



## Before There Were Supermarkets

### Reynoldsburg Had Wiswell's Red & White Market

A Reynoldsburg Vignette  
by Colin Sutphin

A century ago, circa 1918, Garry Wiswell was working for the Ohio Electric Traction Company (interurban trains). This is where he met a young pretty lady named Maude Zarbaugh, who worked as chief clerk to the General Superintendent. After two years of flirtation, according to Garry, they were married on September 1, 1921.

The Wiswells had three children: Bill, Mary Ann, and Wilma. They all grew up and lived in the Reynoldsburg area.

With the closure of the Ohio Electric Traction Company in 1929 Garry worked at several

jobs, including Connell Hardware for a short time, and Clayton Roshon's store. Garry operated the grocery part of the store.

In 1941 Maude and Garry bought Esta Lunn's grocery store located in the corner of the Connell Hardware building. After operating their grocery business for eight years in that location they had an opportunity to buy the old Kroger store at 7384 East Main Street, just a block east and across the street from where they were presently doing business.

The Wiswells served the people in and around Reynoldsburg from their new store for the next 13 years. They sold the Red & White brand. The S.M. (continued on page 2)



# Before There Were Supermarkets

*(continued from page 1)*

Flickinger Company warehouse on Woodland Avenue in Columbus supplied these products.

It was a family affair. Son Bill and daughter Wilma worked many hours at the store. So did the grandchildren, delivering groceries, sweeping floors, and helping with inventory.

You might get a chuckle out of this story ...

My brother Dwain and I were talking about our mom's good cooking. I mentioned her beans, tomatoes, and onions with iron skillet corn bread.

Well ... There was a time, say September 1960, when my brother wanted Mom to cook that meal for supper. She said, "I'm out of 'October Beans,' so you'll have to ride your bicycle to the store and bring back a can. Just tell the man you want a can of 'Next Month's' beans." So, Dwain pedaled down to Wiswell's Red & White on Main Street, went inside and said, "My mom needs a can of Next Month's beans." The man laughed, then said, "I have some right here on the shelf."

I still get a kick out of this every time I read it.

With the high school (now the Hannah J. Ashton School) only two blocks away, kids would stop at Wiswell's on their lunch break. Cold cuts, fresh produce, soda pop, candy, etc. were popular with students.

In March 1962 the Wiswells decided to close the grocery store. Garry was 68 years old and the prospect of getting Social Security looked appealing. Besides, Super Duper and Kroger had both opened new "Supermarkets" in the Reynoldsburg Center. Also, A&P had just opened a brand-new store in front of the Red Barn Dance Hall. I'm sure the loss of business to the big stores was a factor in their decision to retire.

Garry was asked, why retire now? He replied, "I'm getting too old to take these hours." They were open about twelve hours a day,

Monday through Saturday. And, when asked what were his plans for retirement, his retort was, "I'll do just as I please."

In the years since, the little store we all knew and loved as "Wiswell's Red & White" has been occupied by various other businesses. Moving into the store after the grocery closed was Vern Wagner's Appliance Repair. Later it was turned into a dance studio. After that the building housed Hunter's Florist for a number of years.

The Washington family opened "Starstrukt Apparel" in recent times. They've just celebrated their third year of doing business. Congratulations.

In the color pencil drawing I've depicted Wiswell's Market circa 1960. Included are Dr. Snow's and Dr. Arnett's offices in the Bates & Sons building to the left. On the right is Jean's Coffee Shop in the Tussing building. Homer Tussing had his bottle gas service in the rear of this building.

In front of the store are my brother's red bicycle and my buddy's red 1957 Oldsmobile Super 88 convertible. I painted the name "Vigilante" on the side. The Vigilante was a supersonic USAF bomber of that era. Also there's a 1950 Studebaker Commander convertible, a unique-looking automobile. If you look closely, you can see the last of the brick pavers in Main Street. Soon after, they were covered with asphalt.

As always, I hope you have enjoyed this story from Reynoldsburg's past.

Colin Sutphin

I would like to thank Mary Turner-Stoots (she is a granddaughter of the Wiswells) and my brother Dwain for their help with putting this story together.

