

THE Local Historian

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

Inspire. Connect. Educate.



Ohio History Fund Gives Fourth Year of Grants

This year's History Fund grant recipients. At Statehood Day 2016, the Ohio History Connection announced 14 new grant recipients and grants totaling \$100,000. Photo courtesy Ohio History Connection

By Andy Verhoff, History Fund Grant Manager, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

At the March 1 Statehood Day celebration, the Ohio History Connection announced the recipients of a total of \$100,000 in grants from the History Fund. The History Fund is a competitive matching grant program administered by the Ohio History Connection's Local History Services department. Money for the grants comes from individual Ohioans who support the program in three ways: by donating a portion of their state income tax refund to the Ohio History Fund on their state tax return (the tax check-off), by purchasing an Ohio History license plate, and by making donations directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund.

Your donation of a part of your Ohio tax refund this year is especially vital. Ninety-nine percent of the money for History Fund grants comes from the tax check-off. To remain on Ohio's tax return, the check-off must generate a minimum of \$150,000, which is a tax check off donation of \$9 from approximately 17,000 Ohioans. Approximately 3.6 million Ohio tax filers received state tax refunds and the average refund was \$356. For the price of one lunch out a year, you can support history in Ohio!

Including the 14 new recipients below, since 2013 the History Fund has given a total of 47 grants in 33 counties in the amount of \$448,000. Proving there is a strong need for funding for local history and preservation efforts, in this same period the History Fund has received 225 grant requests totaling \$2.7 million!

Of this year's 14 grant recipients, five are members of the Ohio Local History Alliance. A total of 23 Alliance members have received History Fund grants since the program's inception in 2012. A ☆ denotes an Alliance member.

2015-2016 History Fund Recipients

Auglaize County Historical Society, Wapakoneta

\$4,074 to improve collections management at the Auglaize County Historical Society's museums. This project will enable the society's part time administrator and volunteers to act on the findings of a recent American Alliance of Museum's Museum Assessment Program report, commissioned by the society. The report calls for the society to address a common challenge small museums face – developing efficient methods of cataloging their collections of artifacts. With guidance provided by experienced collections management consultants, training, and the help of a graduate-level student in public history, society volunteers will develop efficient work process and collections policies to catalog approximately 2,000 objects over the life of the project. It is intended that the project will serve as a model for other organizations as well as insure good stewardship of the county's history.

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President's Message:

Museums have value – economic value.

It is important to let our community and state leaders know that the financial impact of museums and historic sites around the state of Ohio is not minor. We bring dollars into Ohio communities.

A few years ago AMM published some statistics showing the power of museums as “economic engines.” I would like to share several of these:

- Seventy-eight percent of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural or heritage

activities such as visiting museums. These travelers spend 63 percent more on average than other leisure travelers.

- Governments that support the arts find that for every \$1 invested in museums and other cultural organizations, \$7 is returned in tax revenues.
- Museums employ more than 400,000 Americans and directly contribute \$21 billion to the U.S. economy each year and billions more through indirect spending by their visitors

As our communities become more homogenous with the “mom and pop” retail stores and restaurants losing ground to the national chains, our museums and historic sites retain their unique representation of their community’s heritage. Their economic impact lies in those differences.

Will I travel to your community to shop at the department store that is the same as the one five miles from my home – I doubt it. But I will come to see your restored 1860s house and gardens; your collection of Ohio-made glass; or your train depot museum. While I am in your community I will have lunch at one of your local restaurants, visit a local bookstore, and stay overnight as I am in route to another unique Ohio site.

Beth Weinhardt

President, Ohio Local History Alliance Local History Coordinator, Westerville Public Library (614) 259-5028, bweinhar@westervillelibrary.org



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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

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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)

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OUR LEGACY, OUR FUTURE

By Stephen George,
Senior Advisor to the CEO,
Ohio History Connection,
Columbus

2016 is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 15, 1966. It has transformed the face of communities from coast to coast, establishing the legal framework and incentives to preserve historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeology. To celebrate, the Ohio History Connection will inaugurate *Ohio Open Doors* to promote and inspire pride

Open Your Heart to History! Be a Part of Ohio Open Doors

in Ohio's amazing heritage. Most importantly, we'll celebrate the treasures in your community.

We are currently seeking building and landmark sponsors to participate in *Ohio Open Doors*. To participate:

- Contact us to indicate your interest and to help plan your event. Act now to be eligible for a limited number of small stipends.
- Hold at least one two-hour event from September 9-18, 2016. Ensure the event is free, open to the public, and abides by all laws and local ordinances concerning safety and access.
- Create a special event for your neighbors; think of your event as an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors inside your doors to share your site's unique stories. Consider opening buildings or spaces rarely seen by the public, having guided tours about the design and history of the place, and providing a place for coffee and conversations.

We'll help make your event a success! The Ohio History Connection will sup-

port qualifying, participating properties by promoting the overall ten-day period of *Ohio Open Doors*. In addition to small-dollar stipends* available you will also have access to:

- An online kit of useful materials for promotion (smaller organizations can receive printed materials)
- Use of the *Ohio Open Doors* logo
- A public online calendar of open houses and sharing it with travel and tourism agencies.

