

History is Happening at the 2020 Regional Meetings



by Dr. Betsy Hedler, Ohio Local History Alliance Executive Secretary

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I'm really excited for this year's regional meetings, and I wish I could attend all of them! It's always a great pleasure to visit our host sites while planning the meetings. We can't thank this year's host sites enough for welcoming all of you to their sites and helping us put together interested and educational meetings. If you'd be interested in hosting a regional meeting in the future, let me know or volunteer at your regional meeting!

In addition to the chance to see places rich in history, regional meetings offer educational and networking opportunities to gain new knowledge, connect with old friends and meet new ones, find new sources of support, and share stories of successes and struggles – all of which can help you have your most successful year ever! Join us at one or more regional meetings for inspiration, engagement, and get ready for another year of sharing your history.

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President's Message:



I love January! There is something about starting out the new year with a clean slate, purchasing new calendars, organizing new to-do lists, brainstorming with staff and finally having time to catch your breath and think strategically that is so invigorating! And with a pivotal, numerical year like 2020—there is no time to waste. We can do big things this year! The horizon is full of opportunities ranging from Ohio's World Heritage initiatives, the Nation's 250th Anniversary, OHC's

new American Indian Policy, History Grants & Markers, Ohio Statehood Day and all the great things happening in our own backyard

One of the things I am most excited about is that it is time for the Ohio Local History Alliance to do our new Five-Year Strategic Planning. What are the issues and initiatives important to you and your site? To all museums and historical sites—I urge you to share your ideas, needs and concerns with your local OLHA representatives. We want to hear from you. To our OLHA regional reps—I can't wait to see you early in February to exchange these ideas, talk about collaboration and create our new path forward together.

*January is also the perfect time to set-up your calendars, and set priorities by saving dates for important events—such as the spring Regional meetings that run from March to April across our ten regions in Ohio. Please see Dr. Betsy Hedler's article, "**History is Happening at the 2020 Regional Meetings**" for a run-down on dates, locations and the exciting topics that will be discussed this year. One of the many hot topics at this year's meetings will be Emergency Planning, as highlighted by Anthony Gibb's newsletter article: "**An Emergency Plan for Your Site.**" Always remember, if there are topics of interest to you in another region's meeting—you are more than welcome to attend!*

*Lastly, take some of the downtime in January and February to get out of the building and visit other museums! And bring your staff with you. Staff development is crucial, and making a visit to another site is a fun and beneficial way to help your staff grow. I just had the opportunity to make visits to the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland History Center, both full of inspiration and ideas. The Michelangelo and Tiffany exhibits at CMA alone are worth the trip and the "**Si Jolie! French Fashion in Cleveland**" exhibition in the Chisholm Halle Costume wing at CHC is divine!*

Happy New Year!

Wendy Zucal

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One more award!

The editor would like to apologize to the South Charleston Heritage Commission Corporation for omitting to announce their award in the November/December 2019 issue of *The Local Historian*.

The South Charleston Heritage Commission Corporation received an Outstanding Achievement Award in the History Outreach/ Public Programming category for their program, "Edward Edwards: His Life and His Life's Work."

South Charleston's Heritage Commission identified nearly 50 homes of one carpenter, Edward Edwards, who lived in South Charleston from 1843-1897. Family histories were obtained tracing ownership back to the original owners. Architectural features (both interior and exterior) were identified that were unique to Edwards. A slide show/lecture was presented to the community in October 2018. Residents listened attentively and then cheered enthusiastically after hearing this untold story of a man whose work was so important to the community.

The Heritage Commission will be presenting this talk again on Sunday, March 29, at 2 PM in the Town Hall, 35 South Chillicothe Street, South Charleston, Ohio 45368. ■



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The **Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum** of the City of Defiance will host the **Region 1** meeting on April 4 in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Sessions will include a discussion of reaching underserved communities through an oral history project, moving collections, and a how-to presentation on bus tours as membership engagement. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Tuttle, located in a former bank building. Ask them about the creative ways they've used the bank vault for audience engagement.

The **Region 2** meeting will be hosted by the **Morrow County Historical Society** on March 28th at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Mount Gilead. Meeting sessions will cover applying for OHRAB grants, collections care with a limited budget, and the responsibilities of non-profit board members. The meeting will come to a close after a tour of the Morrow County History Center, a multi-room, multi-topic experience.

The **Westlake Historical Society** will host the **Region 3** meeting at the Westlake City Recreation Center on April 4. The meeting will feature sessions on disaster planning and preparation, featuring a tool you can use to create a disaster plan; along with a session on non-traditional revenue sources for history organizations. The meeting concludes with a tour of the Clague Museum, a house built in 1876, highlighting the ways they've worked to make the house more welcoming to visitors (especially children).

The **Sebring Historical Society** hosts the **Region 4** meeting at their Strand Theatre on March 28. The meeting will focus on historic preservation and community outreach, with sessions on the collaboration to build a 19th-Amendment scavenger hunt in northeast Ohio, and on the basics of historic preservation. Lunch will be held at the nearby Sebring Mansion, an example of historic preservation in action. The meeting will conclude with a screening of a movie highlighting the life of Victor Schreckingost, a world-renowned inventor and designer from Sebring.

Historic Fort Steuben hosts the **Region 5** meeting on March 21. The meeting will focus on creating connection and growing the relevance of your site with sessions on building and maintaining a relationship with your community, reinforcing your mission through special events, and the marketing and promotion of your site. The meeting concludes with a tour of the Fort and the Visitor's Center.

In **Region 6** the **Kelton House Museum and Gardens** will welcome you on March 21. Sessions include how to write a fundable grant, improving your accessibility for a variety of visitors, and building exhibits on a shoe-string budget. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Kelton House, which interprets urban life and the decorative arts in

Columbus, Ohio during the second half of the 19th century.

The **Armstrong Air and Space Museum** will host the **Region 7** meeting on March 14. The meeting will be held in the museum's new STEM Inspiration Center and feature sessions on expanding your museum's outreach through summer reading programs, and lessons learned from a disastrous water leak. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the museum, where you can learn more about Ohio's connection to space exploration.

On March 7, the **Loveland Museum Center** will host the **Region 8** meeting in the JoAnn Richardson History House. Meeting sessions will include making your site more diverse and inclusive, along with a hands-on session on aligning your educational offerings to Ohio's curriculum standards. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Bonaventure museum and the Loveland Timeline, a digital timeline which showcases the history of Loveland in a new way.

The **Region 9** meeting on March 14 will be hosted by the **Ross County Historical Society** in Chillicothe. Meeting sessions will include discussions of becoming more present on the internet so that new audiences can find you, and preparing for and reacting to museum emergencies. At the conclusion of the meeting, a tour of the Ross County Historical Society will include a chance to view their collections storage areas and other "behind the scenes" details of interest to museum folks.

On March 7, the Historic Roscoe Village Foundation will welcome you to the **Historic Roscoe Village** Visitor's Center for the **Region 10** meeting. During the meeting, you'll learn about engaging audiences through social media and about a community-wide collaboration on children's programming that has brought new visitors to non-profit organizations in Coshocton. The meeting will conclude with a tour of Historic Roscoe Village and a chance to visit the array of shops in this historic setting.

We've got some really exciting sessions planned, and I hope to see you at more than one of them! Remember, you aren't limited to attending the meeting of the region you live or work in. You can attend any regional meeting—maybe to see a site you've always been interested in, or to take in an interesting presentation.

The brochure, with more complete descriptions of each meeting, will arrive in your mailbox next week. Copies can also be found online at www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-regional-meetings. You can register by mailing in the form on the last page of the brochure with a check or by using the online registration link on the OLHA website to pay via credit card. On-site registration will be available, payable by check only. Have questions? Call or email Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org. ■

Statehood Day 2020



The historic Ohio Statehouse will once again be the setting when Ohio’s local history advocates convene for the annual Statehood Day event on Wednesday, February 26 to celebrate the state’s birthday and to advocate for issues important to local history groups.

