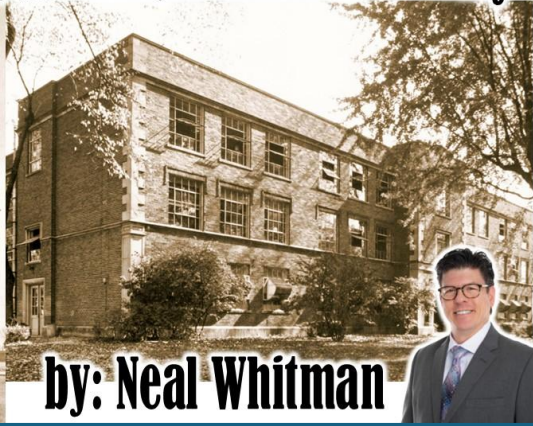
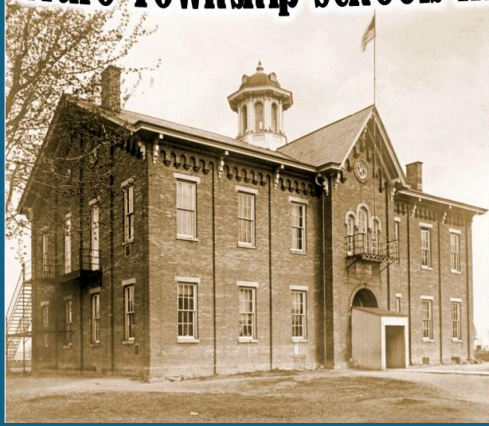


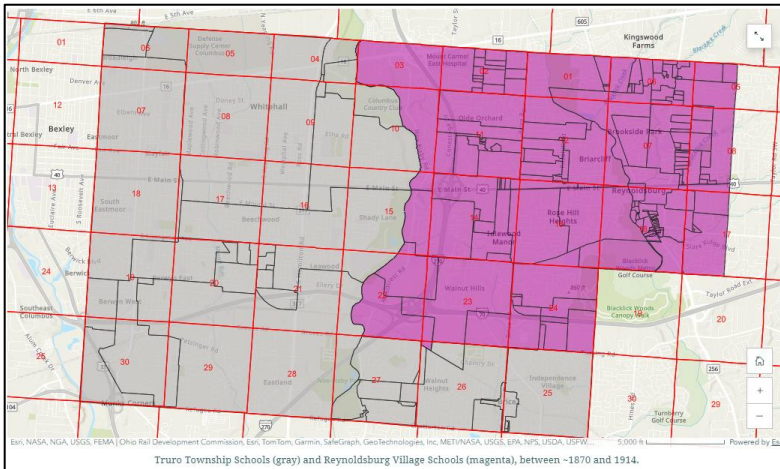


Mergers and Splits: Reynoldsburg Schools and Truro Township Schools in the Early Twentieth Century

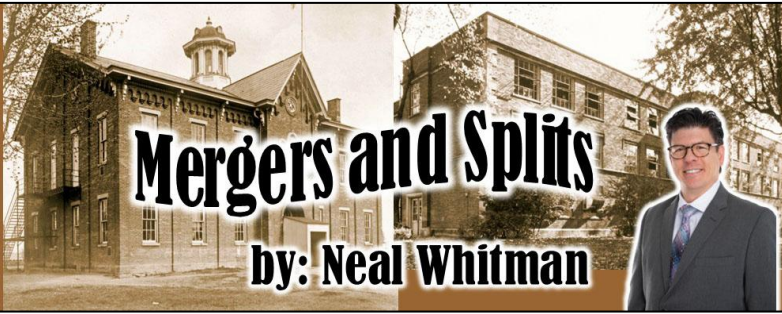


by: Neal Whitman

In 1868, every township in Ohio was home to its own school district. So, when the Reynoldsburg Union Academy was completed that year, it became the flagship building for the Truro Township School District. But by 1871, Reynoldsburg Schools had broken away to become their own district. The map below shows the two school districts. The Reynoldsburg School District, shown in magenta, is bounded on the west by Big Walnut Creek, and on the south by a line dividing the various "sections" within Truro Township from each other.



