



# Pickerington-Violet Township HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**News for Members and Friends**

**SPRING 2020**

**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

## Museum 2020 Opening Delayed by Coronavirus

### *2020 Historical Society Events*

*Because of "social distancing" restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic, all Historical Society April and May events have been canceled. We will notify members in late May whether or not the following Historical Society activities will take place. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.*

**June 13**, 10am-1pm: Historical Museum 2020 opening, if coronavirus crisis is over.

**June 14**, 1-3pm: Historical Society Members-Only Summer Picnic at Smeck Farm & tour of new facilities.

**July 4**, 9-Noon: Historical Museum open during 4th of July Parade in downtown Pickerington.

**July 14**, 10am-1pm: Historical Museum open.

**August 8**, 10am-1pm: Historical Museum open.

**Sept 7**, 9:30-Noon: Historical Museum open during Labor Day Parade in downtown Pickerington.

**Sept 12**, 10am-1pm: Historical Museum open.

**Sept 13**, 2-4pm: "Afternoon at the Museum".

**Sept 19**, Noon-10pm: Oktoberfest fundraiser at Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church Street.

**Oct 10**, 10-1pm: Historical Museum open.

**Oct 28**, 6-8pm: Haunted Museum / Haunted Village.

**Nov 14**, 10-1pm: Historical Museum open.

**Dec 3**, 6:30-8:30pm: Historical Society Members-Only Christmas Potluck/entertainment at Senior Center.

**Dec 4**, 5-8pm: Holiday Gathering in Olde Pickerington Village.

Historical Society Board members and volunteers have been working during our Museum's winter closure on new things for visitors to experience when the Museum opens in 2020:

**Journey Through Olde Pickerington** is a new exhibit focusing on our early pioneers. The exhibit highlights Pickerington's history from its 1815 founding through incorporation as a city in 1991. Vintage items in this exhibit include:

- Circa 1883 doll belonging to Emma Bish.
- 1880 hand-held corn huskers made by Jacob Houser.
- Spikes used during 1870's Pickerington railroad construction.
- 1869 issue of *Harper's Bazar*.
- 1800's town pump, kerosene street lamp, and more.



**A Reconstructed Circa 1860 Melodeon Organ:** Historical Society members, Greg Karoly (right), Ken Planisek (left), and Rose Karoly (not pictured), have worked many hours to reconstruct our Museum's Melodeon Organ. They cleaned all of the organ's parts, replaced bellows, purchased missing pedals on Ebay, polished the ivory keys,

and cleaned and polished the organ's wooden exterior.

This Kinnard, Dreher & Co. Melodeon Organ was made in Cleveland, Ohio and once belonged to Olde Pickerington Village resident and postmistress, Cleo Mason Richter.



## AROUND OUR MUSEUM

### Thank you for your support of Local History!

We continue to be amazed with the generosity of our Historical Society donors, supporters, and volunteers. Nearly \$3,000 in donations were received through Fairfield County Foundation's 30-Hour Give in December 2019 plus members' year-end/holiday donations made directly to our Historical Society.

These donations will allow our Historical Society to begin the huge undertaking of digitizing our collection of framed 1909-1981 Pickerington High School graduation photos along with purchasing a panel display rack for the photos.

In addition, restoration of Cleo Richter's melodeon organ has been completed; and we hope to begin work — in union with the Pickerington Public Library — of producing oral history videos featuring older residents' stories.

A very sincere thank you to the following monetary donors:

Maggie Arendt	David Kose
Gene/Johnita Baumgardner	Peggy Kose
Lynn/Carolyn Boetcher	Kristen LaMacchia
Daveda Bundy	Melody Lecuru
Roger Burnard	Douglas/Betty Merle
Victor Christopher	Tom & Carla Moore
Mr/Mrs William Corban	Diana Paxton
Rosemary Crum	Dan Phillips
Ed/Tammy Drobina	Peggy Portier
Terry Dunlap	Cheryl Ricketts
FCF-Zimpfer Memorial Fund	Clover Rogers/Laurie Crago
Barbara Freeman	Kevin Snyder
Matthew Glanzman	Rusty/Fiona Spears
Suellen Goldsberry	Cynthia Symansic
Pamela Good	Gary/Barbara Taylor
Theresa Guay	Susan Kraner Trumble
Carolyn Ashton Hill	Ira Weiss
Dorothy Kavanaugh	Jack/Bev Whitaker
	Charles/Bev Zurhorst



### Special Museum Tours Offered

Brothers Don, Ron, and Bob Sims (L to R in photo above), from the Lancaster area, recently made an appointment to tour our Museum.

During the 1940s and early 1950s, they lived on the former Ziegler Farm (site of the "Tabernacle") east of town on Pickerington Road. Their parents were Boyvin and Nellie Marie Sims.

The trio enjoyed seeing photos and artifacts from Olde Pickerington Village as well as identifying their relatives and former grade school classmates among our Museum's collection of 1909-1981 high school graduation photos.

If you would like to schedule your special family or group tour of our Historical Museum once it re-opens for 2020, contact us by email or phone to arrange an appointment.

### Coming Up: Historical Society Yard Sale Fundraiser

Our Historical Society plans to host a Yard Sale Fundraiser at the Museum after the coronavirus crisis ends. It will be held on the Museum's front lawn (weather permitting) or in the Lower Level.