The Statehood Day event brings together Ohio’s history supporters and gives you the opportunity to meet with your state legislators and network with fellow history-related professionals and advocates. You can register for the event online at www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday, which includes lunch.

Governor Mike DeWine will receive the Ohio History Leadership Award, presented annually to an elected leader who has “gone above and beyond” in promoting Ohio history. The award

is scheduled to be given at 9:30 am.

“We’re very honored to present the Ohio History Leadership Award to Governor DeWine,” said Burt Logan, executive director and CEO of the Ohio History Connection. “For more than 40 years Governor DeWine has been a strong supporter of preserving and promoting Ohio history. He and Mrs. DeWine have both been tremendous.”

This year’s event will emphasize the centennial of the women’s suffrage movement and feature a panel discussion about the topics relating to suffrage and women’s achievements. Attendees are encouraged to schedule a meeting for the morning of Feb. 26 between 10:15 am – noon with your state representative and/or state senator to discuss public policy issues relating to history and historic preservation.

The Ohio History Connection will also announce its 2020 History Fund grant awards, funded through income tax donations from Ohioans.

Statehood Day is sponsored by Ohio History Connection, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Archaeological Council, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Ohio Humanities, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Travel Association, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Council for Social Studies and the Society of Ohio Archivists.

Please register online by February 19. If you have questions, please e-mail Todd Kleismit at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org. ■

Do Americans Still Visit History Organizations?

By John Garrison Marks,
American Association for State
and Local History

Do Americans care about history? Different data sources can provide dramatically different answers to this relatively simple question. Over the past several years, isolated but [well-publicized reports](#) of visitation declines at large, high-profile history organizations have led to soul-searching questions about the appeal and effectiveness of our institutions. Are Americans still interested in history? Are we doing enough to reach our audiences? Elsewhere, however, there is reason for optimism as new research reveals that more people are visiting historical organizations across the country.

AASLH's National Visitation Report, published in November 2019, found that visits to history museums, historic sites, historical societies, and other history institutions increased nearly 6 percent between 2013 and 2018. Gleaned from a survey of more than 1,250 institutions across the country, the report reveals that visitation increased just under 8 percent from 2013 to 2017, before a 2 percent decline in 2018. This growth was evident for institutions of nearly every type, of different budget sizes, and in every region of the country, providing clear evidence of the effectiveness of U.S. historical organizations.

Trends at Small Institutions

What's more, the report reveals that some of the strongest visitation growth occurred at small institutions like the historical societies and small museums so ubiquitous in towns and counties across the country. Institutions with annual operating budgets of less than \$50,000, for example, saw their visitation grow 18 percent, the largest increase of any budget level. Those with budgets between \$50,000–\$250,000 saw visitation increase nearly 13 percent. Institutions of this size, some of which



Do Americans still visit history organizations?

This simple question is remarkably difficult to answer. In recent years, well-publicized reports of visitation declines at high-profile institutions have provided cause for concern among professionals and the public alike. But these isolated reports provide only an incomplete picture of Americans' engagement with history. This report, based on the **American Association for State and Local History's** National Visitation Survey distributed in early 2019, collected data from institutions across the country to provide a better answer.

Our analysis reveals that, in fact, history organizations have reason for optimism: **visitation to history organizations increased over the past six years.** Since 2013, visitation to history organizations of all kinds increased **5.7 percent**, although it declined slightly from a peak in 2017. The total U.S. population, by comparison, grew about 4 percent over the same period. In addition, small history organizations—which make up the majority of the field—reported some of the largest visitation growth.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Visitation increased **5.7 percent** from 2013-2018.
- Small organizations saw the largest growth.
- Visitation declined slightly from 2017 to 2018.

are operated solely by volunteers, form the majority of the nation's more than twenty thousand historical organizations; that so many of them are reporting sharp visitation increases speaks well to the strength and vitality of the history enterprise in the United States.

This pattern of growth among small organizations holds true for

many different types of institutions, from museums to historic sites to historical societies. Among museums, for example, respondents with annual budgets under \$50,000 saw a 27 percent overall increase in average attendance since 2013, while those in the \$50,000 to \$250,000 range increased about

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13 percent. Visitation to historical societies provided perhaps the best example of this trend: the two smallest budget ranges saw huge increases (37 percent and 22 percent, respectively) while overall, historical societies experienced a decline in visitation. At historic houses, visitation rose nearly 9 percent between 2013 and 2018.

Relevant, Inclusive, and Community-Focused

Beyond these broad patterns, however, lies a question that's much more difficult to answer: why have history museums, historical societies, and other sites welcomed more visitors? While many answers are institutionally specific, emerging trends over the past several years point to some plausible explanations. In particular, a growing emphasis within the history field on interpreting more inclusive stories about the past, sharing authority with surrounding communities with regard to what stories get told and how, and increasing efforts to make the past relevant to present-day concerns have all likely contributed to this growth in historic site visitation.

As these efforts have gained purchase among historical organizations around the country, visitation has increased. For example, Kenneth C. Turino and Max A. van Balgooy note in their recent book *Reimagining Historic House Museums* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), that historic houses in particular have been encouraged over the last decade to address sustainability challenges by "becoming more relevant to the surrounding community, working collaboratively with nearby museums, recognizing that interpretation should evolve, and taking advantage of modern planning and evaluation tools." According to Turino, those trends have taken hold. "There really has been a shift in what people have been doing to engage their communities,"

noted Turino, Manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England, "and it seems like that is having an effect."

Sean Blinn, member of the Bedminster (NJ) Historic Preservation Commission and the AASLH Small Museums Committee, agrees. In a [blog post responding to the visitation report](#), Blinn notes that "Small museums can move quickly in response to current events and issues, and develop programs to reach out into our communities and address issues of concern. In the same vein, people may feel a greater sense of ownership and support for a community museum whose programs and exhibits reflect them and their interests."

The efforts of the history community to emphasize the relevance of the past to the present, to advance more inclusive histories, and to work more directly with members of their community, has led to visitation growth at history organizations around the country, especially at small institutions.

New Questions

Although the National Visitation Report helps answer some important questions about the field, it also raises new ones. Perhaps the best example of this is the report's findings regarding differences between free and paid entry. The AASLH visitation survey received roughly an equal number of responses from institutions with free entry and paid entry. Both types of institutions saw an overall increase from 2013 to 2018, and both experienced a slight decline from 2017 to 2018. Deeper analysis, however, reveals more complicated results.

Among respondents, free institutions received more visitors on average (58,899 in 2018) than institutions with paid entry (42,282). However, paid entry institutions experienced a much larger increase in visitation than their free

counterparts: 10.5 percent versus 1.8 percent. At first glance, those results might be surprising, but additional research suggests perhaps they shouldn't be. For example, audience research analysis by Colleen Dilenschneider suggests that "admission fees are generally not a primary visitation barrier" at cultural organizations, finding that people who do not visit typically cite factors other than cost.

Across the country, visitation to history organizations has increased over the past several years. AASLH's National Visitation Report and other sources suggest increased engagement with the past as history institutions place increasing emphasis on presenting inclusive, relevant interpretation of the past.

Call to Action

AASLH hopes this data will provide meaningful benchmarks for history organizations of all types and sizes, and helps practitioners around the country ask new and better questions. But we need your help! Our 2020 National Visitation Survey is open now. Please respond for your institution and share with your colleagues. The more data we gather, the more accurate and useful our report for the field will be in 2020. Visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Visitation2020.

For more information on AASLH's National Visitation Report and to download our findings, visit: learn.aaslh.org/national-visitiation-report.

John Garrison Marks is the senior manager, strategic initiatives at AASLH, where he contributes to efforts to advance field-wide research and help history organizations prepare for the 250th anniversary. You can email him at marks@aaslh.org. ■

What you Missed at PastForward: 2019

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

As a young professional, I know it can be financially challenging to attend the National Trust for Historic Preservation's annual conference, PastForward. In October, I was fortunate enough to attend the conference, held in Denver, thanks in part to receiving a Tiny Jane Scholarship and utilizing professional development funding through my service as an Ohio History Service Corps member.

