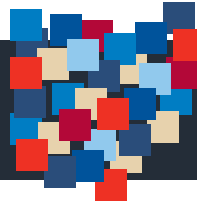


THE Local Historian



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

History Matters! at 2017 Regional Meetings

*By Betsy Hedler,
Partnerships Coordinator,
Ohio History Connection,
Columbus*



It's the time of year when we start looking forward to spring, and to regional meetings! Regardless of what the changeable Ohio weather dishes out to us in March and April, regional meeting hosts will offer a warm welcome; and the chance to connect with colleagues old and new will brighten the cloudiest day. As you prepare your facilities, staff, programs, and other aspects of your operations for the busy summer season, the Ohio Local History Alliance's Regional Meetings are here to help. Regional meetings offer educational and networking opportunities to gain new knowledge, connect with old friends and meet new ones, find new sources of support, and share stories of successes and struggles – all of which can help you have your most successful year ever! Join us at one or more regional meetings for inspiration, engagement, and get ready for another year of sharing our rich Ohio history with the visitors who come through our doors.

In addition to the educational and networking opportunities offered by the regional meetings, they are also a golden opportunity to visit some of Ohio's best museums and historic sites. Our generous and gracious host sites for this year's meetings are ready to welcome colleagues to their museums, memorials, and historic places. We can't thank them enough for hosting!

In **Region 1** the **Wolcott House Museum Complex** will welcome you on April 1. The meeting will take place at the Maumee Branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library down the street. The Wolcott House Museum Complex will welcome you to tour their 14-room Federal Style mansion house, schoolhouse, log house, church, depot, and farmer's house. Definitely take the chance to glimpse life in Maumee in the mid-1800s!

The **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums** hosts the **Region 2** meeting on April 8. Be sure to notice the innovative solution that makes their new front entrance accessible while maintaining the historic look of the steps as you enter the newly renovated Museum and enjoy its updated exhibits. The Rutherford B. Hayes Home, with its 31 rooms and wrap-around veranda, offers a glimpse into the life of a president and his family.

The **Region 3** meeting will be hosted by the **Wadsworth Area Historical Society** on April 1 at the Grace Lutheran Church. This beautiful historic church,

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President's Message:

It has been my honor to serve as your president for the past two years. Todd McCormick, director of the Logan County Historical Society, will be succeeding me starting January 1, 2017. I have been involved with the Ohio Local History Alliance for over two decades and believe that it has provided me with wonderful opportunities for education and many friendships in the Ohio local history community.

When I look to the future I am excited by the prospects for the organization to grow and serve its members in new and better ways. I want to call upon all of you to consider ways to aid the organization using your time, talent and treasure. There are so many ways you can make a commitment to further the cause of local history in our state. Consider hosting a regional meeting, writing a letter of advocacy for history to your elected officials, judging Ohio History Day competitions, attending Statehood Day to show your support of local history,

writing a proposal to present a session at the annual meeting, joining your colleagues at regional meetings and the fall conference and making a financial gift to the Ohio Local History Alliance.

In the words of Vince Lombardi, iconic NFL coach, "Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Beth Weinhardt

Immediate Past President, Ohio Local History Alliance
Local History Coordinator, Westerville Public Library
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Megan Malone, Director
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www.jonesmuseum.com

Region 10

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Muskingum County History, Zanesville
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www.muskingumhistory.org

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Caldwell
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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohnoble/histsoc.htm

originally built in 1919, was inspired by the Cathedral of Rheims in France. Following the meeting, the society encourages you to tour the Johnson House Museum across the street. Built around 1852 in the Vernacular Federal Style, the house has been home to generations of leading citizens in Wadsworth and continues to reflect the pride that Wadsworthians take in their city!

The **National McKinley Birthplace Memorial** hosts the **Region 4** meeting on April 8. The memorial building was dedicated in 1917 on the site where the young William McKinley attended school. The 232-foot by 136-foot monument is constructed with two lateral wings. One wing houses the McKinley Memorial Library and the other contains the McKinley Museum and an auditorium where the meeting will be held. This truly magnificent building is a fitting memorial to one of Ohio's great presidents.

Historic Zoar Village will host the **Region 5** meeting in their Schoolhouse on March 11. Regional meeting attendees will continue a long history of education at the site, where Levi Bimeler taught community students through the 8th grade. The schoolhouse later became the area's public school, with courses held there through the 1950s. Don't limit yourself to the school building, however. Zoar Village was founded in 1817 by a group of 200 German Separatists seeking escape from religious persecution in their homeland. Zoar Historic Village includes more than twenty buildings from the original settlers, and don't forget to stop by the Zoar Store for period-appropriate crafts and gifts.

The **Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society** hosts the **Region 6** meeting at the Pickerington Senior Center on March 18th. Their museum is located in a 1916 Carnegie Library. The Society has filled the main level with a collection of artifacts and memorabilia including the original town pump, antique household items, clothing, business signage and equipment, school furnishings, photographs, written histories, birth certificates, death records dating from the early 1900s, and more!

Dayton History will welcome you to Carillon Historical Park for the **Region 7** meeting on March 11. The meeting will be held in the Kettering Family Education Center. At the conclusion of the meeting and a tour of selected areas of this truly massive historic site, you're encouraged to continue to explore the park's

over 30 exhibit buildings or sit down with old friends and new to enjoy an 1850s-style brew (beer or soda) at the Carillon Brewing Company.

The **Butler County Historical Society** has a truly unique day planned for you at the **Region 8** meeting on March 25. Instead of waiting until the end of the meeting to tour the Society's beautiful Italianate Benninghofen House, you'll get to pretend to be a kid again as Kathy and Ed Creighton treat you to their Kids Tour (designed for kids and families) and then discuss how you might create a similar tour for your own museum or historic house.

In **Region 9**, the **Madog Center for Welsh Studies** will welcome you to the campus of Rio Grande University and the Welsh American Heritage Museum on March 25. After starting your day in the Davis University Center's boardroom, you'll experience true Welsh hospitality with tea, Welsh cakes, and a tour of the Welsh American Heritage Museum before continuing afternoon sessions.

On March 18, the **Belmont County Historical Society** will host the **Region 10** meeting in the Barnesville Library Annex across the street from the Belmont County Mansion Museum. This lovingly built and restored twenty-six room mansion is a true gem of a historic house. Built between 1888 and 1893, it is a splendid example of Romanesque architecture in a domestic setting.

We've got some really exciting sessions planned, and I hope to see you at more than one of them! Remember, you aren't limited to attending the meeting of the region you live or work in. You can attend any regional meeting. You'll also notice that this year, your regional meeting does not conflict with the Ohio History Day event in your region. We're glad that we could make this possible through a closer collaboration with Ohio History Day.

