



News for members and friends of:

Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society

SPRING 2017

Find us: 15 E. Columbus Street, Olde Pickerington Village ~ www.PickHistory.org

Call us: 614-382-5989 ~ Email us: pickhistsociety@hotmail.com ~ We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Historical Society 2017 Calendar

April 1, 10am-1pm: Museum Open Houses are held each Saturday thru December 16

April 6, 7:30pm: Society Meeting/Program: "Dr. Hartman's Miracle Tonic" @ Violet Twp Administrative Offices

May 4, 7:30pm: Society Meeting/Program: "Progress around our Museum" @ Violet Twp Administrative Offices

May 5, 6-8:30pm: Pickerington Village Chocolate Hop. Buy \$5 tickets at Museum

June 1, 7pm: Society Field Trip/Tour of Mead-Needham Museum in Pataskala

June 2, 9am-4pm: and **June 3**, 10am-1pm: Historical Museum Yard Sale

August 10, 6:30pm: Society Members-Only In-door Picnic /Tour of Baltimore Museum

Oct 5, 7:30pm: Society Meeting/Program: "Ohio Football History" by Joe Santry @ Violet Twp Administrative Offices

Oct 30, 6-8pm: "Haunted Museum" during Pickerington's annual "Haunted Village"

Nov 2, 7:30pm: Society Meeting/Program: "World Heavyweight Boxer Jim Jeffries" by Bruce Jarvis @ Violet Twp Admin Offices

December 7, 6:30pm: Society Members-Only Christmas Potluck with singer-guitarist Eric Solomon at Pickerington Senior Center

Volunteers are needed for all of these events.

Want to help? Sign up by emailing
pickhistsociety@hotmail.com

Historical Museum Saturday Open Houses

begin April 1, 10 a.m.



Our Historical Society Museum opens its doors for the 2017 season on Saturday, April 1 with a special exhibit featuring Wetherell Dairy artifacts on loan from Kevin Wetherell's dairy collection. He is the

great-grandson of Wetherell Dairy owners Ray and Eula Wetherell who — with their 5 children — operated the Pickerington Road dairy from 1928 to 1971. Saturday Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During April and May Saturdays, veteran Open House volunteers will be training new volunteers to greet guests and answer questions about the Museum and Olde Pickerington Village. If you'd like to help — and learn interesting tidbits about local history — sign up for one or more Saturdays by emailing pickhistsociety@hotmail.com or phoning Volunteer Coordinator Cristie Hammond at 614-570-4074. Our goal is to increase the size of our Saturday Museum Open House volunteer corps.

Plenty of on-street parking is available on Columbus Street; and there's still easy access to the Museum's front doors at 15 E. Columbus Street.

Historical Society Meeting/Program: *Dr. Hartman's Miracle Tonic*

Thursday, April 6 — 7:30-9pm

Violet Township Adm Offices, 12970 Rustic Drive

Be sure to attend our first meeting of the year which features a presentation by Reynoldsburg historian, Richard Barrett, about a Columbus physician who made a fortune selling his Prohibition-era cure-all "medicine" named Peruna. Dr. Hartman was one of the early entrepreneurs who made extensive use of advertising and testimonials. In 1883 he relocated to Columbus and in 1903 began purchasing what became the Hartman Farm, south of Columbus. His son-in-law, Frederick Schumacher, donated an extensive art collection to the Columbus Museum of Art.



Bring your friends! This meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. **Note new meeting location!**

AROUND OUR MUSEUM

Historical Society Meeting/Program: *Progress Around our Museum* Thursday, May 4 – 7:30-9pm Violet Township Admin Offices 12970 Rustic Drive

What's been happening during the winter months inside our Historical Museum and outside where the new Violet Township Fire Station #591 is under construction? Violet Township Fire Chief Michael Little will provide us with a progress report on the new building, its anticipated opening date, and how the facility will affect our Museum. The above photo shows construction progress on Station #591 during early March 2017.



In addition, Society President Peggy Portier will tell us about two \$15,000 grants and other funding secured for the installation of a wheelchair lift at the rear of our Museum to make the Museum's main level handicap-accessible.

Bring your questions to this interactive program on Thursday, May 4, beginning at 7:30pm at the Violet Township Administrative Offices located at 12970 Rustic Drive in Pickerington. Also, bring your friends — this meeting is free and open to the public. Complimentary coffee, bottled water, desserts and conversation also will be featured.

2016-2017 PICKERINGTON-VIOLET TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVES

Elected Officers

President: Peggy Portier
Advisor (Past President): Gary Taylor
VP-Administration: Keith Ebright
VP-Programs: Jack Whitaker
Secretary: Mary Herron
Treasurer: Fiona Spears
Members-at-Large: Barbara Freeman,
Stephanie Johnson, and Greg Karoly

President's Appointees

Librarian: Suellen Goldsberry
Membership: Stephanie Johnson
Publicity/Newsletter Editor: Maggie Arendt
Volunteer Coordinator: Cristie Hammond

Open Appointed Positions

Historian, Curator

A Few 2017 Historical Society Projects

Repair 1879 Taber pump organ
Install Exterior Wheelchair Lift
Videotape residents' historic memories

News of Interest:

Enjoy a Self-Guided Walking Tour of Olde Pickerington Village!

