

First-Ever History Fund Grant Recipients Announced by OHS



By Andy Verhoff, Local History Coordinator, Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office, Columbus

The Ohio Historical Society made its very first-ever grants of the History Fund at Statehood Day, February 27 in what the Society hopes will become an annual event! The Fund consists entirely of donations of state income tax refunds made through the tax check off and designated gifts to OHS. The Society granted \$114,000 to the following projects around the state. *The Local Historian* is also happy to report that seven of the eleven grantees are currently Alliance members and designated with an **. (Continued on page 4)

Your tax refund can **MAKE HISTORY**

The strong demand in this first year of operation underscores the need for the History Fund and support for history projects in Ohio. OHS received 64 applications totaling \$891,000 in requests. On the other hand, thanks to more than 17,000 generous, anonymous Ohioans, the Society had \$114,000 to re-grant. It's simple: more donations—through the “tax check off,” or designated History Fund gifts to OHS—mean more grants for local history projects, like many of those undertaken by Alliance members.

For more information about the History Fund, visit: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. There, Alliance members will find details about the how they can contribute part of their Ohio income tax refund for the History Fund, guidelines for grants, and an article about the History Fund that Alliance members are free to reprint in their newsletters (also published in the January/February 2013 *Local Historian*). To learn more, call or email the OHS's Local History Office: localhistory@ohiohistory.org or 1-800-858-6878.

The History Fund's eleven 2012 grant recipients at Statehood Day, with their big checks. Photo courtesy of Ohio Historical Society.

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President's Message:

It is spring time and, for Ohio Local History Alliance members, that means it is regional meeting season! No matter what region you live and work in, each regional meeting offers a variety of timely topics, with useful information you can take back to your historical society. For host organizations, it is also an opportunity to show your colleagues the great work that you do. If your organization has not hosted a regional meeting, please consider volunteering to hold a future regional meeting. It is easy to do, and fun, too. While

the spring regional meetings are taking place, planning for our fall annual meeting is already underway. The Alliance has a great fall annual meeting planned for you, and we hope that you have already marked your calendars for October 4-5.

Did you hear the great news about the inaugural recipients of the History Fund grants? At the Statehood Day celebration, eleven Ohio organizations received grants totaling \$114,000. You can read more about the grant recipients and the History Fund in an article in this issue. Does your organization have a project that might be a good fit for the 2014 round of grants—we hope that you will check into it and consider applying!

Be sure to read this issue closely, as there are many great opportunities coming up, including an

upcoming Preservation Boot Camp, workshops, webinars, meetings, and grant opportunities. We look forward to seeing you at your regional meetings around the state.

Maggie Marconi

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OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

The **Ohio Local History Alliance**, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio Historical Society, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

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Visit **The Alliance** online at www.ohioha.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)
Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75 (\$140 for 2)
Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60 (\$110 for 2)
Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individuals:

Affiliate: \$35 (\$65 for 2)
Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)
Students: \$20

Business: \$100 (\$190 for 2)

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Statehood Day Connects History Advocates



Ohio House Speaker William Batchelder addresses Statehood Day attendees. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

By Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

History and preservation advocates from across Ohio joined together with state legislators to celebrate Ohio history at the annual Statehood Day event on February 27 at the Ohio Statehouse. For the first time, the Ohio Historical Society presented grant awards from the Ohio History Fund (see separate article), utilizing the voluntary contributions from Ohioans donating a portion of their state income tax returns.

Ohio House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) spoke at the event. “You are doing very important work,” Batchelder, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Ohio Wesleyan University, told the crowd of approximately 150 history supporters. He told the audience that it is important to find ways to get younger people interested and engaged in history, especially at the local level.

More than 20 other state legislators stopped by throughout the day to visit with people attending the Statehood Day event. Short videotaped messages from U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman were also shown. Several legislative issues were discussed, including the importance of the Ohio Historical Society’s state budget, the teaching of social studies, the preservation of important public records, as well as the economic impact of the state’s historic preservation tax credits. Attendees were encouraged to meet with their local legislators that afternoon.

Statehood Day is a joint advocacy event co-sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Heritage Ohio, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the Ohio Archaeological Council, the Ohio Council for Social Studies, the Buckeye Council for History Education, and the Society of Ohio Archivists. ■

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Tameka Burke has joined the staff of the Local History Office (LHO) as the administrative assistant. She comes from Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus and has worked as an administrative assistant since 2004. Tameka handles administrative and clerical tasks for the office, including membership and registration processing. She is very excited to be a permanent part of the LHO team.

