

Pickerington-Violet Township



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News for Members and Friends

FALL 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 Meeting at The Tabernacle Thursday, September 14 from 5:30pm to Sunset

Location: 9270 Pickerington Road

Sponsored by Historical Society and Coyote Run LLC



Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society members are invited to The Tabernacle on Thursday, September 14, at 5:30pm. The Tabernacle is located on the former McGill Farm at 9270 Pickerington Road. Our host is the Tabernacle/Farm's new owner, Coyote Run LLC, represented by Historical Society members David Hague and Tammy Miller.

The Tabernacle, seen here in a 1964 photo, was constructed circa 1889 by the United Brethren Association who conducted religious services here during summer months. Guests arrived by horse and buggy or wagon and slept in tents or cottages. The Association remained an active group until 1911.

At 5:30pm, campground-style bean soup, cornbread, and beverages will be served. A tent, tables, and chairs will be set up near the farmhouse where Coyote Run hosts also will share their plans for the Tabernacle property with us. Enter the Pickerington Road property via the farmhouse drive; guests will be assisted/directed to the parking area.

This program/food is open to Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society members only.

Registration is required by Sunday, September 10 so we can provide ample food and seats.

Register by email to pickhistsociety@hotmail.com or leave a message at 614-382-5989.

October and November Historical Society Meetings/Programs

Location: Violet Township Offices, 12970 Rustic Drive, Pickerington OH 43147



Thursday, October 5

7:30 — 9:00 PM

Columbus Football History

Speaker, Joe Santry

Last fall, Joe Santry, Historian for the Columbus Clippers, entertained Historical Society members

with historical facts and stories about Columbus Clippers' baseball. He's back again by popular demand with stories and historical information about Columbus, Ohio football. Don't miss this interesting and fun program! Program is open to the public. Complimentary light refreshments available.

Thursday, November 2

7:30 — 9:00 PM

James Jeffries, 1899 World Heavyweight Boxing Champion

Speaker, Bruce Jarvis

Canal Winchester Councilman, Bruce Jarvis, will tell us how a southern Violet Township child (Jim Jeffries) became a World Heavyweight Boxing Champion. Did you know Jeffries' birthplace home was moved piece-by-piece to the old village area of Canal Winchester? Program is open to the public.



AROUND OUR MUSEUM

***Have you stopped by our Museum to visit Pickerington's Dovel Family?
Their photos, homes, clothing, jewelry and more are showcased at our Museum.***

John H. Dovel, a farmer, and Grace Looker (one of James Looker's daughters) were married in Virginia in 1817. They moved with their four young daughters from Virginia to Violet Township circa 1825. Throughout the next 150 years, John, Grace and their descendents acquired thousands of acres of farmland in this area. In 2017, former Dovel properties include public lands such as: Kerr Mound; Willow Pond; Central H.S. Athletic Field; Ridgeview Junior H.S.; Pickerington's sewage plant on Hill Road South; and the Pickerington Police Station on Refugee Road.

Other Dovel land has been transformed into Shadow Oaks, Simsbury, Manor House, and Meadowbrook subdivisions; Pickerington Ridge Apartments; and the commercial businesses on all four corners of SR 256/Refugee Road.

The Dovel Family Special Exhibit showcases clothing and jewelry once worn by Dovel family members as well as photographs, an 1878 marriage certificate, baby carriage, coverlets and other artifacts belonging to the Dovels.

If you are unable to visit the Museum/Dovel exhibit, a book containing details about the Dovel family written by John Ricketts is available at the Historical Museum for a special price during the Dovel exhibit:

The Violets Still Bloom - 158 pp; \$10 plus tax/shipping (regular price is \$14)

Direct your questions/book orders to the Historical Society's Leave-a-Message phone number: 614-382-5989

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

Appointed Positions Currently Open

Historian, Curator

2017 Historical Society To-Do List

Install Exterior Wheelchair Lift
Videotape residents' historic memories
Acquire museum-specific computer software to digitize all of our photos/documents
Repair Museum's loom and offer demonstrations

Coming Up

Accessing Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Photos

The Pickerington Public Library is hosting an Open House to show interested residents how to find/print local historic photos via the "Pickerington Collection" at Columbus libraries' "My History" Internet site. The Pickerington Collection already contains over 1200 historic photos donated by Dr. Kenneth Taylor a number of years ago. More photos, supplied by our Historical Society, are being digitized by the Pickerington Library and added to the Pickerington Collection. The show-and-tell Open House will be held:

Wednesday, September 20 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Location: Pickerington Public Library — 201 Opportunity Way

Historical Society Christmas Potluck

Local guitarist/singer, Eric Solomon, will entertain us during our Historical Society's Annual Meeting/Election of Officers/Christmas Potluck. This event will be held on Thursday, December 7, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Pickerington Senior Center located at 150 Hereford Drive. Add this date/event to your calendar and watch for reservation details in our November newsletter.