We'll let you know when a date is selected. In the meantime, gather those items you would like to donate! We'll offer pickup of your donations from your Pickerington-Violet Township home or for your delivery to our Museum on a agreed-upon date and time.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### 1878 Pickerington Wedding Fashions



On November 27, 1878, Frank Dovel and Jennie Mae Smith were married. The bride wore the hand-made silk and velvet burgundy wedding gown shown here which currently is on display in our Historical Museum. The dress was donated to our Historical Society by Ann Boyer Melzer.

The photo at left is of the red-haired, 21-year old groom which appears on the couple's "Marriage Certificate" — also on display at our Museum and donated by Barbara Freeman after purchase at auction.

Although various shades of white wedding dresses were gaining momentum by the late 1800s, most brides chose a more practical style — such as Jennie Mae's dress — that was suitable for wear as a "best dress" long after the wedding itself. At the time of the Dovel wedding, bride gowns came in a variety of colors and styles, with purchase often dictated by finances, availability of materials, and location.

After their marriage, Frank and Jennie Mae spent their entire lives at 50 Hill Road South in a brick home that currently serves as the law office of Dovel descendant Richard T. Ricketts. The home, built on 160 acres, was a wedding gift from Frank's parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Dovel. Frank and Jennie Mae had four children: Daisy, Boynton, Rose, and May Dovel. Jennie passed away in 1932, while Frank died in 1936.

*Be sure to see Jennie Mae Dovel's wedding gown, the couple's marriage certificate, baby carriage, Dovel family photos, and more on your summer visit to our Historical Museum.*

### Harper's Bazar America's first fashion magazine

Do you know our Historical Society Museum has a collection of vintage *Harper's Bazar* magazines dating from 1868 to 1884?

"A repository of fashion, pleasure and instruction" is how *Harper's Bazar* (spelled without the double "a" until 1920) described itself on the cover of its first issue on November 2, 1867. The editorial stated that the journal's mission is to be "a vast repository for all the rare and costly things of earth — silks, velvets, cashmeres, spices, perfumes, and glittering gems."

If you are interested in owning (or gifting to a friend) a piece of fashion history, our *Harper's Bazar* magazines will be available for sale for \$5.00 each — while they last — when our Museum opens for the season.

Each issue includes several pages of fashion as well as poems, short stories and — sometimes — a vintage dress pattern.

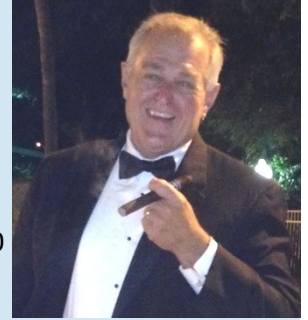


## Member News

**New Pickerington Members:** Mike and Susie Raynard and Richard Villec. We're looking forward to seeing you!

**New Lifetime Members:** Thanks and congratulations to new Historical Society "Lifetime" members: Roger L. Miller from Clyde, Ohio; and Anna Rathburn from Canal Winchester. Also, current member, Terry Walburn, elected to upgrade his membership to "Lifetime" this year. A "Lifetime" membership is available to a current or new member who pays a one-time fee of \$150 — or \$250 for a couple.

**David Williard Appointed Historian:** Historical Society President Peggy Portier announced the appointment of David Williard as our Society's new Historian. He is a life-long resident of Pickerington and graduate of Pickerington High School Central. As Historian, David is responsible for researching Pickerington-Violet Township historical data for our Society and making sure our programs and publications are historically accurate.



David Williard

**Are You Eligible for "Honorary" Membership this year?** Any member who reaches age 90 during 2020 is eligible to become an "Honorary" member and no longer pays annual membership dues. Let us know if you are 90 years young and eligible for FREE membership in our organization!

### 2020-2021 PICKERINGTON-VIOLET TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### 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

Historian: David Williard  
Librarian: Suellen Goldsberry  
Membership/Volunteer Chair: Stephanie Johnson  
Publicity Chair/Newsletter Editor: Maggie Arendt

#### Open Appointed Position: Curator

#### 2020 Historical Society Projects

Begin digitizing Pickerington High School class photos and purchasing a display rack for them  
Creating children's "Try It On" vintage clothing exhibit  
Purchasing Video Equipment for Oral History Program with Pickerington Public Library

## Happenings 100 Years Ago: 1920

- The 19th amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote.
- Agatha Christie introduced Hercule Poirot in her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*.
- Band-aids were invented.
- Insulin was discovered.
- ACLU was founded.
- Baby Ruth candy was born.
- First 3-color traffic lights were introduced in Detroit.
- Prohibition of liquor (18th amendment) began. It was repealed in 1933.
- First hand-held hair dryer went on sale.
- The American Professional Football Association — a precursor of the NFL — was formed in Canton, Ohio.
- Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant to the U.S., came up with the first "Ponzi" sales scheme.
- Mickey Rooney, David Brinkley, Dave Brubeck, and Stan Musial were born.
- First domestic radio sets came to stores in the U.S. — a Westinghouse radio cost \$10.
- Republican U.S. Senator Warren G. Harding defeated Democratic Governor of Ohio James M. Cox in the U.S. presidential election.

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