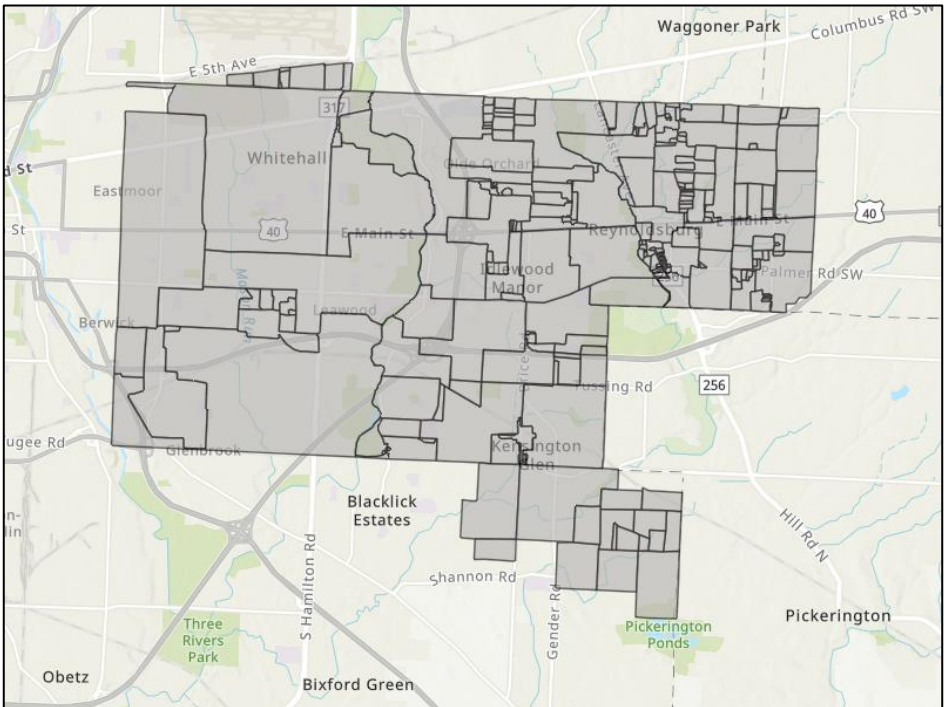
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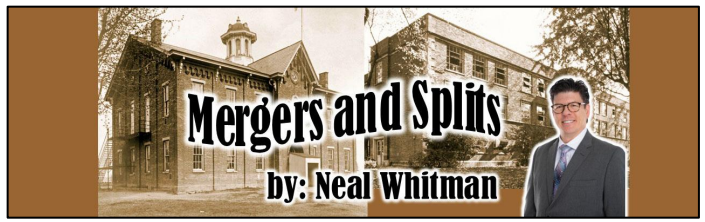


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Several decades later, the era of one-room schoolhouses was coming to an end, as the state government encouraged consolidation of smaller districts. In the Reynoldsburg School District, this took the form of absorbing the Etna Township School District to the east in 1914. The Truro Township School District, meanwhile, had expanded into Mifflin Township to the northwest, and into Madison Township to the southeast.

Truro Schools' surge of mergers hit its high-water mark in 1919, when the Reynoldsburg Village School District itself rejoined the Truro Township School District. The Reynoldsburg school board asked voters whether the district, with a population of less than 1,500, should join the Truro Township School District, and on August 12, 1919, the issue was approved, 126 to 10. On November 25, the Board ratified the results, and adjourned sine die. The merger reunited almost all of Truro Township into one school district, along with parts of Madison, Mifflin, and Etna Townships.





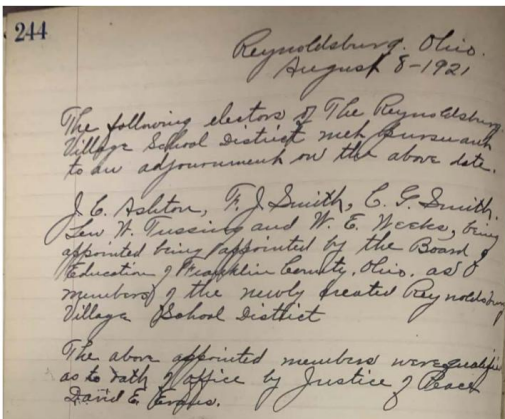
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As it happens, the reunification happened just in time for Reynoldsburg residents to vote on a bond issue for Truro Schools. In November 1920, the issue appeared on the ballot, and passed by 8 votes. There was a problem, though. It seems the Truro school board had forgotten about that piece of Etna Township that had been annexed to the Reynoldsburg Village School District. Nobody told the Licking County Board of Elections about it, so the issue didn't appear on the ballot there. It passed, but the disenfranchisement of 9 Licking County voters resulted in the election's invalidation the following May.

