



Daisy Mae from Truro, Cornwall, United Kingdom

By Mary Turner Stoots

One day around the middle of June, I received a call from the Truro Township Trustees. At least, that's what the caller ID said.

I couldn't think of any township regulations that I might have violated, so I took a chance and answered the phone.

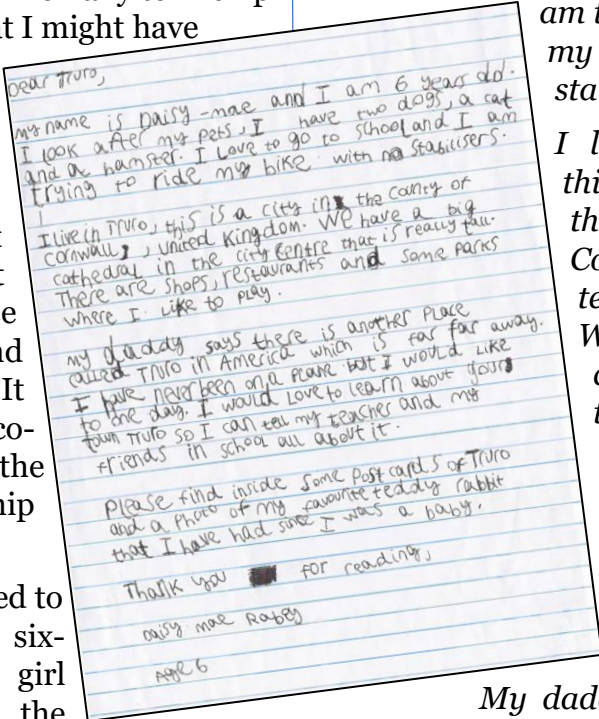
It turned out that it wasn't just any Trustee on the other end of the phone! It was Jason Nicodemus, who is the Truro Township Administrator!

Jason proceeded to tell me about a six-year-old little girl who wrote to the township from the City of Truro, in the county of Cornwall, clear across the ocean, in the United Kingdom!

Her name is Daisy Mae, and her letter goes something like this:

Dear Truro,

My name is Daisy-mae and I am 6 years old. I look after my pets, I have two dogs, a cat and a hamster. I love to go to school and I am trying to ride my bike with no stabilisers.



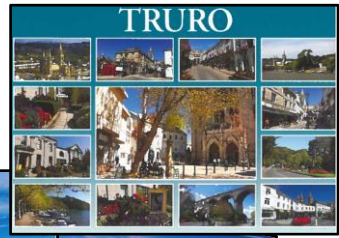
I live in Truro, this is a city in the county of Cornwall, United Kingdom. We have a big cathedral in the city center that is really tall. There are shops, restaurants and parks where I like to play.

My daddy says there is another place called Truro in America which is far away. I have never been on a plane but I would like to one day. I would love to learn about your town Truro so I can tell my teacher and my friends

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Daisy Mae from Truro, Cornwall, United Kingdom

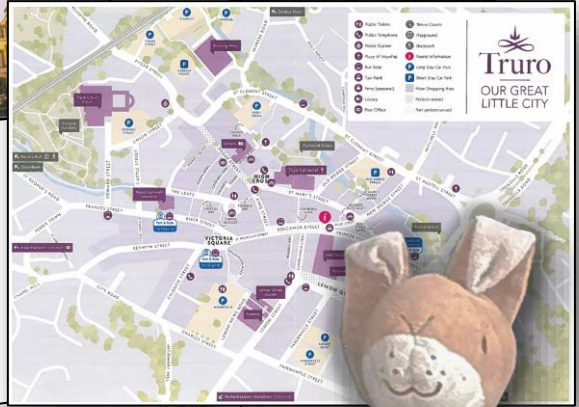


in school all about it.

Please find inside some post cards of Truro and a photo of my favorite teddy rabbit that I have had since I was a baby.