The brochure, with more complete descriptions of each meeting should have recently arrived in your mailbox. Copies can also be found online at <http://www.ohiolha.org/alliance-regional-meetings>. You can register by mailing in the form on the last page of the brochure or by going online to www.ohiohistory.org/register. Have questions? Call Local History Services at 1.614-297-2538 or email Betsy Hedler ehedler@ohiohistory.org. ■

On the Web

Twisted Preservation Website and Blog

<https://twistedpreservation.com/one-night-stand-series/>

TWISTED PRESERVATION® is a New York City-based cultural & Museum consulting firm known for an experimental and research-based approach to problem-solving led by Franklin Vagnone, the author of *The Anarchists Guide to Historic House Museums* (reviewed in this issue). On the blog, take special note of the "One Night Stand Series," in which Frank sleeps in historic houses and blogs about the experience and his thoughts on improving the historic house experience for visitors.

People in the News

Congratulations to Kelly Engstrom and Sarah Moell, recipients of the Alliance's J.D. Britton Scholarships to attend the Alliance Annual Meeting. The Britton Scholarship pays all Annual Meeting costs for an emerging museum professional, paid or volunteer, who has worked for two years or less in a museum setting.

Join us for Statehood Day 2017!

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

Ohio's local history advocates will once again convene at the Ohio Statehouse on March 1 to celebrate the state's birthday and to advocate for issues important to local history groups.

The annual Statehood Day event brings together Ohio's history supporters and gives you the opportunity to meet with your state legislators and network with fellow history-related professionals and advocates. You can register for the event online at www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday. The cost is \$40.

This year's event features Greg Harris, president and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum, as the keynote speaker at lunchtime. Attendees are encouraged to schedule a meeting that morning with their state representative and/or state senator to discuss public policy issues relating to history and historic preservation.

The Ohio History Connection will also announce its 2017 History Fund grant awards, funded through income tax donations from Ohioans. Ohio Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) will be recognized with the Ohio History

Leadership Award, presented annually to a state legislator who has "gone above and beyond" in promoting Ohio history.

"We're very excited to have Greg Harris from the Rock Hall with us for Statehood Day," said Todd Kleismit, director of community and government relations for the Ohio History Connection. "Greg is passionate about the importance of preserving history as is Speaker Rosenberger. We are also delighted to be able to give out big checks from the History Fund grant announcements in support of local history."

Statehood Day is sponsored by Ohio History Connection, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Archaeological Council, the Ohio Local History Alliance, Ohio Humanities, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Travel Association, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Council for Social Studies and the Society of Ohio Archivists.

Please register online by February 22. If you have questions, please e-mail Todd Kleismit at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org. ■



Attendees at the 2015 Statehood Day celebration listen to the keynote speaker. Join us this year to hear Greg Harris, CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

The Ohio History Fund Grant Program: The More We All Give, the More Grants the History Fund Makes Back to Us

By Andy Verhoff,
Ohio History Fund Coordinator,
Ohio History Connection, Columbus

We're getting the band back together to benefit Ohio's statewide grant program for local history, the Ohio History Fund. Annie Oakley, U. S. Grant, and the Wright Brothers are back and joined by Oliver Hazard Perry. They are working together this tax season to promote the Ohio History Fund tax check-off, the source of 99% of support for the History Fund grant program – a program that since 2012 has made almost \$450,000 in grants across a third of Ohio's 88 counties.

We got them together, but you need to take them on tour and make those tax check-off donations happen! Ohio's local history and preservation community advocated for and persuaded state lawmakers to create a state income tax check-off for history, the Ohio History Fund, and signed petitions to establish the Ohio History "mastodon" license plate. And then in 2016 you pushed to lower the donation threshold for the History Fund, to preserve what has become on the very few grant programs for a wide-range of history, pre-history, and historic preservation projects. Lowering the threshold from \$150,000 to \$50,000 saved tax check-off support for the History Fund. It also gave us a new, invigorating challenge – to reach as many donors and generate as much support as we can.

Our tax goal for 2017 is a modest \$88,000, a 10% increase in tax check-off donations in 2016, and approximately \$9 from 9,800 Ohioans. Coupled with sales of Ohio History mastodon license plates and donations to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, our goal is to have \$90,000 for the program by the end of the year.

We need to work together to achieve this goal. Here's what you can do between now and that red letter tax-filing deadline of April 18:

- Share some of your state income tax refund with the History Fund, line 26c, "Ohio History Fund" on the "2016 Universal IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return." Tell your history-loving family and friends about it, too. Find "talking points" at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund
- Reprint in your newsletters the sample article, included in this issue and found at: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund (And that's one less article you'll have to write for your newsletter!)
- Forward emails and share upcoming social media posts about the Ohio History Fund tax check-off from the Ohio History Connection.
- Distribute promotional materials about the Ohio History Fund. In 2017, we're featuring all the

historical figures that made past tax check-off donation campaigns memorable: Annie Oakley, U.S. Grant, the Wright Brothers, and Oliver Hazard Perry. We have a great assortment of rack cards, note pads, bookmarks, and other items.

- Find these items digitally, and get them right away at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or
- Contact Mallory Skrobot in the Ohio History Connection's Marketing & Communications Department, mskrobot@ohiohistory.org or 614.297.2351. Just tell her what you need and where to send them.
- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about the tax check-off and History Fund (example at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund).

(continued on page 6)



**Oh shoot!
My taxes
are due.**

**GIVE TO THE
Ohio
History
Fund
ON YOUR
State Tax
Return.**

An easy way to support
your community!
Your donation funds local
history grants in Ohio.

ohiohistory.org/historyfund

**OHIO
HISTORY
CONNECTION**

Learn about Annie Oakley at
garstmuseum.org

Taking a deduction without receipts? That'll never fly!

GIVE TO THE Ohio History Fund ON YOUR State Tax Return.

An easy way to support *your* community!
Your donation funds local history grants in Ohio.

ohiohistory.org/historyfund

Learn about the Wright brothers at daytonhistory.org and nps.gov/daav

In addition to the tax check off, there are other ways to support the History Fund: the Ohio History “mastodon” license plate and direct, tax-deductible donations to the Ohio History Connection designated for the History Fund.

- *Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of Ohio History license plates benefits the History Fund grant program: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx*
- *To make a donation to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit “Grants for Local History – Give to the History Fund: <https://connect.ohiohistory.org/support/history-fund>*

The more the History Fund receives in donations, the more grants the History Fund makes back to us. For a list of recipients, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-office/history-fund/recipients. Proving that there’s a great need for the History Fund, it has received 224 grant applications from 53 counties, totaling \$2.7 million in requests!

Applications for grants for the 2016-17 cycle are currently under review. Recipients will be publically announced at the Statehood Day event, March 1, at the Ohio Statehouse (see article on page 4). The deadline for applications in 2017 will be posted in June on the History Fund’s website: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The site also includes information about eligible projects and applicants, grant amounts, and instructions for applying. Or, contact History Fund Grant coordinator Andy Verhoff at 614-297-2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org.

The tax check-off supports the History Fund. The History Fund supports you!

