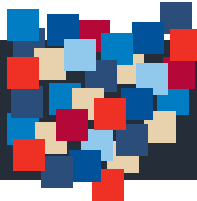


# THE Local Historian



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



## Ohio History Fund Grant Recipients Year 5



By Andy Verhoff, Coordinator, Ohio History Fund, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection

The Ohio History Connection announced at Statehood Day, the recipients of a total of \$74,000 in grants from the Ohio History Fund. The History Fund is a competitive matching grant program administered by the Ohio History Connection's Local History Services department. Money for the grants comes from you, who support the program in three ways: by donating a portion of your state income tax refund to the Ohio History Fund (the "tax check-off"), by purchasing Ohio History "mastodon" license plates, and by making donations to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund.

Your donation of a part of your Ohio tax refund this year is vital. The source of most of

the money the History Fund grants comes though the tax check-off, and most of that is generated during tax season, ending for many with the filing deadline of April 18. The goal of the Ohio History Fund tax check-off in 2017 is to raise \$88,000 – 10% more than last year. That breaks down to 9,800 donations of \$9, the amount of the average tax check-off gift. For the price of one lunch, you can support history in Ohio!

Since 2013, the History Fund has made 54 grants in 33 counties totaling \$522,000. Proving there is a strong need for funding for local history and preservation efforts, the History Fund has received 249 grant

*(continued on page 3)*

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## President's Message:

It is an honor to be serving as president of the Ohio Local History Alliance. My first contact with the Alliance was nearly 20 years ago when I attended the 1998 Annual Conference. I'm proud to say I haven't missed one since. A few years later I was a region representative and have since served in various positions on the board. My time on the OLHA board had been very rewarding to me professionally and personally.

I am excited to be president as the board incorporates the new 2016-2021 OLHA

Strategic Plan into our decision-making and services. Each of the Alliance's committees: Advocacy, Communications, Education and the brand new Outreach committee, along with the Governance committee are committed to fulfill their goals over the next five years.

Many of the plan's objectives deal with strengthening our relationship with our members. The following are a few of the objectives found in the Strategic Plan: Strengthening Membership Benefits and Strengthen Alliances (Governance), Creating a Year Round Calendar of Advocacy Activity and Conducting Advocacy Events in Each Region (Advocacy), Educate Alliance Members on Technology, and Foster Communication/Connections between Member Organizations & the Alliance, (Communica-

tions), Attract New Members, especially from the Young Professionals in Public History and Smaller Historical Organizations through Educational Offerings and Continue to Offer Educational and Inspiring Annual Conferences (Education), Increase OLHA Membership by 5% each year throughout the Strategic Plan and Develop New Connections to make OLHA more Inclusive and Diverse (Outreach).

Please let us know how we are doing in serving you.

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proposals and just under \$3 million in requests. The totals include this year's recipients:

**1. Dayton Society of Natural History, Dayton**

\$12,000 to build a changing exhibit space in the interpretive center at [SunWatch Village](#). The project will enable SunWatch Village to interpret aspects of the Ft. Ancient culture not otherwise exhibited in a re-created village setting. These include comparisons among pre-contact cultures over time. The new changing exhibits space will be in an underused, but accessible area of the center and will free up space in a multipurpose area currently used for exhibits. New, changing exhibits will encourage repeat visitation. Increased space in the multipurpose room will lead to more and varied programming. History Fund support will help cover exhibit case design and installation costs.

If you want to learn first-hand how to write a competitive grant, using the History Fund as an example, attend "How to Write a Good Grant" at the Region 1 (NW Ohio) meeting of the Ohio Local History Alliance. Go to [www.ohiotha.org](http://www.ohiotha.org) for regional meeting locations and to register.

The Youngstown Museum of Industry and Labor and the Ohio History Service Corps, an AmeriCorps program funded by ServeOhio, will be hosting an Information session about History Fund grants and grant writing on May 6 at 1 pm. Can't make that? The Ashtabula Foundation will host the same session on May 19 at the Ashtabula County District Library. Click on the links above and contact the hosts for more information.

To learn more about the Ohio History Fund, how can help promote the Fund's tax check-off, and how to apply for a grant, visit: [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund), or contact the Local History Services department of the Ohio History Connection, 614-297-2341 or [averhoff@ohiohistory.org](mailto:averhoff@ohiohistory.org).

**2. Kent State University, Department of Anthropology, Kent.**

\$2,500 to conduct an archaeological survey of the Berlin Lake Reservoir. The survey will provide information necessary to protect an important archaeological site in Northeast Ohio. Led by an academic archaeologist, the project will also provide field experience and training for students. History Fund support will be used to cover, in part, student stipends, materials and supplies, and travel costs. Review panelists were impressed that the grant request was small, given the expected impact of the project.

**3. Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency, Lancaster**

\$15,000 to repair and rehabilitate the original windows in the Rutherford House. The Rutherford House is the newer name of the Fairfield County Children's Home, built in 1886. Following the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#), the project will enable the agency and the Home's residents to better control heating and cooling costs. The History Fund review panel was especially impressed that a social service agency is taking steps to preserve and use a significant historic structure - a great example of adaptive reuse. History Fund support will pay half of the project's construction costs.

**4. Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation, Peninsula**

\$14,000 to rehabilitate and return to its proper place the steeple of Bronson Church. The Bronson Church and its steeple are landmarks of the Peninsula's downtown historic district. The History Fund review panel recommends this project because the steeple is a landmark that, in conjunction with the other buildings in the district, draws visitors to the area, which is a part of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The panel was impressed by how well-organized the project is and that it is part of phased effort to rehabilitate the church. History Fund support will pay a portion of the project's construction costs.

