

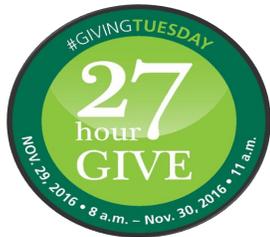


News for members and friends of:
Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society

HOLIDAY 2016 EDITION

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



Fairfield County Foundation's "27-Hour Give" is November 29-30

Your tax deductible donation to the Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund between 8:00 AM on November 29 and 11:00 AM on November 30 via Fairfield County Foundation's website will be eligible to receive some of the Foundation's \$27,000 matching funds!

How to make your donation to the Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund using your computer/Internet:

- (1) During the 27 designated hours on November 29-30, go on-line to www.fairfieldcountyfoundation.org.
- (2) Click the green "DONATE NOW" button on the right side of the Foundation's website home page.
- (3) Select an amount you wish to give and choose your credit or debit card or PayPal to make your donation.
- (4) Click on the arrow at "select a designation" and scroll down the lengthy, somewhat alphabetical list to find and click on **Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund**. At completion of your donation, a receipt will be emailed to you.

Have questions/need help while making your Internet donation at home or work? Call Peggy Portier, 614-595-5867, for assistance on Tuesday, November 29 between 9 AM-9 PM.

How to make your donation at our Museum: Stop by our Museum, 15 E. Columbus Street, between 10 AM-2 PM Tuesday, November 29. Bring your credit card, and we'll help you make your donation using our computer. Concerned about giving on-line? Call Peggy Portier, 614-595-5867, to discuss options.

Bring a New Historical Society Member to Members-Only Christmas Potluck

Invite a neighbor or family friend to become a member of the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society and join you for our Christmas Potluck to be held December 1 at the Pickerington Senior Center beginning at 6:30 PM.

We promise you'll have an inexpensive, fun evening with door prizes, camaraderie and entertainment by Columbus Ventriloquist, Langston Hatch and his puppet friends.

As usual, our Historical Society will provide chicken, beverages and tableware while guests are asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

There's plenty of space at the Senior Center (150 Hereford Drive), so invite someone to join you and become a member of our Historical Society. Dues for 2016-2017 are \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family, or \$50 for a business membership. Direct any membership questions to Member-Director, Stephanie Johnson, at 614-657-6037.



Columbus Ventriloquist Langston Hatch and his funny, family-friendly puppets will entertain us during our Historical Society Christmas Potluck on Thursday, December 1, 6:30 PM at the Pickerington Senior Center, 150 Hereford Drive.

Reservations are required for this event! Sign up no later than Saturday, November 26 by email to pickhistsociety@hotmail.com or by leaving a message at 614-382-5989.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR MUSEUM?



First row: Betty (Mrs. Bill) Hanna; Second Row: Barry Walton, Billie Beth Greer, Gary Taylor; Back row: Dennis England.

Hanna/England/Walton Families Reunite:

On a recent Saturday afternoon, former Pickerington resident, Betty (Mrs. Bill) Hanna, joined family friends to donate children's books to our Historical Society Museum.

Hanna, her daughter Billie Beth Greer, Author Barry Walton and Illustrator Dennis England presented *Thank You For the Poo on My Shoe* and *Don't be a Chicken, Chicken* to Society Past President, Gary Taylor.

The three families have long-time Pickerington ties. During the 1930s, Darl Walton, Russell "Tuffy" England and Bill Hanna were students at Pickerington's only high school. The Hanna's owned the former Chrysler-Plymouth dealership on West Columbus Street. Through coincidences, the families remained connected over the years. Barry Walton is Darl Walton's son and Dennis England is "Tuffy" England's grandson.

Handicap Accessibility for our Museum? The Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Board of Directors has been working with city and township officials on a plan to finance and install an enclosed Plexiglas wheelchair lift at the rear of our Museum to allow handicapped patrons to access the main level. Our non-profit Historical Society has submitted grant applications to the Fairfield County Foundation and the PNC Charitable Trust. It is estimated that the wheelchair lift project will cost approximately \$40,000.

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

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

A Few 2017 Historical Society Projects

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

Volunteer Extraordinaire!

Historical Society member, Greg Karoly, spent six summer and fall weekends traveling to Hanover, Michigan to learn how to repair our Museum's 1879 Taber Pump Organ.

He participated in workshops offered by the Conklin Reed Organ Museum where he helped restore a number of antique reed organs.



According to Greg, he learned by doing — which included repairing bellows, replacing valves, tuning, cleaning and basic case restorations.

When our Museum closes for its annual winter rejuvenation — January thru March — Greg plans to dismantle our Taber Pump Organ. His organ-repair-to-do list includes: (1) laying down lots of tarp; (2) labeling everything he removes; (3) putting all screws in a bag; (4) taking lots of photos; (5) buying needed parts and materials; (6) reassembling everything in the right places; and (7) finding out if the organ sounds as good as it did in 1879. Stay tuned for updates!

