

Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR 2012



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Mission of the Ohio Historical Society

is to spark discovery of Ohio history! We help people connect with Ohio's past in order to understand the present and create a better future.

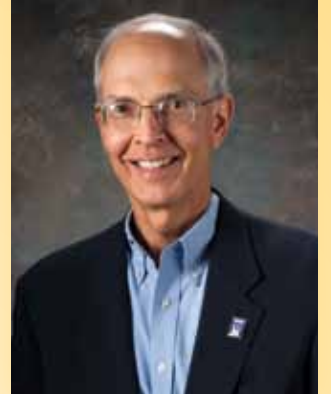
Volunteers for the Ohio Historical Society

Total Volunteers for OHS for FY12: **1,343**

Total Hours for OHS for FY12: **83,152**

Total \$ Amount of Hours: **\$1,096,826**

A MESSAGE FROM OHS CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BURT LOGAN



As I travel around the state visiting historic sites, I regularly encounter inquisitive visitors exploring Ohio's past,

such as a father and teenage son studying the McCook rifle at the McCook House in Carrollton, or two small children chatting excitedly about "Conway," the mastodon skeleton at the Ohio History Center, or a young couple visiting the Harding Home in Marion and discussing the presidents from Ohio. The activities at these sites and on the museum floor represent how the Society is becoming reinvigorated and more relevant to more Ohioans.

Focusing on reinvigoration and relevance allows us to deepen our relationships with a wider group of supporters. For example, in Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), we launched the new *Ohio as America* e-textbook and curriculum developed by the Society. The first iteration of the online textbook presents fourth grade curriculum with videos from curators and authorities in Ohio history, as well as lesson plans and tools for teachers. Several thousand students were using the textbook by the close of the 2011–12 academic year. The Society is now working on the second iteration, an eighth grade online textbook. Ideas like the textbook reinvigorate Ohio history and create relevance in students' lives that will last a lifetime. In addition, this innovation generates additional earned revenue for the Society, an important component to assure we can continue to be relevant.

Reinvigoration and relevance can also be demonstrated through the investment of resources directly into communities throughout Ohio. Through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Society plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of historic properties. In FY12, 14 Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects were completed representing \$172 million invested in historic buildings,

as well as 39 Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects being completed in FY12 with \$225 million invested in historic properties in Ohio.

Additionally, tax year 2011 marked the first year of the History Fund, a competitive matching grants program. It is funded by voluntary contributions from Ohioans who designate a donation on their state income tax returns. The History Fund will help fund diverse history-related projects across the state. Recipients of the first year's grants will be announced in early 2013.

These examples illustrate a fraction of the scope and impact created through programs of the Ohio Historical Society. Ohioans need only look back at the state's magnificent history to recognize the possibilities that lie ahead. The state's historic and cultural resources provide the stories and the context to connect the present to the past in a relevant "ah-ha!" moment.

The staff and all the supporters of the Society, including the governor and legislature, have worked together to create a strong FY12. We sincerely appreciate their efforts on behalf of preserving Ohio history for all Ohioans. We look ahead to a strong FY13.

We invite you, too, to be a part of reinvigorating the support for preservation and sharing of Ohio history by becoming a member, donor, volunteer, visitor, or advocate.





A MESSAGE FROM OHS BOARD PRESIDENT RICHARD T. PRASSE

Over the past few years, I have used this opportunity to set forth the prior year's progress and challenges with a description of our future goals. Since this summer brings an end to my four terms as President of the Society and Chair of its Board of Trustees, some retrospection seems appropriate.

Today, the Society is poised for the future. It manages the largest state memorial system in the United States by working with the communities where the sites are located. This management system has been recognized nationally for its success in improving site access and hours. The Society also balances its revenue and expenses. We have launched new exhibits at the Ohio History Center and in many of the historic sites. The Civil War 150 effort to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War is underway across Ohio, as is the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. We achieved national recognition with reaccreditation by the American Association of Museums, the "gold standard" of Museum quality, for the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village and initial accreditation for six of our site museums.

Our support for local history throughout Ohio is strong:

- The Ohio Local History Alliance, made up of local historical societies and museums across the state, celebrated its 50th year in partnership with the Society.
- Ohioans may designate some or all of their state tax refunds to fund a matching grant program supporting history projects in Ohio. The first year (IRS tax year 2011) generated over \$147,000.
- This year we began the "Passport to Your Ohio History" program, encouraging heritage tourism around Ohio.
- Through the use of its AmeriCorps program, the Society has placed supporting members with 19 organizations in local community organizations.

National History Day in Ohio is run by the Society and continues to be an activity that teaches critical thinking, research, analysis, and presentation skills to public, private, and home schooled students. Founded in Ohio and coordinated by the Society, about 7,000 students in 55 counties participate in the program each year. Comments from some of the participants include:

"One of my former students responded 'After completing NHD—I can do anything.'" Gaye Breegle, teacher at Edison Junior High, Niles, OH.

"Doing an intensive research project and creating something with that research really brings history alive, and participating in NHD helps you to never forget what you have learned."

Susanna McKibben, student at Graham School, Columbus, OH.

"NHD has expanded our child's horizons in and out of the classroom." Parents Mark and Christine Hicks, Cleveland, OH.

Recognized nationally, the program was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama at a White House ceremony in February.

National History Day in Ohio is emblematic of the programs of the Society and its mission. Our professionals are implementing a vision of educating our students and Ohioans about the richness of our past – the people, places, and events that make us who we are today. The tools they create, including cutting-edge electronic texts and interactive teaching supports, continue to enhance the Society's relevance.

As I prepare to leave the Board of Trustees, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the supporters of the Society: from Gary Ness, Bill Laidlaw, Jim Strider, and Burt Logan, who were the professionals leading the Society during my time on the Board; to the many staff who took our plans and visions and made them real in the most challenging of times; to the elected officials from both political parties at the State and locally who help fund the Society; to Grant Douglass, Pat Eldredge, and Dick Ruppert, who led the Board, and Glenda Greenwood who is now Board Chair and head volunteer for the Society; and especially to the supporters of Ohio History within and outside of the Society. Thank you all for your hard work, financial support, and volunteer efforts that make the Society work for Ohio and Ohioans.

