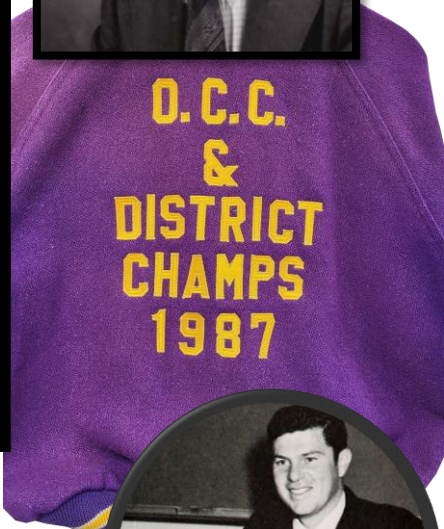




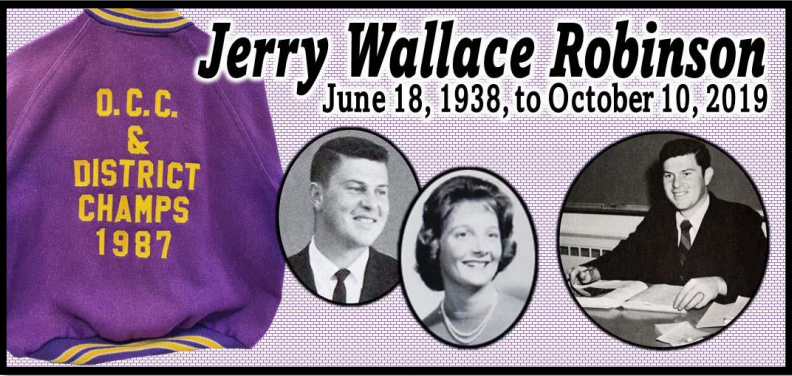
Jerry Wallace Robinson



We have several items of clothing that are currently mounted under glass at the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society (RTHS):

- **Ronnie Buck's Varsity Jacket**
Ronnie graduated from RHS in 1965. He was our hometown hero who died in Vietnam, and whose face graces the mural at Lancaster & Main Street.
- **Shirley Tudor Vingle's Cheerleading Sweater**
Shirley is a valuable member of RTHS. She is a 1953 RHS alumna, and was instrumental in the procurement of ALL our class composites dated prior to 1967. She also keyed all of our artifacts into the database when we first began using the program designed and written for us by our very own Jim Diuguid.

We now have a new inductee into the "Shadowbox Hall of Fame." **Jerry Robinson's Varsity Jacket** now graces the wall in our *(continued on page 2)*



Jerry Wallace Robinson

June 18, 1938, to October 10, 2019

(continued from page 01)

schoolroom. This gentleman coached for **38 years** in the Reynoldsburg City School System.

Jerry graduated from the West Virginia Chapmanville High School in 1955, played football, and was a member of the state Championship golf team. He graduated from Marshall University with his Bachelors Degree in Education and later earned a Masters Degree.

While in college earning his Bachelors degree, he dated a young lady named Ann Treacy. She wasn't quite ready for marriage, so after graduation, he took a job teaching social studies at Chapmanville High School and then Lake Weir, Florida. Ann came to Reynoldsburg to teach.

Evidently, Jerry decided that the young lady he dated in college was the only girl for him, so he popped the question.

In June of 1964, Jerry married Ann Treacy in Huntington, West Virginia, and came to Reynoldsburg. He was working a desk job, when Harry Wolford called him up and asked him if he played football and could teach Social Studies. If so, would he be interested in a job coaching. He went for the interview and came home with a position in the Reynoldsburg City

School system.

It ended up that he wasn't chosen to coach football, but he was given the coaching position for the golf team.

He couldn't have asked for a better sport to coach. He loved golf! He was on the golf team in college.

Jerry and Ann had two children, David (Julie Dorrian) and Treacy (Jim) Cox and three grandchildren: Maria and Jamie Cox, and Hugh Robinson.

Jerry might have taught social studies at Chapmanville High School and Lake Weir, Florida, but he spent most of his professional career teaching at Reynoldsburg High School where he taught various social studies classes from 1964-1986 and was the Athletic Director from 1986-1998.

Jerry's lifetime personal passion was golf which he learned as a caddy growing up, played at Marshall University, and coached for the next 38 years from 1964 to 2002 at Reynoldsburg High School winning two Ohio Capital Conference championships and leading six individuals and one team to the Ohio High School Championship Tournament. He was named to the Reynoldsburg

(continued on page 03)

Jerry Wallace Robinson

June 18, 1938, to October 10, 2019

O.C.C.
&
DISTRICT
CHAMPS
1987



(continued from page 02)

Sports Hall of Fame, Reynoldsburg Coach of the Year and Ohio High School Golf Coach's Hall of Fame.

Those of us at RTHS want to thank Ann Robinson for donating Jerry's Varsity Jacket, as well as all the other materials from their time as teachers in our school system, including yearbooks and other paraphernalia.

We value ALL these items and are working diligently to try to move as much information as possible to a digital format!

I need to re-home a dog. It's a small terrier that tends to bark a lot. If any of you are interested, let me know, and I'll jump over my neighbor's fence and get it for you.

2024 CALENDAR

MAY

- 14 – TUES – Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 15 – WED – Waggoner Road School Tour
- 18 – SAT – Western Electric Open House 10:00am-2:00pm
- 21 – TUES – Western Electric Open House 5:00pm-8:00pm
- 27 – MON – Memorial Day Service–9:30am- Seceder Cemetery

JUNE

- 11 – TUE – Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 15 – SAT – Open House 10:00am-2:00pm
- 15 – SAT – Juneteenth 9:00am-4:00pm at Huber Park
- 20 – THU – **DEADLINE FOR JULY COURIER**

22 – SAT – RHS Class of 1964 Alumni Walk Thru 10:00am-12:00pm

26 – WED – City BBQ Fundraiser 11am-8pm

29 – SAT – Suzy Millar Miller Celebration of Life – Cotner Funeral Home

2:00pm-3:30pm – Visitation at Cotner's 3:30pm – A Short Service,

We will have Refreshments after the Service at the Museum that will include Vick's Pizza And Bruster's Ice Cream!

