

Collections Care During COVID-19



By Samantha Forsko, Preservation Specialist, Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA. Originally published by the American Association of State and Local History. Reprinted by permission. Image via Pixaby.

The Problem: COVID-19 is changing the way we do everything. Meetings are being done remotely via Zoom and Skype, social distancing keeps us six feet apart from everyone, and our collections have been left at our institutions unattended. How can we ensure that our collections remain safe while we also protect ourselves during this global pandemic?

Top 10 Tips: The following tips can be used by cultural heritage institutions to help ensure that collections remain safe while collections caretakers are away and to prevent collections from becoming a vector for the virus.

1. If your institution is still open to the public, enhanced housekeeping measures should be put in place. Ideally, an institution should already have a housekeeping manual, but if not, now would be the time to create one. There is a guide to creating housekeeping plans available on [CCAHA's resources page](#). An excellent sample housekeeping manual is available through the [Minnesota Historical Society](#).

2. Even if you do have a housekeeping manual, now is the time to ramp up cleaning. Not only will this help to keep visitors, staff, volunteers, and whoever else is in the building safe from the virus, but preventive measures against exposing collections to the virus is the most effective and efficient method of preservation at this time. More enhanced cleaning recommendations are available through the [American Alliance](#)

(continued on page 4)

In these challenging times, we would like to encourage you to remember that the Ohio Local History Alliance is a resource for you. Please reach out to us with questions or concerns and we'll do our best to provide advice or connect you to resources.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** President's Message
- 4** Collections Care During Covid-19 (con't)
- 5** Ohio History Fund Covid-19 Emergency Grant Program
- 6** People in the News
- 7** Tristate epidemics of the 19th Century
- 8** Cleveland and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919
- 9** "Discover Shelby County History" App
- 10** Announcements
- 15** On the Web
- 16** News from the Regions
- 17** New & Renewing Members | Calendar

President's Message:



We were recently asked if the Alliance is providing best practices for reopening. That is our goal, our best hope - that we can all reopen. In the meantime, we have experienced every possible emotion from fear and frustration to hope. We have been bombarded with new scenarios and potential dates at every turn, and have sat through umpteen webinars and zoom meetings advising us how to proceed. Now we need to sift through all that information and try to find some best practices. What is clear is that we don't want to do is go from pandemic to panic, and that health and safety continue to be the top priority.

What I have learned from the Great Pause created by the COVID-19 is to be patient, be positive and be ready to pivot. These are my 3 Ps. Many of us have been lucky to receive the other 3P's - Payment Protection Plan dollars through the CARES ACT that will enable us to bring our workforce back and get everything rolling. Immediately. Whether you received PPP funding or not, our first challenge will be bringing our staff back to work. Safely.

So here is our very first list of Best Practices to protect your staff on their return.

- 1. Provide all your employees with masks.**
- 2. Take and monitor temperatures upon arrival.**
- 3. Set-up Sanitation Stations at all entrances with hand sanitizer.**
- 4. Ask staff to wipe down their stations at the beginning of each day, after lunch and at the end of the day with disinfecting wipes.**
- 5. Keep practicing social distancing: Create alternating schedules to minimize staff contact as much as possible.**
- 6. Consider creating specific teams that can potentially work together if needed, but keep teams separate as much as possible.**
- 7. Designate workstations in different locations of your facilities, and if possible use separate entrances.**
- 8. Be more aware of your belongings, such as your cell phone. Keep them clean and in your pockets not on counters.**
- 9. Continue to have Staff meetings online and not in person.**
- 10. Be alert to hot spots - where danger may exist, such as incoming business associates. Request that visitors use the same safety protocol as staff.**

We need to do what is in the best interest of our staffs first. Then we can move forward and create Best Practices for our audiences.

To continue helping our fellow colleagues with best practices, case studies and important updates, we have partnered together with the Ohio History Connection and the Ohio Museum Association to assist in a variety of ways. You may have already taken part in webinars on topics ranging from available grants to questions of reopening. We're also working with Ohio History Connection on a weekly email with resources, tips and articles. We want to help and stay in touch as we head into new phases.

Lastly, I encourage you, if you have not started, to begin planning your Relaunch Strategy. As we all closely watch Governor DeWine and President Trump for lifting of restrictions, we need to be ready. Empathy will be the order of the day, and all aspects of our operations will be measured through Corona glasses. There will be a new normal. Folks are predicting museums will never be the same. Whether that means taking visitor temperatures, mask wearing - or other practices, none of us know for sure right now. That will be the next list of Best Practices. Now is the time to continue gathering information and learning from museum organizations, health leaders, and watching what leading businesses are doing. We are in this together, and we can continue to learn from each other. Stay safe and healthy.

Wendy Zucal

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of Museums. It is also important to be mindful about the types of cleaning supplies used, as many typical household cleaning products contain chemicals that are damaging to collection materials. A list of safer cleaning alternatives for cultural organizations is available through the **National Parks Service**. Keep in mind that these alternatives may not be as effective at killing the virus, and cross reference products with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**.