Many of the major themes of the conference focused on adapting the preservationist toolkit in order to ensure preservationists are telling the full story and preserving traditionally

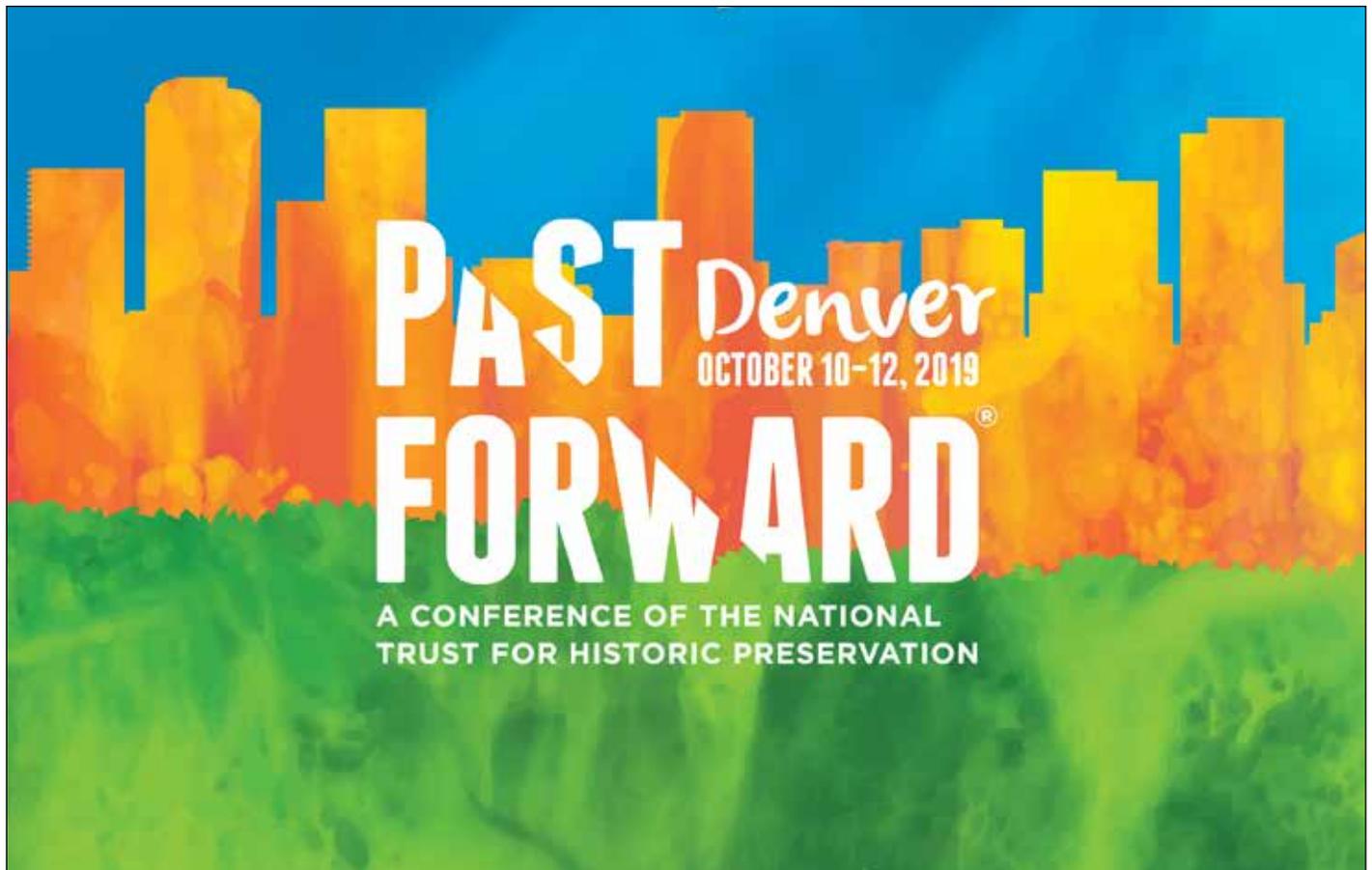
underrepresented sites. While there isn't a concise definition of a preservationist toolkit, this can be thought of as any tool, guideline, standard, or resource that preservationists utilize or conform to in order to do preservation. Good examples of these can be found in "Preservation Tips and Tools" page of the National Trust website (www.savingplaces.org/tips-and-tools).

Underrepresented communities have vibrant histories, but their sites can lack the integrity required by current preservation standards imposed by the Secretary of the Interior and local ordinances. Many sessions discussed the concept of "Cultural Preservation." While Historic Preservation focuses on physically preserving historically significant sites, Cultural Preservation refers to respecting historic legacies, maintaining cultural authenticity,

rebuilding neighborhoods, and reviving economic opportunity. Cultural Preservation allows a community to tell their own story, while contextualizing that story to inform outsiders of why they should care. This helps to create genuine connections, build trust, and leverage partnerships to combat cultural displacement.

For many communities which are experiencing any form of decline, Cultural Preservation can be difficult to achieve. Many communities are so busy "putting out fires" that they are not able to plan. So, how can preservationists help these communities? An important start is to let the community lead. For many, their basic needs must be met before the community can heal. While many of these neighborhoods are not experiencing

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economic displacement, they are being displaced by an abundance of bad land uses, disinvestment, police harassment, and even the redevelopment projects that were intended to revitalize the neighborhood.

The “Neighborhood Revitalization to Combat Cultural Displacement” session specifically discussed an eighteen-month assessment done by the National Trust in Atlanta’s historically black neighborhoods. Their assessment found that 9 of 10 of these neighborhoods have seen a loss of African American citizens due to the kinds of displacement stated above. The Trust staff found that by building trust and partnerships within the community, they were able to create a meaningful report, instead of simply looking at the statistics. They found that the statistics do not tell the full story. While the report will not be completed until February, it will be able to create meaningful change in these Atlanta communities.

Many communities, no matter their setting or size, have a great building stock, but are vacant or severely neglected. These properties and intangible heritage in the community are hard to save with the current preservation standards. As more historic buildings are torn down, it becomes harder for neighbors to meet and retain or encourage resident-owned businesses. This fracture is the root of a community’s inability to revitalize.

Therefore, new projects must keep the whole city in mind, not just their project site. Through the

incorporation of experiential initiatives at previously abandoned locations, preservationists can help bring new life to the neighborhood. In the “TrustLive: Revitalizing Small Communities” session, Dar Williams discussed the concept of “positive proximity” or a state of being, where living side by side with other people is experienced as beneficial. By creating positive proximity across the community, individuals will become more involved as projects unfold which interest them. This way, passions are found which have not yet been tapped into, creating even more community.

Once a community begins to gain momentum, this often leads to new issues for the community. They have created their own value, but how do they hold onto that value for themselves? Gentrification is a serious problem in the preservation field. This topic was a key discussion point throughout the conference as well as a need to investigate tools useful in preventing displacement while revitalizing underrepresented communities.

Another issue is balancing the desire to cultivate heritage tourism using the historic sites, and preservation. Many organizations and communities want to encourage tourism and visitors. However, there is a balance needed with tourism and fostering a sense of community of regular residents. While sites all want to bring in visitors, they do not want those visitors to take over, leaving an empty space in their wake. Communities can avoid the fracture of becoming a tourist town by attracting

both visitors and residents to the same spaces. This occurs when aspects of the community, such as local businesses, are infused with historic context. Going one step further, historic information should be presented in the context of whatever is presently important in the space. Sharing and interpreting local history for visitors will also create more “civic self-esteem” and, in turn, build more value for that community.

A great example of a community which has successfully accomplished these goals, highlighted at the conference, is the Cooper Molera Adobe in Monterey, California. Adaptive reuse of the Adobe has resulted in a “shared-use” model which includes an active program of historic interpretation alongside compatible commercial uses. This allows the Adobe to be open to the public, with diverse populations utilizing the space and learning about their shared history on a regular basis.

TrustLive speaker Mindy Fullilove said, “Stories are like a salad – we need the full mix to add the flavor.” By working collaboratively and making needed changes to the toolkit, preservationists will be able to add those special ingredients needed to make delicious salads.

