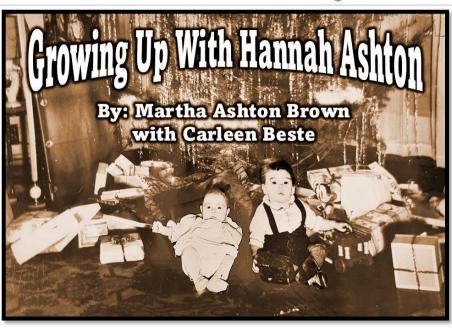
Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society THE COURIER

JANUARY-2025 Website: www.rths.info Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com Vol.51 No.1



Growing Up With Hannah Ashton by Martha Ashton Brown, niece of Hannah Ashton with Carleen Beste

Hannah and my father, Joseph, were twins. They were born in 1901 and weighed a mere two pounds each. Looking back, it's amazing to think that at that time, they thrived and grew up to be such strong, independent people. There is a picture of them hanging in the parlor of the historical society.

During her early life, Hannah lived in a farmhouse on Route 256 in Reynoldsburg. My grandfather, William Vernon, built the house in 1898. We spent all of our holidays at the farm.

My very first Christmas, at three months

old, was spent under the tree, which was always placed prominently in the living room. (picture attached along with older brother Joey). While the perfect

was in a high traffic area, especially for young children. I am told one year we knocked the Christmas tree over. I, of course, don't have any memory of such destruction, and it couldn't have possibly happened during a game of hideand-seek.

location to display the tree, it

The farmhouse had a wonderful staircase. It was always decorated with garland and ornaments during the holidays. When it wasn't decorated, we spent many hours sliding

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down the banister.

My siblings, Carolyn and Joey, and I spent several weeks every summer with Hannah. As a school administrator, she didn't work during the school vacation.

She had a car, loved to drive, and she would take us almost anywhere we wanted to go. We would go to outdoor movies at Miles Drive-In, which was located on Main Street in Whitehall. We also went for rides on Morrison Road, winding around Big

Walnut Creek, where drifters were always camped.

For Thanksgiving, we always went the night before and helped set the table and prep food.

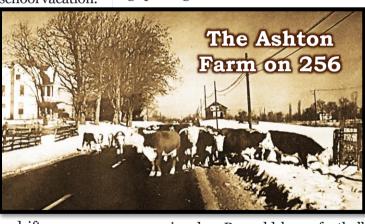
The adults gathered around the big table in the dining room and the children sat at a table in the kitchen. The feast was traditional, but the standout for me was the fresh cranberry relish, which we helped to prepare by grinding the cranberries and orange. When we got a bit older, dinner was always followed by

a touch football game on the lawn on the north side of the house. Thankfully, I don't recall any injuries.

Decoration Day, now Memorial Day, was a day when the Green cousins (my grandmother, Birdie Green Ashton's family) joined us for a buffet style lunch. Everyone brought their favorite foods to enjoy. The adults cut flowers that were

later taken to Silent Home Cemetery and placed on the graves. The children took advantage of the sunny, summer day by playing touch football.

As the principal of Reynoldsburg School, Hannah supported students by attending sporting events. This meant that we



never missed a Reynoldsburg football or basketball game, home or away. Aunt Hannah and Miss Ebright, a good friend of Hannah's and 4th grade teacher, piled us in the car, and off we went. When it was an away game, we always ate out before the game. What a treat for us!

We were so fortunate to have Hannah in our lives, even as we grew older. We were able to carry on holiday traditions with our younger brother, John, and bring in our own families.

They are all memories that I will cherish forever.



At the end of October, the RTHS Board of Directors received a letter from the Helping Hands organization. I belong to another volunteer organization here in town, the Reynoldsburg Civic Club, and they received the same letter.

It is a **plea for help**.

can help our community!

RTHS routinely has a Helping Hands Open House every April. The winter months typically reflect low attendance at the museum, so the Board has decided that we should add another month dedicated to Helping Hands! It will bring people to the museum, but most importantly, it will be another way we

53% of the current Reynoldsburg City Schools student population are labeled as "Economically Disadvantaged."

It's time for all of us who live locally to clean out our shelves!