The following year saw the second breakup of the Truro Township School District. Although it kept the territory it had gained in Mifflin Township, the territory in Madison Township reverted to the Madison Township School District, taking most of the southeast portion of Truro Township School District with it. And the Reynoldsburg School District broke away once again.



Three months after the Truro Township School District bond issue was thrown out, the Reynoldsburg Village School District rebooted itself. Twenty-one months earlier, on November 25, 1919, the school board had recorded the minutes of its final meeting on page 243 of their ledger. On August 8, 1921, a newly appointed Reynoldsburg Board of Education turned to page 244 to record the minutes of their organizational meeting. James C. Ashton, Frank J. Smith, Closson G. Smith, Lew W. Tussing, and William E. Weeks were sworn in as "members of the newly created Reynoldsburg Village School District."



Reference sources available upon request

Thank You to Everyone Who Has Paid Their Dues! (11/11/25 through 12/26/25)

Since postage is verging toward ridiculous, we have decided to thank you publicly! This puts your name in lights, and at the same time, reminds those who have not paid yet, to send in their dues!



FIRST NAME & LAST NAME	CATE-GORY	PAID THRU DEC 31 OF
Letha Brooks	IND	2026
Martha Brown	IND	2026
Carol & Tom Deuber	HHD	2026
Doris Downing	IND	2028
Carolyn & Dale Egner	FAM	2026
Nikki Fledderjohann	IND	2026
Jerry & Lynn Foltz	FAM	2026
Sue, Danny, Amy & Elaine Gilmore	FAM	2027
Barbara Glenn	IND	2026
Vickie Hall	IND	2027
Richard Hentz	CON	2026
John Kern	CON	2027
Denise & Karen Kitchell	HHD	2026
John Kreitzburg	CON	2027
Ruth Kreitzburg	CON	2026
Robb & Barbara Leamy	SUS	2026
Scott Mavis	SUS	2026
Edna McCoy & Aretta Alibrando	FAM	2026
Terry Miller	IND	2027

FIRST NAME & LAST NAME	CATE-GORY	PAID THRU DEC 31 OF
Clifton Morris	IND	2027
Joyce S. Norton	IND	2026
Tim & Kathleen O'Brien	FAM	Life
Sallie O'Dell	IND	2027
Janet Odence	CON	2026
Pamela Oldach	FAM	2026
Connie Owen	IND	2027
Debbie Belfrage Peterson	IND	2027
Gary Shade	CON	2027
Nancy Sigman	IND	2026
Tisha Simeral	IND	2026
Josh & Heather Smith	FAM	2026
Kathy Spinelli	IND	2027
Colin Sutphin	IND	2026
Dianna & Lester Van Buren	SUS	2027
Lynn Venafo	SUS	2028
Karen Weber	CON	2027
Sandi Windorfer	IND	2026
Robert, Cindy, Ashley & Kelsey Yost	FAM	2027

Categories: **IND**=Individual **FAM**=Family **HHD**=Household **SUS**=Sustaining **CON**=Contributing **PRM**=Promoter **LTM**=Lifetime **SBS**=Small Business Sponsor **CSP**=Corporate Sponsorship

New members since the last news-letter are listed on page 11.

I hope you all renew! It makes our Treasurer Happy! ➡



Some Lessons Life Has Taught Me by: Regina Brett – 90 years old – from the Cleveland Plain Dealer

- Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
- Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, and wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special
- Life is too short to waste time hating anyone
 - And for heaven's sake, Pay off your credit cards every single month!

