

Town Hall improvement update ...

Our trustees have gone to the voters twice for support to spend the necessary funds to repair the structural damage to our Town Hall. As voters and members of the Historical Society we have to be aware of the progress of this project.

The basement is the first of the repairs that need to be made. Currently we are at \$115,000. This will include excavation, heating, air-conditioning, electrical and sewer work. This is less excavation than what was originally planned to lower the estimate to its current cost.

This project must be moving along by September 15, for the renovation to be completed by January 1.

If the work is not completed by that date, the trustees will have to go to the voters for a third time.

The trustees plan to vote on starting the project at their next meeting August 12.

Howard Mangold received this piece of information from Phyllis Coleman on Oliver C. Dickinson

Know all men by these presents that we the undersigned being lawful heirs to the estate of Oliver C. Dickinson (1786-1852) deceased, of our our free will and accord and in consideration of the recent misfortune of Thom. W. Browning by being burned out, do hereby relinquish unto said T.W. Browning all our right and title and interest in a certain contract made between the said T.W. Browning and Oliver Cromwell Dickinson on the 27th day of April 1852 by which contract the said Oliver C. Dickinson sold to said T.W. Browning all his right title and interest in the Merrill Mill (so called) for the sum of \$700.00 dollars and we hereby authorize the Administrator of the Estate of the said Oliver C. Dickinson deceased to deliver to said T.W. Browning said contract as being fulfilled. Witness our hand on this 28th day of August 1854
(Truman P.) T.P. Mead Lovisa D. Mead (Dickinson)
(Chauncy Otis) C.O. Brainard Harriet D. Brainard (Dickinson)
(Samuel Walter) S. W. Dickinson (Simon Zelotes) S. Z. Dickinson
Alpheus Dickinson Guard of (Luther Brige) L. B. Dickinson



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Randolph LEGACY

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The Randolph Historical Society Newsletter

I Remember Randolph a Personal Profile of Ethel Preston

Edited by Myron Mullett

During our May meeting we were lucky enough to have Mrs. Ethel Preston come to speak to us, and share her memories of Randolph Township.

I was born in Johnnycake Hollow on December 23, 1917. My mother was 7 months pregnant and had been sledding on Sand Hill with several family members and neighbors. She hadn't told many people that she was expecting. Just as she was going down hill on the sled, a couple of the younger boys jumped on her for ride not realizing her fragile condition.

Later that night she was quite ill and Dr. Orton was called. After examining her, he exclaimed, "I can't hold this baby back" I was born very tiny...3 pounds, with a faint heartbeat.

The doctor told Daddy to give me one drop of whiskey; but he gave me two and my heart started beating



Ester Shewell 1823 - 1907
Wife of John Y. Johnson
Ethel's Great Grandmother

stronger. They wrapped me in a shirt and a diaper and placed me in a shoe

box beside the cool stove to keep me warm. My Grandma fed me with an eye dropper for a week.

Years ago my Great-grandma and grandpa lived on the west side of Hartville Road just south of the bridge over Breakneck Creek. This was the house that caught fire in 1854 when the Elmore Chair Factory burned down. Neighbors and onlookers had carried belongings and furniture out of the blazing house. Just as two men were carrying a walnut dresser out of the rear door, the burning roof collapsed. Great-grandpa Johnson wanted to keep this dresser in the family because people had risked their lives to save it. That same dresser is now in use at my son, Allen's home in Uniontown.

Dad gave me a hand-made cover that my Grandma Emma had washed, carded, spun and wove the wool herself. She had also dyed the wool with pokeberry juice. This type of cover was necessary on cold nights because most homes lacked a furnace. We would also use heated bricks and soapstones in bed to keep our feet warm.

My father had a huge chunk of green glass. One day he had a visitor who claimed that he once worked where that glass was made and would like to have a piece of it. The Glass was split with a heavy axe, because Dad said he didn't want to move that big heavy thing one more time. The other man was glad to get a souvenir and we kept a smaller piece which was used as a door stop in the milk house.

