



# Pickerington-Violet Township HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**News for Members and Friends**

**SUMMER 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

## 2020 Historical Society Events

*Since it looks like social distancing, wearing face masks, and testing for Covid-19 are here to stay for a while, the Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society Board of Directors decided to cancel or postpone its planned summer events. Our Museum will remain closed June through August. Decisions will be made later this summer regarding holding any Historical Society fall and winter events.*

*We thank you for your understanding and continued support. We hope to see you when interaction becomes safe again for our members, volunteers, and visitors.*

*In the meantime, our thoughts are with you and your families. Stay safe.*

*— Peggy Portier, President  
Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society*

## Pandemics Then (1918) and Now (2020)

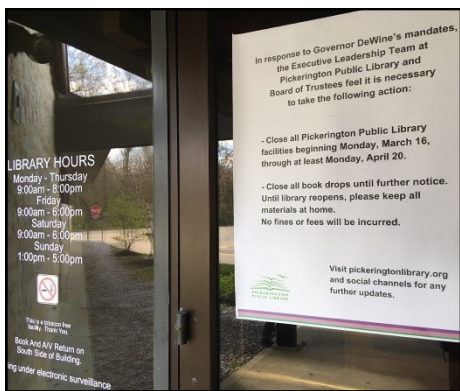
Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society member and Kraner family descendent, Susan Trumbull, recently inquired about the 1918 worldwide flu pandemic's impact on our community. Unfortunately, our research unearthed very little information!

Local historian, Ed Lentz, revealed that the 1918 influenza pandemic, claiming 200,000 American lives, emerged in Central Ohio during Sept. 1918 shortly before the end of WWI. It continued into the spring of 1919.

The only photo and mention we found of the 1918 flu appeared in *Violet Township Through 200 Years: 1808-2008*. In this book, Terry Dunlap relates the story of his family member, Roy Walton (seen at right), who was the first man from Pickerington to enlist for service in WWI. Along with many other soldiers, Walton died in camp of influenza during 1918.



To enable those who might wish to research local history 100 years from now, our Historical Society is creating a digital collection of photographs depicting the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Pickerington-Violet Township. You — our members and readers — can help by emailing your Covid-19 related digital photos to us. A few photos recently taken are shown below: (1) A closed Pickerington Public Library; (2) Kohl's Department Store offering merchandise pickup orders outdoors only; (3) Cane's open for drive-thru chicken pickups only; (4) Schools closed in the State of Ohio "until further notice". ***We look forward to receiving your coronavirus-related photos at [pickhistsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:pickhistsociety@hotmail.com)***



## LOCAL HISTORY 100 YEARS AGO



### 1920 Chautauqua Festival

“Chautauqua”, first held in New York, became an adult education and social movement in the United States highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Pickerington's first Chautauqua summer event was held circa 1913 as a three-to-five day afternoon and evening program. It consisted of lectures, humorists, soloists, and small musical groups. The event was held in a large tent in

the area off Lockville Road now occupied by Victory Park. Later, the gathering was moved to school grounds.

The back of the above-pictured 1920 “Chautauqua Festival” ticket\* revealed the program for August 10 consisted of the Colonial Maids (Merrie Musical American Maidens) and Charles C. Keith (Young America’s Friend). August 11 featured Tropolitan Male Trio (Vocal and Novelty Music) and Margaret Allen Hall (First Aid to the Family Purse). The August 12 line-up included the Brownell Concert Company (Clever, Versatile Musicians) and Samuel Cranston Benson (Forceful and Dramatic Orator). Ticket price was \$1.25 plus War Tax of 13 cents.

According to John Ricketts in *Violet Township Through 200 Years: 1808-2008*: “Since Pickerington was an agricultural community, it was somewhat difficult to generate enough interest in the mid-summer Chautauqua Festival to make it successful. However, the Chautauqua programs continued until 1922.”

\*Chautauqua Festival historical photo found at [photohio.org/columbus-citizen-journal](http://photohio.org/columbus-citizen-journal).

### Can you identify these Pickerington-Violet Township residents?



↑(a)



↑(b)



↑(c)



← (d)



↑(e)

↑(f)



↑(g)

These photos were taken between 1971 and 1993. Identities can be found on page 4.



