

For the July 2023, *Courier* I “walked” down the South side of East Main Street from the Methodist Church to the Presbyterian Church. Now I’m going to continue West on the South side of Main Street to Blacklick Creek. My memories are a blend of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Those impressions may not be totally

accurate because my mind may remember things differently from my youth than what they actually were.

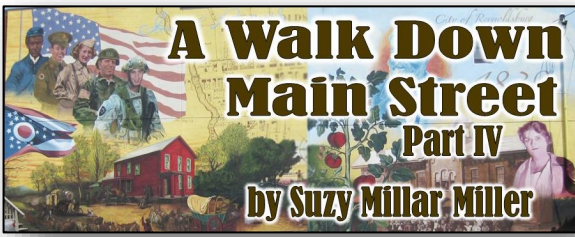
As I cross Jackson Street, I notice a huge white house on the corner. I knew it as **Harold “Pick” (short for Pickering) Richardson’s** Antique Shop and home. Many older Burg residents called it the **Taylor house**. Dr. Frank Gaylord Taylor,



who was born in 1851, acquired the house in 1877 from Dr. John D. Norse. Frank Taylor attended the Ohio Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati. He was a member of the I.O.O.F. and the Reynoldsburg Primitive Baptist Church. One of his sons, Dr. W. Boivin (W.B) was an 1895 graduate of RHS, moved his practice to Pickerington where he worked to get a grant from Andrew Carnegie for the Pickerington Library. (**Editor’s Note: W.B.’s son, Kenneth was also a doctor. While still in medical school, he accompanied his father for the delivery of a baby girl on June 13, 1929. That baby was my mother, named Wilma (Wiswell) Turner. Kenneth remained Wilma’s family doctor and delivered all three of her children, including Mary Turner Stoots, the RTHS president.**)



The house remained in the Taylor family until 1952 when it was acquired by “Pick” Richardson who dealt in antiques for over 25 years. The people who bought the house later, Dorothy and Ralph Tate were also antique dealers. The building behind the house may have been storage for the antiques. (Continued on page 02)



(continued from page 01)

The next house, a white Victorian styled residence with a little porch adorned by lacy looking decorations. I was never in that house, but an article in the *Reynoldsburg Reporter* in Dec. 1988, said it was the “**Some Day**

family planned to replace the plaster, put in new electrical wiring and replace the old furnace with its massive duct work and coal-fired heat. The house was built by Hiram Dysart in 1876 with a



Flower and Gift Shoppe” which was a country gift store then owned by Claire Fox. Claire ran the business for 12 years where she also taught children’s art classes which included bread dough sculpture and doll-making with nylon hoo. She sold the



house to David and Connie Lortz in 1989. They planned and executed a massive renovation to restore the house to its former glory. According to an article in the *Neighbor News* published in 1989 by the *Columbus Dispatch*, the

marble fireplace, a winding staircase edged with spindles, and woodwork. The Lortz’s planned to spend over \$100,000 for the renovation. They also added a large bay window that looks out over Main Street.

Renovation wish will come true
 By Amy Goodburn
 OF THE REYNOLDSBURG STAR
 REYNOLDSBURG — “Somebody” finally has come for Claire Fox, proprietor of the former Flower and Gift Shoppe, 237 E. Main St., in old Reynoldsburg.
 After a 12-year struggle to maintain the 1 1/2-acre and house, Fox has found the buyer she had long sought to restore the structure into an art gallery and the developer into a gift shop.
 “My dream of seeing this old house restored and renovated has finally come true. I had been looking for someone who wanted to ‘love’ the house. Fox, who hoped to restore the house herself, said the new owners are making her proud and pleased. Lortz will close the house this month and expect to April. Fox said they have not purchased the house but rather, are waiting. It had been agreed to be sold during the winter and an addition will be made to the lot.
 “Renovating” is fortunate for Dave Lortz and Connie, and Fox. They are not only saving the structure but also the history. They are investing a lot of effort, expense and energy into the project.
 Fox said she especially is happy about the sale because the Lortz plan to respect the structure and the surroundings. When the contractors originally planned the addition, she was very nervous. Fox said she was worried they would not respect the structure and the surroundings. Fox said she was worried they would not respect the structure and the surroundings.
 “I hope Fox is happy to see the house renovated,” said. “It’s hard letting go of this house but it will be worth it.”