I leave you with this thought: If we don't find a way to keep our history alive and relevant, who will? Please join me in supporting the mission of the Ohio Historical Society today and in the future.

A Year of Reinvigoration and Relevance

In Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12), the Ohio Historical Society continued to fulfill its core mission while encouraging ingenuity toward additional revenue and focusing on relevance by connecting with more Ohioans. The results are remarkable and diverse, spanning the full range of the services and programs that the Society offers.

Ohio as America:

An E-Textbook for Fourth Graders

In September 2011 with the assistance of eTech, Honda of American Manufacturing, and Huntington Bank, the Society launched *Ohio As America*, an electronic textbook presenting the history of Ohio. The *Ohio As America* e-textbook for fourth grade social studies students was specifically designed for and aligned with the new Ohio Academic Content Standards adopted by the Ohio State Board of Education. The textbook is hosted online and includes student readings, videos from historic sites, primary source material, artifacts from the Ohio Historical Society collection, and links to other resources statewide. The fourth grade textbook has been adopted by teachers and school districts throughout the state with over 5,560 students signed-up to utilize it during the 2012–13 school year. An eighth grade textbook is also available for the next academic year and is already projected to be used by over 6,000 students.

Innovative New Exhibits and a Sun-filled New Welcome Lobby

At the Ohio History Center, FY12 started with a redesigned bright, accessible entrance into the new "Welcome Lobby," made possible in part through the generous contribution of the American Electric Power Foundation and state funding through the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission. The lobby set the tone for the dramatic new exhibits also launched in FY12. Following on the success of the exhibit *Controversy: Pieces You Don't Normally See* in the Ohio History Center in 2011, the Society introduced in February 2012 another innovative exhibit in the same series, *Controversy 2: Pieces We Don't Talk About*. Each exhibit created a positive buzz in statewide and national media. They generated interest in part because the underlying premise was to spark conversations



between visitors and to allow the objects to speak for themselves. Visitors were encouraged to express their responses to the exhibit in the last gallery room of the exhibit. The novel approach engaged a diverse community in conversations about the objects and the museum.

Additional new exhibits that were introduced or continued at the Center include:

- *The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute, From the Civil War to Iraq* (through May 28, 2012), presenting powerful images of soldiers from the last 150 years. The exhibit was sponsored by EADS North America; Business of Entertainment, Inc. & Cyma Rubin, producer, curator; John B. Stetson Co.; AmorSource, LLC; Conestoga; The Columbus Dispatch; Ohio Magazine and 104.9 River.
- *Over Here, Over There: Ohioans in Times of War*, highlighting the Society's military history collections and connecting visitors to changes in war over time.
- *Follow the Flag*, presenting conserved battle flags carried by Ohio soldiers in the Civil War. Sponsored by The Gordon Chandler Memorial Fund of The Columbus Foundation.

- *Connecting to Your History*, helping visitors find ways to explore their own history by conserving family heirlooms and rediscovering family stories.
- *Following in Ancient Footsteps*, presenting more than 15,000 years of Ohio’s archaeological and Native American history.
- *Buildings, Places and Spaces*, presenting the programs and processes of the Ohio Historical Preservation Office and examples of notable historic structures, villages, and spaces.

These exhibits are in addition to extensive work throughout the site network to launch new exhibits. For instance, in FY12, the Zoar Community Association and the Society unveiled the *Zoar Hotel Exhibit*, which was inspired by hotel objects found while packing and recording collections during the move to the new Zoar collections storage facility. In addition, the Civil War 150 traveling exhibit was displayed at several sites around the state.

Successes Throughout the Network of Sites

In FY12, the 39 staffed-sites in the Ohio Historical Society network welcomed a combined total of 413,854 visitors.

The number of visitors speaks to the superb quality of its sites. For example, several earthworks including four OHS sites in Ohio have been designated as potential candidates for World Heritage Site status, which would draw additional global attention to the remarkable archaeological sites throughout the state.

In partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Society launched an aggressive attack against emerald ash borers at Cedar Bog. Ash trees compose 60%–80% of the swamp forest. Introduction of non-stinging wasps that parasite the borers will hopefully save this treasured resource.

Making Ohio History More Accessible while Tapping into Interest in Ohio Village

A major commitment was made in FY12 to continue to have the Ohio History Center open five days per week (Wednesday–Sunday), an increase of three days per week over the prior year.

Ohio Village, which was originally created in the 1970s to replicate an Ohio village from the mid-1800s, had offered limited access for the previous nine years. It was reopened to the public from June 2–September 2, 2012. The new “Summer Fun in Ohio Village” experience featured volunteer historical interpreters who offered visitors a



personal connection to Ohio history and a scavenger hunt cell phone tour. The response was immediate and positive. The local community enthusiastically embraced the reopening of the Village and this success allowed other programs, such as the “Passport to Your Ohio History” program to gain momentum. An associated “Summer Fun Membership” program, also launched in FY12, reflected the enthusiasm of Ohioans toward financially supporting the Society. The program met its original sales goal in eight days and, ultimately, the sales of the membership exceeded 400% of the goal.

The reopening of the Village would not have been possible without many donors, especially our Lead Sponsors, Conestoga, The Grand Lodge of Ohio & Accepted Free Masons, The John Hauck Foundation, The David A. & Helen P. Horn Charitable Trust, and an anonymous donor.

Improved Accessibility to Collections and Library Services

The Archives/Library in the Center continued to be open four days a week (Wednesday–Saturday) and also continued to make collections accessible digitally. Over the last year, more than 276,000 searches were performed in the Online Collections Catalog, which has been upgraded for FY13. In addition, Ohio Memory, the Society’s collaborative digitization program, added more than 125,000 digital images to the website at www.ohiomemory.org and received nearly 1.5 million page views.

The Society continues to expand its collection of documents and artifacts that provide evidence of Ohio’s past. New acquisitions totaled 137 different collections and included items such as U.S. Representative Steve Stivers’ military equipment from Operation Iraqi Freedom, records of the Royal and Select Masons of Ohio going back to 1830 and

a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of the May 4, 1970 shooting at Kent State University, taken by John Paul Filo. Collections were transferred to dozens of historic sites throughout the state for public display, and loans were made to twenty external organizations.

