

# Pickerington-Violet Township



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*News for Members and Friends*

**HOLIDAY 2017**

Find us: 15 E. Columbus Street, Olde Pickerington Village ~ [www.PickHistory.org](http://www.PickHistory.org)

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

### *Historical Society Member Annual Meeting/Election & Christmas Potluck*

**Thursday, December 7, 6:30pm**

**Pickerington Senior Center, 150 Hereford Dr**

**Entertainment: Eric Solomon**

Local guitarist/singer, Eric Solomon, will entertain us during our Historical Society's Members-Only Annual Meeting/Election of Officers and Christmas Potluck. This event will take place Thursday, December 7, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Pickerington Senior Center located at 150 Hereford Drive.

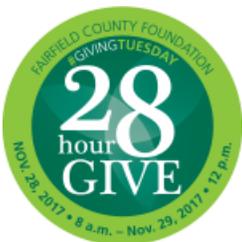
**Food:** Guests with last names beginning with A thru L, please bring a side dish or salad. Guests with last names M-Z please bring a dessert. The Historical Society will provide chicken, beverages, tableware, etc.

**Election:** During this meeting, members will be electing Historical Society officers for the next two years, 2018-2019. Candidates are: President - Peggy Portier; VP-Administration - Keith Ebright; VP-Education - Jack Whitaker; Secretary - Mary Herron; Treasurer - Fiona Spears; and 3 Members-at-Large: Barbara Freeman; Stephanie Johnson; and Greg Karoly.

Other members in good standing who wish to be a candidate for any of these elected officer positions should contact Nominating Committee Chair, Gary Taylor, at 614-837-2119.



**Registration is required for this event no later than Sunday, December 3 by:  
Email to [pickhistsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:pickhistsociety@hotmail.com); or leave a message at 614-382-5989.**



### **Fairfield County Foundation's "28-Hour Give" is November 28-29** *\$28,000 in Matching Gifts will be awarded*

If charitable giving is part of your year-end tradition, consider supporting the non-profit Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Fund through the 28-Hour Give.

The Fairfield County Foundation will award matching gifts to funds that receive online donations during the 28-hour window — 8:00am on November 28 to Noon November 29.

**You can make your on-line donation to the Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund as follows:**

- (1) Between 8:00am on Tues. (Nov. 28) and Noon on Wed. (Nov. 29) go to [www.fairfieldcountyfoundation.org](http://www.fairfieldcountyfoundation.org).
- (2) Click the green, secure **"DONATE NOW"** link on the Foundation's website home page; enter the amount you wish to give along with your credit/debit card information or PayPal account. Discover credit cards cannot be accepted.
- (3) Click the arrow at "select a designation" to scroll down the non-profit list to find and click on **Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund**. At completion of your donation, a receipt will be emailed to you.

**Need help? Bring your credit card to our Museum on Tuesday, November 28, between Noon—2:00 PM.  
We'll help you make your donation using our Museum's computer at 15 E. Columbus Street.**

## AROUND OUR MUSEUM

### 2016-2017 PICKERINGTON-VIOLET TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVES

#### Elected Officials:

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, 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 - 2018 Historical Society To-Do List:

Install Exterior Wheelchair Lift

Clean floors and carpeting (both levels)

Add Military Uniform and "Touch & Learn" clothing exhibits in Museum

Videotape residents' historic memories (with Pick Public Library)

Repair Museum's loom and offer demonstrations



### Olde Village Holiday Gathering Friday, Dec. 1, beginning at 5 PM

Plan to be in downtown Pickerington's historic village on Friday, December 1 to participate in holiday festivities during the annual Holiday Gathering.