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!

RTHS Courier MAY 2024-03



Reynoldsburg Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on April 24, 2024

Mark Myers, Judy Diuguid, Don and Pamela Larimer, Doug and Mary Stoots, all went to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new library that opened on April 24th, 2024.

Mary's name was in the program! She certainly didn't expect to see that!

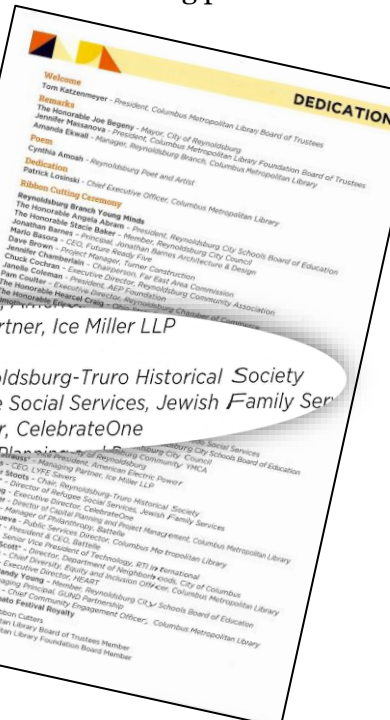
She asked Mark to step in for her during the actual ribbon cutting part of the Program because she didn't want her walker and neck brace in the picture.

Mary managed to get a great shot of Mark before the ribbon was cut. He is surrounded by royalty! The Tomato Queen, Tomato Princess, and Senior Tomato Queen framed him in the photo!

One of our favorite highlights during the ceremony was the two ladies on stilts. They



never stopped smiling and were extremely entertaining!



- Terri Strauss* - Managing Partner, Ice Miller LLP
- Dale Towns - CEO, LYFE Savers
- Mary Turner Stoots - Chair, Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
- Tariq Tarey* - Director of Refugee Social Services, Jewish Family Services
- Michelle Tong - Executive Director, CelebrateOne



Suzy Millar Miller
Celebration of Life
Saturday, June 29, 2024

Cotner Funeral Home
 7369 East Main Street
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

2:00pm – 3:30pm ♦ Visitation
3:30pm ♦ Celebration of Life Service

After the Service, we will all walk over to the
 RTHS Museum for:
 ♦ Vick's Pizza & other Menu Items
 ♦ Bruster's Ice Cream

Join us to celebrate the life of a wonderful woman! A true friend, and a lady who:

- Was always passionate about the preservation of Reynoldsburg history
- Always planning for the next article she was going to write for the *Courier*
- Kept complete and accurate records of every member for our database
- Was dedicated to her family and friends
- Knew more about the chronicle of my family history than I did
- Was obsessed with sending cards for EVERY occasion
- Was loved and will be missed by all of us...
- Till we meet again, Suzy, I will think of you and Connie every single day! I know you are both watching over me...

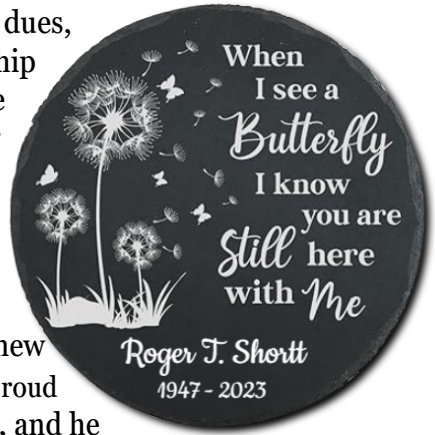




We started a little memorial garden at RTHS. It's called the **Sherrill A. Eubanks RTHS Memorial Garden**. I'll tell you all the criteria requirements to join our "garden party" in a few minutes, but first, I want to introduce our early inductees!

Sherrill A. Eubanks was a VERY generous member. Every year, instead of sending us her individual dues, she would buy a Lifetime membership. We would then tell her that she wasn't obligated to buy another Lifetime membership if she already had one. She'd always say, "Then you can just use the money wherever you like!"

Roger Shortt was a relatively new Lifetime member. He was also a proud RHS alumni from the class 1967, and he joined RTHS in 2022. Roger passed away unexpectedly in November of 2023, but during his short time with us, he generously donated \$3,000.00.



Wilma (Wiswell) Turner (*wind chimes*) was a Charter Member and Lifetime member of RTHS. She made several quilts that were raffled off, and they managed to net a wonderful profit for the historical society. Wilma passed away in 2019 and since then, her oldest daughter, Jeannine (also a Lifetime member), has donated several quilted items for RTHS to raffle. Wilma's younger daughter is also a Lifetime member, and your current president.

(Continued on page 07)

RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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

(continued from page 06)



The Sherrill A. Eubanks RTHS Memorial Garden

John Vingle loved to fish, so we thought it would be only fitting that he should fish in Heaven to his heart's content! John came to us and helped in the building of our barn in 2009.



Suzy Millar Miller

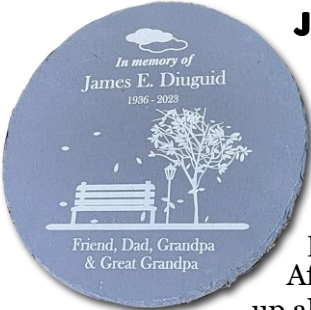
(windchimes and stone) was a Founding and



Lifetime member. Her stone says, "Missing You Always. You never said I'm leaving. You never said goodbye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God knows why. In life I loved you dearly. In death I love you still. In my heart I hold a place that only you can fill. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone. A part of me went with you, the day God took you home."

