

Go Social at the 2013 Alliance Annual Meeting



By Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Librarian, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron

Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

It is time again to mark your calendars for the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting. Organizations and individuals from across the state will gather October 4 and 5 in Worthington, Ohio, to learn, network, inspire, and be inspired. Sessions center on the theme *Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures*, with a wide array of learning opportunities you will not want to miss. The schedule is packed with sessions that are timely, topical, and support the important work of Ohio's local historical organizations. For the second year, the Alliance is teaming up with the Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) for Friday sessions that offer attendees new learning and development opportunities related to archives and archival services.

The annual meeting is on trend with topics like branding and advocacy, and in 2013, we are also going "social." Blogs, Facebook, and Twitter take center stage to help organizations get a handle on social media. Tech Café returns with "Getting Started with Wordpress," a hands-on

session for website creation and blogging using Wordpress, and "Social Media: What is Your Policy?," a panel presentation on establishing policies for appropriate and rewarding use of social media. And Facebook? We have a session for that. Join us for "You Have a Facebook Page...Now What?!" to enhance your organization's social media presence, while learning statistics on Facebook usage that are sure to have your site looking at this popular social media tool in a new way.

In the spirit of going social, the Alliance is encouraging attendees who are Twitter users to live-tweet the meeting, a practice gaining popularity at conferences around the world. By posting short, tagged messages, participants can share the experience of this sure-to-be exciting event and engage fellow attendees, as well as those unable to attend. Instructions and recommended hashtags (#olha2013) will be available at registration and packet pickup tables the day of the meeting.

Technology plays a big role in keeping our organizations relevant, and the Alliance aims to provide opportunities that help attendees implement new and exciting technologies. But don't think we have *(Continued on page 9)*

Annual Meeting At-a-Glance

What: OLHA 2013 Annual Meeting & Conference, *Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures*

When: Friday, October 4 and Saturday, October 5

Where: Holiday Inn, Worthington
<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/worthington/cmhwo/hoteldetail>

For more information: Visit <http://www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-annual-meeting> or call 800-858-6878

To register online: Go to www.ohiohistory.org/register. The last day to pre-register is September 23.

The Ohio Humanities Council, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is pleased to help support the Ohio Local History Alliance's Annual Meeting and Conference.

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President's Message:

Across our great state, communities are what make Ohio feel like home. Organizations entrusted to preserve local history understand this very fully. Local historians are champions of community, and now more than ever; museums and historical societies are not only preserving the individual traits that make cities, towns, villages, and townships more than just dots on the map, but are also creating new memories by working together collaboratively. Agencies working together bring families and individuals out to festivals, events, and programs, and help build and maintain interest in

our incredibly rich heritage. Local communities are building on treasured memories, seeking out neglected stories to ensure that they are not forgotten, and in the process, are creating new memories and traditions for today.

In this issue of *The Local Historian*, read about how some Ohio organizations are welcoming a younger audience into the fold. Learn about the Buckeye museums that enrolled in Blue Star Museums and opened their doors to military families. As you wind up summer activities and begin to prepare for fall, check out upcoming deadlines

for registration for our upcoming annual meeting. Ohio Local History Alliance members really are making a difference, and it is a perfect reflection of our 2013 annual meeting theme: Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures.

Maggie Marconi

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OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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

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

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

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

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

Individuals:

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

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

Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian* only are available for \$25 annually.

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Tax Check-Off Must Meet New \$150,000 Threshold

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



Beginning next year, the third year since the OHS tax check-off was established, the pressure is on for history and preservation organizations to rally to the cause of Ohio history and the OHS tax check-off. At least \$150,000 must be generated in annual contributions or the OHS tax check-off, and the History Fund grant program it supports, could become history itself.

This winter Ohioans will have another opportunity to contribute a portion of their income tax to the Ohio Historical Society and the History Fund grant program. The History Fund was created to use the voluntary contributions of Ohioans through the income tax check-off to fund history-related grant projects across the state.

This year the Ohio General Assembly has increased the pressure to generate as many income tax check-off donations as possible. Legislation was passed this summer to create a new tax check-off for the Ohio Breast and Cervical Cancer Project. House Bill 112 initially contained a provision that would have required that any existing tax check-off program generate at least \$250,000 annually or be cancelled if it fell short of that threshold two consecutive years. At the request of the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the threshold was lowered to \$150,000. The legislation was signed into law in July.

In the first year of its existence, the OHS tax check-off generated just over \$153,000 from more than 17,300 contributors. Although the second year is not yet complete, contributions in 2013 are on a pace to fall below \$150,000. The vast majority of the income tax contributions are made in March and April when most taxpayers file their taxes.