In Service to Ohio History

Thanks to a second \$260,000 grant from the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism, the Ohio Historical Society has continued the successful Ohio History Service Corps, a program that engages AmeriCorps members to educate Ohioans on why history is relevant and how it can be used as an effective economic development tool.

Twenty AmeriCorps members served at 19 sites, including Cleveland Artists Foundation, Cleveland Landmarks Commission; Columbus Historical Society, Columbus Landmarks Foundation; Cincinnati 200, Ohio Historical Society; Heritage Ohio; Preservation Ohio; Downtown Mansfield, Inc.; Perry County Historical Society; Logan County Museum; Dennison Railroad Depot Museum; Maritime Museum of Sandusky; Sunday Creek Associates; National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; Wood County Historical Center; City of Cincinnati Planning and Buildings; Oberlin Heritage Center; Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College; Youngstown State University, as well as around the country.

Members assist communities and local historical organizations with historic site surveys, educational programs, public events, volunteer recruitment and training, collections digitization, oral histories, and other projects. The program builds “Ohio pride” and contributes to history, education, and economic development within communities.

AmeriCorps funding is administered by ServeOhio,

Ohio’s Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism. ServeOhio strengthens Ohio communities through various types of services and volunteerism in the areas of education, opportunity, healthy futures, veterans, and environmental-stewardship and disaster services. For information, visit: www.serveohio.org.

Hard Work Generates Reinvigoration

The commitment of all the divisions of the Society along with volunteers, members, sponsors, and donors allowed for many successes in FY12. A few are noted here:

- The Statehood Day event featuring John Glenn was held on March 1 at the Ohio History Center and attracted an overflow attendance.
- Reversing a four-year downward trend, donor contributions and major donor bases increased at all levels.
- The Society won recognition and awards, such as the “Ruby” Ohio Tourism Association award for outstanding marketing efforts for success in tourism in the state.
- The launch of the new History Fund, funded through individual contributions made as state income tax check-offs, generated \$147,771 from 16,996 Ohioans in its first year. The funds will be used in a matching grant program for local history projects in Ohio.
- Throughout the year, over 120,000 words about the Society appeared in online and print articles, which is equivalent to approximately a 450-page book on the scope and programs of the Society.

For more of the Society’s successes, programs, and activities, please visit ohiohistory.org, or read the news releases at PitchEngine.com/ohiohistory.

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS BLOG

The Collections blog is written by the Collections Services staff of the Ohio Historical Society. The goal is to help readers connect with the “real stuff” of Ohio history.

The blog can be found at:

Results for the Collections Blog for calendar year 2011 include:

41,000 VIEWS

146 NEW POSTS

bringing the total posts to 519

218 PHOTOS ADDED

(about four photos per week)

572 VIEWS HAPPENED ON THE BUSIEST DAY,

February 11, 2011, for the blog post “I Found it In the Archives – Finalist #.”

Rebirth: Digitization programs of the Ohio Historical Society are bringing newspapers, photos, and objects from the collections to a new life online in searchable digital databases. This has a profound impact on seasoned researchers and neophytes alike as searching these databases can bring thousands of options immediately to anyone’s desktop.

Digital Collections Bring New Life and New Audiences to Local History

Until recently, local newspapers existed primarily as original hardcopy papers or on microfilm. Due to recent advancements in technology, thousands of pages of Ohio newspapers are being digitized and made available through the *Chronicling America* website.

This means that researchers can perform keyword searches for family names, community histories, national events, or any other topic of interest, and have results returned in seconds.

FY12 saw the digitization of 15 newspaper titles and 76,156 newspaper pages thanks to a \$334,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The newspapers were digitized through the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio, which is a part of the National Digital Newspaper Program developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. These papers will join the 14 papers—over 100,000 Ohio newspaper pages published between 1880 and 1922—that are already available on *Chronicling America* through the project’s first phase.

As an example, one newspaper that was digitized this year as part of the project was the *Cleveland Leader*. Its first issue was published in 1854 and remained an active newspaper until the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* purchased it in 1917.

“As the voice of radical Republicanism in northern Ohio, if not the entire state, the Cleveland Leader is an indispensable primary source for public opinion during the Civil War era,” said John Vacha of the Western Reserve Historical Society. *“Its digitization is a valuable addition to the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America website.”*

The newspaper project is part of the Society’s ongoing Ohio Memory digitization program. Ohio Memory began in 2000 as one of the programs produced for the state’s Bicentennial. Developed in partnership with the State Library of Ohio, Ohio Memory includes collections from more than 354 cultural heritage institutions representing all of Ohio’s 88 counties. The mission of Ohio Memory is to provide access to Ohio’s historical treasures, bringing together primary sources from all parts of the state in an online database that:

- 1. Celebrates state and local history.
- 2. Encourages cooperation between archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and other cultural organizations.
- 3. Allows the global community to discover and explore Ohio’s rich past.

- For FY12, Ohio Memory achieved these results:
- 126,938 new digitized items uploaded.
 - 204,098 visitors to the site.
 - 1,456,578 page views.

Ohio Memory continues to serve not only these 200,000+ visitors who search the database each year, but also the 354 libraries, historical societies, and other cultural heritage institutions in creating a searchable presence for their collections. By combining the resources of the individual institutions into one searchable database, the Society has created a one-stop shop for researchers to use. These strengths result in new institutions continually expressing interest in joining Ohio Memory. Also, importantly, Ohio Memory is a sustainable program that covers costs through subscription fees from participating institutions and through fees charged to end-users who purchase copies of digital files. This program increases the sustainability of the Society as well as serves the mission.

New Digital Collections Available in Ohio Memory:

- Amherst Public Library, thousands of pages of newspapers from the *Amherst News-Times*, from 1919 to the present.
- National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center, over 500 photographs, drawings, and pamphlets held at the NAAMCC archives.
- White Castle, photographs, posters and artifacts from the archives of White Castle, held at the Ohio Historical Society.
- Wood County Historical Center, collection of northwest Ohio materials curated by AmeriCorps members in the region.
- Youngstown Center for Industry & Labor, digital collection of more than 900 photographs taken during the most recent collections inventory.