Thank you for reading,
Daisy Mae Rabey
Age 6



Straight away, I was on a mission to help little Daisy Mae! I retrieved the *Courier* index, and found Connie's article about all the different places in the world named Truro.

Her story was in the September 2021 issue, and was titled *Did You Say Truro?* I also thought that Daisy Mae might enjoy a copy of our new book, *Reynoldsburg and Truro Township*.

The Truro Township Fire Department included some patches, and the packet was sent



to Daisy Mae on 06/21. Hopefully, She will see our address at the end of Connie's *Courier* article and write back to either the Township Trustees

or maybe even to RTHS!! We'll wait and see!

THE COURIER

July 2022 Issue

**Reynoldsburg-Truro
Historical Society**

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Connie Parkinson, Suzy Millar Miller
Mary Turner Stoots

2022 CALENDAR

JULY

- 11 – MON – **Prime Timers Group** –
Mary Stoots, 1:00pm at the
Church of the Redeemer UMC
235 McNaughten Rd
- 12 – TUE – **Board Meeting**, 6:30pm
- 16 – SAT – **Open House** 10am-2pm
- 20 – WED – **Pizza Cottage Fundraiser**
4:00pm – 10:00pm

AUGUST

★ 04-05-06 Tomato Festival ★

- 16 – TUE – **Board Meeting**, 6:30pm
- 20 – SAT – Deadline for September
Courier
- 20 – SAT – **Barnum & Bailey Circus
Memories Open House**
10:00am-2:00pm
- 30 – TUE – **Texas Roadhouse
Fundraiser**, 4:00pm-10:00pm
5940 East Main St., Cols, OH 43213
(McNaughten & Main)

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 _____

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

Invite your friends to join!



Susan French's Wedding Day

by *Cornelia M. Parkinson*



From the: *1995 Courier Twentieth Anniversary Edition ~*

John and Jane Graham French had four sons and four daughters, the eldest of whom was Susan, born in 1803.

Through their daughter Susan, John D, and Jane French have many descendants in the area of Truro Township.

When Susan was of marriageable age, her parents favored a wealthy young man by the name of Taylor who lived on the main road just west of Hibernia [once located at Main Street and Noe-Bixby Road]. Susan said she didn't love him and didn't want to marry him, she wanted to marry John Elsey, who was one of the signers

for the petition for Waggoner Road.

John Hanson Elsey was born in 1799 in Kentucky and came to live in Truro Township. Susan's brother, John French, was a minister.



He said he would marry her and John Elsey. So, unknown to anyone else until the ceremony was over, Susan French was married to John Elsey. Their wed-

ding on April 22, 1823, took place in a cornfield, under the blue sky and sunshine.

They lived for several years about a mile north of Reynoldsburg on Waggoner Road, on fifty acres of land which Susan's father generously gave her. They had three sons and three daughters: Margaret Jane (1825-1892),

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Rachel E. (1827-1896), Edward Graham (1830-1914), Mary (1832-1900), David Steele (1837-1911). And John F. (1842-1862). (The daughter Rachel married James M. Connell of Licking County, Ohio (1879). They were members of the United Presbyterian congregation (Seceders) and he was a deacon. James owned a creamery and several dairies and milk stations. He was the first rural mail carrier out of Reynoldsburg. He was also a member of the Village Council and the Reynoldsburg Board of Education.)

Susan and John Elsey sold out to James Ferguson in 1836 for \$600 here and moved to Kenton Township in Hardin County, Ohio. After a few years they, "not being pleased with the manners and habits of the

people," sold their property and moved to Logan County, Ohio, near the town of Northwood,* where they decided to remain for a while.