Earlier this year the first grant awards from the History Fund were given to 11 organizations in 9 counties for history-

relate projects across Ohio. History organizations cannot afford to wait to increase awareness of the OHS tax check-off and to generate more contributions. What can you do now to ensure the OHS tax check-off continues to help local history organizations meet their funding goals and mission? ■

In Related Funding News... Ohio Historical Marker Grant Deadline Approaching



Ohio Historical Marker about Perrysburg, erected during the state's bicentennial commemoration. Photograph courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

The deadline for grants for Ohio Historical Markers is October 1. Grants offset the cost of markers up to \$750, and it is easy to apply. Just check the box at the top of page one the marker application form and, viola, you have turned your form into a grant application. For an application, visit www.remarkableohio.org and click on "Propose a Marker" on the left side of the screen.

Your organization does not have to apply for a grant to receive a marker. The Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office accepts marker applications year 'round. Markers range in price from \$2,300 - \$2,580.

Questions? Contact the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878 or localhistory@ohiohistory.org. Good luck!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Kaylen Brown is the new administrative assistant at the **Marion County Historical Society**. She previously served as a volunteer and as the society's education specialist. Brown received her B.A. in Early Childhood Education from OSU-Marion.

Shelly Strommer and **Maureen Mason** were summer interns at the **Wood County Historical Society**. Strommer is a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School of Information Science. She processed a number of archival collections including the institutional archives, the

newspaper collection, and the postcard collection. Mason is a graduate student at Bowling Green State University's History Department. She organized and sorted the entire photograph collection.

Brooke Vandervort served as an art intern at the **Clinton County History Center** this summer. She is a student at Capital University majoring in history and art history, with a minor in historic preservation. She processed the society's art collection.



New Twists to an Old Technique: The Readers' Theater

By Leslie Blankenship,
Docent, Kelton House
Museum and Garden,
Columbus

Are you looking for an out-of-the-ordinary historic presentation that is more gripping than the usual PowerPoint lecture? Perhaps the anniversary of an important community event is coming up, and you want to commemorate it in a dramatic way? Using the actual words and sentiments of people involved at the time is a powerful way of drawing audiences into the issues. “Alas,” you say, “my local history society (or museum) lacks people with the skills or inclination to do first-person portrayals.” A readers’ theater allows people to give voice to the primary sources without the scary task of memorizing pieces for public presentation.

Volunteers from the Kelton House Museum and Garden teamed up with the Westerville Local History Center and the Ohio Village Singers last summer to create a readers’ theater to honor the formation of the 95th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Young men from Champaign, Franklin, Licking, and Madison counties enlisted in the 95th Ohio on August 18 and 19, 1862 and were sent to the front shortly thereafter. This article shares some experiences learned from our event.

What is a readers’ theater?

It is a theatrical technique involving a panel of people reading aloud the words from personal historic documents, such as diaries or letters, interspersed with public newspaper articles, military orders, etc. to give an authentic account of an event or a period in time.

How do you do it?

1. Cast the readers

There can be as many readers as you can comfortably accommodate given the space of your venue. If you have a crack team of eager-beaver volunteers, let them choose their characters, do the research, and write or adapt their own speaking parts. Each reader can adopt a specific persona, or each can portray several voices. Make sure the reader identifies the quote in “Ken Burns’ style” by name after each speech. The readers can also share the responsibility of narrator, taking turns providing the third-person backbone of the story.

2. Select the script-writer

If your organization does not have a group of over-achievers, you will have to cajole someone with writing skills to do the research and craft the story by stitching together the appropriate speaking parts with historical context. Either way, someone must serve as script-writer to capture a factual, omniscient thread for the events of the narrative. The characters add color, emphasis, and differing viewpoints. Providing a written master document with the readers’ parts identified by their names is vital to the success of the performance. The writer’s job is to ensure that the script maintains a diverse set of voices (eg: male and female), a varied pace (short speeches intertwined with longer ones), and a sprinkling of light-heartedness to enliven the presentation.

3. Engage the senses

Have the readers don period clothing to provide “eye-candy” for the audience. Make sure the clothing is as authentic as possible. While readers’ theater is not first-person portrayal, it is a close first cousin,

Readers’ theater allows people to give voice to the primary sources without the scary task of memorizing pieces for public presentation. Photo courtesy of Kelton House Museum and Garden.

so you want your characters to be as believable as possible. In addition to costumes, bombard the audience with a continuous panoply of period images, maps, or illustrations scanned into a PowerPoint. Choreograph the sequence of images to coincide with the words that are being spoken. This requires someone to manually click through the slides. A technique to cue both the readers and the person clicking the slides is to have a symbol (such as “\$”) embedded into the text of the script to denote the presence of an image. You might consider providing your slides with titles or phrases in sync with the readings to transition the audience as they follow along. This is especially helpful for those who may have difficulty hearing.