**5. Seneca County Commissioners, Tiffin**

\$3,000 to support strategic planning for the advisory board of the Seneca

County Museum. Thoughtful planning will enable the board to develop goals for the revived museum, which a new executive director would be tasked to meet. The project will also begin re-build support for the museum in the community and connect the museum's leadership to resources available from state-wide and national professional organizations. History Fund support will in part pay for the services of a strategic plan facilitator, personnel costs, and enrollment in professional development programs.

**6. University of Akron, Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Akron.**

\$12,500 to conduct a study of Hopewell period ceramic and stone artifacts. The study will illuminate the size of Hopewell interaction networks and enlarge our understanding of the world in which the Hopewell lived. The results will generate new interpretive materials and exhibits at sites that interpret Hopewell life. The project also supports the nomination of the Hopewell sites in Ohio for World Heritage status. History Fund support will cover a portion of the project's personnel and travel costs.

**7. Westcott House Foundation, Springfield.**

\$15,000 to repair the Westcott House's sleeping porches and pergola. Using as a guide the [Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#), the project will preserve original structures on a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The Westcott House is Wright's only Prairie-style house in Ohio and is a crucial link to understanding the development Wright's architecture. Repair of the sleeping porches and the flat roof section of the house's garage are necessary because of the wear and tear they endure from heavy visitation. Repair to the pergola is needed now because it is structurally compromised. The repairs are long-term solutions to issues previously addressed on an as-needed basis. History Fund support will pay for professional services and construction costs.

***Congratulations to our grant recipients!*** ■



# Advocacy at Statehood Day, March 1, 2017

By Todd Kleismit, Director of  
Community and Government  
Relations, Ohio History  
Connection, Columbus

Ohio history advocates gathered on March 1 at the Ohio Statehouse for the annual Statehood Day advocacy event to learn more about important legislative issues and to commemorate the state's founding, which dates to 1803.

Approximately 200 people joined together to hear keynote remarks from



Greg Harris, the president and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, as well as the presentation of the Ohio History Leadership Award, given this year to House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville). Rosenberger was ill, so State Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) accepted the award on Speaker Rosenberger's behalf. Finally, the History Fund grant awards were announced, with \$74,000 in grant funds being awarded to seven history-related projects across Ohio.

The 14 sponsoring organizations for Statehood Day – the Ohio History Connection, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Travel Association, the Ohio Archaeological Council, Preservation Ohio, Ohio Humanities, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the Society of Ohio Archivists, the Ohio Council for Social Studies, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Academy of History, and the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board – presented four legislative priorities and encouraged attendees to discuss the priorities with their local state representatives and senators.

The 2017 Statehood Day legislative

priorities included:

- *Support the Ohio History Connection state budget to enhance the work of making Ohio history more visible and vital, building Ohio pride.*
- *Preserve the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program as a tool for making Ohio communities more competitive in the 21st century*
- *Ensure TourismOhio has the funding needed to effectively tell the Ohio story*
- *Ohio needs to improve its management of electronic documents and invest in the technology necessary to preserve 21st century records*

For more information contact Todd Kleismit, the Ohio History Connection's director of community and government relations, at [tkleismit@ohiohistory.org](mailto:tkleismit@ohiohistory.org).

## On the Web

### Active Shooter Preparedness- Resources from the Department of Homeland Security

[www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

The active shooter session held at the annual meeting this year was very popular. This website recommendation is for those of you who could not attend, or who would like a refresher and would appreciate more resources to use in your preparations. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aims to enhance preparedness through a "whole community" approach by providing products, tools, and resources to help you prepare for and respond to an active shooter incident.

## People in the News

Amanda S. Vaughan became Executive Director of the Maumee Valley Historical Society June 1, 2016. Ms Vaughan began her professional work in Atlanta, Georgia where she was employed as a Records Analyst for the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Later, Ms Vaughan was employed by the Florida Historical Society in Melbourne, Florida as a Site Manager for the Rossetter House Museum. She also taught American history and Western Civilization for Brevard Community College.

In 2011, Ms Vaughan and her family relocated to Toledo. Ms. Vaughan worked as a para-educator and substitute teacher for Toledo Public Schools prior to being hired by the Maumee Valley Historical Society.

# Tablet Tours and Other Low Cost Digital Tools

(a.k.a. A Cheapskate's Guide to Technology)

By Liz Schultz,  
Executive Director at the Oberlin Heritage Center

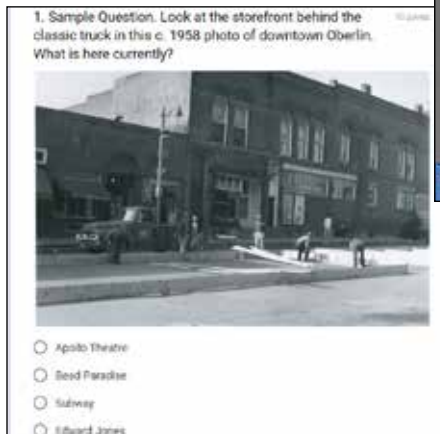
Do you want to breathe life into a static exhibit, give learners more flexibility in what they see and do, or upgrade your professional toolbox? Here are a few ways to bring a bit of "high tech" to even the most resource-strapped museum.

## Tablet Tours

Digital tablets are more impressive and less costly by the year. In 2015, the Oberlin Heritage Center received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to purchase tablets and develop two digital self-guided walking tours. We already offered guided versions of the tours, which are about historic downtown and Oberlin's connection to abolition and the Underground Railroad. Tablet tours allowed us to 1) Continue offering tours when guides weren't available, 2) Include additional stories and historic images, and 3) Give people the option to explore at their own pace and with just their family or friends. We chose to build the tablet tours in PowerPoint because it is a well-established, widely accessible program that we can easily update ourselves. (Some other slide programs, such as Google Slides, would also work.)

