

Class Announcement from 1935

At our last Historical Society meeting Alicia Darrah brought a Graduation Announcement from the year 1935. It was the announcement for Erma Aldine Bunner. The great part of this announcement was the listing of the 1935 class.



*The Senior Class of
Randolph High School
Announces its
Commencement Exercises
Tuesday Evening, May Seventh
at Eight o'clock
School Auditorium*

New T-Shirts on sale from the Historical Society...

Laura Rogers wants everyone to know we have a new design on our T-shirts.

□ **Randolph Ohio My Home Town** □
You can e-mail your order to:
randolphugrr@yahoo.com.

CLASS MOTTO

□ Honor Lies In Honest Toil □

CLASS COLORS CLASS FLOWER

Blue and White Red Rose

CLASS ROLL

Margaret Anderson	Sarah Anderson
Erma Bunner	Gladys Climes
Michael Danko	Daniel Evans
Frances Gougler	Harold Hanson
Vingina Hartman	Elizabeth Hilgert
Edith Huth	Florence Coby
Rita Lang	Rita May
Helen McCormick	Helen Miller
Eleanor Odadzin	Harley Pontius
LeRoy Robertson	Dennis Rogers
Kenneth Royer	George Schmitt
Vernon Siegfried	Clement Smith
Alice Stanley	Mary Wise

F. C. Gilmour - Class Patron

Newsletter Staff

Kathy Lang
Howard Mangold
Richard Staats
Carey Steele

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter please contact the Randolph Historical Society.

The Randolph LEGACY

The Randolph Historical Society Newsletter

Preserving Family Memories

By Carey Steele

A few years ago, I came across a fantastic novel about the Metcalfe family, spanning 1835 to the present day. What caught my eye is that the novel was presented as a family scrapbook, kept lovingly by the women of the family through the years. Each woman took some time every year to record family memories, recipes, and added mementos, pictures, and all the odds and ends that add up to the tapestry of a family's life. Soon after I read the book, I discovered that the author Sallyann J. Murphey, had reproduced a blank version of the scrapbook for readers to create their own family album. What a great gift to give a new mom or newlyweds! What a great tradition to start, whether you are in high school or you're a grandparent.

Each year, between Christmas and New Year, I try to record the events and memories of our family (I'm still working on 2003!) The first year I started our family album was after our first year in Randolph and the birth of our second son. Unfortunately, it was also just after September 11th. I tried my best to give a balanced and full account of our family. I included the emails from September 11th, demonstrating the uncertainty and concern we had for our country and each other. I taped in my "I voted" sticker from the 2000 Presidential election that seemed to spill into 2001. My youngest son's birth announcement, baptism invitation, and recipes of the foods served at the party afterward were all included. I added a picture of my oldest son picking apples with his Daddy from our first harvest, as well as the

words to the song "That's What Brother's Do" which I heard for the first time sitting in my car in the driveway just after the birth of our youngest son, I just sat there and cried, so happy to have my boys.

And most prominent are the words in my handwriting describing September 11th, the death of my stepdad's mother, my Mom-in-law's successful battle with cancer, and the new rhythm of living on a farm in a small town.

I've gotten better about the album. Instead of waiting until just before Christmas to search the house for things to put in the album, I have been keeping things together throughout the year - things like ticket stubs to our son's first outing to the movies, family pictures that get sent to us, invitations to weddings we've attended, obituaries and funeral cards that are available at calling hours and recipes to the meals most important to our families' traditions.

This past year's album pages will include the pattern to the Christmas quilt my Mom made, the recipe to the homemade play dough my son's preschool makes, an outline of the cookie cutter and recipe for the Cinnamon Applesauce ornaments my Mom made to help decorate our house for Christmas, a copy of one of the Historical Society's newsletters, and Carol Mangold's Oatmeal cookie recipe that she made for the county fair. I even took the album to our Thanksgiving and Christmas family gatherings and asked everyone to write down what they were most thankful for this year. Of course there were the typical smart aleck answers, but in

all the answers, the personality, humor, and love my family members share shines through, not to mention that their thoughts and handwriting are now preserved for later generations.

I guess the reason I'm having a harder time getting this year done is knowing what else I want to add - the recipes that belonged to my husband's grandmother. She died this past year and preserving her legacy of wonderful food, cookies, and fruitcake have become very important to me. The Christmas before she died, I sat at her feet and asked her to describe her Christmas preparations. What cookies did she make? How did she make her fruitcake? Even though it was difficult for her to speak, she asked me to get her cookbooks out and together we went through all her Christmas recipes, I learned that her fruitcake recipe is over 50 years old and she made it just for her husband. She told me how her Hungarian Nut Rolls came from a woman who lived next door to her when my mom-in-law was a child and how she used to make at least 10 different kinds of cookies for Christmas. As I wrote the recipes down on scraps of paper, I hoped that Grandma understood that I meant to keep her traditions alive. I think she did know. And I discovered something this past Christmas: I like her fruitcake.

