

The decade of the 1930s was a perilous time for the average person. When banks fail - meaning they ran out of money as they had in the very late 1920s - people are thrown out of work, out of their homes. Many a husband and father who could no longer support his family just upped and left Mom and the kids to figure it out on their own. True, most men were hoping things were better elsewhere and went there to see if he could find a job. Neighbors helped while they could, but soon the neighbor was as bad off as you were, and not through anything he or you had done.

You were on your own. It was the times. You had to live through them to know; but, in the last century, The Great Depression of The Thirties

was truly the worst of times.

The wandering men were always called hoboos (no derivation found), or bindlestiffs, or just plain tramps. Few had a chance to bathe, so it might be hard to tell the difference between a down-and-out gentleman who had been the owner of a hardware store that burned, and an actual tramp who stayed far from work of any kind. Except that even a kid could tell that the gentleman was humiliated to beg for food or to sleep overnight in your barn, and the tramp made such requests with actors' expertise. If they had any, such men carried a spare set of clothes in a bindle (Australian word), a bundle carried on his shoulder, perhaps wrapped in an old shirt. *(continued on page 02)*

# Hobo Times

by Cornelia M. Parkinson

*(continued from page 01)*

Hardly any had suitcases, it would make them look prosperous. And some tramp might try to steal it while the owner slept.

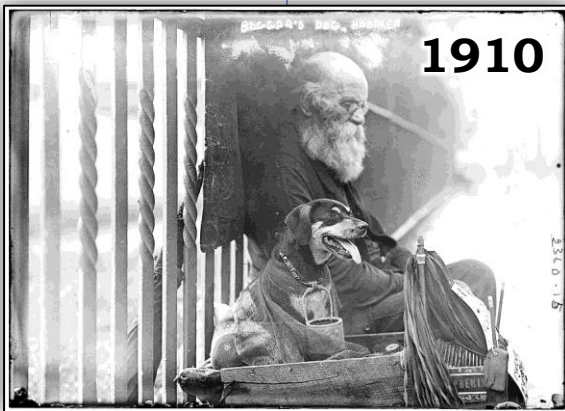
There were several ways a man might reach that end-of-the-rainbow land of opportunity. He had two feet, and shoes at least to begin with, so he could walk. Or to use a term new then, hitch-hike. You walked in the direction of traffic, and if a vehicle came along, you showed your face to the driver and stuck up your thumb

to ask for a ride. That was safer then, for lone travelers, and lone drivers, had in mind only getting to the next place. Once I saw a man walking along with his little boy, and when the infrequent car came along, both raised their thumbs, They soon got a ride.

But they all had to eat. Towns were not good prospects for a handout of either food or money, so the minute a man got out in the country, he went up to the back door to ask for a bite to eat. He took a chance that he himself

could be the midday snack of a big fierce dog, but farms usually had extra food and were willing to spare a plateful for a hungry man. Outdoors, of course, and not a good plate, and never a glass to drink from. He drank from a battered tincup, in case the plate and cup left with the hobo. He could get his own water from that pump right over there. The screen was locked behind him while he ate. We had no extra plates, or cups. So Mother watched until the man was finished and took them back, washed them in suds and scalded them.

The traveling man who had the courage to try could hop a freight and “ride the rails.” Meaning, he could hide in an empty train freight car and get out -- on the side away from sight -- wherever the train stopped. There might be several men with



the same idea in the same freight car. There grew up a camaraderie that ended when the train stopped. If the railroad detective caught you, you risked jail and a fine you had no money to pay, and most likely no food at all.

In a “hobo camp,” the nature of these men showed itself. There might be a fight or a feast. The camp was away from town, a distance from the tracks, where a fire could serve more than one for heating food and warming yourself, and the neighbor you cautiously lay *(continued on page 03)*



*(continued from page 02)*

down near might or might not be one you'd trust. Regular tramps knew each other, and exchanged news of easy marks for a handout. They were more accustomed to hunger than the gentlemen had had time to be.

Men with a buck or two could hop a Greyhound bus, paying for a comfortable place to sleep and take him onward until the ticket ran out. If your ticket was for Monkeyshines, Ohio, you did not get to ride on to Richmond, Indiana. Even if the bus was half empty, the driver made you get off at Monkeyshines, though nothing was there but a bare spot where the bus stopped.

Chiselers did not win.