Dana Nemeth is the new director of the **Wood County Historical Society**. A native of Bowling Green, Nemeth’s career has taken her to the National Museum of American History, the Henry Ford Museum &

Greenfield Village, and the Museum of the Moving Image. She is currently enrolled in Kent State University’s Masters in Library and Information Sciences/Museum Studies program and anticipates graduating in August.

The **Wood County Historical Society** also welcomes a new curator, **Holly Hartlerode Upal**. She was formerly the archivist at Mercy College of Ohio and Mercy Hospital of Tiffin, and she also worked at the Henry Ford Museum. She holds a bachelor’s in American history from Kent State University and a master’s degree in public history from the University of Toledo.

Leah Magyary, Education Director at **The Castle**, had her post on the Alliance’s website about developing social media policies reprinted as part of an Illinois Heritage Association Technical Insert. Want to read the original? Visit the Alliance’s website at www.ohiolha.org.

Welcome to new Alliance Board Members **Kasey Eichensehr**, Clark County Historical Society, Springfield, Region 7 and **Jodie McFarland**, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Region 8.

CONGRATULATIONS

2013 History Fund Recipients!

(Continued from page 1)

● ****Clark County Historical Society, Springfield, \$15,000**, for a project that will enable the society to update and improve the care of its collection of historical artifacts and make them accessible through a digital catalog.

● **Cleveland Museum of Natural History, \$12,873**, to pilot on a wider scale a proven and highly innovative means to quickly and inexpensively document prehistoric Native American archeological sites in the eastern Lake Erie basin, which, if widely adopted, could lessen the need for full scale excavations of sites across Ohio and the Midwest.

● **Cleveland Restoration Society, \$15,000**, for the “Know Our Heritage Educational Program,” which will document and raise awareness of endangered historic sites in Cleveland’s African American community.

● ****Dennison Railroad Depot, Dennison, \$15,000**, for a project that will enable the Depot to alleviate crowded artifact storage conditions at two of its museums and to enable both to move to a facility that will insure the long-term preservation of the historical collections.

● **Eden Valley Enterprises, Elyria, \$15,000** for support of a PBS documentary about Emma “Grandma” Gatewood, an ordinary Ohioan who overcame adversity and became extraordinary through her hikes of the Appalachian Trail in the 1950s and ‘60s. Gatewood’s inspiring story will broaden understanding of what

the women’s movement, fitness, and successful aging means.

● ****Friends of Whitewater Shaker Village, Cincinnati, \$15,000** to build ADA-compliant restrooms at this National Register of Historic Places-listed site, the last intact Shaker site in Ohio. Restrooms will enable the Village to open to the public, the plan of the site’s leaders since 2001.

● ****Granville Historical Society, Granville, \$6,041** for a reenactment of the first Anti-Slavery Convention in Ohio at Granville in 1836. The event will enable attendees to recreate and examine the issues that eventually led to the Civil War. This project is impressive for the partnerships among the historical society, Denison University, and local schools to produce the event.

● ****John & Annie Glenn Museum Foundation, New Concord, \$6,600** to construct additional display cases at the Foundation-operated National Road/Zane Grey Museum. The additional cases will enable the museum to take on loans and exhibit private collections, otherwise unavailable, of locally-made wares from smaller firms during the region’s heyday as a pottery manufacturing center. The exhibits will offer new reasons to visit the museum and encourage repeat visitation.

● **MidPointe Library System, Middletown, \$2,160** for the digitization of four historic Butler County atlases. The project will make the maps and information in the atlases

available digitally through the library system and protect the originals from the damage that comes from frequent handling.

● ****Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County, Zanesville, \$8,000** to repair the roof of the Stone Academy according to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Academy, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is part of the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

● ****Union County Historical Society, Marysville, \$3,300** to digitize rare color film footage from 1938 showing everyday life in a small town and rural Ohio, generally not well documented on film – much less in color. The reels also include footage of the Ohio State Fair, Columbus, and Ohio State football games. The digitized film will be posted on YouTube and distributed to local libraries and schools.