3. Frequently washing hands and wearing nitrile gloves while handling artifacts is also important for both your health and the object's safety. In a recent study conducted by the **Library of Congress**, however, it was discovered that the alcohols in hand sanitizers cause color changes in papers. Water-based hand sanitizers are recommended over alcohol-based for collections care, however, it should be noted that the **World Health Organization** advises that only alcohol-based hand sanitizers that are at least 60% alcohol are effective in killing COVID-19.

4. If it is suspected that an artifact has been contaminated by the virus, isolation is the preferred method of treatment. **COSTEP MA** has additional resources on isolation, but isolation can occur on an object level by double-bagging individual items in plastic baggies, much as one would do to contain a pest or mold infestation, or at the collection level by entirely shutting off access for a period of time. Recent research conducted by the **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training** recommends a minimum of 9 days for effective isolation.

5. There is a difference between cleaning and disinfecting artifacts. Cleaning will remove dirt and relocates the virus, but disinfecting kills the virus. While many objects can be cleaned, not all can be safely disinfected, and **consulting with a conservator** is necessary. Additional research conducted by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training has shown that the virus can persist on different surfaces for different amounts of time, ranging from 2-9 days depending on the material. Bleach should never be used to disinfect historic materials. Depending on the material type, it is possible to use water, a mild soap like Ivory liquid soap, or Orvus to wipe surfaces. The amount of time the water is on the

fragile historic material should be limited, but needs to stay on long enough to be effective in killing the virus. Brick surfaces like ceramics, marble, limestone, or terrazzo can be further disinfected with a solution of at least 70% rubbing alcohol and water. The **Northeast Document Conservation Center** recommends against the use of liquid disinfectants and UV ray exposure for the treatment of books and paper artifacts.

6. Exhibition materials should be cleaned and disinfected as well. Plexiglass glazing on framed materials and plexiglass exhibition cases should be disinfected using a solution of 70% rubbing alcohol and distilled water.

7. If your institutions closes for an extended period, you should take care to **shelter in place your collections** before leaving. This includes moving artifacts to the safest spaces, protecting against potential water damage, and protecting computers and equipment.

8. While your institution is closed, if it is safe to do so and social distancing can be maintained, visit the institution to check on collections on a weekly basis. If there is already someone on site regularly, such as a security officer, consider creating a checklist for that individual to use and report back to you if visiting in person is not possible. You may also be able to check in on collections remotely by using security cameras. **Dataloggers** and water alarms can also be installed to alert you via phone or email if environmental conditions have gone out of range.

9. Working remotely will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to consider different possibilities and outcomes. Use scenarios to talk through different situations and how this situation might progress, keeping care of collections in mind. The **American Alliance of Museums** has created a guide to using scenarios to help you plan your institution's response.

10. Follow your continuity of operations plan (COOP). If your institution does not have a COOP, now would be a good time to start taking notes on considerations to include in a future COOP. Additional information on continuity of operations planning can be found on the **FEMA website**. ■

Ohio History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program

By Andy Verhoff,
Team Lead, Local History Services,
Ohio History Connection

Note: To meet the deadline for the May-June 2020 Local Historian, we submitted this article before we finalized the grant program. For up-to-date grant information and an application, visit www.ohiohistory.org/covidgrant.