*A limited number of small-dollar stipends to help with out-of-pocket costs will be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis for small non-profit participants (please inquire for further information).

Interested in hosting an event? Contact Stephen George, Senior Advisor to the CEO of the Ohio History Connection, at 614.297.2361 or sgeorge@ohiohistory.org or Amanda Terrell, Director of the State Historic Preservation Office at 614.298.2000 or aterrell@ohiohistory.org. Visit www.ohiohistory.org/opendoors for more information. ■

Ohio History Fund Gives Fourth Year of Grants *(Continued from page 1)*

Canal Fulton Heritage Society, *Canal Fulton*

\$6,000 to replace the roof of the William Blank House. The project will enable the society to replace the roof on this 1901 house, which is one of four historic properties this all-volunteer organization cares for in the city and a contributing structure to the National Register-listed Canal Fulton Historic District in Stark County. The Blank House is the repository of the society's archives and artifact collections. Repairs to the roof will protect the building and the collections inside. The house is also in a historic location in the community, adjacent to the Ohio-Erie canal that brought prosperity to the area in the mid-19th century.

✪ The Friends of James A. Garfield National Historic Site, *Mentor*

\$3,577 for a travelling exhibit about President James A. Garfield and the Garfield National Historic Site. On the eve of the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, the friends group of this National Historic Site will produce a series of portable exhibits, which will be hosted at locations throughout northeast Ohio. The exhibits, consisting of interpretive banners and artifacts, will share the life of President Garfield and encourage visits to his family's home in Mentor. Increased visitation will not only enlarge the economic impact of the site in Lake County and Northeast Ohio, but also increase viewers' and visitors' understanding of President Garfield's life and legacy.

Fort Recovery Historical Society, *Fort Recovery*

\$17,500 for an archaeological field school and ground-penetrating radar survey at Fort Recovery. A newly discovered 1793 map of Fort Recovery and a ground-penetrating survey of the area around the fort will guide archeological excavations at a field school. These efforts will likely revise current understandings of the fort and of the two battles that occurred in what is now southwestern Mercer County during the Ohio Indian Wars of the early 1790s. The project will share those new conclusions within the field of historical archeology, as well as area school groups and the public during the 225th anniversary of the community in 2016.

(Continued on page 4)

Green Lawn Abbey Preservation Association, Columbus

\$3,450 for the restoration of a stained glass window in Green Lawn Abbey. A product of Rossbach Art Studio, an important producer of high quality stained glass in early 20th century in Columbus, the window is the last of series of six to be restored in the Abbey's parlor. Once complete, the parlor will be highest profile and most often used area for programs and tours. The project is important step in renovating and preserving the Abbey, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project also advances the all-volunteer association's larger goal of saving and sharing Columbus's local history, as reflected in the structure, and inspiring visitors with programs on classical architecture, of which the Abbey is an outstanding example.

Heartland Earthworks Conservancy, Hillsboro

\$10,000 for a magnetometer survey of Steel Earthworks, Ross County. A magnetometer detects magnetic fields in the earth's surface and is used in archeology to non-invasively look for archeological phenomena, such as magnetically charged "ghosts" of prehistoric mounds and evidence of structures gone for hundreds of years. The project will enable the Conservancy to perform a magnetometer survey on the remaining 35 acres of an archeological site, which has remained untouched below the plow line of agricultural use. The survey will reveal the remainder of the site's archeological resources and enable the Conservancy to prepare detailed maps. This information will allow any future excavations to be carefully targeted, preserving a record of life in the area thousands of years ago.

✪ Lakeside Heritage Society, Lakeside

\$10,000 for the renovation of the exterior of the Lakeside Heritage Society Museum. The project will enable the society to replace the roof, make repairs to the vestibule and exterior of the building, and paint the entire structure. Built c. 1875 as a Methodist chapel, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing structure to the Lakeside Heritage District in Ottawa County. The building is the headquarters of the society, the site of

public programs for children and adults during Lakeside's summer season, and the repository of its artifact and archival collections about Lakeside, the Marblehead Peninsula, and the Chautauqua Movement. Work to the building now will forestall more expensive repairs later and protect the collections therein.

Milton-Union Public Library, West Milton

\$3,000 to purchase a microfilm viewer/scanner/printer. A microfilm reader is a basic tool for historical and genealogical research at any library. The current unit at this small town library in southern Miami County, near Dayton, is so obsolete that parts for it are no longer available. Consequently, local historical records on microfilm sought by patrons are not conveniently available. The grant from the History Fund, matched by another grant from the Miami County Foundation will give researchers at the library better access to the records they use to piece together their understandings of the past.