How do you make a slide presentation into a tour? It's a simple process of adding links between slides. Try it!

- Create a PowerPoint presentation with 5 slides.
- Add a text box to the first slide that says "Skip to Page 5."
- Right click on the text box and select "Hyperlink."
- In the "Link to" column, select "Place in this Document."
- Select "Slide 5" and click "Okay."



That's it. Those are the key steps to building a self-guided tour that allows people to navigate between different topics, maps, images, artifacts, and more. In our "Picture the Past: Downtown Oberlin Tour," the different slide types included: welcome and instruction slides, a base downtown map, four zoomed-in street maps, forty-nine building slides with text and a historic photo, slides showing those photos at full size, additional historic photos of that building, slides listing former occupants and current occupants, and breakout slides, such as "The Fire of 1886." In theory, a user could click "Next" to look at just the main slides of the forty-nine buildings, or they could click through all five hundred forty-nine slides of supplementary material. In terms of resources, the largest outlay for this project was not the technology itself, but the time to gather and distill the historical material.

## Lessons Learned:

**1) Finalize the design/layout of your slides first; link last.** You don't want to make fifty slides and then decide that your "back" arrow should say "previous slide" instead. Nor do you want to hyperlink everything and then add five more slides somewhere in the middle.

**2) Get connected.** We should have paid the cost difference to buy tablets with cellular access. When we're not near



**Author's notes:** As someone who works in the history field, I am fully aware that this article will be out-of-date in the very near future. I would like to thank fellow AASLH presenters Brian Failing, Executive Director of the Aurora Regional Fire Museum, who discussed Google Maps and online exhibits, and Kat Burkhart, Director/Curator of the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County (IN), who introduced attendees to Raspberry Pis and 3D printers. Feel free to contact me if you want to learn more: [director@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:director@oberlinheritage.org).

wifi, we can't collect survey responses, link to YouTube videos of historic trades, enable live GPS tracking, etc.

**3) We still haven't figured out how to fully "lock" people out of other areas of the tablet, such as email, the internet, and camera.**

Nothing bad has happened so far, but you might want to take that into consideration.

**4) You get what you pay for.** There are some excellent developers out there and paying for a new app might be worth every penny – crisp design, mapping capabilities, email integration, donation pages, etc. In our effort to spend as little as possible, we use some less-than-ideal workarounds, such as using Keynote to view PowerPoint files, and loading "music" as video files. Patrons also can't easily download or purchase our program like an app. On the plus side, we have no size limits on our content and no monthly or annual service fees.

(continued on page 6)

## Online Google Tools

I hesitate to promote a single company, but the suite of free services Google offers can be extremely helpful. Create a Google/Gmail account and you will have access to the following and more.

**1) My Maps** – Create a new map, put a marker at your 10 favorite historic buildings, load a photo of each, and share the map with the world. Volunteers of the Oberlin Heritage Center are currently collecting GPS data for thousands of markers in the local cemetery to help people find where their ancestors lie.

**2) Drive** – (As in hard drive). This is

an easy way to share or email big digital files, as well as back up your most important files.

**3) Docs** – Update working files from anywhere with internet access and share them with others working on the same project. We had three interns, working at varied hours and places, compiling a comprehensive list of local World War II soldiers. They could see the list live and skip names already on it, supplement each other's work, mark individuals for further research, and leave research notes for each other so they wouldn't check the same newspaper articles. We could check

on their progress at any time.

**4) Forms** – Create quick, visually appealing surveys to distribute via email or as a link on your website. Bonus! Forms also allows you to create quizzes. We created a mobile phone version of a landmark scavenger hunt.

**5) Google for Nonprofits** – These higher level tools require registration, but they're worth a look.

*(This article is based on Lis Schultz's part of the session "High Tech Enrichment with Low Staff and Resources," presented at the 2016 AASLH annual conference in Detroit.)* ■

# Is your organization a good neighbor?

By Benjamin Anthony,  
Community Engagement Coordinator,  
Ohio History Connection

Everyone from Mother Theresa to Benjamin Franklin have encouraged us to be good to our neighbors, but what does that mean for a local history organization? While community engagement is not necessarily a new concept for some institutions, (corporations, hospitals and universities) it is still gaining traction in the history and museum community. Community Engagement is broadly defined as organizations connecting with the intent to learn from and collaborate with one another. When properly implemented, community engagement can expand an organization's audience, catalyze new ideas and fundamentally redefine how historical societies and museums serve their local communities.

In 2014, the Ohio History Connection updated our core values (along with the name of the organization) to include inclusivity alongside authenticity, relevance, stewardship and working together. We did this because we, as an organization, knew that it was our mission to preserve and tell the stories of all Ohioans, not just those with whom we traditionally partner. We are now working to engage with those Ohioans whose past is as much a part of Ohio's history as any other, but hasn't been collected in a meaningful way for a myriad of reasons. We live in a state with a rich and ever-evolving people and history. Engaging with our local communities is the best way to uncover and tap into those stories, neighbor-to-neighbor. When done with sincerity and an open mind, it is massively rewarding work.

The good news is that community engagement does not require huge sums of capital or space to be effective. Some of the best community organizing originates from a home or coffee shop. What meaningful community engagement does require though, is time. If you are willing to put in the time to connect with your community's families, neighborhoods and other institutions you will not only better inform your collection, but you will be creating new audiences and friends of your institution.