On **Saturday**, **February 15**th, we will have a Helping Hands Open House!

Please **do NOT donate any frozen or fresh food.** RTHS does not have the storage capacity, and the pantry prefers to buy those food items themselves using monetary donations received directly at their facility.

Here is the letter we received:

October 31, 2024

To our generous community,

The Reynoldsburg Helping Hands (RHH) Board of Directors would like to thank you for your support in helping to fulfill our mission, that no child in our community goes to bed hungry.

Our organization has operated this food pantry serving Reynoldsburg families in need for more than 66 years. In **2023**, our all-volunteer staff provided food to **5,862 Reynoldsburg residents**, which includes more than **2,250 children** and **696 seniors**. Already this year (January-mid-October 2024), we have **added 191 new families** to our client base.

All of us at RHH are extremely grateful for your support. Every donation, large or small, makes a significant difference in the lives of families struggling with food insecurity.

If you would like to reach out to ask questions, make a food donation, or host a food drive please contact us:

Food Pantry location: 7453 E. Main St., Suite 2

Phone: (614) 868-9394

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm, Wednesday 3:00-5:00pm

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can mail a check or visit our website:

Mailing address:

Reynoldsburg Helping Hands PO Box 1521 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-6521

Website:

http://reynoldsburghelpinghands.org/

(click the "Donate" button for a quick and easy transaction via PayPal)

RTHS Courier JAN 2025-03



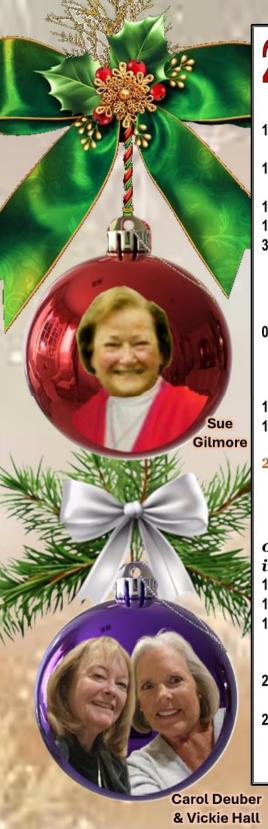
Front Two Rows L-R: (Standing) Sue Gilmore, (seated) Sheryl Knapp, Carolyn Egner, Robin Kefauver, Mary Turner Stoots, Iva Lee Basinger, Phillip Neal Whitman, Judy Diuguid, Doris Downing, Harriet Wengert, Sherry Shrimplin, and Shirley Vingle.

Back Rows: (all standing) Judy Holzbacher, Jim Sharps, John Grayem, Woody Holzbacher, Paula Sharps, Marvin Shrimplin, Doug Stoots, Vickie Hall, Jim Slonaker, Mike Kefauver, Kathy Spinelli, Don Larimer, Pam Larimer, Carolyn Peterson, Gary Knapp, Carol Deuber, Pat Adams, Tisha Simeral, Ginger Saleski, Ned Saleski, and Dale Egner.









2025 CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 10 FRI RHS Summit Campus Special Needs Class 9:00-10:30
- 10 FRI RHS Summit Campus Special Needs Class 11:30-1:00
- 14 TUE Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 18 SAT Open House 10am-2:00pm
- 31 FRI Dues Deadline for listing in the Directory

FEBRUARY

- 04 TUE "From Homeroom to Homicide" presentation by Mary Stoots for the Reynoldsburg Civic Club
- 11 TUE Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 15 SAT Helping Hands Open House, 10:00am-2:00pm
- 20 THU DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH COURIER

MARCH

01 - 08 – Mary Stoots will be in Florida

- 11 TUE Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 13 THU Mini Mural Judging 10am
- 15 SAT Open House Mini-Mural Coloring Contest Elementary Art Exhibition 10:00am-2:00pm
- 20 THU German Village Society Clock Talk
- 29 SAT Spaghetti Dinner by the Reynoldsburg Community Assoc 5-8pm - Messiah Lutheran Church

RTHS 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Mary Turner Stoots (614) 560-4987