4. Add emotion

If possible, accompany the program with live period music to shamelessly manipulate (did I say that?) the emotions of your audience. Who can remain dry-eyed when viewing the indelible image of a wounded soldier while listening to his account of a battle, followed by the pensive lament of “Lorena” or “Tenting Tonight on the Old Campground”? Music can also be used to vary the pace of the program. Breaking up the readings with a period of solemn songs allows the audience to reflect upon the human cost of a battle scene, for example.

At the heart of any readers’ theater are the immediate words of real people reacting to events. This is vivid, vibrant history at its best.

By Jenni Salamon, Project Coordinator, National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio, Ohio Historical Society

In the July/August 2013 issue of *The Local Historian*, you learned about the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio (NDNP-OH), Ohio's contribution to the Library of Congress's digital newspaper database, [Chronicling America](#). Now, let's review the newspaper digitization standards and best practices established by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP).

Content Selection

With any digitization project, the first step is to identify the content you want to digitize. Consider the research value of the newspaper and its physical format: original hardcopy or microfilm? Archival (NDNP) standards require digitization from *second generation negative microfilm reels*¹ because it:

- Preserves the original material (less handling)
- Is more efficient and less costly
- Creates better quality images and *Optical Character Recognition (OCR)*²

The microfilm your patrons use may have scratches and marks that could obscure the images and text. The negative microfilm will provide an image that mimics the appearance of the original newspaper. If you have the hardcopy paper, standards recommend creating a preservation microfilm copy first. Remember, digitization is still not considered a preservation standard, but microfilm is.

Metadata

*Metadata*³ standards established by NDNP provide intellectual access and make the content navigable by title, issue, section, and page. Though formatted to work with the *Chronicling America* platform, the metadata and file formats can also be integrated into other digital library repository systems.

All of these elements are formatted and packaged together in XML (a web programming language) and image files.

Overall, metadata files help to provide access to the content online and preserve information about the original (hard-copy), microfilm, and digital editions.

File Formats and Deliverables

For each page scanned, three grayscale image file formats, which will open on any computer, are produced: a preservation TIFF, a JPEG2000 and a PDF. In addition, there is an XML file for each page, issue, reel, and batch.

Each of the image files serves a different purpose, but the most important one is the TIFF. It never loses quality, no matter how many times you open it, and it is used to create the derivative image files that users interact with.

Quality Review

At all stages of the digitization process, it is important to ensure that images are high quality and the data is accurate. It is unrealistic that you, or your project partner, will be able to review everything, so establish a process that allows you to review a certain percentage of the content to catch any errors.

Long-Term Storage

There are many long-term storage options available. The recommended way to store your digitized content is on a server that is backed-up. Server space can be costly, so a less expensive option is saving your files to an external hard drive and backing

it up on another external hard drive. If one storage solution fails, you will not lose all of your content.

Making Content Available

How you provide access to your content will vary depending on your institution's project goals and resources. For more information on this topic, please stay tuned to the next and final article in our three part series (in the November/December 2013 *Local Historian*).

Worth the Cost

Though the cost may be higher at the onset than other options for newspaper digitization, applying these standards and best practices to your newspaper digitization project will provide you with an end-product that is both high quality and sustainable.

For More Information

Want to learn more about NDNP-OH and newspaper digitization, or find out how you can get your newspapers digitized through the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Memory Digitization Program? Contact Jenni Salamon, Project Coordinator for NDNP-OH, at 614-297-2579 or jsalamon@ohiohistory.org.

You can also attend our session at Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5, 2013: "The Ins and Outs of Newspaper Digitization." ■