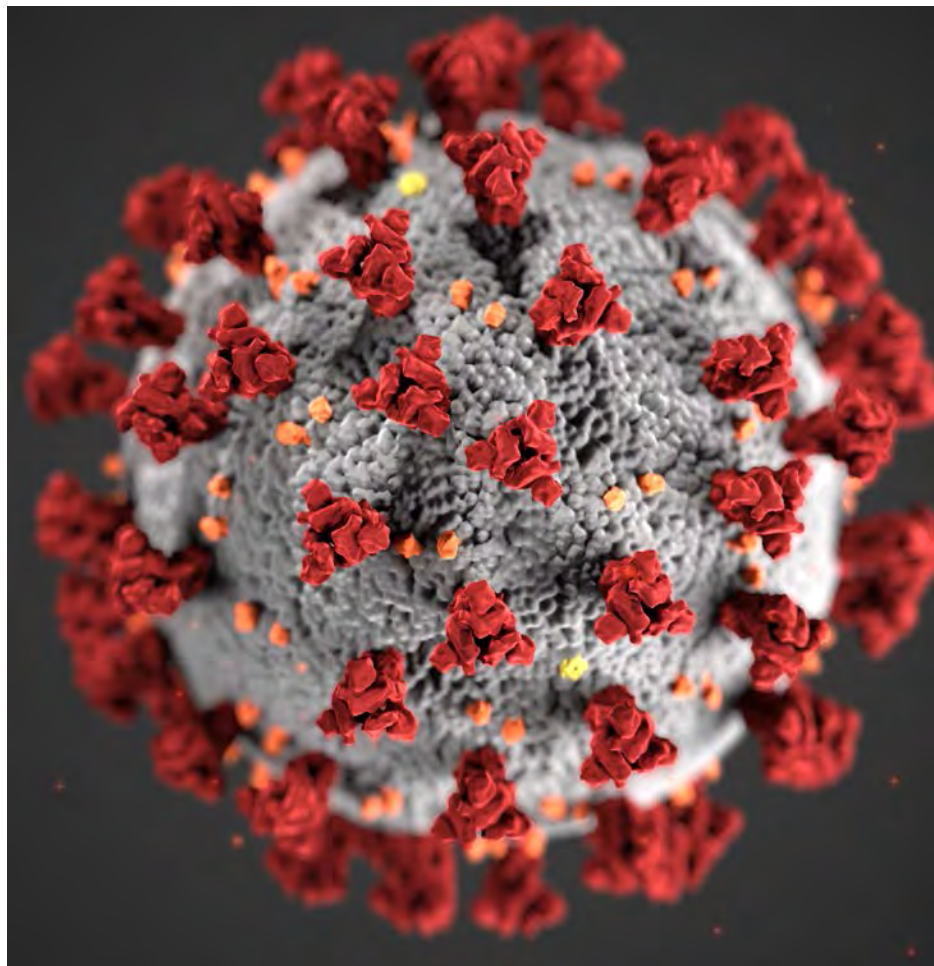
The Ohio History Connection recognizes that COVID-19 gravely affects the work of local history in our state. Local history museums welcome school field trips, historic preservationists conduct building surveys, historical societies begin their programs, more researchers show up at libraries and archives—and everyone is fundraising. COVID-19 and our state's necessary and common-sense response to slow the spread of the coronavirus means that these activities and many others will be postponed or cancelled. While many organizations are coping and creatively adapting to this new reality, local history is taking a hit. The Ohio History Connection wants to help by offering one-time History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grants.

Eligible Applicants

Ohio History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grants are for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations registered in the State of Ohio.

Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, local historical societies, museums, public libraries that operate museums and care for historical collections, genealogical societies, historic preservation groups, and archeological societies.

Previous recipients of Ohio History Fund grants, whether those projects are open or closed, may also apply for emergency grants.



Ineligible applicants include for-profit businesses and entities, private individuals, and the Ohio History Connection and its site management partners. Site partners receive support from the Ohio History Connection's **COVID-19 Hardship Relief Fund**.

Only one COVID-19 Emergency Grant will be made per organization, so that this program can help as many institutions as possible. No match or cost-share is required.

Eligible Grant Expenses

These short term emergency grants are intended to help Ohio's historical organizations address operational expenses that they cannot otherwise meet because of COVID-19-related losses of revenue

and unforeseen increases in other expenses.

You can also use the grant to adapt or create public programs for audiences affected by stay-at-home and social distancing orders.

Eligible expenses can include, but are not limited to

- Costs to maintain building(s) and grounds, including utility bills, security systems, and Internet service.
- Payroll expenses
- Costs for adapting or creating programs for K-12 and/or general online audiences, including staff time, equipment, and software.

(continued on page 6)

Grant Amounts

To make these grants widely available, they will be in set amounts based on the size of your organization's budget. Our goal is to make these grants available to as many organizations as we can.

- Organization with operating budget under \$24,999 a year: \$500
- Organization with operating budget of \$25,000-\$99,999 a year: \$1,000
- Organization with operating budget of \$100,000-\$199,999 a year: \$2,000
- Organization with operating budget over \$200,000 a year: \$3,000

These breakdowns are derived from the Alliance's membership categories.

Deadlines

Ohio History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grants have a quick turnaround time. The application deadline is June 1, 2020. Recipients will be announced by July 15, 2020 with disbursements to follow.

Recipients must use their grants by November 30, 2020 and submit a brief re-

port describing how they used the funds. Reports are due within 30 days of the expenditure of the funds or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

Lists of applicants, amounts granted, activities funded will be shared by the Ohio History Connection, as in the regular History Fund grant program.

The "regular" Ohio History Fund

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to file your **state** and **federal** taxes has been extended to July 15. Because of this extension, we have more time to encourage Ohio tax filers to share a part of their refunds to the Ohio History Fund. We plan to make regular History Fund grants again next year and we need your help as much as ever to do that. **Look for "Ohio History Fund" on your Ohio tax return, line 26f** and designate an amount (avg. donation \$9-10).

Donations to the Ohio History Fund tax check-off are reserved 2021's grant

round. The funds for the this temporary COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program come from donors to Foundation of the Ohio History Connection and Conestoga, a volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing community support for the Ohio History Connection.

The effort required to quickly raise funds for and develop the COVID-19 Emergency Grant has taken time from planning next year's regular History Fund grant process. As of April, we intend to stick to the same schedule for the regular History Fund as we always have. Exact dates to be determined as the Ohio History Connection's response to the pandemic evolves. Check www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund for details and watch the Alliance's social media for announcements.