Vice President - Jim Slonaker

(614) 864-4581

Treasurer - Marvin Shrimplin

(614) 570-2294

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Mark Myers (614) 376-6809

Corresponding Secretary

Sherul Knapp (614) 866-5959

Trustee (1 year) - Donald Larimer

Trustee (2 years) - Judy Diuguid Trustee (3 years) - Neal Whitman

Courier Editor: Mary Stoots Publicity Chair: Mary Stoots

Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com

Museum Phone: (614) 902-2831 Website: www.RTHS.info

DON'T IRRITATE OLD PEOPLE. THE OLDER WE GET, THE LESS "LIFE IN PRISON" IS A DETERRENT

THE COURIER

January 2025 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro **Historical Society**

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Mary Turner Stoots, Vickie Hall, Sue Gilmore & Martha Brown Contributors:

Mary Stoots, Sam Van Schouck, Martha Brown & Carleen Beste

SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY

Join the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Sustaining - \$30 Contributing - \$50 Life Membership - \$300

Name

Additional Names

Address

State Zip

Cell Phone

Email Address

Make Check Payable to RTHS and mail to: RTHS, PO Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 Invite your friends to join!

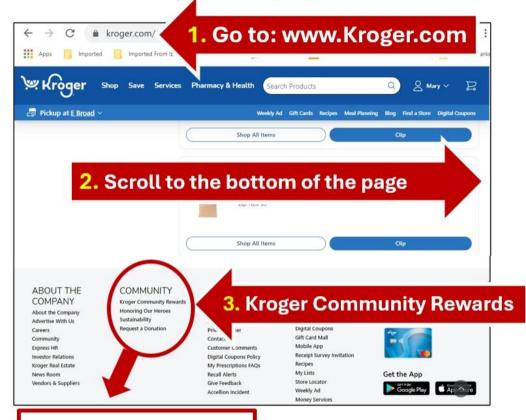
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Sign Up For Kroger Community Rewards

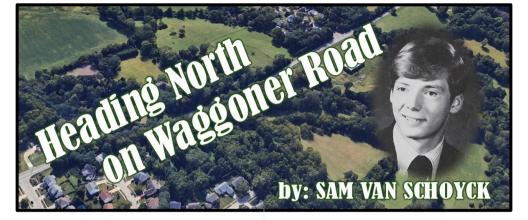
It's FREE!

And a percentage goes to RTHS!



COMMUNITY Kroger Community Rewards Honoring Our Heroes Sustainability Request a Donation

- Do you have a Kroger Shoppers Card? You will need one to link to the Community Rewards Program
- Next you will need to open a digital Account. The digital account will link the Community Rewards Program to your Kroger Card!
- Next you sign up for Community Rewards! RTHS is listed under #LJ440, (Lyndon Johnson 440) or Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Soc.
- 4. Now that you have a digital account, you can clip digital coupons and hook them on to your Kroger Card!



The road once curved to the east, then south before intersecting Main Street. Here stood the Reynoldsburg Creamery. Later Waggoner was relocated to align with Graham Road. In fact, the two miles of Waggoner between Main and Broad was called Graham in the early years. It became Waggoner north of Broad.

Editor's Note: (From the book published in 1981, written by Cornelia M. Parkinson, The History of Reynoldsburg and Truro Township, Ohio) The following tells how Waggoner came to be, and why it was probably named Graham for a while:

"Henry Besse bought land in Range 20, Section 8 of the Refugee Land Tract on October 16, 1828, and promptly began to quarry the blue freestone he found on his property. Over the years the quarry was in operation, it provided windowsills and lintels, stones for house foundations and for bridges on the Cumberland Road; primary building materials for two houses in Reynoldsburg; and (says tradition) a stone for the Washington Monument.

By January 1830 the quarry was in the hands of William G. Graham. **Men who lived along the track** past the quarry petitioned Franklin County Commissioners to build a north-south road at the eastern edge of a slowly growing community. Once Waggoner Road was built, commerce and communications along it increased steadily."

Now, we can start our trip from Main Street to Broad Street on the East side of Waggoner!

OWEN SHEETS' GULF STATION

SMALL TWO-STORY HOUSE BY THE ROAD

- Originally a barn. My mother and her girlfriend drove a pony cart to this barn where they would stable the pony while they went to school. In recent years, Greg Oldham lived here.