**David W. Reidel**

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Box 543, 7540 Slate Ridge Boulevard

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www.reidelinsurance.com



**MAILING ADDRESS:** Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society, P.O. BOX 144, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
**STREET ADDRESS (NO MAIL):** RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

# 2018 CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2018

- 13 – TUE – Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
09 – FRI – French Run 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tour 9:00-12:00  
13 – TUE – Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
14 – WED – Garden Club, Marjorie Barrett 7pm-9:30pm  
16 – FRI – French Run 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Tour-Rain Date  
9:00am-1:00pm  
17 – SAT – Open House, Holiday Gift Shop 10am-2pm

## DECEMBER 2018

- 01 – SAT – Christmas on the Town, Open House  
10:00am-3:00pm, Children's Activities, and  
Holiday Gift Shop  
04 – TUE – Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
08 – SAT – Christmas Dinner, 6:00pm, MCL Restaurant,  
5240 E. Main St., Whitehall  
22 – SAT – Deadline for January 2018 *Courier*

## JANUARY 2019

- 12-15 – Publish January *Courier* \*  
15 – TUE – Board Meeting - 7:00pm  
19 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm  
\* *The January Courier will publish mid-month*

## FEBRUARY 2019

- 12 – TUE – Board Meeting - 7:00pm  
16 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm  
20 – WED – Deadline for March *Courier*  
28 – WED – Dues Deadline for listing in the Directory



## THANK YOU FOR TURNING IN YOUR CANON AND HP INK CARTRIDGES!

Staples gives rebates for the empty tanks and we appreciate your support.

- We will be needing to replace our printer at some point, and the rebates will cut the cost in half
- The coffee machine in our lower level kitchenette was purchased with rebates at the cost of **\$00.00**
- Most of our office supplies are paid for with rebates
- The ink used to print *The Courier* is donated by the editor (between 11 and 13 cartridges per printing). Those cartridges are turned in for the rebates we use to buy the paper that *The Courier* is printed on, along with cardstock for postcards, displays, etc.
- Feel free to bring your empty cartridges (in a Baggie to protect your fingers from ink) to our Open House events or General Meetings

## 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, Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068**

*Invite your friends to join*





1939



1961



1968



1983



2018

# The Kroger Company, an Expanding Business

by Cornelia M. Parkinson

Those who have lived in The Burg a while can remember the first Kroger grocery store here, a place about the size of any Mom and Pop store in any little town. Now the present large supermarket, which has already been remodeled to be twice its original size, will be replaced by a brand-new building just west of RoseHill Road. Its gas station is already open. The current store has been noticeably rearranged to give customers a taste of what may be.

In 1883 Bernard Kroger founded the highly successful business in Cincinnati, where its headquarters remain. The Kroger Company is the second largest US supermarket chain, just behind Wal-Mart. It is the third largest retailer in the world, the third largest privately owned. There is a Kroger store near you wherever you live.

These are mainly 2015-2017 figures: In 34 states there are 2,778 markets, supermarkets, and multi-department stores, including 326 jewelry stores and 2,122 pharmacies. The multidepartment stores also sell toys, appliances, and nearly any other item you'd want, including furnishings for home, bedroom, and bathroom. There are 1,360 supermarket fuel centers. In fiscal 2016 the chain made \$115.34 billion in sales.

The 37 food processing and manufacturing facilities in 17 states are an important part of the operation. Kroger brands include Private Selection, reserved for various top-quality foods. Now there are 443,000 employees. Those who currently work in the store at 6962 East Main

Street have been told that they will be moved with the store to the new building. The lease on the present location runs out in December 2019.

The first Kroger store in Reynoldsburg was built for the company in the mid-1920s by Jim Stonebraker. Jim lived at 7400 East Main, right next to the store at 7384 East Main. Jim's father had owned a livery stable at about 7350 East Main in the "Blind Alley," between Prost Beer & Wine Café and the city parking lot.

That store was about the size of other grocery stores in town, a longish rectangle about 35'-40'



north-south and 25' east-west, with three aisles. The wood floors were cleaned with a wide push broom after scattering an oil-and-sawdust mixture that nourished the wood and picked up dust.

Customers did not go into the back. In fact, the customer was encouraged not to ramble around the store, but to have your list ready, stand at the counter, and get waited on. The first supermarkets, where everything was displayed for accessibility, and you waited on yourself and carried it to the "checkout" counter, affronted those

accustomed to more genteel ways.