For questions about the Ohio History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program, see the Frequently Asked Questions page at www.ohiohistory.org/covidgrant, or contact Andy Verhoff, Team Lead, Local History Services, Ohio History Connection, 614-297-2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org. ■

People in the News

Clinton County History Center's Executive Director **Shelby Boatman** has earned her master's degree in Public History from Northern Kentucky University. For her senior capstone she developed and completed a five-year strategic plan for the organization with the help of Ohio History Service Corps Volunteer Donna Harris. This plan will be approved by the Society's Board of Trustees and used as a roadmap for finances, administration, exhibits, programming, and more through the year 2025.

Heritage Village Museum volunteer **Kathy Luhn** received the 2020 ServeOhio Award for outstanding volunteerism and service in Southwest Ohio. She was nominated by Lydia Christopher, Director of Volunteer Services at Heritage Village Museum. Since 1992, Kathy Luhn has filled countless volunteer roles at Heritage Village Museum. Kathy has utilized her master's degree in Public History from the University of Cincinnati as the volunteer Collections Manager, working hundreds of hours annually to catalogue and preserve the extensive collection of 18th and 19th century artifacts and ensure proper interpretation of the 13 historic buildings. Kathy has brought history to life through the creation of historic meals and teas. She has led classes that focus on everything from historic floor cloth making to his-



torical sewing to leading Girl Scout programs on 1800s etiquette. Kathy is also an expert seamstress who uses her skill to create historic clothing for volunteers. Over her 28-year tenure, Kathy's dedication, expertise, and generosity have helped to educate unknown thousands of visitors on what life was like in the 1800s in a unique, experiential way. ■

Tristate Epidemics of the 19th Century

by Steve Preston, Education Director, Heritage Village Museum and Education Center.

This article was originally published in the Northern Kentucky Tribune, March 30, 2020. Reprinted by permission.

As we “hunker down” and practice self-distancing, it’s worth noting that we residents of the tristate are much more resilient than we think. Since settlement began in the late 1700s, this area faced epidemics on par with what we are currently experiencing...without the amazing scientific advancements we have now. Many of the sicknesses that swept through Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky early on were illnesses that have now been eradicated thanks to vaccines and improved sanitation. Others, such as influenza are still ravage communities. Yet we have persevered.

Even as the settlements of Cincinnati and Newport were in its infancies, exposure to sickness was a threat. In order to protect themselves from Indian attacks and other dangers, people settled in groups and were often confined to small areas for safety, such as in Fort Washington. In such close quarters, personal space and hygiene often suffered. New settlers and soldiers arrived frequently, adding new pathogens to a populace vulnerable to each other’s illnesses. People became more crowded and sanitation worsened. All this led to the first major epidemic to sweep through the area, smallpox.

Beginning in the autumn of 1792, Cincinnati citizens and Northern Kentucky settlers were battling a smallpox epidemic that would prove more deadly than any other hardship

that came with living in the area. The outbreak was so severe that it derailed General Anthony Wayne’s planned offensive against the Native American confederacy that threatened Ohio settlements. It would not be until the fall of 1793 that Wayne would lead his army north, culminating in his victory at Fallen Timbers in 1794. E.W. Mitchell’s 1920 article, “History of Epidemics in Cincinnati”, in the same year’s University of Cincinnati’s Medical Bulletin states that one-third of the remaining settlers and soldiers in the area died from the smallpox outbreak. Smallpox in the tristate area would be a scourge even though Doctor William Goforth introduced the smallpox vaccine to the settlements here in 1801.

By 1807, the military presence in the area had moved across the river to the recently completed Newport Barracks. Newport Barracks, Kentucky’s Forgotten Military Installation, written by Joseph L. Donnelly, mentions a comet that appeared in the sky on September 30, 1807 as a harbinger of an influenza epidemic that overcame the military post. The flu was not the only outbreak at the barracks. Private Sam Bonker succumbed to smallpox in 1807 while stationed at the Newport Barracks. Typhoid would also visit the post as well as greater Cincinnati two years later in 1809.

Arguably the deadliest disease to sweep the tristate in the 19th Century was Cholera. Four separate epidemics of this disease would affect the area in 1832, 1849, 1866, and 1873. Proving that even in the 1830s the tristate area had a global reach, the first outbreak that would reach Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in 1832 actually began in 1826

on the other side of the world in India. Caught off guard, Cincinnati would lose 571 citizens to Cholera in 1832. This first outbreak would stretch into 1833 and 1834, resulting in 831 deaths.

One notable casualty was early settler, Reverend James Kemper. The first Presbyterian minister North of the Ohio River and his family arrived here in 1791. He had survived smallpox, and all subsequent epidemics up to 1832. The Kemper family lost their son, Elnathan to the illness August 17, 1834. The Reverend Kemper oversaw the funeral and burial. On the way back to his home in Walnut Hills, Kemper fell ill. He died the next day, August 20, 1834, another victim of cholera.