Editor's Note: The house was demolished to add a drive-thru to the current Gas Station.



RILLA BURNS— She was a second-grade teacher at French Run. We shared a party line with them.

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METHODIST HILL CEMETERY

Editor's Note: This cemetery has 210 recorded burials with the earliest dated 1811 from the legible tombstones

that were documented during 1940.



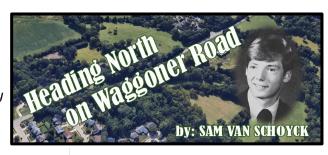
HARRISON'S – This home was a converted chicken house. (not pictured)



CHUCK & LOUISE WILSON AND FAMILY -Louise worked at the Boston Store at Town and Country. Jim Mills married their daughter Sharon. Her siblings were Chuck, Susan, Craig and Wally.



CLARK AND DOROTHY OLDHAM, LATER, the MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH- When Clark sold the property, the house was moved up Waggoner, east on Broad to Summit



Road, north to the first road across the railroad tracks. I was a small boy and was overwhelmed to sit on the front stoop and watch this large house creep up the road. W. A. Gurtler did the moving. My sisters worked for Bill Gurtler. Clark and Dorothy's daughter was Marilyn Griffin.



BILL AND ROSIE BARRETT— Bill drove a milk truck, picking up at local farms. Their children were Diane, Bill, and Brenda.

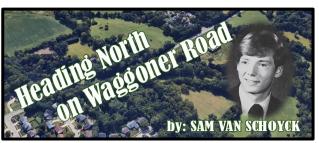
NEWMAN'S — Currently a Vacant Lot



AMRINE'S – later Claude William's family

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FORRESTER'S LANE— This property has apparently been a draw for boys for a long time. My dad was born on Rose Hill Road in 1911 and remembered



walking to the quarry as a kid. Though long abandoned, the steam engine and huge stone saw were left behind according to him. Then in the 1930s, the current pines were planted by the WPA. I remember the first time I walked into those pines. I thought I was in a chapel and dreamed that someday I would own it.



SMALL FRAME HOUSE – The Edwards family. They had one son, Bobbie. Later occupied by Colin Sutphin, and currently used as a parking lot for

construction vehicles since the house was demolished by the City.



MOYER'S – Virginia & Jim. Their children were Lee, Donnie, and Michael. Virginia was a lunch lady at St. Pius, and Don cut the grass and plowed the lots over there for many years



claude and nancy sigman — Their children are David, Debbie, Darwin, and Dwayne. Claude was a custom home builder, and my brother Joe worked for him for two seasons. Sigman Contracting is now run by their eldest son, David.

Nancy was the daughter of Opal Gorey, and the granddaughter of "Grandpa" and "Grandma" Weaver (Grover & Daisy), who lived on Main Street. They weren't my relatives; they were Grandpa and Grandma to everyone.

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JACK AND WILMA TURNER

Wilma was the daughter of Garry and Maude Wiswell, owners of the Red and White

grocery on Main Street called Wiswell's Market (currently, Starstrukt Apparel).



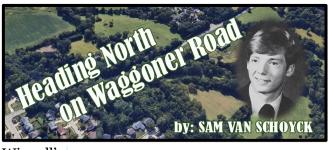
Jack is a retired Columbus Police Officer and after retirement, he became a U.S. Marshall. Their children are Jeannine, Tom, and ... oh... what's her name who married a Stoots?

Editor's Note: (What's-her-name bought the house from her parents in 1997 after they moved to Florida)



SMALL FRAME HOUSE – This house was built by National Homes, which is the same company that built the Brookside Park development. Mr. Link and his wife Sybil lived there until the early 1970s when they both moved to a home in Groveport. Several owners have lived there since.

When it became vacant the last time around 2005, it was purchased as rental property by What's-her-name who married a Stoots.





TOM AND FOX ENGLEHART – Tom was a Prudential agent and friends with my folks.