Meat and cheese were displayed unpackaged in a refrigerated case. The butcher with his long very sharp knife would cut you off the amount you asked for, weigh it, wrap it in heavy leakproof butcher paper on which he had penciled the price and the cut, and tie a bow around the neat package with twine from a big roll hanging nearby. (Thrifty housewives wiped off the coated paper with a damp cloth, saving

*(continued on page 05)*

# The Kroger Company, an Expanding Business

(continued from page 04)

both free paper and free string.) He had a meat grinder to make you fresh hamburger. He did not like grinding ham for ham loaf, because first, he had to clean the grinder of leftover beef, then afterward of leftover ham -- but he did it.

You did not pick your own items off the shelf. Indeed, you probably did not know where they were. It was almost as if the grocer actually owned his wares and you might be there to shoplift. He selected every item, including any produce you wanted. Should that produce be less than prime, you might get him to lower the price a little. If -- an occasional hazard -- a tarantula had come in with the big bunch of bananas, it would be captured and displayed in a closed Mason jar on the counter for everyone to see and shudder at. Before endless health regulations, sometimes home-baked goods found its way to the store and quickly sold out.

Mom and Pop grocery stores would "carry you" to the end of the month when you were expected to settle up in full. Chain stores quickly broke that friendly policy (which had impoverished many a store owner too kind to set his foot down and collect or else). If you paid cash, the grocer took your money and gave change and a handwritten receipt listing every item and its cost, and placed your entire order and the receipt in a paper sack, and unless others were waiting, held the door for you as you went out to walk home, carrying your sacks. Two sacksful cost under \$10. Supermarkets led to sturdier sacks. Most people went grocery shopping every day or two, to get the freshest available, and took it home one sack at a time.

The first Kroger Store manager in Reynoldsburg was Harold "Barney" Rothrock. Barney was an F&A Mason who in 1937 became Worshipful Master of the lodge. He also ran the poolroom in the International Order of Odd Fellows Hall, an imposing fraternal building that once stood on the southeast corner of Main and Lancaster.

The second Kroger manager was Harry Sensabaugh. He came here about 1940, a young

man with blondish hair and a big friendly smile. When Kroger went out of business in The Burg, Harry was transferred to another Kroger store. The building built for Kroger became a Red & White store, owned and operated for many years by Garry and Maude Wiswell and their son Bill, who was the meat cutter. Their daughter Wilma worked there daily, too. Numerous other types of businesses have since occupied the building.

Kroger resumed operating here in 1959 when the Reynoldsburg Center opened. Canned and sealed-package items -- plus dozens of things this store has not carried -- will be moved westward on Main Street about a mile into new premises, to open around December 2019.



## MEET YOUR 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

### Elected Positions

- **President** – Mary Turner Stoots
- **Vice President** – Dick Barth
- **Treasurer** – Marvin Shrimplin
- **Recording Secretary** – Vacant Position
- **Corresponding Secretary**  
Suzy Millar Miller
- **Trustee (3-year term)**  
Vickie Edwards Hall
- **Trustee (2-Years Remaining)**  
Wendy Wheatley Raftery
- **Trustee (1-Year Remaining)**  
Jim Diuguid

### Appointed and Volunteer positions:

- **Courier Editor** – Mary Turner Stoots
- **Administrative Asst.** – Lauren Shiman
- **Publicity Chair** – Mary Turner Stoots
- **Tour Director** – Mark Myers
- **Communications** – Mary Turner Stoots



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# Getting Ready for Christmas in 1956

Getting ready for Christmas always meant a visit to Santa Claus. We would board the Lakeline bus in front of Green Gables and be whisked away to downtown Columbus and get dropped off at the Lazarus Department Store right in front of the colorful, mechanized Christmas fantasy windows. These windows were a work of art which enticed kids to press their faces against the glass. We stood

By Suzy Miller Miller, 10/25/2018



for a long time just staring at the winter scenes and amazing displays. After a good long look, we then couldn't wait to take the escalator up to the sixth floor to the toy department where we would actually get to talk to the real Santa Claus!

My brother, Mike, and I stood in line with Mom right behind us waiting for our turn to visit Santa. Little did I know that Mom stood close by just to hear what we told Santa we wanted him to bring us for Christmas. Of course, we rarely got more than one or two things that we requested, but we knew that Santa brought those special things. Heck, we knew Santa brought all of the presents to the house.