✪ Noble County Historical Society, Caldwell

\$3,900 to replace the furnace in the Ball-Caldwell House. The end of the useful life of the house's 30 year-old furnace inspired this all-volunteer organization to write a History Fund grant to replace the unit with a new, more energy and money-efficient model. The c. 1832, National Register of Historic Places-listed house in southeast Ohio is a museum featuring the society's collection of furniture, decorative arts, and quilts and textiles. A reliable furnace will be cheaper to operate and enable the society to stabilize the temperature in the building year-round, and preserve its plaster walls, woodwork, stenciling, wall-paper and the collections displayed inside. Because the house will have reliable heat in colder months, the society also plans to schedule more programing there.

Poland Township Historical Society, Poland

\$6,327 to rehabilitate the eight windows of the society's Little Red Schoolhouse. The project will retain the building's historic appearance and windows while making it energy-efficient and less expensive to operate and maintain. The school is the historical center of Poland Township in Mahon-

ing County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure has changed little since it was built in 1858, and it is a site for this all-volunteer society's school and public programs. Rehabilitating the windows will help to maintain the building; maintaining the building ensures that it can continue to spark an interest in area history for generations to follow.

The Ted Lewis Museum, Circleville

\$6,000 for the "Ted Lewis Record Collection Preservation and Digitization" project. The grant will enable this Pickaway County museum to catalog and re-house approximately 378 historic 78 RPM records and transcription discs as well as to digitize 197 records. The one-of-a-kind record collection documents the Circleville native's long career from 1919 to 1967, including radio broadcasts, unissued takes, and historic interviews. The unique collection recordings of Ted Lewis are in danger of deterioration beyond use and could be lost if not addressed soon.

✪ Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon

\$3,972 for the "In Honor & Remembrance Oral History Project." The society will collaborate with the county veterans' services office to collect approximately 40 oral histories from area vets. The society will share the histories on its website and in an exhibit at the Warren County Historical Society's museum. It is expected that in the retelling of their experiences, veterans will be able to help their families and their community understand the nature of their service. It is anticipated that the oral histories will become a resource and teaching tool for students, so they may discover the stories of these veterans' service and the impact it had on their families and communities.

✪ Western Reserve Fire Museum & Education Center, Cleveland

\$19,200 for a window replacement and rehabilitation project in the museum. The project will continue the rehabilitation of the Western Reserve Fire museum, formerly the Cleveland Alarm Office and Fire Station #28, to its original 1926 appearance. The work on this city-ordinance designated Cleveland Landmark (Continued on page 5)

Ohio History Fund Gives Fourth Year of Grants (Continued from page 4)

will replace ten damaged glass block windows with near-reproductions of the original windows, as documented by period photographs and documents. The project will advance the overall goal to re-open previous uninhabitable areas for use as museum galleries, public program space, and event rental facilities, as well as return the historic landmark site to its original appearance.

The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art and Technology, Newark

\$3,000 for the conservation of a historic map of Newark. The grant will enable the center to conserve a large but damaged c.1890 map of Newark, which shows a bird's eye view of this city in Licking County. The conserved map will be the centerpiece of a new exhibit about a nationally-regarded stock farm in Newark that imported draft horses from Europe and will be used in programs to highlight the contrasts between the city now and 125 years ago. The map conservation project and related exhibit will be a part of the center's 20th anniversary celebration in 2016 and is anticipated to become the focal point of the institution's education and community programs because of the contrasts between "then" and "now" that it reveals.

Congratulations to our grant recipients. To learn more about the Ohio History Fund, how you can help promote the Fund's tax check-off, and how to apply for a grant, visit: www.ohiohistory.org/OHFund, or contact the Local History Services department of the Ohio History Connection, 614-297-2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org ■

Commemorating the Centennial of the Great War in Ohio

By Becki Trivison, World War I Program Coordinator, Ohio History Connection, Columbus

World War I was a global war centered in Europe that lasted from July 28, 1914–November 11, 1918 and remains America's forgotten war, even though more Americans gave their lives during that war than during Korea and Vietnam combined. The United States' entry into the war came in April 1917, after two and a half years of efforts by President Woodrow Wilson to keep the country neutral. Ohio played a valuable role in the United States' involvement in World War I, a war that changed the trajectory of the 20th century politically, culturally, socially, and globally. As the state's historical museum, the Ohio History Connection has taken the lead in planning and supporting commemoration activities around the state. The commemoration of World War I will provide an opportunity to focus attention on the causes, repercussions, and lingering effects of this monumental historical event.

April 2017–November 11, 2018 will mark the centennial of the United States' involvement in the Great War (as World War I was then known) and the Ohio History Connection has already begun preparations for this brief, yet significant time in Ohio's past. The Ohio History Connection was provided funding by the State of Ohio to establish a World War I Centennial Commemoration and a Centennial Committee has been organized to carry out the goal of providing schools, local organizations, cultural institutions, and the general public with assistance that will enable them to commemorate World War I at the local level. This committee will also be able to connect these groups to resources such as grant funding, or scholarships; collections/archives material; sources of information for research; and regional/state events that commemorate the centennial of World War I in Ohio.

What are YOU doing?