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How the Tax “Check-Off” Works**

- Although we call it a “check-off,” on your tax form, you won’t find a box to check.
- Toward the end of your individual Ohio state income tax return, after you’ve calculated the amount of your refund (if you are receiving a refund), you’ll find line 26 that asks “Amount of line 24 to be donated.”
- One of the six options is “Ohio History Fund”
- Under “Ohio History Fund,” fill in the amount that you’d like to contribute. Last year’s average contribution was \$9.74, so even a small donation can make a big difference – but if want to round it up to special year, please do – for example contribute \$18.85 for the year the Ohio History Connection was founded, or for the year you were born.
- The amount you contribute to the Ohio History Fund through your Ohio state income tax return goes specifically to support the History Fund, which makes grants to help support local history and preservation-related projects in communities throughout Ohio.

**Adapted from, Echoes, the bimonthly newsletter of the Ohio History Connection (January/February 2017)

I wonder if I can deduct Union Army headquarters as my home office?

GIVE TO THE Ohio History Fund ON YOUR State Tax Return.

An easy way to support *your* community!
Your donation funds local history grants in Ohio.

ohiohistory.org/historyfund

Learn about Ulysses S. Grant at usgrantboyhoodhome.org and ohiohistory.org/grantbirthplace

SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

The Ohio History Fund Grant Program – The More We All Give, the More Grants the History Fund Makes Back to Us

The Ohio History Connection's History Fund grant program is one of the few grant program in the state just for history, pre-history, and historic preservation projects – and it needs your help to grow. If you receive a refund on your Ohio income taxes, consider donating a portion of it to the "Ohio History Fund" tax "check-off," line 26c on your state tax return.



The goal for the History Fund this year is a modest \$88,000, a 10% increase in tax check-off donations in 2016, and approximately \$9 from 9,800 Ohioans. Coupled with sales of Ohio History mastodon license plates and donations to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund (see below), the goal is to have \$90,000 for the program by the end of the year.

Your donation with those from your friend, relatives, and thousands of other history lovers makes possible grants for local history projects in places big and small throughout Ohio. Since the Ohio History Fund started in 2012, it has made 47 grants in 32 counties for a total of \$448,000. Proving that there

is a great need for the History Fund, it has received 224 grant applications from 52 counties, totaling \$2.7 million in requests! For a list of grant recipients, visit <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-office/history-fund/recipients>

Not receiving a tax refund? You can still help: buy an Ohio History mastodon license plate. Twenty dollars from the sale of each set of plates benefits the History Fund grant program. To learn more, visit: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx

You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit <https://connect.ohiohistory.org/support/history-fund>

The more you give to the Ohio History Fund, to more grants it can make to organizations that preserve history in our state. Questions about the History Fund? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or call Andy Verhoff in the Ohio History Connection's Local History Service department at 614-297-2341 or email averhoff@ohiohistory.org. Thanks!

(Editor's Note: Feel free to cut and paste this article and insert it in your organization's newsletter. For other fun promotional materials, visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)

TALKING POINTS

- Ohio History Fund of the Ohio History Connection is competitive matching grant program for history projects (e.g. public programs and exhibits, preservation of historic buildings, historical artifact care)
- Since the History Fund started in 2012, it's made 47 grants in 32 counties for a total of \$448,000.
- However, the Ohio History Fund has received more than 225 grant applications from 52 counties totaling \$2.8 million in requests, proving that there is a great need for this grant program!
- Ohio income tax check-off for Ohio History Fund is main source of support for the Ohio History Fund grant program.
- If you receive an Ohio income tax refund, you can donate part of it to the Ohio History Fund
- Give by writing in an amount on line 26c on your Ohio income tax return form
- The average donation last year was \$9
- The goal for Ohio History Fund tax check-off is \$88,000 (10% more than 2016).
- \$88,000 = about \$9 from 9,800 Ohioans.
- The more tax check-off donations the Ohio History Fund receives in 2017, the more grants the program makes in 2018.
- The Ohio History Connection is not eligible to apply for grants from the Ohio History Fund
- Only non-profit organizations or government entities in Ohio can apply for grants



Not receiving a refund? Other ways to support the History Fund: Ohio History "mastodon" license plate and direct, tax-deductible donations to the Ohio History Connection designated for the History Fund.

- Ohio History "mastodon" license plate, visit: www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-organization.aspx
- Tax-deductible donation to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund: <https://connect.ohiohistory.org/support/history-fund>
- Promote contributions to the Ohio History Fund tax check off

To learn more, go to www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund

Congratulations 2016 Alliance Award Winners!

By Wendy Zucal,
Executive Director,
Dennison Railroad Depot Museums System,
Dennison

Since 1960, the Alliance, in partnership with the Ohio History Connection, has led the state in recognizing excellent projects, programs, and publications produced by Ohio's historical societies and museums, as well as recognizing individuals who have contributed greatly to the field of history. On behalf of the Alliance Board, nine Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented at the annual Awards Luncheon on October 8, 2016. These projects and people have inspired, connected, and educated their audiences in Ohio

Public Programming

Delaware County Historical Society, Delaware for the project **Tote Bag Program for Third Grade Students**. This project targets third grade students, whose social studies curriculum focuses on local history, and emphasizes the concept of "Then and How" – how things change over time. The Education and Curriculum Support Committee of the Delaware County Historical Society developed major themes within the curriculum standards and matched archival materials to those themes. The tote bags also included relevant history books and DVDs. A grant allowed them to launch their program and hold a very successful back to school meeting with local teachers. Now in its fourth year, the program has accomplished the goal of connecting the society to teachers and historical collections to students.

Hoover Historical Society/Walsh University, North Canton for the project **British War Children, 75th Anniversary Commemorative Series**. The Hoover Historical Center, in partnership with the North Canton Heritage Society, Canton Palace Theater, North Canton Public Library, and North Canton City Schools presented series of 14 events honoring the 75th anniversary of the 84 British children who the Hoover Company brought to North Canton in 1940. The series included a variety of activities like tours, exhibits, book club discussions, films, speakers, and panel discussions. The programming exceeded estimated participation by 50%, with over 1,500 people attending. Not only did this series provide a wonderful opportunity to collect oral history and form relationships between five partnering organizations, but through their efforts, the entire community learned more about an often forgotten piece of world history with an important local connection.

Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College, Wilmington for the project **Underground Railroad History Day for Wilmington City Schools 4th Grade**. The Quaker Heritage Center created a brand new fourth grade experience focusing on the Underground Railroad to give new life to the Center's educational curriculum. The goal of every activity at the all-day event was to give students a chance to explore



The 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award winners received their certificates at the annual Awards Luncheon. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

local Underground Railroad History and Quakerism. Activities ranged from small hands-on learning groups to a mock college course covering the Underground Railroad timeline to a critical thinking discussion on the different ways Quakers responded to slavery. Follow-up included post-visit activities and books for educators' use in the classroom.