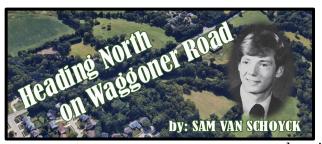
WILLS' FAMILY – two white homes on the sides of the ravine. One Wills boy had Down's Syndrome

THE COULTER BROTHERS - two bachelors (no photo available)

BOYD FARM LATER KNOWN AS THE KUHN FARM. The Boyd's were among the first settlers before Waggoner Road was even surveyed. The Kuhn family purchased it in the early 1950s, but soon lost it. It was purchased by Leo Yassanoff for whom the Jewish Center on College Avenue is named. The farm was allowed to grow up in saplings. I would cut through the property on my way to the Pine quarry. What a place for a kid to explore.

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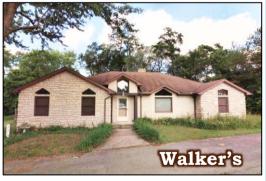
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ART AND JANE BAER – Jane was the daughter of Ed and Grace Carr. Art was the head buyer for Lazarus' fifth floor. Their sons were Steve, Tim and Chris.



BILL AND VI WALKER — Bill owned a flower shop in the old Seneca Hotel on Broad Street. Later Don and Judy Bramer lived here.

carl and lois van schoyck – Though an odd piece of land, there has been a house on this acre and a half since the days of President Monroe. It was once owned by a man who killed his wife and was sold at sheriff's sale after he was imprisoned. It was owned for decades by a black family, which was unusual for the times. The original house sat behind my parents' and

burned to the ground in the 1920s. Sitting vacant after

that, it became a convenient place for people to dump their trash. At some point during the Depression,



the government lowered Waggoner Road by cutting through the steep hill to the north. The removed dirt was then dumped on the property, making what would eventually become our front yard. Ed Carr bought the lot in 1937 and erected the present house.

At one time, the Western Electric property on Broad Street was the site of the Mt Carmel Hospital Farms. When sold to Western Electric, an auction was held to dispose of assets. Uncle Ed bought two chicken brooder houses and moved them to the lot on Waggoner. We used one as a shed, the other as a small barn for a steer. My parents, married in 1931, had been living with my grandparents on the Oldham farm. By 1937, two little girls had joined them. So, my folks rented the new house from Uncle Ed, later buying it and 21/2 additional acres to the south.

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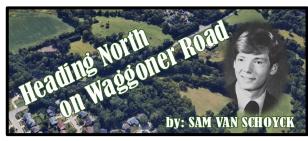
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Due to its prior history, Mother and Dad dug and removed trash, pulled weeds, dug out wire fencing, and killed snakes. With little money, Dad swept out the barn at the Oldham farm to collect hayseed and used that to plant the bare yard. For the next 40 years, they would work to make it a show place. Their children were Suzanne, Marylou, Joe and Sam.



HOYT'S, THEN ELTON AND MARTHA SAVAGE. Hoyt's house was an ancient two story. Elton & Martha tore it down and built a ranch behind it. The folks who live there today tore down Savage's ranch and built a two story where Hovt's house sat. Nothing changes but what they remain the Martha was a Graham and taught at French Run Elementary when it first opened, then transferred to Graham Road Elementary school after it opened. Their Children included Elton Jr., Pat. Elaine. Annette and Stu.

ELMER AND MINIE (pronounced My-knee) MEHARRY — This small house sat right on the road. Elmer worked for my Grandpa Oldham most of his life. He and Granddad built the house and barn. Later, their daughter Helen Evans, recently widowed, moved there to care for her father and raise



her two children Jim and Carol Sue. Helen was my mother's lifelong friend.

THE OLDHAM FARM KNOWN AS SPRING HILL

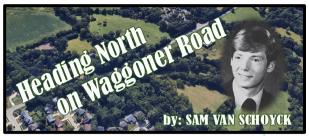
Purchased by my Great-grandfather James Oldham upon his discharge from the Civil War in 1864. Originally 60 acres, the farm did not have front-

acres, the farm did not have frontage on Waggoner. It was accessed via Stewart's Lane. Before 1900, the front field to Waggoner was purchased and the access was changed to Waggoner Road. In 1891, my grandfather Collins Oldham, decided he too wanted to farm, but he was interested in a new form called dairying. Prior to the Civil War, there was nothing like a dairy farm. One either had a cow and sold



excess milk to the local creamery, or they purchased their milk from the creamery. By the 1880s, dairy farms came into existence. Collins spent several months living with the Schaff family on what is today College Avenue at I-70. The Schaff's already ran a successful dairy and Collins "interned" with them to learn the

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field. He then returned to the farm and began raising Jersey cattle. The dairy continued until 1958 when a fire destroyed the barns and the cows. Collins' son Clark decided to retire from the dairy industry and began raising Hereford beef cattle, hogs and sheep.