2025 RTHS Christmas Dinner at O'Charley's

December 17, 2025



Standing L-R: Bob Lundfelt, Neal Whitman, Terry Miller, John Grayem, Scott Hall, Sheryl Knapp, Shirley Vingle, Gary Knapp, Jim Slonaker, Doug Stoots, Robin Vanover, Shirley Buck, Judy Diuguid, and Sue Gilmore
Sitting L-R: Sharon Sellitto, Mark Myers, Susan Smith, Ed Saleski, Orville Kincade, Vickie Hall, Marvin Shrimplin, Stephen McLoughlin, Tom McCray, Sharon McCray, Sherry Shrimplin, and Mary Turner Stoots

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

On the left, is your prestigious President, decked out in her plaid antlers and large Christmas Tree Light necklace (it blinks!), and - Yes! - It was Marguerita Night at O'Charley's, I wasn't driving, and it was only \$5.00, so I said, "Why Not?"

**Check out all the
INCREDIBLE
Door Prizes!**



2025 RTHS Christmas Dinner at O'Charley's

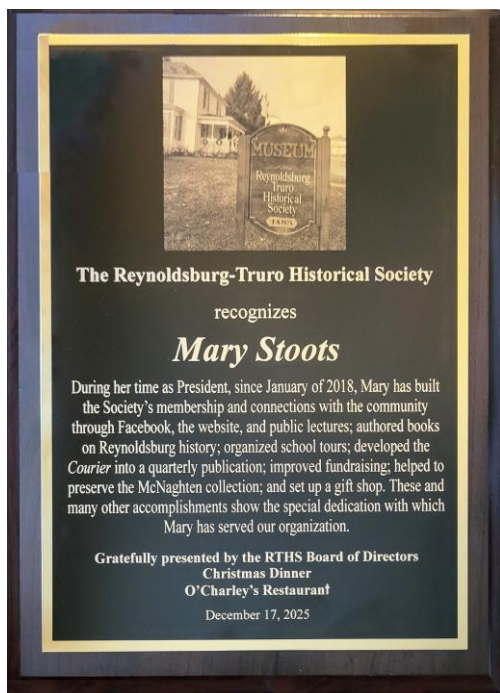
December 17, 2025



Mary received an award that is now her most prized possession! She said it made her cry! The plaque reads as follows:

The Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society recognizes Mary Stoots

During her time as president, since January of 2018, Mary has built the Society's membership and connections with the community through Facebook, the website, and public lectures; authored books on Reynoldsburg history; organized school tours; developed the *Courier* into a quarterly publication; improved fundraising; helped to preserve the McNaghten Collection; and set up a gift shop. These and many other accomplishments show the special dedication with which Mary has served our organization.



Gratefully presented by the RTHS Board of Directors,
Christmas Dinner
O'Charley's Restaurant
December 17, 2025

The RHS Class of 1967,
and friends



Mary in Antlers,
accepting her
award from Mark

Mike & Robin
Kefauver



2025 RTHS Christmas Dinner at O'Charley's

December 17, 2025



Tom & Sharon McCray



Vickie Hall

Robin Vanover

Scott Hall

Marvin Shrimplin



Our Group Photographer,
Sue Gilmore



ORNERY
Personified

Sharon Sellitto



Mark Myers &
Susan Smith



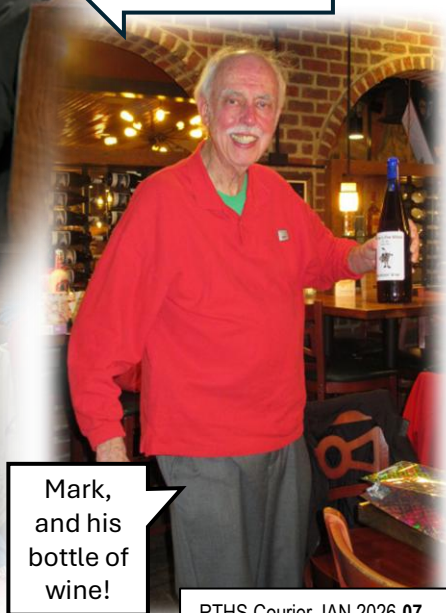
Stephen
McLoughlin



Judy
Diuguid



Sherry
Shrimplin



Mark,
and his
bottle of
wine!

THE COURIER

January 2026 Issue

**Reynoldsburg-Truro
Historical Society**

Mailing Address:

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Courier Editor Phone:

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Courier Email:

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**Photos, Artwork, &
Illustrations Provided by:**

Mary Turner Stoots

Contributors:

Neal Whitman

Mary Turner Stoots



RTHS 2026

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MAX'S BARBER SHOP

PHONE: (614) 861-9019

**7379 EAST MAIN STREET
REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068**



MON - FRI 9:00-5:45

SAT 8:00-12:00

CLOSED SUNDAY

Upcoming Events

We hope to see you for our January 17th Open House!