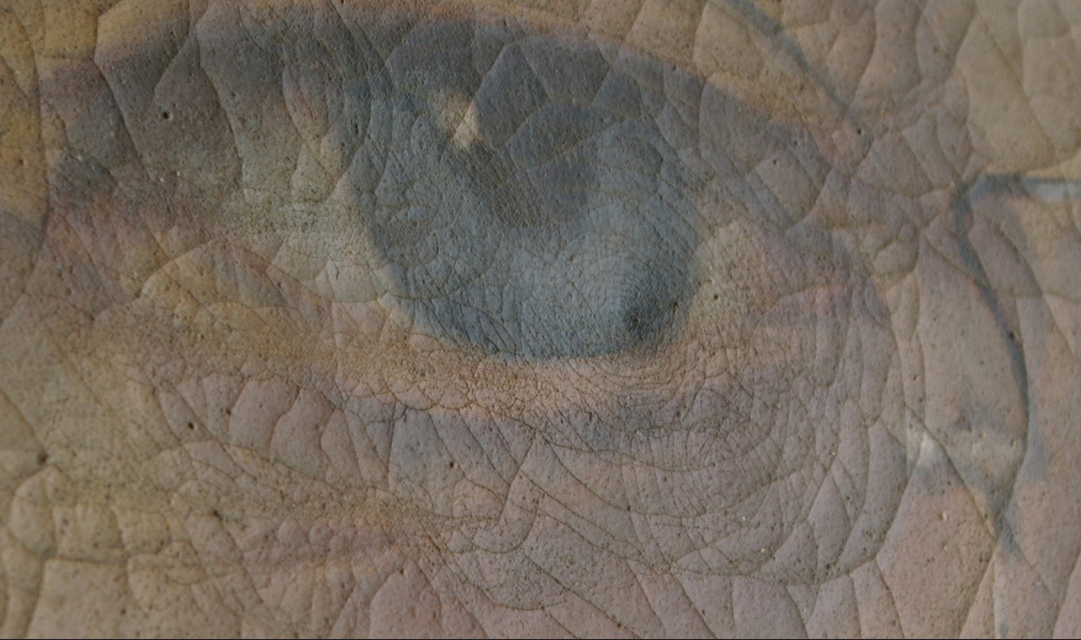
Archival (NDNP) Digitization Standards At-A-Glance

- Digitization from second-generation negative (print master) microfilm reel
- Intellectual and structural metadata
 - Provides information about original, microfilm, and digital editions of newspaper
 - Places pages in the correct order within issues and titles
- Three images
 - Preservation TIFF
 - JPG2000 (for web access)
 - PDF (with embedded OCR to make pages keyword searchable)
- XML files for pages, issues, reels and batches that contain all metadata information

For more details, view the [NDNP Technical Specifications](#), available through the Library of Congress.

Footnotes/Words to Know

1. **duplicate master negative microfilm (print masters)** – negative microfilm created from archival master to ensure highest quality images and more accurate OCR
2. **Optical Character Recognition (OCR)** – process of converting scanned images of text to machine-encoded text to allow for searching by keyword
3. **metadata** – information attached to each digital file to describe or explain it for preservation and access purposes (e.g. title, date ranges, density readings, etc.)



A painting suffering from storage in an improper environment. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

Heat, Humidity and Heirlooms...Oh

By Tennile Jackson, former Local History AmeriCorps Volunteer, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

Every local historical society and museum has cherished heirlooms that serve as links to our community's history. These treasures may be prominently displayed or tucked away in boxes. Regardless of their location, they retain their value for subsequent generations, and you want to ensure they are around for years to come. All objects will inevitably deteriorate over time. Although this natural process cannot be avoided entirely, there are simple things you can do to retard its progress and minimize its harmful effects. Two of the easiest environmental factors to control are heat (temperature) and humidity (moisture).

Most major museums employ expensive climate controlling systems that stabilize temperature and humidity levels, but this option can be impractical for a small museum. Nevertheless, you can take steps to protect your objects. Start by setting the thermostat below 70°F; cooler temperatures will extend the life of materials. Remove any valuable items from locations near sources of heat. This includes incandescent bulbs and direct sunlight. Paintings or photographs that are displayed near heating units should be moved away from those areas. Avoid storing valuable items in attics and basements, which undergo extreme temperature fluctuations, especially when the seasons change. Instead, opt for the coolest and

darkest areas of your space. Whenever possible, do not place framed items on the inside of exterior walls, where they may be exposed to temperature fluctuations and excessive moisture. If using exterior walls is unavoidable, add rubber bumpers to the back corners of frames. The bumpers will improve air circulation and lessen the possibility of mold growth and other moisture-related damage.

While adjusting your museum's temperature is easy, monitoring and controlling relative humidity is a more challenging process. Simply turning down the air-conditioner will not solve issues with moisture levels. There are specialized instruments to measure the moisture content of the air; however, there are a few warning signs that can help to determine if moisture levels may be too high. One of the most obvious indicators is mold. We are all familiar with its characteristic odor and fuzzy appearance, but some forms of mold are not identified as easily. For example, old papers that exhibit reddish-brown spots, known as "foxing," may signal mold growth. Foxing often appears when the iron particles present in most paper interact with fungi. The presence of book lice is also indicative of excess moisture. Found in the margins of books, these tiny grey and white insects feed on microscopic mold imbedded in pages. Other things to look out for include infes-

tations of silverfish and the development of cockling, a wavy, rippling distortion on paper based materials that have become wet. If you notice any of these problems, dehumidifiers may be used to minimize moisture levels. They are especially useful during the summer since those conditions can wreak havoc on collections.