James E. Diuguid

came to our organization about 2009 when we were building the barn. He developed our database and did so much for our organization that I can't fit it all on here (unless I add a few more pages), for example, he took all of the class composites downtown to the Columbus Metropolitan Library so they could be scanned.



After that job was finished, he loaded up all our yearbooks and repeated the process. He designed and developed our database, organized the McNaghten Collection, served on the Board of Directors, and spent many, many hours at the museum Working on different projects.



Jack & Jeannine Winters were Charter and Lifetime members of the society. They attended every Open House, and most of the Board meetings. Jeannine was our official "Food Lady," for the Open House events and a 1949 RHS alumna.



These people ALL contributed hours and multiple

(continued on page 08)



(continued from page 07)

talents to RTHS. They were involved in activities at the museum or worked behind the scenes. They were chosen to receive a memorial stone and/or memorial wind chimes because they went above and beyond.

Recommended criteria for the RTHS Memorial Garden:

1. The recipient must have been a member of RTHS;
2. We must have their birth date and date of death for the stone;
3. The RTHS Landscaper will pick the plant that accompanies the stone to balance and compliment the rest of our gardens;
4. Samples of Stones & Wind Chimes will be printed on a document for the buyer’s selection, and the pricing is variable as follows:
 - a) \$40 Memorial Stone
 - b) \$30 - \$40 Wind Chimes
 - c) \$25 Wind Chime Tag
 - d) \$30 Bush/Plant;
5. If it involves a couple (spouses) there can be one plant and two stones if you wish;
6. Orders must be received before the end of February, so we have time to order everything for you before planting season;
7. Ask Mary Turner Stoots for a **Memorial Stone Booklet** and she will send one to you!
Email: **RTHSCourier@aol.com**

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

RTHS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President** – Mary Turner Stoots
(614) 560-4987
- Vice President** – Dick Barth
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- Treasurer** – Marvin Shrimplin
(614) 570-2294
- Recording Secretary** – Mark Myers
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- Corresponding Secretary** VACANT
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(614) 864-4581
- Trustee (2 years)** – Donald Larimer
- Trustee (3 years)** – Judy Diuguid
- *****
- Courier Editor:** Mary Turner Stoots
- Publicity Chair:** Mary Turner Stoots
- Email:** RTHSCourier@aol.com
- Museum Phone:** (614) 902-2831
- Website:** www.RTHS.info

Some Upcoming Events!


SUMMIT ROAD STEM ELEMENTARY

STEM NIGHT

FREE EVENT FOR ALL CURRENT SUMMIT FAMILIES

THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024
6:00PM - 7:30PM

COME EXPERIENCE STEM IN A HANDS-ON, INTERACTIVE, AND EXCITING WAY! MEET EXPERTS IN STEM RELATED CAREERS AND PARTICIPATE IN STEM ACTIVITIES DESIGNED FOR YOUR SUMMIT STUDENT AND FAMILY.



- BRING A REUSABLE BAG.
- FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM FOOD TRUCKS BEGINNING AT 5:00PM.
- THE BOOK FAIR WILL BE OPEN.



Thursday, May 9th is **Family STEM Night** at the Summit Road Elementary School. You are welcome to come and join me! I'll be there all by myself with an extra chair for anyone who would like to keep me company!

Feel FREE to volunteer to help during our May 15th **Waggoner Road third-grade school tour**. This will be one of the largest with FIVE classes! We can always use more volunteers. Please don't assume that somebody else will do it. That isn't always the case, then Mary Stoots is left scrambling to find helpers. Please help her to make RTHS great!

WEDNESDAY MAY 15th



WAGGONER ROAD SCHOOL TOUR

The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
Presents

Western Electric Open House Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18, 2024 ♦ 10:00am – 2:00pm
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 ♦ 5:00pm to 8:00pm

1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

RTHS considers May as our **“Western Electric Month!”** Last year we started having an open house on Saturday as well as the evening of the following Tuesday and it was very successful! So – please join us on BOTH days to view our Western Electric artifacts!

City Barbeque is one of our personal favorites. Hopefully, we can meet the minimum quota to qualify for a reward. We will need at least **\$300 in sales** to earn any money – so STARVE yourself before you go in there! **(That's an executive order!)** I like the hush puppies. You can order a basket of hush puppies, But if you get it... you won't WANT to share it! Trust me. I know!

Support the

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Download Our Flyer and Eat at

City BBQ

Wednesday, June 26, 2024
11:00 am to 8:00 pm





Jane Cooke Meeker joined the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society in March of this year and passed away very unexpectedly in April.

She was a RHS 1964 alumna.

Her family attended our church. She was my Sunday School teacher, and her dad was our mailman. When my Mom told him she loved the last sample he delivered, the next day, it took Mom three trips to the mailbox (we live in the country) to empty all the samples that were in there.

Jane was a quiet girl, but she was a great role model for us kids. When I was in elementary school we had a young preacher, and we spent many hours at the church after school. The Cookes were usually there as well.

~ Mary Turner Stoots



Jane A. Meeker, 77 of Rushsylvania passed away Saturday, April 13, 2024 at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima.

Jane was born September 22, 1946 in Uniontown, PA to the late Harold and Betty (Vail) Cooke. On May 3, 1972 in Shawnee Town, IL she married Richard A. Meeker, who preceded her in death. She is

also preceded in death by a brother, Glen Cooke.