Taking the time to visit your local civic associations, churches, community and recreation centers, schools and social groups can lead to unexpected growth and new ideas that can only be generated by the mixing of two different agendas, ethnicities or socio-economic backgrounds. Go meet your neighbors with open minds, hearts and ears to learn how you are seen (or not seen) in your community. You will find that not only is it free marketing and goodwill building, but that when you partner with outside groups you can open up an entirely new role for your organization as a community anchor.

Remember that this sort of outreach and connection with those in your area relies on trust. Meaningful connection, understanding, ideas and partnerships can only develop through sustained engagement. While going to a meeting once to introduce your organization is better than not at all, community engagement and inclusivity must be committed to as full-time ideals, rather than a one off touch-point or program. Ohioans have a keen eye for insincerity (conditioned from years of politicians making promises in exchange for votes). If your organization says it will come to a meeting ask if you can bring a dessert, go early to introduce yourself to those at the meeting and stay to hear what others have to say, even if it may not seem to be entirely pertinent to your organization. It shows that you are willing to put in the time and effort to learn about those you want to work with and aren't there simply to advance your own agenda, only ask for something, or "check the box" so you can say your organization is present in the community. Not to mention, listening is the best way to discover community-based needs or challenges that your organization is uniquely able to address.

Connecting with the myriad of groups and people that make up the fabric of your neighborhood is the most meaningful way to serve your mission. All while increasing your network, creating opportunities for new learning and earning some free good will. Take the time to go to your community; don't wait for them to find you. It's what good neighbors do. ■



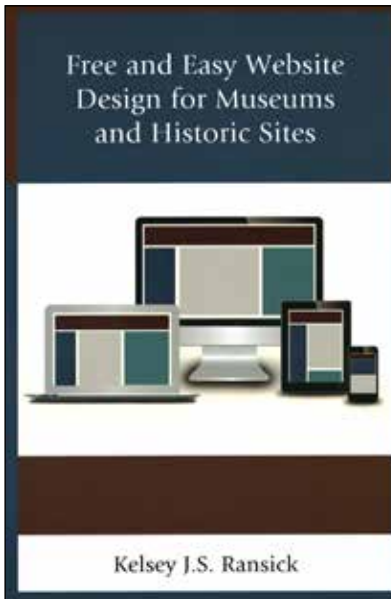
# Free and Easy Website Design for Small Museums and Historic Sites by Kelsey J.S. Ransick

By Sara Fisher,  
Ohio History Services Corps  
Member, Quaker Heritage Center,  
Wilmington

With the growing dependency on technology to update us on nearby events and programs, smaller organizations and historic sites are experiencing the pressure to incorporate new technologies at an increasing rate. Historical societies have the opportunity to help residents of their communities feel that sense of place and connection, but oftentimes struggle to reach larger audiences. While many immediately think of social media as the answer, Kelsey J.S. Ransick argues that having a well maintained website will actually boost the organization's visibility and exude a level of professionalism and credibility. In her book *Free and Easy Website Design for Small Museums and Historic Sites*, part of the 2016 American Association for State and Local History book list, Ransick provides a priceless and essential resource for historic institutions who are either desiring to launch a first website or looking to revamp its current one.

Ransick provides a detailed and extremely easy to follow guide for working with free websites such as Wix, Weebly, WordPress, and Google Sites. She begins, however, with an introduction addressing some of the common myths about setting up and managing a website. One such myth she debunks is that websites are costly and organizations do not have the time or the money to administer it. However, she points out that more times than not, websites are the first points where visitors gather information about the organization and the historic site. Websites also reach greater audiences in a smartphone, technology-oriented culture that is accustomed to having the information readily at its fingertips. Ransick further disproves other myths in this section ranging from: does someone on staff need to know HTML, to specific fonts to use. Ultimately she sets the stage for her 3-Part breakdown that follows by stressing the point that consistency is key when developing a website.

Part One explores the necessary elements needed when preparing the content and layout of the website. Throughout this section, Ransick advises the need to do the legwork before actually inputting and designing the website. For instance, the organization needs a consensus and have agreement on what content or information will be on the site, the target audience, identification of goals, and related sub-pages. She then breaks down different points to consider when actually designing the site from choosing the right font to selecting the color-scheme. Additionally, she explains the importance of layout, use of images and multimedia, and taking advantage of Search Engine Optimization.



After explaining the key elements users expect, Ransick argues the next phase is crafting the website. It is in this section that she compares the host site: Wix, Weebly, WordPress, and Google Sites after which she devotes a chapter to each site. These chapters give step-by-step directions for setting up a website on any of the host sites, as well as Ransick's tips and tricks for using each one. Ransick structures it in a way that if the organization has already begun using or decided on one of the particular sites examined, all that is needed is to reference the corresponding chapter—the information for each site is contained within a singular chapter for each. She then explores writing or altering the code of the website to incorporate individual features specific to the organization's requirements. Altering the HTML is somewhat complicated, and while Ransick attempts to make it as easy to understand

as possible, this section may confuse some. However, the guides provide much needed advice for working with the aforementioned website hosts.

The final part provides important information and advice for showcasing an institution's collections. This can be done using different sites, but the author focuses attention on three: Omeka, a photo-sharing site like Flickr or Photobucket, or using a blog. The section is broken down in a more succinct and less intensive walk through on how to administer and utilize those sites than was done when highlighting the ins-and-outs of the host sites in the previous section. Throughout, Ransick seeks to provide the simplest, yet comprehensive guide to designing a website for an historical institution.