New Year’s eve service planned
 Plans of Peace Lutheran Church in holding a New Year’s eve service, Sunday, Jan. 8, at 8:00 p.m. The church is at 188 N. High Street.
 The public is invited to attend. Pastor, at the suggestion of the church, will be a special service on Jan. 8 at 8:00 p.m.

RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Mailing address: Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

P.O. Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

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A Walk Down Main Street

Part IV

by Suzy Millar Miller

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but Cotner and his son, Barth Cotner bought the houses next to their funeral

The next building is now the **Reynoldsburg Barber Shop** and **Kelly Electric Contractors**. The building has been around for a long time. My grandfather, Wason Millar, worked there in the 1930s or 40s when



it was a Ford dealership owned by Harry Lewis. The garage sold Lincolns, Fords, trucks, and tractors. They also did mechanical repairs on vehicles and dispensed gasoline. My grandfather is the man holding the screwdriver (second from the left). I don't know



when they left the building, but in 1977 it was Derry Johnson's **Hair Replacement and Styling**. At some point the building became a barber shop. That's where my dad got his hair cut after Carl Whitmer retired. I think his barber's name was Max Breen.

The next block gets confusing. I don't know when the transformation began,

home and connected the structures together. The first house was where **Cheatwood Funeral Home** was



located when I was young. I attended many funerals there as a child. The funeral director was Jake Cheatwood. Then the Cotner's acquired the business and expanded their services. **Barth Cotner is a Lifetime member of RTHS**. He is very active in the community and donates his time and money to assist as many people as he can. He is currently donating the funds to

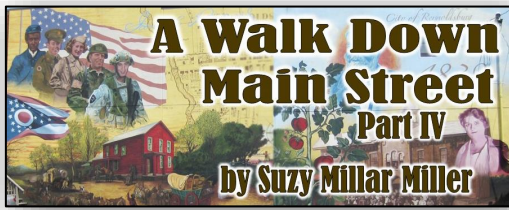


print the 3rd grade workbooks we provide to the schools. Barth has also donated American flags for the museum and assistance in paying for the school buses to bring the 3rd grade students to RTHS



for tours. (Continued on page 4)

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page 03)



We appreciate the Cotner family's support in everything they do for the community.



As I continue my walk, I'm coming up to the **skinny brick building** that is kind of special to me. I don't know a whole lot about it, but I spent many

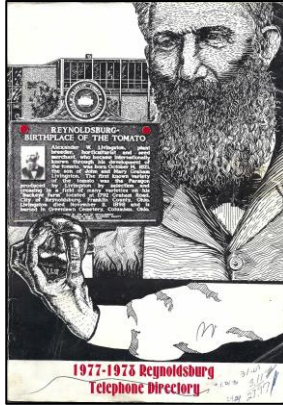


hours there in the **basement!** The *Reynoldsburg Reporter* was located in that basement when I moved back to the Burg in 1977. I was hired as a typesetter by Steve and Sally Milbourn. I had no work experience in that field, but Sally said she saw in my resume that I had worked for Green Gables in the late 60s as a breakfast cook. Sally ran across that street and asked the owner about what type of worker I was. Florence Dailey apparently said I was a good worker who did what I was told

to do and always showed up on time at 6 a.m. She also told Sally that I worked for 75 cents an hour! I was

hired almost immediately at minimum wage. I learned the art of setting type while Steve had me type all of the listings in the **1977-1978 Reynoldsburg Telephone Directory**. The directory had 52 pages of listings and 50