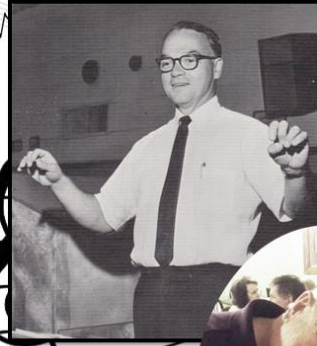
Jane was a former member of the Walnut Grove United Methodist Church. She was a bus driver for many years where she made many lifelong friends and relationships. She enjoyed traveling and her monthly game night with her friends. Jane loved spending time with her family and going to all family events. Her family was very important to her and they were a true joy in her life, especially her grandchildren. Jane was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

She is survived by her four sons, Jeffrey (Lisa) Meeker, Matthew Meeker, Mark Meeker and Luke (Shannon) Meeker; eight grandchildren; one great grandchild; brother, James (Judy) Cooke; two sisters, Phyllis (Jim) Cooke and Sandra Martin.

A memorial Service took place on Thursday, April 18, 2024

Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116.

DANIEL F. NAWROCKI 08/14/1934 – 11/01/2018



by: Mary Turner Stoots

I met Daniel F. Nawrocki when I was in the 4th Grade. He came to our elementary school and talked to all of us about the music program. My mom played the piano, so I figured that maybe I had some kind of genetic magical musical ability. This man said he could teach all of us. Subsequently, that evening I bounded into our living room and ‘announced’ to my folks that I needed to buy a clarinet.

My Dad parted his attention from the newspaper long enough to give me one of those looks. You know what I mean. A look like you would give to a person with diminishing mental capabilities (like I was nuts).

It wasn’t until the teacher passed out flyers the following week about the music program that my folks became engaged.

Soon after, we all squeezed into the Isetta, and headed to the Coyle Music Store so Mary could buy a clarinet.

The guys at the music store got a kick

watching us climb out of Flippo’s car!



Trust me. The last place you want to be, is stuck in the house with a fourth-grader learning how to play a squeaky, squawky clarinet.

During that particular summer, my entire family worked outside in the yard to avoid my squeaking.

Consequently, we had the best-looking yard in the entire neighborhood.

My dream was to wear a uniform and march on the football field at the high school. Little did I realize (in the 4th grade) that my dream would someday come true!

Enough about me! Daniel F. Nawrocki was born in Garfield Heights, and began his musical career playing the trumpet, inspired by hearing Harry James perform. In high school he formed the dance band, "The Starlighters," which coincidentally is how he met his wife, Dorothy,

(continued on Page 12)

THE COURIER

May 2024 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro
Historical Society

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PO Box 144

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0144

Street Address (NO MAIL):

1485 Jackson Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Museum Phone:

614-902-2831

Courier Editor:

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RTHSCourier@aol.com

Photos & Illustrations

Provided by:

Mary Turner Stoots
& Neal Whitman

Contributors:

Mary Turner Stoots
& Neal Whitman



NEW MEMBERS!

- **John Haag & Sean Cress**
Bruster's Ice Cream Family
Lifetime Membership
- **Jane (Cooke) Meeker** – Individual
- **Michele Poyet-Fields** – Individual
- **Jeanne (Lipari) Scott** – Individual
- **Steve Wolfson** - Individual

12-RTHS Courier, MAY 2024

DANIEL F. NAWROCKI 08/14/1934 – 11/01/2018



(Continued from Page 11)

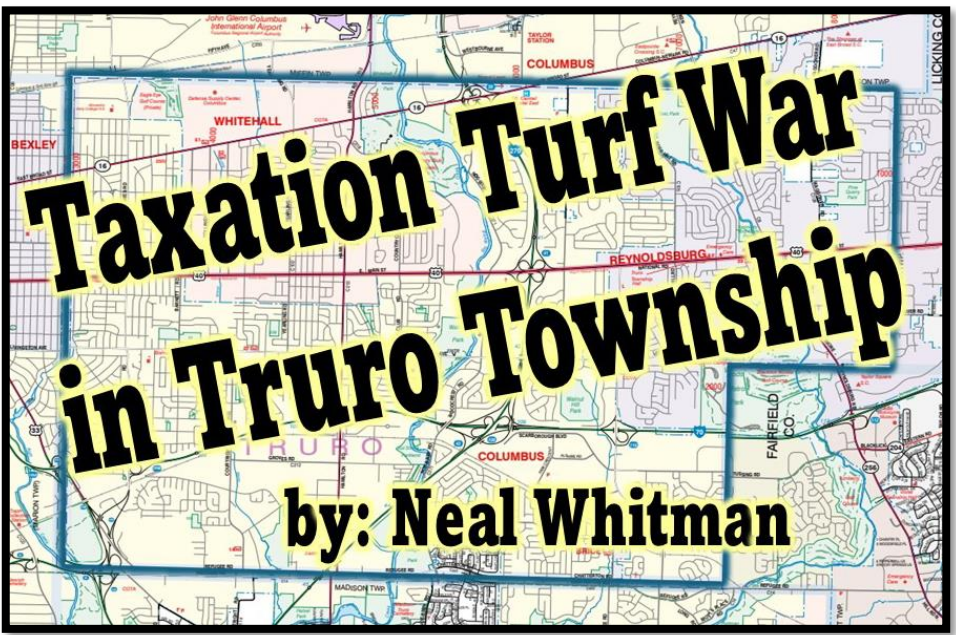
playing at a high school dance. Dan first graduated from OSU with a BME in 1956; then a MM 1976; and was a lifelong member of the OSU Marching Band Alumni. Dan and Dorothy were married in 1956. He taught first for Amity Schools just outside of Mount Vernon, then moving to Reynoldsburg, Ohio in 1959. He was the band director for Reynoldsburg Schools for 26+1 years and was a respected member of the Ohio Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference and the American School Band Directors Association. After retirement, Dan worked at Farber's selling recreational vehicles.