Recordings of select conference sessions can be found on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s YouTube channel in the PastForward 2019: Denver playlist: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk9GN_xSQe42td2kKVt_qEa4v54wuMXH ■

An Emergency Plan for Your Site

by *Anthony Gibbs, Department Manager, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection*

At our last Annual Meeting, the Local History Office of the Ohio History Connection unveiled its State of Ohio Local History Report. The report included some general information about local history organizations around the state including where organizations stand in their annual budgets and their staffing demographics; but more importantly it revealed a few major needs of our institutions. One of the most pressing facts that was revealed was that approximately 70% of local history organizations do not have an Emergency Plan core document. So, in the face of a disaster, such as a tornado, a fire, or a major water leak, most of our organizations would be unprepared.

This does not have to be the case. There are many resources for organizations to be trained on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Recovery. Organizations such as Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), American Association of Museums (AAM), The American Institute for Conservation, the American Association for State and Local History, American Institute for Conservation, and many other state and national resources including the Ohio History Connection have resources for helping organizations be prepared in the face of an emergency.

The emergency plan core document provides procedures to manage and coordinate prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for all possible hazards. These five distinct steps are constantly occurring, often not in order.

1. Mitigation

The goal of mitigation is to prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies.

2. Prevention

Through effective prevention practices, we can ensure that we lessen our chances of having to respond to a disaster. Preventive practices include fire safety and prevention, water prevention, mold prevention, pest management, and developing evacuation plans.

3. Preparedness

Preparedness involves activities undertaken in advance of an emergency or disaster to adequately prepare for and develop capability to respond to an emergency. Preparedness develops operational capabilities and enables an effective response to an emergency or disaster. Adequate planning

pre-determines the best utilization of resources, vendors needed for response and recovery, and identifies personnel training opportunities.

4. Response:

The response phase is the implementation of emergency response operations during an incident. Response is putting preparedness plans into action and includes both life safety and site stabilization needs before you turn to recovery.

5. Recovery:

The recovery phase involves both short- and long-term operations. The objective of short-term operations is typically to restore vital services. The objectives of long-term recovery operations are the restoration of normal activities and the restoration of the affected area to its normal or an improved condition. Long-term recovery may include planning for and implementing reconstruction of damaged facilities and infrastructure and the resumption of basic services.

The first step to creating an emergency plan for your organization is to do a risk assessment of your site. There are four basic steps to the risk assessment process:

1. Identify the hazards
2. Assess the risks, impacts, and probabilities
3. Implement appropriate measures to minimize impact
4. Monitor and reassess risks on an ongoing basis

Here are two resources for doing a self-assessment:

1. Probability/Impact Chart: Create a chart that maps the probability of each threat occurring and its effect on your institution. (Should be sufficient for very small institutions.)
2. American Institute for Conservation: Assessing Risks Worksheet (More Comprehensive)
 - www.culturalheritage.org/resources/emergencies/risk-evaluation-and-planning-program

A risk assessment is just the beginning of creating an emergency plan for your site. The resource organizations mentioned earlier all provide help in creating a complete plan for your site. For more information on resources for emergency plans, please contact the Local History Office at localhistory@ohiohistory.org. ■

More History Fund Grants for More Projects in 2020...With Your Help.

By Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

The Ohio History Fund is the state's only competitive matching grant program exclusively for history projects. There's only one challenge: the grants are made from money donated to the Ohio History Connection, so the money that the History Fund has to grant fluctuates from year to year. The more donations the History Fund receives, the more and larger grants the History Fund can make. Case in point: in 2018, the History Fund had \$76,000 and in 2019, it had \$90,000.

Your donations, especially through the Ohio History Fund tax check-off on the state income tax form, make a difference! In the four fast-moving months between the start of tax season in January the end on April 15, you and thousands of others will contribute more than three-quarters of the money the History Fund will grant in 2020. Help us help you this winter. Half of the History Fund's 73 recipients are Alliance members and they have received more than \$330,000 in grants.

We want you to donate and we want you to encourage others to donate through the Ohio History Fund tax check-off on your State of Ohio income tax return (see below). Our goal for 2020 is \$100,000, which is \$9 from 11,120 Ohioans. Because of you, the Ohio History Fund can achieve this goal. As of this writing, (mid-December 2019), the Ohio History Fund tax check off is only \$432 short of topping \$100,000 for the 2019.

For a complete list of Ohio History Fund grants recipients, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-office/history-fund/recipients. Here are a few recent recipients and their stories.

The Trumbull County Historical Society (TCHS) in Warren received a grant of \$5,000 to catalogue and



Top: Trumbull County Historical Society volunteers Marilyn Pilch (left) and Margaret Chiarella (right) assist the project's collections manager, Stephanie Petcavage, with making padded garment hangers and updating the Society's collections database. Left: Flat storage made possible by the project include archival quality boxes with images of the textile stored inside. Right: Executive Director Megan Reed shows garments hung on padded hangers, to lessen wear inside garment bags. Hanger and garment bags made of unbleached muslin. Images courtesy the Trumbull County Historical Society and the Ohio History Connection.

rehouse approximately 580 objects in the Society's textile collection – although at the end of the project, the actual number was almost 750! Trained and supervised by project Collections Manager Stephanie Petcavage, five volunteers carried out the work, and in the process came to understand the necessity of

caring for the collection systematically and according to professional standards and best practices for the field (example: [NPS Museum Handbook, Part I: Museum Collections](#)).

The project not only addressed a key item on the TCHS's strategic plan about

(continued on page 12)



The progress of the Delaware County Historical Society's shelf replacement project. Image at top left shows the old, worn out particle board shelving. Top right shows DCHS volunteers Roger Koch (left) and John Rodeheffer assembling the new metal shelving. The third image shows the finished product, with books re-shelved and ready for use. The sign reads "Cryder Research Library Shelving Replacement Project, 2019. This project made possible in part by a grant from the Ohio History Connection's History Fund. The History Fund is supported exclusively by voluntary donations of Ohio income tax refunds, sales of Ohio History "mastodon" license plates, and designated gifts to the Ohio History Connection. www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund." Photographs courtesy of the Delaware County Historical Society.

collections care, it also benefits those who attend the Society's events and programs. According to the project's final report, "[w]ith a full inventory now complete of the textile collection, we can easily pull items for exhibits as well as have more information in one place to expedite the curatorial process." Moreover, experience gained will help the Society help other area local historical organizations to preserve and share their collections for their communities.

According to the TCHS's executive director, Meghan Reed, "[t]he History Fund allowed us to gain control over the clothing, accessories, and quilts that we preserve. We can now enter exhibit and program planning knowing the significance behind many of our most precious artifacts."

The Trumbull County Historical Society has been a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance since 1991.

With a grant of \$6,000, the **Delaware County Historical Society (DCHS)** replaced 21 worn out particle board bookshelves with eight new metal, archives-quality unit in the Society's Cryder Research Library. The Society re-shelved more than 2,200 books and 39 boxes of pamphlets, making all more accessible for researchers.

As noted in the DCHS's final project report, volunteers use the library to create evening programs, "which are attended on average by 80 adults in the community each month" as well as materials for other programs that, in 2019, reached 4,400 students and more than 1,200 adults. Visitors use the library to answer their questions about the community's history and that of their families. Because the new shelves make the library more accessible, visitors now browse them—"an activity that was not observed in the past."

The Delaware County Historical Society has been a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance since 1988.

Here's what you can do between now and that red letter tax-filing deadline of April 15 to make more projects like Delaware County Historical Society and the Trumbull County Historical Society happen – and, more importantly, yours,

(continued on page 13)



Taking a deduction without receipts? That'll never fly!

GIVE TO THE Ohio History Fund ON YOUR State Tax Return.

OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION

too:

- Share some of your state income tax refund with the History Fund, line 26f, “Ohio History Fund” on the “2019 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return.” Tell your history-loving family and friends about it, too. Find “talking points” and other materials listed below at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund—“Promote the Ohio History Fund”

- Reprint in your newsletters an article about the History Fund, [found here](#). (That’s one less article you’ll have to write for your newsletter! Adapt and edit as needed.)