pages of advertisements in an 8½ x 11 format. I did the names (3 columns per page, 77 names per column) and Steve did all the fancy stuff for the ads. Each name was listed: Last Name, First Name, Street Address, and Phone Number. I learned the name of every person in town who had a phone! There was no "copy, paste, move" done with a couple of keystrokes. It was every name in proper alphabetical



order and no typos. Talk about a quick learning curve! I became an expert in a very short time! After the phone book, Steve asked me to typeset a small paperback he had from a

client. I guess it was supposed to be fun, but it was a book about swingers. The book was printed in Plano, TX so I never saw it, thank heavens! I stayed in typesetting for 25 years in various places including a return to the *Reporter* in the late 80s.

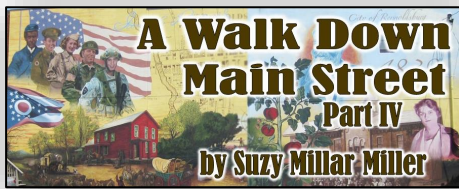
Back to the building. I'm not sure if it was the site of **Horton's National**

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from page 04)

Trail Restaurant or

If that was a building that has been gone for many years. The basement used to be accessed very easily, but it looks blocked off now. I keep going back to that basement because many scary things happened there. One time, my boss told me and Sally to go upstairs to see if we could find our editor, **Ray Adams**. There was an inside back staircase that connected the basement to the floors above. We opened the door and got concerned. The room was full of caskets! Apparently, the **Cotner Funeral Home** owned the building and used the top floors as a casket showroom. We quietly crept in and



misplaced hers over the years and I thought it would be nice to replace her crown. Lo and behold, there was a place in the Burg that sold trophies and tiaras. The store was located (you

our 1966 Homecoming Queen. It seems like she

guessed it) in the basement where the *Reporter* had been located! I think I bought six tiaras for various people. That was the last time I was ever in the building. The outside of this building has the most impressive artwork in Old Reynoldsburg, the **historical mural**.

The mural was painted by **Curtis Goldstein**, a renowned artist who



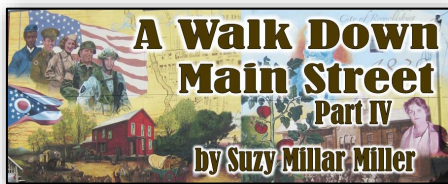
peeked in the caskets. A couple of them were closed. I opened one, just to peek in and then started screaming! Someone began sitting up in the casket. Sally then started laughing, because Ray Adams popped out grinning. I never forgave any of them for the joke, but I do appreciate everything I learned on the job!

For a high school class reunion I was organizing, I wanted to find a tiara for

specializes in large murals on buildings. Curtis started the painting on September 12th, 2009. The 30x90 foot mural showing the history of Reynoldsburg is on the west wall of the Cotner Funeral Home.

Barth Cotner worked closely with Curtis on plans for what should be shown on the mural. Barth was contacted by old Burg citizens with ideas on (continued on page 06)

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who or what should be painted on the wall. I sent in some photos of my mother, Maebelle Weber Millar, in her Army uniform. My mom enrolled in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1943. She had lived in the Burg her whole life. She reported for duty at Fort Hayes in Columbus and was then shipped to Daytona Beach, FL. Where she became a Drill Master And Physical Training Instructor. Over the years after she returned from active duty, she was an active member of the Reynoldsburg Methodist Church, YMCA, and a Founding Member of RTHS. Maebelle was also active in the PTA, a Girl Scout Leader, and School Cook for many years.

The mural was dedicated on December 5, 2009.

Some of the scenes on the wall show people and places of the Burg. Starting at the left side of the mural are five locals who served in the armed forces during wartime. At the top is **George Stebout** who served with the Union Army during the Civil War. Next is **2nd Lt. Charles "Buddy" Feucht**, a 1936 RHS graduate, who died in a plane crash on an island in the Pacific during WWII. **Sgt. Maebelle (Weber) Millar**, a 1938 RHS graduate, served in the WAAC during WWII. She was one of only four women from Reynoldsburg enlisted in the Armed Forces during WWII.