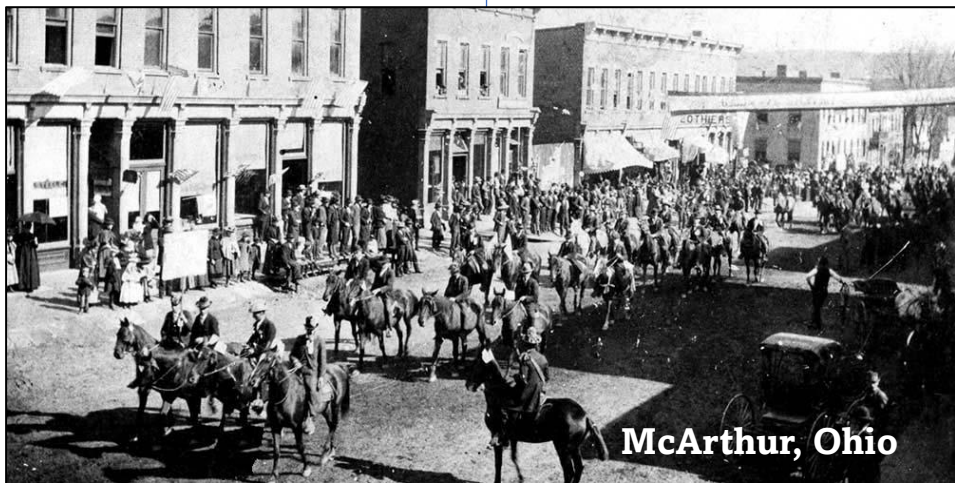
* *The 1850 Census reflects their home was in McArthur, Ohio.*

Not being satisfied yet, they moved north and settled within the bounds of her brother John French's congregation (Covenanters, which are the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America) in California Township, Branch County, Michigan.

They "lived but a few years there, when they were removed from this vale of tears to that world where all tears are wiped away, there being but four days between the times of their deaths in 1867."

Susan and John Elsey are buried in the Covenanter Memorial Cemetery, in Ray Township, Steuben County, Indiana.

Please Note: The photos of people in this article are random Victorian pictures from the internet and not of the French or Elsey families.



McArthur, Ohio

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Reynoldsburg High School 1899 to 1970

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

\$37.00 for Non-Members*

\$35.00 for RTHS Members

\$5.00 S&H (Tax included)

CONTACT MARY STOOTS AT

RTHSCourier@aol.com

614-902-2831

**NON-MEMBERS
GET A FREE
MEMBERSHIP*
THROUGH
12/31/2023**

by Mary Turner Stoots and Suzy Millar Miller

Historical Tales of Old Reynoldsburg Volumes 1 and 2

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by Mary Turner Stoots with Cornelia M. Parkinson

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by Cornelia M. Parkinson

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Volume One - New Edition -

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A Handy Book Order Form is Enclosed



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

New Members!

- Chuck Arbuckle – Individual
- Gregg Detty – Individual
- Barbara Rennard Jones – Individual
- Terry Miller – Individual
- Fred Pringle – Lifetime
- Gary Shade – Individual
- Roger Shortt – Lifetime
- Beth Wetherell Williams – Individual

23 New Members have been Welcomed so far in 2022!

Restaurant Fundraisers for Local Members! Flyers are Enclosed



**The Pizza Cottage event is 07/20/22
& Texas Roadhouse is on 08/30/22**

****YOU MUST PRESENT THE FLYER FOR RTHS TO RECEIVE CREDIT****

If you can't find your flyer, go to this link and download a PDF file: <https://rths.info/upcoming-events>

BARNUM & BAILEY'S CIRCUS MEMORIES

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 20, 2022
10:00AM TO 2:00PM**

**THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!
WITH SHARON SELLITTO**

1485 JACKSON ST. ACROSS FROM THE HANNAH J. ASHTON SCHOOL

It began in 1871 as P.T. Barnum's Grand Traveling Museum, Menagerie, Caravan & Hippodrome. It survived the Depression, two world wars and the news media of its time. But on May 21st, of 2017, the world's most historic circus, Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey shut down after failing to sufficiently dazzle the children of the smartphone & video game age and overcome the fierce opposition of the animal-rights movement, which does not want to see animals in the circus.

