

## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED:

# Overcoming Obstacles for the 2021 Annual Meeting



*This photograph shows an automobile stranded in mud on State Route 60 in Huron, Ohio, in 1924. The predicament of this traveler indicates one of the many trials of early automobile travel throughout the United States, demonstrating that paved roads were not uniformly the case in Ohio in the early automobile era. Image courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.*



*Dr. Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, Ohio Local History Alliance; Team Lead, AmeriCorps and Partnerships, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection*

**R**egister now to join us for the 2021 Annual Meeting! We have an exciting lineup of sessions to complement the theme, *Challenge Accepted: Overcoming Obstacles*. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held online, September 30 through October 2, 2021. I know that many of you (myself included!) were hoping for an in-person meeting for 2021; but I truly believe that this online conference will continue to provide the excellent professional development we were able to deliver for the 2020 Annual Meeting and the 2021 Regional Meetings.

Our conference theme, was designed to allow us to address the challenges posed by the pandemic without limiting ourselves to only discussing our reactions to COVID-19. To that end, we have put together a program that addresses both challenges faced by historical communities and the ways museums and historical societies have faced and overcome challenges of all types.

I'm including a short version of the schedule here; be sure to check our [website](#) for full session descriptions and to register. Session access information will be emailed to registrants during the week before the conference.

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# P R E S I D E N T ' S   M E S S A G E



Big anniversary events have a way of reminding Americans to pay attention to their history. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of America and there is no better time to share the rich history of our state and role in this milestone. The U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission was established by Congress to inspire Americans to participate in the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The commemoration period began in 2020, culminates on July 4, 2026, and officially concludes in 2027.

The Ohio Local History Alliance is proud to have a role in the commemoration of the Semiquincentennial of our nation and the impact of Ohioans on the nation's past, present and future. We are the birthplace of Presidents, flight, rock and roll, the NFL and so much more. We need YOU to continue to promote and highlight those local entities who may have been forgotten over time but truly deserve recognition for their accomplishments and contributions. No one knows local history better than the communities where it happened. Local history is American history and as the voices of history for our communities, it is our job to make those stories heard.

Join us in October at the Annual Meeting to hear more about upcoming Semiquincentennial commemoration (America 250). You'll hear about what OLHA is doing to help Ohio get ready to celebrate 1776 between now and 2026, and how you can get involved.

**Christy Davis**

Curator of Exhibitions

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## P E O P L E   I N   T H E   N E W S



### LONG-TIME OLHA TREASURER RETIRES

**Kathleen Fernandez** has retired from her position as Treasurer of the Ohio Local History Alliance, a position she has held since 2012. She is the former Site Manager at the Ohio History Connection's Zoar Village and Fort Laurens and later Director of the North Canton Heritage Society, and has served on the OLHA board since 2007. She is the author of two books on historic Zoar Village, a German religious communal society. She lives in North Canton.

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## Thursday, September 30

### 9-10 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Historic Properties and ADA
- Community Partnership for the Preservation of Jewish History in the Mahoning Valley—SOA

### 10:30-11:30 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Fabric Treasures: Caring for the Quilts in your Collection
- Making Your DPLA Harvest Go Further—SOA

### 12:30-2 PM: SPONSOR MEET & GREET AND BUSINESS MEETING

### 2:30-3:30 PM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Valuing Cyclical Maintenance for Museum Interpretation
- Lessons Learned: Adapting Collections Care in a Global Pandemic—SOA

### 4-5 PM: DIRECTOR'S ROUNDTABLE

## Friday, October 1

### 9-10 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Benchmarking Management Policies of House Museums and Historical Sites
- A (Digitally) Camping We Will Go

### 10:30-11:30 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Ohio's America 250 Commemoration and the Local History Community
- Reviving Stagnant Exhibits

### 12:30-2 PM: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- Making the Local Universal: How Hidden Histories in Ohio Communities Can Broaden Audiences and Bring More Support.**

Anna-Lisa Cox is an award-winning American historian whose focus is the frontier and rural Midwest. She is currently a Non-Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. Her writing has been featured in the *The Washington Post*, *Lapham's Quarterly* and *The New York Times*. Her original research underpinned two exhibits at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Anna-Lisa's recent book *The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America's Forgotten Black Pioneers and the Struggle for*

*Equality* was honored by the Smithsonian Magazine as one of the best history books of 2018.