- Forward emails and share upcoming social media posts about the Ohio History Fund tax check-off from the Ohio History Connection.

- Distribute fun promotional materials about the Ohio History Fund. They feature:

Annie Oakley

“Oh shoot! My taxes are due!”

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

“I wonder if I can deduct Union Army headquarters as my home office”

The Wright Brothers

“Taking deductions without receipts? That will never fly.”

Oliver Hazard Perry

“All hands on deck” (Give to the Ohio History Fund on Your State Tax Return.)

You can find images of Annie, Orville and Wilbur, Ulysses, and Oliver promoting the History Fund [here](#). The Ohio History Connection will also be distributing hard copies of promotional materials to past grant recipients, Alliance members, and libraries, and at the Regional Meetings.

- Contact Mallory Skrobot in the Ohio History Connection’s Marketing & Communications Department, mskrobot@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2351 when you need more. Just tell Mallory what you need and where to send them.

Besides the tax check off, there are other ways to support the History Fund: the Ohio History “mastodon” license plate and direct, tax-deductible donations to the Ohio History Connection designated for the History Fund.

- Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of Ohio History license plates benefits the History Fund grant program: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx

- You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on “Give.” Be sure to designate your gift this way: “For Ohio History Fund.”



Annie Oakley, U.S. Grant, Oliver Hazard Perry, and the Wright Brothers team up to promote donations to the Ohio History fund tax check-off in 2018. Promotional materials are available digitally in a variety of sizes for your social media, newsletters, and website at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund



\$20 from the sale of the Ohio History “mastodon” license plate supports the History Fund grant program

The more the History Fund receives in donations, the more grants the History Fund makes back to us. Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 73 grants across our state for a total of \$694,569. Proving that there's a great need for the History Fund, however, it has received 388 grant applications totaling more than \$4.7 million in requests!

Applications for grants for the 2019-20 cycle are currently under review. Recipients will be publically announced at the Statehood Day event, February 26, at the Ohio Statehouse. For more about Statehood Day, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday

The deadline for applications in 2020 will be posted in June on the History Fund's website: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The application deadline is not scheduled yet, but will likely fall late August – early September, around Labor Day. The website also includes information about eligible projects and applicants, grant amounts, and instructions for applying. Or, contact History Fund Grant coordinator Andy Verhoff at 614-297-2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org.

*The tax check-off supports the History Fund.
The History Fund supports you!*



How the Tax "Check-Off" Works**

- Although we call it a "check-off," on your tax form, you won't find a box to check.
- Toward the end of your individual Ohio state income tax return, after you've calculated the amount of your refund (if you are receiving a refund), you'll find line 26 that asks "Amount of line 24 to be donated."
- One of the six options is "Ohio History Fund," line 26f
- Under "Ohio History Fund," fill in the amount that you'd like to contribute. Last year's average contribution was just over \$9.00, so even a small donation can make a big difference – but if you want to round it up to special year, please do – for example contribute \$20.03 for the year of Ohio's bicentennial, or for significant year in your community's history.
- The amount you contribute to the Ohio History Fund through your Ohio state income tax return goes to support the History Fund, which, since 2013, has made 73 grants totaling \$694,569 to support local history projects in communities throughout Ohio—all because of donation from generous history-minded Ohioans like you. Thank you!

**** (Adapted from Jan/Feb 2020 edition of Echoes Magazine, a bimonthly publication of the Ohio History Connection)**

Editor's Note: Feel free to cut and paste the article below and insert it in your organization's newsletter.

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Ohio History Fund – Support History in Your Community

The Ohio History Connection's History Fund grant program is one of the few grant program in the state just for history, pre-history, and historic preservation projects – and it needs your help to grow. If you receive a refund on your Ohio income taxes, consider donating a portion of it to the "Ohio History Fund" tax "check-off," line 26f on your state tax return.

Your donation with those from your friends, relatives, and thousands of other history lovers makes possible grants for local history projects in places big and small throughout Ohio. Since the Ohio History Fund started in 2012, it has made 73 grants in 37 counties for a total of \$688,000. There's a huge need for the History Fund, however. It has received 388 grant applications from 66 counties, totaling more than \$4.7 million in requests! For a list of grant recipients, visit: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/history-fund/recipients

Not receiving a tax refund? You can still help: buy an Ohio History mastodon license plate. Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of plates benefits the History Fund grant program. To learn more, visit: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx

You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on "Give." Be sure to designate your gift "for Ohio History Fund."

The more you give to the Ohio History Fund, to more grants it can make to organizations like yours that preserve history in our state. Questions about the History Fund? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or call Andy Verhoff in the Ohio History Connection's Local History Service department at 614-297-2341 or email averhoff@ohiohistory.org. Thanks! ■

UPDATE!

MORE Grants Available for Ohio Historical Markers!

As the November–December 2019 issue of *The Local Historian* went to press, Local History Services received some exciting news. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse, NY, pledged 10 additional grants to fund Ohio Historical Markers throughout the state! Now, in addition to the 10 grants already designated to 18 specific Ohio counties, the Foundation added another 10 grants available to the other 70 counties of the state. The Foundation generously doubled their support to help fund Ohio Historical Markers.

Thanks, William G. Pomeroy Foundation and yay for markers!

A Pomeroy Foundation grant will pay up to \$3,040 toward the cost of an Ohio Historical Marker. As markers vary in price between \$3,040–\$3,350—exclusive of any optional artwork and applicable taxes—a Pomeroy grant will potentially cover 90% or all of the cost.

QUALIFICATIONS

Markers funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation must meet the following conditions:

1. Applicants must be non-profit organizations or units of local government.
2. The person, place, event, or thing commemorated must have a period of significance that falls between 1800 and 1900.
3. Markers about properties or districts on the National Register of Places must meet these conditions:
 - a. The property must be owned by a non-profit organization or government entity. Properties under private ownership or commercial properties are not eligible.
 - b. National Register districts that include some, but not exclusively, private and/or commercial properties are eligible.
 - c. Properties listed as “contributing structures” in National Register districts are eligible, as long the properties are owned by a non-profit organization or government entity and as long as the district consists of a plurality of publically-owned buildings.
 - d. In the case of a National Register-listed property, the requirement that they fall within the 1800-1900 period does not apply. If a building was built after 1900, is owned by a non-profit or government organization, and is on the National Register, it’s eligible for a Pomeroy Grant.

HOW TO APPLY

Simply complete the regular Ohio Historical Marker application, available at www.remarkableohio.org. Click on “Propose a Marker” for an application. Check where indicated on that application that you want it to be considered for a Pomeroy Grant.

For more information about Pomeroy Grants for Ohio Historical Markers, visit William G. Pomeroy Grant Criteria at the markers’ website, remarkableohio.org.

The deadline for apply for an Ohio Historical Marker is July 1, 2020.

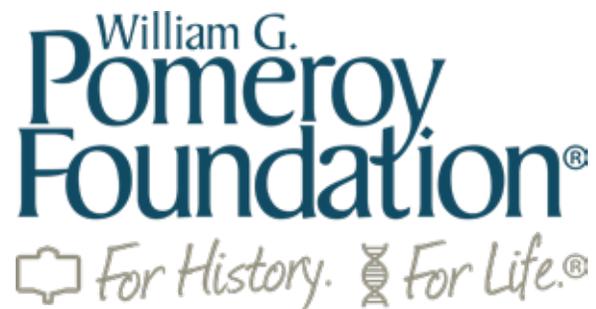
Pomeroy grants are in addition to and do not replace the Ohio Historical Marker Grant Program, which has existed since 2006.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact Laura Russell in the Ohio History Connection’s Local History Services department, 614.297.2360 or lrussell@ohiohistory.org

See elsewhere in this issue for news about the Foundation’s National Register Signage Grant Program, which supported the placement of a new plaque in South Charleston. You can apply for one of those, too!

