

GREEN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization)



Heritage News

March 2026

Volume 39 No. 2



Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary in 2026.

March 17 – Green Township Police Story



A remarkable surprise recently arrived at the Green Township Historical Association — a package containing several hundred color slides taken by Arthur Pfaff, Green Township's first Police Chief. Some of these images capture the earliest days of our Police Department in the early 1970s and preserve an important chapter of our community's history.

At our March 17, 2026 meeting, local historian and our Vice-President, Joe Flickinger, will trace the fascinating evolution of law

enforcement in Green Township — from the early Anti-Thieving Association, to the era of the township constable, and ultimately to the establishment of a full police department by the mid-1970s. As part of our America 250th Speaker Series, this program promises to show off our digitized photos of the earliest days of the police department. Joe will also have copies of his four books on local history available for purchase.

Join us and be sure to bring a friend (or three!) as we celebrate and preserve Green Township's rich heritage together."

Annual Meeting – We will also have our brief Annual Meeting in March, reviewing our 2025 activities and the 2025 financial report. According to our bylaws, members will also vote to retain existing officers and trustees if they so desire.

Time: 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Place: Nathanael Greene Lodge (6394 Wesselman Rd.)

From Our January Meeting –



Extremely cold and snowy weather caused the cancellation of our January meeting. The program – *Some Famous and Infamous Green Township Characters from the Past* – is scheduled for our September 2026 meeting.

2026 MEETING DATES

March 17 (Green Township Police Story)
May 19 (Magical History Tour – Peter Bronson)
July 21 (Picnic)
September 15 (Famous and Infamous Green Twp Characters)
November 17 (Ohio Aviators and Astronauts – Jim Delaney)

Coming in May 2026, Peter Bronson will feature his new book, *Magical History Tour*.

Weather Alert!

If the weather is bad the day of the meeting, **don't risk an accident or a fall by coming to the meeting. Please be safe.**

We will cancel the meeting by 2 PM on the day of the meeting. You can check by –

- Check our Historical Association Website or Facebook page after 2 pm.
- Contact me (Paul Ruffing) at 513-574-9909 after 2 PM.
- Contact the Lodge at 513-598-3100 after 2 PM.

2026 Dues Renewal



Thanks to the many members who have already paid their 2026 dues. Dues are \$15 for the calendar year. Simply send your dues to the address on the enclosed DUES RENEWAL FORM or pay them at the March meeting. There is no dues form for those who have already paid for 2026. For those receiving an email newsletter, a separate electronic DUES RENEWAL FORM is included with the email newsletter.

Museum Update

By Joe Flickinger



We continue to make progress establishing our new Museum. We're actively pursuing funding from several private foundations.

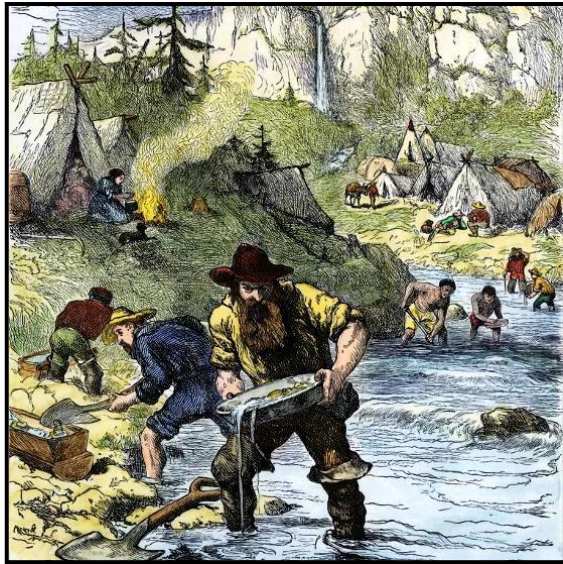
We're grateful to those who have contributed, and welcome additional donations. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all contributions are tax-deductible.

Going for the GOLD !



No, this article does not refer to the recent Winter Olympics in Milano, Italy where athletes competed to win an Olympic Gold Medal.

The California Gold Rush

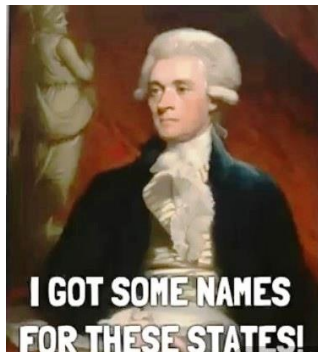


In the late 1840s and 1850s, news of the discovery of gold in California brought around 300,000 people from the rest of the United States to California to make a fortune by finding **gold**. Gold fever lured some of Green Township's pioneer families to California as well. The Fithian family (early Bridgetown settlers) was one such family. While the Fithians had some success finding gold, most was later lost in mining speculation. Richard Sexton of Dent also caught gold fever. In 1852 Richard, his wife and five children, boarded a steamer on Lake Erie headed for Buffalo, New York. From Buffalo they went overland to New York and then booked passage on a steamer to Nicaragua. After a trip through the jungles of Nicaragua to the Pacific coast (there was no Panama Canal yet) they had to wait six weeks

before boarding a leaky propeller ship to San Francisco. The Sexton family never gave gold mining a serious try since several hundred thousand prospectors has already filed claims in the California gold fields. Instead they chose farming and the nursery business in Santa Barbara.

Source: Former member Patti Graman's genealogical research on her family's history. From November 1999 Green Township Historical Association newsletter. / Pioneer Annals of Greene Township, Reese Kendall, page 32

Green Township, Hamilton County, in the State of Saratoga or Pelisipia??



What state do we live in? Ohio, of course, everyone knows that! In 1803 Ohio became a state, carved out of the old Northwest Territory. But immediately following the end of the Revolutionary War, Congress was faced with issues surrounding the settlement of the lands of the "West" they had won from the British. Several original colonies had laid claim to these lands before the war, Virginia being the most reluctant to give up its claims to land in the "West".





Thomas Jefferson crafted a solution in the Ordinance of 1784. It fixed the boundaries for **10 states** to be created roughly north and west of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River. He gave these 10 states a variety of strange names with Latin, Greek, and Native American roots. Our Hamilton County would have been located in parts of 2 states, Saratoga and Pelisipia. Congress later amended Jefferson's concept in various ways, including dropping the use of Jefferson's 10 strange state names. It passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 with six new states north and west of the Ohio River – Ohio being the first in 1803. The names, Saratoga and Pelisipia, did not survive.

Hamilton County, Saratoga?? Green Township, Pelisipia?? The Saratoga State Buckeyes?? . No, I don't think so.

Your Ideas and Old Photos and Artifacts

If you have an idea for a newsletter article or a meeting program, please let us know at a meeting or email us at greentwp@gmail.com. Any old Green Township photos or artifacts are also most welcome for our Museum.

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