Crossing Stewart's Lane – later closed, now Rodebaugh Road extension

WAYNE AND FREIDA WOODRUFF – Wayne was the son of Herman and Nellie and worked for McNalley Lumber of 5th Ave. – Their daughter's name was Sharon Rose Woodruff.



DR. BILL INGALLS — DVM



BUD AND LOUISE PLATTER



WILLIAM & ELAINE FENCL

MR. TRIMMER – His house which was sideways to Waggoner, facing north, was the original farmhouse for Doc Kantor's farm.

DOC KANTOR'S – site of two Reynoldsburg schools today.

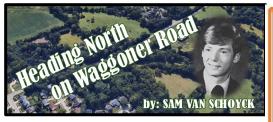
LEE AND ALICE SCHMIDT FARM — We bought hay and straw from Lee from \$.50 and \$.25 per bale respectively. He was a carpenter, owned a steam engine and sawmill, and moved to this farm from Summit Station in 1929. If you ever watched the TV show Green Acres, Lee and Alice were a perfect match for Fred and Doris Ziffle. They had two daughter's, Helen (Trotter) and Ruthie.

FARM FIELD OF UNKNOWN OWNERSHIP -

We've arrived back at Broad Street

The families who lived on Waggoner knew one another. They helped each other with farming and shared the threshing crew run by Boss Maxwell

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who had the only steam engine and thresher in the area.

Each had their own preference in tractors. Lee Schmidt had a green John Deere. Herman Woodruff used red Farmalls. Clark Oldham had orange Alis-Chalmers purchased from the Powell's dealership located in Brice. Ed Carr thought a Ford 9N was the ultimate machine for the smaller farmer.

I can still hear Chris Baer's squeals as his two older brothers tormented him; the sound of the self-feeder lids Sunshine
Committee
Do you know someone who
needs some Sunshine?
Contact Carol Deuber if you are
aware of an RTHS member who could
use a Get Well, Thinking of You,
Sympathy, or any other type of card
for some added sunshine in their life
Cell: (614) 581-7048
Home: (614) 471-3288
Write "SUNSHINE" in the subject
line of your email:
cadeuber@gmail.com

slamming as Clark Oldham's hogs ate night and day; Aunt Grace Carr's dinner bell when she called Uncle Ed to the noon meal; the pop-pop-pop of Lee Schmidt's two-cylinder John Deere as he worked ground (yes it was that unique and loud that we could hear it a mile away on a still day).

I can still see those men, their trucks, and the way each drove (Lee Schmidt by far the fastest, Floyd Good by far the slowest.) The sights and sounds of the road are certainly different now than what they were then.



Upcoming Events









Upcoming Events











High School

1899 to 1970

Reynoldsburg High School 1899 to 1970 Repnoldsburg

A compilation of RHS class pictures published for the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

\$37.00 for Non-Members*

\$35.00 for Members

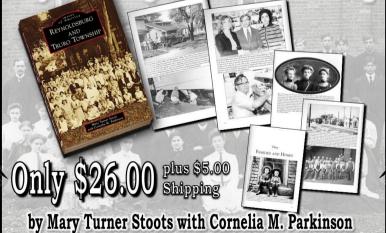
\$5.00 S&H (Tax included)

*A Free Membership will be given to Non-Members through 12/31/2025 for the purchase of a book, which includes Bi-Monthly issues of the Courier Newsletter to be delivered by email ONLY (no hard copies)

NON-MEMBERS

by Mary Turner Stoots and Suzy Millar Miller

Reynoldsburg and Truro Township



A Book Order Form insert is included inside your Courier

RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Mailing address: Revnoldsburg-Truro Historical Society P.O. Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068