Image courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

The Centennial Committee has also been working toward developing a plan for the commemoration activities that will be in place by summer 2016 so that it will be available for the full duration of the U.S. Centennial Commemoration and beyond. The activities that the committee is planning include a traveling exhibit, a supporting website with educator lesson plans, a symposium, local history tool kits, and general informational resources. All of these resources can be utilized by educators, researchers, or those who are just interested in learning more about World War I and each resource will reflect Ohio's role in the war and how it impacted the lives of Ohio's people and communities.

In addition to these resources, the Ohio History Connection will be including a World War I logo option on its Historical Marker application. Ohio was a microcosm of the nation's role and reaction to World War I and to commemorate this, the Ohio History Connection will implement and coordinate programs that will encourage the development of Ohio historic markers that reflect the technological, industrial, cultural or sociological impact of WWI in Ohio's communities.

Many exciting things are currently in the works and will begin to roll out by the middle of summer 2016. To learn more about the World War I Centennial or about a World War I logo on your historical marker application please contact Becki Trivison at rtrivison@ohiohistory.org. More updates will be shared as this exciting event unfolds! ■

Honoring an Expert: Donald A. Hutslar (1931-2014)

By Leslie Blankenship, Trustee,
Franklinton Historical Society,
Columbus

On January 25, 2016 around 5:00 pm, a group of about fifteen people began to hover in the hallway outside the Columbus City Council room. Representing different organizations, they had two things in common: respect for Don Hutslar and a love of Ohio history. Most of those assembled shared many decades in the Ohio preservation field: Joyce Barrett of Heritage Ohio, Tina Harrah and Barbara Powers (Department Head) of the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, and Todd Kleismit, (Director, Community & Government Relations) of the Ohio History Connection. Christopher Duckworth, (retired) Chief of Publications of the Ohio History Connection and Editor of its magazine *TIMELINE*, and David Simmons, Senior Editor of *TIMELINE*, had been Don's colleagues since the 1960s.

Franklinton folks were there: Trent Smith, Executive Director of the Franklinton Board of Trade, and Franklinton Historical Society members: Sandy Andromeda, Brenda Dutton, Leslie Blankenship, and Walt Reiner. The latter is owner and restorer of the 1807 Franklinton Log Post Office. All assembled to stand for Don Hutslar before City Council as a resolution honoring him was read by new Councilwoman Elizabeth C. Brown, daughter of Ohio's Senior U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown. In the background, but very much orchestrating the event was our indomitable former Councilwoman Fran Ryan. Receiving the printed resolution was Don's widow Jean Hutslar, accompanied by Reiner, who provided a few remarks testifying to Don's help over the years. At the age of 82, Don had passed on June 13, 2014.

So, who was Don Hutslar and why should we care about him? Before retiring in 1995, Don's day job was curator at the Ohio Historical Society. Both he and Jean were from Greene County—he from Yellow Springs, she from Xenia. They had advanced degrees in the fine arts but channeled their passion and vast knowledge in the service of history and site preservation.



They worked as a team researching and helping restore Ohio Historical Society sites in the 1970s, such as Johnson's Farm at Upper Piqua, Miami County; Governor Thomas Worthington's estate of Adena at Chillicothe, Ross County, Historic Zoar Village, the German Separatist community in Tuscarawas County; and the Putnam House in Marietta, Washington County.

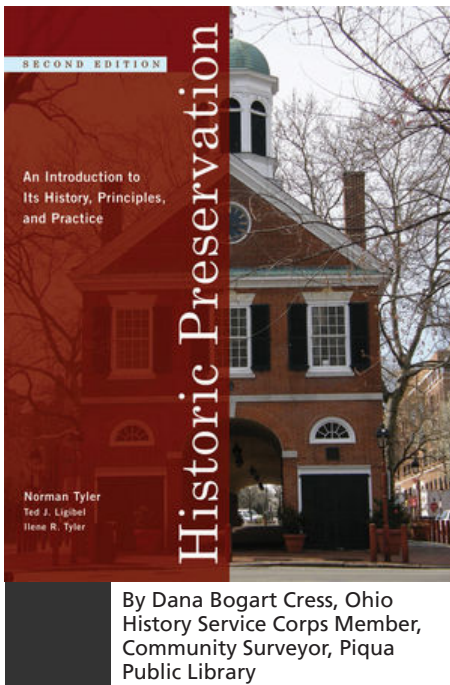
A consummate photographer, Don had an interest in log houses and barns, water-powered sawmills, and antique firearms from Ohio's pioneer past. He amassed a huge collection of photographs of log buildings from all over the state that were published in accompanying journal articles. His images illustrated a 12-page how-to entitled *Technical Leaflet 74: Log Cabin Restoration: Guidelines for the Historical Society* published in 1974 by the American Association for State and Local History. This guidebook made Don the go-to guy for log structure restorers from across the country. This publication later morphed into his classic 1986 500+ page reference book, now out-of-print, entitled *The Architecture of Migration: Log Construction in the Ohio Country 1750-1850*. More than a reference, this book included insightful chapters on how and why the log cabin became such a romantic symbol of our pioneer past.