The creation and administration of a website can be a daunting task to undertake for small museums with little staff or solely volunteer run. However, regardless of how sophisticated the site is, or what platform the organization chooses to use, *Free and Easy Website Design for Small Museums and Historic Sites* is a great resource for organizations regardless of their size. Ransick takes her experience creating a variety of websites and synthesizes it in a way that anyone regardless of whether or not the organization has someone on staff, or volunteers, who is a skilled graphic and computer designer can easily understand. The point she stresses is that historic institutions are tasked with connecting its community to the past through stories and that any move to showcase those stories (in this case through a web presence), is just one step forward. Ransick ends by saying that "Like the city itself, Rome's website was not built in a day."

*Ransick, Kelsey J.S. Free and Easy Website Design for Small Museums and Historic Sites. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. ■*

## Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Achievement Awards

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board is pleased to recognize the Greene County Records Center and Archives and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives with its 2016 Achievement Awards. The Greene County Records Center and Archives is honored for its innovative program taking records into classrooms to develop students' research and analysis skills while fostering an appreciation for local history.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives is congratulated for public programming that fosters and promotes to a large and diverse audience the spirit of preserving history through its collections.

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board is the central body for historical records planning in the state. OHRAB also acts as a state-level review body for

grants submitted to the National Historical Publication and Records Commission, in accordance with the commission's guidelines. Administrative responsibility for the board rests with the Ohio History Connection.

For more information about OHRAB and/or the OHRAB Achievement Award, please contact Fred Previts at the Ohio History Connection at (614) 297-2536.



Representatives of Greene County receive one of the two 2016 Achievement Awards from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). Pictured are Commissioner Bob Glaser, Public Outreach Coordinator Elise Kelly, Archival Assistant Joan Donovan, OHRAB Board Member Galen Wilson (National Archives), Records Manager & Archivist Robin Heise (holding plaque), Commissioner Tom Koogler, OHRAB Board Member Dawne Dewey (Wright State University, Special Collections & Archives), Graduate Intern Erix Infante (Wright State University – Public History), Commissioner Alan Anderson.



Representatives of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives receive one of two 2016 Achievement Awards from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB). Pictured are Director of Archives Jennie Thomas; Senior Director of Library and Archives Andy Leach; and OHRAB Board Member Meghan Hays (Shaker Heights Public Library).

## Regional Meetings are Happening Now!

In 2017 the Ohio Local History Alliance is inviting historical organizations to connect with their communities. For historical organizations and museums to be successful in the future, it is critical that they become important members of their communities today. Historical organizations must develop strong connections between themselves and the community. These connections can enrich their communities by developing relationships built on education, understanding, and respect amongst all members of their communities. Historical organizations have the necessary tools to bring people together and strengthen their communities.



Alliance board member Gary Levitt gives a tour of the Postal History Museum in Delphos at the 2016 Region 1 Meeting

Accept this invitation to attend the Alliance's 2017 regional meetings and discover innovative ways to connect your community. Register online for meetings at [www.ohiolha.org/alliance-regional-meetings/](http://www.ohiolha.org/alliance-regional-meetings/).

### Upcoming Regional Meetings:

**MARCH 25**

**Region 8:**

Butler County Historical Society

**Region 9:**

Madog Center for Welsh Heritage

**APRIL 1**

**Region 1:**

Wolcott House Museum Complex

**Region 3:**

Wadsworth Historical Society

**APRIL 8**

**Region 2:**

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums

**Region 4:**

National McKinley Birthplace Memorial





## Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized institutions—such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, cultural organizations, town and county records offices, and colleges and universities—improve their ability to preserve and care for their significant humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

Applicants must draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities on which their projects focus. Within the conservation field, for example, conservators usually specialize in the care of specific types of collections, such as objects, paper, or paintings. Applicants should therefore choose a conservator whose specialty is appropriate for the nature of their collections. Similarly, when assessing the preservation needs of library, museum, or archival holdings, applicants must seek a consultant specifically knowledgeable about the preservation of these types of collections.

The program encourages applications from small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant. The program also encourages applications from presidentially designated institutions (Hispanic-serving institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities), and from Native American tribes and Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian organizations with significant humanities collections.

Receipt Deadline May 2, 2017 for Projects Beginning January 2018. For more information go to [www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions](http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions)

## Call for Judges and Volunteers for Ohio History Day

Ohio History Day invites you to spend a Saturday in March or April learning from and being inspired by passionate and knowledgeable students! There are plenty of opportunities to participate. Be a judge at one of the 10 regional competitions across Ohio and/or the state competition. To register as a judge, visit [www.ohiohistoryday.org](http://www.ohiohistoryday.org) or contact Shoshanna Gross, State Coordinator at [sgross@ohiohistory.org](mailto:sgross@ohiohistory.org) or 614.297.2526.

Ohio History Day is a year-long research project designed for students in grades 4 – 12. Each year, students pick a topic based on an annual theme and develop a project to illustrate the historical significance of the topic. The program culminates in regional and state level contests that take place in March and April. All Contests are free for the public and take place from 9am – 5pm.



### Upcoming contests:

**SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017**

#### Region 10

Ohio University, Zanesville  
1425 Newark Rd, Zanesville, OH 43701

#### Region 5

Pro Football Hall of Fame  
2121 George Halas Dr. NW, Canton, OH 44708

**SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017**

#### Region 4

Youngstown State University  
1 University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555

**SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2017**

#### State Contest

Ohio Wesleyan  
61 S Sandusky St, Delaware, OH 43015

## 2016 Ohio Historical Marker Grant Recipients

The Ohio Historical Markers program has been busy working on marker applications this year to get them ready for spring and summer dedications. As of the July 1, 2016 deadline, the program received fifty six applications! We are very proud to announce that ten markers were awarded grants of \$750 from the Ohio Historical Markers grant program. Markers that received grants include:

### Wilmington Library (Clinton County)

This marker commemorates the Wilmington Public Library, one of 111 Carnegie libraries in Ohio, which opened its doors to readers on June 30, 1904.