Newspapers in the Collection of the Ohio Historical Society

The Ohio Historical Society’s Archives/Library contains one of the largest collections of Ohio newspapers in existence. The collection includes newspapers published from 1793 to present, representing 4,500 titles and 50,000 rolls of microfilm.

NEWSPAPER PAGES DIGITIZED FOR
CHRONICLING AMERICA

A total of **218,281**
have been added to *Chronicling America*
over the last four years.

Number of titles
represented: **35**

Number of counties
represented: **28**

In FY12, **76,156** more pages
of Ohio newspapers are in the process
of being added to *Chronicling America*.

A \$334,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities ending in FY12 funded this effort as part of the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio. *Chronicling America* is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities (<http://www.neh.gov>) and the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress’s *Chronicling America* website is www.chroniclingamerica.org.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2012: Facebook fans increased to 9,300+.
Twitter followers increased to 4,300+. Like!

Protect: While managing historical assets, sometimes the need to protect them is the most crucial task. The story of the historic Village of Zoar is one that illustrates the need to connect with a larger community through collaborative efforts to “Save Zoar.”

The Effort to Save the Village of Zoar



The Village of Zoar holds a unique place in American history. Fiscal year 2012 could stand as its pivotal year since the National Trust for Historic Preservation added the Village of Zoar to its list of “America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.”

Nearly 200 years into the experiment, the Village of Zoar is forging ahead with the energy and commitment of the community, yet it faces uncertain waters – literally and figuratively.

Zoar was founded in 1817 by a group of separatists who fled to America hoping to escape religious persecution in their native Germany. With aid from the Society of Friends in Philadelphia, the separatists established a new village on the Tuscarawas River. They named it Zoar, which means refuge.

By 1819, the separatists had organized a communal system, which allowed them to pool their resources and energies for the benefit of the community. This allowed them to pay their debt for the purchase of the land and to be self-sufficient. They called themselves the Society of Separatists of Zoar and the community thrived under the leadership of Joseph Bimeler. Bimeler acted as agent general and religious leader of the society.

Zoar’s rapid economic success was partially due to the construction of the Ohio-Erie Canal in the early 19th century. The Village was able to earn needed cash by using their labor to build a section of the canal. In addition, the canal increased traffic to the village, which allowed shipping of the crops and goods produced by the community.

It became one of the most successful and long-lasting communal societies in American history. Even though the Society of Separatists of Zoar was dissolved in 1898, the Zoar community continues on. Today, the Village of Zoar is home to approximately 75 families, including some descendants of the original founders of Zoar. Many of the historic buildings have been restored and are still used today, including several of the original homes built in 1817. It continues to be a functioning community as well as a unique historic village that has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors over the years.



However, a deteriorating levee places the historic village at grave risk. Since the 1930s, the Village of Zoar has been protected from waters retained in the Tuscarawas River valley whenever the gates of a dam constructed downstream are closed.

Record levels of water behind the protecting earthen levee in 2005 raised concerns about the levee’s integrity and prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the future of the levee and the Village of Zoar. In 2011, the Army Corps initiated a multi-year study to evaluate, propose and then initiate a solution to the levee problem. The results of the study by the Army Corps are expected in late 2014.

Currently several solutions are under consideration including repair of the levee or demolition of the Village. If the Village is demolished, the Corps could allow the area to flood. This option poses a massive threat to the Village of Zoar. The Corps is actively engaged in consultation with interested parties, including the Society and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, to seek ways to avoid, reduce or mitigate any adverse effects from its efforts to deal with the levee.

Razing the buildings in the Village of Zoar would be devastating to the many layers of its history. For example, the archaeological record would be impacted. This potentially includes the pre-history of the people in Ohio up to 15,000 years ago, as well as the Separatist history since 1817. How the Separatists society lived in their community is partly dependent on and demonstrated by the relationship of one building to the next. Opportunities for future research by archaeologists, sociologists, anthropologists, urban planners, preservationists, and others would be affected.



In addition, recent ongoing restoration efforts by the Ohio Historical Society would be lost. These include new heating and air conditioning systems for two of the houses and other improvements so that collections not on display could be stored in a Village building. Improvements also included installation of power in the Tin Shop for the first time, and electric upgrades and a fire detection security system in the bakery. In addition, the Zoar Community Association continues to perform regular maintenance on Village buildings. Altogether, the financial and communal investment in resources in Zoar is significant.

Also, the Village of Zoar continues to receive state funding and outside grants. At the Bimeler Museum, a major project currently underway is funded in part with state appropriations through the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission, and through grants from the Helen Brach Foundation, the Hoover Foundation, the Ohio and Erie Canalway Association, the Heritage Home Association of Tuscarawas County, and others.

The major part of the restoration of the Bimeler Museum will address structural problems incurred as a result of the structure shifting during flooding due to the loss of the soil bearing capacity. The entire brick building weighing 655 tons will be carefully lifted so that a 10-inch thick reinforced concrete slab can be poured under the building and the foundation walls rebuilt, strengthened, and extended. This solution will distribute the weight of the building over a larger area, which will compensate for the loss of the bearing capacity the next time the subsoil becomes saturated, insuring the long-term preservation of the building.

In June 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) named the Village of Zoar to its list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." This annual list was created to raise awareness about the threats facing some of

America's greatest treasures. It has identified hundreds of threatened sites in its 25-year history, and has been so successful in fostering preservation efforts that only a handful of sites that were named to the list have been lost. Although there is no monetary award that accompanies the designation, the support of the NTHP brings the discussion about the risks to Zoar to a national level.

This designation is only one of many validating the site as an important historical asset. Prior to being named to the "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places," it was designated as a National Treasure by the NTHP. The core portion of the Zoar Village Historic District has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1969, and the entire Zoar Village Historic District has been listed on the Register since 1975. It was accepted for the listing due to its national level of significance in American immigration and religious history, its vernacular Germanic architecture, its ability to illustrate a particular way of life, and its high degree of historic integrity. Efforts are now underway to achieve National Historic Landmark designation, a status shared by only 71 sites in Ohio.