Our Historical Society Museum will be open from 5:00 to 8:30pm for this event. Volunteers will be there to greet guests, distribute candy canes and read children's Christmas stories. **To volunteer, leave a message at 614-382-5989.**

Other Village activities — mostly FREE — include:

- Lighting the Festival of Lights at Pickerington Food Pantry (Borland Street)
- City of Pickerington Tree Lighting at the Gazebo (Center/Columbus Streets).
- Horse-drawn wagon rides; circulating hop-on/hop-off trolley.
- Children's activities: cookie decorating, crafts, prize wheel, face-painting, pet a live reindeer, visit with Santa (take your own photo for free or have one taken for a \$5.00 donation)
- Luminaries, strolling carolers, live Nativity, complimentary popcorn and hot chocolate.



**Candidates for the 2018-2019 Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Board of Directors' election include, left to right: Front row - Keith Ebright, Peggy Portier, and Mary Herron. Back row - Stephanie Johnson, Fiona Spears, Greg Karoly, Jack Whitaker, and Barbara Freeman. Additional nominations will be accepted until the group's Annual Meeting/Christmas Potluck on December 7 at 6:30 PM at the Pickerington Senior Center.**

### **Historical Museum to Close for the Season on December 15**

The last day to visit our Museum before its Winter closure is Saturday, December 15 from 10:00am to 1:00pm. The Museum reopens April 7, 2018.

Between January and March, volunteers are needed to help with new exhibits and projects:

- Expand and move our school exhibit from the main level to a larger space in the lower level.
- Add a special, temporary Military Exhibit.
- Vacuum, clean glass cases, dust, etc.

**To join the Winter Cleaning Party, email [pickhistsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:pickhistsociety@hotmail.com)**

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Memories of Violet Grange

*Ray Houser was elected Master of the new Violet Grange on October 5, 1914*

According to Leona McDaniel's *History of Violet Grange* written in 1964, "The people of this community began to feel the need of an organization to which men could take their families. So ... on October 5, 1914, a meeting was called ... to organize a Grange. It was announced in the school in order to spread the good news."

The Grange's first meeting was held in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows' hall on East Columbus Street above what was then Bill Moore's Market. This building no longer exists as it was purchased in later years by Garland Patrick and torn down.

This first meeting was attended by 35 area farm families. Membership peaked in the 1940s and 50s with approximately 250 members.

The group's initial purpose was to serve as a "friend of the farmer" but quickly evolved into being the social and charitable event coordinator of the community.

In 1932, a Junior Grange for children ages 5-14 was organized. They met in the basement of the Carnegie Library.

Over the years the Grange moved several times. First to 19 North Center Street above Harner's Store, which later housed Patrick & Exline Grocery and, now, Chef T's Pub.

During May 1933, a lot at 36 Lockville Road was purchased from Ray Fowler for \$300. Nearly 20 years later, ground was broken and the basement of the new Grange building was dug. It opened for Grange business February 22, 1954.

To pay for their new building, the Grangers organized many fundraising events. The largest was their annual November turkey dinners cooked in the former Township House, then carried to the Carnegie Library basement. Sometimes



*This circa 1964 painting by Nancy Brackbill hangs above the living room sofa in Oris and Doris Suver's farmhouse on Allen Road. The Suver Family Farm was featured in the Violet Grange display at the Fairfield County Fair that year. The Suvers are Honorary Members of our Historical Society as well as 70+ year members of Violet Grange #1949.*

300-400 plates were served — when Pickerington's population was only 433 according to the 1950 census!

In 2008, the remaining 28 Grange members voted to sell their property to Violet Township. Funds from the sale were generously given to the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society and four other area non-profit organizations.

The building was razed in 2015. A monument installed on the property currently is in storage. It will be placed in a designated grassy area when the property becomes parking space for the new Fire Station #591, anticipated to open across the street in January, 2018.

In the meantime, Violet Grange members continue to be involved in community projects such as the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony with Boy Scout Troop #256, legislative activities of the State Grange, annual State Grange baking contests, and more.

New members are welcome to join the Violet Grange for their meetings at 2:00 PM the second and fourth Mondays of the month at the Violet Township Offices, 12970 Rustic Drive in Pickerington.