Shelby County Historical Society, Sidney for the project **Year of Valor**. During an emotional visit of the Vietnam Wall in 2010, the Shelby County Historical Society made a promise to bring that wall back in five years. Coincidentally, 2015 was a year of anniversaries ranging from the 240th anniversary of the Revolutionary War to the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War. The society decided to use this occasion to tell the story not of war, but of the common experiences of men and women who have served in combat, highlighting the belief that the characteristics we inherit from our ancestors are what make us the people we are today. The year's activities included exhibits, speakers, concerts, parades, wonderful ceremonies to honor veterans, and a return of the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Sidney.

Media and Publications

Foundation Park Conservancy, Mount Vernon for the book **Ariel-Foundation Park** by Aaron Keirns. This book tells the story of an Ohio town that preserved its history and transformed an abandoned industrial site into a world-class park. Ariel-Foundation Park is built on the former site of one of the largest window glass manufacturing facilities in the world, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Works No. 11, which operated from 1908-1976. This rich industrial heritage became the underlying theme of the park, as glass, steel trusses, and other industrial artifacts are preserved on the grounds. Mr. Keirns was brought in to photograph the process of creating the park for posterity, and he captured the area's important manufacturing history. The completed book features over 300 photographs and illustrations.

(continued on page 7)

Joann G. King for the book *Medina County: Coming of Age 1810-1900*. After being involved with the Medina County Historical Society, Joann King became aware that Medina County needed a new, comprehensive history. Nothing had been printed about the county as a whole since 1881. Her objectives were to create something that was easily readable, captured the spirit of the people and their times, and looked at local history within a broad perspective of national history. To accomplish that she incorporated resources from all over the county and beyond. She wrote how state, national, and world events affected the people of Medina County and how they responded to these events. In so doing, she has preserved the history of Medina County for generations.

Exhibits/Displays

Wood County Heritage Center, Bowling Green for the project *Be Your Own Museum: Our Community's Collection*. The Wood County History Center is a community organization that makes connections between past, present, and future by capturing stories and cultivating memories. Curator Holly Hartlerode was inspired to create an exhibit that allowed participants to feel ownership in local history by inviting collectors to share their collections in the exhibition. This project resulted in many positive outcomes, including attracting new audiences to the museum, creating new partnerships between museum staff and community members, and

providing an opportunity for museum staff to introduce collections care practices and a variety of interpretive perspectives.

Individual Achievement Awards

Randy L. Winland, Marion County Historical Society, Marion. Mr. Winland is a former history teacher and a very involved volunteer of the Marion County Historical Society. He is the current board president and has been a board member for over 20 years. His many roles have included: development, fundraising, community involvement, public speaker, special events, preservation, marketing, and archiving. He has also been chair of the society's publications committee and has written or co-authored books for the Arcadia Postcard History series, history activity books, and resource guides for teachers. As of July, Mr. Winland has contributed over 4,000 hours to the society.

Liz Schultz, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin. Ms. Schultz has been with the Oberlin Heritage Center for nine years, first as Museum Educator and Tour Coordinator and now as Executive Director. Thanks to her creativity, dedication, and energy the educational opportunities at the Oberlin Heritage Center have found new heights. She has created innovative educational programs: scavenger hunts, iPad tours, classroom programs, history kits for teachers, and a junior docent program. She has also worked to form partnerships ranging from the Oberlin Public Library to the Allen Art Museum, which has brought the museum to new audiences. ■

Call for Judges and Volunteers for Ohio History Day

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

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

Ohio History Day Regional Contest Dates

Saturday March 4, 2017

Region 1
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green

Region 3
Western Reserve Historical Society
10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland

Region 7
Piqua Junior High School
1 Tomahawk Trail, Piqua, OH 45356

Region 9
Chillicothe High School
421 Yoctangee Pkwy, Chillicothe

Saturday March 11, 2017

Region 6
Ohio Wesleyan
61 S Sandusky St, Delaware, OH 43015

Saturday March 18, 2017

Region 2
Terra Community College
2830 Napoleon Rd, Fremont

Region 8
University of Cincinnati
2766 UC Main Street, Cincinnati

Saturday March 25, 2017

Region 10
Ohio University, Zanesville
1425 Newark Rd, Zanesville

Region 5
Pro Football Hall of Fame
2121 George Halas Dr. NW, Canton

Saturday April 1, 2017

Region 4
Youngstown State University
1 University Plaza, Youngstown

Saturday April 29, 2017

State Contest
Ohio Wesleyan
61 S Sandusky St, Delaware



Advocacy is Easy! Inviting Elected Officials to Your Museum

By Ruth Brindle, Director,
Quaker Heritage Center of
Wilmington College, Wilmington

On August 16, the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College welcomed Representative Steve Stivers to our museum. I was prompted to invite Representative Stivers to visit us by the American Alliance of Museums' (AAM) #InviteCongress advocacy program. AAM provides helpful step-by-step tips for inviting Congressional staff to your site, everything from a sample invitation letter to recommendations about following up on the invitation to suggestions of how to structure the visit. While AAM's focus was on politicians at the federal level, I wanted to invite members of the Ohio legislature, our County Commissioners, the Mayor, and all the members of our City Council as well. I was pleasantly surprised to confirm visits from not only Representative Stivers, but Ohio Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger as well. Once the visits were confirmed, I started to get nervous. What was I thinking? What could I do to make these visits worth their time?

I began by putting together a list of the Center's programs and events, focusing on how they impact the community. Then I drafted a loose museum tour that would pull together the exhibits and objects on display with those programs and events. I also made sure that I had someone else who could be there to take photos and made plans with other staff and volunteers to be present for parts of the tour. When the big day came, I was still nervous, but confident that I had sketched out 45 minutes that would show off the Center and would communicate the Center's value to the community.

Two of the Center's student staff were able to participate in the tour – Jayme Mabry, a sophomore who handles our museum collection processing and exhibit-related special event planning, and Megan Canfield, a senior working with the Center's QHC + I AM Campaign partnership. They impressed Representative Stivers with

their passion for their work with the Center, their involvement with the campus community, and their post-graduation plans. Representative Stivers particularly appreciated the fact that the Center is not only taking responsibility for caring for our region's history, but also taking an active role in the future by providing practical job experience for young professionals and tackling current social justice issues.

Just the day before Representative Stivers visited, the Center received a collection donation from a local Quaker family, so he was able to see a wide assortment of the types of items that the Center cares for – textiles, personal goods, furniture, even a football used by a Wilmington College alumnus when he was a student here. Representative Stivers was also interested in seeing our collection storage space, and was impressed by the size and scope of the collection. He recognized the financial burden of caring for the collection, which was a perfect opening to show him our collection of propaganda posters from the Marshall Plan following World War II, and to tell him about our fundraising campaign for their framing. He loved the fact that we'll be doing a major exhibit of the posters in Summer 2017, and that they will be available as a traveling exhibit after that...we may even get one of them into his office in Washington DC!