### LGBT Civil Rights Movement (Cuyahoga County)

This marker tells the story of the W. 29th Street block, which was home to Cleveland's vibrant LGBT community and central to the development of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

### Terry v. Ohio (Cuyahoga County)

This marker commemorates the nation's landmark case on the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures, which began in Cuyahoga County with defense attorney Louis Stokes and assistant prosecutor Reuben Payne.

### Agnes Meyer Driscoll (Franklin County)

Known as "the first lady of naval cryptology," Driscoll rose to become the chief civilian cryptanalyst for the U.S. Navy, breaking major Imperial Japanese Navy codes and helping to break the German Enigma code system prior to and during World War II.

### The Harrison House (Franklin County)

This marker commemorates the original two-story Federal-style brick building that has been an integral part of Franklinton since its settlement in 1797.

### Lorain West Breakwater Lighthouse (Lorain County)

The Lorain West Breakwater Lighthouse remains a favorite photo subject for lighthouse enthusiasts and this marker will celebrate the structure that has helped give the city of Lorain its identity.

### Site of Mound Laboratory (1946-2003) (Montgomery County)

This marker commemorates the facilities that once propelled the United States through the Nuclear and Space Ages by consolidating production of the nuclear-reaction initiators that were developed for the United States' first atomic bombs during World War II.

Ohio Historical Marker Grants are available to non-profit and public entities across Ohio. William G. Pomeroy Foundation Grants are also available to non-profit organizations or government entities in Erie, Huron, and Seneca Counties.

You do not need to apply for or receive a grant to get a marker! You do, however, need to complete an Ohio Historical Marker Application. Please visit [Remarkable Ohio](#) for application and grant information.

Remember, the next deadline for marker applications and all marker grants is July 1, 2017.

Questions? Contact marker coordinator Becki Trivison at (614) 2997-2527 or [rtrivison@ohiohistory.org](mailto:rtrivison@ohiohistory.org).

### Interurban Railway and Terminal Company: Rapid Railway (Warren County)

This marker commemorates the Rapid Railway, the Interurban Railway and Terminal Company's northernmost interurban electric trolley line, which became vital to operations on the home front during World War I.

### The Peters Cartridge Company (Warren County)

This marker will commemorate the Peters Cartridge Company, a company that for over fifty years was the major employer of Warren County and vital to winning World War I and World War II.

### Wyandot County Courthouse (Wyandot County)

Featured in the 1994 motion picture *The Shawshank Redemption*, the Wyandot County Courthouse, built in 1899, is one of the best-preserved examples of classical architecture from the turn of the twentieth century.

## AASLH Workshop: Collections Camp: Textiles

Do you have costumes and/or textiles in your museum collection? This two day workshop will focus on the care and conservation of textiles in museum collections. Spend time working with an expert to learn how to be a better steward of your textile collection.

**Date:**

April 24-25, 2017

**Cost:**

\$300 AASLH members/  
\$425 nonmembers

**Location:**

Indiana Historical Society,  
Indianapolis, IN

**Who should attend:**

This workshop, scheduled for April 24-25, is intended for experienced staff and volunteers with responsibility for costume and textile collections.

**As a result of this workshop, participants should:**

- \* Have a general knowledge of the basic types of costumes and textiles common in American museum collections.
- \* Have a general knowledge of the particular needs of costume and textile collections including proper identification, handling, and basic conservation.



\* Be familiar with some of the current issues and trends in the preservation of costume and textile collections.

\* Explore the variety of issues related to exhibiting and storing costume and textile collections.

\* Be familiar with simple conservation procedures that are safe to perform on their costume and textile collections.

\* Be aware of when they should call a professional conservator for problems with their costume and textile collections.

**About the Faculty:**

Karen DePauw is the Coordinator with Local History Services at the Indiana Historical Society.

**More information at <http://learn.aaslh.org/event/collections-camp-textiles>**

## The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts Announces Launch of Rural Stewardship Program

The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) has launched a rural stewardship program with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

At the end of 2016, CCAHA was awarded \$393,965 to support its preservation field services program in 2017 and 2018. A significant component of this grant is a rural collections stewardship program. Building upon past success in education and network-building, CCAHA will lead a set of ambitious new strategies to serve underserved regions of the country, adapting successful service models to assist collecting institutions along the

Eastern Gulf Coast and in Appalachia.

This new outreach model will combine in-person educational and networking opportunities, webinars, targeted on-site consultation, phone consultation, and a final conference to catalyze collections care activities while encouraging the development of a community infrastructure that will be sustainable. The ultimate goal of the regional programs will be to link together a cohort of preservation partners to establish a long-term network for on-the-ground regional support.

The Stewardship Programs will have a goal of creating working communities of practice among small organizations fac-

ing related challenges. CCAHA will work closely with regional partners to ensure that an equivalent range of programming can be maintained by the regional partners at the end of the two-year period.

CCAHA has succeeded in identifying strong regional partners—in addition to an overall partnership with AASLH—for the initiative in each of the regions to support the successful implementation of the programs. These partners will include the Kentucky Historical Society, Ohio History Connection, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and the Southeast Museums Conference.



## Keeping History Alive: Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting

All are invited to this year's Spring Conference on Friday, May 19, 2017, at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus—located in the Polaris region. A preconference workshop, Simple Supports for Dynamic Exhibits with Miriam Nelson, will be held Thursday, May 18, at the Ohio History Center. To register for both events or either, and to see the complete program and session descriptions, please visit the meeting website at [www.ohioarchivists.org/annual\\_conference](http://www.ohioarchivists.org/annual_conference).