The cholera epidemic of 1849 proved the deadliest of the waves of the disease. Over 8,000 tristate citizens would die from cholera. Around 4% of the total population of Cincinnati would perish. The use of Calomel, a medicinal purgative containing high amounts of Mercury certainly did nothing to help, even hurting the efforts to quell the 1849 epidemic. Subsequent outbreaks of cholera in the Cincinnati area in 1866 and 1873 resulted in fewer deaths. The 1866 outbreak claimed 1,406 lives and 1873 outbreak only killing 207 people.

Along with the major outbreaks of the above illnesses, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and polio also visited the tristate during the 1800s. With each passing epidemic, treatment and sanitary conditions generally improved. Cincinnati, Newport, and surrounding cities weathered these waves of illness and in many ways mirror the citizens of these areas today in their strength and courage. ■

Cleveland and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919

by Tim Daley, Executive Director, Cleveland Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in the 20th Century. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

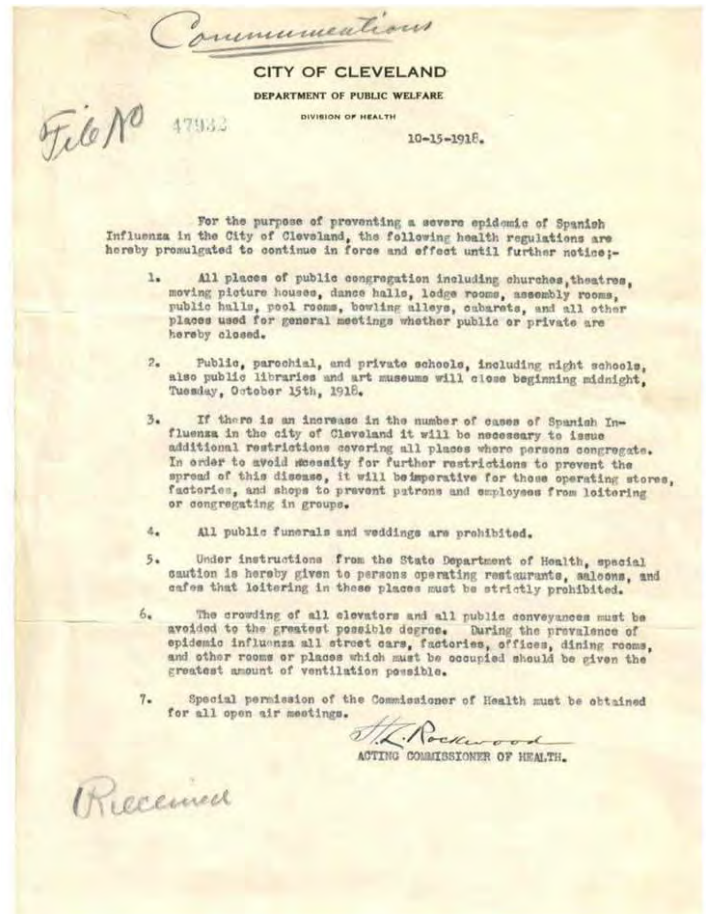
Mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and 65 years and older. The high mortality in healthy people, including those in the 20-40 year age group, was a unique feature of this pandemic.

By September 1918 a more virulent form of the flu had reached the United States. It spread rapidly and by September 22, US Army Surgeon General William Gorgas advised Cleveland City Health Commissioner Dr. Harry Rockwood of its likely spread to the city. However, it took until October 4th for the city to investigate flu conditions in the community. By October 7th there were 500 cases in Cleveland and action was taken to limit the spread.

At the time, isolation was seen as the best preventative. Though the initial approach was to suggest voluntary closures, by October 15th the city of Cleveland has ordered the closures of dance halls, movie houses, theaters, schools, night schools, churches, and Sunday Schools. Outdoor gatherings could take place only with permission. Yet, businesses, including saloons and poolrooms, remained open, but their hours of operation were shortened. The fact that saloons remained opened led to protests from clergy, many of whom had prohibitionist sentiments and who had seen their churches closed.

By October 21st the situation had gotten worse and there were 1,000 people in local hospitals. A concern about a shortage of beds for patients was answered by using other spaces in the city including the Cleveland Normal School and the local headquarters of the Liberty Loan war bond drive. While, the operating hours of local businesses were further shortened, industrial Cleveland continued at work given its role in supplying wartime materials.

By the first week of November the epidemic began to ease. The closure order was lifted on November 10 and the schools reopened on the 13th. However, the crisis was not yet fully over – a new, but minor wave of the flu continued into the coming early months of 1919. The cost of the epidemic



This document is a Communication received by Council from the City's Division of Health on October 18, 1918. It was read on October 21st, 1918, at the Monday evening Council Meeting. Image courtesy of the Archives of the City of Cleveland, File No. 47932.

was considerable both fiscally and in terms of mortality. Cleveland businesses lost \$1.25 million dollars. The death toll for Cleveland was more than 4,400 or 474 per 100,000—a higher rate than that in Chicago or New York City.