Lazarus knew how to market their wares to everyone. To get to Santa's "house" we had to walk through the ENTIRE toy department to see what

was available on the shelves. Mike kept stopping to play with the trucks or watch the toy trains that ran around a track with realistic town scenes. I would wander over to the dolls and try to figure out which one I liked the most.

After visiting Santa, we would go to the first floor and have lunch in the Colonial Tea Room restaurant. My favorites there included: the

Steamed Celery Dressing and Turkey, a Garden Salad with Celery Seed Dressing and Cheesecake. Mike liked the Ice Cream Cone Clown that was served upside down on the plate with the cone forming the hat and some candy forming the eyes, nose and mouth.

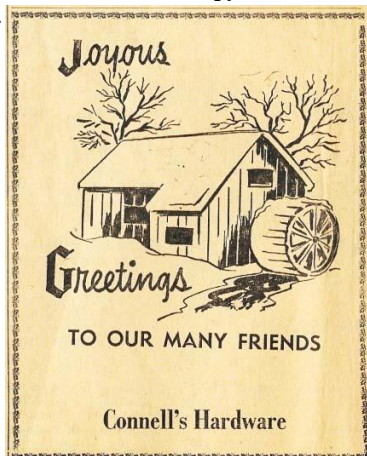
We didn't seem to buy much on those shopping trips, but we were ready to go home and dream about Christmas coming soon!

Locally, in the Burg, the Reynoldsburg Record published a holiday edition of the newspaper. The Record cost 5 cents a copy or \$2.00 a year and was worth every penny.

It published all the news of the Village. In the December 21, 1956, edition we learned that awards were presented to students at an assembly. The



recipients were: **Reserve Cheerleaders** - Connie Clymer, Jeanette Myers, Diane Windom, and Barbara Redman; **Varsity Cheerleaders** - Angela Vance, Susie Porter, Nancy Slonaker, and Virginia Stockdale; **1956 Football Team with Bill Wilson (Coach)** - Harold Abraham, Gary Blackstone, Irving Clement, Nolan Coey, Fred Feiber, Kent Francis, Bill Metzler, Dick Noble, Jim Paeltz, Steve Paeltz, Bill Parker, Bob Porter, Joe Ronk, Ken Russell, Jim Scholl, Ken Tedrick, Mike Heller, Larry Barry, Melvin Coey, Don McMillin, Bob Noble, and Neil Rowe; **Other Awards** - Dennis Cracraft, Sonny LeCouppte, Jim Stockdale, Allen Walker, Gerald Tussing, Charles Coey, Bill Lott,



Jim Krumm, Dave Kitzmiller, Joel Smith, Don Weaver, Jack Wilson,



# Getting Ready for Christmas in 1956

Dan Van Buren, Bill LeCompte, Gary Sharp, and John Schwartz.

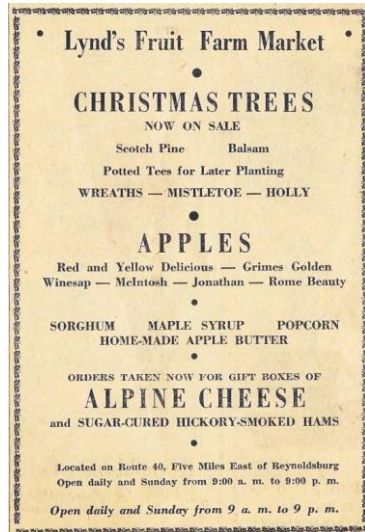
A column was written about **college students home for the holidays** which included: Clifford Click, Joe Creek, Don Redman, Sarah McClarren, Edgar Russell, Gus Jenson, Patsy Sharnhart, Bob Mills, Sharon Damsel, Don Smith, Liz Merringer, Melvin Seeds, Dan Weltner, Dorsey Doddroe, Bob



Stapleton, Jack Gornall, Tom Rausch, Dan Shively, Jim Near, Terry Smith, John Seeds, Sandra Ruvoldt, Delphin Savage, Paul Osborne, John Miller, and Bob Brown.