If you wish to obtain additional information about caring for your collections, there are a number of resources that provide detailed guidance about environmental assessment and mitigation. The Image Permanence Institute (www.imagepermanenceinstitute.org), National Park Service (www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservoogram/cons_toc.html) and Canadian Conservation Institute (www.cci-icc.gc.ca) offer several online publications that can facilitate your preservation efforts. ■

Congratulations!

The Betts House Wins 2013 AASLH Award of Merit

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that The Betts House in Cincinnati is the recipient of an Award of Merit from the AASLH Leadership in History Awards for their exhibit *The Big Shake: How the 1811-1812 New Madrid Earthquakes Rocked the Ohio River Valley*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 68th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

From December 1811 through May of 1812, the greatest series of earthquakes in United States history took place in the New Madrid Seismic Zone centered in Missouri. Although the earthquakes affected much of the Midwest, most people living in the area today have no knowledge of this event or its impact on the region. *The Big Shake* explores the history and causes of earthquakes, taking a close look at seismic activity in the Midwest. The exhibit also highlights the potential impact of earthquakes in the region and the building technologies that can help structures withstand seismic forces.

Presentation of the award will be made at a special banquet during the 2013 AASLH Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama on Friday, September 20.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also brings public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203 or go to http://www.aaslh.org/aaslh_awards.htm.

Call for Subjects

TIMELINE Needs You!



Beginning with its October-December 2013 issue, the Ohio Historical Society's magazine *TIMELINE* will launch a feature profiling prominent, significant, or interesting Ohioans called Ohio Lives. The idea is to give readers a slice (650 to 700 words) of Ohio history that can be digested in five or ten minutes.

Over time, the magazine will feature well-known Ohioans such as Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, but just as often (or even more often) it would like to feature lesser known Ohioans who have made important contributions to the state and its history, culture, politics, social life, among many other areas.

TIMELINE is looking for a wide range of subjects, men and women, a good representation of minorities, and an emphasis on variety. Subjects can span the state's history and come from all walks of life: architects, poets, politicians, labor leaders, religious figures, doctors, chemists, athletes, naturalists, lawyers, journalists, scholars, and merchants.

The mini-biographies can revolve around one aspect or incident from an interesting life. Ohio Lives will run regularly in *TIMELINE*, which is where you come in. If you have a person or story you would like to recommend, contact *TIMELINE*'s editor, Bill Eichenberger at beichenberger@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2318. Please include a thumbnail sketch of the profile subject to give an idea what the brief bio will contain.

Awards!

OHRAB Achievement Award Nominations Due October 1

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishments in preserving and improving access to historical records in any format by an Ohio archival institution.

All Ohio institutions responsible for archival records that provide public access to at least a portion of their collections are eligible. Eligible accomplishments include recent special projects or on-going programs that build significant collections, implement successful preservation strategies, enhance access to archives, and develop effective digitization programs. Preference will be given to projects or programs that can be adapted for use by other institutions.

Because the award recognizes institutional achievements, individuals are not eligible. Departments employing members of OHRAB are not eligible, but other departments in their institutions are eligible.

Nominating letters should be no longer than two pages, 12-point, single spaced, describing the institution's program/project along with its goals, accomplishments, and significance. Each must include the nominee's institutional name along with a contact person's name, mailing and email addresses, and phone number. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominations must be received by October 1, 2013.

For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/ohrab-awards>.

Professional Development

AASLH Meets in Birmingham
September 18-21



Fifty years after hundreds of young people stood solid for freedom. Fifty years after King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" articulated principles of nonviolence. Fifty years later we ask: If history is the example, the provocateur, and the context – how do we best use it today? How do you incorporate stories of ordinary people's extraordinary lives in your institution? How can we build programs that deal directly with issues, making history interesting, relevant, useful, and human? What interesting and unusual techniques do you use to fulfill your organization's mission? What kinds of program ideas are you trying out that are a little different than what you've always done? How do you encourage active involvement from your public? What have you tried that hasn't been as successful as you want? How do you take the history your organization uses and connect it to people's lives? How is change reflected in your institution's programs? What ideas and examples are there in local history that can inspire us? Join your colleagues for a lively joint meeting with AASLH and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience that examines these questions and more.

Can't make it to Birmingham? Join the Online Conference for six hot topic sessions from the Annual Meeting, plus all the featured speakers. The Online Conference provides an opportunity for you, your colleagues, and volunteers to attend the meeting virtually. Listen, ask questions, and make comments from your desktop, conference room, or even your kitchen table.

For more information on the online and onsite conference, visit <http://www.aaslh.org/CurrentAnnualMeeting.htm>.