For those of you who are thinking that this seems like a lot of work and a lot of time for no tangible immediate reward, I offer this recent development: I received an email from Representative Stivers' District Director, sharing information he had received from Ohio Humanities about projects funded in our district. He closed the email with this note: "Let me know if I can help with any info on these or make any connections with their staff... Would love to see some 15th congressional district projects on the below list."



Franklinton Preparatory Academy students and principal at the Franklinton community's celebration of the wood buffalo.

Photo courtesy of the Franklinton Historical Society.

We've built a relationship with Representative Stivers and his staff! They are thinking of us! They are offering help! That's worth all the time and effort!

For those of you who are ready to plan your own visit, let me offer a few words of advice. First, **be flexible**. You need to be willing to work with their schedule. You may think your calendar looks crazy, but they have even less available time than you do, so make your schedule work to fit theirs. Second, **be ready to answer their questions**. You never know what is going to catch someone's interest or spark someone's imagination. Be ready to go places within your museum and talk about things you hadn't planned on including. Third, **say thank you!** Part of the reason Representative Stivers enjoyed his visit so much is that I wasn't asking him for anything. This visit was all about engaging with him, not about making a request, and thanking him for his time and for all he has done for our community was a huge part of that. And finally, **contact your regional representatives and advocacy committee**. Did you know that the Ohio Local History Alliance has a committee created just to help you advocate for your museum or site? They have great resources and would love to help you plan a visit. Good luck! ■

Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums

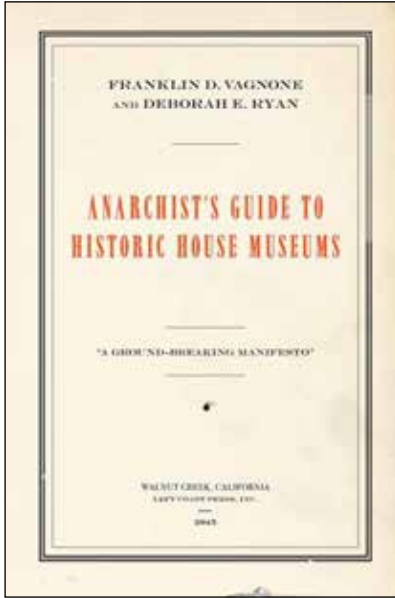
By Mary Manning,
Ohio History Service Corps Member,
Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin

Many public historians currently expend much effort to ensure that diversity and inclusivity are priorities in community engagement initiatives. With those goals in mind, the function of Historic House Museums, or HHMs, may be open for debate. Attendance to HHMs beyond marquee destinations, like Monticello, is down, and these once vaunted institutions often struggle to demonstrate relevance in our contemporary era. It is also hardly a surprise to anyone in the local history field that small museums, and especially historic houses, often struggle to stay afloat financially. *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* by Franklin

D. Vagnone and Deborah Ryan steps into this dilemma and fashions itself as a rousing call for revitalizing HHMs. What they propose is not actual anarchy so much as a deliberate distancing from the stagnant methods of interpretation and curation put in place decades ago that still overwhelmingly govern how HHMs are operated and presented to the public.

Vagnone and Ryan developed their conclusions from years of workshops, focus groups, and online feedback about how community members interact with HHMs. They repeatedly came up against perceptions from both professionals and visitors that HHMs have become disconnected from their increasingly diverse communities, as well as elitist, sterile, and pedantic in their presentation of history. They argue, consequently, that HHMs must radically alter their approach to their surrounding communities and re-think the way they treat the exhibits they present or else they risk becoming obsolete. The rollout of these accusations, for a lover of traditional HHMs and docent-led tours, can feel like a personal attack. Yet it seems that the harshness of their tone is also meant to jar readers from complacency into action.

The name *Anarchist's Guide* does suggest a call for transformative, large-scale change within history organizations, yet there is also much in this book for organizations seeking only to dip their toes into the kinds of interventions Vagnone and Ryan suggest. A reader can choose whether to take each directive to heart or to discard it, can understand how it's possible to do four or five of their charges fairly well while others remain beyond an institution's reach. The authors focus on finding ways



for HHMs to provide tangible connections to the past—whether that's inviting visitors to see formerly off-limits spaces, allowing visitors to touch collections objects or sit on the furniture, or embracing kinetic learning in museum education activities. Ultimately, these authors seek to provide ways for museums that embrace the past to also address the present and shape the future. For that reason, museums seeking ways to address issues of race, gender, class, or any aspect of difficult history may find the suggestions in the *Anarchist's Guide* empowering.

Because the recommendations it contains may be seen as radical, the book's structure is an important selling point. Vagnone and Ryan encourage action by packaging their recommendations as a kind of workbook, complete with appendices full of evaluation questions and research tools. They divide their conclusions into five subject "Guide-

lines"—Community, Communication, Experience, Collections/Environment, and Shelter—that are each then divided into "Markings" that address aspects of the Guideline. Each Marking is then subdivided into Rant, Evidence, and Therefore. The Rant is the complaint made, almost in the spirit of commiseration, by a professional in the field or an astute observer. The Evidence is the proof compiled by the authors, either through practical experiments in the field or from published research, that the Rant has some grounding in truth. The Therefore is, therefore, the conclusion for what each HHM must do to more effectively solve the problem that the initial Rant unveiled.

The strength of the *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* is that it forces its readers to confront their own assumptions, as history-lovers, about how their museums engage people who may not be as passionate. It promotes a more inclusive, contemporary view of the relevance of the HHM that the authors sincerely hope will reward institutions that adapt to their model and use their techniques. As experts in the field and practiced researchers, Vagnone and Ryan try to provide ways to ensure the survival of the HHM in the decades to come, and indeed *Anarchist's Guide* only begins this complicated conversation. Readers may find it difficult to hear the criticisms these authors dish out, but they will undoubtedly find hope for the HHM in the ideas provoked by this useful iconoclasm.

Vagnone, Franklin D. and Deborah E. Ryan. *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, 2016. ■

Community Partnerships Can Surprise You

by Leslie Blankenship,
Trustee,
Franklinton Historical Society, Columbus

Some stories have infinitely long legs. They stretch across time and space. They may be forgotten for generations only to reemerge, creatively reimagined in unexpected ways. Take the story of the wood buffalo (*Bison bison athabascue*) and the impact their trail had on the founding of our community—a tale told and retold by the Franklinton Historical Society as part of “our story.” Wood buffalo are a distinct subspecies apart from the familiar plains buffalo subspecies (*Bison bison bison*) selected as our national mammal on May 9th of this year. Loss of habitat and overkilling have caused Wood buffalo to become extinct in the United States, but some herds still thrive in northern Canada’s Wood Buffalo National Park.

An ancient wood buffalo trace led northward from the salt springs of Blue Licks, Kentucky, across a ford in the Ohio River to Upper Sandusky following the Scioto River. Lucas Sullivant,



Franklinton Preparatory Academy students and principal at the Franklinton community’s celebration of the wood buffalo.