In 1976, Lois and Walt Reiner purchased the 1807 David Deardurff log house at 72 South Gift Street also known as the Franklinton Log Post Office. It is one of three surviving remnants of Franklinton's early history—the Harrison House and Sullivant Office being the other two. Covered in wooden siding, the logs of the old post office weren't visible until Reiner's crew began removing

the siding in their attempt to restore the structure in 2012, the year of the Columbus' Bicentennial. During this arduous process, Reiner called upon Don Hutslar as advisor. In his 1974 Technical Note, Hutslar wrote "While not a difficult task, restoring a log structure does require time, labor, and money." It soon became obvious that much time, labor, and money would be required to bring the Franklinton post office back to life. Restoration continues today as Reiner engages in negotiating the often contradictory red tape required by the overlapping jurisdictions of national, state, and city preservation requirements.

Anyone who knew Don remarked upon his "encyclopedic" memory about all things historical and upon the dry sense of humor that permeated his articles. But he also invoked a lyrical sense of the past and what it means to those who look for it. My favorite of his articles is one he wrote about Xenia published in the journal *Ohio History* in the summer of 1974. If you are old enough, you will remember that Xenia suffered a cataclysmic tornado on April 4, 1974. Don took photographs of the aftermath—flattened neighborhoods, streets of rubble, homes toppled and collapsed, piles of boards on crushed automobiles, stumps of broken-off trees, and tangled woods. These photos were published in a scrapbook format interspersed with reminiscences of an older Xenia taken from the book *Ohio Town* (1962) by Helen Hooven Santmyer, who knew Xenia since the early 1900s. At the beginning of the article, Don reflected upon this community, elegantly stating the importance of historic preservation:

"What is meant by 'historic continuity'? A village or city can be considered as an entity of infinite parts, some definable, some forever inexplicable. The structures and residents can be statistically analyzed, photographed to the smallest detail, but the important element—the essence of the community—can never be completely captured in words or pictures. This essence is understood best by those who have lived their lifetimes in or near an urban environment. Buildings are appreciated for their memories as well as for their functions; certain streets are passages for reflection, others connect points on a map; a single tree, an old stone sidewalk, an odd chimney pot—each might rekindle a half-forgotten event, an indistinctly remembered story told by a grandparent." ■



By Dana Bogart Cress, Ohio History Service Corps Member, Community Surveyor, Piqua Public Library

Historic Preservation— An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice

Historic preservation is not a new concept to American historians and history enthusiasts. Since the nineteenth century, individuals and private organizations have been preserving sites and buildings deemed significant to the nation's past. These efforts continued at the national level during the early twentieth century with the passage of the Antiquities Act (1906) and the establishment of the National Parks Service (1916). However, with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, the historic preservation movement shifted to greater public awareness on national and local levels. A movement that started as an effort to preserve sites where famous people lived, or battles took place grew, and continues to grow, into an undertaking to protect the unique built environments of individual neighborhoods, and the histories that created them. This year will mark the fiftieth anniversary of this landmark legislation. For local history sites who wish to know more about the history of historic preservation, logistics of preservation laws, current debates and trends in the field, and how to get involved, Norman Tyler's textbook, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, is a great resource.

Tyler's book begins with a theoretical introduction about preservation and its importance to preserving historical accounts and memory in addition to buildings. He then provides a detailed section on the history of historic preservation. His discussion of the development and motives of the field provide insight to the current goals of the movement. For example, preservationists have shifted from saving buildings as museum pieces to

designating historic districts that represent a cultural heritage, yet allow the neighborhood to grow within its historical setting. Tyler describes the roles of federal, state, and local powers, and how they communicate to each other.

His next chapter describes common architectural styles found in most North American cities. This chapter also discusses the new design approaches architects are creating to contextualize new buildings within historic neighborhoods. While this chapter leaves out some building type and style classifications, the author acknowledges the shortcomings and provides a list of books for further reading on the subject. Tyler also offers an architectural glossary in the back of the book to assist with the style descriptions.

The next several chapters address the legal basis for preservation, and the designations of historic properties and districts. This section provides case studies of instances where legal action needed to be taken to protect the integrity of a historically designated property and on what grounds these laws stood. Tyler then breaks down the process to nominate a property to the National Register of Historic Places or establish a historic district ordinance. While the author cannot cover everything entailed with these very detailed nomination procedures, he describes the steps in direct language and provides examples and methods to obtaining these goals. This is a great resource of information if a local historical society or city government would like to investigate how to get their cultural resources recognized on a national level.

It should come to no surprise that people from several backgrounds and fields of study interact with historic preservation on a daily basis: local governments, state institutions, private developers, visitor bureaus, and historic sites. The last group of chapters address these diverse interests in historic preservation. First, Tyler examines preservation's economic and planning benefits: existing infrastructure, lower construction costs, and tax benefits. A chapter is also provided

on developing a city preservation plan to revive and sustain a thriving local downtown economy. With recent focuses on environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient technologies, modifications to historic buildings have been developed to create better sustainability. A chapter on environmental sustainability and conservation provides examples of these modifications. It also explores how historic preservation preserves the natural environment, in addition to the built environment through the Trust for Public Lands. Lastly, the author addresses the importance of preservation to the tourism industry. According to Tyler, historic sites should seek to offer "heritage interpretation", which gives tourists local cultural experiences in a history setting.