Congratulations to the first of what OHS hopes will be a long list of grant recipients, and thank you, local historians, for promoting tax refund donations and the History Fund! ■

Massillon, OH Commemorates Its Roots: Kendal

By Kate Smith, Executive Director, Spring Hill Historic Home, Massillon

The year 2012 was an eventful one for what used to be the town of Kendal, Ohio. In 1812, Kendal (now part of Massillon) was founded by a Quaker abolitionist settler named Thomas Rotch. This small town's bicentennial was celebrated throughout the year, which successfully brought light to a once forgotten piece of Massillon history.

The success of this commemoration was based on two key components; the involved organizations' resources and the interest in what the community wanted to see done throughout the year.

The Massillon Museum, the Massillon Public Library, and Spring Hill Historic Home combined their resources and worked together on this year-long commemoration. These three organizations have an interesting tie, as all three sites share Kendal-related artifacts and archives, as well as piece of Kendal history. The committee worked together diligently and determined the purpose of this commemoration would be to draw attention to the town of Kendal and to Spring Hill Historic Home, where the Rotch family lived. A public forum was held to ask the community what they would like to see in such a commemoration. Things like a Founding Day celebration, a Quaker Meeting re-enactment, War of 1812 events, and speakers were suggested. The committee used that input to create a year full of events that were entertaining, educational, and free to the public. These included a new speaker series at Spring Hill Historic Home, displays and exhibits at all organizations, Kendal Founding Day, War of 1812 and Underground Railroad events, and even a commemorative reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Sharing resources and strengths for this commemoration was important. While Spring Hill was the exact location of the Rotch home and farm, sometimes the other locations were better choices for events due to things like a larger audience and even better parking.



Attendees having a good time at one of the events commemorating the bicentennial of Kendal, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Spring Hill Historic Home.

The City of Massillon was also very willing to help with the commemoration and proved vital in the planning process. Massillon's mayor issued a proclamation that the two remaining original Kendal town squares be returned to their original names, given by Thomas Rotch. The Parks and Recreation Department helped coordinate and provide supplies for both Kendal Founding Day and the War of 1812 Encampment.

Was the commemoration a success?

Prior to Kendal Founding Day, the kick off for the commemoration, most people walking down the street in Massillon probably didn't know what "Kendal" was. After the events started, attendance increased at the sites, and awareness grew of Spring Hill Historic Home, and the history that surrounds Kendal, the start of Massillon.

In future years portions of this year's commemorative events, namely, Kendal Founding Day will be continued and expanded to include different themes and talk more about daily life in Kendal; the Underground Railroad, the woolen industry, and much more. ■

Planning a Community Commemoration?

Tips for a Public Forum:

1. **Advertise:** Send special invitations to all involved organizations and those that have shown an interest in helping with the commemoration. List an announcement on all available websites and social media pages. Press releases and flyers are helpful as well.
2. **Be Prepared:** Make sure all members of the steering committee are prepared and have information for those attending.
3. **Have Sign-in Sheets:** You probably will not remember everyone who attends. Ask for names and contact information (phone, email). Sign-in sheets are a great way to record attendees' strengths and interests as well as gaining contact info.
4. **Take Photos:** You will enjoy looking back on that core group of people that helped you get the ball rolling. Photos can also help to advertise future meetings.
5. **Allow everyone time to talk, but set time limits:** You want everyone to feel like their ideas matter, but make sure you stay on schedule for an effective meeting.

Follow Up:

Make sure you stay in touch with attendees after the forum. They will see their input was appreciated and be able to track the progress of commemorative projects. Facebook groups and websites are great for this.

Tech Tip: Migrating Your VHS Tapes to DVD



By Kathy Fernandez,
Executive Director, North
Canton Heritage Society,
North Canton

Photo courtesy of the North Canton Heritage Society.

They call it “migration.” No, not the movement of people, the movement of data from one format to another, hopefully a more modern and user-friendly one.

Data migration is a big philosophical question among archivists, but this column addresses one facet – what to do with those shelves, cabinets, and boxes of VHS tapes we all have in our collections. The last stand-alone VHS player was manufactured by JVC in 2008. Because they are mechanical, and not optical like DVDs and CDs, VHS players wear out quickly. The magnetic tape in the cassette will degrade over time as well, fading, losing tension, and developing lines.

So, how to preserve those parades, special event speakers, ribbon cuttings, documentaries, interviews, and other priceless photography you have on video tape? Transfer them to DVD.