As present day historians, living through the current pandemic, we should consider how we can collect and record the history of this modern day event. We should ask the questions of what stories and artifacts should we be actively collecting at this time so that future generations may learn the lessons of this present age. Though these current times are filled with challenges, it also provides each of us the opportunity to fulfill History's mission of enlightenment to those who are yet to come. Therefore, let us seize this opportunity and look forward to the day when we will again gather together to remember the past and renew our associations with one another. Until then, take care and stay safe. ■

"Discover Shelby County History" App

by Tilda Phlipot, Director, Shelby County Historical Society

As part of the legacy project for the Shelby County Bicentennial in 2019, a few members of the bicentennial committee came up with the idea to create an application for mobile devices where a user would be able to view pieces of Shelby County's rich history from wherever they are in the county.

The driving force behind the idea of this app was the Tour Guide Map of Shelby County created for the Ohio Sesquicentennial in 1953. It gave a basis of 25 locations spread out throughout the county that interested citizens could take a "historical pilgrimage" to and visit at their own leisure in a self-guided driving tour. The committee thought, wouldn't it be neat to do something similar to this project, but updated and maybe with a few more locations? Thus the Bicentennial Driving Tour app legacy project was born.

The project was presented to the Shelby County Historical Society in the late spring of 2018 and research on what types of locations to include began immediately by Jane Bailey, the Society's curator. A preliminary list of locations throughout the county was written up, and given to the mayors of each town at a committee meeting to review and elaborate on. It was eventually agreed upon to include all cemeteries, villages and ghost towns, remaining one-room school houses, buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, churches mentioned in the History of Shelby County books, bygone churches, the new Veteran's Memorial Plaque bridge locations, and other locations of historical and community value. As the research on each of these places progressed, new

locations were found, increasing the number from its original 25 locations to encompass a new total of 346 points of interest throughout the county!

Finally, by the end of January 2019, a database had been created for the driving tour app containing the name of the point of interest, a brief description, its township and/or village it's near, its physical address (if applicable), its GPS coordinates, category, photograph (if there was one available), and a description of the photograph. After careful proofreading and discussions on several locations to confirm information, the database was finally ready for submission. This database was given to the SMS Group of Sidney where it was converted by Steve Sommer into an application that could be downloaded onto both Apple and Android devices. Previous research into creating an app such as this was priced at upwards of \$15,000 a year to create and maintain; however the SMS Group was willing to donate their time and cover the yearly maintenance fee to upkeep the app since it was part of the Bicentennial Legacy Project.

The app was given the name "Discover Shelby County History" and once downloaded can be used in multiple ways to learn more about Shelby County's rich history. Places of interest are sorted alphabetically and searchable by township, village it's near, category, and keywords. When in the app, there is also a tab that states "History Near Me," which when clicked will display through Google maps a red pin at what locations are near the user that are of historical interest. After over a thousand hours of research, proofreading, and programming, this app is finally available as a free download in both the Apple and Android app markets for all to enjoy!

While it may currently contain a multitude of historical locations, it does not encompass every single historical site



within Shelby County. An update to this app containing more locations, especially within Sidney, will be released for the Sidney Bicentennial at a later date in 2020. This update will contain almost 90 additional points of interest, a majority of which are focused within Sidney's city limits. Some of the locations included in the update are the oldest brick house still standing in Sidney, abandoned and converted factory buildings, and households of prominent residents. It is the hope of both the Shelby County Historical Society and the Bicentennial Committee that this application for phones can become an at home learning tool for many families throughout Shelby County as well as a great way for visitors to the area to see some of the incredible sites within the county. So please, while we continue to be quarantined due to the Covid-19 virus download the app today and "Discover Shelby County History!" ■

Digitization 101 Webinar Series

Interested in learning how you can digitize your collections? Attend our FREE 3-part webinar series to learn almost everything you need to know, from start to finish. These professional development opportunities are sponsored by the Ohio Local History Alliance and presented by Ohio Memory staff of the Ohio History Connection.

Digitization 101 - Part 1: Plan Before You Scan

Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 10-11:30am

Topics include: project planning and management; funding; vendor selection; material selection, and copyright.

[Click here to register.](#)

Digitization 101 - Part 2: Tools and Techniques

Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 10-11:30am

Topics include: equipment, scanning standards and best practices, and newspaper digitization.

[Click here to register.](#)

Digitization 101 - Part 3: Providing Access and Measuring Success

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 10-11:30am

Topics include: metadata standards and best practices; storage; hosting and public access; and project evaluation.

[Click here to register.](#)

We hope you can join us, but if you can't, webinar recordings will be made available to those who register but are unable to attend live. Please note that these webinars replace the in-person regional digitization workshops scheduled for June-August 2020 which have been cancelled due to the safety and health concerns caused by the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. Questions? Contact us at ohiomemory@ohiohistory.org. ■

Ohio Humanities to Award \$750,000 in CARES Act Funds to Ohio Cultural Nonprofits

Ohio Humanities will be providing \$750,000 in emergency relief grants for historical societies, museums, and other cultural organizations affected by COVID-19 health crisis.

Funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the grants will help Ohio's cultural community mitigate revenue losses, maintain staffing levels, and protect collections.

"Ohio's history and culture can be found throughout the state in art museums and small historical societies," said Pat Williamsen, Ohio Humanities director. "The people who manage those properties have been hit hard by the shutdowns mandated by the coronavirus pandemic, both personally and professionally. If we lose museum employees or artifacts during this economic crisis, the losses will be irreplaceable."

Applications for emergency grants will be available beginning on May 1; the applications will be accepted on a rolling basis starting on May 15. "We intend to make the first awards by June 1," Williamsen said, adding that funding will continue to be available throughout the summer. Later in the year, additional grants will be available to help cultural organizations deliver programs that maintain the health safety of patrons during a post-pandemic environment.

The CARES Act, passed by Congress on March 27, included \$75 million emergency funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Forty percent of that amount has been distributed to the 56 state and territorial humanities councils to support local relief efforts. In late March, NEH reported that the anchors of the creative economy such as museums and historical societies were reporting losses of \$1 billion every month as facilities were closed and educational programs were canceled.

Announcing the emergency appropriations available through the CARES Act, NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede observed, "To the extent that healing is to come during and after this pandemic, it will be through humanities fields from philosophy to literature to history to religious studies—through the act of documenting, preserving, sharing, and reflecting— that our communities will move toward a greater sense of wholeness."

Ohio Humanities staff are available by email to help applicants navigate the application process to access emergency funding. Ohio Humanities will continue accepting grant applications for regular projects as listed on grants page.

"Whatever the outcomes of the pandemic and economic crisis, we want to be certain that our rich history and culture remain available to Ohioans," said Williamsen. "The OH CARES program will ensure that Ohio's heritage is not another victim of the crisis."

As OH CARES grants become available, more information will be posted at ohiohumanities.org/CARES. ■

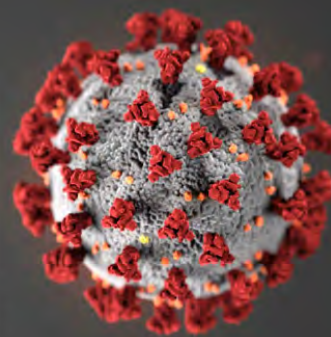


Ohio Museums Association COVID-19 Resources for Museums

The Ohio Museums Association has compiled a [series of resources](#) for museums in responding to COVID-19. Resources include Ohio Community Foundations with COVID-19 responses and resources, resources for Museums and Museum Professionals, and Ohio Museums with Virtual Programming. If you have virtual programming that you don't see on the list, please reach out and let them know at oma@ohiohistory.org. ■

COVID-19 Response Resources for Ohio Museums

Visit www.ohiomuseums.org for more information



Plenary speaker Kimberly A. Hamlin, award-winning historian, speaker, and writer.

SOA Annual Conference 2020 (virtual)

Save the dates! SOA has moved its annual conference online! Join us Tuesday June 16-Wednesday June 17, 2020, for our virtual conference, Archiving 100 Years of Change. Watch the [annual conference website](#) for more details, including the schedule and registration, as they are updated to reflect meeting virtually.

Can't wait to see you in June! ■



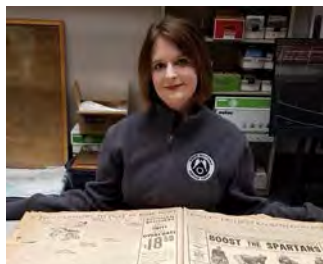
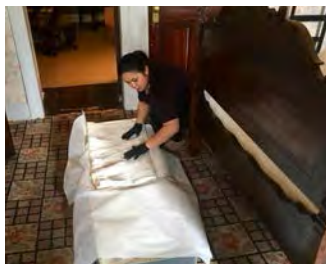
Midwestern ROOTS

2021 Call for Session Proposals

Midwestern Roots 2021 will be here before we know it and we're doing our first ever call for session proposals! IHS is looking for engaging and energetic presenters to help tell the many stories of the Midwest. The 2021 theme is Immigration and Migration. If you have an engaging topic, consider submitting a proposal by August 10, 2020. Visit indianahistory.org/midwesternroots for full submission details.

**WE DO
HISTORY.**
INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio History Service Corps



Putting history to work since 2010

What is the OHSC?

The OHSC is a group of dedicated AmeriCorps members who provide hands-on assistance to Ohio's local history communities and organizations. The OHSC is one of only two history-related AmeriCorps programs in the country.

Who we are & what we do.

Members come to this AmeriCorps program from a variety of backgrounds. We help organizations in areas of collections care, community engagement, organizational planning, historic preservation, educational program development, and more!

Benefits?

