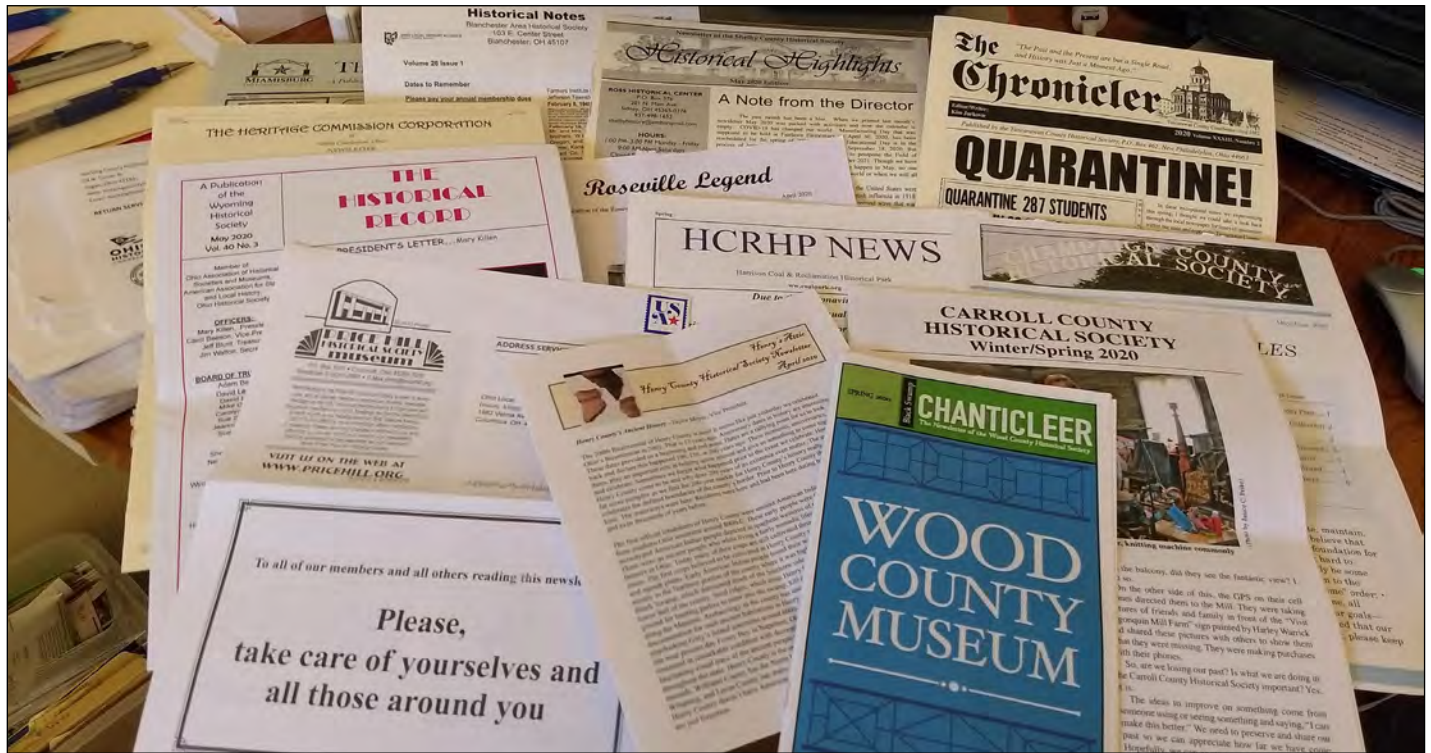


THE ANNUAL MEETING

# History is Happening Now!



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

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said this in the July/August issue, but I'll say it again: I remain astonished by how well this year's annual theme fits the times we're experiencing. The timeline of Annual Meeting planning begins at our August board meeting a year before the Annual Meeting itself. That is, we chose our 2020 theme at the August 2019 board meeting. The theme is intended to cover both the Regional Meetings and the Annual Meeting so we need to have it decided before we start planning Regional Meetings in October and November.

Last August, we were looking for a theme that highlighted the relevance of history to daily life. It was designed to encourage us all to think about the relevance of our work and how we can be better at working collaboratively on a historical narrative that includes everyone in our communities. We asked for session proposals around this theme, and met in late February to put together a full Annual Meeting with a track focused on relevance and the various ways history organizations can demonstrate that they are relevant to their communities. Then, in mid-March, all our lives turned suddenly upside down, and as history organizations we had to figure out new ways of being relevant as our museums and sites closed to the public.

For the first time in the 60-year history of the Ohio Local History Alliance, we will not be meeting in person this fall. Instead, we will gather in the digital realm. We have done our best to replicate your favorite parts of the Annual Meeting, including a Friday evening mixer and other opportunities to

(continued on page 4)

## President's Message:



*So, here we are...six months into a pandemic that many (me included) originally thought would be over by summer. With no end in sight, many of our museum sites are open, some are not - and a few haven't even been back in their offices for any extended period of time. Cuts have been made in staff and some of our favorite colleagues are searching for new places to land. Financial resources have been reduced, and we've asked ourselves, are we essential? Is the work we do essential? We've become experts at cancelling events, creating multiple budget scenarios and back-up Plans A, B and C. We've been humbled seeing hair and nail salons open before us, and realized how fragile our existence can be. When these challenges are coupled with the fear families are facing right now surrounding family economics, health and major school decisions, it is easy to be overwhelmed with frustration and anxiety. It's pretty rough out there.*

*And yet, I'm here to tell you to not give up hope! Push the "pause" button, and start searching for the good that can come out of this bad situation. Museum folks have always been so driven: working on 10 events, 5 projects, 3 exhibits and 6 grants all at once. Sound familiar? Stop being so hard on yourself, catch your breath and celebrate your successes.*

*How can there be success during COVID? Just opening and maintaining staff is success. Just paying bills is success. Connecting with your audience and maintaining your mission is success. Navigating a path to recovery, no matter how winding, is success.*

*At the Dennison Depot, we literally keep an ongoing "COVID Success List" of accomplishments we would never have achieved had there not been a pandemic. The List has provided a much needed positive reward feeling that has also created a strong connection and sense of empathy among our team in the midst of chaos. Our Success List includes items ranging from painting museum spaces to fixing brick walkways, catching up on collections work, kicking off a downtown beautification project of WWII poster murals to boost spirits and updating policies that will help us inch closer to accreditation. And we have had a bonanza with online content!*