Dr. Cox will be speaking on how histories get hidden, and how those hidden histories in Ohio can be discovered, celebrated and utilized by local history organizations. The keynote is sponsored by Ohio Humanities



### 2:30-3:30 PM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- John Brown Speaks
- Marketing 102

### 5 - 6 PM: HISTORIC COCKTAIL HOUR

Brian Cushing, host of *The Victorian Barroom*, shows you how to make some of his favorite beverages from the Victorian period that best bring the era back to life. Learn about what mixology was like in those days and the spirits of the age.

## Saturday, October 5

### 9-10 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- An Accessibility Toolkit: A Guide to Implementing Inclusive Practices
- The Hard Ask: Fundraising for Small Historical Organizations

### 10:30-11:30 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Solidarity and Sanitizer: Eugene V. Debs in the Era of COVID-19
- How to Remain Open and Relevant during a Restoration Project

### 12:30 - 2 PM: OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PRESENTATION

The annual awards presentation, part of the Alliance's Annual Meeting and Conference for over two decades, honors great people and great projects that inspire fascination with community history. But the presentation is more than honored recognition for the winners; it's a font of ideas and a good time watching the awardee's acceptance videos. Join us to cap off the conference by honoring your peers.

Check our [website](#) for registration details and the full program as it is finalized. Please contact us at [ohiolha@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ohiolha@ohiohistory.org) with any questions.



# Best Practices for Cemetery Cleaning in Six Easy Steps



Carrie Rhodus, Community  
Surveyor AmeriCorps Member at  
the City of Cincinnati, Ohio  
History Service Corps

**W**ith the growing trend of “oddly satisfying” videos showing headstone cleaning, Ohioans are flocking to their local cemeteries to try out these methods for themselves. While our cemeteries need some beautifying care and respect, it is always important to make sure that methods used are appropriate. Even though most markers are made of stone, they are porous and surprisingly quite fragile. Many enthusiasts are inadvertently damaging those very stones they are trying to help.

## STEP ONE:

### Ask for Permission

The first step for any cemetery cleaning project is to get permission. This permission can only be granted by the cemetery administrator or a direct descendant of the deceased whose stone will be cleaned. Headstones are private property passed down to the direct heirs of the deceased, meaning any damage could result in a lawsuit. On the other hand, cemetery administrators must maintain the site to prevent disintegration to unsightliness. Unfortunately, most cemetery administrations do not have the funds to properly care for all the stones. Many administrators are happy for the additional help. In most cases, a simple phone call or email conversation will suffice.

## STEP TWO:

### Inspect the Stones

Before beginning, it is important to make sure that the gravestones are sound and not likely to fall or break. This includes inspecting to ensure the stone is stable, secure, level, and all sections are securely attached. This is for your safety as well as that of the stone. I also recommend working with a partner so that if a stone does fall, you are able to get help. You should also check the stones for any existing damage. Sugaring and delamination are the two main modes of material failure and will appear as a powdery surface or layers missing from the surface of the stone. Stress cracks are also common. Wet the stone and observe the drying pattern. If there are wet streaks on the stone, it is likely a stress crack. Cleaning damaged parts of the stone should be avoided, as even the gentlest measures can lead

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to further damage. Note if a stone is hot to the touch and use warm water or cool the stone before beginning as drastic temperature changes can lead to cracking. Additionally, do not clean a stone if there is a chance of freezing temperatures as the water inside the porous stone will expand and crack the stone.

### STEP THREE:

#### Document Each Stone

I also recommend taking a photo of the stone before starting, during the cleaning, and after completion. This is a great way to show the progress, as well as document when and how the stone was cleaned as a reference for future cleanings. Every time a stone is cleaned, minute particles are removed from the surface, and overcleaning can be more harmful than not cleaning at all. Most stones should not be cleaned more often than every 18 months to every three years. Any issues affecting the stone should also be documented to observe their change over time and determine if remediation or restoration is necessary.

### STEP FOUR:

#### Remove Plant Growth

If there are plants attached to the stone, cut them at the base and let the plant die. Once the plant has died, wet the area and stone surface, then gently remove the plant. Pulling plants from stones can cause damage, especially if the plant has found stress cracks in which to imbed.