Were you aware of the little-known fact that an RHS Alumna and long-time member of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society was a performer in the circus? As a showgirl for Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, Sharon Cosner Sellitto rode the elephants, performed aerial ballet, danced, flew on the trapeze, and was the 'Bluebird of Happiness.'

Many baby-boomers dreamed of running away with the circus, but Sellitto actually DID tour with Ringling Bros. for several seasons during the 1970s. "My mother seems to have saved every letter I wrote during those years," Sellitto said recently, sitting at her kitchen table, covered with scrapbooks and memorabilia of her circus years.

"In one letter, I wrote I was getting ready to climb 40 feet in the air — in high heels, in the dark — to hang by my knee. Isn't it nice to know that's why you sent me to college?"

As a showgirl, she performed high above the rest of the acts an average of three shows a day, suspended by not only her knee, but her wrists or ankles while doing various forms of aerial ballet.

She said she took dancing her entire life, but added some gymnastics and dancing classes at Ohio University. After heading out West, *(continued on page 09)*

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Sharon danced with the Ballet Celeste in San Francisco for a couple of years. Eventually, she moved farther north and was dancing in the casinos at Lake Tahoe. Sharon also worked dancing in Bob Hope's shows when he was in the area. One day, she spotted an advertisement that Ringling Bros. was having auditions. She and a friend tried out, and four months later she got a call asking if she could come to Florida to start training.

It was the start of an adventure that would last several years. "It was so painful at first, climbing a rope," she said. Performing in heels and with a plumed headdress that could sometimes weigh as much as 30 pounds made it all the more challenging.

Eventually, she learned a little trapeze work and still has a trapeze from the circus in her collection of memorabilia. Sharon said that the scariest thing she did in the circus was swinging out and releasing hold of the trapeze to fall 15 feet into a safety net below, then bounce around until somersaulting from the edge of the net to the floor.

Each season would last about ten months, she said, taking her across the United States and Canada, living in a train car with other performers, including the legendary Mihaley "Michu" Meszaros, the "world's smallest man," standing 33 inches tall, according to his 2016 obituary. "We would sit in the vestibule between the train cars and watch the world go by," she remembered. "We went places on trains where the roads don't go, and you'd see things you'd never see otherwise.



"When you went into a town, there were 250 of you, so someone always had your back, and you always had friends. Probably ten showgirls and two clowns are still my best friends. It really was a big, happy family, and everybody watched out for everyone."



The fact 2017 saw the complete closure of "The Greatest Show on Earth," leaves Sellitto feeling very sad. "I'm in mourning about the Ringling Bros. Barnum &

Bailey Circus pulling up its three rings and going dark," she said. "I'm so proud
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to have been a Ringling Brothers show-girl, and part of the history of the greatest circus in the world; the train pulling in, unloading the animals, riding the elephants to the building, hanging the rigging, setting up the three rings. And the Ringmaster calling out “Ladies and Gentlemen! Children of all ages! Welcome to the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus! The Greatest Show on Earth!”

So, she said that I had to share my bananas, and I don't WANT to share my bananas! See? (sniff) And THEN she said I had to.... (sniff, sniff)



So – what is Sharon up to these days? A mutual friend of ours was recently babysitting a Capuchin monkey named Nicholas. Nick is 28 years old, and extremely entertaining.

We both love animals, so Sharon picked me up and we decided to go visit Mr. Nicholas!

Sharon is an animal magnet! As soon as she enters a room, they all congregate around her. Nicholas started to play with her hair and when I took his picture, that little creature was laughing!!!

I thoroughly enjoyed watching and taking picture after picture.