**The local businesses ran Christmas advertisements for the holidays.** The ads

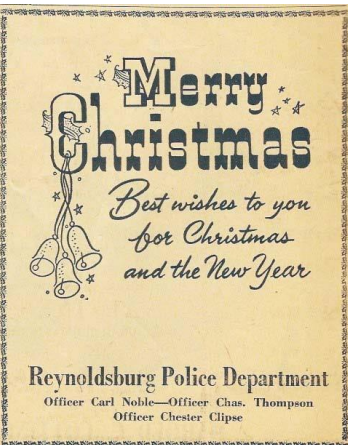
included: Mayer & Mayer, The Pickerington Bank, Ohio-Midland Light & Power Company, Reynoldsburg Dry Cleaner, Emery R. Lamb, Virgil Alwood Florist, Motz-Cook Grain Co. (Brice), Marathon Service Station (Mickey Slack), Manifold & Phalor, Connell Hardware, Hayes Patent



Medicine Store The Home Market, Don Foltz (Jeweler), Mellman's Carpets, Truro Township Fire Department (kids' party at the school!), Red & White Store (Garry Wiswell), Wise Sales and Service, Culligan Soft Water Service, Reynoldsburg Locker, Lynd's Fruit Farm Market. M & L Electric, Johnson's Motel, Shorty's Shoe Shop, Stouder Welding and Lawnmower Service, Reynoldsburg Police Department (Carl Noble, Charles Thompson and Chester Clipse), Bob Clymer's Christmas Tree Lot, Green Gables, Osborne's Beauty Shop, Mason's Shoes, Smith-Courtwright Ford, Reynoldsburg Recreation, Don's Barber Shop, The Canal Winchester Bank,

Harold C. Cottingham Realtor, Paul Oldham Insurance Service, Sunnybrook Gardens, Brookside Builders, Carlisle-Willis Gulf Service, Sen-Rey Beauty Bar, Valley Motor Sales, Alonzo B. Foltz (plumber), Mayor and Mrs. Waldo Wollam, C.H. Mann, Ray and Mary Cheatwood Funeral Home, Continental Lumber Co., and Jack O. Smith Insurance Agency.

**The Reynoldsburg Elementary School presented a Christmas program** on Dec. 19. I won't list everyone in the program because it would consist of the entire elementary school which at the time included about 500 kids. A few things caught my attention. For instance, apparently, my cousin, Sharon Cosner Sellitto, and I were fairies around the Christmas tree. Mrs. Martha Savage accompanied a rhythm band of first graders playing "Jolly Old Santa Claus" and "Song of the Bells." Mrs. Rilla Burns and Mrs. Tamsy Moore were in charge of some second and third graders in a play about shoemakers and elves which was followed by an announcement by Mr. Richard W.



Manifold who was the president of the Board of Education. The music teachers were Mrs. Ann Mayhew and Mrs. Jane Spencer. It must have been quite a task to organize all of the sets and costumes for that many kids!

**The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!**



The following is a summary from the Board Meeting that was held on October 16, 2018. Our Board Meetings are all open to the membership and

you are always welcome to join us:

- Our RTHS Neighbor, Don Larimer, helped us fix a light
- New Damp-Rid portable machines were purchased to take the moisture out of the air and help with climate control
- A 'Vendor Only' yard sale will be scheduled for the 2019 calendar coming out soon
- Our yard signs have been successful to advertise our events
- We ordered an additional 1,000 brochures.
- So far, the RTHS Facebook page has reached 232,986 people
- Upcoming events include:
  - ✓ 10/17 – Taylor Rd. 3rd grade tour
  - ✓ 10/20 – Open House
  - ✓ 10/20 – Blacklick Woods 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - ✓ 10/22 – Truro Township Fire Dept Museum facility Inspection
  - ✓ 10/24 – Deadline for the Courier
  - ✓ 10/31 – Beggars' Night at the Museum
  - ✓ 11/09 – French Run 3rd grade tour
- We received a very nice Thank You note and some cards from Myla Outlaw (granddaughter of Eleanor Wilson Shonting) regarding the McNaughten Collection
- New Artifact or Document Donations Received:
  - Beverly (Shade) Blackburn (RHS 1968 Alumni Walk-Thru Guest) donated a 1968 yearbook, some pictures, various news articles, a Doubloon Newsletter, and graduation announcement (Beverly and Reggie also attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade interviews at Herbert Mills)
  - Gordon Mitchell from Metro Parks donated an article he wrote about the National Road for his employers that