Overall, Tyler's textbook, *Historic Preservation*, gives a wide overview of the dynamic and growing field. The author provides case studies, guides to follow, and discussions on the current state of preservation. It serves as a good starting point for a novice preservationist or a reference guide to a professional. Where the text is lacking or brief, additional resources are available for further study listed throughout the book and in a supplementary reading list. This will definitely jump start your historic preservation plans and get you thinking about how to involve your local community in protecting your cultural environment.

Tyler, Norman, et al. *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*. New York: Norton, 2007.7 ■

Professional Development



Image courtesy of Ohio Humanities.

Oral History Institute

Ohio Humanities' Oral History Institute began as a series of workshops in 2000 and has grown to become an annual multi-day professional development institute hosted by Kenyon College. Designed to provide training in the field of oral history, the institute welcomes staff and volunteers from historical societies, libraries, colleges and universities, schools, and other community groups.

Participants in the institute receive instruction on the technical aspects and ethical considerations of oral history interviewing, the importance of collaboration among community organizations, and preparing effect grant proposals to underwrite oral history projects. The institute provides resources and training material for conducting oral history projects, specific descriptions of Ohio-related oral history projects that could be replicated, and a directory of humanities professionals that could serve as a consultation resource.

For more information on the Oral History Institute, contact Jim Calder at jjmc@ohiohumanities.org or 800.293.9774.



AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History

2016 Small Museums Scholarships for AASLH Annual Meeting

The American Association for State and Local History will hold its Annual Meeting and Online Conference in Detroit, MI from September 14-17, 2016. This year's theme – *The Spirit of Rebirth* – examines the personal, communal, and organizational journeys that lead to vibrancy, authenticity, social change, and sustainability.

Unfortunately, many working in our nation's small museums feel as if we can only dream of attending this meeting. In a perfect world, boards would grant every request to fund our professional development. Institutions of modest means, however, may not have the resources to help us become effective stewards of our community's memory.

Websites, listservs, and social media constantly offer new sources of technical and psychological support, but nothing is better than the face-to-face fellowship of sharing survival strategies. Every year, increasing numbers of Annual Meeting sessions address issues specifically affecting small museums. These sessions can be as practical and wide-ranging as training, marketing, and strategic planning. Other sessions focus on creative ways to forge and re-energize relationships with the surrounding community.

AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each \$500 scholarship will cover the cost of both the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses. Acceptance of the scholarship is contingent upon recipients submitting a post to the AASLH Big Ideas for Small Museums blog about their Annual Meeting experience.

To qualify the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less. They also must either be an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member. The deadline is June 10. For more information, visit <http://community.aaslh.org/small-museums-scholarship/>.

Professional Development



Sharing Time is always a popular part of every Regional Meeting. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Regional Meetings are Happening Now!

In 2016 the Ohio Local History Alliance is inviting historical organizations to connect with their communities. For historical organizations and museums to be successful in the future, it is critical that they become important members of their communities today. Historical organizations must develop strong connections between themselves and the community. These connections can enrich their communities by developing relationships built on education, understanding, and respect amongst all members of their communities. Historical organizations have the necessary tools to bring people together and strengthen their communities. Accept this invitation to attend the Alliance's 2016 regional meetings and discover innovative ways to connect your community. Register online for meetings at <http://www.ohiolha.org/alliance-regional-meetings/>.

Upcoming regional meetings are:

March 19

Region 6: Dawes Arboretum, Newark

Region 8: Cincinnati Observatory, Cincinnati

April 2

Region 9: Jackson Historical Society, Jackson

Region 10: Belpre Historical Society, Belpre

April 9

Region 1: Museum of Postal History, Delphos

Region 3: Westlake Historical Society, Westlake

April 16

Region 2: Richland County Historical Society, Mansfield

Region 4: Youngstown State University, Youngstown

Grants



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

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

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

The program encourages applications from small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant. Applications are due May 3. For more information and an application, visit <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions>.

Call for Judges and Volunteers for Ohio History Day



Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

Ohio History Day is a year-long research project designed for students in grades 6-12. Each year, students pick a topic based on an annual theme and develop a project to illustrate the historical significance of the topic. The program culminates in regional and state level contests that take place in March and April. All contests are free for the public and take place from 9am-5pm.

Ohio History Day invites you to spend a Saturday in March or April learning from and being inspired by passionate and knowledgeable students! There are plenty of opportunities to participate. Be a judge at one of the upcoming district competitions across Ohio and/or the State Competition on April 30, 2016 at Ohio Wesleyan University. To register as a judge:

- Visit <http://oh.nhd.org/register.php> and select the competition you would like to judge
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "judge" from the drop-down list and click "GO"
- On the next page select the link "Don't have a username and password? Click here to begin." You'll be asked to complete a personal information form, including a username and password for yourself. You will need to create a new username and password every year.
- Fill out all the requested information including which division(s) and category(ies) you would prefer to judge.