Army Specialist Robert "Ron" Buck, a 1965 RHS graduate, was killed

in action in Vietnam in February of 1969. **Army Sgt. Titus Reynolds**, a 2005 RHS graduate, was killed in Afghanistan in September 2009. He was chosen for the mural as it was being painted.

Other scenes show **Hannah Ashton**, a 1920 RHS graduate, who was a teacher and principal in Reynoldsburg schools for 34 years. The middle school was renamed Hannah J. Ashton. Another

person shown on the mural is **Alexander Livingston** who developed the first commercially grown tomato. Because of Livingston and his seed company, the Burg is known as **the Birthplace of the Tomato.** Another scene depicts the **"Underground**

Railroad" which ran through Reynoldsburg during the mid-1800s. There are many other aspects of our town shown on the mural. Barth Cotner is currently developing a pocket park in front of the painting.

I know I haven't mentioned what the giant brick wall looked like in the 50s and 60s. What I remember is a giant advertisement for a music company, painted in white. The slogan was, "A girl who plays the piano will never be a wallflower". Of course, I played the piano and was never a wallflower!

I think I'll stop and admire the current mural before I head across the street on South Lancaster Avenue.



RTHS 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mary Turner Stoots
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Vice President – Dick Barth
(614) 327-8162

Treasurer – Marvin Shrimplin
(614) 570-2294

Recording Secretary – Mark Myers
(614) 376-6809

Corresponding Secretary
Suzy Millar Miller
(512) 635-6376

Trustee (1 year) – Judy Diuguid

Trustee (2 years) – Vickie Hall
(740) 503-4955

Trustee (3 years) – Donald Larimer

Courier Editor: Mary Turner Stoots

Publicity Chair: Mary Turner Stoots

Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com

Museum Phone: (614) 902-2831

Website: www.RTHS.info

September 12, 2023

Board & General Membership Picnic & Meeting

Where: At the Museum

Time: 5:30 pm

In the Lower-Level Meeting Room



We are Voting for the 2024 Officers and a Trustee



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

David W. Reidel

President

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The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Presents ARTISAN OPEN HOUSE

Date: Saturday, Sept. 16

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Where: RTHS Museum

Address: 1485 Jackson St.
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Cost: No Fee - It's Free

Across the street from the former Hannah J. Ashton School

Dust off all those treasures you made and bring them to the museum so we can display your talented work. This Artisan Open House is to show off how gifted all of our members are. **Please Participate.** You may bring your artwork to the museum on September 12th during our General Meeting or call to arrange a time and date at (614) 902-2831.

With Special Guest: Ray Gosnell

Ray will be driving this wild Beast of the Highway to the Artisan Open House. It is a modified 1923 Model-T, and now it is a ... a ... well, ... a collective cluster of artifacts? Please don't touch the vehicle. Something might fall off.

Ray is also going to bring another garage masterpiece that has two front ends. I'm trying to picture that one too, so don't feel bad - I guess we are both in the same boat.



We are having a City BBQ Fundraiser

We haven't done a City BBQ Fundraiser since 2020. That is because the corporate office put a minimum sales threshold of \$500 on the fundraising events. We are a small organization that doesn't have that many sales.

As president of RTHS, I wrote to the City BBQ Corporate Office and told them that they were, "in essence, shunning any small local organizations from participation, and we will take our business to another eating establishment." I also said that

I would no longer patronize their restaurant. But - If they ever decide to lower the minimum sales requirement, to please let me know. You'll never guess what happened. The corporate office contacted me, and they have lowered the minimum sales requirement to \$300! Consequently, I have set up a fundraising event for October 10th. The marketing department at City BBQ sent a flyer to me today, which will be enclosed in the Courier. It looks completely different from the picture in this article, but it will still work. – **Please participate.** If we don't reach at least \$300 in sales, we won't receive a penny for our fundraising efforts. We can do this. I know we can.



