



Pickerington-Violet Township HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News for Members and Friends

HOLIDAY, 2018

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

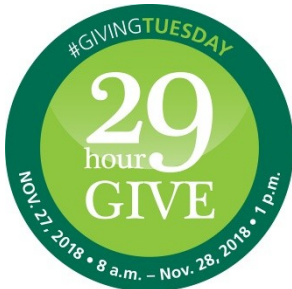
Call us: 614-382-5989 ~ Email us: pickhistsociety@hotmail.com ~ We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Historical Society Members-Only Annual Meeting & Christmas Potluck Thursday, December 6 – 6:30pm Pickerington Senior Center, 150 Hereford Drive

Kim Richardson, a hammered dulcimer player from Reynoldsburg, will entertain us during our Historical Society's Members-Only Annual Meeting and Christmas Potluck. This event will take place Thursday, December 6, beginning at 6:30 PM at the Pickerington Senior Center, 150 Hereford Drive.

Food: Guests with last names beginning with A-L, please bring a dessert. Guests with last names M-Z, please bring a salad or other side dish. The Historical Society will provide KFC grilled and Cane's boneless chicken, beverages, tableware, etc.

Registration is required for this event no later than Sunday, December 2 by email to: Pickhistsociety@hotmail.com; or leave a message at 614-382-5989.



Join the "29-Hour Give" on November 27-28 Fairfield County Foundation awarding \$29,000 Matching Gifts

The Fairfield County Foundation again will be awarding matching gifts to non-profit organizations whose members/friends make donations during this 29-hour window:

8:00am on November 27 until 1:00pm on November 28.

TO MAKE AN ON-LINE DONATION to the Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical

Society Fund: Go to www.fairfieldcountyfoundation.org between Tues, Nov. 27, 8:00am and Wed, Nov. 28, 1:00pm. Click the secure **DONATE** tab on the Foundation's website home page. Enter the amount you wish to give along with your credit/debit card information or PayPal account. Sorry, Discover Credit Cards cannot be accepted. At "select a designation", scroll down the lengthy alphabetical 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.

TO DONATE BY CHECK: Checks must be dated Nov. 27, made payable to the Fairfield County Foundation, with "Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society Fund" written in the check's memo line.

We must receive your check on or before Nov. 27 for your check to be part of the 29-Hour Give.

1. **You may deliver your check** in person to the Fairfield County Foundation, 162 E Main St, Lancaster OH 43130, during the hours of the "29-Hour Give". Fairfield County Foundation phone is 740-654-8451.
2. **You may mail your check** to the Pickerington-Violet Twp Historical Society, PO Box 732, Pickerington OH 43147.
3. **You may bring your check** to the Historical Museum Sat. Nov. 17 or Nov. 24 between 10am—1pm.
4. **We'll pick up your check** from your Violet Township home. Phone Peggy Portier (Cell—614-595-5867) to schedule a check pick-up time ... or if you have any questions about donating.

AROUND OUR MUSEUM

2018-2019 PICKERINGTON-VIOLET TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVES

Elected Officers

President: Peggy Portier
Advisor (Past President): Gary Taylor
Vice President-Administration: Keith Ebright
Vice President-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/Volunteer Coordinator: Stephanie Johnson
Publicity Chair/Newsletter Editor: Maggie Arendt

Open Appointed Positions: Historian, Curator

2019-2020 Historical Society Planned Projects

Replace Museum's Lower Level deteriorated outside door
Clean Museum Carpets and Tile (upstairs and downstairs)
Purchase equipment & interview residents for Oral History Video Program with Pickerington Public Library
Digitize class photos and purchase photo display rack



Holiday Gathering at Museum

Our Museum will be open during the annual "Holiday Gathering" to take place Friday, December 7, from 5:00-8:00pm in historic downtown Pickerington.

A variety of family-oriented games, entertainment, a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, and other activities will be offered in businesses and on the streets.

In the Historical Museum, volunteers will read children's stories and help visitors — young and old — explore "Touch and Learn" and other exhibits located on the main level.

In the lower level, a special display of Keith and Dottie Ebright's Department 56 "North Pole Village" can be enjoyed. The Village will consist of approximately 50 buildings in their collection plus scenery.