Upcoming contests are:

March 19

Region 2: Terra Community College, Fremont

Region 8: Hamilton High School, Hamilton

April 2

Region 4: Youngstown State University, Youngstown

Region 10: Ohio University, Zanesville

April 9

Region 5: Pro Football Hall of Fame, Canton

April 30

State Contest: Ohio Wesleyan, Delaware

ON
THE
WEB

American Panorama

<http://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/>

American Panorama is an historical atlas of the United States for the twenty-first century. It combines cutting-edge research with innovative interactive mapping techniques, designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in American history or a love of maps. Visitors to the site can use these digitized maps to explore the spread of slavery in the south, overland trails followed by American migrants in the nineteenth century, and the American canal system (especially relevant in Ohio).

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 2016

March 19

Region 6 and Region 8 meetings. For more information, see page 9.

Region 2 & 8 History Day contests. For more information, see page 9.

April 2

Region 9 and Region 10 meetings. For more information, see page 9.

Region 4 & 10 History Day contests. For more information, see page 9.

April 9

Region 1 and Region 3 meetings. For more information, see page 9.

April 15

Tax Day! File your taxes and donate to the History Fund!

April 16

Region 2 and Region 4 meetings. For more information, see page 9.

April 30

State History Day Contest. For more information, see page 9.

May 3

NEH Preservation Assistance Grants Application Deadline. For more information, see page 8.

June 10

AASLH Small Museums Scholarship Application Deadline. For more information, see page 8.

Calendar items are chosen on the basis of available space and applicability to the largest number of our readers, who are mainly volunteer and professional leaders of local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, historic preservation groups, and genealogical societies in Ohio. 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.

News from the Regions

Region 1

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

Region 2

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

The **Wyandot Popcorn Museum** (which shares space with the **Marion County Historical Society** museum) is an unusual museum with the world's largest collection of restored popcorn machines housed under a circus big top. According to YAHOO TRAVEL, they "went in search of weird, wonderful, and wacky museums that are worth going out of your way to see." The Wyandot Popcorn Museum was deemed by their researchers to be the wackiest museum in Ohio. Here is their list of the weirdest museums, from coast to coast. <https://www.yahoo.com/travel/51-weird-museums-across-the-u-s-one-for-every-110046510552.html>

The **Kelleys Island Historical Association** was honored with an **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board** 2015 Achievement Award for its efforts in implementing archival accession, processing, and cataloging procedures; increasing the accessibility of its collections through the creation and publishing of its inventory; and fostering research through new initiatives. "We commend the Association and volunteers for the strides that have been taken to gain intellectual control over the archival collections in your possession through inventorying and processing, which have resulted in both the ease of staff access to the collections and an increase in public access to the unique collections," said Pari Swift, chair of the OHRAB committee. For more information, visit www.kelleysislandhistorical.org.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Bedford Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the **Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture Board** to fund a new program, the Northeast Ohio Local History Fair. The free public event will bring together local history organizations and attendees from all over Northeast Ohio. The Fair will be held Saturday, April 30, 2016, 10am - 4pm, at the Ellenwood Community Center, 124 Ellenwood Ave, Bedford, OH 44146. For more information visit <http://neolocalhistoryfair.com>.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

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

The **North Canton Heritage Society** sponsored a seminar at **Walsh University** to celebrate the conservation of two rare Hoover Suction Sweeper Company pamphlets in its collection. The pamphlets were printed in 1917 to persuade residents to change the name of the town from New Berlin to North Canton. Speakers from nearby universities gave talks on different aspects of the story of the name change. The event was sponsored by a grant from **Ohio Humanities**, and the conservation was sponsored by a grant from the **Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. ICA-Art Conservation** in Cleveland did the conservation work over the summer of 2015. For more information, go to <http://northcantonheritage.org/>.

Region 6

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

The **Delaware County Records Center** received the **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board** 2015 Achievement Award for its devotion to the care, preservation, and accessibility of county records through continual modernization of processes and dedication to providing convenient public access to the records in its care. "The Delaware County Records Center has been one of the 'must-see' locations for counties looking to establish records centers due to its facilities, processes, and use of technology to both preserve and make records accessible," said Pari Swift, chair of this year's OHRAB award committee. "With the new, expanded location, it is evident that the county recognizes the value of making the county's treasured records available to researchers now and into the future." To learn more, see <http://www.co.delaware.oh.us/index.php/records-center>.

Region 7

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

The **Vandalia-Butler Historical Society** is building a new storage building on their property. The building will allow the society to move items from the existing barn and wash house on the property into storage, which will also allow the society more exhibit space for their collections. For more informa-

tion, go to www.historicalsvandalia-butler.org.