Just a Reminder

With the beginning of the new year membership dues need to be paid.

If you are not a member but, are receiving the newsletter, please consider a donation to help fund the



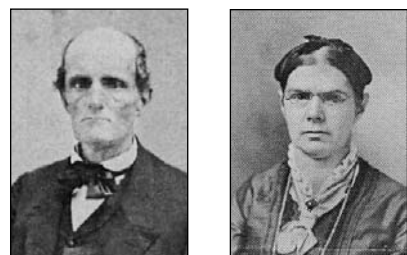
The Randolph Historical Society
P.O. Box 254
Randolph, OH 44265

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Truman Perry Mead's Descendant Finds us.

By Carey Steele

When I was writing about the 1847 incident in our last newsletter, I daydreamed about having a picture of T.P. Mead and Lovisa Dickinson Mead to go along with our pictures of Chauncey and Harriet Brainard. Sure enough, a package from Wyoming arrived last week from Phyllis Coleman, a direct descendant of Lydia Marie Mead, the daughter of T.P. Mead and Lovisa. She had visited Randolph in 1998 and gathered a great deal of information about her family. Since then, she has written a book titled Lydia's Journal, a wonderful chronicle of the Dickinson, Munson, and Rose families through the eyes of Lydia Munson Rose Dickinson, the grandmother of Lovisa Dickinson Mead, and Oliver Dickinson's second wife. I read the book in one night and highly recommend it to anyone inter-



Chauncey and Harriet Dickinson Brainard
Donated by Linda Lauderdale



T.P. Mead, Lovisa Dickinson Mead
and daughter Lydia Marie Mead
rested in this family or the early history
of Randolph. Phyllis' research is right

on the mark and the journal format is easy to follow. Best of all, she offers 3 family charts in the back of the book to keep all the names and relationships straight, as well as a listing of her sources. If you would like a copy, Phyllis has self published the book and will only charge the cost to cover the expenses. You can contact her at Phyllis A. Coleman
110 South Minnesota Ave.
Casper, Wyoming 82609

After speaking with Phyllis, she graciously agreed to send copies of some family pictures, which included T.P. Mead and Lovisa! And so, we now have pictures of the two sisters and their husbands, who long ago, risked everything to protect Harriet and John, two runaway slaves on their journey to freedom.

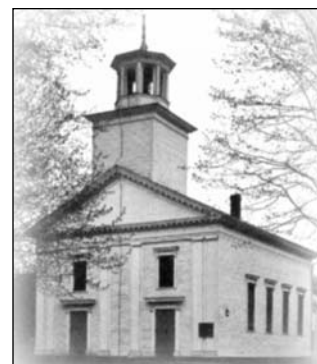
The Era Continues a history of the Randolph Town Hall

By Richard Staats

When passing through the large doors into the Randolph Town Hall, you take a step back in time and tread where other illustrious Randolph citizens have trod during the more than 150 years of the building's existence. Oftentimes without realizing it, you in turn become part of the grand old structures history.

Proposals for the construction of the building were advertised in the *Ohio Star* newspaper in 1831 for a Congregational Church meeting house. The frame was of heavy timber and was raised the first week in October, 1832, except the steeple and belfry, which were added the next season when the building was covered. The base-ment was of stone from the Rootstown quarry. The building was 38x50 in size, which was larger and more expensive than originally planned. The members of the congregation wanted a large nice house, one that would be an ornament to the town and thus refused to sub-

scribe to a cheap one. The first meetings were held in 1833; however, the meeting house was not dedicated until May 1839, eight years after the initial idea was formed.



Rev. Joseph Merriam served the Randolph Congregational Church for 64 un-broken years, the longest postorate in American church history.

He was a servant and savant of the faith whose mission of doing good suffered no lapse of falling away. ... his presence was that of a shepherd and universal friend, counselor, and

comforter. Although Rev. Merriam allied himself with all the moral movements of his time and espoused the anti-slavery cause from the start, the compassionate pastor's flock was severely divided in the 1840's by the more radical anti-slavery faction in the church, who believed that a righteous church should come out against the slave holders. On the other side, there were those who believed that the church's chief mission is to worship God and to win souls, not to politicize. Consequently, the congregation suffered an acrimonious split. In the fall of 1846, the Congregational meeting house was struck by lightning which followed the rod to the eaves, where it was unhooked. If the lightning strike was a sign from above, the parishioners surely had to wonder for which faction of the church it was intended.