Come and enjoy the Museum along with a snack!



Be sure to visit us at the
Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
Open House
Saturday, January 17, 2026
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Come to the Museum and take a walk back in time
1485 Jackson Street (across from the former Hannah J. Ashton School)



Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
Open House
Saturday, February 21, 2026
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
1485 Jackson Street (across from the former Hannah J. Ashton School)

Saturday, February 21st, we are looking forward to the Visitors at our Open House from 10:00am to 2:00pm

Our March Open House on the 21st will actually be a Mini-Mural Artist Exhibition!



visit us at the
Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
For the 3rd Grade Mini-Mural Exhibition
Saturday, March 21, 2026 - 10am to 2pm
RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
(across from the former Hannah J. Ashton School)



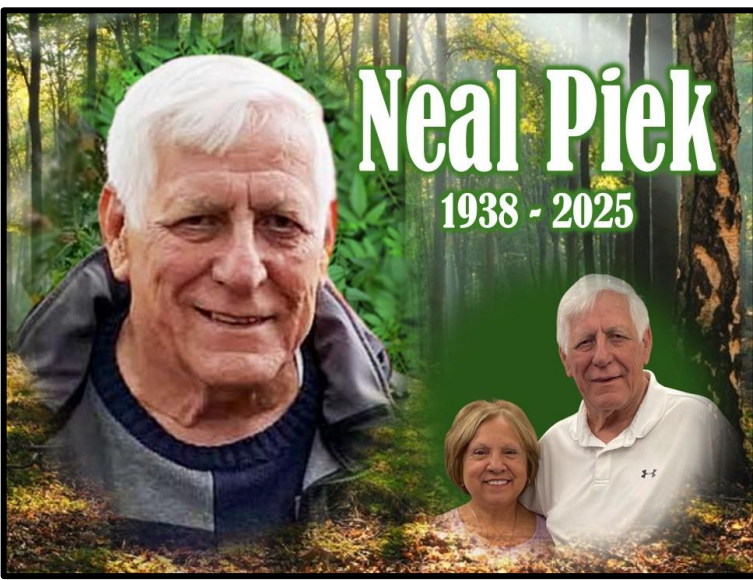
Be sure to visit us at the
Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, April 18, 2026
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Join us for our April 18th Open House! We would love to show you our exhibits and share some snacks! We hope you have a Happy Easter!

RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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

RTHS Courier JAN 2026-09



Neal was a nice guy, and he was very involved with RTHS for a long time. He came to my house and showed me his book. I hope someone finishes it for him. We are sad that he left us too soon and wish comfort to his entire family. ~ *Mary Turner Stoots*

Neal Piek, 87, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio passed away very unexpectedly on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Neal was born September 1, 1938 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to the late George and Lorraine Piek. He is, also, preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary Gertrude Piek (Grosskopf), and their infant son, Brian Anthony Piek.

Neal is survived by his devoted children, Michael (Luvy), Jeffrey, Lisa and Angela.

Neal was a kind and gentle man whose smile lit up every room that he entered. He invested in those around him and enjoyed sharing his hobbies with them, as well. His greatest pride and joy were his children.

Neal enlisted in the United States Air Force and became a Chief Master Sergeant in the Ohio Air National Guard. He dedicated over 38 years of

his life to the National Guard and the professional development, readiness, morale, and welfare of the wing's enlisted Airmen.

Neal loved to travel, wine tasting and to take photographs. He was proud of his camera collection, as well as the book he was writing. His passion for photography took him to several beautiful places around the United States. He enjoyed going to the hot air balloon festival in New Mexico and he visited every single covered bridge in Ohio. There is an endless list of places he visited and photographed. While photography was his passion, he also dedicated many hours to learning family genealogy and Reynoldsburg history. Neal was the Board of Directors at the Reynoldsburg Truro Historical Society for over eight years, and possibly longer. The friendship and connections made at RTHS truly made a special impact on his life.

"Aim High...Fly-Fight-Win"

His family received friends on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Cotner Funeral Home, 7369 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.