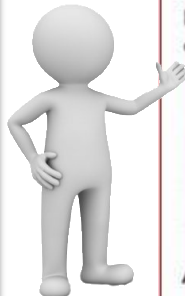


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(614) 866-0142
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- Recording Secretary - Mark Myers**  
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# 2022 CALENDAR

## MARCH

- 15 – TUE – Board & General Meeting  
Combined 6:30pm
- 19 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm
- 23 – WED – Max & Erma's Fundraiser

## APRIL

- 12 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 16 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm  
Helping Hands Shower
- 20 – WED – Deadline for May Courier

## MAY

- 17 – TUE – Board Meeting - 6:30pm
- 21 – SAT – Western Electric Open  
House 10:00am-2:00pm
- 24 – TUES – Western Electric Open  
House 5:00pm-8:00pm
- 30 – MON – Memorial Day Service  
9:30am at Seceder Cemetery

# THE COURIER

March 2022 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical  
Society

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**Contributors:**

Connie Parkinson, Suzy Millar Miller

& Mary Turner Stoots

## SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY

Join the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Sustaining - \$30 Contributing - \$50 Life Membership - \$300

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check Payable to RTHS and mail to: RTHS, PO Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068**

***Invite your friends to join!***

# REYNOLDSBURG HELPING HANDS

by Mary Turner Stoots

Once a year, the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society (RTHS) hosts a "Helping Hands Open House," where we accept donations for the Reynoldsburg Helping Hands (RHH).

On Saturday, April 16, RTHS is collecting goods for Reynoldsburg Helping Hands at our monthly open house from 10:00am to 2:00pm. RTHS is located directly across the street from the Hannah J. Ashton School, one block south of Main Street. Our parking lot is in the back of the museum and our rear entrance is handicapped accessible.

***The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society will take all the donations we receive on April 16 directly to Helping Hands at the earliest convenience.***

## WHAT EXACTLY IS HELPING HANDS?

I wasn't sure, so I went online to find a few facts:

In 1958, retired Reynoldsburg school nurse, Betty Bartlett and helper Mary Francis, decided to give aid to those students and families they had served for many years. Along with some local help, they began Reynoldsburg Helping Hands food pantry to benefit those that lived in the Reynoldsburg School District.



Today, Reynoldsburg Helping Hands (RHH) has grown to serve individuals and families living within the entire City of Reynoldsburg. Over 20 volunteers give hours of their time each week shopping for food, sorting donations, stocking shelves, making appointments, and packing food for clients. Reynoldsburg Helping Hands is committed to serving their community and providing assistance to those in need.

RHH is the only food pantry that serves families strictly within the Reynoldsburg School District area (Truro Township). All food and money donated goes to local families.

Unlike other area food pantries, RHH does not get food from the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Mid-Ohio will not approve the Reynoldsburg pantry to get food because the location is so small. Therefore, RHH is

*(continued on page 06)*

# Helping Hands



**APRIL 16, 2022, 10:00am to 2:00pm**  
**REYNOLDSBURG-TRURO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068



*(continued from page 05)*

totally self-sufficient operating on donated items and monetary donations.

### **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO HELPING HANDS:**

Feel free to bring us canned as well as nonperishable food items such as cereal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, gelatin and pudding, canned soups, chili, beef stew, and peanut butter.

Personal care and grooming items are always needed as well, such as shampoo, body & hand creams, toothpaste, body soap, etc.

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

The pantry advises that people should check the expiration dates on canned and non-perishable items, because outdated items are not accepted.

The following items are in high demand:

- Personal items such as toiletries, cleaning supplies and laundry items
- Non-perishable and non-expired food items
- Baby items like formula and diapers
- You can also donate monetarily if you wish at their website:

<https://reynoldsburghelpinghands.org/donate>

Helping Hands will apply your contribution directly toward our community's current and most pressing needs. By providing a struggling family with nutritious food, you are providing more than just a meal, you are fueling their entire future.