### STEP FIVE:

#### Cleaning

Soak the stone with water to fully saturate any growth. This should be done by hand or with a low-pressure garden sprayer. Never use a pressure washer, as this will always cause chipping and damage the stone. Then, use a soft plastic scraper or wooden spatula to remove loose material from the surface. Removing big particles first keeps them from being rubbed back into the stone, potentially causing damage. Rinse the stone. From here, you can choose from several products for the next step. Often, water is enough, but a cleaning agent can be used as well. I personally prefer D/2 but check

with Cemetery Conservators for United Standards ([cemeteryconservatorsunited-standards.org/](http://cemeteryconservatorsunited-standards.org/)) to see if your preferred solution is approved for headstone use and be sure to test the cleaner on a small section of the rear of the stone. While the stone is wet with water, spray your cleaning agent and use a natural fiber brush, such as Tampico, to gently brush the stone in a circular motion to remove dirt and biological growth. Always keep the brush and stone wet and rinse thoroughly. If the stone is not fully cleaned after one application, the cleaning agent may be applied to particularly grimy areas again.

### STEP SIX:

#### Wait

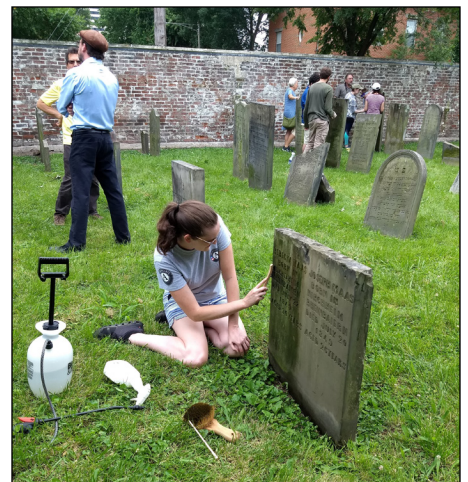
D/2 will continue to work for weeks after application. If the stone does not appear clean after 1-2 applications, have faith that the product will continue to work into the pores of the stone and kill any remaining biological growth. It is also normal for parts of the stone to change colors, typically turning a deep red or orange. This is the D/2 working and the stone color will return in a few days. I like to return to the cemetery around one month after cleaning to take follow up photos and see the full effects of the cleaning.

### ALTERNATIVE METHOD:

#### No Scrub/ No Rinse

If you are not sure if a stone should be cleaned or if you simply do not have that much time to devote to cleaning, Step 5 can be replaced with the No Scrub/ No Rinse method. Simply spray D/2 to coat the entire surface of a dry stone, then allow it to air dry. Results will develop within a month.

Anything beyond basic cleaning, including headstone repairs, resetting, or infill should be referred to qualified professionals. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to be referred to a qualified local professional: [carrierhodus@gmail.com](mailto:carrierhodus@gmail.com).



*All images are from the Ohio History Service Corps Summer Training Day at Chestnut Street Cemetery in Cincinnati, one of the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati. The Ohio History Service Corps would like to thank the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati for hosting us for this training.*

# Let's Not Hide the Tough Stuff of History

 John Dichtl, AASLH President and CEO.

*Originally published by the American Association of State and Local History, August 2, 2021. Reprinted by permission.*

**B**etween April and June 2021, [eight states](#) enacted laws to restrict teaching about the history of slavery and racism and other so-called “divisive concepts.” Many other states are considering such legislation, and a small handful have taken administrative action through state school boards to accomplish the same end. Besides creating [a political wedge issue](#), these laws and policies will prevent students and their teachers from engaging with the negative aspects of the American past along with the good. Such laws are meant to downplay or ignore the history of slavery. Teachers are warned away from talking about racism in any form, and students will be denied the chance to think critically about the past and how its legacies affect their world today.

Disconcerting on many counts, this legislative trend also threatens museums and historical societies. Public history organizations are destinations for school field trips, and they collaborate with teachers on lesson plans and in providing primary source-based instruction and other teacher training. As pressure builds to avoid challenging topics like racial identity and racism, there will be ruptures in how museums and historical societies support classroom educators and [conduct other programs](#).

History organizations, educators, and others preparing to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary should note that these “divisive concepts” laws are completely out of step with the breadth, depth, and rigor of historical scholarship and museology that have evolved since the Bicentennial. Over the past fifty years, and especially in the last decade, historians have come to overwhelmingly conclude that racism plays a central role in the American story. It's not the only meaningful factor, but it is [far more important to understanding](#) our political, economic, and cultural history than previous generations have thought. But where the “divisive concepts” legislation is most out of step is in how divorced it is from what Americans think about history as a discipline and how it should be taught. We all see how culturally divided and politically polarized Americans can be. Yet, liberal to conservative, across the political spectrum, the [majority of Americans today view the discipline of history favorably](#). This isn't true for all humanities disciplines, but it is for history.