Fortunately JVC, Toshiba, and others manufacture a combination unit that, when hooked up to a TV, allows you to transfer your VHS tapes to DVD. Or, if you presently have a working VCR and a TV set, you can just purchase a DVD recorder, without the VHS player included. We did the latter at the North Canton Heritage Society. Cost of the combo player is about \$200; cost of just a recorder can be as little as \$100.

I will let you learn from our mistakes. Make sure the equipment you are

using has the right number of jacks. You need two each for output and input, right and left. Pay attention to the instructions on your DVD recorder and make sure to “finalize” the disk; otherwise it will not play on anything but the machine it was recorded on. You may want to check each disk on a computer to be sure it is playable, and keep the original VHS tapes just in case.

Archivists tell us that the best disks to use for long-term storage are “gold,” which is inert. However, they are expensive – five times as expensive as regular DVD-R disks. Since DVDs (and CDs) are fairly new media, the outlook on length of storage for optimal quality is really only an estimate anyway.

Now you have your equipment. What do you record? Just tapes you made yourself? Or anything in your collection? We found we could record everything, even those tapes that came from a commercial distributor. We would, of course, never try to use this copyrighted material in our own productions without permission. We were just transferring the programs for preservation.

We had one volunteer do all 75 or so tapes in our collection. Since the copying is in “real time,” he had to watch the show while transferring it. Fortunately, we had the video set-up next to our photo scanning computer (another one of his tasks), and he could keep an eye on the progress

of the recording while doing something else. He worked on this one morning a week for about a year.

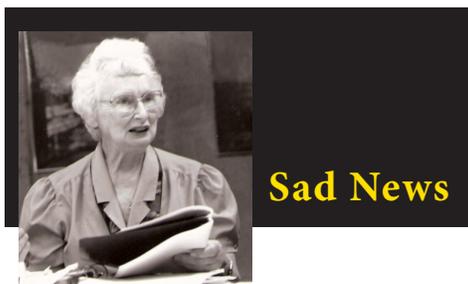
We stored our newly minted DVDs in a 3-ring notebook with polyethylene, archival-quality sleeves, and marked each with a special pen made for disks. The more readily-available Sharpie marker is said to include solvents that may harm the disk. The newest wrinkle is to use sleeves lined with copper, which minimizes ozone, static electricity, and ultraviolet light, but they are also very expensive. We then stored the copied VHS tapes in acid-free boxes. The boxes, sleeves and pens are available from archival suppliers such as Gaylord (www.gaylord.com) or University Products (www.universityproducts.com).

So, welcome to the new migration – of data, that is. ■

Grants Available!

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants Available

Preservation Assistance Grants of up to \$6,000 are available to help small and mid-sized institutions improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. This can include collections held by historical societies, museums, and libraries. Eligible collections include historical objects, archival records, prints, photographs, textiles, furniture collections, etc. Grant applicants need to use consultants whose knowledge and experience matches the types of collections that will be preserved. Small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant are especially encouraged to apply. The application deadline is May 1. To learn more, go to www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions.



Sad News

The Ohio Local History Alliance is sad to report the passing of **Trella Romine** on February 19, 2013 at her home near Caledonia. Ms. Romine was an outstanding supporter of the Alliance. She served as president of OAHSM from 1987-1989 and held various other positions on the board. She was a founding member and past president of the Marion County Historical Society, where she edited the newsletter for 30 years. She also reprinted and published three books for the MCHS and wrote five local history books of her own. She is survived by numerous children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The funeral was held February 22 in Marion.

Coming up!



The 2013 Ohio History Day competition will be April 27th at the Ohio Union at OSU in Columbus. National History Day in Ohio is sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society and is a year-long program where students choose a topic related to the annual theme, conduct research, analyze the information, and create papers, performances, documentaries, exhibits or websites. The 2013 theme is *Turning Points in History*. Ohio History Day is for students in grades 4-5 and 6-12.

Judges are needed for state History Day. Judges work in teams, interact with participants, evaluate student projects, and then decide which projects will move on to the next level of competition. Judging typically starts at 8 am with an overview of the program and training and is done by 1pm.

Judging is a great opportunity to learn about History Day, to meet and encourage enthusiastic students, and to be inspired by the work of young historians.

Anyone interested in judging or learning more about History Day can contact the State Coordinator, Mary Bezbatchenko at historyday@ohiohistory.org or visit the website at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/education/national-history-day-in-ohio/get-involved>.