*There are all sorts of opportunities still out there and hidden places to find success. So, during a period of time where we may feel powerless to control many of the traditional facets of museum business, find the places you can impact. Keep your own Success List. And celebrate it!*

*Museum people are resilient, problem solvers with grit who are used to working with tight budgets. We can do this!*

*Let me close with my favorite Tom Hanks quote from *League of Their Own*: "Of course it's hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard...is what makes it great."*

*And, oh yea....there's no crying in Museums.*

### **Wendy Zucal**

*President, Ohio Local History Alliance*

*Executive Director, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum*

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Courtesy of Melanie Adams.

network with each other and exhibitors. In order to better fit the online format, meeting session will be spread across three days (Thursday to Saturday), and there will be no pre-conference workshop. All session will be hosted on Zoom. Meeting registrants will be emailed a program with Zoom links for each session. Not familiar with Zoom? Joining a meeting is easy! All you do is click the link. Please watch this [one-minute video](#) for basic instructions on joining an event. You can also do a test connection at [zoom.us/test](https://zoom.us/test).

We are very excited to welcome Melanie Adams, Director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum, for Friday's keynote discussion, "The Urgency of Now: Taking Risks to Serve Your Community." In this discussion, sponsored by Ohio Humanities, Director Adams will highlight the need for history museums to have a sense of urgency and take risks in order to transform themselves into places that are in a better position to take action and serve their community.

The keynote anchors a selection of sessions highlighting the relevance of our work, especially the 3rd installment of an ongoing discussion previously called "Relevance is not a Dirty Word." This year's session will be early Thursday evening, and we'll invite attendees to discuss their "Relevance in a World with Bigger Problems." The relevance track also includes sessions on best practices for an American-Indian relations policy, case studies of community engagement, two sessions on oral history projects, the Ohio Women's History Project, community archives, two sessions on historic house museums and extending the relevance of the experience they provide, engaging youth volunteers, making videos to engage communities in their history, and much more!

Make sure to register for the annual meeting by September 25th so that you don't miss out on this great professional development opportunity! Full details (including the conference program) are available at [ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting/](https://ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting/). ■

A poster for the Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting. The top section is red with the text "JOIN US ONLINE" in a small grey box, followed by "HISTORY IS HAPPENING NOW!" in large white letters. Below this is a grey section with "OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE" and "Annual Meeting" in bold black letters, and "OCTOBER 1-3, 2020" below. The bottom section is black with the Ohio Local History Alliance logo (a grid of colored squares), the text "OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE Inspire. Connect. Educate.", and "INFORMATION &amp; REGISTRATION: ohiolha.org". On the right side of the black section, it lists membership rates: "\$40/member", "\$50/non-member", "\$20/student or unemployed", and contact information for Dr. Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, including the website "ohiolha.org/ohiohistory.org" and phone number "614-297-2538".



# Young People and Old Places

by Terrie Puckett, Executive Director, The Grail in the U.S.; and, OLHA Region 8 Representative

**F**or the second summer and with Covid-19 precautions in place, The Grail's Summer Young Adult Work Initiative brought in 18 young adults (aged 15-22) to help out on property. Last week, I took advantage of having this captive audience to conduct a less than scientific focus group on history museums/sites. We all want to know how to bring in a more active youth demographic. Here is what I discovered.

## Background:

- Seven took part
- None have history as an academic focus area
- For 4 the last history class taken was US History required for high school graduation
- The other 3 took college courses that are very specific: Roman Myths, Democracy: The Best Worst Form of Government, and American Film History
- Of the last history museums/sites visited, almost all said THEY did not make the choice of going but had the choice made for them (parents or school).
- Most said rarely when asked about going to historic museums/sites pre Covid-19
- None took part in any online museum activities due to Covid-19

After sitting them down with a brief questionnaire, I hear the first (of many), "Terrie?"

"Does Government count as a history class?" No, and let's have a conversation about the focus on STEM education pushing history and non-STEM classes to the bare minimum due to limited resources in many school districts.

"What counts as a history museum/site?" I will admit, this one stymied me, because of COURSE I know what an historic museum/site is how hard can that question be? Then I tried to come up with a definition that covered it all, and realized it was easier just to name examples. So I did, albeit with frustration because two in the room I know had gone to Washington, DC WITH ME. One offered: American History Museum? Yes. Natural History Museum? No. Spy Museum? Highly specific, but YES! Now we were on a roll.

And then the roll stopped, "Terrie, when I ride the bike trail I stop and read all the historic markers...does that count as visiting an historic site?" Sure? (and Andy Verhoff will be so happy to hear this). Another followed with, "Terrie, I like to go to old abandoned places to explore and then research the history around it...does THAT count?" yes??? (do your parents know? and please be safe).

## Lesson 1: History Should be Everywhere

What we learned from this exchange is that this age IS interested in history, but not necessarily recognizing it in the packaging so many of our institutions utilize: a specific space, with a specific story (generally place-based), told in a specific way. Yes, they have been to museums, but couldn't categorize what makes one a history museum or not. There was discussion on why **AREN'T art museums also considered history museums when you take into account the labels and stories told about culture, civilizations, artists, epochs, and style?**

History is also everywhere, from the bike trails to the abandoned spaces, and these young adults are finding it there, in situ as it were, and not removed and re-presented elsewhere. This method of historical education is curiosity driven and open to **multiple interpretations, and better yet, dynamic, accessible and reflective of whoever is seeking the knowledge rather than confined to the culture of the one who curates a specific story or interpretation.** However, this can mean a lack of academic rigor to the knowledge they are gaining, as these spaces are not heavily curated or interpreted.

As history museums/sites, how can we utilize this curiosity in every day spaces to begin the search and understanding that leads folks to being excited about history AND provide some lightly curated information? Perhaps we can do more partnerships for displays along bike trails or in unexpected spaces like store fronts (thinking of the wonderful Walnut Hills art/history project of ads on an abandoned store reflecting the story of displaced African-American communities and businesses due to white progress). Where else can we be that invites folks to feel the adventure of discovery (leading them to our institutions)? Solving the mystery—the search--(and not the accuracy of the plot) is why movies like Indiana Jones, National Treasure and Lara Croft are such fun. The adventure is a gateway to subjects that many find dry and unentertaining. These teens show that we can use that—if we get out of our own space.

## Lesson 2: Keep Evolving

When asked "If you ruled the world of historical museums/sites, what would you do differently in order to attract visitors/participants like yourself?" they replied:

- Change the scenery/artifacts/art/STUFF around every once in a while.
- Draw parallels between historically relevant topics and current kids' interests, e.g. talk about what kids did for fun years ago (my edit—kids of all ages, not just little ones. Include teens like them).
- Show how the history in question affected the present day.