Now that I live in an apartment, I have no need of this pretty glass piece; so I am giving it and a

framed piece of the hand-made wool blanket cover to the Randolph Historical Society.

We moved from Randolph to a farm, just over into Stark County, I



Top photo: Home of John Y. Johnson in Johnnycake Hollow destroyed by fire in 1854
Bottom photo: Home rebuilt after fire present home of Dan and Kari Houchen

went to Hardscrabble and Marlboro Schools. I also did various jobs for people - housekeeping, weeding at the Hartville muck farms, picking strawberries, scrubbing linoleum floors, etc.

I married John Wilfred Preston on Christmas day in 1938. We lived with Charles Preston for 3 years before moving to a farm nearby. Later we acquired a 98 acre farm on New Milford Road. This property had been previously owned by Joe and Ann Nuspl, Mahlon and Flossie Marshall, Louis Bloomfield and Lemuel Storrs. I learned to bake and decorate fancy cakes for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries,

A Personal Profile of Ethel Preston

By Myron Mullett

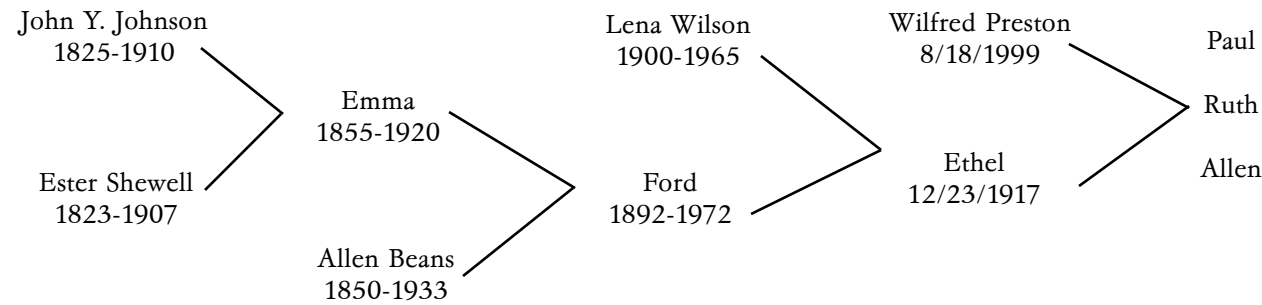
saries, etc ..This I enjoyed very much and the extra income really helped out.

Wilfred and I had three children; Paul, Allen and Ruth. They are

so good to me. Wilfred died November 17th, 1999. I now live in Hartville, but I have many good memories of Randolph Township, I think

we grow in grace and love for our upbringing, but we don't always realize the importance of that until we get older.

Family Tree of Ethel May Beans Preston



Town Hall site of General Garfield at Randolph

An article taken from the Republican October 6, 1875. On Saturday evening the Congregational Church was literally packed with people to hear General Garfield. The speaker was introduced to an audience of 394 by actual count, and for nearly two hours ably discussed the great

questions now before the people, in a manner so plain and concise, yet with such truth, as to tell upon every one present.

Never have the people listened to such an impartial speech, yet several turn-coats pronounced it a pack of lies intended to work upon

the sympathies of the unlearned. One old gentleman was asked by a Democrat how he liked suck talk. He replied, "Sir I have grown gray in the Democratic party; now you have my last vote, for I am and shall hereafter be a Republican."

A Colorful Randolph Character, Chester Rogers:

Portage County Democrat, August 24, 1864:

TRIED FOR AN ASSAULT. - Chester Rogers got into a miff a few days ago with the McFarland family. The case was brought before Justice Sears who fined Rogers \$5.00 which will probably warn him not to stir up the animals in future.

Portage County Democrat, August 31, 1867:

Chester Rogers of Randolph came to the Fair last week (held at Ravenna). It made Chester thirsty to see the (horse) races and he quenched with beer. The beer worked and Chester became, in technical parlance, drunk disorderly, so he was taken to jail. Justice Webber fined Chester \$5.00, which he paid on Monday and left for Randolph as smiling as a bucket of chips.

PS - Our own Laura Rogers assures us that Chester Rogers was not related to her.