Coming up!

Sign up for a Regional Meeting



Have you registered for one of the Alliance's spring regional meetings? Meetings are now underway, but there is still time to register for any of April's great upcoming meetings.

- **April 6: Region 9&10** (combined meeting), Hocking County Historical Society, Logan
- **April 13: Region 1**, Van Wert County Historical Society, Van Wert and **Region 3**, Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Cleveland
- **April 20: Region 2**, Ashland Historical Society, Ashland and **Region 4**, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown

For the full schedule of each meeting, visit <http://www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-regional-meetings>. To register, go to www.ohiohistory.org/register or call OHS's Local History Office at 800-858-6878.



Professional Development



Applications Now Available!

Ohio's Connecting to Collections partners are pleased to announce that applications are now available for a Preservation Boot Camp on July 31-August 1 at the Holiday Inn Worthington.

Both practical and tactical, the two-day Preservation Boot Camp is an event which will bring together teams comprised of museum/history staff and library staff. Sessions will environmental controls for collection preservation, demonstrations of disaster recovery, collections care, and digital collections basics. Discussing local issues and sharing problem-solving ideas will help develop a core community to continue information sharing after the training. Attendees will be encouraged to provide outreach and information to other cultural organizations in their home areas, and they will have the opportunity to apply for one of 11 follow-up preservation site surveys.

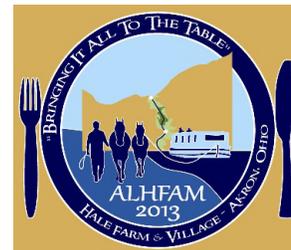
Visit <http://www.webjunction.org/partners/ohio/oh-programs/connectcollect/boot-camp.html> for an application and draft agenda. The application packet includes a team application form, an information statement to be completed and signed by each team member, and a commitment statement from each team member's director or supervisor. Registration for the conference is free. Lodging, meals, and workshop materials will be covered by a grant from IMLS. Applications are due on May 1, 2013.

Professional Development



The Ohio Museums Association (OMA)'s 2013 Annual Conference, *Only the Best Ideas Out There*, is in Sandusky April 21 and 22. It is a chance to learn from people not only in the history field, but from those who work in science and art museums too. This year, OMA wants to be a place where the "kinds of ideas that can change how you think, grow, communicate, work, and succeed" are born. Just like the Alliance's meetings, all of OMA's sessions will be presented by your colleagues from around the state. They will tackle issues that all museums in Ohio share: collaboration, reaching students, seeking funding, and collections care. Plus, OMA features a pre-conference tour of Put-In-Bay and Sandusky, as well as chances to informally network with your peers. For more information, to see the full conference program, and to register visit OMA's website at www.ohiomuseums.org.

Professional Development



The Association for Living History, Farm, and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM)'s Annual Meeting and Conference will be held this year in Akron from June 14-18. This year's theme is *Bringing It All to the Table: Feed Your Body, Feed Your Mind*. The conference is packed with ideas that every history museum can benefit from. Conference session tracks include administration/management, agriculture, conservation/collections, domestic skills, education/interpretation, exhibits, historic trades, publications, and research. You can learn about everything from developing an internship program to how to do primary source research to "Everything You Wanted to Know About Cows, But Were Afraid to Ask." Attendees at the conference can also explore the historic sites that Northeast Ohio has to offer through 16 professional development outings. For more information and to register, visit <http://alhfam.org>.

Professional Development

Catching Stories Oral History Institute Applications Now Available!

Doing an oral history project? Wondering how to start one? Apply to attend this year's Oral History Institute, held this June 4-6, at Kenyon College in Gambier. Participants gain hands-on experience in all aspects of managing an oral history project: interviewing, transcribing and archiving, and devising public programs based on oral history. Sessions will also be available on using technology in oral history and on fundraising. Volunteers or paid staff from local historical organizations, libraries, schools, and colleges and universities are encouraged to apply. Admission to the institute is competitive and limited to 30. The cost is \$300, which includes lodging, meals, and all workshop materials. For an application, contact James Calder at (800) 293-9774 or jimc@ohiohumanities.org. The application deadline is April 29.

Professional Development

OHS News



AASLH
American Association
for State and Local History

AASLH Workshops, Register Today!