we could possibly use for the Courier

- Alice Torbett sent a box full of World War I artifacts and documents from her husband's side of the family, and since he was from Reynoldsburg, she thought we would probably like to have them for our museum
- Gloria Miller brought RTHS a framed copy of a 1963 school segregation letter received from the White House
- Ashton Family History, received from Don Larimer who lives behind the Museum. He was given the package by a gentleman who was parked in our lot. (no name) We thank Don for keeping a close watch on the museum and bringing us articles meant for donation
- Nancy Evans-Freed donated a 1940 Columbus Citizen newspaper with an article about preparing for the 4th of July. Her father was featured as the Scoutmaster for Troop #92. Jim framed a copy
- The Truro Township Fire Department will inspect our facility on October 22, @ 1:00

#### ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

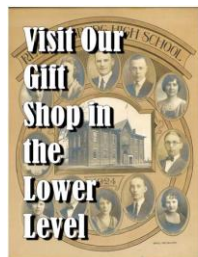
- Children's activities versus Museum property –No member shall encourage any child to touch anything in the museum. The 'Hands-On' table will be the only place children may touch. Items added to the hands-on table must have board approval.
- The President's Letter will address donations to subsidize buses for all the elementary school tours, plus postage costs for the *Courier*

**A BIG THANK YOU TO:** All the ladies who bring 'goodies' to our Open House events: **Jeannine Winters, Dotti Barth, Judy Diuguid, Kim Fisher, and Ivalee Basinger.** To **Judy Diuguid** for cleaning the Museum, steaming baby clothes, working in the yard, and periodically giving the Prez a ride. **Suzy Millar Miller** for donating \$245.17 in YTD Corresponding Secretary expenses. **Jim Diuguid** for helping out with a tour for the new Director of Development for the City of Reynoldsburg. **Barth Cotner, Rhonda Eberst, Tom McCray, Jim Diuguid, Judy Diuguid, Neal Piek, Dick Barth, and Mark Myers** for helping

*(continued on page 10)*



# OUR GIFT SHOP IS GROWING!



## Longaberger Baskets



Longaberger  
2006 Christmas  
Collection  
**Nature's Garland  
Basket**

**\$25.00**

(Tax included)  
Please add \$4.00  
Shipping U.S.



All Liners are included in the price

## Handmade Pins

Handmade Cloth  
Hand & Heart Pin  
**\$4.00**



Handmade Cloth Orange  
Plaid Heart Pin  
**\$2.50**



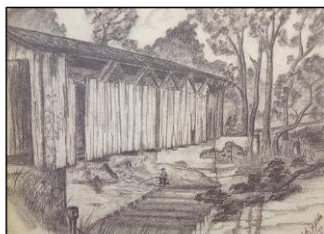
Handmade Cloth  
Rabbit Pin  
**\$2.50**



Tax is included in the sales Price. Postage for U.S. shipping will be approximately \$3.50.

## The Tussing Road Bridge

by Colin Sutphin



**5"x 7"**  
**Prints**  
**\$4.00 each**  
(tax included)

Please add \$1.00 for shipping U.S.

## Hannah Ashton Commemorative Plate



This limited edition  
plate would be a  
wonderful addition  
to your china closet,  
mantel, or wall.

**Only \$7.50**

(Tax included)  
Please add \$4.00 Shipping U.S.

by  
**Judith Duncan**

**8½"x 11" Print**

(print only)  
there is no mat

**\$10.00** (tax included)

Please add \$2.00  
for shipping U.S.



## Jim Shore Designs

**\$20.00** (Tax included)

Please add \$4.00  
Shipping U.S.

**Pumpkin Piles**  
from Jim Shore's  
"Heartwood Creek"  
collection, richly  
colorful, hand painted  
and old-fashioned will  
rekindle warm thoughts  
from years ago.



**Check out the new look of our  
website and visit the Gift Shop  
online at: [www.RTHS.info](http://www.RTHS.info)**



Our server moved us to a new platform so everything is new. We will keep a current calendar online for all our members. The website still has sections 'Under Construction' but we are working on it!



(continued from page 08)  
with the October 10,  
Summit Road Elementary  
third-grade tours!