Married for 56 years until her passing in 2012, they often traveled in an RV and made many friends across the United States. When Dan and Dorothy were not at home in Reynoldsburg, they loved their winters on beaches, especially St. Augustine, Florida.

After Dorothy passed away, Dan continued to spend time in some of their favorite places in Florida. He met his good friend Joyce Lundgren Fene at a "LIVE Jazz Karaoke" in St. Augustine, where she asked him for a dance after singing her set.

Traveling extensively across the US, they laughed and enjoyed time spent with family and friends.

R.I.P. Mr. Nawrocki. I never could call you Dan, and I certainly won't start now.



In the last issue of the *Courier*, we read about Reynoldsburg's big year in 1956: hundreds of acres of annexations, new housing developments, and a devastating flood, to name a few. As it happens, 1956 was also the year that a big industry came to town and touched off a school district turf war in Truro and Jefferson Townships.

In the 1950s, the City of Columbus was two decades into an annexation spree that would continue into the 1980s. In 1929, the wave of Columbus annexations swept right past the suburb of Bexley, as Columbus incorporated its first piece of Truro Township. More pieces of Truro Township followed, and in 1954, the City of Columbus pulled off its largest annexation to date: 1200 acres of land along Livingston Ave, extending all the way to the western bank of Big Walnut Creek.

Running from north to south, Big Walnut creek bisects Truro Township into a western and an eastern half. In the 1950s, the western part of Truro

Township made up the Truro Township School District (SD). The eastern part was Reynoldsburg School District territory (except for parts in the southeast that lay in Madison Township SD and Pickerington SD).

In fact, the Reynoldsburg School District had grown past the borders of Truro Township in places. In 1914, it had gained territory in Etna Township to the west, and since the 1920s had also picked up about 450 acres in Jefferson Township to the north. Moving east to west, we start with about 90 acres of farmland on the eastern side of Waggoner Rd, and the little "thumb" reaching across the street for the parcel that now includes the addresses between 293 and 311 Waggoner Rd. (The farmland remains farmland to this day, because in 2006, its owner Helen Trotter, donated it to Ohio's Farmland Preservation

(continued on page 14)

Taxation Turf War in Truro Township

by: Neal Whitman

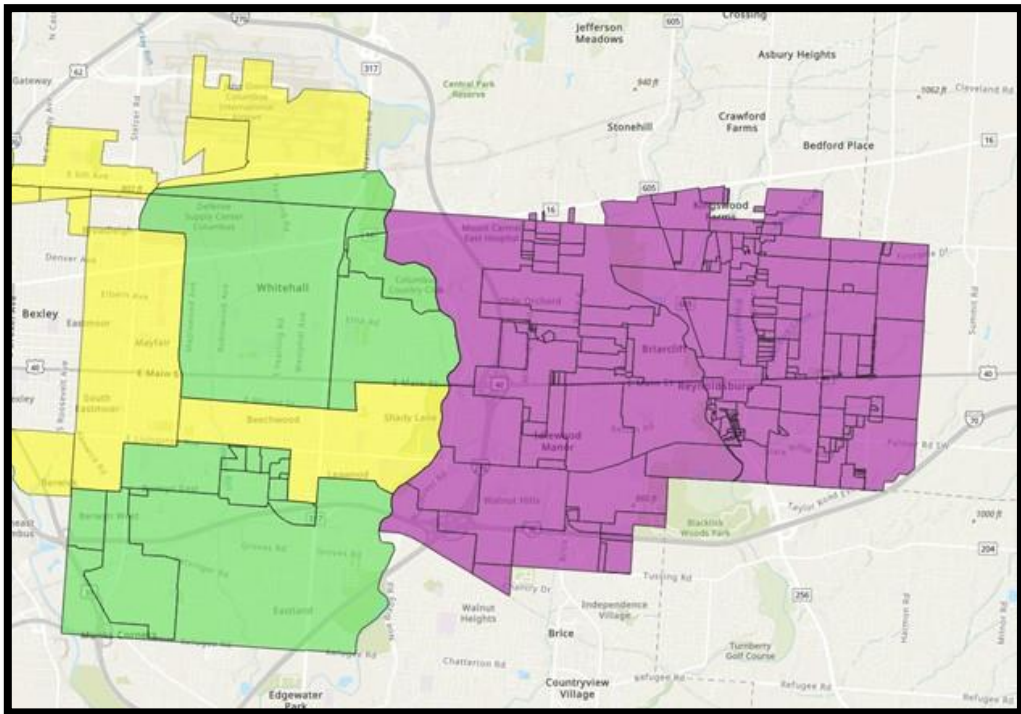
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Program.) Next, there's the vaguely tugboat-shaped 185 or so acres east of Lancaster Avenue and south of East Broad Street now known as Reynoldsburg Village (which, ironically, contains none of the territory of the Village of Reynoldsburg). In that same area, we have about 20 acres

that now contain a couple of strip shopping centers and the Strader's.

Continuing to the west side of Lancaster Ave, we have about 120 acres that now feature the shopping center with the Giant Eagle, Panera, and Chipotle. Finally, there are a few smaller parcels on the south side of Broad St between Rose Hill Rd and McNaughten Rd, where you can now find a Nationwide Children's Hospital urgent care; the Family Allergy and Asthma Clinic, and the shopping center with Walgreen's and Jet's Pizza.