Over the next 15 years, in addition to Rev. Merriam's sermons, the meeting house witnessed many

continued page 3

Town Hall continued

vehement anti-slavery sessions, in time, some of the anti-slavery crowd had their funeral services conducted in the same location. On March 4, 1880 the church conducted the funeral service for Elizabeth Elmore Stedman - ardent activist in the anti-slavery cause, a women's rights advocate, and widow of Gen. William Stedman, Turman Case, an old and esteemed family friend wrote: "She was one of the pioneer band who early espoused the anti-slavery cause, in a day when it COST to give utterance to conviction."

The last regular service, preached by Rev. T. G. Colton, occurred on the last sabbath in December 1887. (Rev. Merriam died on May 7, 1886 at the age of 90.)

Over the decades, the site has witnessed concerned voters pondering local and national issues, graduation ceremonies for Randolph High School, Memorial Day activities, and meetings of a variety of organizations. The building even served as a canteen in 1917 when America's doughboys piled off the army trucks to be refreshed by Randolph's citizenry. Then the boys headed toward the east and to fight the Huns.

Lately, the Randolph trustees and voters opted to save and partially restore the old Town Hall. Thanks to all of them, the Era of the Congregational Church/Town Hall continues, and all of you will be remembered in future history books on Randolph.

Randolph School History memories from Hazel Francisco-Mangold

By Howard Mangold

My father, Wilson Mangold 1912-1919; aunts Nina Mangold 1902 - 1913; and Grace Mangold 1904-1915, went to a one room schoolhouse located on the corner of Hartville Road and Randolph Road in Johnnycake Hollow. Their father Phillip Mangold was the school's caretaker.

My mother came to Randolph from Copley, Ohio. In 1921 she attended the Butternut Hill School at the corner of Laubert and State Route 44 until she went to the high school. She walked with Katherine Ladd, Helen Laubert, Jay and Red Bunker, and Ike Coler to Randolph High School which at that time was a two story wooden building. My mother recalled a cooking stove with a pot of soup cooking for dinner when a soapy dishrag was accidentally thrown in. No one ate much that day.

The old wooden school house was torn down and the new brick school was built in 1923-1924. School

did not start until October of 1924. On Friday, January 23, 1925 a special day was set aside for the patrons to tour the school and examine the exhibits and work done by the various grades. In the afternoon a program was given by Mr. O.E. Pore and Dr. R. Worden. On March 10, 1925 a very impressive flag raising was held on school grounds. While the school sang "America" the boys raised the flag on the new flagpole, after which the students came to a military salute and repeated the "Pledge of Allegiance".

A Father and Son Banquet was held in the new auditorium on March 17, 1925 with the Rev. F.A. Ashburn and the county Y.M.C.A. secretary Craig Smith delivering the addresses. The Ladies Societies served the dinner and the high school girls were waitresses. A few weeks later the first Mother and Daughter Banquet was held, at which time the men displayed unsuspected culinary achieve-

Randolph Anti-Slavery Research Update ...

The following homes have been submitted to the Ohio Underground Railroad Association as homes having belonged to either abolitionists or underground railroad agents.

- Chauncey N. Sears
State Rt. 44
- The White House (Horace and Hiram) Bassett Rd.
- Joseph B. Jerome
Bassett Rd
- Benjamin Sebrell
Industry Rd.
- J.K. Kendrick
New Milford Rd.
- Rev. Joseph Meriam
State Rt. 44
- The Smalley House (H.D., Jared, Sophronia, Cordelia, Daniel) State Rt. 44

ments. About two hundred mothers and daughters attended and Mrs. Richmond was the speaker.

The first school party was given by the juniors and seniors during the first semester. Later during the spring the freshmen and sophomore classes entertained the remainder of the high school. The school performed the operetta "Love Pirates of Hawaii", which brought the musical season to a close. Under the direction of Miss Millicent Coddling, the students were able to show off their solo and chorus talents. The high school also presented the play "Sally Lunn" as the final number of the Randolph Lyceum Course.

The class of 1925 consisted of nine graduating students. Hazel E. Francisco, Sybil Knight, Helen Laubert, (still living) Katherine Ladd, George Murphy, Thelma McKinstry, Ruth Meriam, Irma Royer and George Riemenschneider.

...to be continued