**We also want say a  
BIG "Thank You" to:**

**Kim Fisher** for the following:

- ✓ decorating the entire Museum for Fall in a beautiful and professional manner
- ✓ reconfiguring the stepping stones and flower garden by the barn so visitors have better access to our window displays
- ✓ bringing wonderful food pantry items to our open house events
- ✓ working so hard in the yard!!

**Marvin Shrimplin** for all the wonderful storage boxes you somehow procured for RTHS from the OHC. **Mark Myers, Dick Barth, Tom McCray, Jim Diuguid, Linda Bronstein, Judy Diuguid, Barth Cotner, and Suzy Millar Miller** for helping on the French Run and/or Taylor Road school tours. We couldn't have done it without you! **Wendy Wheatley Raftery** for working so hard to organize the Multi-Vendor Shopping Spree Fundraiser. **Lauren Shiman** for working on the "Branches" Project; building a workbook for students to utilize in class that is a collaborative effort between RTHS and the school system. The book will be co-authored by a teacher friend of Lauren's, and hopefully become part of the required curriculum. **Cheryl Foley (Non-Member)** for making over 55 candy bags for the TTFD Open House; helping to make over 100 Halloween goodie bags for Beggars' Night; sitting all day at the TTFD Open House with Mary Stoots; and offering to help RTHS on Halloween Beggars' Night.

- All agenda items were covered.
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:10 pm

## Join us for the RTHS Christmas Dinner!

Saturday, December 8

6:00 pm at the MCL Restaurant  
5240 East Main Street In Whitehall



- **President – Mary Turner Stoots**  
(614) 560-4987 RTHSCourier@aol.com
- **Vice President – Dick Barth**  
(614) 866-0142 Rebdot1027@gmail.com
- **Treasurer – Marvin Shrimplin**  
(614) 759-1404  
mshrimplin6018@wowway.com
- **Recording Secretary – VACANT**
- **Corresponding Secretary  
Suzy Millar Miller** (512) 635-6376
- **Trustee (1 year)  
Vickie Edwards Hall** (740) 503-4955  
jowen143@twc.com
- **Trustee (2 years)  
Jim Diuguid** (614) 866-5972  
judyjimd@gmail.com
- **Trustee (3 years)  
Wendy Wheatley Raftery**  
(614) 262-2673 cdutchman1@aol.com
- **Past President – Richard Barrett**  
(614) 755-4979 dick@rbarrett.us

\*\*\*\*\*

**Courier Editor:** Mary Turner Stoots  
**Publicity Chairman:** Mary Turner Stoots  
**Tour Director:** Mark Myers  
**Administrative Assistant:** Lauren Shiman  
**Museum email:** RTHSCourier@aol.com  
**Museum Phone:** (614) 902-2831



## New Members!

Sharon Haughn - Individual  
Audrey Kenny Rhodes - Individual  
Susan Manifold & Timothy Pheister - Family  
Brad McCloud - Individual  
Jenny Russell - Individual  
John & Doris Downing - Family  
Shirley (Adkins) Buck - Individual  
Sharon (Young) Daniel - Individual  
Charles L. Stamm - Individual  
Judy (Morris) Williams - Individual



# YOUTHFUL WHITEHALL HERO MEETS DEATH IN BARNYARD

**Donn Wallace Moling**

**March 10, 1932 – June 24, 1954**

Paraphrased from the July 1954 Whitehall Gazette with a foreword written by Shirley Tudor Vingle

*Donn Moling finished Whitehall East Main Street Elementary School in 1946 and graduated from Reynoldsburg High School in 1950. Upon graduation, many of that class joined various branches of the military services, and were immediately activated when the Korean War broke out in the early summer of that year.*

Death reached for Donn Moling many, many times. With the intrepid courage that marked him, he fought it off. Death came where he least expected it: in a quiet country barnyard. Among friends.

Donn Wallace Moling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moling, 654 Maplewood Ave., was only 22. There was a lot of pain and horror and devotion to his country in those 22 years. No newspaper story could possibly tell it. The Gazette can only try. Donn Moling and his brother, Whitehall Police Sgt. Walter (Dick) Moling, were called to active duty with Columbus' 27th Marine Infantry Regiment September 4, 1950. Dick, veteran of Pacific campaigns in World War II, remained within continental limits.

Donn went overseas. For the veteran First Marine Division, most honored in the World, he was a replacement.