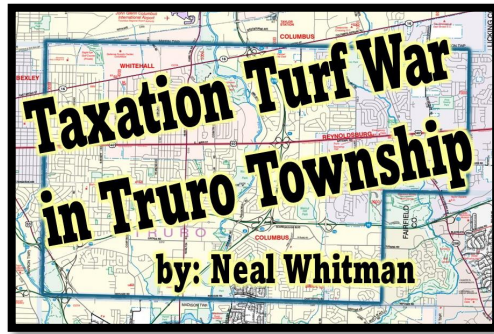
Now back in those days, territory annexed to a city or village automatically became part of that city or village's school district, if it had one. So those areas of Truro Township SD that the City of Columbus had annexed were now in Columbus City School District. This fact also meant that in annexing those 1200 acres along Livingston Avenue, the City of Columbus had cut the Truro Township School District in half, as shown in the map below. (continued on page 15)



1954 Columbus City Schools (yellow), Truro Township Schools (green), and Reynoldsburg Schools (purple)

(continued from page 14)

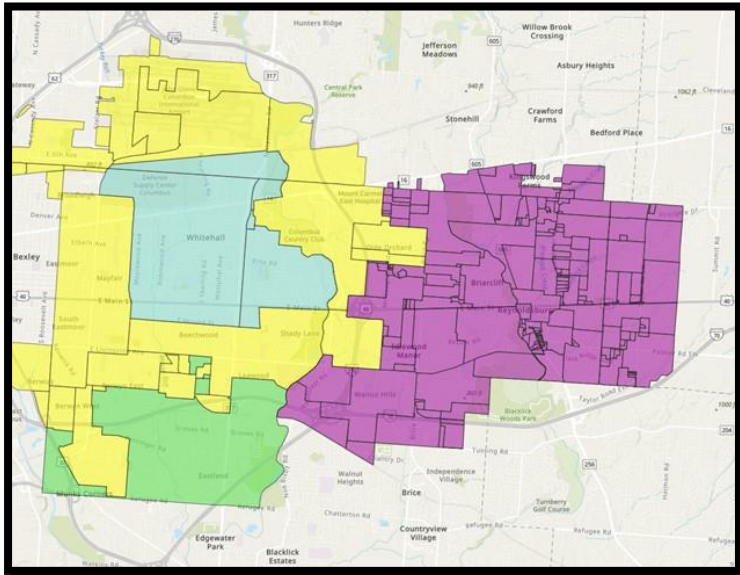
Could they do that? Were school districts allowed to consist of discontinuous pieces that way? The Franklin County commissioners put the question to the county prosecutor, who found nothing in state law saying they couldn't, so the annexation held. And for the first time, the Columbus and Reynoldsburg school districts shared a border.



In a few years, most of the northern part of Truro Township Schools that hadn't been absorbed into the City of Columbus would be absorbed into the Whitehall City School District, with the rest becoming part of the Reynoldsburg School District.

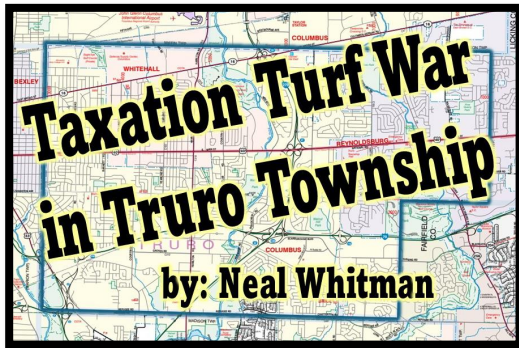
By 1956, the wave of Columbus annexations had swept right past that new City of Whitehall and was now starting to break pieces of Truro Township away from the Reynoldsburg School District, including four annexations totaling nearly 1800 acres as shown below. The Reynoldsburg school board complained about them, but to little avail.

And that was the state of play in 1956, the news came that Western Electric (the telecommunications giant later known as Bell Laboratories, and later still as Lucent Technologies) was looking to build a new plant in Jefferson Township. They'd need water and sewage services, which the City of Columbus could supply provided that the area was annexed into the city.



1956 - Columbus City Schools (yellow), Truro Township Schools (green), Whitehall schools (blue), and Reynoldsburg Schools (purple)

That was the policy that had allowed the City of Columbus to grow so fast. Besides, it cost money to provide those city services, so it only made sense for people and businesses there to pay city taxes. Consequently, the City of Columbus annexed more than 800 acres of Jefferson Township along East Broad Street, plus about 20 acres of Truro Township where McNaughten Road intersected. Some of those acres were in the *(continued on page 16)*

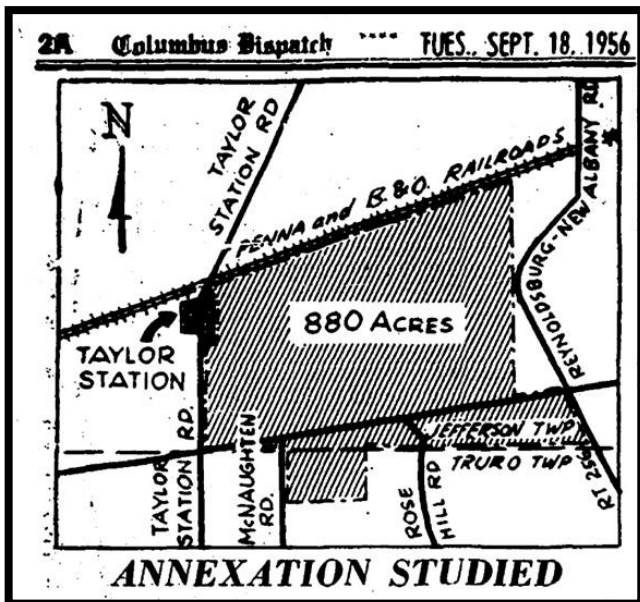


(continued from page 15)

Reynoldsburg School District; some of them were in the Jefferson Local School District; the City of Columbus annexed them all, in one fell swoop. All, that is, except for 6 acres belonging to one James Worster. That land is now marked by a Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers and a Smoothie

King. He wasn't interested in paying city taxes, and since it was only 6 acres they were talking about, he was allowed to opt out.