A 1930'S CHRISTMAS STORY

How the Columbus Zoo Acquired Pickerington Reindeer

As told to Gary Taylor by his friend, Kenny Patrick

In 1929, Arthur Johnson and H.P. Wolf went to Chicago to purchase some post-stock-market-crash “distressed” land to use for future development. Johnson was editor and Wolf was owner of *The Columbus Dispatch*.

While in Chicago they attended the city’s annual Christmas Parade. After seeing five reindeer in the parade, they purchased and shipped the reindeer by rail to Columbus and arranged for their care at Franklin Park. However, Franklin Park did not work out, so Johnson and Wolf had to find a new home for their five reindeer.

Johnson owned land at 11455 Refugee Road in Pickerington which was being farmed by Jim Patrick and his young son, Kenny. Jim Patrick agreed to take care of the reindeer and asked his friend, Stanley Nicodemus, to pick up the reindeer from Franklin Park with his truck. To their surprise, two Eskimos came with the reindeer to care for them.

The Eskimos stayed in one of the Patrick’s upstairs bedrooms. Only one of the Eskimos — Enick — could speak English. The Patricks never knew the name of the other Eskimo as he always stayed in the background. The summer heat proved to be too much for the Eskimos, so they returned to their home in Lapland each summer and returned to Ohio each fall.

The Patricks quickly learned that the reindeer could not survive eating hay. The walls of their stomachs were so thin that the hay would penetrate the walls; plus they could not digest the hay. The best food was a type of moss that grows around trees. They arranged to purchase this moss by rail carload and have it shipped to the Brice Railroad Station. Again, Stanley Nicodemus and his truck went to Brice to haul the moss to the Patrick farm.

Many people came to the Patrick farm to see the reindeer. On Sunday mornings, Jim Patrick would move his car to the end of his driveway so he was assured of being able to get out to go to church in Canal Winchester.

Kenny Patrick recalled, “On weekends lots of people came to watch the reindeer, who were very well behaved. The Eskimos would put two children up on them and let them walk freely around the farm. The reindeer were controlled with harnesses handmade of caribou leather held together by fish bones.”

The reindeer lived on the Patrick farm for a little over two years. They were then moved to property that was the very beginning of the Columbus Zoo. At that time, the only other thing in the Zoo area was a small building called the “monkey house”.

So, in reality, the Columbus Zoo actually began on Refugee Road in Pickerington!



7-year old Kenny Patrick and the two Eskimos who came with the reindeer.



Kenny Patrick and friends with one of the reindeer residing on the Patrick farm in the 1930s.

Both Gary Taylor and Kenny Patrick are Lifetime members of the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AT OUR MUSEUM

September 18 ~ Carnegie Library's 100th Birthday Party:

From left, Suellen Goldsberry, Carol Scheetz and Barbara Freeman were among the dozens of volunteers and benefactors who made our 100-year celebration possible. Andrew Carnegie (a/k/a Ralph Portier) and Pickerington Public Library's "Violet the Cow" entertained more than 200 guests. A few "Carnegie Library 1916-2016" commemorative programs are available at our Museum for pick up between 10-1pm on Saturdays or during upcoming events.



← **October 27 ~ Haunted Museum:** During Pickerington's annual "Haunted Village", nearly 1400 children and adults visited our Museum. Guests enjoyed getting tattoos, having their fortunes told and seeing two floors of one-of-a-kind local artifacts. Our thanks to volunteers from both Pickerington high schools for helping with this event!

December 2, 5:00-8:30 PM ~ Visit our Museum During Olde Pickerington Holiday Gathering:

Our Museum, downtown shops and restaurants will be open Friday evening, December 2, 5:00-8:30pm for the annual free, family-friendly Olde Pickerington Village Holiday Gathering. Children's activities will include crafts, games, cookie decorating, storytelling and visiting with Santa. Other holiday delights consist of downtown Christmas lights, luminaria lining the streets, strolling carolers, horse-drawn carriage rides, a circulating hop-on/hop-off trolley, an indoor Holiday Gift Market, Gingerbread House contest, lighting of the Food Pantry's Lights at 6pm and Pickerington's Christmas tree lighting ceremony by the Gazebo at 7pm.

NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Thank You, new Historical Society members: Pickerington area residents who recently joined our Historical Society include Nick and Amy Derksen, Chris and Mary Francia, Barbara E. Henry, Pauline (Polly) Limbach, Elaine Redmond, Bob and Barbara Rohr and Fran Yurick; also Clover Rogers of Canal Winchester and former Pickerington resident Nancy Fisher Groves, who now lives in Gilbert, AZ. Our Historical Society currently includes over 150 members. Invite your history-loving friends to join our lively group today! Membership forms are available at our Museum, monthly meetings or at www.PickHistory.org.

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



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