Photo courtesy of the Franklinton Historical Society.

a Deputy Surveyor of the Virginia Military District, followed the trace north from his home in Washington, Kentucky into the Ohio country. He founded Franklinton in 1797 at the confluence of the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. The site opposite Franklinton on the east side of the river, was chosen for the state capital 15 years later.

To honor the role wood buffalo had in our founding, a group of about 50 people—including members of the historical society, community leaders, and high school students—gathered on the morning of October 14 in a vacant lot on West Broad Street in downtown Franklinton. This wasn’t our society’s gig. It was the brainchild of two dynamic and creative individuals—Sherri Palmer of “Keep Columbus Beautiful” and Trent Smith, Director of the Franklinton Board of Trade—our staunchest allies in the community. Committed to improving

the gritty, inner city neighborhood of Franklinton, both esthetically and economically, they took our story and turned it on its head. The celebration centered on a unique wire-cage sculpture of a half-sized wood buffalo designed to showcase trash.

The project began early last year when Sherri and Trent gained permission from the lot’s owner to create a “Franklinton Botanical Sculpture Garden” along its edge. They then asked Byers’ Chevrolet, who was moving out of the neighborhood, if they could have the large clay drainage pipes that were left behind. Those pipes, turned on end in a raised flower bed at the edge of the lot, were repurposed as flower pots. Soon, the pots bloomed with perennials, small scrubs, ornamental grasses, bulbs, and seasonal annuals. Next came an idea for decorating the pipes with artwork portraying historic Franklinton.

Sherri contacted Brenda St. Clair, art teacher at Franklinton Preparatory Academy, who brainstormed ideas with the Franklinton Historical Society. Last autumn, Franklinton Prep art students began painting scenes of buffalo roaming the prairie that became Franklinton, soldiers from the War of 1812 shooting them for food, founder Lucas Sullivant surveying the area, the arrival of the Little Miami and Xenia Railroad (Franklinton’s first train), the 1913 flood, a view of a neighborhood blighted with litter, and another view of the neighborhood after a “Pick-It-Up!” campaign.

But another idea kept tugging at Sherri and Trent. Sherri had discovered artist Jim Swaim, a resident of the coastal community of Little Island, South Carolina, who founded a company called Environmental Sculptures. After witnessing the trash washed up from the ocean along the shoreline of his community, Jim devised a clever way of drawing attention to this problem. He designed and built “environmental sculptures”—animals, from dolphins to pelicans, filled with trash to educate and inspire direct action. View his website and hear him discuss his work at www.environmentalsculptures.com. Sherri and Trent applied for public art grants to bring one of these environmental sculptures to Franklinton. But what animal should it be—a fish? a bird? a butterfly?

One night, Sherri received a phone call. It was Trent’s voice at the other end of the line. “What about a buffalo?” he asked hesitantly. It was quirky. It was historically correct. It was Franklinton. And it stuck. Jim Swaim had never done a buffalo before. But there it is, with its vigilant, wild spirit hovering ten feet above the Franklinton pavement reminding all of us not to violate the buffalo’s sacred environment by trashing the neighborhood.

For the students of Franklinton Prep, this is more than a piece of environmental art. For them, its message is personal and goes far deeper. It is a memorial to their friend, 14-year old Amanda Kirwin who was shot dead in her Franklinton neighborhood on Dana Avenue in August 2014. Police believe she was not the intended target of the shooter. Kirwin’s friends pledged to remember her by founding the Dana Ambassador Program to keep her street litter-free. The trash that filled the buffalo came from Kirwin’s street. Before the students inserted their collection of trash, the wire-cage structure was smudged in a sage and eagle feather blessing by a Native American asking the Creator to watch over the Franklinton buffalo. ■

New AmeriCorps Members

The Ohio History Connection's AmeriCorps program, the Ohio History Service Corps, is now in its seventh year of supporting community and local history throughout Ohio. The newest group of thirteen members began their service in September and is now available to help organizations like yours with projects you've always wanted to do, but never had quite enough time or people to move forward. The thirteen members are stationed around the state and are looking for projects like helping with volunteer recruitment and management, building new partnerships in your community, collections management work, developing new programming for adults and children, and assisting with Ohio History Day. Learn where this year's members are based below, and visit www.ohiohistory.org/ameri-corps to find full contact information for the member nearest you.

- **Emily Albert**, Local History Member – Region 2, Hosted by the Maritime Museum of Sandusky
- **M. Carmella Cadusale**, Local History Member – Region 4. Hosted by Youngstown State University.
- **Dana Cress**, Community Surveyor – Piqua. Hosted by the Piqua Public Library.
- **Sara Fisher**, Local History Member – Region 8. Hosted by the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College.
- **Sherri Goudy**, Local History Member – Region 7. Hosted by the Armstrong Air & Space Museum.
- **Mary Manning**, Local History Member – Region 3. Hosted by the Oberlin Heritage Center.
- **Cyrus Moore**, Local History Member – Region 9. Hosted by the Southeast Ohio History Center.
- **Myra Morehart**, Local History Member –



2016-2017 AmeriCorps members at their Swearing In Ceremony on October 7. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

- Region 8. Hosted by Xavier University.
- **Eric Olson**, Local History Member – Archaeology. Hosted by the Ohio History Connection.
- **Jeremy Shea**, Local History Member – Region 7. Hosted by the National Afro-American Museum & Cultural Center.
- **Claire Shrontz**, Local History Member – Region 9. Hosted by the Southeast Ohio History Center.
- **Aaron Swickard**, Community Surveyor – Cleveland. Hosted by the Cleveland Landmarks Commission.
- **Traci Willis**, Local History Member - Region 2. Hosted by Downtown Mansfield, Inc. ■

Annual Meeting— Call for Session Proposals

Do you look to the Annual Meeting for information, inspiration, and great ideas from your colleagues? Think that session presenters are some sort of special people?

We want YOU to be one of those special people who inform and inspire their colleagues.

We are currently accepting session proposals for the Annual Meeting, which will be held October, 6-7, 2017, at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Dublin, Ohio.

This year's theme is History Matters!, focusing on history relevance and advocating for the importance of history and our organizations. Proposals on any topic are welcome.

Session Proposal deadline extended to February 15, 2017. Go to <http://www.ohiolha.org/alliance-annual-meeting> to download the proposal form. ■



The Ohio Academy of History is holding its annual conference on March 31st-April 1st on campus at The Ohio State University. Information can be found on the Academy's website at www.ohioacademyofhistory.org/conferences

Forging Auction House Partnerships—OMA Workshop

Join OMA, ICA-Art Conservation & Cowan's Auctions, Cleveland for the March workshop Forging Auction House Partnerships: Strengthening museum collections through acquisition, assessment, and deaccession.