**Indeed, according to a recent American Academy of Arts & Sciences survey, 44% of conservatives and 30% of liberals and moderates said they wished they had taken more courses in American history when they were students.**

There is even greater consensus in how history should be taught. A [recent survey](#) of nearly 2,000 Americans by the American Historical Association and Fairleigh Dickinson University found that most people agree on the need for a full reckoning with the past. “Asked whether it was acceptable to make learners uncomfortable by teaching the harm some people have done to others, over three-fourths of respondents said it was,” reported the surveyors. That's right, 78% of Democrats and 74% percent of Republicans “support the appropriateness of confronting painful history.” According to this survey, respondents overwhelmingly preferred an inquiry-based approach to learning history rather than an accumulation of fact upon fact. Such a critical thinking tack is exactly what history educators and public history organizations have been promoting for years. Such an approach is exactly the opposite of what conservative legislators have cast into law in Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Texas.

**Across the history community—from museums to classrooms to historic sites—we must continue presenting challenging, evidence-based examinations of state and local history.**

As stated in the introduction to AASLH's *Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial*, this is not a time to let up. “This moment is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to renew public engagement with history. It is a chance for Americans to learn about and reflect upon the full sweep of our nation's past, celebrating examples of liberty, courage, and sacrifice while reckoning with moments of injustice, racism, and violence.” History teaching must be honest, open, and relevant.

AASLH will continue to promote history that fosters critical thinking, historical research, and interpretation that engage all the important threads of history, not just the easy stuff. Meanwhile, AASLH is standing with other history associations in opposition to the “divisive concepts” legislation:

- On May 21, 2021, as a member of the National Coalition for History, AASLH endorsed this [NCH Statement Opposing “Divisive Concepts” Legislation](#).
- On June 16, 2021, AASLH and 144 other organizations endorsed this [Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism in American History](#).
- On July 2, 2021, AASLH and 26 other organizations endorsed this [Statement on Threats to Historical Integrity in Texas](#).



# Preserving and Storing Vintage and Heirloom Flags



Jane Hammond, Textile Conservator, ICA-Art Conservation.

Originally published in ICA's August newsletter. Reprinted by permission. To be added to ICA's mailing list, email Holly Witchey at [hwitchey@ica-artconservation.org](mailto:hwitchey@ica-artconservation.org).

**F**lags can deteriorate from handling, poor storage conditions, prolonged exposure to high levels of light and mold, attack from insects and other pests, high temperature, and improper relative humidity levels. Below are some recommendations on the care and handling of older flags that may be helpful.

Assessing the condition of your flag and its various materials is important before packing it away. A clean sheet or tablecloth spread across a bed or large table makes a comfortable, waist-high surface on which to examine and clean your flag. If your flag has been flown outside, it is especially important to remove any mold spores, dust, or insect materials from the fabric surfaces before putting it away.

## Begin with clean hands.

Use a plain detergent or soap without moisturizers or lotions to wash your hands before handling the flag. Natural secretions from your skin – perspiration and body oils – can react negatively with fibers and metal over time. Be sure to remove any jewelry that might catch or snag on any delicate areas.

## Assess your flag's condition.

Wool is very attractive to insects, such as webbing clothes moths and carpet beetles. Are there fabric losses or moth holes anywhere on your flag? Carefully examine seams and around existing damages for any evidence of pest activity or granular specks of insect eggs.

Cotton easily absorbs moisture and is susceptible to mold growth and, you may

find tiny dots of red “foxing” stains on the surface of older cotton flags. Oxidation is a natural result of cellulose aging, so once-white fabrics may look dingy and yellow.

Silk becomes less supple and prone to splits and fractures as it ages, and the cumulative effect of exposure to sunlight will continue to impact its ongoing deterioration. Look for disruptions and breaks in the weave structure. If there are signs of shattering or loose fragments, it's time to retire that flag from use and limit its handling.