After we were there for a while, Nicholas settled on Sharon’s lap

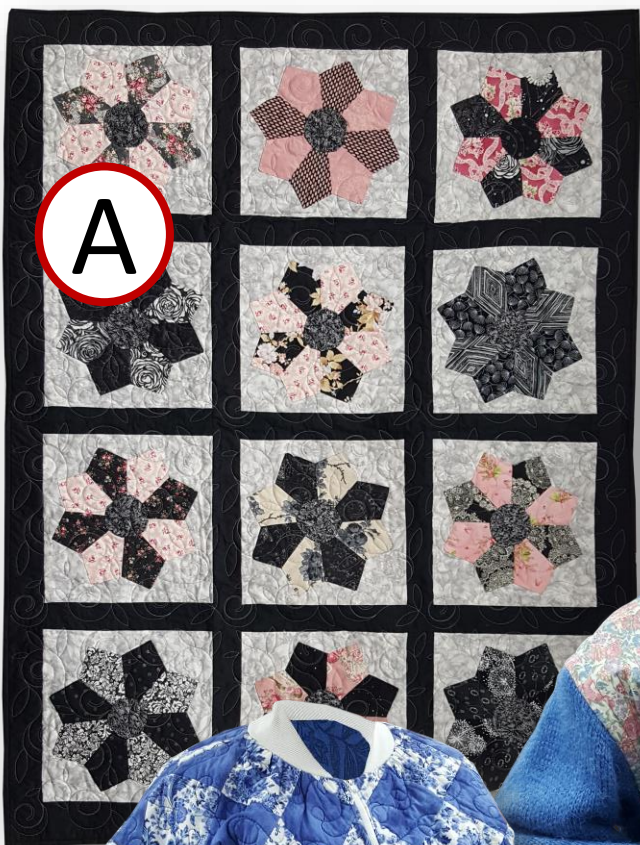
and commenced to telling her all of his problems. Since the one-sided conversation was in “Monkey-Talk,” I thought that Sharon did an excellent job of appearing to be interested and Nicholas seemed to be happier after his discussion? confession? Therapy session?

Would you like to meet an actual performer from the circus? You now have the opportunity! Sharon will be bringing a trunk full of Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus memorabilia to share with all of us at our August 20th open house. Bring your children and grandchildren! Sharon will be setting up in the lower level of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Museum accessible directly from our parking lot in

the rear of the building at 1485 Jackson Street, which is across the street from the Hannah J. Ashton School. The Museum Open House hours are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We hope to see you there!



IT'S TIME FOR A RAFFLE!!



- (A) Quilted 42"x 55" Throw
- (B) Quilted Jacket & Matching Purse Combo
- (C) Blue Sleeve Sweater with a Quilted Front
- (D) Teddy Bear made from a Vintage Quilt



A Handy Raffle Ticket Order Form is Enclosed



Summer is here. It's time for camping in the great outdoors and enjoying the fellowship of other campers. In the Burg there were groups of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and Church groups heading out into the wilderness to see what interesting things could be discovered in the great outdoors.

We haven't heard much about the Camp Fire Girls and their younger counterpart, the Bluebirds. Our RTHS President and *Courier* editor was a

Bluebird as a young girl. She has two main memories of that experience. One was in the annual 4th of July Parade in the Burg. Apparently, there was a float on the back of a truck bed. The little girls were dressed up as "beads". The beads are the Campfire equivalent to badges in the other young groups.



Some wise parent or leader had the girls wrapped in chicken wire and coated in various colors of crepe paper. There was a major flaw in the design. The girl's arms and hands were encased within the chicken wire, so they had no use of their arms. I'm sure if you've ever ridden on a float, you remember when the truck pulling the float starts up the flat bed has a small jerk as the unit starts to roll. Now picture four little girls standing up as round beads on the float. When the truck started one super small red-headed Bluebird in orange crepe paper fell on her side. Then she realized she couldn't get back up on her feet because her arms were stuck in the costume. Mary managed to stay on the float most of the parade, crying the entire parade route. Her uncle, Bill, rescued her toward

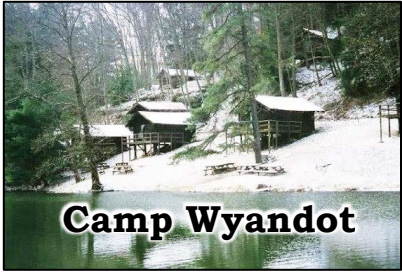
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the end. Mary did not like that parade!