"The Village of Zoar is one of those very few places in the country that transports visitors back in time, giving people an authentic glimpse of what life was like for previous generations," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we believe a solution can be found that spares this one-of-a-kind Village from catastrophic flooding or demolition."

The process to develop a plan to save the historic Village of Zoar has been a collaborative effort not only through the hard work and continuing efforts of the Save Historic Zoar group, but with strong leadership from the Zoar Community Association, which also serves as the local management group for the historic site, and Larry Bell, Mayor of Zoar. The effort has been assisted by the Tuscarawas County Commissioners, the Lawrence Township Trustees, the Ohio and Erie Canal Association, the Tuscarawas Convention and Visitors Bureau, the ongoing support of the Ohio Historical Society, and many others.

In Fiscal Year 2012, Zoar represents the story of a historic village that benefited from the collaborative efforts of community groups working on their own and with the Ohio Historical Society to generate awareness about the risks to the village. It benefited from the Society in collaboration with local groups working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to kick off a public relations effort to announce being named to the list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." It benefited from the expertise of the Society's architects and Historic Preservation staff in preserving its historical integrity in the care, restoration, and documentation of the village. It also benefited from the work of the Society's Collections and Museums staff as well as the Historic Sites staff in helping create the exhibits and historic experiences in the building and the village. A site such as Zoar illustrates how the many disciplines within the Society build on the expertise and passion within the communities of Ohio to preserve and celebrate Ohio history.

The story of Zoar has much more to be told. The Village needs to be saved. The decision ultimately rests in the hands of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but it is important for people to express their opinions.

Jon Elsasser, member of the Board of Trustees, Ohio Historical Society, and president of the Zoar Community Association said, "Buildings of this craftsmanship and style will never be built again. We need to get people involved to actively speak up to save Zoar."

For the Ohio History news article about Zoar:
<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/enews/042612a.shtml>

The Ohio Historical Society, Zoar Community Association, the Village of Zoar, the Tuscarawas County CVB, and the Army Corps continue to work together to find a positive solution.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
502 Eighth Street • Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Zoar Community Association (ZCA)
Save Historic Zoar
P.O. Box 544 • Zoar, OH 44697-0544
1.800.262.6195

Please send your e-mail of concern and support to:
zoarleeve@usace.army.mil
Please copy your e-mail to:
zoarinfo@zca.org

IN FISCAL YEAR 2012: Over 500,000 fliers, brochures, maps, and rack cards were distributed throughout the state promoting the Ohio Historical Society!

Remember: The Ohio Historical Society remembers and commemorates historical events. Remembrance through commemorations beckons us to consider how a certain milestone changed the course of history and the course of many peoples' lives.

Commemorating Milestones to Remember the Past



Historic milestones are commemorated by the Society with exhibits, events, programs, feature stories in newspapers, blog posts, and through the digitization of objects or documents associated with the events.

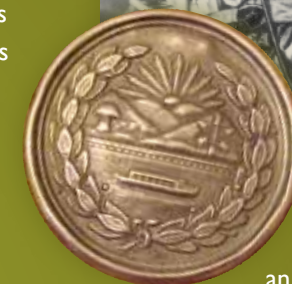
For example, 2012 is Columbus' Bicentennial. The Society has been working with the news media to recognize events significant to the development of Columbus, its neighborhoods, industry, and weather. The collections staff worked with the Columbus Historical Society in the development of an exhibit to help launch the new headquarters of the Columbus Historical Society.

The following gives a sample of commemorations and the variety of ways that the Society, its sites, and its partners recognize events:

50th anniversary of John Glenn's orbit around the earth, February 20, 1962. The first American to orbit the earth, Ohioan John Glenn rallied the American spirit with his flight on Friendship 7. Glenn, accompanied by his wife Annie, spoke to an overflow crowd at the History Center for Statehood Day on March 1, 2012.

100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, April 15, 1912. Many Ohioans were affected by the tragedy because several passengers were from Ohio or heading toward Ohio. Recognition of the event was held through a dinner theater performance at the Center, which allowed 80 dinner guests to assume the name of one of the passengers and to interact with staff as if on the ship on that fateful night.

150th commemoration of the Civil War continues through 2015. The Society continues to oversee the work of the Ohio Civil War 150 Advisory Committee in bringing the decisions, battles, soldiers, and effects of the war into focus. In addition, it created exhibits for the Center and for off-site exhibition. The Society's staff worked with Campus Martius and a number of organizations in the Marietta area, to develop an extensive Civil War exhibit, *Touched by Conflict: Southeastern Ohio and the Civil War*. The exhibit opened in early FY13 and will be at the museum for three years.



The CW150 commemoration has offered an increased opportunity to collect objects and documents relating to the Civil War. The General Godfrey Weitzel Papers, documenting his role as commander of 25th Army Corps of United States Colored Troops, are one example. An additional Matthew Brady photograph was acquired by the Ohio Historical Society and added to the *Over Here, Over There* exhibit at the Center.

Over 70,000 pages of Ohio newspapers published during the war years have been added to *Chronicling America*. Sheet music popular during the era was discussed on the Collections Blog, and featured examples from the Society's collection. The Society had a booth at the Ohio State Fair, one of the largest in the country, and in coordination with a Civil War encampment, invited fair visitors to talk about the Society's commemoration of the war and its collections, among other topics. Several thousand people visited the Society's booth at the 2011 Ohio State Fair.

200th anniversary of the start of the War of 1812. The U.S. declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812. An exhibit called *The War of 1812: Ohio on the Front Line* was opened in the Spotlight Gallery at the Ohio History Center on July 1, 2012. Objects related to the war and the exhibit itself were featured in a number of news stories in the state and will air nationwide in the fall of 2012. Ft. Meigs, an important site relative to the War, has been commemorating milestones throughout the year, including reenactments, classes, workshops, and demonstrations. The commemorations will continue throughout 2013.



Preserve: Preserving the past is part of the mission of the Ohio Historical Society. As an example of how a topic such as presidential history can draw on many disciplines, this article looks at the relationship between the U.S. presidency and Ohio.