The trouble came when Columbus Board of Education followed up by asking the newly created State Board of Education (SBOE) to transfer those 900 acres into the Columbus City School District. But to everyone's surprise, the SBOE refused. There was a problem, they explained. If they transferred all that land to Columbus City Schools, it would create an island of Jefferson Local Schools territory. A 6-acre island, to be more specific. Worster's Island. They weren't allowed



to do that. Heck, one of the reasons the SBOE had been created was to put a stop to the kind of cherry-picking territory transfers that broke up smaller districts, like the one that split the Truro Township School District a few years back.

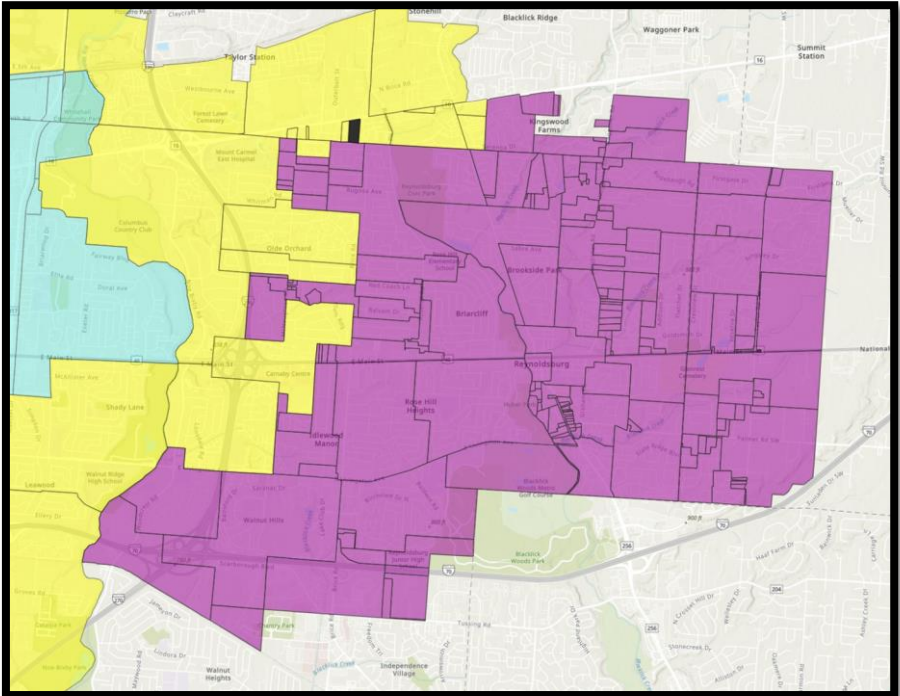
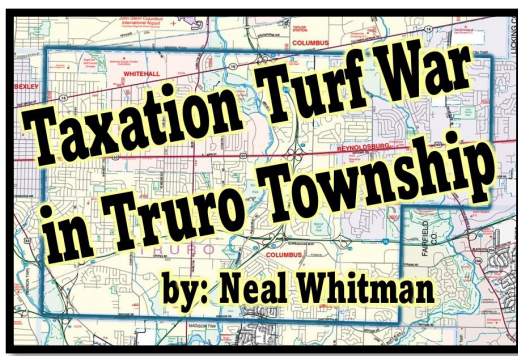
The Columbus school board was like, but you HAVE to approve the transfer! The Reynoldsburg and Jefferson school districts had higher property tax rates than Columbus Schools did, and if the residents there had to pay THOSE higher school taxes AND Columbus city taxes, without ever having been able to vote to approve them, that would violate the Ohio Constitution! And if that happened, the county auditor would have to come in and lower city AND county taxes to get everyone's rates into compliance, and between them, the city and county would be forfeiting more than \$1 million per year in tax revenues.

The SBOE said, in essence, yeah, we get it, but, you know, the law is what it is. So, Columbus Schools sued, and in December 1958, a judge agreed. Bypassing the State Board Of Education, he ordered the

(continued from page 16)

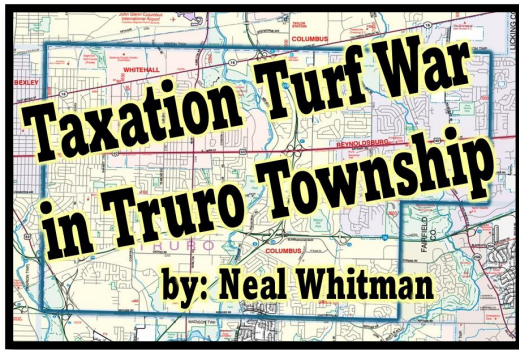
county auditor to start routing the taxes from the area in question to the Columbus School District. Also, while all this was going on, the City of Columbus annexed another 280 acres of territory at the intersection of East Main Street and McNaughten Road, and polished off the remainder of the Truro Township School District.

The SBOE did approve transferring those parcels into the Columbus School District. So, at the end of 1958, the map looked something like this:



1958 - Columbus City Schools (yellow), Whitehall schools (blue), Reynoldsburg Schools (purple), and James Worster's tract (black)

So, the Columbus City school board had triumphed in their dispute with the State Board of Education. But notably quiet in the news stories from the time was another interested party: Jefferson Local Schools. They stood to lose potentially millions of tax dollars if the transfer went through, so naturally they favored the SBOE's position over the judge's. While the outcome was pending, they seem to have laid low for the most part, but after the decision came down, they filed a lawsuit of their own. They argued that the judge may have ordered the auditor to send all that tax money to Columbus Schools, but the SBOE still had never ruled on the matter. They pursued the issue through at least two lawsuits over six years, even as the new tax dollars began flowing into Columbus City Schools. *(continued on page 18)*