We only have one school tour booked to date. This is not normal! I am meeting with the Superintendent on September 14th, so I should have some news after that.

Our first scheduled tour is for Rose Hill Elementary, booked on Thursday, September 28th. They only have 3 classes, so there will not be a tombstone tour for this group. That way, we can focus on the mural, barn, and the museum.





Cornelia M. “Connie” Parkinson wrote several articles for the *Courier* about Reynoldsburg Streets and how they were named. In November 2016 we published *Reynoldsburg Street Names*, then in January 2017, by popular demand, Connie wrote, *Reynoldsburg Street Names II*. After some thought, she decided we needed *Reynoldsburg Street Names that Were*.

When Lauren Shepler wrote the third-grade workbook, she and I agreed that the children of Reynoldsburg needed to know about the various streets and how they were named. So, I put all the information from Connie’s articles into a table format, and we added 84 street name descriptions to the workbook.

This not only serves to educate the children about the streets where they live, but the book can be taken home and shown to their parents, many of which are new to our community as well as our country.

While updating the workbook for this year I decided to add the street names for our newest housing development, Spring Hill Farm. This is the ONLY community of brand-new homes in

Reynoldsburg! All the rest of the new-builds so far are attached single-family townhouse condos or apartments.

The streets in this new development are all named for people who are either in the Spring Hill Farm family, or worked the farm, including Marilyn (Oldham) Griffin, a past president of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society (RTHS) and former

editor of the *Courier*, as well as her daughter, Laurel “Lolly” (Griffin) Sample, who was also, a *Courier* editor later on! Since the family has been in this town for over 160 years, and are current members of RTHS, I reached out to Lolly and asked for a brief bio connected to each street name to add to the workbook

During this process, I discovered that Lolly’s 4x Great Grandparents, James Stevenson I, and Sarah Armstrong (the parents of Florence Anna Stevenson who married John Oldham) are my 3x Great Grandparents. It’s a small world! Here are the streets in alphabetical order:

Carr Place - Carr was the name of Clark Oldham’s friend, a farmer named Bobby Carr who Clark originally
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contracted to farm the land. Bobby Carr has continued to farm the Oldham land for the past 36 years!

Clark Drive - Clark Oldham graduated from Reynoldsburg High School in 1925 and was the 5th child of Samuel "Collins" and Nannie Tussing Oldham. Clark farmed with his father his entire life, and inherited Spring Hill Farm, when his father, Collins, passed away in 1957, at the age of 86. Clark died on June 17, 1998, at the age of 93.

Collins Drive - Samuel Collins Oldham, who went by the name Collins, was the 3rd child of James Abraham and Laura Hart Oldham. James was born on October 6, 1842, and established the Oldham Homestead on Waggoner Road in 1864, when he returned from his service in the Civil War. Collins, a lifelong farmer, eventually inherited Spring Hill Farm when his father, James, passed away in 1933, at the age of 91.

Dorothy Drive - Clark Oldham's first wife, Dorothy, was a devoted and hard-working wife and mother. She worked tirelessly, raising chickens, selling eggs, gardening, canning, sewing and cooking meals for Clark and his hired hands, all while raising her daughter, Marilyn. Sadly, Dorothy died of cancer on September 20, 1972, at the age of 65.

Griffin Drive - Clark and Dorothy's daughter, Marilyn, married Lawrence Griffin, on September 8, 1950, after graduating from Capital University. They raised 3 children, Kenton Graham (Ken), Laurel Jean (Lolly), and Rhoderick Clark (Rod). In 1986, Marilyn and Lawrence moved into their newly built retirement home on Spring Hill Farm. Sadly, Lawrence passed away on May 15, 1988, but Marilyn continued to live on the farm for the next 26 years.