Brochures describing 18 downtown historical sites are available in a rack attached to the historical marker located on the front lawn of our Historical Museum. The brochure was a joint project underwritten by our Historical Society and the Pickerington Village Association.

Our Historical Society is hosting the ***District 6 Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meeting*** on March 18 at the Pickerington Senior Center. Included are meals, educational sessions and a tour of our Historical Museum! District 6 consists of Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway and Union counties. Our thanks to Duane R. Spence Funeral Home for donating \$400 to help cover our costs of hosting this program.

Our Historical Society is partnering with the ***Pickerington Public Library*** to digitize significant historical materials including our photographs, documents and other printed items. The Library will acquire a new archival digital scanner this fall to preserve and allow these documents and photos to be easily searched and accessed. This information will be free of charge to the general public.

A newly-acquired computer tablet by our Historical Society will allow the public to search and find digitized ***Violet Cemetery burial records*** via our Historical Society's website or by visiting our Museum during

LOCAL HISTORY

Roads Often Traveled

Ever wonder how roads you travel in Pickerington and Violet Township got their names? Many were credited to early settlers whose homesteads bordered the roads eventually named after them.

For instance, **Milnor Road** was named for the William W. Milnor (1850-1937) family whose former farm now includes Pickerington Meadows and Milnor Crossing subdivisions, The Meadows apartments and Epiphany Lutheran Church. Milnor served on Violet Township's first board of education and was instrumental in the construction of our community's first high school on East Street in 1907. His daughter, Anna Milnor Young, taught school in Pickerington for 42 years! The Milnor farmhouse (*photo at right*) still stands at 319 N. Center Street.



Who but the Harmon family lived on **Harmon Road**? Jacob Harmon (1856-1944), Belle Harmon and Goldie Harmon can be seen in this circa 1908 photo (*photo at left*) in front of their home formerly located at the corner of Harmon and Refugee Roads. At one time the Harmon family owned most of the land along Refugee from Harmon to Tollgate Roads.

The majority of the Stemens living in the Pickerington area today can trace their ancestry to Nicholas Stemen, who came to Fairfield County in 1813. These Stemens and their 8 children

lived north of Pickerington on a road which records indicate was named **Stemen Road** in 1840.



Henry Doty, his wife Mary and son John migrated to Ohio in 1817 with one horse and 50 cents cash. Eventually, he was able to acquire 80 acres of land near Pickerington, expand his farm's acreage to 320, and build a large house and barn in 1841 (*photo at left*). Family descendent, Irene Doty Blain (1902-1986) taught in Pickerington schools for over 40 years. Other Doty family descendents still live in the Doty home which is located on the west side of **Doty Road** just south of Stemen Road.

Robert W. Bowen obtained a land deed signed by President James Madison for property along what is now **Bowen Road** which borders Pickerington Ponds Metro Park. The family home was built in 1861 and is still standing at 9400 Bowen Road. The Bowens also donated land for the one-room 1849 Bowen School (*photo at right*), now part of a private home located on the northeast corner of Bowen and Schoolhouse Roads.



Present day **Refugee Road** designates the southern boundary of the 103,527-acre "Refugee Tract" established by Congress in 1801. The purpose was to give land to Canadian refugees who had lost their property when they fled their homes after aiding the Americans in the Revolutionary War. Later, in 1816, "Refugee Tract" lands were opened to veterans of the War of 1812. The original "Refugee Tract" extends 42 miles eastward from the Scioto River and encompasses parts of Franklin, Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties. In Violet Township the Refugee Tract includes Turnberry, Summerfield, Chevington Woods, New England Acres, Haaf Farms and Northwest Pickerington.

PICKERINGTON-VIOLET TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

We are incredibly grateful to our donors and supporters who help make our Historical Society's projects and programs a reality. During our November "27-Hour Give" and throughout the recent holidays, more than \$3,000 was received from donors and accompanying matching funds from the Fairfield County Foundation.

Some of these funds already have been spent on materials to repair the Museum's Taber Pump Organ, for a new light-weight vacuum cleaner, and a computer tablet to allow visitors to access Violet Cemetery records at our Museum. Plans for the remainder of these funds include helping to install the Museum's wheelchair lift and buying Museum-specific software so we can inventory and track our artifacts.

Our very sincere thank you to each of the following donors:

Carol Ackerman	Tammy and Ed Drobina	Ruth Kreachbaum	Cheryl K. Ricketts
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