event on July 12 - 13, 2003 on Ohio Heritage.

Our guest speakers on July 12 will be Richard Staats at 11:00 a member of our Historical Society and Dr. Stephane Booth at 1:00 pm.

Richard will speak on the impact of the Civil War in Randolph Township and be on hand to autograph his books. Richard J. Staats was born in Akron, Ohio in 1940 After graduating from Manchester High School, he went on to pursue a Bachelors and a Masters in Education from U of A. A retired public school teacher and head football coach, Richard is also an avid Civil War historian. His research is primarily on the views of the local soldiers and citizens of Portage Co.

Richard has written four volumes in a series on the Civil War. *A Grassroots History of the American Civil War*, *The Life and Times of Ephraim*

Cooper, *The Bully Seventh*, *Captain Cotter's Battery*, and *The Life and Times of Colonel William Stedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry*. Richard is currently at work on a documentary on local "Base Ball" in the 1860's - *The Rosewood Bat and the Silver Ball*.

Richard resides in Suffield Township with his wife Lora.

Dr. Stephane Booth, Interim Dean of Academic and Student Services at Kent State University and Assistant Professor of History at Kent State University, Salem Campus will speak about her book *Buckeye Women: The History of Ohio's Daughters* from 1:00-2:30 p.m. She received her BA at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, MS at and Doctor of Arts at Illinois State University.

On Sunday Patrick Jolly will have a special childrens program at 2 p.m. and Prof. George Kalbous will present a program on Ohio's Immigration Heritage.

Underground Railroad Research Update

Below is the current list of homes that were owned by either known abolitionists or conductors of the Underground Railroad in Randolph. There are several more homes currently being investigated. If you suspect your home or have information to share, please contact Carey Steele 330-935-2421 or e-mail: randolphugrr@yahoo.com.

Caldwell Anderson House, Bassett Rd.
Lewis Bloomfield House, New Milford Rd.
Truman Case Farm, New Milford Rd.
Austin Collins Farm, St. Rt. 44
Oliver C. Dickinson House, Waterloo Rd.
Thomas Dundon House, New Milford Rd.
Chauncey Harmon Farm, St. Rt. 44
Joseph Price House, St. Rt. 44
The Town Hall, St. Rt. 44

To Be Added

Rev. Joseph Meriam's House, St. Rt. 44
Horace White House, Bassett Rd.
Chauncey Sears House, St. Rt. 44
Chauncey Tupper House, Hartville Rd.