Region 8

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

Region 9

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

The **Berlin X-roads Battlefield Preservation Association** recently dedicated a new, large sign to mark the site of the Civil War Battle of Berlin Heights. The engagement took place on July 17, 1863 as part of Morgan's Raid across Southern Ohio. The Berlin X-Roads Battlefield Preservation Association is a new organization of about 40 members dedicated to listing the battlefield site on the National Register of Historical Places.

Region 10

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

List as of March 4, 2016

Welcome New Member Individual

Megan Smeznik, Copley

Thank You Renewing Members Individual

Carl T. Engel, Painesville
Rosalie Frazier, Columbus
Daniel L. Frizzi, Bellaire

Organizations

Alliance Historical Society, Alliance
Baltic Area Historical Society, Baltic
Belmont County Historical Society, Barnesville
Belpre Historical Society, Belpre
Brethren Heritage Center, Brookville
Brimfield Historical Society, Kent
Brunswick Area Historical Society, Brunswick
Canal Winchester Area Historical Society, Canal Winchester
Carlisle Area Historical Society, Franklin
Carroll Area Historical Society, Carroll
Central Insurance Fire Museum, Van Wert
Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society, Centerville
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus
Cuyahoga Falls Historical Society, Cuyahoga Falls
Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc., Dayton
Delphos Canal Commission, Delphos
Edison Birthplace Association, Milan
Enon Community Historical Society, Enon
Erie County Historical Society, Sandusky
Fairport Harbor Historical Society, Fairport Harbor
Fowler Township Historical Society, Cortland
Franklin Area Historical Society, Franklin
Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Grove City
Friends of Whitewater Shaker Village, Cincinnati
Fulton County Historical Society, Wauseon
Gahanna Historical Society, Gahanna
Galion Historical Society Inc, Galion

Gates Mills Historical Society, Gates Mills
Glendale Heritage Preservation, Cincinnati
Granger Historical Society, Medina
Greater Loveland Historical Society & Museum, Loveland

Hanover Township Historic Society, Hanoverton
Harmony Hill Association, Inc, Williamsburg
Henry County Historical Society, Napoleon
Hinckley Historical Society Inc, Hinckley
Indian Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati
John Paulding Historical Society Inc, Paulding
Lake County Historical Society, Painesville
Lake Township Historical Society, Uniontown
Lillian E. Jones Museum, Jackson
Lorain County Historical Society, Elyria
Lorain Historical Society, Lorain
Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society, Louisville
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, Chillicothe
Lynchburg Historical Society, Lynchburg
Madog Center for Welsh Studies, Rio Grande
Magnolia Area Historical Society, Magnolia
Mariemont Preservation Foundation, Cincinnati
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, Sandusky
Mayfield Township Historical Society, Mayfield Village
Maumee Valley Historical Society, Maumee
Metamora Area Historical Society, Metamora
Museum at the Friends Home, Waynesville
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany
Noble County Historical Society, Caldwell
Olmsted Historical Society, Olmsted Falls
Perrysburg Area Historic Museum, Inc., Perrysburg
Piqua Public Library, Piqua
Richfield Historical Society, Richfield
Shanes Crossing Historical Society, Rockford
Swiss Community Historical Society, Bluffton
Tippecanoe Historical Society, Tipp City
The Castle, Marietta
The John P. Parker Historical Society, Ripley
Union County Historical Society, Marysville
Westwood Historical Society, Cincinnati
Williams County Historical Society, Montpelier
Windsor Historical Society, Windsor
Wood County Historical Center & Museum, Bowling Green

Ohio Humanities is pleased to announce **Michael Straughter** is its new Outreach Coordinator. Straughter replaces **Mark Holbrook**, who has been appointed as executive director of the **Marion Area Convention and Visitors Bureau**. Straughter comes to Ohio Humanities with more than 17 years of providing strategic communication services to various non-profits. He also has an extensive background in graphic design and community outreach, as well as web content development and management.

Raya Williams is the new Site Manager of **Schoenbrunn Village**. Williams has previously worked at Zoar Village, beginning as a volunteer in 2009 and serving as the Communications Coordinator from 2014-2015. In this role, she managed Zoar's rentals, processed memberships, and updated social media. Williams will graduate from Kent State University - Stark Campus with a bachelor's degree from the College of Business Administration.

Kathy Fernandez has retired from the directorship of the **North Canton Heritage Society**. In ten years, Fernandez oversaw a multitude of projects from photo calendars to commissioning plays to moving the society to a new location. In retirement, she plans to return to writing and studying Zoar Village. **Nicole Marino** is the new Executive Director. Marino has a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in public history from Youngstown State University.

Anne Michael is a new addition to the Educational Outreach staff at the **Lorain County Historical Society**. Michael has a B.S in Education from Bowling Green State University and a Master's Degree in Education from Kent State University. She is a retired Media Specialist for the Elyria schools, with additional experience in classroom teaching and public libraries.

Need to Contact Us? We at Local History Services love hearing from you.

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Get Social with the Ohio Local History Alliance



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LinkedIn: [Ohio Local History Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Ohio-Local-History-Alliance)