*Kathleen Williams, courtesy Williams.*

This year's plenary speaker is Kathleen Williams speaking on "A Passion for Public Service." Williams serves as the executive director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making arm of the National Archives. She will discuss how through the work, holdings, and audiences we serve, archivists can claim a powerful and legitimate place in fulfilling a great public interest, now more than ever.

This meeting's sessions come in a mix of formats and topics include collaborations for exhibits, merging departments, digital preservation, ethics in historical medical records, digitization projects based in the community, accessibility guidelines, exploring options for naming rights and sponsorships, preservation, and digital collections analytics. New this year is the world café session where presentation areas will be available for attendees to visit, with an emphasis on interaction at each. Its topics are social media and the researcher's view, along with assessment of regional archival associations, and linked open data.

For more information and conference registration, visit [www.ohioarchivists.org/annual\\_conference](http://www.ohioarchivists.org/annual_conference). See you at Quest!

### MARCH 25:

Region 8 and Region 9 meetings. For more information, see pages 8.

Region 5 and Region 10 Ohio History Day contests. For more information see [www.ohiohistory.org/historyday](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday) and page 9.

### APRIL 1:

Region 1 and Region 3 meetings.

Region 4 Ohio History Day contest. For more information see [www.ohiohistory.org/historyday](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday) and page 8.

### APRIL 2-3:

Ohio Museums Association annual conference, "Transforming Museums: Secrets to Success." For more information, see [www.ohiomuseums.org](http://www.ohiomuseums.org)

### APRIL 8:

Region 2 and Region 4 meetings. For more information, see pages 8.

### APRIL 18:

Tax Day! File your taxes and donate to the History Fund! See [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)

### APRIL 24-25

AASLH Workshop: Collections Camp: Textiles. For more information, see page 11.

### APRIL 29:

State Ohio History Day contest. For more information see [www.ohiohistory.org/historyday](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday) and page 9.

### MAY 1:

Early-Bird Registration Deadline for Society of Ohio Archivists conference.

### MAY 2:

Application Deadline for NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions grant applications.

### MAY 19:

Society of Ohio Archivists Conference.

## Region 1

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

April 22-24, 2017 marks the celebration of Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day at the **Museum of Postal History** in Delphos Ohio. Center Stage is the unveiling of their newest exhibit: The philatelic aspects of the Holocaust and WWII. Materials will be displayed from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education, and from private collectors around the country. Featured items concern the SS St. Louis as portrayed in the Hollywood movie “Voyage of the Damned”, the personal correspondence of Max Schohl of Florsheim Germany and Julius Hess of Charleston West Virginian as discussed in several books written on their plight, as well as letters, stamps, and script used in the Warsaw Ghetto Mail System.

The **Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum** 314 W. 3rd Street, Defiance, OH 43512 is sponsoring the following programs and events:

TUESDAY MARCH 16, 2017, 7:00 PM

The New U.S. President and the Media  
*Schomburg Auditorium, Defiance College*

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2017, 7:30 PM

The Grand Opening of Defiance During Times Of War And Conflict  
Introductory program and tour of this major exhibition of Defiance history from 1638 to 1843.

*Stroede Center for the Arts, 319 Wayne Ave. and the Tuttle Museum.*

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

*Open House of the Tuttle Museum During the Annual Lilac Festival*  
For more information: 419-782-0746 or [www.tuttlemuseum.com](http://www.tuttlemuseum.com)

The **John Paulding Historical Society and Museum** has a Junior Historian program for school age children that is very active and has numerous projects that involve the children during the year. For more information about the program and activities please contact Lyn

Collis, supervisor, at the John Paulding Historical Society and Museum. 600 Fairgrounds Drive, P.O. Box 93 Paulding, OH, 45879, [JPHS45879@yahoo.com](mailto:JPHS45879@yahoo.com)

## Region 2

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

## Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Thanks to a generous contribution by Nordson Corporation, the **Oberlin Heritage Center** was able to provide free programming to all of the 4th graders in the Lorain City School District. Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Amanda Manahan visited all 10 of the Lorain Elementary schools during Black History Month and interacted with some 375 students. The program *Northern Ohio and the Underground Railroad* featured stories about slavery and abolitionists in the United States and included activities to help the students think critically about the struggles and difficult choices the freedom seekers faced.

### In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization?

Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*.

Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at [arohmiller@ohiohistory.org](mailto:arohmiller@ohiohistory.org). Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for “News from the Regions” are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance’s members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

## Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

## 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

## Region 7

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

The **Boonshoft Museum of Discovery** is holding One-Day Spring Break Camps on select Tuesdays and Thursdays this spring. Dates are March 28, 30; April 4, 6, 11, 13. Children ages 6-8 can choose from two distinct themes for their daylong adventures: Star Wars or Wild Kratts on Tuesdays and Animal Grossology or Wild World on Thursdays. Member price is \$45 per day while the non-member price is \$50. Families will be responsible for providing camper lunches. Note: No microwaves or refrigerators will be available. More information can be found at [www.boonshoftmuseum.org/calendar/spring-break-camps](http://www.boonshoftmuseum.org/calendar/spring-break-camps).

The **Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society** located at 123 W. George Street in Arcanum welcomes Hannah Wiest, Darke County Parks Naturalist, who will present her program “Layers of History: Women’s Fashion During the War Between the States” on Thursday evening, March 9 at 7 pm. Hannah Wiest, Hannah’s lecture presents a revealing history about ladies’ fashion and undergarments during the early 1860s. She will expose each layer and the purpose of the individual garments and explain how the fabric content, print, dress style, and cut all disclosed a woman’s class, age, and social standing. Wiest will be dressed in a complete ensemble and have many other garments to show as well as a Power Point presentation. The program is free

# NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

and open to the public although seating is limited. See our web site for details at [www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org) or through Facebook. Questions can be directed through these sites as well as [contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@arcanumhistoricalsociety.org).