NEW MEMBER!

Joyce Norton - Individual



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

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

cadeuber@gmail.com

**THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU FART IN A
SMARTCAR**



2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY

Publish January Courier

- 13 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 17 – SAT – Open House 10:00am-2:00pm
- 31 – SAT – Drop Dead Dues Deadline
(if you want to be in the roster, Pay
BEFORE this date!)

FEBRUARY

- 02 – MON – Frog & Groundhog Day!
- 14 – SAT – Valentine's Day
- 17 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 20 – FRI – *Deadline for March 2026 Courier*
- 21 – SAT – Open House 10:00am-2:00pm

MARCH

Publish March Courier

- 13 – FRI – Judging for Mini-Mural
Coloring Contest 10:00-12:00
- 17 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 21 – SAT – Open House – Mini-Mural Art
Exhibition 10:00am-2:00pm

APRIL

- 14 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 – SAT – Open House 10:00am-2:00pm
- 20 – MON – *Deadline for May 2026 Courier*
- 29 – WED – Slate Ridge 3rd Grade Tour

David W. Reidel

President

dave@reidelinsurance.com



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Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0543
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A Trusted Partner for Your Peace of Mind

My Brother Took A Ride Down Grandma's Laundry Chute!



By: Mary Turner Stoots

MY BROTHER TOOK A RIDE DOWN GRANDMA'S LAUNDRY CHUTE!

by: Mary Turner Stoots

It had to be in the early Spring of 1956. I was four, and my brother was about 2 years old. He doesn't remember anything about this adventure (thank God!).

My cousin, Jim Wiswell, was probably around eight, and my sister, Nene (pronounced NEE-nee) would have been about seven. I wasn't involved in the planning stages because I was too little. This almost sounds like something Jim would have thought up. He was one of the orneriest kids that God ever put on this earth, and I loved him

for sharing that trait with me. Between our two families, there were six children at the time (Missy was born later to the Wiswell family in 1962). In 1956, there were three Wiswell boys and three Turner kids. We were all born one right after the other within a 5-year timeframe:

1948 – Jim Wiswell

1949 – Nene Turner

1951 – Mike Wiswell

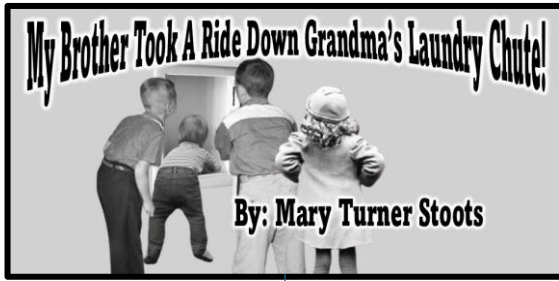
1952 – Mary Turner (Me)

1953 – Tommy Turner

1953 – Ed Wiswell

The Wiswells lived across the street from Grandma & Grandpa Wiswell. The Grandparent's house was at the corner of Bryden & Jackson in the Highland Terrace addition that is just North of Main

(continued on page 13)



*(continued
from page 12)*

Street off Lancaster Avenue before you get to Brookside.

We were always at the Wiswell House or Grandma's house.

It's hard to say who Jim brought into the mix for this plan, because I don't remember all the players involved, but I'm sure he picked his brother, Mike.

Mike is the quiet one. At least, WE all called him Mike. I found out a few years later that his classmates all called him Tom! Mike was his middle name, but he went by Thomas, or Tom at school, Mike was five. I don't know why we called him

Mike. Maybe I'll ask him the next time I see him!

Since I was so little and would probably be in the way, I was given a task to do in the basement. My job was to pad the area where my brother, Tommy, was going to land! So, I scurried downstairs to

get busy. There was a large box on the wall by the furnace that you could fit a laundry basket into. I pulled the basket out and proceeded to pile a bunch of laundry into the box. I didn't pay any attention to the fact that I was piling CLEAN laundry into the box! THAT would earn me a date with a paddle at the end of the day. Don't worry, I don't believe that I'm too traumatized over it!

If anyone should be traumatized, it would be my little brother, Tommy! Luckily, he told me that he doesn't remember any bit of it.