Both levels of the Museum are handicap accessible.



Honoring our Community's Military Special Historical Museum Exhibit thru December 15

93-year young Historical Society member, Dorothy ("Pete") Peterson, is seen here with her World War II Cadet Nurse Corps uniform that she wore from 1943-1946. Dorothy was a graduate of Loyola University School of Nursing in Chicago.

Her uniform is part of the "Honoring our Community's Military" exhibit at our Historical Museum during Saturday 10am—1pm Open Houses through Dec. 15.

The exhibit also features Dale Stemen's WWII Purple Heart along with his younger brother's, Lloyd Stemen, Navy dress uniform he wore during the Korean War. Other uniforms in the exhibit were worn by WWII veteran Lt. Col. Melvin Koch (Pickerington resident Bob Koch's father) and 1961 Pickerington H.S. graduate Dennis Ebright who served in the U.S. Air Force.

Exhibit visitors also will be able to read some of the 250 WWII love letters Pickerington's Bill Hanna wrote to his wife, Betty, from 1942-1946.

AROUND OUR MUSEUM

Welcome New Members

Ralph Portier (right) welcomes new Historical Society Lifetime Couple members, Lori and John Eisel, shown here with son, Jake. They joined our Society during "Afternoon at the Museum".

Two additional new Pickerington members are the Mary Cichon family and Joyce Steinbrink, an "Individual" member who wants to help with Historical Society special events!

Looking for a holiday gift that will last throughout 2019? How about giving the gift of a membership in the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society? An "Individual" membership is only \$10, while a "Family" membership is just \$15.

Members-only benefits include free events/programs such as our Summer Picnic, Christmas Potluck, quarterly newsletters, and advance notice of historical programs and events in the metro area.



Thank you Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society members and friends for helping make history for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Following are some photos of recent Historical Society-sponsored events and programs supported by you, our members:



← Re-enactor volunteers who performed at "Afternoon at the Museum" on September 16 were (from left): Ralph Portier, Gary Taylor, Kevin Wetherell, Miriah Gabel, Deb Boerema, and John Cooper.

↓ (Below, right) An enthusiastic crowd attended local historian, Bruce Jarvis', visual presentation and readings from his World War 1 book at the Pickerington Public Library on November 1.

↓ (Below, left) Several dozen Society members and guests attended Gary Taylor's *Pickerington Area History* visual presentation on October 4 at our Historical Society Museum.



A list of more fantastic 2019 Historical Society programs will be announced in our March 2019 newsletter.

LOCAL HISTORY

The Black Telephone

Contributed by Historical Society Member Roger Burnard

When this story arrived from a friend, it immediately brought back memories, so I thought I'd pass it on to others who are old enough to remember when the phone was wired to the wall, usually in the kitchen.

I was born in 1934 in Pickerington. In the 1930s and 40s my mother, Inez Burnard, was chief operator of the branch office of Ohio Bell. The office was located in a large room above the grocery store, and when mother had night duty I often went with her to the office. We both had a cot there on which to rest between calls. When one came in, Mother would get up and in her sweet voice answer the call with "Number Please".

— Roger Burnard

The Black Telephone

When I was a young boy, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer. The pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy. I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear.

"Information please," I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A small clear voice spoke into my ear: "Information."

"I hurt my finger." I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience.

"Isn't your mother home?" came the question.

"Nobody's home but me," I blubbered.

"Are you bleeding?" the voice asked.

"No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts."



↑ Inez Burnard sitting at the switchboard at Ohio Bell. The photo was taken by one of my grandfathers, Harold Tenney. Grandpa Tenney took a lot of family photos.

"Can you open the icebox?" she asked. I said I could.

"Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk, that I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called "Information Please" and told her the sad story. She listened and said things grown-ups say to soothe a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?"

She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "Wayne, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in."

Somehow I felt better. Another day I was on the telephone to "Information Please."

(Cont'd on next page)

LOCAL HISTORY

The Black Telephone

(cont'd from page 4)

"Information," said the now familiar voice.

"How do I spell fix?" I asked.

All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much.

"Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home, and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information Please."

Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well: "Information."

I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "Could you please tell me how to spell fix?"