Preserving the Rich Legacy of Ohio's Presidents Extends into Many Disciplines



Eight U.S. presidents with strong ties to Ohio help make the Buckeye State the "Mother of Presidents." Among the Society's more than 50 historic sites and museums are seven related directly to U.S. presidents from Ohio.

In FY12, there was a major restoration of the interior of one of the sites, Ulysses S. Grant's Boyhood Home in Georgetown. In one of the projects, a building conservationist at the Society worked to remove layers of paint on interior doors dating from about 1829. The painstaking work exposed stunning hand-painted faux-graining underneath the modern paint. The story of the restoration of the doors generated numerous newspaper and online articles about the process and encouraged visits to the historic site.

The Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, has been undergoing extensive interior restoration for four years. As of the end of FY12, seven areas of the 31-room mansion of President Rutherford B. Hayes were nearly completely restored. The home's interior was meticulously redecorated to the way it appeared when President Hayes and his wife, Lucy, decorated and furnished it. The ambitious process was funded by numerous businesses, individuals, the State of Ohio, and the federal government's *Save America's Treasures* program.

The value of having a wealth of presidents from Ohio is not derived exclusively through historical resources in their homes, papers and libraries. For example, Ohio presidents Grant and Hayes are closely associated with the Civil War. The Civil War sesquicentennial (2011–2015) is providing an opportunity to present the ways in which Ohioans played a key role in the war and how it changed life in Ohio. The Society is using the commemoration period to develop programs such as Ohio Civil War 150 to oversee

efforts to remember the war. In FY12, the Society developed exhibits such as *Follow the Flag* and traveling exhibits to bring objects into view for history enthusiasts across the state. The Society used its AmeriCorps workers on Civil War-related projects, and was awarded grants to help finance the telling of the story of the Civil War.

One of these in FY12 is a \$31,760 grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program to be administered through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The only Civil War battle fought in Ohio was at Buffington Island. When Buffington Island was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1970, it included only four acres. The actual size of the battlefield is approximately 1,500 acres. The grant will fund the documentation of the entirety of the battlefield and produce a National Register amendment to reflect the geographic magnitude of the battle. Furthermore, this project will serve as a model to facilitate future battlefield nominations to the NRHP in Ohio.

Another point of view about presidents is to consider how the voters of Ohio throughout U.S. presidential history have affected the outcome of the elections. A candidate rarely wins the presidency without winning Ohio (a Republican never has). In the 2012 election, it is predicted that again, Ohio may be a "tipping-point" to determine the eventual winner. The Society has a significant collection of presidential campaign memorabilia and newspapers. Recently, C-Span visited the Ohio History Center to document the intensity of prior presidential elections. Objects included in the story were campaign buttons, ribbons, political cartoons, and newspapers from the collection of the Ohio Historical Society.

Telling the story of presidential politics and legacies in Ohio depends on the preservation of the homes as well as the battlefields, the campaign memorabilia, and much more.

A link to historic sites on ohiohistory.org provides additional information on the historic buildings, tombs, library, and collections of the Society relative to the U.S. presidents from Ohio.

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July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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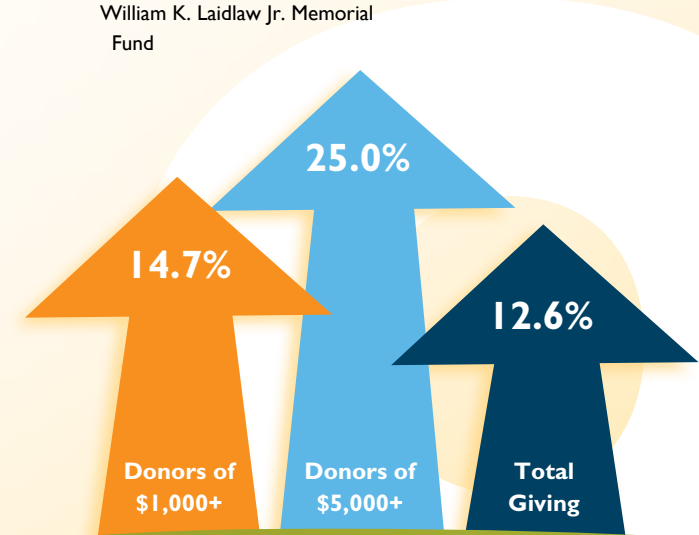
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Fort Amanda State Memorial
Manager: Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District

Fort Ancient State Memorial
Manager: Dayton Society of Natural History

Fort Hill State Memorial
Manager: Arc of Appalachia Preserve System

Fort Jefferson State Memorial
Manager: Darke County Commissioners

Fort Laurens State Memorial
Manager: Tuscarawas County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Fort Meigs State Memorial
Manager: Fort Meigs Association

Fort Recovery State Memorial
Manager: Fort Recovery Historical Society

Glacial Grooves State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Grant Birthplace State Memorial
Manager: Historic New Richmond

Grant Boyhood Home State Memorial
Manager: Grant Homestead Association

Grant Schoolhouse State Memorial
Manager: Grant Homestead Association

Hanby House State Memorial
Manager: Westerville Historical Society

Harding Home and Tomb State Memorial
Manager: Marion Technical College

Harriet Beecher Stowe State Memorial
Manager: Friends of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House

Harrison Tomb State Memorial
Manager: Harrison Symmes Memorial Association

Hayes Presidential Center
Manager: Hayes Presidential Center Inc.

Indian Mill State Memorial
Manager: Wyandot County Historical Society

Inscription Rock State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

**Johnston Farm and
Indian Agency State Memorial**
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Leo Petroglyph State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Historical Society



Lockington Locks State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Logan Elm State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

McCook House State Memorial
Manager: Carroll County Historical Society

Miamisburg Mound State Memorial
Manager: City of Miamisburg

Museum of Ceramics
Manager: Museum of Ceramics Foundation

**National Afro American Museum
and Cultural Center**
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

National Road/Zane Grey Museum
Manager: John and Annie Glenn Museum Foundation

**Newark Earthworks State Memorial–
Great Circle Earthworks Museum**
Manager: Greater Licking County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Ohio History Center
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Ohio River Museum
Manager: Friends of the Museums

Ohio Village
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Our House State Memorial
Manager: The Friends of Our House Committee

Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial
Manager: Dayton History

Quaker Meeting House State Memorial
Manager: Historical Society of Mount Pleasant

Rankin House State Memorial
Manager: Ripley Heritage

Schoenbrunn Village State Memorial
Manager: Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Inc.