**I hope to see our local members on Saturday, April 16th!!!!**



## **New Members!**

- Ray Judy - Individual
- Debra Peterson - Individual
- Bill Mavis - Lifetime



## **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 ...

**(614) 581-7048**

**Write "SUNSHINE" in the subject line of your email: [cadeuber@gmail.com](mailto:cadeuber@gmail.com)**

*Thank You*

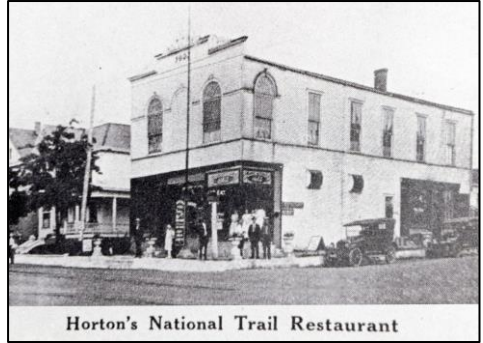


# Bits About the Burg

by: Suzy Millar Miller

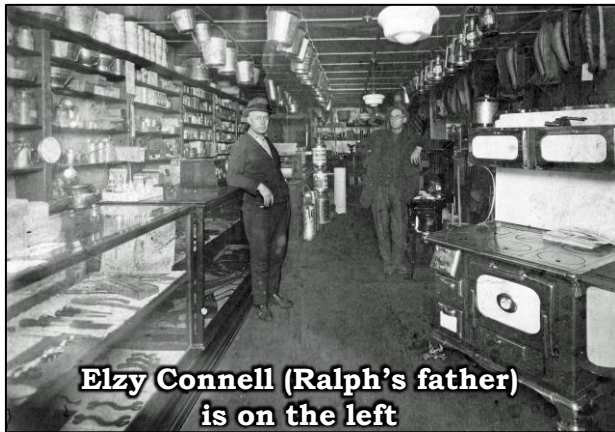
*Originally published in the Reynoldsburg Reporter, Wednesday, July 7, 1982*

In 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Horton renovated a well-known restaurant on Main St. at the corner of South Lancaster Street. It became known as Horton's National Trail Restaurant and was considered superior to anything in the restaurant line along the National Road. Horton's was noted for its excellent cuisine which specialized in home cooking. The culinary department was personally supervised by Mrs. Horton. Catering for local lodge banquets and the large amount of "traveling public" provided Horton's with a very good patronage. The building was located next to the current Cotner's Funeral Home.



Horton's National Trail Restaurant

The Osborn Implement Company was established in the Burg on April 1, 1872. Mr. E.S. Osborn started the firm and Mr. Howard Osborn, his son, carried on the tradition. Howard was born and raised in the Burg and was experienced in the hardware line. The store carried all kinds of farming implements, Lancaster tires, stoves, furniture, and just about everything in hardware is commonly used by builders and farmers.



**Elzy Connell (Ralph's father) is on the left**

H.D. Pickering was the proprietor of the Pickering Meat Market in the twenties. The shop measured approximately 20 x 30 feet

and was in business in the 1870's. The meat market was established by Jacob Alspaugh (Mr. Pickering's grandfather) and handed down to King Pickering (Harold's father). King Pickering was the County Sealer of Weights and Measures under the County Auditor. The meat handled in the shop was strictly home dressed and customers came from the Burg and a select class of people in Columbus.

*(continued on page 08)*

# Bits About the Burg

by: Suzy Millar Miller



(continued from page 07)

Clyde Martin operated and owned the only drug store in the Burg during the early part of the century. The store was located on the ground floor of the Masonic Building. The store handled only the 'better quality' of oils, paints, wallpaper, Kodaks, confectionery, etc. Mr. Martin was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, which in 1922 had 138 members.

## Do you remember:

- The Larkin Club – where ladies paid \$1 a month and at the end of the year received a grand prize?
- When the Burg had a golf course on Lancaster Avenue?
- The Swim Club had a synchronized swimming team?

Written by the founder of Connell Hardware, originally Osborne Implement Co.  
- From the Ralph Connell Collection

## Reynoldsburg

Oh Reynoldsburg! your future is bright

If each will only try  
To set you on your feet each year  
And never let you die.

Each business interest let us guard,  
And give a helping hand  
To all, who within you live  
Or on your borders stand.

For years we watched you growing old  
With scarcely any hope  
That you might with the business world  
Be able for to cope.

New aspirations came to you  
When placed upon the line  
That connected you with the business  
world.

And cities of your kind.

It is our pride to watch you grow.  
Expanding day by day,  
New homes spring upon your street  
Which once looked far away.

new courage take, keep up the fight,  
It will surely give you fame.  
Don't lower your colors to the world  
Till you have won the game.