Coming Soon!

Smithsonian Museum Day Live!
September 28



Each year Smithsonian magazine hosts Museum Day Live!, where museums across the country offer free general admission to anyone with a Museum Day ticket. It is free for museums to participate, and participation brings you a variety of benefits. The Smithsonian gives participating institutions extensive promotion. A survey of people who participated in Museum Day in 2012 showed that over 55% spent money at the museum they visited and over 50% brought guests who paid admission. Sixty percent had never visited the museum they chose before, and over 75% said they would definitely come again. Join these participating Alliance members and register at <http://microsite.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/registration/2013/index.html>.

- Dayton History
- Dennison Railroad Depot Museum
- Edison Birthplace Museum
- Firelands Historical Society
- Fort Meigs
- Fulton County Historical Society
- Garst Museum & The Annie Oakley Center
- Historic Zoar Village
- Logan County Museum and Orr Mansion
- Massillon Museum
- National Barber Museum
- Oberlin Heritage Center
- Salem Historical Society Museum
- The Arms Family Museum of Local History
- The Betts House
- The Works Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology
- Warren County History Center
- Wood County Historical Center & Museum

Thank You!

Blue Star Museums
Ends Successful Summer



The Blue Star Museums program is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. Participating museums offer free admission to active duty military and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after completing a military move. Seventy-five Ohio museums of all types participated this past summer, including the following Alliance members. Thank you Blue Star Museums, and thank you veterans.

- Adena Mansion and Gardens
- Allen County Museum
- Armstrong Air & Space Museum
- The Betts House
- Black River Historical Society/
The Moore House
- Butler County Historical Society
- Cedar Bog Nature Preserve
- Clinton County Historical Society
- Dennison Railroad Depot Museum
- Fort Meigs
- Friends of Buckeye Furnace
- Fulton County Museum
- Grant Birthplace
- Hayes Presidential Center
- Historic Zoar Village
- Jefferson County Historical
Association Museum & Library
- John & Annie Glenn Historic Site
- Johnston Farm & Indian Agency
- Lake County History Center &
Museum
- Marion County Historical Society
- Monclova Historical Foundation
- Museum of Ceramics
- The National Heisey Glass Museum
- Oberlin Heritage Center
- Ohio History Center
- Sandusky Library's Follet House Museum
- Shaker Historical Society
- Strongsville Historical Society and Village
- Summit County Historical Society of
Akron, Ohio
- Wood County Historical Center &
Museum
- Wyandot County Museum

forgotten about collections or the nuts and bolts of organizational management. In fact, part of what keeps attendees coming back each year is the opportunity to gain essential knowledge and learn practical skills to help them do what they do even better. This year is no exception with sessions on identifying photographs, object labeling and exhibiting, as well as governance, managing volunteers, and generating revenue.

Other highlights include:

- Forging partnerships with teachers, a recurring subject across three sessions
- Planning, funding, implementing, and surviving a major renovation from the experience of the Massillon Museum
- Providing effective reference services in archives and a Q&A with a panel of archivists, both sessions from SOA
- Selecting, collecting, and preserving materials from the recent past, including “born digital” information

- Tips for applying for History Fund grants that will give you a head start on planning for 2014

- And, as always, Friday’s conversations continue at the evening reception. Hosted by the Worthington Historical Society, attendees will enjoy light hors d’oeuvres and drinks and be treated to a guided lantern tour led by costumed interpreters visiting four historic Worthington sites.

It would not be an Alliance annual meeting without great local history sessions. As the War of 1812 bicentennial continues, we welcome keynote speaker Dr. Larry L. Nelson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of History at BGSU Firelands College, as he addresses Ohio’s role in this conflict during Friday’s History Community Lunch. Later in the afternoon, Dr. Nelson will teach us to “Think Like a Professor” as he explains how understanding the nature and structure of historical research leads to better interpretation, programming,

and exhibits. Isaac Brooks of the Baseball Heritage Museum will speak about the legacy of overlooked Negro League player and Cleveland Indian Larry Doby, and Jim Oda, director of Piqua Public Library, will discuss the 1913 flood as he presents lessons from his experience commemorating this historic event.