There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now."

I laughed, "So it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?"

"I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls."

I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister.

"Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered, "Information." I asked for Sally.

"Are you a friend?" she said.

"Yes, a very old friend," I answered.

"I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part-time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago."

Before I could hang up, she said, "Wait a minute, did you say your name was Wayne?"

"Yes." I answered.

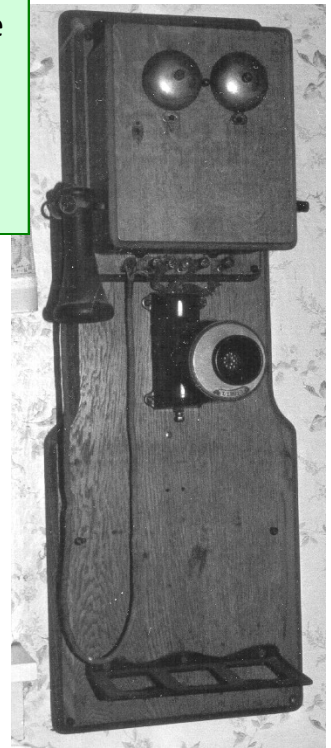
"Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you."

The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean."

I thanked her and hung up. I knew what Sally meant.

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today? Life is a journey ... NOT a guided tour. Life is short; drink the good wine first.

→ Old Woodpecker Line telephone active in the Pickerington community circa 1900. It was installed by Jacob Pickering in his home at 9155 Blacklick Eastern Road.



MEMBER NEWS

Thank You Donors!

We are grateful for recent donations to our Historical Society from many members and friends, including:

- \$318 donated at Mauger's Donut Truck during three August-September Pickerington Farmers' Markets.
- \$115 to Museum Donation Jar during "Afternoon at the Museum" and Saturday Open Houses.
- Gently used VCR from Pam Good.

Ricketts' Mother & Daughter Receive Athena Awards



Historical Society member, Cheryl Ricketts (right), was chosen by the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce as the community's 2018 Athena Award Winner.

This honor is given annually, in concert

with the non-profit Athena International Organization, to support, develop, and honor women leaders.

Cheryl's mother, Rita Ricketts — a Founding Member of our Historical Society and former Pickerington Mayor — received the Athena Award in 2014.

Other Historical Society members who received this award in past years are Barbara Freeman (2001), Marian Reitano (2002), and Suellen Goldsberry (2013).

Best wishes for the happiest of holidays along with a healthful and prosperous 2019!

**— Pickerington-Violet Township
Historical Society Board of Directors**

Can You Help?

Our all-volunteer Historical Society only exists because of its dedicated volunteers. During the next 5 weeks, there are many activities for which we need help. Please consider signing up for one or more:

Nov-Dec Saturday Museum Hosting, 10am-1pm: Most dates between now and our Museum closing date of December 15 are available. Sign up for a fun learning experience with a "seasoned" Museum volunteer!

Friday, Nov. 23: Gift Wrapping for Donations at Barnes-Noble Pickerington; 2-man or woman team for each 2-hour timeslot, available from 9am-7pm.

Saturday, Dec. 15: Gift Wrapping for Donations at Barnes-Noble Pickerington; 2-man or woman team for each 2-hour timeslot, available from 11am-7pm.

Sign-up at www.pickhistory.org by clicking on "Volunteer Sign Up" on homepage. Or phone our Society's Volunteer Coordinator, Stephanie Johnson, at 614-657-6037 to volunteer or ask questions.

Pickerington Garden Club Invitation to Dec. 9 Open House

Bev Zurhorst, a member of our Historical Society and President of the Pickerington Garden Club, invites fellow members to ***A Historical Christmas in Pickerington-Violet Township*** featuring 18 Christmas Trees decorated by Garden Clubs throughout Ohio. Pickerington's Tree features Pickerington-Violet Township holiday ornaments and postcards Bev purchased from our Museum during our spring "Treasure Sale". Open House location and details are:

**Deer Creek State Park Lodge & Conference Center
22300 State Park Road 20, Mt. Sterling OH 43143
Phone: 740-869-2020
Sunday, December 9, from 11am—3pm
*Free Admission***

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