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) offers a full schedule of high-quality online and in-person professional development workshops every year. This year's topics include project management, education and interpretation, issues facing historic house museums, exhibits, collections management (including archives), and volunteer management. All workshops are led by your peers – museum professionals working in the field, with lots of experience and knowledge of the issues we all face.

On April 18-19, the Ohio Historical Society's Stacia Kuceyeski and Megan Wood will be leading a workshop at The Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore. Connecting Your Collections to Teachers and Students focuses on using your collections to create meaningful programs for both teachers and students. Topics include learning styles, presentation strategies, audience types, planning strategies, and evaluation. (Can't make it to Baltimore? OHS's Creative Learning Factory is offering a webinar on Learning Theory and Museum Education Practice on April 3. For more information, visit www.creativelearningfactory.org.)

For a complete schedule and more information on any of the 2013 AASLH workshops, go to www.aaslh.org/workshop.

More Ohio Newspapers on Their Way to Chronicling America

The Ohio Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue our participation in the National Digital Newspaper Program into 2014. That means another 100,000 pages of Ohio's historic newspapers will be made freely available and keyword searchable at the Library of Congress's Chronicling America. (www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)

As part of the new grant round, the Society will be digitizing a small run of a German language newspaper from Cincinnati, the *Tägliches Cincinnati Volksblatt*, from 1914 to 1918. This will be one of the first German language newspapers to be added to Chronicling America.

The 31 other papers that will be joining Chronicling America represent 25 counties around the state:

- The Kalida Venture (1845-1854)
- Maumee Express from Maumee City (1837-1840)
- Napoleon Northwest (1881-1897)
- Ashland Union (1852-1871)
- Fremont Freeman (1849-1853)
- Plymouth Advertiser (1853-1855)
- Wyandot Pioneer from Upper Sandusky (1845-1873)
- Medina Sentinel (1914-1921)
- Wellington Enterprise (1879-1899)
- Democratic Press from Ravenna (1868-1895)
- Portage County Democrat from Ravenna (1859-1864)
- Portage Sentinel from Ravenna (1845-1862)
- Western Courier from Ravenna (1837)
- Ohio Star from Ravenna (1852-1854)
- Cadiz Sentinel (1844-1868)
- Carroll Free Press from Carrollton (1836, 1841-1858)
- Ohio Democrat from Canal Dover (1839-1845, 1863)
- True American from Steubenville (1855-1858)
- Delaware Gazette (1858-1871)
- Lancaster Gazette (1847-1870)
- Somerset Press (1873-1882)
- Eaton Democrat (1854-1877)
- Greenville Journal (1907-1918)
- Cincinnati Star (1875-1880)
- Democratic Standard from Georgetown (1840-1845)
- Organ of the Temperance Reform from Cincinnati (1852-1854)
- Jackson Standard (1853-1888)
- Meigs County Telegraph from Pomeroy (1851-1866)
- The Portsmouth Inquirer (1850-1855)
- Spirit of the Time from Ironton (1853-1856)
- Spirit of Democracy from Woodsfield (1844-1886)

This content will be made available online over the next two years, bringing Ohio's total contribution to site to 67 titles from 52 counties—over 300,000 pages!

List as of March 21, 2013

Welcome New Members

Individual

Dana Best-Mizsak, Bedford
William Eberhardt, London
Jodie McFarland, Cincinnati

Organizations

National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, Niles
The Sylvania Area Historical Society, Sylvania
Vermilion News Print Shop Museum, Vermilion

Thank you Renewing Members

Individual

McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Lab, Oberlin

Organizations

103rd OVI Memorial Foundation, Sheffield Lake
Alliance Historical Society, Alliance
Baltic-Area Historical Society, Baltic
Beavercreek Historical Society, Beavercreek
Bradford Ohio Railroad Museum, Bradford
Canal Fulton Public Library, Canal Fulton
Cuyahoga Community College West Campus, Parma
Cuyahoga County Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument, Cleveland
Fairfield Heritage Association, Lancaster
Franklin Area Historical Society, Franklin
Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Grove City
Gahanna Historical Society, Gahanna
Galion Historical Society Inc., Galion
Harrison County Historical Society, Cadiz
Hubbard Historical Society, Hubbard
Indian Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati
Kidron Community Historical Society, Kidron
Livingston House Society, Reynoldsburg
Lodi Harrisville Historical Society Inc., Lodi
Logan County Historical Society, Bellefontaine
Mayfield Township Historical Society, Mayfield Village
Mogadore Historical Society, Mogadore
Mt Eaton-Paint Township Historical Society, Mount Eaton