*Our thanks to John and Janet Price who contributed to this article.*



## Historical Society Member News

**New Members:** Help welcome new Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society members who recently joined our group: Melody Lecuru (Pickerington); Jeannie and Bob Mauger (Pickerington); and Lifetime members Peggy Winter and Theresa Guay (Canal Winchester).

### Thank you to the following who made recent donations to our Historical Society:

- Barbara Freeman (Pickerington) donated a 28x5 inch "CODY-ZIEGLER, INC. *upstairs*" sign. Cody Ziegler owned the building at 18 W. Columbus Street in 1980. Later, the building was purchased by Barbara Freeman who operated B J's Bouquets.
- Teresa Combs (Urbana, OH) donated an 1881-1888 account book from the S.J. Kuqua druggist and apothecary in Pickerington. It lists customers' names, purchases, and prices paid.
- Mauger's Mini-Donuts donated a portion of their Pickerington Farmers' Market donut sales plus tips during the last outdoor market of the season on September 28. An indoor market now is being held Thursdays, 4-7 PM in the handicap-accessible upstairs of The Creamery building, 80 W. Church Street.
- Recent monetary donations to our Historical Society were received from David Hague, Steven Shellabarger (in honor of Gary Taylor's birthday), Pickerington Mayor Lee Gray, and Nationwide United Way monthly donors (Rusty Spears, Leslii Gilligan, and Douglas Hall).
- Thanks to all who donated to our Historical Society fund during Columbus Foundation's October "Big Give". If you missed that event and wish to make a contribution to the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Fund, Fairfield County Foundation's "28-Hour Give" will be held Nov. 28-29 (*see details on page 1 of this newsletter*).

## Volunteers Needed for Historical Society Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble

Can you donate 2 hours to help wrap gifts/accept donations to our non-profit Historical Society at Barnes & Noble on the following dates?

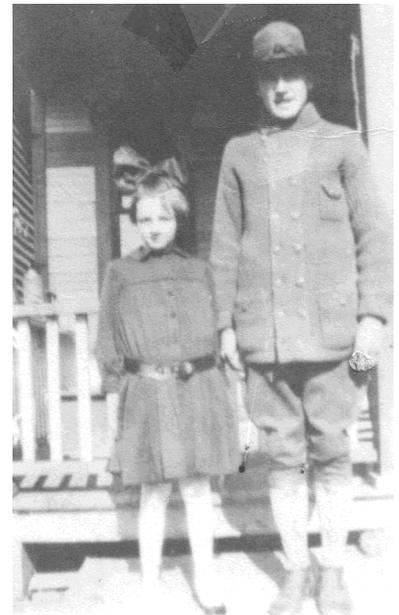
- **Thursday, Dec. 14, between 10 AM and 8 PM**
- **Sunday, Dec. 17, between Noon and 8 PM**

Paper, tape, scissors, and counter space by the cash register to wrap purchases is being provided by Barnes & Noble. Museum volunteers will wrap the gifts and collect donations to our Historical Society.

Invite a friend to join you for 2 hours on December 14 and/or 17. Sign up at [www.PickHistory.org](http://www.PickHistory.org) by clicking "Volunteer Sign Up" on the home page or phone Peggy Portier at 614-382-5989.

## 2018 Military Special Exhibit

Do you have any military memorabilia — especially WWI items — that you could loan to our Historical Museum for a special exhibit which will open April 1? All items will be secure. It is anticipated the exhibit will be displayed in our Museum for approximately 6 months. To donate or ask questions about possible items to loan, phone Peggy Portier at 614-595-5867 or Mary Herron at 614-519-9824.



↑ *Photo of Pickerington WWI soldier, Henry Hanna, when he left to serve during WWI in 1917. Do you have WWI or other military memorabilia to loan for our Museum's Military exhibit?*

*Check out our new website: [PickHistory.org](http://PickHistory.org)*

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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