Seip Mound State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Serpent Mound State Memorial
Manager: Arc of Appalachia Preserve System

Shaker Historical Museum
Manager: Shaker Historical Society

Shrum Mound State Memorial
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

Story Mound State Memorial
Manager: Adena Mansion and Gardens Society

Tallmadge Church State Memorial
Manager: City of Tallmadge

Wahkeena Nature Preserve
Manager: Fairfield County Historical Parks Commission

Wapatomica Archaeological Preserve
Manager: Ohio Historical Society

**Youngstown Historical Center
of Industry & Labor**
Manager: Youngstown State University Center for Applied History

Zoar Village State Memorial
Manager: Zoar Community Association

In FY12, the 39 staffed-sites in the Ohio Historical Society network welcomed a combined total of 413,854 visitors.



The Ohio History Center had over **51,000 visitors** in FY12. Of those, the School Programs bring thousands of students to the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village each year.

For FY12, the total number of students brought to the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village: **12,380**

Additionally, the Society brought history to **3,680** by the “History to Go” van.

Of the total students, here are the numbers for the students who visited Ohio Village on school field trips:

	STUDENTS	TEACHERS	CHAPERONES	TOTAL
School Days, School Days	269	21	40	330
Winter Holidays	240	31	36	307
Underground Railroad	656	-	-	656
Thundermugs and Teacups	3,081	-	-	3,081
Gossip Tours	327	28	70	425
TOTAL				4,799

The Ohio Historical Society has a large collection of oral histories.

“Oral history has become an invaluable tool in documenting recent history, especially since many traditional historical sources like letters, diaries, and journals are becoming much more scarce due to modern records of communication. The oral interview [...] gives a voice to people who have traditionally been left out of historical interpretation, people such as minorities and women. It gives historians another tool for re-examining the past and making history more meaningful to more people.”

– Dr. Donna DeBlasio, Director of Center For Historic Preservation, oral history, labor & industrial history
Youngstown State University

In relation to Oral Histories, in FY12 the Ohio Historical Society completed:



Leadership Team Senior Staff

Burt Logan, Executive Director & CEO
614.297.2350 • blogan@ohiohistory.org

Jeff Ward, Chief Financial Officer
614.297.2401 • jward@ohiohistory.org

Jim Walker, Chief Development Officer
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Jackie Barton, Director of Education & Outreach
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Sharon Dean, Director of Museum & Library Services
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George Kane, Director of Historic Sites & Facilities
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Todd Kleismit, Director of Community & Government Relations
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Jane Mason, Director of Marketing & Communications
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Angela O’Neal, Director of Collections
614.297.2576 • aoneal@ohiohistory.org

Franco Ruffini, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
614.298.2002 • fruffini@ohiohistory.org

In Memoriam

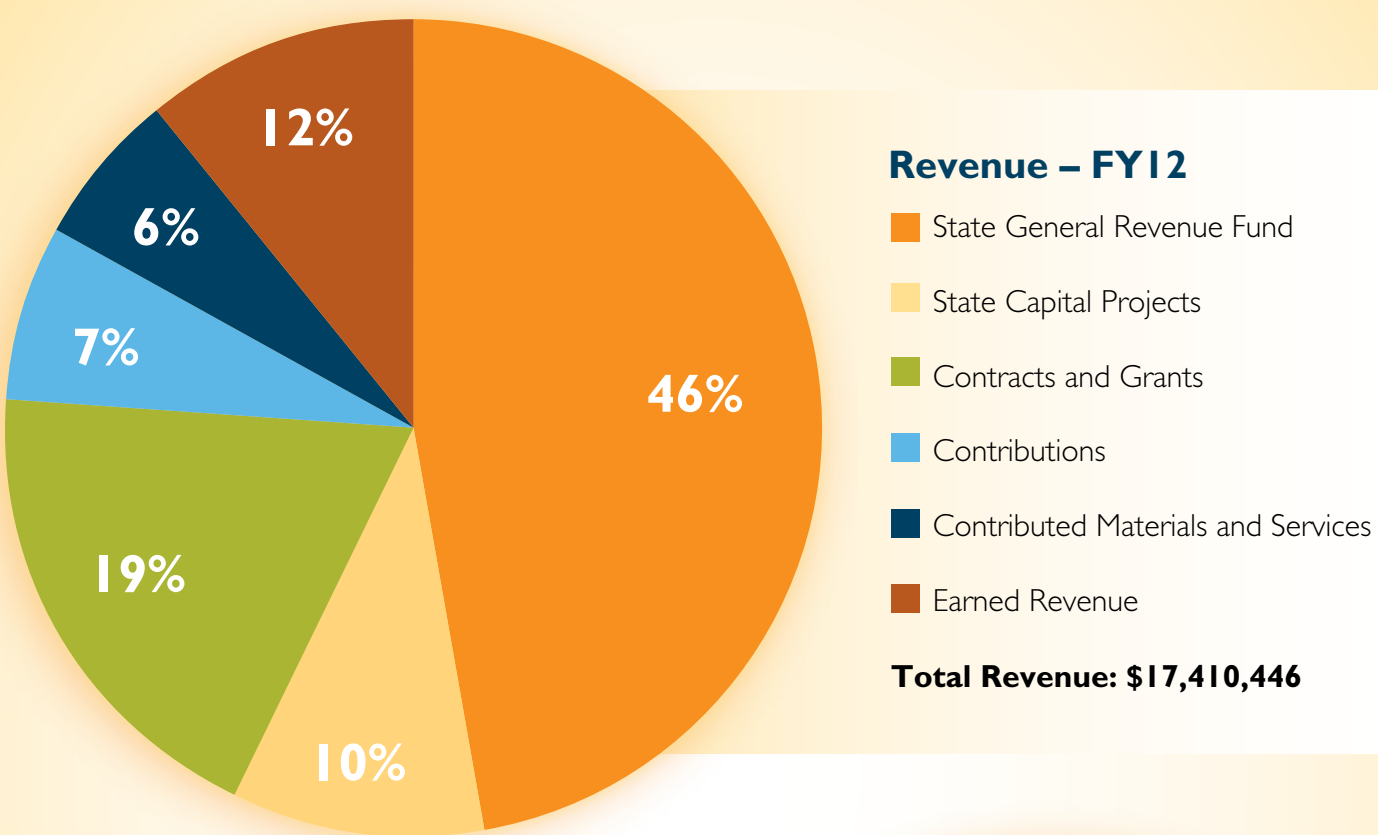
John J. Chester 1920–2011
John J. “Jack” Chester was a former president and member of the Board of Trustees. Jack was a World War II veteran, Ohio State Representative for three terms, a respected lawyer, and esteemed community leader. Jack died on Sunday, July 24, 2011, at the age of 91 and was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Cynthia Johnson Chester, who also served as a Board of Trustee member. He is survived by four children.