Synthetic fabrics such as nylon, polyester, and acetate are also degraded by sunlight, but that effect may not be seen for many years. Aside from the obvious appearance of fading, damage from UV exposure is cumulative – it is not improved or “healed” after the flag is removed from UV exposure. Many plastics that are used to make water- and weatherproof coatings and printing inks are inherently unstable and may break down and become sticky as they age, running the risk of transfer and staining. Be sure all plastic surfaces on your flag are stable before rolling or folding.

Metal rust or active corrosion on grommets can be problematic and loss of plating may expose base metals to potential corrosion reactions. Use a tissue or cloth barrier to isolate metal parts from the fabric and prevent the transfer of rust from hoist end hardware when folding or rolling your flag.

## Clean your flag.

Don't attempt to wash or wet clean your flag. Introduction of water can lead to distortion and puckering, bleeding of dyes, and loss of fiber. However, a gentle low-suction vacuuming of both sides is important to remove surface dust, mold spores, and insect infestation before preparing your flag for storage. Use a panel of soft, clean nylon screening as a barrier between the vacuum

nozzle and the flag surface to reduce abrasion of the surface and prevent parts of the flag from being sucked into the nozzle.

## Document your flag.

Take an image of the flag when it is fully opened and clean for your records and place a copy of it on the outside of the flag's ultimate storage container. Record your examination notes and cleaning process for your records, as well. This will help you track and monitor any changes in condition.

## Store your flag.

Ideally, the safest way to store an older flag is flat, in a dark, temperature-controlled environment, but that may not be realistic in your home setting. Storage in a main living area of a house -- a space where you would feel comfortable -- is preferable. Textile objects should never be stored in an attic or basement, where extremes of temperature and humidity can dry out fibers or encourage mold growth. Providing a stable environment is especially important for organic materials like silk, wool, and cotton and can retard their deterioration. When possible, store antique flags flat, with as few folds as possible. Make sure the folds don't become creases over time by adding sheets of rolled and folded acid-free tissue paper to pad and soften the bends. Placing folds along seam lines, where possible, will reduce stress on the fabric.

If flat storage is not practical, your flag can be stored rolled. A non-archival cardboard tube can be used if it is buffered by adding a wrapper of aluminum foil and covering the foil with cotton muslin, which has been washed to remove any fabric finishes. The flag can be rolled on the tube with a clean cotton muslin panel as a support; making sure you smooth away wrinkles from the support as you roll. If cut long enough, the tail end of the fabric support can continue around

(continued on page 9)



the fully rolled flag and act as a cover for storage. Wrap the rolled flag package with clean polyethylene plastic and tuck the ends into the tube. Store the roll flat, not upright on one end.

A third alternative to rolling or flat storage is folded storage within a box, using archival quality materials. Be sure to avoid containers made from acidic cardboard that will deteriorate and possibly stain your flag's fabric. Acid-free archival tissue paper and acid-free storage boxes are available through a number of online conservation material suppliers such as [www.talasonline.com](http://www.talasonline.com), [www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com), and [www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com).

A U.S. Flag Code was first created in the

1920s and led to later legislated guidelines on how a flag should be displayed, cleaned, and handled. While these 'guidelines' are not an actual law, they express regulations that are now considered flag etiquette and the conventions are endorsed by the military. The triangular fold that leaves only the blue field and white stars showing is a good example of one of these conventions. From a conservation standpoint, triangular fold storage is not suitable for unfurled older flags with weakened and compromised conditions. Our recommendations are based on the stabilization and preservation of the physical materials from which flags are made and the steps necessary for their preservation.

### Have your flag assessed by a conservator.

Proper storage in a stable environment is critical to ensuring the long-term preservation of any textile item, especially those with fragile or compromised materials. If you're concerned about your flag's present condition, it's best to consult a professional conservator for advice and recommendations. ICA offers a half-hour consultation at no charge and we are happy to look at any images you may want to share via email. Call 216-558-8700 or email [info@ica-artconservation.org](mailto:info@ica-artconservation.org).

Additional guidelines for care and handling of textile collections can be found here: [MCI: How to Handle Antique Textiles and Costumes \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu/mci/howto/HowtoHandleAntiqueTextilesandCostumes)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ohio History Service Corps New Members Start Mid-September

Do you need help with audience engagement, collections care and collections policies, governing documents, social media and websites, or other projects that will help your organization build capacity to do better in the future? Ohio History Service Corps members can help! The Ohio History Service Corps is an AmeriCorps program hosted by the Ohio History Connection. Since October 2010, Ohio History Service Corps has been supporting community and local history all over Ohio. The newest cohort will start in mid-September, and will serve until the end of August 2022.