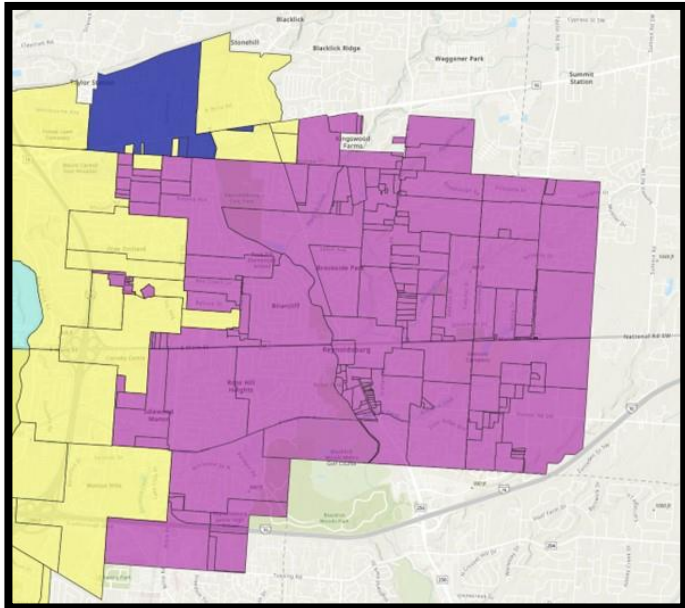
Taxation Turf War in Truro Township

by: Neal Whitman

(continued from page 17)

And in 1964, they won! The Ohio Supreme Court ordered 400-some of the original 800-or-so acres to be returned to the Jefferson Township SD. James Worster's 6-acre island of Jefferson Township SD territory was once again part of the school district mainland (shown in indigo; the remainder of the Jefferson Township School District is not shown.)

On the other hand, several new school district islands had now been created. First of all, Columbus City Schools got to keep the parts of Jefferson Township that had come from the Reynoldsburg School District. You can see those in the three narrow yellow lots along East Broad Street that are surrounded on the west, north, and east by Jefferson Township School District territory. (The middle one is attached to a larger rectangle in Truro Township, marked today by Stornoway Drive and the McNaughten Commons town houses. Columbus City Schools got to keep that piece, too.) Before 1957, these were peninsulas of Reynoldsburg School District; today, they're an archipelago of the Columbus School District. Then there's the narrow little triangle of (now) Gahanna-Jefferson Local SD, marked these days by a Discount Tires and a Donato's Pizza. This one stretches our analogy of islands, because it's an island of Jefferson Township SD inside a much larger island of Columbus City SD. That island of several hundred acres consists of the remainder of former Reynoldsburg SD territory and Jefferson Township SD that Columbus Schools got to keep.



1965 - Columbus City Schools (yellow), Jefferson Local Schools (indigo), and Reynoldsburg Schools (purple)

Once the precedent had been set, school district islands spread fast. Along McNaughten Road in Truro Township, you can even see a few islands of the Reynoldsburg SD created by later annexations by Columbus. One of them exists to this day. The map of Columbus City Schools, meanwhile, now has dozens of small-to-medium sized islands in addition to the huge one that came out of the Western Electric affair. Thirty years later, a big industry came to town and kicked off a school district turf war in Truro and Jefferson Townships. But that's another story.

(continued from page 18)

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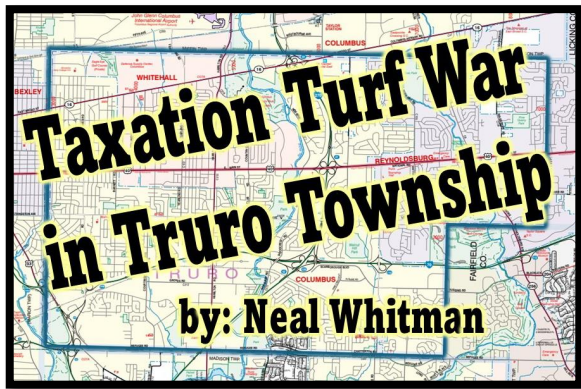
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About the Author: NEAL WHITMAN

Neal is an active Lifetime member of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society. He joined our organization in 2020 and attends every Open House. You can always find him in our lower-level work room scanning our older newspapers. He helped us get set up in the Zotero Database and has been patiently helping us to become acclimated to the program.

Neal is currently serving his third term on the Reynoldsburg Board of Education. He grew up in Texas, earning his BA at the University of Texas at Austin. He moved to Ohio in 1992, and over the years gradually became a Buckeye: meeting and marrying his wife, Amanda; settling in Reynoldsburg in 1999; graduating with a PhD in linguistics from Ohio State University in 2002. He and Amanda have two sons, who both attended Reynoldsburg Schools from kindergarten; graduated from Reynoldsburg High School in 2017 and 2019; and went on to study at OSU. Neal works at the Intercultural English Language Programs in the College of Education and Human Ecology at OSU, where he teaches academic writing, as well as spoken English for international teaching assistants. He has developed a passion for the history of Reynoldsburg Schools, and over the past several years has created interactive maps of District and City boundaries; written a history covering 75 years of the District's successes and failures with tax levies; and digitized all of the surviving Board minutes from 1912-1951 to be stored with those that were already in digital form.





Tom Turner is a RTHS Lifetime member; president of a woodworking group in Ocala, Florida; and happens to be my brother.

Tom makes puzzles and sells them at a local market, so I had this great idea. I sent him a drawing (which he enhanced), and we ended up with a Reynoldsburg Puzzle! Is that COOL, or what?

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The Slate Ridge Winners!

From Left to Right

First Place – Adiyah W.

Second Place - Lelia D.

Third Place – Harleen A.



First Place Overall!

Ashanti M.

Summit Road Elementary

Each school had the top three winners,
Then - the top three competed for MORE
prizes overall after
arriving at the Museum!