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- Have welcome staff be more accepting of people. If someone is coming that means they probably have an interest in history, so don't try and belittle them.
- Lower ticket prices (student discount), utilize social media for advertising, make exhibits more interactive.
- More advertising on social media platforms, more pictures/descriptions of the place and what it is about, making an appointment to go to a place is off-putting—should be allowed to walk in, welcome teenagers and younger people, don't attack them for being there.
- I would make sure that younger people feel welcome to historical sites. Many times as a young person people are dismissive to me because they think my friends and I are only there with bad intentions. I think they have a hard time believing that teenagers genuinely want to learn about history. I also would make sure things smell nicer and look cleaner.

It sounds like at least three of the seven had a bad experience of being unwelcome in a space, and once inside there was no reason to come back. At OLHA's Annual Meeting there have been a lot of conversations about changing an organization to be relevant to the community (**another session this year**). These answers reflect a LOT of baggage to unpack around history being "off limits" to some, and of the concurrent mindset that "we want new folks to come, as long as they let us keep doing exactly what we have always done." A few years ago, several churches began "radical hospitality" programs, looking at their spaces and their cultures from the perspective of an outsider and discovering there is a large chasm between being welcoming and radical hospitality. Our organizations face the same challenge, and feel frustration when we THINK we are being welcoming, but without the hoped for return on that investment. We become cynical and give up on trying as a lost cause and not worth the effort. We are being welcoming within OUR context but we have not understood the need of radical hospitality. If you haven't, check out both relevance and radical hospitality as concepts and start a conversation at your organization.

### Lesson 3: Get the Word(s) Out

When asked, "What advice would you give leadership to attract folks like you to volunteer or become a member?" they responded:

- I would suggest putting efforts in reaching out to younger people. I quite honestly very rarely hear about opportunities to volunteer/join membership.
- Please use Instagram more! Give "sneak peeks" of exhibits and post various museum attractions every day. The Cincinnati Zoo Instagram page is a great exemplar. Also, most students do not find museums worth \$30 tickets and \$10 parking passes. Anywhere from \$0-15 is far more doable for all teenagers. Offering ticket/parking pass discounts to students will attract more traffic. Finally, the more interactive the exhibit, the better. If there are things students can touch, watch, or listen to, they will be more likely to

attend rather than exhibit with only artifacts to view.

- Try and be flexible with when they can volunteer, if you want them to come back give them a popsicle or something like that to show you appreciated their help (side note, we stock popsicles for the crew so hence the very specific suggestion), give a list of jobs to do. One repetitive thing can turn people away especially if that's all they do every time they volunteer.
- More welcoming to young people. Treat volunteers with respect and kindness, be appreciative of volunteers. More advertising on tv/social media. Say benefits of becoming a member or volunteer. Speak about what the organization stands for and believes in. Give straight-forward instructions on how to become a member or volunteer and what to do when volunteering.

This question led to a conversation around internships and college volunteers, and how come their non-history departments never hear about opportunities? They see how their skills are needed regardless of the academic focus area. There was also discussion on methods of outreach by generation. So one lesson is to meet folks where they are, whether it is advertising outside our narrow lane (history majors) and/or investing in the right social media as a matter of course, not an afterthought. That is key, intentional outreach vs an add-on if we have time/money. Our budgets reflect what we value. If we want younger folks then our budgets need to include resources that will place our institutions within their sphere reinforcing that their participation is sought after and desired, not just tolerated.

Worth noting, aside from once again sharing the need for dynamism with exhibits and stories, is the line "Speak about what the organization stands for and believes in." Take a moment and consider these words, because they are such a large part of why other organizations get younger volunteers, members, donors. How often do we say the words "This is what we believe in. This is what we stand for." What do our exhibits, initiatives, lessons, reflect about what we stand for? In 2020 we are once again hit with the tussle over whether or not a museum should be a bystander or an active participant. Our mission statements often use words like collect, preserve, educate, share, display, teach, conserve, save but do not use the second half of the implied statement—WHY? WHY is it important to do ANY of these? If we can't articulate fully—verbally and through our collections and stories—why our history is important why would someone choose to give their time (a limited resource) to help us advance our mission?

And say THE words: thank you. Thank you for volunteering. Thank you for coming out to this event. Thank you for giving your thoughts. Thank you for standing alongside us. Oh, and help yourself to a popsicle in the freezer!

Join the conversation with your colleagues statewide at the Ohio Local History Alliance Facebook group:

[www.facebook.com/groups/OhioLHAMembers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OhioLHAMembers)

# Alliance Historical Society

The deadline for applications to the Ohio History Fund is fast approaching: October 1, 2020. To demonstrate how members of the Ohio Local History Alliance have used grants to better their organizations, here's a case study from the all-volunteer Alliance Historical Society in Stark and Mahoning Counties. The content is excerpted from History Fund grantees' application and final project reports and information from the society.

We hope this article, one in an occasional series titled "Funding Brighter Futures: Local History + the History Fund," inspires you to submit your application for this year or is a reminder for next year (deadline TBD). For more information about the History Fund, including an application, eligibility requirements, and deadlines, visit [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund) or contact program coordinator, Andy Verhoff, [averhoff@ohiohistory.org](mailto:averhoff@ohiohistory.org)

**T**he Mabel Hartzell Historical Home of the Alliance Historical Society. A grant from the Ohio History Fund helped the society replace quarter century-old asphalt shingle roof with a historically accurate and long-lasting standing-seam metal roof, the kind the house's namesake would have recognized. Unless noted, all images are courtesy of the Alliance Historical Society.

## What did the project accomplish?

Mabel Hartzell (1875-1954) taught Latin, physics, and social science at Alliance High School for 30 years, helped to found the Alliance Historical Society, and was active in many civic organizations. She left her home to the society in her will. As any good steward of a community's history, the all-volunteer society cared for the house, making repairs as needed. In 1992, that included a new asphalt shingle roof. Fast forward 25 years. The roof was now at the end of its useful life, which was confirmed in 2016 during a "house call" from the Building Doctors, a program of Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office. The society turned to the Ohio History Fund for help in 2017.