Ohio History Service Corps members work with local history organizations and communities in each of the Ohio Local History Alliance's 10 regions throughout the state. They provide coaching, assistance, and training in completing activities suggested by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)'s StEPs program to help organizations become more effective and sustainable, and help communities take the first step in historic preservation. Through member-facilitated assistance, organizations gain an increased knowledge of the public history field's standards and best practices and/or the creation of new programs, policies, and procedures that meet those standards.

Ohio History Service Corps members provide service and training in the categories of historic site survey, collections digitization, and capacity building for local historical organizations. The latter includes volunteer recruitment and management, event planning, cultivating partnerships, K-12 education outreach, and more.

The Ohio History Service Corps program has two components: Local History members and Community Surveyor members. Each of these AmeriCorps volunteer groups help local organizations put history to work in their community. Members will be hosted by the Logan County Historical Society, the Lorain Historical Society, the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, the Oberlin Heritage Center, Shawnee State University, the Trumbull County Historical Society, Youngstown State University, the City of Cincinnati and the Cleveland Landmarks Commission.

You can find their contact information at [ohiohistory.org/ameri-corps](http://ohiohistory.org/ameri-corps) by clicking on Current Members at the top of the page.

## National Trust Awards \$3 Million in Grants to 40 Sites to Help Preserve Black History

On July 15, 2021, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced more than \$3 million in grants to 40 sites and organizations through its [African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund](#).

Over the past four years, the National Trust has funded 105 historic places connected to Black history and invested more than \$7.3 million to help preserve landscapes and buildings imbued with Black life, humanity, and cultural heritage. This year's funds were awarded to key places and organizations that help the Action Fund protect and restore significant historic sites. Grants are given across four categories: capacity building, project planning, capital, and programming and interpretation.

Read more about the funded sites on their [website](#).

## Heritage Ohio 2021 Annual Preservation & Revitalization Conference

Heritage Ohio is excited to welcome everyone to historic downtown Springfield on October 18-20th, 2021!

This year's conference has everything for historic preservationists, community revitalizationists, community leaders, professionals and those looking to get started.

See the full agenda and register on their [website](#).

## Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial

On July 1, AASLH published Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial, a new resource with guiding themes and inspiring ideas to help you prepare for 2026. Whether you're already planning or are still unsure if you'll take part, this publication will help all of us fulfill the potential of this anniversary.

In the guide, you'll find several themes to encourage inclusive, relevant histories and provide cohesiveness to a multi-faceted, grassroots commemoration. Developed with direction from a diverse panel of more than twenty-five historians and museum professionals from across the United States, each of these guiding themes can be used to explore our nation's founding and the legacy of the Revolution, helping us confront hard truths about the shortcomings of our experiment in liberty and equality, while celebrating the vital principles of participatory government and constitutional rights. What is more, the themes can encourage a deep engagement with the entirety of our past, one full of moments that both inspire and challenge us. Any one of these themes can spark exhibits, community conversations, films, lesson plans, books, podcasts, and a wide range of other programs and events. We hope the themes will help create a more widely-shared story about our nation's history, one that acknowledges its many tensions and ambiguities and that informs our present and future.

We hope history professionals will use this guide to inform strategic and interpretive planning; to guide listening sessions and conversations with members of your community; to spark discussion among your board and other stakeholders; to help make your case for support among elected officials, foundations, and individual donors; and to help you put inclusive, relevant history at the center of the 250th commemoration. We hope it will help you envision the kind of transformative impact this anniversary can have on our field and on the nation.

Download the Guide from the AASLH [website](#).



## Vaccines & US: Cultural Organizations for Community Health

To our professional colleagues:

As we all prepare to welcome visitors and more staff to our reopened museums, we should also be deeply engaged in the national vaccination effort. As you know from previous communications, the Smithsonian has collaborated with cultural organizations in communities across the nation to create [Vaccines & US](#).

We need a concerted effort to ensure high levels (70%+) of vaccination throughout our country. While many states and communities have made remarkable progress over the past few months, there is still so much more to be done. A look at [this map](#), combined with the overall low vaccination rate among 18- to 39-year-olds, tells the story.