Marilyn (Oldham) Griffin

Leroy Place - James Leroy Oldham was the 4th child of Samuel "Collins" and Nannie Tussing. Tragically, Leroy died in an accident on the farm when he was just 3½ years old. It was a devastating loss for the entire family, especially his father, Collins

Marilyn Road - Marilyn Jean Oldham was the only child of Clark and Dorothy Oldham. Growing up, she was a talented musician and graduated from Reynoldsburg High School in 1946. She spent 52 years of her life as a resident of Reynoldsburg. Marilyn was very proud of her family's heritage. She was a charter and life member of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society, and an active member in the National Society of the

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Daughters of the American Revolution, the Reynoldsburg Civic Club and the Reynoldsburg High School Alumni Association. She was loved and admired by many for her dedication and generosity. Marilyn passed away on December 28, 2016, at the age of 88.

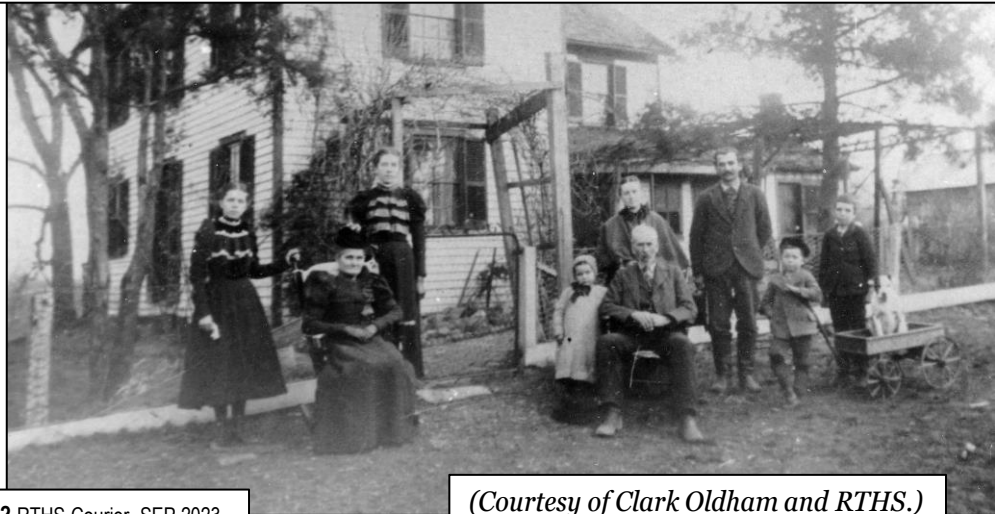
Oldham Drive - The Oldham name has been known in Reynoldsburg for more than 160 years. The Oldham Homestead on Waggoner Road, known as Spring Hill Farm, was

established in 1864 by James Abraham Oldham, when he returned from his service in the Civil War. James' father and mother, John Marling Oldham and Florence Stevenson Oldham, also lived at the Oldham Homestead for more than 20 years, prior to their deaths.

Rhoderick Circle - Rhoderick Clark Griffin is Clark Oldham's youngest grandson. After graduating from college, Rod moved to Spring Hill Farm and has been living there for the past 43 years! He worked closely with his grandfather, who had retired from farming, and Clark eventually turned over the operation of the farm to Rod. He has taken care of the farm operations and maintenance ever since. Rod is now ready to enjoy his retirement!

THE OLDHAM FARM 1898. James A. Oldham (1842-1933) taught school for a short time after he graduated from high school, then enlisted as a Union soldier in 1862 and served as a member of Company K, 133rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1864, he married Laura G. Hart (1844-1925). They moved to Waggoner Road, and the house is still on that property today.

Members of the Oldham family pictured here are (seated) Laura Hart Oldham and James Oldham; (standing, from left to right) Mary (married John Morrison), Harriet (married James McOwen), Zola (married Robert Barb), Nannie Tussing Oldham (behind James), Collins (Nannie's husband), Cyril and Morton Oldham.



(Courtesy of Clark Oldham and RTHS.)