Auction houses aren't just popular places to film cable television shows, in fact for museums the reality is much more compelling than fiction. The professionals you find in most quality auction houses in Ohio are well-versed in history, art history, and collections preservation. Building a working relationship with auction staff offers museums a team of experts to call upon with questions about the value, scarcity, or marketability of particular artifacts and artwork. Auction staff can also be a great resource when searching for that one-of-a-kind piece your museum is missing.

Join Carrie Corrigan, Business Manager at Cowan's Auction—Cleveland, and Jennifer Souers Chevraux, Education & Institutional Advancement Officer at ICA – Art Conservation for an informative session on how to build and leverage a relationship with an auction house to help strengthen your museum collections. Topics we'll cover include:

- Basics of collections planning & conservation
- Collection management ethics & best practices
- Appraisals- who, what, how and why?
- What to expect at an auction
- Dealing with deaccession dilemmas

Carrie and Jennifer will be answer questions at the end of the program, and Cowan's will be full of great items to see before their spring auction takes place on Friday, March 17.

When: Monday, March 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Cowan's Auctions, Cleveland - 26801 Miles Road, Suite 105, Cleveland, OH 44128.

Registration deadline: March 8, 2017. Register at www.ohiomuseums.org. You will find the workshop under Professional Development at the Workshop tab.

2017 OMA Annual Conference

Join OMA in Toledo, April 2-3, for our 2017 annual conference, "Transforming Museums: Secrets to Success"

The one thing constant is change. With our world growing more complex every day, change within museums isn't just inevitable, it's necessary to remain critical, meaningful and relevant to our communities.

Across Ohio, museums are using this idea to transform their institutions – paving the way with innovative programming and ideas, audience engagement, sustainability, collections care and more – to enhance and support their mission and better serve their community.

With the wealth of innovation hap-



Transforming Museums
Secrets to Success

pening in Ohio museums comes the opportunity for us to share knowledge- what's worked, what didn't, and what we learned from it all.

Join us in Toledo, April 2nd and 3rd as we explore these topics and more! For more information and to register go to www.ohiomuseums.org. ■

Circulating Environmental Kits

The State Library of Ohio, the Ohio Museums Association, the Ohio History Connection and the Ohio Local History Alliance collaborated on an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Connecting to Collections grant. Although grant funding ceased on September 30, 2015 the partners are committed to the mission of the Connecting to Collections initiative.

One of the final activities of the grant was the development of circulating environmental kits. These kits are available to any cultural heritage organization in Ohio.

Each kit contains:

- Elsec Environmental Monitor 765 to provide instant readings of UV light, visible light, temperature and relative humidity.
- PEM2 Environmental Monitor to provide long-term environmental readings on temperature and relative humidity (you will need to provide your own USB drive).
- Educational Resources:
 - IPI Guide to Sustainable Preservation Practices
 - Guide to Emergency Response
 - Heritage Preservation Disaster Wheel
 - Tip Sheets for use of the Elsec and PEM2

Kits are enclosed in a Pelican case and are available for a one month loan. To help reduce costs and to encourage communication between cultural heritage organizations, kits are shipped at no cost through the state's Priority Dispatch statewide resource sharing network of academic and public libraries. Historical organizations and museums may pick up and return their kit to their area public or academic library. For additional information or to schedule a kit for your institution, contact Missy Lodge, Associate State Librarian for Library Development at mlodge@library.ohio.gov or 800-686-1532. ■

MEMBERS

List as of January 17, 2017

Welcome New Members

ORGANIZATIONS

Clovernook Center for the Blind, Cincinnati	Historical Society of Old Brooklyn, Cleveland	Pleasant Hill History Center, Pleasant Hill	The Dayton Diggers, Xenia
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus	New Straitsville History Group, New Straitsville	Rendville Historic Preservation Society, Athens	Warther Museum Inc., Dover

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Martha Ellers, Warren	Jessica Maiberger, Tiffin	Judith C. Schroeder, Fort Jennings	Amy M. Yuncker, Canton
Patricia Hoelscher, West Chester	Stephen H. Paschen, Hudson	Doreen N. Uhas-Sauer, Columbus	

ORGANIZATIONS

Adena Mansion & Gardens Society, Chillicothe	Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati	Marietta College Library, Marietta	Sandusky Library Follett House Museum, Sandusky
Arc of Appalachia, Bainbridge	Friends of Our House, Gallipolis	Marion County Historical Society, Marion	Sauder Village, Archbold
Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., Arcanum	Friends of the Museums, Inc., Marietta	Marion Technical College, Marion	Shaker Historical Society & Museum, Cleveland
Armstrong Air & Space Museum Association, Wapakoneta	Garfield Heights Historical Society, Garfield Heights	Massillon Heritage Foundation Inc., Massillon	Shelby County Historical Society, Sidney
Beavercreek Historical Society, Beavercreek	Greater Licking County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Heath	Metamora Area Historical Society, Metamora	Spring Hill Historic Home, Inc., Massillon
Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue	Guernsey County Historical Society, Cambridge	Miamisburg Historical Society, Miamisburg	Stow Historical Society, Stow
Carroll County Historical Society, Carrollton	Hancock Historical Museum Association, Findlay	Mogadore Historical Society, Inc., Mogadore	Strongsville Historical Society, Strongsville
Cedar Bog Association, Urbana	Harrison County Historical Society, Cadiz	Montgomery Historical Society, Montgomery	Sylvania Historical Village, Sylvania
City of Miamisburg, Miamisburg	Harrison Symmes Memorial Foundation, Cleves	Museum of Ceramics Foundation, East Liverpool	The Old House Guild of Sandusky, Sandusky
City of Tallmadge, Tallmadge	Heritage Avon Lake, Avon Lake	New Washington Historical Society, New Washington	The Sylvania Area Historical Society, Sylvania
Cleveland Masonic Library & Museum, Cleveland	Highland County Historical Society, Hillsboro	Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin	Toledo Metro Parks, Toledo
Clyde Heritage League Inc., Clyde	Historic New Richmond, Inc., New Richmond	ODNR - East Harbor State Park, Lakeside, Marblehead	Treaty of Greenville Bicentennial Commission, Greenville
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus	Historical Society of Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, West Union	Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, New Philadelphia
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society, Cortland	Jackson Township Historical Society, Massillon	Perry Historical Society of Lake County, Perry	U.S. Grant Homestead Association, Georgetown
Cridersville Historical Society, Cridersville	John & Annie Glenn Museum Foundation, New Concord	Pickaway County Parks Commission, Circleville	Vermilion News Print Shop Museum, Vermilion
Custer Memorial Association, Jewett	John Stark Edwards House, Warren	Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society, Pickerington	Village of Stockport, Stockport
Darke County Commissioners, Greenville	Johnny Appleseed Metro Parks, Lima	Pike Township Historical Society, East Sparta	Walhonding Valley Historical Society, Warsaw
Dayton History, Dayton	Johnston Farm & Indian Agency, Piqua	Plymouth Area Historical Society, Plymouth	Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon
Dayton Society of Natural History, Dayton	Kelleys Island Historical Association Inc., Kelleys Island	Powell Liberty Historical Society, Powell	Watt Center for History & the Arts, Barnesville
Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison	Kelton House Museum and Garden, Columbus	Price Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati	Western Reserve Fire Museum, Cleveland
Ellsworth Historical Society, Ellsworth	Kinsman Historical Society, Kinsman	Promont House Museum, Milford	Westerville Historical Society, Westerville
Fairfield County Historical Parks Commission, Lancaster	Liberty Center Historical Society, Liberty Center	Reading Historical Society, Reading	Wyandot County Historical Society, Upper Sandusky
Fairview Park Historical Society, Cleveland	Licking Valley Heritage Society, Newark	Ripley Heritage, Inc., Ripley	Yellow Springs Historical Society, Yellow Springs
Fort Meigs Association, Perrysburg	Lisbon Historical Society, Lisbon	Riverside Historical Society, Dayton	Youngstown State University History Dept., Youngstown
Fort Recovery Historical Society, Fort Recovery		Ross County Historical Society, Chillicothe	Zoar Community Association, Zoar
Friends of Buckeye Furnace, Inc., Jackson			