It is only through a 70% or more vaccination rate that we can keep our youngest children safe, that we can protect those for whom the vaccine is not effective (such as those with compromised immune systems), and that we can protect ourselves from the spread of additional vaccine mutations (e.g., Delta) that can put our community at risk.

Vaccines & US, based on the best information available, is shifting from its 'soft approach' to an urgent call to "get vaccinated!"

We urgently need your support and cooperation in this effort:

- Please add an [image/icon](#) on your website as a link to [Vaccines & US](#).
- Please hang [Vaccines & US posters](#) in your museums to alert both visitors and staff that your institution supports COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

There are a number of poster options available for [download](#). Each 11x17 poster has the Smithsonian logo, the Vaccines & US logo and QR code, and specific museum logos can be added if requested.

You can help support the campaign by taking a photo of a poster hanging in your museum and uploading it to social media using the hashtag #VaccinesAndUS.

We appreciate your support of this important life-saving initiative.

**Amy L. Marino &  
Zahava D. Doering, PhD**

[Vaccines & US: Cultural Organizations for Community Health](#)  
[vaccinesandus@si.edu](mailto:vaccinesandus@si.edu)

*On behalf of Vaccines & US collaborators:*

- [Brooklyn Public Library](#)
- [COVID-19 Prevention Network at Fred Hutch](#)
- [Exploratorium](#)
- [Museum of Chinese in America](#)
- [Museum of Science, Boston](#)
- [The New York Hall of Science](#)
- [Pacific Science Center](#)
- [Saint Louis Science Center](#)
- [Science Museum Minnesota](#)
- [The Health Museum](#)
- [The Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture](#)

## Ohio History Fund Grant Application Cycle is Open!

The Ohio History Fund is a competitive matching grant program that awards grants for history-related projects annually. Eligible applicants include a wide range of non-profit organizations and local government entities.

The application deadline for the 2021-2022 grant cycle is **September 28, 2021**. For more information, see [ohiohistory.org/historyfund](https://ohiohistory.org/historyfund).

Apply for an Ohio History Fund Grant

Eligible projects fall into one of three grant categories: Bricks & Mortar, Organizational Development, and Programs & Collections. History Fund grants are competitive and require matching funds, goods, and/or services from recipients. Experts from history-related organizations across Ohio review applications and make grant recommendations. The Ohio History Connection administers the History Fund program.

[Ohio History Fund Guidelines:](#) learn more about History Fund grants. The Guidelines describe eligibility requirements, allowable projects, and criteria in each grant category (Bricks & Mortar, Organizational Development, and Programs & Collections).

[Ohio History Fund Application:](#) find the online grant application and application instructions. The History Fund application process is entirely online. No paper submissions of grant applications are accepted. Applications can be printed, however, for the applicants' information.

## Region 2

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

The **Marion Women's Club** is presenting a series on Ohio Women Writers and explore how these writers always provoked cultural change when they published their thoughts. This series is free and open to the public and will be held at 7 PM at the Marion Women's Club Home, 1126 East Center St., Marion, Ohio. Learn more on their [Facebook page](#).

## Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

In 1938 the Works Progress Administration of Ohio completed work on the Alphabetical Index to Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion. Since that time the cumbersome volume was only available physically or on microfilm in libraries across the state. The **Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument** staff, led by now retired Executive Director Tim Daley, has digitized this valuable resource and through a partnership with the Cleveland Public Library and Internet Archives researchers can now view the index online. Visit the "Honored Veterans" tab at [soldiersandsailors.com](http://soldiersandsailors.com) for the link.

## Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** celebrated their grand opening of the newly renovated **Morgan History Center** and the reinterpreted **John Stark Edwards House**. The Morgan History Center houses TCHS's offices, archives and research center, and a rotating exhibit gallery that currently houses *Trumbull County A-Z*. The John Stark Edwards House reinterpretation occurred over the last year and a half while TCHS was closed to the public due to COVID-19. The goal was to be more inclusive in the stories that are told and explore the home's history outside of the early 1800s. The JSE House now looks at not only the early European settlers, but also the Civil War years, the rise of immigrant communities during the steel boom, and the people who lived here from WWII to the 1970s.



## Region 6

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

In recognition of the city's historic, diverse and fine quality architecture, the **Upper Arlington Historical Society** hosted its inaugural Homes of History celebration for UA homes that were built by 1921, and maintain much of their original facade. Over 110 homeowners participated this year, representing about two-thirds of the eligible homes. Yard signs were displayed throughout the month of August, and homes could be found while walking, biking or driving.