Randolph School Memories of Howard Mangold

By Howard Mangold

I started school in 1941 with Miss Grace Meacham as my first and second grade teacher. In the third grade we had five different teachers during the school year, so I failed third grade. The next year we had a full class and we stayed together for the rest of our school days.

When any repairs needed to be made to the classrooms a student was sent to find the janitor, Harvard Dibble, who was usually down in the cellar boiler room shoveling lump coal into the Scotch Marine boiler to keep our steam heat going. Our drinking fountains were pedestal and were at both ends of the front big hall and the fire bell was in the middle of the front wall across from the folding auditorium doors.

When Harvard Dibble died the school board hired a new janitor named Armbooster. One day it was so cold in our classrooms we had to keep our coats on to keep warm. The principal called Lester Sabin, his brother Leon Sabin, and Bernie Junior of Sabin Electric and Plumbing, to find out what the was wrong with the boiler. The story is told the janitor that Armbooster had 5 lbs. of steam pressure but the main steam valve was closed going to the classrooms. When Leon turned it on we had heat. Armbooster had to shovel coal the rest of day, and was then fired. Glen Rogers (Pop Rogers) was hired as our new janitor, followed by John

Hartman.

The old Scotch Marine boiler was starting to get some weak spots so a full day was spent rewelding steel plate in the inside of the boiler. The school board then decided to replace the boiler without tearing out a wall. They put in a two stoker fired cast iron section boilers; one to work on warm days and both on cold days below 20.

In seventh grade it was decided to turn the auditorium into four classrooms. The stage was removed and the area used for the required classroom window lights. The wire mesh was taken off the columns of the mezzanine above the auditorium that kept the cafeteria tables and students from falling into the auditorium. There was a study hall at the tables when the cafeteria closed. I remember when a paper airplane was flying around with a straight pin in the front of it; it caught the air coming up the staircase and flew into Principal Kilborn coming up the stairs. Everyone there got detention.

A new gymnasium was built on the old football field. My brother and I rode on a D8 Caterpillar run by Herman Miller to smooth out the field to make a football field for the Booster Club. The football field was at the north end of school, but was also used for a school expansion tying the old school to the gymnasium. The class of '51 offered to replant the

grass in the front of the school (at that time this area was used for recess) if they got the day off. They plowed, raked and seeded the yard.

We had our freshmen year industrial arts class suspended until our senior year. Our teacher Mr. McCulla lost fingers in the 6" planer. A classmate jumped out the window to get principal Kilborn driving Mr. McCulla to the hospital, he got detention. We had our graduation at the gymnasium, my graduation was on my mother's 30 year graduation and my son David Mangold was on my 30 year graduation.

The Good Old Days

The ad below appeared in the Republican in December 1899. Don't you love those prices?



And Be Convinced

That, as usual, * * * * *

**We are the Leaders
In Prices
And Quality
Of Goods.**

We Do Not Give You
An Inferior Quality,
In Order to Reduce the Price.

- Good Rio Coffee per Lb., - - 10c
- Arbuckle, Lion and Cordova Coffees
per Lb., - - 10c
- 5 Pounds Fine Prunes, - - 25c
- One Gallon of Silver Drip, - - 25c
- 3 Pounds of Peaches, - - 25c
- 3 Cans of Excellent Corn, - - 25c

We also have **BARGAINS**
Which we will not mention

**Hubbell
Bros.** "Way Back
Leaders in
Low Prices"

With fall coming, remember our Historical Society merchandise for sale

We have lots of great reading material and merchandise available for this summer, *Pioneer History 1802-1865; The Randolph Centennial Souvenir 1802-1902*; and 4 super civil war books by historical society member Richard Staats volumes I thru IV *A Grassroots History of the American*

Civil War; The Life and Times of Ephraim Cooper; The Bully Seventh, Captain Cotter's Battery; and the *The Life and Times for Colonel William Stedman of the 6th Ohio Cavalry*. Plus T-shirts, woodcuts, mugs, hats, tote bags, postcards and stationary.

E-mail: randolphugrr@yahoo.com.