According to its website, the Alliance Historical Society "was founded for the promotion of historical studies of the City of Alliance and its surrounding areas. Members of the Society collect, preserve, and organize historical materials and work with area schools and community organizations to present historical programs." A cornerstone of those efforts is preserving and sharing collections inside the Hartzell House. Following a path trod by other successful History Fund applications, the society's all-volunteer grant writers explained that a new roof would not only protect the house, but also the artifacts cared for and activities taking place therein. To make their case, the grant writers cited the Building Doctors: "The roof is the best defense in protecting the home, its walls, and its contents from the elements."

What "put the cherry on top" of the application, however, was



HISTORY FUND GRANT RECIPIENT:

**Alliance Historical Society**

PROJECT TITLE:

**Rehabilitating the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home Roof**

CATEGORY:

**Bricks & Mortar**

AWARD:

**\$13,240**

MATCHING AMOUNT FROM THE APPLICANT:

**\$15,946**

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

**\$29,186**

GRANT YEAR:

**2017-2018 (sixth year of the History Fund)**

ALLIANCE MEMBER SINCE:

**1989**

the assertion that the kind of roof the society wanted to install would more convincingly recreate the house's historic appearance. According to the society's research, the residence had a standing-seam metal roof during the "period of (historical) significance," indicated in the house's National Register of Historic Places' application as 1900-1924. Replacing the roof like so met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of historic properties, one of which states that "the historic character of a property will be retained and preserved."

(continued on page 8)



The house at 840 N. Park Ave., Alliance that would become the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home. This photo, c. 1900, and others proved that the house had a standing-seam metal roof during its period of significance and that the new roof is historically accurate.

With the History Fund grant and the required minimum 40% match, the society completed the History Fund-supported replacement of the roof in 2018. Since then, the society has undertaken repairs to second floor ceilings damaged by leaks caused by the old roof, and returned to exhibit quilts removed from beds to protect them from water damage. Plans include repointing bricks, where needed, and re-creating roof railings and window shutters to match the house's turn-of-the-nineteenth century appearance. Fulfilling its mission in the time of COVID-19 also inspired the organization

to create the YouTube series "Marking Time in Alliance."

### Who benefits from the project?

A new, historically accurate roof on the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home benefits many constituents, beside the roofer who won the contract. Although the coronavirus pandemic has limited in-person visits currently, all can still see the home with a period-accurate roof, which enhances the house's street appeal. Rehabilitating and maintaining the house also proves



Representatives of the Alliance Historical Society received their "big check" at Statehood Day 2018. L to R: Burt Logan, executive director & CEO, Ohio History Connection; Karen Perone and Dave McMahon, board members, Alliance Historical Society, and Robert Lucas, president, Ohio History Connection. Photo courtesy the Ohio History Connection.

to area citizens that the historical society is a good steward of its property and, by extension, the area's history.

As important are the activities that take place in the newly re-roofed house. After the threat of COVID-19 is relieved, the society once more looks forward to welcoming visitors Hartzell House on a regular basis. Almost 200 third-graders make a field trip to the house, as a part of their requirement to study local history. Besides visitors during the city's Carnation Festival in August, about 400 people see the house per year.

If you're in Alliance, stop by to see the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home: [alliancehistory.org](http://alliancehistory.org). "Like" them on Facebook at [facebook.com/alliancehistory](https://www.facebook.com/alliancehistory) and see them on YouTube: [youtube.com/alliancehistory](https://www.youtube.com/alliancehistory).

Thanks to Karen Perone and Michelle Dillon of the Alliance Historical Society for reviewing this article.



"Before." Water stains are evidence of the roof leaks in the attic.



"During." Photo taken by a drone showing the completed upper level roof and a partially completed south-facing roof over the kitchen.



"After." Completed sections of the house as in the "During" image, taken at ground level.



# Welsh Imprint on the Landscape of Gallia and Jackson Counties

By Jeanne Jones Jindra, Director,  
Madog Center for Welsh Studies, Region 9

**T**he first Welshman to enter the Ohio territory was Rev. David Jones, a missionary with the Shawnee and Delaware Indians in 1772-73. Ezekiel Hughes and Edward Bebb, from Llanbryn-mair, North Wales, were responsible for the first permanent Welsh settlements in Ohio when they persuaded a company of fifty Welsh in their neighborhood to emigrate to America. These became the pioneer settlers of Paddy's Run in Butler County and the Welsh Hills in Licking County. Paddy's Run is indirectly responsible for the Welsh settlement of Jackson and Gallia Counties in southern Ohio. In the spring of 1818, thirty-five extended family members, led by Patriarch John Jones (Tirbach), left Cilcennin, Cardiganshire, South Wales, to join the Welsh community at Paddy's Run. After four weeks crossing the Atlantic, they arrived at Baltimore and hired wagons to carry them to Pittsburg, where they traded the wagons for flatboats to float down the Ohio River towards Cincinnati. The river journey was perilous, and being short of provisions, they stopped at the riverfront at Gallipolis and were warmly welcomed by the French, who had settled there years before. Having dealt with their own perils in the new land, the French tried to persuade the Welsh to stay and increase population of their settlement. Here we find two theories of what happened next. During the night a violent storm raged and the party of Welsh awoke to find their flatboats gone. Perhaps they became unmoored during the storm. Could the boat moorings have been cut loose by a Frenchman, in an attempt to get the Welsh to stay? The boats were found later, belongings intact, having drifted downriver, but the women of the party rebelled and refused to step back on them. The Welsh women prevailed and the party choose to stay, settling among the hills of north-west Gallia County, where land was purchased for \$1.24/acre. This group of accidental settlers was to become the nucleus of one of most flourishing and influential Welsh settlements in the state. In 1835, Rev. Edward Jones came to organize a Calvinistic Methodist Church. When he returned to Wales, he wrote a travel brochure, *Y Teithiwr Americanaidd (The American Traveler)*, describing Gallia and Jackson Counties as the most favorable place in Ohio for immigrants to settle. Thus began "the Great Welsh Tide" as thousands of Welsh flooded into these two counties which became known as "Little Cardiganshire" for the area of Wales they left behind.