It's tough to win a decoration in the Marines. The Siler Star Citation is topped, in the Marine Corps, only by the Navy Cross and Congressional Medal of Honor. It is one of the Corps' proudest awards. Thus, when the one came through for Donn on March 7, 1951, folks here knew he'd done something extraordinary. And, knowing this quiet, polite, cheerful lad, they weren't surprised. He could do most anything he set his mind to. Then, he'd set his mind to helping win a futile little war because his country asked.

\*\*\*\*\* **SILVER STAR CITATION** \*\*\*\*\*

*The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class Donn W. Moling (MCSN: 1066844), United States Marine Corps, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Assistant Machine Gunner of Company E, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on 7 March 1951. Moving with the leading elements in the assault of a strongly defended enemy hill position, Private First Class Moling courageously exposed himself to withering enemy automatic weapons, mortar and small*

*arms fire to give accurate fire support to the riflemen. When the company had gained a portion of the high ground, he quickly moved his weapon forward and put it into action at the point of the assault platoon, pouring devastating fire on enemy emplacements for 18 hours. When an air strike was called in to assist the attack, he remained in position, although rockets exploded within 20 feet of his position. By his outstanding courage, daring initiative and unwavering devotion to duty, Private First Class Moling served to inspire all who observed him and contributed materially to the success of his company in seizing the objective, thereby upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.*

Twenty-nine days later a sniper's bullet found Donn. It passed through his neck, leaving a gaping hole in his back where it came out.

For two years, Donn fought off death's reach. That battle was in the painfully quiet Philadelphia Naval Hospital. He underwent 13 operations there. First, they tried to save a lung. They succeeded but could never whip the infection in his back. He always had a raw sore there, where five ribs had to come out. Even the indomitable Donn (continued on page 12)





# YOUTHFUL WHITEHALL HERO MEETS DEATH IN BARNYARD

**Donn Wallace Moling**

*(continued from page 11)*

despaired for a while. But that stubborn will to survive shone through. He was discharged as sergeant a year ago.

Donn was a member of the Franklin County Honor Society in Reynoldsburg High School. He was known for that kind of quiet achievement. Upon returning here, he went to Miami University in Oxford, last Fall, to study electrical engineering. When school let out, Donn headed for the Schaaf Dairy Farm, 1841 Winchester Pike. He'd spent a lot of time there as a boy, and liked the farm and the outdoors.

William Blessing, assistant manager, summed it up: "He didn't have to work here. He was the kind that could get any job that he wanted. But he came out here and told us he was going to Dayton Veterans' Hospital for more operations July 1."

Donn insisted to Blessing that he be given "the hardest job you have here on the farm."

So about 3 p.m. last June 24, Donn was pulling, via tractor, a load of chopped green grass up to the barn, readying it for the silo.

After those long and painful years, death won the eternal bout with Donn. It was by surprise, and it was quick.

Donn touched a bare spot on an electric cable that ran from the barn. Evidently, sheriff's deputies said, he was going to plug in a portable power unit to a conveyor. Donn was standing in a puddle of water, his shoes soaked to the ankles. Another hand heard Donn's screams and found Donn on his back. The puddle was steaming.

Mr. Blessing himself, despite a heart ailment, rushed to give Donn artificial respiration. Someone called the Whitehall emergency squad. A doctor injected stimulants into Donn's heart.

But the long struggle was ended there. Donn W. Moling, 22, Whitehall hero, was dead.

Just about to go on duty, Sergeant Moling, with his other brother, had rushed to the scene. They saw the men turn away from Donn. They knew what that gesture meant.

Services were held Monday at the Whitehall Methodist Church. Donn was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

## THE COURIER

*November 2018 Issue*

### Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

#### Mailing Address:

PO Box 144  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

#### Street Address (NO MAIL):

1485 Jackson St  
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:

Connie Parkinson, Colin Sutphin,  
Suzy Millar Miller & Mary Turner Stoots

#### Contributors:

Connie Parkinson, Shirley (Tudor) Vingle,  
Colin Sutphin, Suzy Millar Miller  
& Mary Turner Stoots



Contact Wendy Wheatley Raftery 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) 262-2673**

*(Please Call After 2:00pm)*

**Write "SUNSHINE" in the subject  
line of your email:**

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