For more about the Pomeroy Foundation historical marker and plaque programs, go to: www.wgpfoundation.org. ■



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

New Director of Operations Announced By Historic Fort Steuben

The Old Fort Steuben Project has announced the selection of a new Director of Operations to begin on May 1, 2019. Paul Zuros of Weirton, WV will be working with Judy Bratten, current Executive Director, through the remainder of the year until she steps back to a part-time position in 2020.



Zuros comes from his most recent post on the West Virginia Humanities Council (the West Virginia affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities) where he was the Operations/ Communications Manager. He has a BA in History with a minor in Public Relations from West Virginia University and an MA in Public History with a concentration on museum studies from Duquesne University.

Bratten had announced in early 2018 that she wanted to scale back to a part-time position in order to have more time for her family. She had requested hiring someone to “shadow” her for six months to enable a smooth transition. Bratten became the first Executive Director of the Old Fort Steuben Project in 2004. Since that time, she organized several exhibits and programs including a Vietnam Photography Exhibit, Black History exhibits, Ohio in the Civil War, Women’s

History Month displays, the Spring Quilt Show, Celebrate the Constitution and Riverboats on the Ohio. She coordinates school and group tours of the Fort and First Federal Land Office, the Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy, the annual Membership Dinner, Ohio Valley Frontier Days, the Summer Youth Program, the Summer Concert Series, the City of Murals and the Nutcracker Village & Advent Market as well as maintains the website and social media. She was able to obtain funding and grants for various educational programs, events and capital improvements. In 2013 she took on responsibility for the Steubenville Visitor Center that oversees the Downtown Farmers’ Market, the Hometown Celebration and the Christmas Parade. In that capacity she has done marketing and advertising for the city and county’s events and attractions and has been a member of various tourism organizations. She also serves on the board of the Ohio River Trails/Ohio River Scenic Byway.



Be a Judge for an Ohio History Day contest near you!

Calling all educators, historians, museum professionals, and anyone with a love of history and community. As we enter into contest season, we need over 550 judges across the state, and we hope that you’ll be one of them!

Signing up is easy! Just visit the Ohio History Day Regional Contest Page, (www.ohiohistory.org/learn/education-and-outreach/ohio-history-day/judges/sign-up!) pick the date and contest that you’d like to help with, specify a category preference and we’ll take it from there. If you have no preference, no problem! We’ll find a category that needs your help.

Before the History Day contest you’ll receive your judging assignment with information on the category that you’ll be judging, a contest rule book to read through prior to the event and a quick video to watch. The packet you receive will also contain information about what time you will need to arrive at the competition location for your judge orientation session and further instructions.

Call for Session Proposals

We are now accepting session proposals for our 2020 Annual Meeting!

Do you have a great idea you'd like to share with the local history community? The Alliance is now accepting session proposals for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Next year's theme is *History is Happening Now*.

From roundtable discussions to workshops, 2020 sessions should explore the continuing relevance of history in our communities. We anticipate the meeting will include a track focused on advocacy and political history. We also welcome sessions on any aspect of public history theory and practice. Submissions are due January 31, 2020. Download the proposal form at www.ohioha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting/



GRANTS FOR NATIONAL REGISTER SIGNS

The South Charleston Heritage Commission & the William G. Pomeroy Foundation

By Sue Mattinson, Heritage Commission Corporation, South Charleston

South Charleston's Heritage Commission learned about the National Register Signage Grant Program of the William G. Pomeroy Foundation® at the 2019 OLHA Region 7 meeting, hosted by the Shelby County Historical Society in Sidney. Through the program, the Pomeroy Foundation provides grants that cover the costs for a plaque announcing property's listing on the National Register. According to the Foundation's website, eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) organizations, nonprofit academic institutions, and local, state and federal government entities. (Currently, funding is not available for private residences or commercial properties.)

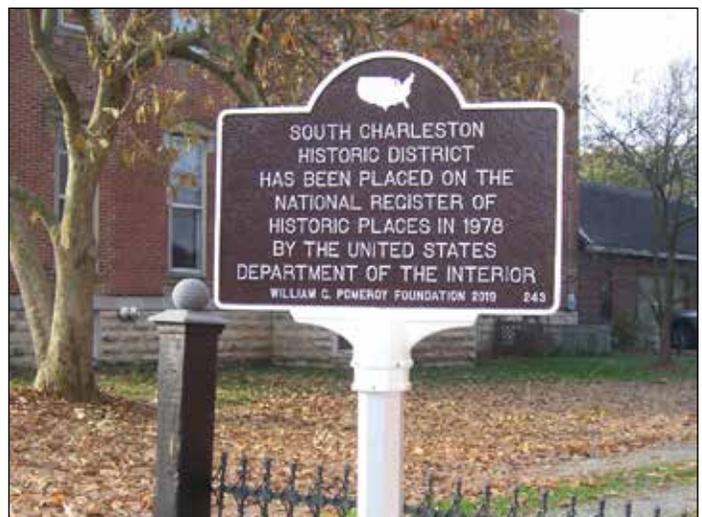
The central core of the Village of South Charleston was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It had no plaque sharing this accomplishment, so the Heritage Commission sought a Pomeroy Foundation grant.

Since the marker was to be erected by the Town Hall, the Village (as a government entity) completed the Foundation's online application. Among other items, the application asked for proof of National Register status, information about the Village, approval for installation, and the proposed location of the sign (GPS coordinates).

We were delighted with the Pomeroy Foundation quick approval by email, followed by a formal letter, a check, and an order form which we faxed to the manufacturer. Six weeks later the plaque arrived!

A dedication was held December 9, 2019, in conjunction with the Heritage Commission's annual Christmas at the Opera House concert.

We encourage all Alliance members, local historical organizations and their local government to take advantage of this great program. To learn more, visit the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's website: www.wgpfoundation.org/



WORKSHOP IN ASHTABULA COUNTY MARCH 3

"Tools to Sleuth Old Houses and Antiques"



A trio of organizations are teaming up to offer a free workshop and tour for history and cultural heritage on March 3.

Ashtabula County Metroparks, Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum and Preservation Ohio are co-sponsoring "Tools to Sleuth Old Houses and Antiques" on Sunday, March 3, from 2-5 pm at the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum, located at 1603 Walnut Boulevard in Ashtabula Harbor. The wide-ranging workshop will provide hands-on examples to help attendees to identify styles of architecture and furniture as well as ways of identifying age and past stories of historical objects.

Ashtabula Metroparks Director Larry Frimerman and Hubbard House Board Member Richard Dana have organized this interesting and engaging event. The workshop will be followed by a special tour of the Hubbard House

Museum and a reception to follow the workshop. Mr. Frimerman is Vice President of Preservation Ohio, one of Ohio's statewide historic preservation organizations. Mr. Dana is an attorney and local historian who shares stories of the role Ohioans played in advancing Social Justice.

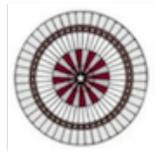
"While most houses and historical structures are not nationally, regionally or even culturally as significant as the Hubbard House, many have features and stories that are worth sharing," observed Frimerman. "This is true for antiques as well", he added.

As to the tie to the Hubbard House and the freedom fighters? Metroparks' 27.5 mile Western Reserve Greenway Trail has historical interpretive signage about Ashtabula County's nationally recognized abolitionist movement and the fight for freedom detailed at the Hubbard House Museum. The Greenway Trail's extension, the North Shore Trail, continues the Western Reserve Greenway Trail from the Morrison Station Trailhead to Ashtabula Harbor, the Hubbard House and Walnut Beach at Lake Erie.

Dana will discuss the role the citizens of Ashtabula County played on the Underground Railroad as well as the beginnings of the Women's Suffrage movement.

The Hubbard House Tour is special also because the Museum is open Memorial Day through Labor Day except by appointments and arranged tours. Admission is generally \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for children, but is being presented with an optional membership contribution to the Museum as well as an opportunity to join Preservation Ohio.