Nancy Brackbill Remembrance

Notecards featuring watercolor prints of Olde Pickerington landmarks painted by Nancy Brackbill are available at our Museum during Saturday Open Houses from 10am to 1pm. While they last, packages of 4 quality notecards can be purchased for \$3.00 plus tax.

LOCAL HISTORY

Preserving Pickerington's Depot

John Grunewald spent a good part of his life restoring and caring for one of Pickerington's most historic buildings

As late as 1865, Pickerington had only 150 residents and 37 buildings. All of this changed when the Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Company's trains rolled through Pickerington in 1880.

Pickerington's train depot housed a Western Union operation and served as both a passenger and freight station -- bringing mail, fresh bread, mail order goods and more to townspeople.

Not only did the railroad bring farm-related industry to Pickerington (flour mill, a stockyard, and a lumber yard), the railroad also allowed farmers to sell and ship their corn, hogs, cattle, poultry, flour, and dairy products to distant markets.

The development of interstate highways and commercial airlines after WWII dealt a blow to the railroad industry. In 1956, railroad passenger service was discontinued in Pickerington, and the depot was closed.

The depot was used for storage until purchased by John Grunewald in 1975. He refurbished the depot and replaced a section house that originally stood on the property. Over the next 30 years, he acquired maps, photos, lanterns, and other railroad memorabilia that he used to decorate the depot's interior.

In 1990, the Pickerington depot earned a place on the National Register of Historic Places. In an interview that same year with *The Columbus Dispatch*, John Grunewald said, "I'd like to have the depot the way it was in 1879 when it was the center of life in the town."

We like your dream, John. For now, thank you for allowing us to enjoy Pickerington's train depot in 2017 and, hopefully, for many more years to come.



The Pickerington Depot on High Street (now 50 North Center Street) was constructed in 1879 while the railroad was being built. The Flour Mill on Mill Street (now Church Street), seen at right in this circa 1910 photo, was part of the building boom that followed the trains after their 1880 arrival. Railway passenger service and the depot were abandoned in 1956. John Grunewald purchased the property in 1975.



John Howard ("Punkey") Grunewald

John passed away May 11, 2017. He was born in Seattle, Washington on February 24, 1942. He and his family moved to Ohio when John was 8 years old. He was a graduate of Newark H.S. and the Ohio Dominican College.

John was a "Lifetime" member of the Pickerington-Violet Township

Historical Society for more than 25 years. He loved Pickerington history and accumulated a large collection of historic photos which he allowed our Historical Society to scan and use.

He worked as a State Farm Insurance agent in Pickerington for 32 years. His office was his restored historical landmark — the Pickerington depot.

John, seen in the above 2003 photo, was known by many as a fun and loving guy who readily shared his knowledge of Pickerington's history. He also loved nature and animals.

He is survived by his wife, Chinty, and sons Alex, Mick, and Andy Grunewald. Our sincere condolences to John's family.

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P O BOX 732
PICKERINGTON, OHIO 43147

Historical Society Member News

In Memoriam: Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of P-VT Historical Society members who recently have passed away: **Nancy Brackbill**, age 89, died June 24 at Primrose Retirement Community in Lancaster. **John Grunewald**, age 75, passed May 11 in Carroll, Ohio. **Paul Kose**, age 95, died May 31 in Pickerington.

New Members: The Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society currently is 152 members strong. The newest members are: Tammy Miller and David Hague (family), Marian Reitano (individual), and Storage One (business) — all of Pickerington; and Kevin Wetherell (individual) of Thornville, OH. Happy 90th Birthday to Velma Simons of Pickerington who became an Honorary Lifetime member. Invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to join our Historical Society. Membership forms are available at meetings, our Museum, or via www.pickhistory.org.

Recent Donations to Historical Society/Museum:

- 1933 Funk & Wagnalls dictionary with stand was donated to our Museum by Ruth Herdman.
- Mauger's Donuts (Jeannie and Bob) donated 25% of their donut sales plus tips to our Society during the June 22 and July 20 Pickerington Farmers' Markets. Be sure to come to the Farmers' Market on its last day — Thursday, September 28, from 4-7 pm — as our Historical Society will again be Mauger's Donut fundraiser recipient!
- \$15,000 grants for our Museum's wheelchair lift from PNC Bank and Fairfield County Foundation.
- Pickerington Mayor Lee Gray (wedding donations); Nationwide Insurance employee donations via United Way; Museum visitor donation jar.

Like or follow the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society on social media by visiting our pages at:



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PickeringtonHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/PickeringtonHistoricalSociety)



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