Another of her experiences involved going camping at Camp Wyandot in the Lancaster area. Mary was small for her age and the trek to the restroom facilities was very long. She spent most of her time at camp knowing she'd never make it on time. I heard there were many tears for Mary's camping experience. Mary did not care for Camp Wyandot one little bit!



On the other hand, Mary's big sister, Jeannine Turner, had a wonderful experience at camp. Jeannine thoroughly enjoyed the Camp Fire Girls and learned all kinds of crafts and skills during her time in the group. Their troop participated in community activities including having their parents join them for refreshments and singing to shut-in groups during the holidays.

In a picture from a December 1960, *Little Weekly*, are two groups of Reynoldsburg Camp Fire Girls, the To-Wan-ka group, and the Merry-Maids, who brought seasonal cheer to the old folks at "Alum Creek Home for the Aged" on Alum Creek Drive. In the picture from left to right are (front row) Kathy Keller, Maureen Egan, and Debbie Panzone; (second row) Debbie Keene, Mrs. Jan Henry, Kathy Egan, Debbie Herrin, Jeannine



Turner, Connie Morris, and Mrs. Millie Egan; (third row) Linda Bowman, Joyce Nicodemus, Cathy VanCuren, Joan Bauman, Mary Jane Minor, Carol Dolan, Clara Herbert, Sharon Kellett, and Mrs. Kate VanCuren. Gary Herrin, upper left, a high school sophomore, accompanied the

singing with his accordion. The girls brought wreaths and Christmas trees to the aged. There were damp eyes and loud applause as the girls sang carols from floor to floor of both the Home and the Hospital.

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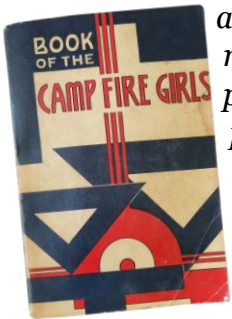
Another event was a spring gathering where the Camp Fire Girls prepared refreshments for their parents. In the **May 2, 1962**, *Little Weekly* there was a photo cutline which read: **"COUNCIL CONCLAVE – Members of the To-**



wan-ka Camp Fire Group of Reynoldsburg are shown serving refreshments to their parents last Wednesday evening at the Ohio Federal Building. From left to right are (front row) Susan Lang, Joyce Nicodemus, Carol Dolan, Kathy Van Curen, Clara Herbert; (back row) Debbie Herrin, Jeannine Turner, Christy Fagan,

Sharon Kellett, Mary Lou Henry, Linda Bowman, and Mary Jane Minor. – Photo by Eleanor Herrin"

The accompanying story read: ***To-wan-ka Camp Fire Girls Entertain Parents, Hold Candle Service*** – *The To-wan-ka Camp Fire Girls gave a Council Fire Wednesday evening at the Ohio Federal Building to which parents and sponsors were invited. The Wood Gatherers in the group were fulfilling the requirements No. 10 and 12, and the Trailseekers were fulfilling requirement No. 8. These requirements are that the Camp Fire Girl must plan a party for parents and sponsors, plan the entertainment, giving information about the interesting activities of Camp Fire, and serving refreshments prepared by themselves. The interesting program included a candlelight program giving the purposes of Camp Fire fellowship, presentation of honor beads to the girls, and songs and games. Parents enjoyed the program and welcomed the chance to understand Camp Fire ideals and purposes.*