Alliance members are invited to join us for the Friday afternoon business meeting to elect officers and hear updates on organization activities, and all are welcome for Saturday’s Outstanding Achievement Awards Luncheon, as we recognize great work and draw inspiration from our honorees. This spirit of camaraderie, recognition, and inspiration is what makes the annual meeting so worthwhile, so join your fellow local historians to renew acquaintances, learn new skills, network with field colleagues, and see all that is being accomplished by Ohio’s local history organizations. We look forward to seeing you in October! ■



News from the Regions

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

Region 1

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

The traveling exhibit "Ohio & the Civil War: 150 Years Later" is making its way to the **Putnam County District Library** in Ottawa this November. Ohio provided approximately 300,000 of its sons to Union war effort. Of these, more than 1,500 have connections to Putnam County. The Ohio Historical Society, in partnership with the Ohio Humanities Council and American Electric Power, sponsored development of "Ohio & the Civil War: 150 Years Later." Locally, the exhibit is sponsored by the Putnam County District Library and the Putnam County Historical Society. For more about the exhibit, go to www.ohio-civilwar150.org/resources/resources-for-organizations/traveling-exhibit/. For more about Putnam County's library and its historical society, visit: www.mypcdl.org (library) and www.facebook.com/PutnamCountyHistoricalSocietyMuseum (historical society).

Region 2

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

The **Maritime Museum of Sandusky** opened their exhibit "Boats of Sandusky's Underground Railroad" on July 20th. Visitors were able to listen to a presentation by members of Sandusky's Underground Railroad Education Center and see a documentary that will be part of the exhibit. Sandusky's Maritime Industry was an integral part of the Underground Railroad in the area, from ships with hidden holds to captains hiring runaways. On top of seeing the finished exhibit, guests were also able to taste homemade ice cream and eat cake! Children who visited the museum were able to make Jacobs Ladders which were popular toys from the period. For more information, visit www.sanduskymaritime.org.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Medina County Historical Society** received a gift of \$500 from the Medina Eagles Charity Fund to purchase archival materials. The society purchased photograph envelopes, archival boxes, acid free tissue paper, and marking tape to better store its photograph, book, and clothing collections. In addition, County Commissioner Pat Geissman selected the society as her charity of choice for a portion of the profits from the annual Commissioners' Ball. Her gift of \$3,500 will be used for capital improvements to the John Smart House. To learn more, visit www.medinahistorical.com.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **James A. Garfield Historical Society** has welcomed ten-year-old Grace Edwards to its board of trustees. Edwards is in the fifth grade and has a passion for history. She regularly volunteers for the society, has produced several exhibits, and rarely misses a meeting. For more information about the society, go to www.jamesagarfieldhistoricalsociety.com.

Region 5

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

The **Dover Historical Society's** Annual Ice Cream Social was supported in part by a \$2,000 grant from the **Dominion Foundation**. The grant allowed the event to remain affordable and family-friendly. This year's ice cream social featured food, living history characters, tours of the J.E. Reeves Home, a car display, a special appearance by the Akron Aeros mascot, Orbit, and entertainment by local group The Kodachrome Babies. To learn more, go to www.doverhistory.org.

Region 6

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

The **Licking County Historical Alliance** has produced their first annual History Mystery Scavenger Hunt. Each of the 19 historical sites provided a clue specific to their museum and agreed to be open for free for two weekend afternoons in July. Participants had to visit each of the sites, solve the clue, and collect a signature verifying they had solved that site's mystery. Super sleuths who solved at least 16 of the 19 clues were entered in a drawing for prizes. For more information, visit www.escapetolickingcounty.com/history-mystery-scavenger-hunt-july-13-august-4.

Region 7

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

The **Trotwood-Madison Historical Society** recently completed an introductory video to use for member recruitment when making presentations to other organizations. The video introduces viewers to the society and their mission of "preserving the past for the future." It will also air on two cable access channels in the Dayton Area. The video would not have been possible without the help of Zan Productions and Dayton Access Television's facilities. For more information, go to www.trotwood.org/tm_historical.php.

The **Auglaize County Historical Society** is currently participating in the Museums Assessment Program of the American Alliance of Museums. Following a period of intensive self-study this spring, the society recently hosted a 2 ½ day visit by a peer reviewer, Lindsey Baker of the Laurel Historical Society in Maryland. Baker met with trustees and organizational stakeholders as well as visited the society's sites. Within four weeks of the visit, Baker submitted a report with recommendations about best practices for the society. To learn more, visit www.auglaizecounty-history.org.

Region 8

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

The Cincinnati area is home to a popular history speaker's bureau. Interested organizations can choose from over 30 regional and local history topics presented by knowledgeable speakers from the **Butler County Historical Society, Heritage Hall, the Oxford Museum Association, the Smith Library of Regional History, and Friends of Whitewater Shakers Village**. Since the bureau's launch in 2012, speakers have done over 25 programs reaching nearly 900 students and adults in Butler and Hamilton Counties. To learn more, go to <http://bchistoricalociety.com/>.

Region 9

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

The **Meigs County Historical Society** served as a site for a youth summer lunch program sponsored by the Meigs County Senior Center. Volunteers served lunch to out-of-school youth bringing an audience of young people to the museum with the added benefit of providing a great service to the community! For more information, visit <http://meigscohistorical.org/>.