For more information or to register, check the Metroparks website www.ashtabulametroparks.com, its Facebook page, or contact Metroparks' Larry Frimerman at (440) 650-4124, or the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum at (440) 964-8168. For more information on the Museum, visit www.hubbardhouseugrrmuseum.org. For more information on Preservation Ohio, visit www.Preserveohio.com. ■



PreservationOhio

Ohio's voice for historic preservation since 1982

AASLH WEBINARS IN FEBRUARY

History Check-In: African American Women's Suffrage

This webinar asks how we can better incorporate African American women into our histories of women's suffrage and voting rights. This question challenges often stated assumptions about a narrative that goes from Seneca Falls to 1920. And from this vantage point, ratification of the 19th Amendment was not a clear victory in the struggle for women's rights. As white American women celebrated being granted the vote, many black women remained disenfranchised for another 45 years. Southern states used laws and lynching to keep them away from the polls, just as they did their fathers, husbands and sons. American women appeared to have won a constitutional revolution, but across the South discrimination rooted in sexism proceeded in lock-step with racism. We will explore this other campaign for women's voting rights – the battle against Jim Crow – waged by black men and women together. Their story began in the early decades of the 19th century, and culminated at last in 1965 with the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

This webinar is part of the History Check-In (learn.aaslh.org/history-check-in-webinars) webinar series, a partnership between the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and the Organization of American Historians (OAH). Each webinar in this series is designed to provide history professionals from throughout the field with an update on the current state of historiography for a particular subject.

Details:

- DATE:** February 11, 2020
TIME: 3:00–4:15 pm EASTERN (Remember to adjust for your time zone)
COST: \$20 Members of AASLH and OAH (OAH members should contact OAH for a discount code) / \$30 Non-members

Best Practices for Working with a Board of Directors

There's no shortage of reading material about how nonprofit boards of directors are supposed to operate. But when you are the paid or unpaid executive director or the board president who sometimes fills the role of executive director in an all-volunteer organization, you need to be more than book smart to successfully achieve the delicate balance of working for—and with—your board of directors. Join us to hear street smart advice from an executive director and all-volunteer board president as they offer best practices learned from their experience working with a board.

This webinar is part of the StEPs Lab series (learn.aaslh.org/steps-labs) of online continuing education offered to both StEPs program (aaslh.org/programs/steps/) participants and all others interested in the topic of financial management. This is StEPs Lab 20.

Details

- DATE:** February 20, 2020
TIME: 3:00–4:15 pm EASTERN (Remember to adjust for your time zone)
COST: \$40 Members / \$65 Nonmembers / \$15 discount for StEPs participants with promo code found on StEPs Community website

Digitization Grants Available

Introduction

The Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) will award a total of **up to \$7,500** to preserve local history collections through digitization. The grant is given yearly to OLHA members. The maximum award to be given to a single institution is \$2,500. The collections selected for digitization should be important to the history of the area represented by the applicant and/or to the history of Ohio.

Grant recipients will receive an Ohio Memory collection to publicly display their digital content. Each collection will be branded with the grantee's logo and organization information. For more information about the Ohio Memory Program, please visit www.ohiomemory.org.

Application

Applications are online only. Applicants must be an OLHA member and have either a Federal ID number or a State of Ohio Certification of Continued Existence number to apply. You can check on your membership status by contacting the OLHA Executive Secretary, Dr. Betsy Hedler, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org.

Deadline

Applications are due February 15th each year. Grantees will be notified by April 1st with projects beginning May 1st. Projects should be completed 12 months after start date.

For more information and to apply, visit www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/grants/alliance-digitization-grants.



2020 OMA Annual Conference

April 5-6 -Cincinnati

Museums thrive as places for all—spaces that truly anchor our communities. Museums are at our best when we represent our broader world while embracing the unique attributes and perspectives of every individual who walks through our doors.

What can museums learn from past community engagement, interpretation and internal culture – and how can we take those lessons to create a vision of the future of museums in our communities? How can museums lead the way in accessibility and inclusion to not only remain relevant, but contribute to the vibrancy of our cities?

Join us in Cincinnati, April 5-6 as we explore these topics and more at the 2020 Ohio Museums Association's Annual Conference: *Sparking Community Connections: Vibrancy through Accessibility, Inclusion & Relevance*. www.ohiomuseums.org/2020Conference

New NEH on the Road exhibit available

WW1 America invites audiences into a nuanced understanding of World War I as a transformational event in American history, a compressed and convulsive time of social, economic, and political change, a lens through which to understand what it means to be "modern."

Although it was fought thousands of miles away, the war transformed the United States from a relatively provincial power on the world stage to a full-fledged global, military-industrial leader, held together by a newly powerful federal government and charged with confident patriotism. This is the America that dominates popular memory: the saturated hues of patriotic posters, jubilant crowds at Liberty Loan rallies, the ranks of manly Doughboys, and hearty choruses of "Over There."

WW1 America explores vitally important stories of a transformational and divisive era, for a broad, multi-generational audience. The exhibition is visually dynamic, with large-scale photographs, moving images, multimedia environments, and re-created settings such as a movie theater. It is also a socially interactive forum, with stories and many period artifacts supported by authentic voices expressing competing views.

Tour: Nov. 2020–Oct. 2025
Booking period: 7 weeks
Fee to book & ship: \$1,000

Interested? Contact Amanda Wiltse at amanda@maaa.org or 816-800-0925.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

2019 Local History Publication Awards

The Center for Archival Collections is accepting submissions for the Local History Publication Awards. Works published between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019 will be accepted.

The Awards Committee will recognize authors for outstanding publications in two divisions. The Academic Scholar Division will include works prepared and submitted by authors who are professional writers or academicians. The Independent Scholar Division will include works prepared and submitted by independent or local researchers, amateurs, and other creative writers who do not claim "history" as a profession. Each Division winner will receive a \$300.00 cash award and plaque.

Eligible works must address an historical topic within the nineteen county region of northwest Ohio. Works shall be judged by the Awards Committee on: literary merit, overall significance and contribution to explaining and understanding the history of the region. Consideration also will be given for style and content. Other considerations will include grammar, accuracy, illustrations, layout, indexes, and distribution.

To submit a work, authors should send two copies to the Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor, Wm. T. Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, **postmarked by February 28, 2020**. All works submitted become the property of the CAC. For complete information about the award and submissions, please see [Guidelines for Submission](#). For further information, please contact Nick Pavlik at the CAC at 419-372-7914 or npavlik@bgsu.edu.

Region 1

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

Region 2

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

The **Marion County Federation of Women's Clubs** hosted a forum, "Busy and Brilliant: Three Stories of Fearless Women Leaders." Dr. Margaret Sumner, of The Ohio State University Marion, gave presentations on pioneering professional women. The series featured Sarah Josepha Hale (1788-1879), editor of the most influential women's magazine of the 19th century who championed the "shocking" idea of women's economic freedom; Madam C. J. Walker (1867-1919), an African-American entrepreneur who combined her million-dollar business with political and social activism and Florence Allen (1884-1966), a pioneering Buckeye lawyer who fought for women's voting rights and was the first woman judge on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Sutliff Museum** is pleased to announce the release of the **Sutliff Museum Tours** app, now available on all app stores. The app gives visitors the chance to delve more into the Sutliff Museum's collection through the use of iPad kiosks throughout the Museum or on visitors' own digital devices. This program gives visitors to the Sutliff Museum the chance to learn more about the Sutliff family and their impact on Trumbull County by viewing letters and objects that are not on display. This project was made possible in part by the Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. The Ohio History Fund is made possible by voluntary donations of state income tax refunds, sales of Ohio History

"mastodon" license plates, and other donations. Visit www.sutliffmuseum.org to learn more and to get the app.



The **Northeast Ohio Suffrage Centennial** was formed by a committee of Region 4 colleges and universities, community and local history organizations, and Ohio History Service Corps members to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and to disseminate the history of the local suffrage movement. We recently created a Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/NEOhioSuffrage) and group (www.Facebook.com/groups/NortheastOhioSuffrage) dedicated to sharing upcoming suffrage events, National Votes for Women Trail sites, and information about suffrage trading cards that will debut in early 2020. To request more information, contact Kayla Metzger (klmetzger.americorps@gmail.com) or Mia Owens (mia@trumbullcountyhistory.org).