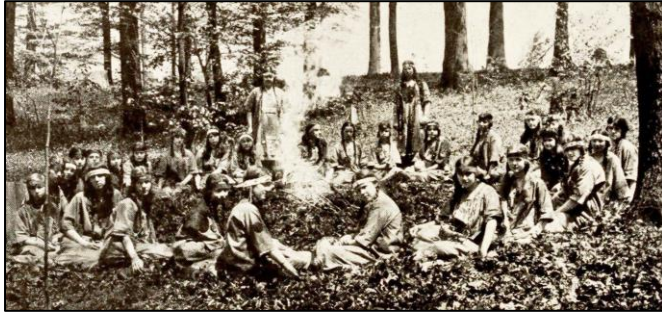
The Camp Fire Girls of America were founded in 1910 in Thetford, Vermont, as a sister organization for the Boy Scouts. In 1907, Luther Gulick had established WoHeLo Camp in Maine. In 1913, a younger branch of the Girls was started and were called Bluebirds. The group was centered

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around family and community. The Camp Fire Girls helped sell over a million dollars in Liberty Bonds supporting WWI and \$900,000 in Thrift Stamps. The picture shows a Camp Fire Girls campout in 1917.



Juliette Gordon Low, who established the Girl Guides of America, proposed that the Camp Fire Girls merge with her group, but the merger was never completed. At that time, the Camp Fire

Girls had a larger membership of 60,000. So, on March 17, 1912, the Camp Fire Girls of America was incorporated as a national agency.

In 1960, The Camp Fire Girls planted more than two million trees, built 13,000 birdhouses, and completed other conservation-oriented projects. The Boy Scouts of America and the Camp Fire Girls celebrated their 50th anniversary by joining with Smokey Bear to help prevent forest fires.



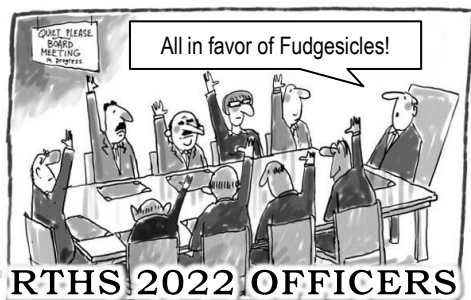
Ceremonial activities were influenced by Native American culture. The Camp Fire Girls the symbolism of the culture inspired the uniforms inspired by Native American women's gowns. The most visible part of the uniform was the vest worn by the girls. The vests were covered in colorful beads sewn in



place in patterns. Each bead represented various awards and tasks learned such as: Red – Sports & Games; Brown – Outdoors; Green – Creativity; Yellow – Home; Royal Blue – Citizenship; Orange – Home Craft; Turquoise – Science; Lime Green – Discovery; and Purple – Special Projects. After being awarded 10 beads of one color, the little beads would be replaced by a larger bead of the same color. The girls sewed the beads onto

the vest in various patterns. The vest pictured was donated to RTHS by Jeannine Turner.

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RTHS 2022 OFFICERS

- President** – Mary Turner Stoots
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- Email:** RTHSCourier@aol.com
- Museum Phone:** (614) 902-2831
- Website:** www.RTHS.info



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In 1962, a medallion was established called the WoHeLo Award. The name of the award stands for Work, Health, and Love.

Earning this award involves many years of work and learning including understanding the goals of the Camp Fire Girls.



The Camp Fire Girls in the Burg seemed to disappear in the early '60s after the leader became ill and there was no one to replace her. By that time, the Girl Scouts in the Burg began to get more troops.

There was a strong background in scouting in the Burg which encouraged volunteering, helping others, building character, and learning about interacting with people.

RTHS has a display on some of the scouting uniforms over the years and other memorabilia.

Come visit the museum and learn more about the scouts!



Arthur & Betty Jacob
posing with their Boy & Girl Scout uniforms on display



RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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