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

PRESENTS

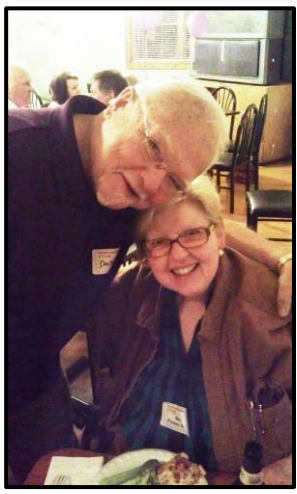
Daniel Nawrocki Day

Friday, September 22, 2023

11:00 am to 3:00 pm



RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
(across from the former Hannah J. Ashton School)



And if you were busy on the 22nd, we are leaving the display up for our **October 21st Saturday Open House**

The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Presents:

DANIEL F. NAWROCKI OPEN HOUSE

DATE: Saturday, October 21st

TIME: 10:00am - 2:00pm

WHERE: RTHS Museum

ADDRESS: 1485 Jackson Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

1934 - 2018



ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE FORMER HANNAH J. ASHTON SCHOOL

2023 CALENDAR

September

- 12 – TUE – Board & General Mtg
Indoor Picnic 5:30pm
- 16 – SAT – Open House - Artisan Day
10:00am-2:00pm
- 22 – FRI – Daniel F. Nawrocki Day
11:00am-3:00pm
- 28 – THU – Rosehill School Tour

October

- Annual TTFD Inspection
- Publish President's Holiday Letter
- 07 – SAT – Global Cardboard
Challenge 8:30am-11am
at French Run Elementary
School
- 10 – TUE – City Barbeque Fundraiser
11:00am- 8:00pm
- 17 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 20 – FRI – Deadline for November
Courier Newsletter
- 21 – SAT – Daniel F. Nawrocki Open
House 10am-2pm

THE COURIER

September 2023 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro
Historical Society

Mailing Address:

PO Box 144

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0144

Street Address (**NO MAIL**):

1485 Jackson Street

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Museum Phone:

614-902-2831

Courier Editor:

Mary Turner Stoots

Courier Editor Phone:

614-560-4987

Courier Email:

RTHSCourier@aol.com

Photos & Illustrations

Provided by:

Suzy Millar Miller,
and Mary Turner Stoots

Contributors:

Suzy Millar Miller, Lolly Sample
and 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

14-RTHS Courier, SEP 2023

Invite your friends to join!

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society



September 12th 5:30 PM General Meeting & Indoor Picnic

The Membership will be Voting Tuesday, September 12th at our General Meeting for the 2024 Officers and two Trustees. The doors open at 5:30 pm for our picnic and the floor will be open to nominations during the meeting.

- **President** – Mary Turner Stoots
- **Vice President** – Dick Barth
- **Treasurer** – Marvin Shrimplin
- **Recording Secretary** – Mark Myers
- **Corresponding Secretary** – Suzy Millar Miller
- **Trustee (3-year term)** – Judy Diuguid

The 2024 RTHS Officers will be Elected at our September 12 General Meeting

Do you have someone in mind whom you would like to see on the leadership team? Are you interested yourself?

Contact **Dick Barth** for nominations by phone or email:

Cell: **614-327-8162** Email: **Richardbarth57@gmail.com**

The following Board Members are finishing out a 3-year term and will not be on the slate:

- **Trustee (1-Year Remaining)** – Vacant
- **Trustee (2-Years Remaining)** – Don Larimer

Feel free to bring a snack to share at the meeting

Delight us with your Culinary Skills

This is a picnic, after all

We all like to eat – don't you?

*Thank
you*



To: the Western Electric Pioneers and Museum Guests

Thanks to a donation for \$199.50 from the Treasury of the John D. Burleigh Pioneers, plus \$100.00 and \$25.00 contributed by individual donors specifically for our barn, and the Western Electric donations by our Open House guests in the amount of \$198.00, we received a total of \$522.50. These donations made it possible to install new lighting in our barn.

August 26th SAR Dedication to Our Five Revolutionary War Veterans Listed on the Stone