Region 5

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

Region 6

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

In light of the 100th anniversary of Prohibition in 2020, the **Westerville History Center & Museum** unveiled a new exhibit: *Prohibition! Expectation vs. Reality*. A national issue with Westerville roots, the exhibit shows the part Westerville played in the passage of the 18th amendment. Visitors

will learn about the **Anti-Saloon League** – headquartered where the Westerville Public Library stands—who used marketing savvy to persuade the nation to vote themselves dry. Visitors can see the long-lasting effects of the era and how it made way for organized crime, societal freedom for women, the rise of jazz music, and more.

Thousands of visitors toured multiple historic sites open for Christmas open houses on December 7th. Participating sites included the **Licking County Historical Society**, including the Sherwood-Davidson House and Webb House, the **Granville Historical Society**, **Mead-Needham Museum** in Pataskala, **Robbins Hunter Museum** in Granville and the **National Heisey Glass Museum** in Newark.

Upcoming monthly programs at the **Knox County Historical Society Museum** will follow the theme, "2020 Hindsight" and will, of course, include a presentation about our past and present Ophthalmologists and Optomotrists. In other news, the KCHS Museum recently dedicated our new "Knox County Sports History and Hall of Fame" exhibit, recognizing the achievements of many local athletes and teams representing a wide variety of sports. In addition, seven Knox Co. athletes were inducted into the new Hall of Fame, including among them, famous Buckeyes Jim Stillwagon, Richie Hoyt and Ollie Cline.

Region 7

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

The **Logan County Historical Society's** 5-year 0.25-mill replacement operating levy passed with 57% of the vote in the November 5th general election. This is the sixth time the levy has been passed by Logan County voters. The levy allows LCHS to operate the Logan County History Center and many outreach programs in the local schools and community, as well as employing a staff of four. Although we still depend heavily on our volunteers.

(continued on page 22)

The **Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society** hosted a cemetery preservation workshop at Ithaca Cemetery in Twin Township jointly sponsored with the Twin Township Trustees. Mark Morton of Gravestone Guardians of Ohio conducted the workshop with all 17 participants cleaning tomb stones and helping repair damaged stones and the sites. This workshop passed on correct preservation and cleaning information to the cemetery staff and others. It also raised awareness of preservation in the area which helped pass the township's levy in November for additional funds to help maintain the cemetery and for future restoration work.

A special police and cultural exhibit opened October 28 and will run thru 2021. "Bootleggers, Bandits, and Badges: From Dry Times to Hard Times in Dayton, Ohio" is sponsored by **Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc.** and hosted by **Carillon Historical Park**. The gallery has three themes from three eras: the Temperance movement (1860-1919); Prohibition bootlegging (1920-1933); and Great Depression heists (1929-1941). Bootleg King George Remus was jailed in Dayton and George 'Bugs' Moran's crime career ended there. This half-million-dollar exhibit features John Dillinger's auto pistol, a 1921 Tommy gun, a 1930 paddy wagon, a 1932 Packard Sedan and much more.

On December 21, 2019, the **Miamisburg Historical Society** held a grand

opening celebration for the new Miamisburg History Center. Their new location is the former library, which allows them 10,000 square feet of space to show and tell the history of Miamisburg (including their OLHA award-winning video, *The River Runs Through: 200 Years of History in Miamisburg, Ohio*).

Region 8

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

Region 9

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

On October 11, the **Ross County Historical Society** held their first "Schmidt's Night at the Ross County Historical Society." The event included a visit by Schmidt's Sausage Wagon, the unique sounds of the Ohio Alphorn Band, and an opportunity to view their new exhibit on Ross County's German culture. Over 300 people attended the event.

Region 10

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

The Belmont County Tourism Council will be presenting the Mattox Award, named for the late John S. Mattox, the curator and co-founder of the

Underground Railroad Museum in Flushing, who passed away in July. The award is designed to honor an individual, couple or organization who have made a significant and long-term contribution through their involvement in the field of tourism by attracting travelers to visit and explore Belmont County. Dr. Mattox was a champion of the history of Belmont County, and was also involved with the Ohio Local History Alliance, including giving a presentation at the Region 10 meeting when it was held in Belmont County in 2017. ■

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. 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.

On the Web

Sustaining Places

An Encyclopedia of Resources for Small Historical Organizations

sustainingplaces.com

Sustaining Places is a collaborative resource project from the Museum Studies Program (www.museumstudies.udel.edu/) at the University of Delaware. Between 2011 and 2015, the site was supported by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (www.ims.gov/) 21st Century Museum Professionals Program. Sustaining Places is now maintained by the graduate students of the Museum Studies Program.

Sustaining Places gathers together in one website a wide variety of resources for people involved with small historical organizations: local history museums and archives, historic house museums, historic sites and living history museums. These resources are free. Resources are organized by topic, including collections, archives, disaster preparedness, education and programming, digital presence, and more.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 31:

Annual Meeting session proposals due. For more information, see page 17.

FEBRUARY 11:

AASLH Webinar: African-American Women's Suffrage. For more information, see page 19.

FEBRUARY 15:

Digitization grant applications due. For more information, see page 19.

FEBRUARY 16-18:

Small Museum Association Conference. For more information, see smallmuseum.org/Conference

FEBRUARY 20:

AASLH Webinar: Best Practices for Working with a Board of Directors. For more information, see page 19.

FEBRUARY 26:

Statehood Day. For more information, see page 5.

FEBRUARY 29:

Region 6 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

MARCH 3:

Tools to Sleuth Old Houses and Antiques Workshop. For more information, see page 18.

MARCH 7:

Region 8 Meeting, hosted by the Loveland Museum Center

Region 10 Meeting, hosted by Roscoe Village

Region 2 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

Region 3 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

Region 7 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

Region 9 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

MARCH 14:

Region 7 Meeting, hosted by the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum

Region 9 Meeting, hosted by the Hocking County Historical Society

Region 1 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

Region 5 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

Region 10 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

MARCH 21:

Region 5 Meeting, hosted by Historic Fort Steuben

Region 6 Meeting, hosted by the Kelton House

Region 8 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

MARCH 28:

Region 2 Meeting, hosted by the Morrow County Historical Society

Region 4 Meeting, hosted by the Sebring Historical Society

APRIL 4:

Region 1 Meeting, hosted by the Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum

Region 3 Meeting, hosted by the Westlake Historical Society

Region 4 History Day contest. For more information, see page 16.

APRIL 5-6:

Ohio Museums Association Conference. For more information, see page 20.

APRIL 15:

Taxes Due! Support the Ohio History Fund. For more information, see page 11-15.

MEMBERS

Joined or renewed between October 23 and December 31, 2019

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

ORGANIZATIONS

Cleveland Metroparks, *Cleveland*

Cleveland State University Library, *Cleveland*

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Jarrod D. Burks, *Columbus*

Maureen Mason, *Columbus*

Kelly D. Mezurek, *Dover*

Patricia F. Smith, *Lima*

ORGANIZATIONS

Blanchester Area Historical Society, *Blanchester*

Columbus Metropolitan Library, *Columbus*

Cridersville Historical Society, *Cridersville*

Heritage Avon Lake, *Avon Lake*

Indian Lake Area Historical Society, *Russells Point*

Kelton House Museum and Garden, *Columbus*

Kent State University Library, *Kent*

Lakewood Historical Society, *Lakewood*

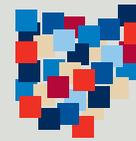
Madog Center for Welsh Studies, *Rio Grande*

Massillon Heritage Foundation Inc, *Massillon*

Miamisburg Historical Society, *Miamisburg*

Wyoming Historical Society, *Wyoming*

JOIN THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE...



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Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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Business Member:

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

ohiolha.org/about/join-the-alliance/

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

Graphic Design: Kim Koloski

Please direct materials or phone inquiries to:

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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:

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Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian*

only are available for \$25 annually.

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