## 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 Saturday, April 15th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the **Southeast Ohio History Center** will be hosting a Grand Opening and centennial celebration for

our building. The Southeast Ohio History Center is an exciting new concept that grew out of the Athens County Historical Society and Museum. Our new building is 100 years old and is a beautiful backdrop for exhibits, programs, and concerts. This New Home for History will be a place where the stories of people and places in Southeast Ohio are told – stories from the days when our region was first discovered to the history we are shaping today.

## Region 10

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

The **Cincinnati Observatory Center** invites you to *First Light Night: 172 years of Ohio Astronomy* on Friday,

April 14. First Light is a significant event for astronomers, being the first time they view through their new telescope. For our founder, O.M. Mitchel, that was April 14, 1845. At this event, explore the fascinating story of the people; O.M. Mitchel, Nicholas Longworth and John Quincy Adams, who made Cincinnati the “Birthplace of American Astronomy.” Tours, astronomy Q&A and viewing through Mitchel’s telescope-largest in the Nation when first installed. (viewing weather permitting). No reservations needed. All ages welcome. \$5 per person. Free for Observatory & OHC Members. Call 513-321-5186 or visit [www.cincinnatiobservatory.org](http://www.cincinnatiobservatory.org) for more information.

# MEMBERS

Joined between January 18 and March 3, 2017

## Welcome New Members

### ORGANIZATIONS

Weymouth Preservation Society, Medina

## Thank You Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Carl T. Engel,  
Painesville

Daniel L. Frizzi,  
Bellaire

Jeffrey Knowles,  
Columbus

Karen Dinsmore,  
Maineville

Rory Rennick,  
Columbus

Rosalie Frazier,  
Columbus

### ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Historical Society,  
Alliance

Dayton Police History  
Foundation, Inc, Dayton

Harmony Hill Association, Inc,  
Williamsburg

Mason Historical Society,  
Mason

Shanes Crossing Historical  
Society, Rockford

Belmont County Historical  
Society, Barnesville

Enon Community Historical  
Society, Enon

Heritage Commission  
Corporation, South  
Charleston

Mayfield Township Historical  
Society, Mayfield Village

Southeast Ohio History  
Center, Athens

Belpre Historical Society,  
Belpre

Erie County Historical Society,  
Sandusky

Hinckley Historical Society  
Inc, Hinckley

Metamora Area Historical  
Society, Metamora

Swiss Community Historical  
Society, Bluffton

Brimfield Historical Society,  
Kent

Fairport Harbor Historical  
Society, Fairport Harbor

Historic Perrysburg Inc,  
Perrysburg

Museum at the Friends Home,  
Waynesville

The John P Parker Historical  
Society, Ripley

Brunswick Area Historical  
Society, Brunswick

Fallen Timbers Battlefield  
Commission, Maumee

John Paulding Historical  
Society Inc, Paulding

Museum of Postal History,  
Delphos

Thomas A Edison Birthplace  
Association, Milan

Carlisle Area Historical  
Society, Carlisle

Fowler Township Historical  
Society, Cortland

Kidron Community Historical  
Society, Kidron

Museums and Historic Sites of  
Greater Cincinnati, Oxford

Tippecanoe Historical Society,  
Tipp City

Centerville-Washington  
History, Centerville

Franklin Area Historical  
Society, Franklin

Lake County Historical  
Society, Painesville

New Albany-Plain Township  
Historical Society, New Albany

Underground Railroad  
Museum, Flushing

Central Insurance Fire  
Museum, Van Wert

Franklin County Genealogical  
& Historical Society,  
Columbus

Lakeside Heritage Society Inc,  
Lakeside

Noble County Historical  
Society, Caldwell

Washington Township Hist  
Soc of Stark County, Alliance

Cincinnati Astronomical  
Society, Cleves

Galion Historical Society Inc,  
Galion

Lorain Historical Society,  
Lorain

Oxford Museum Association,  
Oxford

West Carrollton Historical  
Society, West Carrollton

City of Jackson, Jackson

Gates Mills Historical Society,  
Gates Mills

Louisville-Nimishillen  
Historical Society, Louisville

Perrysburg Area Historic  
Museum, Inc, Perrysburg

Westwood Historical Society,  
Cincinnati

Cleveland Heights Historical  
Society, Cleveland Heights

German Culture Museum,  
Walnut Creek

Lynchburg Historical Society,  
Lynchburg

Putnam County Historical  
Society, Kalida

Williams County Historical  
Society, Montpelier

Clintonville Historical Society,  
Columbus

German Village Society,  
Columbus

Magnolia Area Historical  
Society, Magnolia

Richland County Historical  
Society, Mansfield

Willoughby Hills Historical  
Society, Willoughby Hills

Columbus Landmarks  
Foundation, Columbus

Grand Rapids Historical  
Society, Grand Rapids

Mahoning Valley Historical  
Society, Youngstown

Roseville Historical Society,  
Roseville

Windsor Historical Society,  
Windsor

Crosby Township Historical  
Society, Harrison

Granger Historical Society,  
Medina

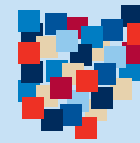
Mariemont Preservation  
Foundation, Cincinnati

Sebring Ohio Historical  
Society, Sebring

Wood County Historical  
Center & Museum, Bowling  
Green



# 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:

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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.

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