## LOCAL HISTORY 100 YEARS AGO

### Pickerington Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)



These Pickerington-Violet Township women at a circa 1905 gathering of the local WCTU played an important role in cultural revolutions taking place in the early 20th century, including the adoption of the 18th (Prohibition of alcohol) and 19th (Women's right to vote) Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Movements favoring temperance sprang up during the 1800s inasmuch as frontier Ohioans drank legendary quantities of alcohol. Ohio history records indicate that, on average, Ohioans drank more than a few quarts of alcohol per week.

Corn, distilleries, and its whiskey by-product were plentiful in Central Ohio throughout the 19th century. When these ingredients were combined with the construction of a railroad and the influx of laborers into Pickerington during the 1870s, the result was the opening of half a dozen saloons in Pickerington.

Drinking establishments included the Valley House Hotel & Tavern (where the Gazebo currently is located at Center/Columbus streets in downtown Pickerington), Max Guggenheim's saloon in the American Hotel near Pickerington's Railroad Depot (hotel no longer standing) plus saloons in buildings later occupied by Fenstermaker's Pool Hall (site of Sheriff's Substation today) and Shoemaker Hardware (now Doggie Day Spa).

Women from many prominent Pickerington-Violet Township families were members of the local WCTU and its counterpart, the Ladies Aid Society. Check out the names of the women in the above WCTU group photo. You'll recognize many of them:

Pickerington WCTU members, Seated (left to right): Jennie Stemen, Catherine Fishbaugh, Sarah Shoemaker, Catherine Miller, Jessie Ricketts, Lindora Taylor, Mary Bish. Middle Row: C.J. Brill, Mary Beals, Jemima Taylor, Edna Curtis, Julie Stoner, Martha Moore, Mary Harmon, Rebecca Alexander, Saphronia Clippinger. Back row: Mary Harris, Lizzie Kraner, Nettie Handshey, Ella Arthur, Abigail Sharpe, Caroline Schultz, Catherine Robinson, and Emma Courtright.

## Member News:

**Doris Suver**, 94 year-old Historical Society member, passed away at her Allen Road farm/home in Violet Township on May 6. Our thoughts and sympathies go to her daughter/Society member, Peggy Tipton-Bailey, also of Violet Township.



**Summer area event closures/cancellations** (as of May 23): our Historical Society Museum; Annual Pickerington Schools Alumni Association Banquet; PYAA summer sports; Lancaster Festival; Columbus Arts Festival; "Red, White and Boom"; Ohio State Fair; Pelotonia group ride.

**Pickerington summer events currently still scheduled** (as of May 23): Outdoor Farmers Market on Town Square Drive (Thursdays 4-7pm, June 4-Sept 24); Parks & Recreation Friday Night Flicks in Sycamore Park (June 12-July 31); Summer Concert Series in Sycamore Park (June 14-Aug 9); Pickerington July 4th Celebration (July 3-4); Picktown Palooza (July 9-11).

### 2020-2021 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

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 the Pickerington Public Library

**Quote of the Month: "Glad I didn't waste my money buying a planner for 2020."**

### You must be a "Baby Boomer" if you still:

- Write checks, letters, or postcards.
- Use an answering machine, telephone book, dictionary, or encyclopedia.
- Listen to or watch 78 or 45-RPM records, 8-track tapes, CDs, or DVDs.
- Go inside a bank to get cash.
- Drive a wood-paneled station wagon, Edsel, or 1958 Chevy.
- Wear patterned vests, blouses, bell bottom-pants, tucked-in tops with belts .
- Read newspapers, magazines, or Danielle Steel.
- Work 9-5 at an office.
- Buy Amway, Avon, Watkins, or anything from catalogs.
- Decorate with wallpaper, display your china, knickknacks.
- Eat TV dinners, white bread, margarine, Spam, and at all-you-can-eat buffets.
- Remember the first season of *Saturday Night Live*, the Marlboro Man, pay phones, Five-and-Dime stores, Silly Putty, and when television stations signed off for the night.

### ID Pick-Violet People (photos from page 2)

- A: Daveda Bundy and Gary Weaver (1987)
- B: Fire Chiefs Charles Badger, Kenn Taylor, and "Doc" Knowlton (1986)
- C: Joan and Don Heft (1982)
- D: Dr. & Mrs. K.W. Taylor (1993)
- E: Gary Taylor (1971)
- F: Suellen Goldsberry (1993)
- G: John and Rita Ricketts (1993)

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