(Continued on page 11)

ON THE WEB

Lessons Learned: A Planning Toolsite from the NEA

[http://www.nea.gov/
resources/lessons/in-
dex.html](http://www.nea.gov/resources/lessons/index.html)

Thinking of creating or updating a strategic plan for your institution? Be sure to look at the website from the National Endowment for the Arts. It contains resources to help guide institutions through the entire planning process. Individual chapters are written by consultants who have experience working with cultural organizations of all types. You can work your way through the entire toolkit, or just pull out the chapters you need.

(Continued from page 10)

Region 10

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

The **Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County** has seen an influx of bus tours recently thanks to recent efforts to promote the museums as tourist destinations. Tour operating companies like Eastern Ohio Tours and Ohio Travel Treasures now offer several different itineraries that include the Stone Academy. To learn more, go to www.muskingumhistory.org.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

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

Individual Member

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

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

Business Member

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

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

CALENDAR 2013

September 11

Required Elements of an Education-Focused Mission Statement Webinar. Part of AAM's Core Documents series; learn why a good mission statement is so important for museums. To learn more go to <http://www.aam-us.org/resources/online-learning/required-elements-of-a-mission-statement>.

September 18

Common Core for Museum Professionals Webinar. Learn more about how to integrate these new education standards in museum programming. For more information visit <http://www.creativelearningfactory.org/programming/webinars-workshops>.

September 18-21

AASLH Conference. For more information, see page 8.

September 28

Smithsonian Museum Day Live! For more information, see page 8.

October 1

Nomination Deadline, OHRAB Achievement Awards. For more information see page 7.

October 3

Application Deadline, Documenting Democracy Grants. Grants for activities establishing or processing archival collections. For more information go to <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement/access.html>.

October 4 & 5

Alliance Annual Meeting. For more information see pages 1 and 9.

October 9

What is StEPs? Webinar. Learn about AASLH's StEPs program and how it can help your museum. For more information go to <http://www.aaslh.org/whatis.htm>.

October 22

What is Visitors Count? Webinar. Learn about how this AASLH program helps collect valuable feedback about your visitors. For more information see <http://www.aaslh.org/whatis.htm>.

October 28 - November 22

Project Management for History Professionals Online Workshop. This workshop instructs history professionals in best practices for establishing project requirements and planning and organizing work to meet them. To learn more, visit <http://www.aaslh.org/projectmanagement.htm>.

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



Jenni Salamon evaluating the microfilm's quality prior to the newspaper's digitization. See Tech Tip on page 5. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

Membership

List as of July 23, 2013

Welcome New Members

Individuals

Elizabeth Campbell, Columbus
Lauren Cunningham, Lima

Organizations

Cincinnati Observatory Center, Cincinnati
Kent State University May 4 Visitors
Center, Kent

Thank you Renewing Members

Individuals

Ruth Ann Busald, Cincinnati
Elizabeth A. Eddowes, Tucson AZ
Martha Ellers, Warren
Court Hall, Columbus
Craig Holbert, Uniontown
Joan Kapsch, Painesville
Chuck Knaack, Zoar
Kenneth Luttner, North Mankato MN
Todd McCormick, Bellefontaine
Richard L. Palsgrove, Groveport

Stephen H. Paschen, Hudson
Doreen N. Uhas-Sauer, Columbus
Randy L. Winland, Prospect

Organizations

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society,
Inc., Arcanum
Berea Historical Society, Berea
Brecksville Historical Association,
Brecksville
Campus Martius/Ohio River Museum,
Marietta
Champaign County Historical Society,
Urbana
Chester-Shade Historical Association,
Chester
Columbus Jewish Historical Society,
Columbus
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society,
Cortland
Custer Memorial Association, Jewett
Dawes Arboretum, Newark
Fort Laurens State Memorial,
New Philadelphia
Garfield Heights Historical Society,
Garfield Heights

Harriett Beecher Stowe House State
Memorial, Cincinnati
The Harriet Taylor Upton Association,
Warren
Hiram Historical Society, Hiram
Historical Society of Russell Township,
Novelty
Holmes County Historical Society,
Millersburg
Jackson Township Historical Society,
Canton
Knox County Historical Society,
Mount Vernon
Massillon Museum, Massillon
McKinley Memorial Library, Niles
Mount Healthy Historical Society,
Mount Healthy
Oakwood Historical Society, Dayton
Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville
Ohio Northern University History
Department, Ada
Shalersville Historical Society, Mantua
Watt Center for History & the Arts,
Barnesville
Woodville Historical Society, Woodville

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

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