After all the padding was in place, I headed back up-

stairs to announce that my task was fulfilled! Then - I watched as somebody picked up my brother, and ever so carefully positioned him in the kitchen laundry chute. It was decided to use this one because he would only have to fall

(continued on page 14)



My Brother Took A Ride Down Grandma's Laundry Chute!

By: Mary Turner Stoots

(continued from
page 13)

one floor to the basement. I thought that the second floor laundry chute might be too far of a fall (Do ya think?). But the real reason was, both of our great-grandmothers lived with Grandma & Grandpa, and their rooms were upstairs on the second floor, so we weren't supposed to play up there (lucky for Tommy!).

As soon as he was positioned to drop, I ran back downstairs to make sure he didn't fall on the floor accidentally after he landed in the box.

And (to my surprise) he was just FINE!

But – there was a commotion in the kitchen. Evidently, Grandma had been upstairs helping the Great-Grandmas right before “the Drop” and she walked into a kitchen full of guilty looking children. THEN she heard me yell up the basement stairs, “Tommy

made it JUST FINE down the laundry chute!” At that point, I heard the screen door slam shut as all the Wiswell boys ran out the back door, and that left Nene all by herself.

I helped Tommy up the stairs and as we stepped into the kitchen, Grandma wanted to know what the heck was going on. Nene started to cry, so I decided to bravely tell Grandma the truth (after all, that way, I won't have to remember what I said).

Grandma was glad that Tommy was OK, but she definitely was **not** very pleased to discover that her clean laundry was all unfolded and piled around on the basement floor. *(Most of it fell on the floor when I helped Tommy out of the box on the wall.)*

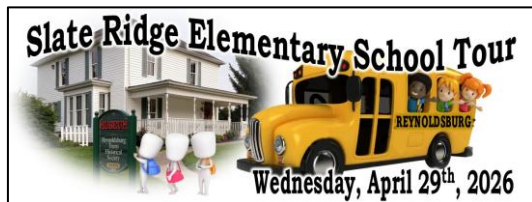
Consequently, I ended up in the doghouse because of the disorganized and (now) dirty laundry. I don't know if, or when. anybody else got a licking, but I hope I wasn't the only one! Maybe I should have cried instead.

We Have Three More School Tours This Spring!

Mark These Dates On Your Calendar!

April 29th – Slate Ridge ■ May 14th Taylor Road ■ May 18th French Run

If you haven't ever volunteered to help during a school tour, then you have no idea how much **fun** that you are missing! There aren't any requirements to the job. You don't have to know a lot about history, and you're not required to possess the physical



stamina to walk back and forth down the alley guiding classes of kids to the mural. We already have a few people who like to do those types of tasks. Maybe we just need you to sit in a chair in the corner of a room. The more adults we have in a room, the more likely it is that little fingers will stay in the pockets of their owners, and off of the arti-



facts in our Museum. Or, when the kids take a potty break, they they will be less likely to splash and play with the water in our drinking fountain afterwards.

Join the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Members enjoy a bi-monthly newsletter, directory, gift shop discounts, a vote at general meetings, and the knowledge that they are supporting the preservation of Reynoldsburg history

Membership dues categories are as follows:

- ☐ \$30-Individual ☐ \$40-Household ☐ \$50-Sustaining ☐ \$75-Contributing ☐ \$150-Promoter
☐ \$300-Lifetime Membership* ☐ \$1,500-Small Business Sponsor ☐ \$5,000-Corporate Sponsorship

* A Lifetime Membership can be for an individual or a family, and is paid one time only

Please make checks payable to "RTHS," and Mail to RTHS, PO Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0144

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

BOOKS FOR SALE!

Reynoldsburg High School 1899 to 1970

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

\$37.00 for Non-Members*

\$35.00 for Members

\$5.00 S&H (Tax included)

** A Free Membership will be given to Non-Members through 12/31/2026 for the purchase of a book, which includes a Bi-Monthly issue of the Courier Newsletter to be delivered by Email ONLY (no hard copies)*

**NON-MEMBERS
WILL RECEIVE A
FREE MEMBERSHIP*
THROUGH
12/31/2026**

by Mary Turner Stoots and Suzy Millar Miller

Reynoldsburg and Truro Township

\$26.00

(Tax Included)

\$5.00 S&H

by Mary Turner Stoots with Cornelia M. Parkinson

RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Mailing address: Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

P.O. Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068