The Welsh brought their Bibles with them and met in homes for religious services until Moriah Calvinistic Methodist Church was built in the center of Madison Township in 1836. It was given special status as *ein mam ni oll*, the mother of us all. Under the leadership of Rev. Robert Williams, other CM chapels were gradually established in a ring around Moriah. By 1880,



Nebo Congregational Chapel

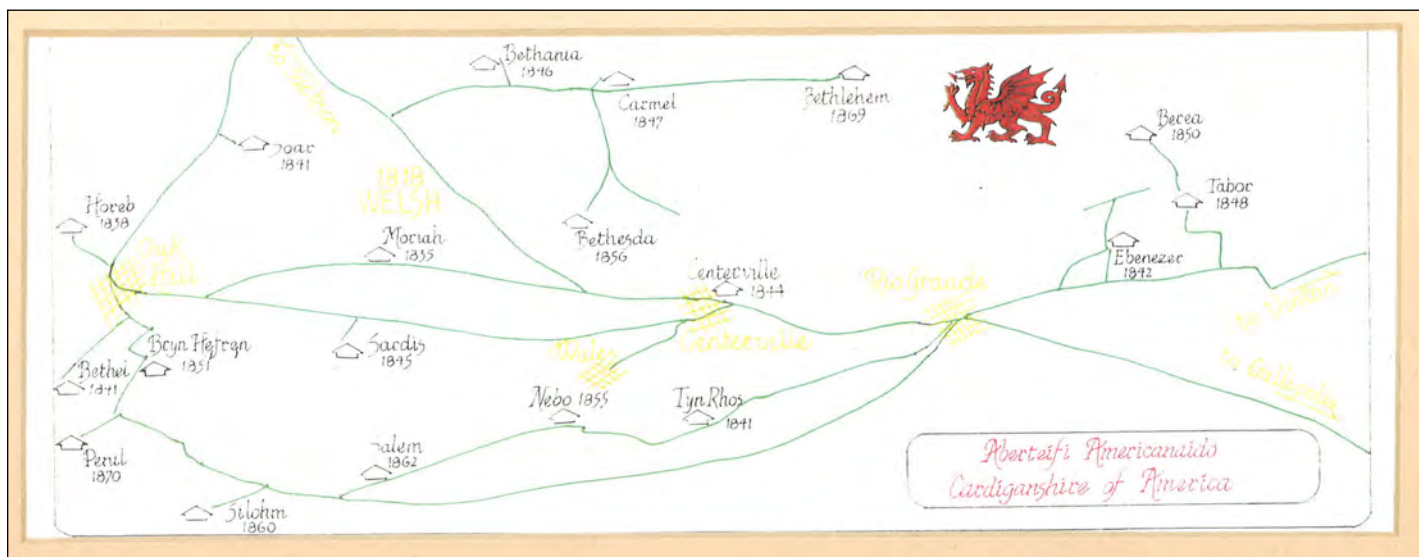


Welsh-American Heritage Museum

there were 13 CM Churches in Gallia and Jackson Counties. The Congregationalist Chapels were fewer in number, and built on the periphery of the counties. By 1860 there were 7 chapels built. The Welsh Baptists built four small chapels and there was one Welsh Episcopal Chapel in Centerville from 1838-1845. Most of these chapels remain as part of the imprint left by the Welsh on the landscape of the two counties, although only a few continue to hold services. All of the remaining Welsh chapels are listed as sites on the Welsh Scenic Byway, part of the 27 byways on Ohio's Scenic Byways Program.

Although Gallia/Jackson was a rural agricultural settlement, it was part of a larger regional economy where the iron industry played an important role. Located in the middle of the Hanging Rock Iron district, Welsh families soon banded together to build

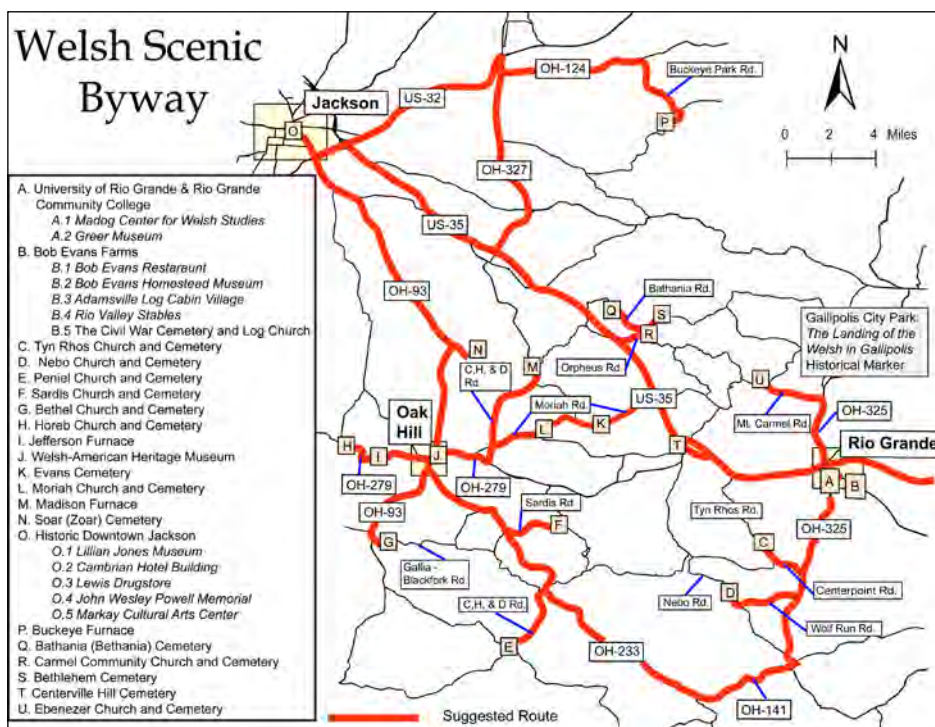
(continued on page 10)



and operate three charcoal iron furnaces. This followed the construction of a section of the Scioto and Hocking Valley Railroad through southern Jackson County in 1851. Families without cash to purchase stock in the furnaces often deeded their land for shares of furnace company stock, while retaining the rights to live in their homes. This provided furnace companies with enough timber and minerals to operate. Jefferson Furnace, in the Horeb Chapel neighborhood, was known for its high grade of cold blast iron, and unlike other furnaces, never operated on Sunday. Jefferson Furnace operated successfully until 1916, giving many Welsh investors wealth they never dreamed of. Second and third generation Welsh-Americans from southern Ohio migrated to Columbus and other larger cities in Ohio as time went on.