Success will come to all who wait  
Thoug long upon the way,  
Eternal vigilance is the price,  
That you will have to pay.

Then give a welcome to all you meet  
Upon the ground or on the street,  
A good hand shaking is the way  
To make them happy on that day.

E. S. Osborn



HI HONEY! I JUST WANTED  
TO GIVE YOU A BUZZ...

EDWIN BILTMAN 2022





Watch your next *Courier* for upcoming Raffles!



# Local Members!

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 23**

We are having a **Max & Erma's Fundraiser!**  
Purchases apply for

**DINE-IN AND CARRY OUT ORDERS**

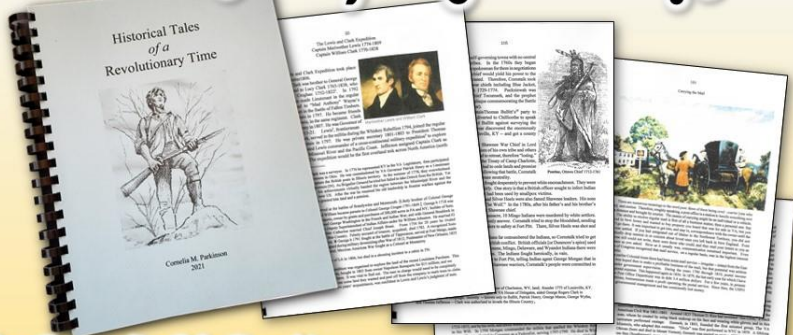
11:00am-9:00pm ALL Day!

You can also download a flyer at our website under "Calendar & Events"

[www.RTHS.info](http://www.RTHS.info)



# Historical Tales of a Revolutionary Time



by **Cornelia M. Parkinson**

**only \$35.00**  
plus \$5.00 Shipping

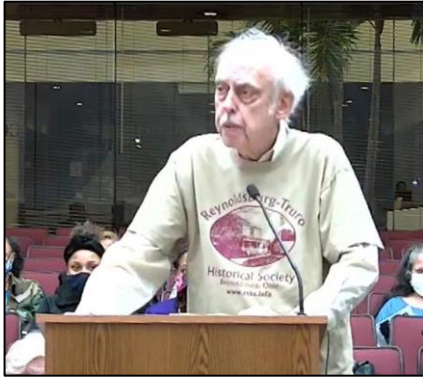


**152 Pages!**

**Just a few copies are left!**

# The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society was invited to speak at the City Council Meeting

RTHS was invited to speak about Reynoldsburg's role in the Underground Railroad, and the residents who participated. The Resolution is in honor of Harriet Tubman who escaped from slavery at a young age and led thousands



of fugitives north thru the Appalachian Mountains. She spent her entire life helping others.

The City of Reynoldsburg has proclaimed March 10<sup>th</sup> as Harriet Tubman Day in recognition of the anniversary of her death on March 10, 1913.

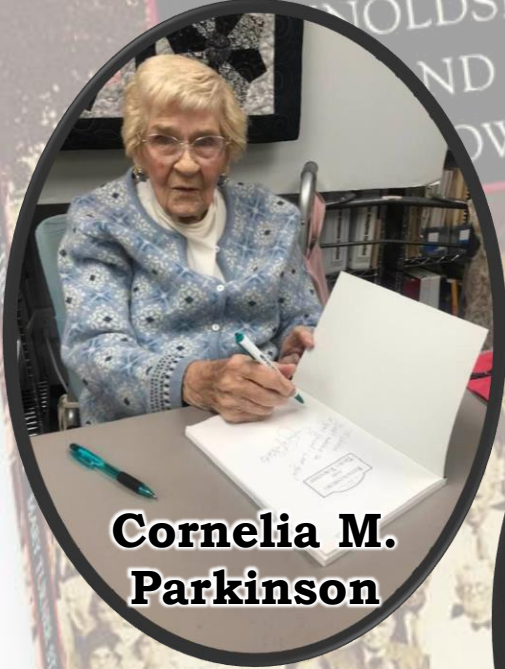
Mark Myers spoke about the Seceders who settled here and some of the places where the slaves were hidden; Williams Noe, David & Nancy Graham, and Alexander W. Livingston all hid slaves on their property. Ben Patterson, who worked for AWL, used Alexander's wagon (the Ark), to transport fugitives as far as Mt. Vernon (55 miles).