Rex E. Haecker 1912–2011
Rex Edwin Haecker was a past president, treasurer, and member of the Board of Trustees. A passionate advocate of history, Rex also served as president of the Pickaway County Historical Society and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and countless other historical organizations. Rex died on Saturday, July 16, 2011, at the age of 99. Rex was preceded in death by his parents and siblings. He is survived by two nephews.

James J. Mollica 1925–2012
James Joseph Mollica was a past president and member of the Board of Trustees. James was also a respected WWII veteran and member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, Ohio Air National Guard. In addition, he was a retired vice president of National City Bank (PNC). James died on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, June, and a son.

Annual Operating Revenue & Expenses

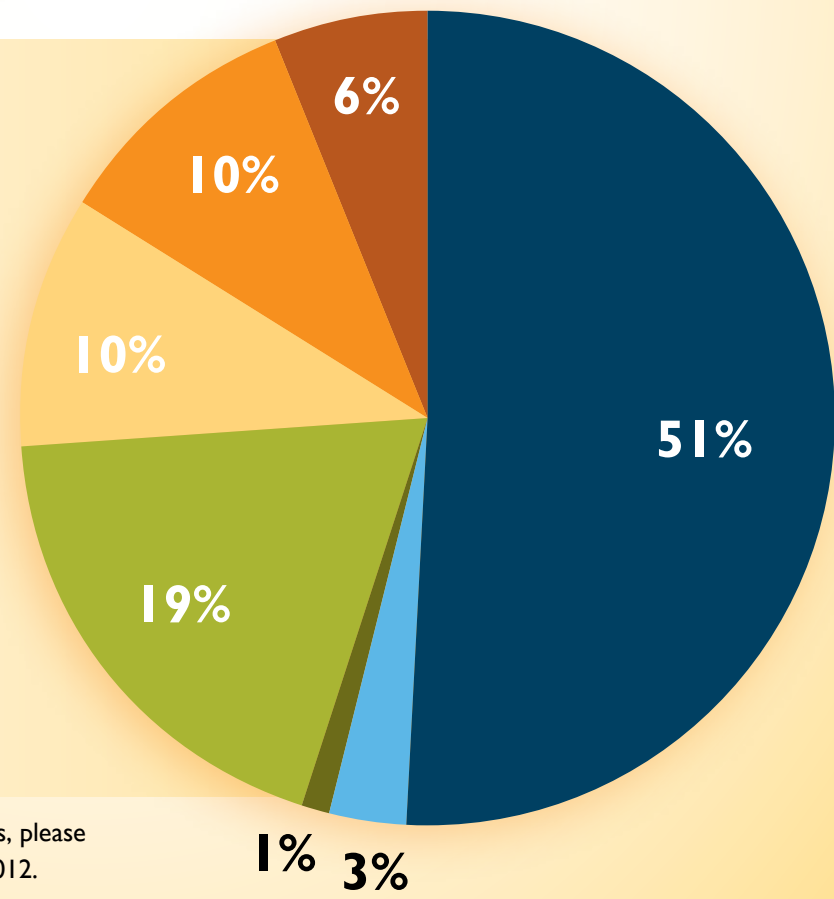
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012



Expenses – FY12

- Site Operations, Education & Interpretive Programs
- State Archives & Library
- Historic Preservation Office
- Capital Projects
- Management & General
- Business Ventures
- Fund-Raising

Total Expense: \$18,621,579



For a copy of the Society's audited financial statements, please contact kholstein@ohiohistory.org. Available in Fall 2012.

Ohio Historical Society Board of Trustees 2011-2012

For more information on the Ohio Historical Society, please visit our website: www.ohiohistory.org

OFFICERS:

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Jon Elsasser Vice-President Zoar	Richard C. Simpson Secretary Columbus

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EX-OFFICIO:

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Armond Budish Minority Leader Ohio House of Representatives	Stan Hefner Superintendent of Public Instruction	

Historic Preservation Offers a Strong Return on Investment.

Ohio Historic Preservation Office Results in Ohio in FY12.

- 941 Properties added to the Ohio Historic Inventory
- 767 Properties added to the Ohio Archaeological Inventory
- 12 New listings on the National Register of Historic Places
- 6,000 Federally Assisted projects reviewed
- 14 Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects completed with \$172 million invested
- 39 Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects completed with \$225 million invested

Every \$1 million in Tax Credits results in:

- \$40 million in Total Operating Activity, including 381 total jobs. The total is composed of:
 - \$8 million in Construction Spending, including 83 construction jobs
 - \$32 million in Total Operating Impact, including 298 jobs from operations

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program was created by Ohio Revised Code section 149.311. It provides tax credits to encourage the rehabilitation of Ohio's historic buildings. Statistics from Cleveland State University economic impact study of approved Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects, nearly all of which were also Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects.

Ohio Historical Society Sites



OHIO
HISTORY



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

800 E. 17th Ave. (I-71, exit 111) | Columbus, OH 43211 | 800.686.6124 | www.ohiohistory.org

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