In 1973 the Welsh-American Heritage Museum, located in the old Congregational Church in Oak Hill, was chartered by local Welsh-Americans concerned that the rich culture and history might be forgotten. In 1993, the Madog Center for Welsh Studies was formed on the campus of University of Rio Grande with the mission to foster understanding and appreciation for Welsh history and contemporary Welsh culture. Both the museum and the Madog Center are filled with relics brought over by the Welsh, chapel records, photographs and contemporary Welsh items. The Madog Center has an extensive resource library soon to be available through Ohio Link. We offer ge-

Drawing of Cardiganshire of America



Welsh Scenic Byway map

nealogy assistance to those researching a relative who may have lived in southern Ohio. The Welsh Scenic Byway is another project of the Center. Through a partnership with University of Wales-Trinity Saint David, in Wales, Rio students can choose to spend a semester on our study abroad program, while Trinity students can study on our campus. The annual Madog Faculty Fellowship program awards a stipend to a faculty member to

conduct research in Wales and present a paper on campus. We assist the Welsh Museum with events, as the annual Gymanfa, or preaching/singing festival, held in late September, We are proud that the Jackson City Schools continues to hold the Welsh tradition of Eisteddfod or singing competition, each year.

Through these efforts, it is our mission to keep the Welsh pioneers' story alive for generations to come.

# Creating and Promoting Specialty Tours

by Tammi Mackey Shrum,  
Historic Site Director, Historic Zoar Village

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has forced us all to step back and reevaluate our operations. Programming and tours faced a major overhaul for Historic Zoar Village and Fort Laurens as I am sure they did for many of you too. Historic Zoar Village had traditionally only offered guided tours on two days of the week with Friday, Saturday, and Sunday offering self-guided, explore at your pace tours. After much consideration, the decision was made to do away with the self-guided component as to better track guests and limit the areas in which we would need to clean. The nature of our tours was not the only element to adapt. A series of specialty tours were written to begin to offer to guests. Trends and surveys online showed that many visitors would be traveling closer to home in 2020 if they were able to travel. With this in mind, we anticipated a local audience that had perhaps visited Zoar in the past. This audience would want something new, a fresh look at the history of the village. The topics came from questions of past visitors and areas that we knew could fill an hour-long tour on their own.

Another reason for creating these specialty tours was to get visitors outside and to utilize the space to help us remain socially distant. There are also several buildings in Zoar that are often not visited during a regular guided tour. These topics were also broad enough that they could still appeal to a first-time visitor to Zoar. Wanting to incorporate more buildings, utilize outdoor spaces, and create a diverse set of tours, we set to work on a new tour series. Our first specialty tour focused on the dairy industry in Zoar, “Till the Cows

Come Home.” Our next tour created was “From Sheep to Shawl.” This focused on the textile industry in Zoar. Each tour has a set route for our tour guides to follow and each tour guide is given a binder with large pictures to show visitors. The pictures depict what a building looked like during the time of the Society of Separatists of Zoar and other related pictures. For example, the Dairy Tour binder features pictures of the cows in Zoar and the breed of cattle they kept. “Back to School” was the next tour with a focus on school and children’s life in Zoar. The last specialty tour that we focused on was the “Art of Zoar.” The focus of this tour was on the artwork that features Zoar and the many artists that have ventured to Zoar. “The Art of Zoar” takes guests all around the village and has a binder full of wonderful pieces of art from artists such as August Biehle, Frederick Gottwald, and Adam Lehr.

We promoted the specialty tours as something new and exciting. A new spin on the regular history tours of Zoar. If you had already toured Zoar, these tours were a great incentive to return. Our tour guides have had a lot of fun with the specialty tours. The tour guides always wish that they could tell more of the complex and intricate, but the hour and a half tour time does not allow them to do so. Specialty tours allow them to tell more of the history that they love so much. The guides enjoyed getting the new information and their binders full of information. The excitement from the new tours has boosted morale in the tour guides who were feeling the effects of the COVID-19 shutdowns. Many of the guides have suggested new ideas for future specialty tours that they would like to see for the future. Overall, the specialty tours have helped Historic Zoar Village arise from the pandemic in multiple ways. The specialty tours have been a boost to morale, storytelling, and visitor experience.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Jane Wildermuth

*New Head, Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University*

Wright State University is pleased to announce that Jane Wildermuth will be the new Head of the Special Collections and Archives Department in the University Libraries.

Jane has worked at the University Libraries for 22 years. Her first seven years were as an Archivist in the Special Collections and Archives Department, providing reference and outreach services, teaching classes in the Public History program, and processing collections. In 2006 she created and became the Department Head of the brand new Digital Initiatives and Repository Services Department, responsible for maintaining CORE Scholar, the Libraries’ institutional repository (archives for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital materials) and digitizing our historical collections. In her new role, Jane will combine her experience in both areas as the talented staff and outstanding services of both departments merge under her leadership.

## Celebrate Archives Month by Honoring the Accomplishments of an Ohio Archival Institution

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board 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
- 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-pt, 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.

Send nominations via email or U.S. mail to:

**Tina Ratcliff**  
County Records & Information Manager  
Montgomery County Records Center & Archives  
117 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 972  
Dayton, OH 45422  
937.496.6932  
[ratcliff@mcoho.org](mailto:ratcliff@mcoho.org)

**Nominations must be received by October 9, 2020.**

Self-nominations are encouraged.

## OHRAB Professional Development Scholarships

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is pleased to announce a development opportunity for students, volunteers and records professionals.

OHRAB, in conjunction with the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has allocated \$1,200 annually in scholarship aid to support continuing archival education for graduate students and individuals who care for the historic record. The Board will award scholarships to assist individuals in attending a professional development opportunity of their choosing.

Due to COVID-19, we are expanding the scholarship to include virtual meetings and webinars. The scholarship is available to those who have already paid for their registration to late-summer meetings or conferences, such as the Society of American Archivist's annual meeting.

Funding is available to support attendance at development opportunities offered by such organizations as:

- The Midwest Archives Conference,
- The Society of American Archivists,
- The Society of Ohio Archivists,
- The Ohio Local History Alliance,
- The Academic Library Association of Ohio,
- The Ohio Municipal Clerks Association,
- The International Institute of Municipal Clerk,
- The Ohio Township Association,
- The Ohio Genealogical Society
- Other professional development opportunities subject to approval by OHRAB

Applicants must be individuals who are full-time (minimum of 9 credits) graduate students currently enrolled in an Ohio institution of higher education; individuals working or volunteering in an Ohio library, archive, special collection, or government repository; individuals who serve as a state, county, municipal, or township official or their designee whose main responsibilities is to maintain public records; and those who work or volunteer in other roles caring for or providing access to records within the State of Ohio.

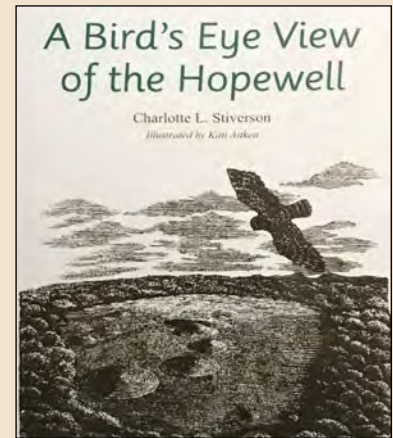
For more details, see the [OHRAB website](#).