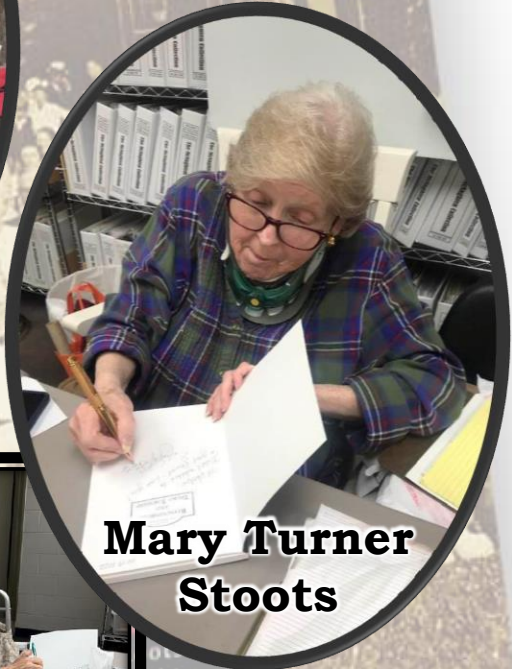
Mary spoke about two narrated PowerPoint presentations she has been working on in collaboration with various teachers, for the elementary and middle school level students about the Underground Railroad in Reynoldsburg. And – she told Mayor

Begeny to hold up his copy of the new book, *Reynoldsburg and Truro Township*, while she told everyone about it and neglected to give out our Website name! No problem. She managed to sell a book (or 2) in the lobby regardless of the oversight.

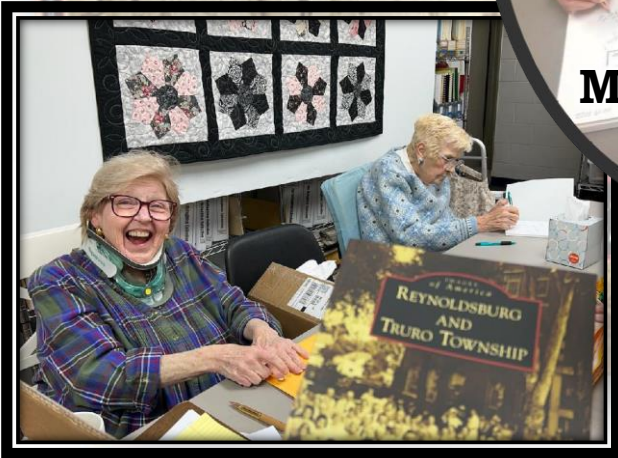
# The February 19<sup>th</sup> Book Signing was a SUCCESS!



**Cornelia M.  
Parkinson**



**Mary Turner  
Stoots**



## We sold 33 books at the Open House!

# March is Women's History Month!

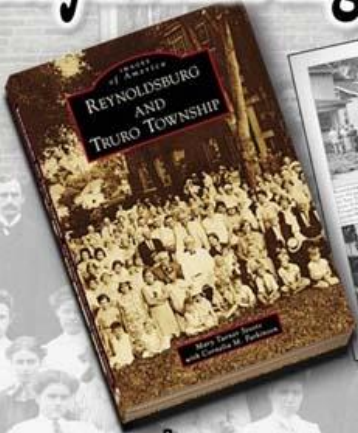


On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mark Myers put up the RTHS display at the Hannah J. Ashton school promoting “Notable Women of Reynoldsburg History.”

The display includes Hannah J. Ashton, Dorothy Alice Cornelius, Jo Ann Davidson, Mary Ann Rochelle Hickman, Vivian Bailey Hickman, Maebelle L. Weber Millar, Cornelia M. Parkinson, Eleanor Wilson Shonting, the 2012 Reynoldsburg Girls Track Team (Cherese Nimmons, Destinee Gause, Faith Washington, and Yamonie Jenkins), Jessie Weiberg, Virginia Marie Williams, and Rebecca Way Tobin Yount.

There will be a page added to our website (<https://rths.info/>) in honor of these women with a description of their accomplishments.

# Reynoldsburg and Truro Township



**Only \$26.00** plus \$5.00  
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by Mary Turner Stoots with Cornelia M. Parkinson

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**Write “HISTORY BOOK” on the Memo Line of your check**  
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