News from the Regions

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at arohmiller@ohiohistory.org. Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for News from the Regions are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Region 1

Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties

The **Wood County Historical Society** has welcomed a new group of interns from a variety of backgrounds to help with its operations. Grant Barringer comes to the Society from a work program at the Wood County Educational Service Center and helps with maintenance work. Chelsey DeVore and Nicole Erdeljac are Tourism & Event Planning majors at Bowling Green State University and are helping with exhibits. Alexis Lyman and Jennifer Folkerth are graduate students from the University of Michigan's School of Information. They are assisting with processing the society's archival collections. Frank Welter is a graduate student in Bowling Green's Department of History and is evaluating the Society's military collection. Finally, James Kirby is documenting all the books in the Society's collection. To learn more, visit www.woodcountyhistory.org.

The **Stryker Area Heritage Council** recently donated some extra Stryker High School annuals to other local history organizations in need. People researching at the **Local History and Genealogy Center of the Williams County Public Library** will benefit from the donations. Additionally, the **Stryker Library** also received some donated copies, which will almost complete its collection. For more information, go to www.strykerahc.org.

Region 2

Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Willoughby Hills Historical Society** has a new website, hosted on the city's website. The site lists the Society's meeting and program schedule, a "Did You Know?" section, and a membership form. To check it out, go to http://www.willoughbyhills-oh.gov/community/historical_society/index.php.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties

The **Carroll County Historical Society's** annual Fall Festival was a great success. Every aspect of the Society pulled together to make over \$200,000. The Society's Farm House ladies sold woven rugs, mug covers, and table runners. The Country Store sold pickles, popcorn, several varieties of jellies, and other craft items. The Sawmill ran the entire weekend with a few slight hiccups, the Spinning and Weaving Guild demonstrated all kinds of fiber arts, and the Society made 18,000 pounds of cabbage into the ever-popular sauerkraut. Proceeds from the three-day Fall Festival allow the Society to operate for the rest of the year. For more information, visit www.carrollcountyohio.com/history.

Region 6

Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties

The **New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society** partnered with a team of graduate students from **The Ohio State University** to make an annotated copy Lucius Smith's 1862 Diary available online. Smith was the son of Archibald Smith, builder of the Society's Archibald Smith House. The diary, owned by Ohio State's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, provides a glimpse of life in Plain Township during the Civil War. The Society provided background information on the Smith family, while the students created the website and the transcriptions. To see the final product, visit <http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/ulman1/LCSmithDiaries/LCSmithAcknowledgements.cfm>. For more information about the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, go to www.newalbanyplain-townshiphistoricalsociety.org.

Region 7

Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties

The Clark County Historical Society has received several grants to help with the care and preservation of its collections. Two **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board** (OHR-AB) grants, allowed the Society to process thousands of Clark County's Probate Court records, which resulted in an OHRAB 2012 Achievement Award. The **National Endowment for the Humanities** awarded the Society a Preservation Assistance grant to re-house the collections in acid-free, museum quality boxes. Finally, the Society also received a History Fund grant that will also make the collections available through a digital catalog (see page 1). To learn more, visit www.heritagecenter.us.

Region 8

Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

The **Quaker Heritage Center** held a Freedom Day for all of Wilmington County's fourth graders. Students came to view the exhibit *Frederick Douglas, from Slavery to Freedom: The Journey to New York City*. They also learned about the Underground Railroad and the Civil War through a variety of presentations. These included talking to Underground Railroad operator "John P. Parker," "Abraham Lincoln," and famous Quakers "Isaac and Sarah Harvey." Students also tasted hard tack and completed a craft sponsored by the **Wilmington Public Library**. How did they pay for all this? Through a fundraising dinner with the Lincolns of course! Attendees ate a period dinner, mingled with the Lincolns, and enjoyed special access to the Frederick Douglass exhibit. For more information, go to www.wilmington.edu/qhc/index.cfm.

Region 9

Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton Counties

Region 10

Belmont, Coshocton, Guernsey, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Washington Counties

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

... or connect a sister organization to the Alliance and ask its leaders to join in one of the following categories:

Organizational Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates, and save on Ohio Historical Society services for organization, including speakers and customized training workshops. **Best of all, when you join the Alliance as an Organizational Member, your membership benefits all of your organization's staff and members**—they will all qualify for discounts on registration for the Alliance's regional and statewide meetings and when buying Alliance publications.

Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year:
\$100 (\$190 for 2)
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year:
\$75 (\$140 for 2)
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year:
\$60 (\$110 for 2)
Under \$25,000 a year:
\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

Affiliate: \$35 a year (\$65 for 2)
Individual: \$50 a year (\$90 for 2)
Student: \$20 a year

Business Member

\$100 a year (\$190 for 2)

Join at <http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx>

CALENDAR 2013

April 06, 13, 20

Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meetings. See page 7 and www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-regional-meetings for more information.

April 8-May 3

AASLH Online Workshop: Project Management for History Professionals. Learn the fundamentals of project management and how they can be applied to all aspects of museum operations. For more information, go to www.aaslh.org/workshop.

April 18-19

AASLH Workshop: Connecting Your Collections to Teachers and Students. For more information, see page 9.

April 21-22

Ohio Museums Association Conference. For more information, see page 8.

April 25-26

AASLH Workshop: Historic House Museum Issues and Operations. This workshop at Oaklands Historic House Museum in Murfreesboro, TN will focus on the unique issues and challenges of historic house museums. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org/workshop.

April 27

State History Day. For more information, see page 7.

April 29

Application Deadline-Catching Stories Oral History Institute. For more information, see page 8.

April 30

AASLH Online Workshop: Engaged Volunteers, Engaged Communities. Learn how to use your most valuable asset, your volunteers to make meaningful connections to your community. For more information, visit www.aaslh.org/workshop.

May 01

Application Deadline - NEH Preservation Assistance Grants. For more information, see page 9.

May 01

Application Deadline-Connecting to Collections Preservation Boot Camp. For more information, see page 8.

Calendar items are chosen on the basis of available space and applicability to the largest number of our readers. We cannot include events mainly of local interest; for these we suggest local newspapers, broadcast media, Ohio Magazine, 1-800-BUCKEYE, and, if arts related, www.ArtsinOhio.com

The Power of Networking

By Burt Logan, Executive Director, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

The approach of the annual round of spring regional meetings is a good time to think about the value of networking. Some of you may think the term is overused, and you may be right. But the concept and necessity of networking is not; there is much to be gained by building and nurturing as many relationships among colleagues as we can. For me, networking has been one of the most valuable sources of information, advice, and solace throughout my career.

All of us lead busy professional, volunteer, and personal lives. We are in constant need of information that will give us a fuller picture of the situation at hand, as well as help us plan ahead. We may not be seeking specific information at a particular time, but we should have our antennae up all the same. As I reflect back, most of what I have learned through networking has been rather routine...except when I learned that a colleague was an advisor to a foundation that had just been established; the foundation was looking for initial projects to fund; and the museum where I was then working became one of the foundation's multi-year projects. We just never know what serendipitous networking event will turn into a valuable find for our organization.

But sometimes, we do consciously seek advice to help us solve a specific problem. We may be looking for tips to plan a school program, or thoughts on how to improve our collections storage, or ways to strengthen our volunteer program. Chances are very good that many of our colleagues have encountered the same challenges. If we engage with them, they can help us learn what worked for them, as well as what did not. However, before we can benefit from their experience, we have to connect into the network.

Without question, the most treasured outcome of networking for me has been the friendship and support of colleagues. There simply is no substitute for talking with others who can relate directly and personally to questions we have or issues we are wrestling with. There may not always be an answer, but just knowing that colleagues have faced similar challenges and found solutions can be uplifting. We must never forget that none of us need to go alone – networking can be a source of tremendous encouragement.

Which brings me back to the spring regional meetings. What better way to connect with your fellow local historians than to attend a regional meeting (if you cannot attend the one scheduled for your region, you will be welcome at any of the other meetings). I hope you put it on your calendar, and I look forward to seeing you there. ■

ON
THE
WEB

American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov>

The Library of Congress's American Memory collection provides free, online access to over nine million digitized documents, images, maps, sound recordings, and other types of material in the Library of Congress's collections. It's organized into over 100 searchable collections. Collections include women's history, African-American history, immigration, cities and towns, and advertising. There is also a teachers section, which provides lesson plans and examples of primary sources already aligned to school standards to supplement or adapt to your programming.

Need to Contact Us? *We at the Local History Office love hearing from you.*

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