## *A Bird's Eye View of the Hopewell*

### **Children's Picture Book Provides Introduction to Ohio's Ancient American Indian Hopewell Culture**

Written by Charlotte Stiverson, Illustrated by Kati Aitken

Travel with Owl and her friends as she uses her knowledge and observations to offer insights into how early Ohioans, known in today's world as the Hopewell Culture, may have lived. Geared for elementary school-aged children, *A Bird's Eye View of the Hopewell*, shares ideas about life in prehistoric times over 2000 years ago. A glossary, resource list, and maps are included to extend the information and provide opportunities for further research and discussion. Illustrations by Kati Aitken are done in pen and ink and woodblock prints. This is a perfect book for classrooms and students studying Ohio history and for visitors to the prehistoric Hopewell sites who are looking for a concise and entertaining summary.



*"Charlotte Stiverson's 'A Bird's Eye View of the Hopewell' is a delightful and well-researched introduction to Ohio's ancient American Indian Hopewell culture."*

—Brad Lepper, Ohio History Connection, Senior Curator of Archaeology

## WEBINAR

### **Collecting the Now, from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)**

**September 8, 2020 | 10:00am ET, Free**

How do we collect objects from diverse communities in an inclusive way? What are the preconditions when it comes to collecting a crisis? How can we be mindful in collecting? Can we think of contemporary collecting as a strategy for collective care? Danielle Kuijten will be joining CCAHA for a discussion about the challenges of collecting in the now. She will share some experiences on community collecting, enhancing the importance of actively engaging with people and documenting directly, while keeping situations relevant and manageable.

This is a free webinar with opportunity to pose questions to the speaker and join the discussion across borders on preserving community through collections.

#### **Meet the Speaker:**

Danielle Kuijten is the Co-Curator of Imagine IC. Imagine IC is the first cultural organization in the Netherlands to highlight the culture and identity of migrants as seen from their own perspective. Imagine IC documents, presents and discusses daily life in the neighborhood and the city, with the aim of complementing the heritage of the city and the country. Imagine IC is a 'pioneer in the heritage of current living together'.

[Click here to register.](#)

## WEBINAR

### **Latino Genealogy**

**Saturday September 19, 2020 | 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Free**

Explore how to trace your Latino roots in the United States with Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Multicultural Collections Coordinator of the Indiana Historical Society, Archive & Library Division. Learn the history of Latino immigration in the early 20th century and how to use online sources both free and subscription websites to discover your ancestors.

Advance registration required. Registration will close Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

[Click here to register.](#)

Or Call 800-686-1541.



*Image courtesy of Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society.*

## Speak Up for Ohio Museums Day

### The 9th Annual *Speak Up for Ohio Museums Day* is Monday, October 5, 2020

It's once again time for museums across Ohio to join together and *Speak Up* about what makes our organizations vital cornerstones of our communities!

The Ohio Museums Association is proud to organize our ninth annual *Speak Up For Ohio Museums Day*, October 5, 2020.

Advocacy is a crucial function for museums as a way of connecting to elected officials who make important funding decisions that affect our institutions. It is our responsibility as museum professionals to inform these officials of the ways in which our institutions enrich students' educational experiences, provide important and engaging programs, and preserve the cultural heritage of our communities.

As a way of banding together our resources to voice the need for museums as a vital component to quality of life, the Ohio Museums Association has created *Speak Up For Ohio Museums Day*, to be held annually on the first Monday in October, during National Arts and Humanities Month.

### Advocacy for Museums Matters!

When you make advocacy part of your normal operations, you are creating a win-win situation for both your museum and museums at-large. Issues that affect you as an institution affect institutions across the museum field. Engaging in regular advocacy means you will be in a better position to have a favorable impact on local, state, or federal policies that affect your museum.

Nearly every legislator in Congress represents at least one museum within their congressional district — museums are available to citizens and visitors across the country, serving as sources of education, and places of reflection, contemplation, and connection with others. Every elected official should be informed about the public services of the museums they represent. And they need to hear it from you!

### There has never been a more important time to connect with your elected officials!

Advocating for your museum and museums across the state is not just an important act during election time — it is an essential mission all year to communicate with your elected officials, and the public, the importance of our institutions in our communities. Don't wait until your museum's future is on the ballot! Building a relationship now, based on an exchange of information, makes it easier to communicate with your legislators when the need for an "ask" arrives.

During this year's *Speak Up For Ohio Museums Day*, OMA encourages Ohio institutions to explore the many advocacy resources available on the [OMA Advocacy page](#). *Speak Up For Ohio Museums Day* on October 5 is the perfect time to spread the word about the importance of your museum and museums across the state - to your members, community, and elected officials - and encourage them to *Speak Up* about the crucial role of museums in our communities.

There are several ways you can participate:

- Contact your [local or state officials](#) with news about your museum
- Invite your elected officials to an upcoming event at your museum
- Schedule a virtual visit or virtual meeting with your elected officials and their office
- Highlight how your museum has impacted your community during the coronavirus pandemic, and how COVID-19 has affected your museum
- Follow up and share your outreach efforts with other museum professionals and members of your community
- Highlight the impact of your advocacy through social media
- [Send a letter or email](#) to legislators at the local, state, and federal level about a current issue with the potential to impact museums
- OMA has also provided a template for a [General Advocacy Letter](#) that can be personalized and used to communicate with local, state and national legislators. This great letter has statewide museum facts, and easy fill-in-the-blank sections that allows you to easily share your museum's information and statistics. A great way to introduce yourself and your museum, or to keep in contact with your elected officials!
- Follow your local, state, and national elected officials on their - Facebook, Twitter and blogs!
- Write an [Economic and Educational Impact statement](#) to highlight your museum's impact on the community

These few examples are just the tip of the iceberg — there are so many ways you can help advocate for your museum, and we want to hear what you are doing at your institution! Send an email to [oma@ohiohistory.org](mailto:oma@ohiohistory.org) and tell us what advocacy efforts you are taking at your museum.

And, don't forget to submit your museum's photos and brief description of why your museum is vital to your community for OMA's 2020 photostory by September 14!

Learn more about this year's photostory and how to submit your information [here](#).