AASLH Invites Nominations for 2017 Leadership in History Awards Program

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) invites nominations for the 2017 Leadership in History Awards. Now in its 70th year, the Awards Program is the most prestigious national recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history. AASLH initiated the Awards Program in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout America.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards Program recognizes exemplary work completed by state or federal historical societies, institutions, or agencies; regional, county, or local historical societies, institutions, or agencies; specialized subject societies in related fields such as oral history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, railroad history, etc.; junior historical societies; privately owned museums or foundations; individuals; and organizations outside the field of traditional historical agencies. Awards are given for exhibits, public and educational programming, special projects, publications, multimedia, and individual achievement. Nominees need not be members of AASLH to qualify. See profiles of past winners.

Nominations are due on March 1, 2017. A list of state award representatives who can advise nominees can be found at the AASLH website. Nominations are then reviewed by a national committee in the summer of 2017 with formal presentation of the awards made during the 2017 AASLH Annual Meeting, September 6-9, in Austin, Texas.

Nomination information may be obtained by visiting about.aaslh.org/awards, or by contacting the AASLH office by phone: 615-320-3203 or email: hawkins@aslh.org.

FEBRUARY 15:

Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting Session Proposal Deadline. For more information, see www.ohiolha.org/alliance-annual-meeting and page 13.

MARCH 1:

Statehood Day. For more information, see page 3. AASLH Leadership in History Awards Nominations Due.

MARCH 4:

Region 1, Region 3, Region 7, and Region 8 Ohio History Day contests. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

MARCH 11:

Region 5 and Region 7 meetings. For more information, see page 1-3. Region 6 Ohio History Day contest. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

MARCH 13:

OMA Workshop, Forging Auction House Partnerships. For more information, see page 14.

MARCH 18:

Region 6 and Region 10 meetings. For more information, see pages 1-3. Region 2 and Region 8 Ohio History Day contests. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

MARCH 25:

Region 8 and Region 9 meetings. For more information, see pages 1-3. Region 5 and Region 10 Ohio History Day contests. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

MARCH 31-APRIL 1:

Ohio Academy of History annual conferences. For more information, see www.ohioacademyofhistory.org/conferences.

APRIL 1:

Region 1 and Region 3 meetings. For more information, see pages 1-3. Region 4 Ohio History Day contest. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

APRIL 2-3:

Ohio Museums Association annual conference, "Transforming Museums: Secrets to Success." For more information see page 14.

APRIL 8:

Region 2 and Region 4 meetings. For more information, see pages 1-3.

APRIL 18:

Tax Day! File your taxes and donate to the History Fund! See page 5-7 for more information.

APRIL 29:

State Ohio History Day contest. For more information see www.ohiohistory.org/historyday and page 9.

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 Hayes Presidential Library and Museums opened “100 Moments: Celebrating a Century of the Nation’s First Presidential Library”, showcasing artifacts, documents and photos of the century the site has been open. Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Harry Truman, was the featured speaker at the Lecture on the Presidency.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The Canfield Historical Society and the Ellsworth Historical Society have formed a partnership to scan and digitize the Mahoning County Dispatch. The paper was published in Canfield by the Fowler Family from 1877 to 1968 and was given to the Canfield Historical Society when the surviving family member, Ralph Fowler, retired. The Ellsworth Historical Society obtained a grant from the James and Coralie Centofanti Trust, took up a collection from its membership and, with additional money from the Canfield Historical Society, purchased a new large flatbed scanner. Members from both organizations are working to scan the entire collection (ninety-one volumes of fifty-two editions each) of the newspaper. The project also includes scanning two volumes of the Republican Sentinel, dated 1857 and 1858. The Library of Congress has digitized the Dispatch for the years between 1909 and 1921. These editions are online at the Library’s site. The goal now is to have easy online access to all the papers.

Region 5

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

Region 6

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

Frans Doppen, Chair of the Department of Teacher Education at Ohio University in Athens Ohio and member of the Rendville Historic Preservation Society in Perry County, has written a book hot-off-the-press. It is entitled Richard Davis and the Color Line in Ohio Coal: A Hocking Valley Mine Labor Organizer 1862-1900. It tells the story of the only known African-American present in downtown Columbus on January 25, 1890 when the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) union was founded. Mr. Davis was a worker in Rendville Mine No. 3 and was elected to the UMWA Board in 1896 and 1897. For more information, contact jjwinnenb54@gmail.com.

Region 7

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

The Logan County History Center in Bellefontaine recently added to its Transportation Museum with the hanging of its restored 1922 WA-6 biplane on January 17, 2017. The biplane was originally designed and built by local aviation pioneer Clarence Wissler. The four-year restoration project was done by LCHC volunteers. The fuselage was the only original section left of the biplane. The restoration committee recreated the rest of the plane from drawings of the plane, photographs from Wissler’s own photo album, as well as talking to people and museums who had restored similar era planes. The WA-6 hangs from the 38’ ceiling of the Transportation Museum.

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

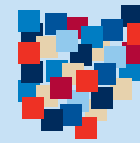
A local history and literacy initiative is now underway in Muskingum County. Exploring Our Underground Railroad Heritage is a 5-month series programs and activities about the UGRR, focusing on the six National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom sites in Zanesville. Lead partners in the initiative are Muskingum County History, the Zanesville Museum of Art, and OnTheSamePage-Muskingum, a partnership of community and educational organizations. Programming includes lectures, author talks, living history performances, guided walking tours, and special programs for families and children. To encourage reading, free books about the UGRR will be distributed throughout the community. Visit www.muskingumcountyhistory.org for details.

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

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

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

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:

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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.

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

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Student:	\$20	

Business Member:

	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
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Join at:

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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