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 [ohiolha@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ohiolha@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.



Renewed between June 25, 2021 and August 18, 2021.

## Thank You, Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Sarah Aisenbrey, <i>Dayton</i>	Sandy Stephenson, <i>Fostoria</i>
Eileen Litchfield, <i>Greenville</i>	Randy L. Winland, <i>Prospect</i>
Judith Robinson, <i>Caldwell</i>	

### ORGANIZATIONS

Adena Mansion & Gardens Society, <i>Chillicothe</i>	Huron Historical Society, <i>Huron</i>
Armstrong Air & Space Museum Association, <i>Wapakoneta</i>	Johnston Farm Friends Council, <i>Piqua</i>
Ashville Area Heritage Society, <i>Ashville</i>	Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, <i>Chillicothe</i>
Baltimore Community Museum, <i>Baltimore</i>	Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Inc., <i>Napoleon</i>
Bellevue Historical Society & Heritage Museum, <i>Bellevue</i>	McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, <i>Canton</i>
Bellevue Public Library, <i>Bellevue</i>	Morrow County Historical Society, <i>Mount Gilead</i>
Bucyrus Historical Society, <i>Bucyrus</i>	Perry Historical Society of Lake County, <i>Perry</i>
Champaign County Historical Society, <i>Urbana</i>	Ripley Heritage, Inc., <i>Ripley</i>
Darke County Historical Society, <i>Greenville</i>	Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums, <i>Fremont</i>
Fort Recovery Historical Society, <i>Fort Recovery</i>	Sandusky County Historical Society, <i>Fremont</i>
Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, <i>Cincinnati</i>	Sandy Stephenson, <i>Fostoria</i>
Friends of the Museums, Inc., <i>Marietta</i>	Sauder Village, <i>Archbold</i>
Hanover Township Historical Society, <i>Hanoverton</i>	Sutliff Museum, <i>Warren</i>
Hardin County Historical Museums, <i>Kenton</i>	Trenton Historical Society, <i>Trenton</i>
Hilliard Ohio Historical Society, <i>Hilliard</i>	Trotwood-Madison Historical Society, <i>Trotwood</i>
Historic Schoenbrunn Village, <i>Dennison</i>	Van Wert County Historical Society, <i>Van Wert</i>
	Westerville Historical Society, <i>Westerville</i>

### SEPTEMBER 28:

Ohio History Fund Grant Applications due. For more information, see page 11.

### SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 2:

OLHA Annual Meeting. For more information, see pages 1 and 4.

### OCTOBER 18-20:

Heritage Ohio Annual Conference. For more information, see page 10.

### OCTOBER 22 – 23:

Filson Historical Society Biennial Conference. For more information, see [filsonhistorical.org/education/filson-biennial-conference/](http://filsonhistorical.org/education/filson-biennial-conference/).

## On the Web

# Mass Action: Museum as Site for Social Action

[www.museumaction.org](http://www.museumaction.org)

This collaborative project seeks to align museums with more equitable and inclusive practices. As the museum field begins to shape its identity in the 21st century, MASS Action poses the following questions for practitioners to consider: What is the role and responsibility of the museum in responding to issues affecting our communities locally and globally? How do the museum's internal practices need to change in order to align with, and better inform, their public practice? How can the museum be used as a site for social action? Through a series of public convenings and the creation of a toolkit of resources, this project's intention is to share the strategies and frameworks needed to address these important topics.

# Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...



**OHIO LOCAL  
HISTORY ALLIANCE**  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

...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	(\$65 for 2)
Individual:	\$50	(\$90 for 2)
Student:	\$20	

## Business Member:

\$100	(\$190 for 2)
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## Join at:

[www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx](http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx)

The Ohio Local History Alliance, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection, 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.

*The Local Historian* (ISSN 9893-3340) is published bimonthly by the Ohio History Connection, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2497, as a benefit to Ohio Local History Alliance members. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus, OH.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

*The Local Historian*,  
Local History Services,  
Ohio History Connection,  
800 E. 17th Avenue,  
Columbus, OH 43211-2497.

Editor: Betsy Hedler

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Visit The Alliance online at

[www.ohiolha.org](http://www.ohiolha.org) and on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance](https://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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