We also encourage you to post your advocacy efforts, ideas and questions on our [Facebook](#) wall and on [Twitter](#). Be sure to follow [#SupportOhioMuseums](#) on social media, and use the hashtag for all your *Speak Up For Ohio Museums Day* posts.

Keep watching OMA's social media pages for more advocacy information and inspiration.

Best of luck in your advocacy activities! Let's all work hard on October 5, 2020 to *Speak Up For Ohio Museums!*

## 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

## Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** has again achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public. OHC was initially accredited in 2005. All museums must undergo a reaccreditation review to maintain accredited status.

## Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

## Region 5

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

The **Dennison Railroad Depot Museum** kicked off its Phase 9 Restoration Project: The restoration of a historic Pullman Coach that will become a unique Bed & Breakfast on the Depot's campus. This is an ODOT Transportation Project with additional funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission and local Foundations. The project should be ready for overnight visitors later this year.

**Historic Schoenbrunn Village** has added a new cabin to the Village, courtesy of the Ohio History Connection. The cabin replaces one of the original reconstructed cabins from the 1920s that had been torn down in late 2009. This cabin brings the Village back to 17 cabins on site. Another cabin reconstruction is planned as the Village approaches its 250th Anniversary. Construction was done by Lepi Construction of Zanesville, Ohio.

## Region 6

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

*No Mere Button-Pressers: Clarence H. White, Ema Spencer, and The Newark Camera Club*, a joint exhibition by the Columbus Museum of Art and **The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology**. *No Mere Button-Pressers* will be on view at CMA from August 1 through December 13, 2020 and at The Works from July 18 through December 28. The joint installations explore the time White spent in Newark, Ohio, before he left for New York where he became a leading Pictorialist photographer and co-founder of the Photo-Secession movement.

## Region 7

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

## 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

## Region 10

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

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 3 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at [ohiolha@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ohiolha@ohiohistory.org). Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for "News from the Regions" are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Joined or renewed between June 24 and August 17, 2020

## Welcome New Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Robert M. Dawson, *Arlington, Virginia*

### ORGANIZATIONS

McKinley Presidential Library & Museum, *Canton*

## Thank You Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Sarah Aisenbrey, *Dayton*

Carol A. Guzzo, *Maumee*

Eileen Litchfield, *Greenville*

Amy Rohmiller, *Kettering*

Beth Weinhardt, *Westerville*

### ORGANIZATIONS

103rd OVI Memorial Foundation,  
*Sheffield Lake*

Adena Mansion & Gardens  
Society, *Chillicothe*

Armstrong Air & Space Museum  
Association, *Wapakoneta*

Baltimore Community Museum,  
*Baltimore*

Bellevue Historical Society &  
Heritage Museum, *Bellevue*

Bellevue Public Library, *Bellevue*

Bucyrus Historical Society,  
*Bucyrus*

Chagrin Falls Historical Society,  
*Chagrin Falls*

Champaign County Historical  
Society, *Urbana*

Cortland Bazetta Historical  
Society, *Cortland*

Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and  
Sailors' Monument, *Cleveland*

Darke County Historical Society,  
*Greenville*

Delhi Historical Society,  
*Cincinnati*

Fairfield County Heritage  
Association, *Lancaster*

Fairfield County Parks District,  
*Lancaster*

Fort Meigs Association,  
*Perrysburg*

Fort Recovery Historical Society,  
*Fort Recovery*

Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe  
House, *Cincinnati*

Friends of the Museums, Inc.,  
*Marietta*

Grandview Heights Marble Cliff  
Historical Society, *Columbus*

Historic Lyme Village Association,  
*Bellevue*

Historic Perrysburg Inc,  
*Perrysburg*

Historic Schoenbrunn Village,  
*Dennison*

Johnston Farm Friends Council,  
*Piqua*

Maumee Valley Heritage  
Corridor Inc, *Napoleon*

McKinley Memorial Library, *Niles*

McKinley Presidential Library &  
Museum, *Canton*

Morrow County Historical  
Society, *Mount Gilead*

Olmsted Historical Society,  
*Olmsted Falls*

Perry Historical Society of Lake  
County, *Perry*

Plymouth Area Historical Society,  
*Plymouth*

Ripley Heritage, Inc., *Ripley*

Risingsun Area Historical Society,  
*Fostoria*

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential  
Library & Museums, *Fremont*

Southeast Ohio History Center,  
*Athens*

Sutliff Museum, *Warren*

Trenton Historical Society,  
*Trenton*

Trotwood-Madison Historical  
Society, *Trotwood*

Uhrichville Clay Museum,  
*Dennison*

Van Wert County Historical  
Society, *Van Wert*

Westerville Historical Society,  
*Westerville*

Worthington Historical Society,  
*Worthington*

Wyandot County Archaeological  
& Historical Society, *Upper  
Sandusky*

Youngstown State University  
History Dept, *Youngstown*

### SEPTEMBER 8:

Webinar: Collecting the Now. For more information, see page x.

### SEPTEMBER 14:

Photos due for OMA's 2020 Photostory. For more information, see page x.

### SEPTEMBER 19:

Latino Genealogy Webinar. For more information, see page x.

### OCTOBER 1:

Ohio History Fund Grant Applications Due. For more information, see [ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://ohiohistory.org/historyfund).

### OCTOBER 1-3:

OLHA Annual Meeting, online. For more information, see page 1.

### OCTOBER 5:

Speak up for Ohio Museums Day. For more information, see page x.

### OCTOBER 9:

OHRAB Achievement Award Nominations Due. For more information, see page x.

## On the Web

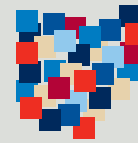
## Charitable Ohio

[charitable.ohioago.gov](http://charitable.ohioago.gov)

The Ohio Attorney General has created a new website to put all their resources by and for non-profit organizations in one place. At this site, you can take care of registering your non-profit (and learn why you need to) and find resources for educating yourself and your board members on topics such as the responsibilities of board members, liquor permits for non-profits, avoiding theft, and opening or closing a non-profit. The website provides a one-stop shop for non-profit regulations and resources in Ohio.



# JOIN THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE...



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

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

## Organizational Member

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

### Operating budget:

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	(\$65 for 2)
Individual:	\$50	(\$90 for 2)
Student:	\$20	

## Business Member:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

### Join at:

[www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx](http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx)

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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[ehedler@ohiohistory.org](mailto:ehedler@ohiohistory.org)

Visit The Alliance online at  
[www.ohiolha.org](http://www.ohiolha.org) and on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance](https://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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**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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