OHSC members are full time and serve 1700 hours throughout the year. They receive:

- Living Stipend
- Health Insurance
- Travel Reimbursement
- Eligibility for Education Award for future education & eligible loan forbearance
- Leadership & Training Opportunities
- Participation in a year of national service in one of only 2 history-related AmeriCorps programs in the country

Visit our website to find out more and stay up to date on news and recruitment.



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



Visit: ohiohistory.org/ameriCorps | Contact: Sara Fisher (sfisher@ohiohistory.org)

NEH Offers Emergency Relief Funding to Cultural Institutions Affected by Coronavirus

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced new grant guidelines designed to rapidly distribute CARES Act funding to cultural nonprofits affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This new funding opportunity, [NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations](#), will provide grants of up to \$300,000 to sustain humanities organizations and preserve jobs in the cultural sector.

"We know that, across the country, so many cultural organizations and the staff they employ are suffering severe hardship due to the pandemic," said NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. "NEH is working quickly to distribute emergency funds to strengthen the nation's museums, archives, libraries, historic sites, universities, and other educational institutions, and to support the communities and economies that rely on them."

Anchoring an \$878 billion domestic creative economy, museums and historic sites are reporting losses of \$1 billion a month as education programs, exhibitions, and other events have been canceled.

[NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations](#) emergency relief grants provide up to \$300,000 to cultural nonprofits to support a

range of humanities activities across the fields of education, preservation and access, public programming, digital humanities, and scholarly research through December 31, 2020. Funding may be used for short-term activities that emphasize retaining or hiring humanities staff at cultural organizations across the country to maintain or adapt critical programs during the pandemic. The deadline to apply is May 11, 2020.

[NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations](#) application guidelines are available on the NEH website. Applicants will be informed of funding decisions by June 2020.

NEH has already distributed nearly \$30 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to 55 states and U.S. territories through state and jurisdictional humanities councils to support local cultural groups and educational programming (see the announcement from Ohio Humanities elsewhere in this issue). The remaining \$45 million of the NEH supplemental appropriation will be distributed in direct grants to cultural organizations and humanists to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic. ■



Upcoming workshops, presented by the Ohio History Service Corps, sponsored by the Ohio Local History Alliance

Collections 101: Getting off on the Right Foot

An introductory workshop on collections care and management

- object handling
- labeling
- storage solutions
- collections research
- hands-on sessions
- and more!

Register at: www.ohiohistory.org/ameriCorps
Registration \$20 per organization. Limit 2 attendees per organization.


See event description for details

Save the Date
August 15, 2020









CRACKING THE CODE: VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

North Central Ohio: August 7th 2020 from 10:00-3:00
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum
Northwest Ohio: August 8th from 10:00-3:00
Hancock Historical Museum

Collections 101: Getting Off on the Right Foot

Presented by: [Amanda Wachowiak](#), Local History Member hosted at Shawnee State University, and [Sara Fisher](#), AmeriCorps Manager and Local History Services Coordinator

A primer on object handling, labeling, storage solutions, research and more. This workshop includes hands-on sessions that put theory into practices. Structured for small to medium size local history organizations who are just starting out or are looking for a refresher on best practices for collections care and management, the workshop will provide participants with scaled approaches to address common concerns pertaining to their collections. Participants will leave with a confidence to embark on caring for their collection, incorporating best practices and with a set of invaluable resources to continue moving forward. This workshop aligns with StEPs Stewardship of Collections standards. The event is \$20/organization. Limit 2 people per organization.

Date & Location:

Southwest Ohio

August 15, 2020 • 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Clinton County History Center
(149 E. Locust St., Wilmington, OH 45177)

Cracking the Code: Volunteer Programs

Presented by: [Annie Talmadge](#), Local History Member hosted at Hancock Historical Museum

For many local organizations, a primary concern is a lack of volunteers needed to reach their goals. Through this workshop, we will provide local history and community non-profits with the tools to build the infrastructure to recruit and effectively utilize volunteers. Participants will have the opportunity to network, fostering potential collaborations and begin laying the foundation for a successful volunteer program. The event is \$20/organization. Limit 2 representatives from each organization.

Dates & Locations:

North Central Ohio

August 7, 2020 • 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum
(Spiegel Grove, Fremont, OH 43420)

Northwest Ohio

August 8, 2020 • 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Hancock Historical Museum
(422 W Sandusky St, Findlay, OH 45840)

Registration Now Open for Both!

***Special note: In keeping with social distancing guidelines set out by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health, space will be limited for workshops to ensure that participants and presenters remain safe. In the event that further guidelines are implemented relating to group meeting size, space limitations at our hosts, and status of workshop location re-opening, we will share as soon as possible. If you have questions, or concerns please send us a private message and we will respond as soon as possible. Thank you for all you do for Ohio's local history and cultural heritage preservation! ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have a special project that would be acceptable for an Eagle Scout Project?

To become an Eagle Scout, the individual must complete a major project that benefits the community. It could be an outdoor project like a stone sidewalk or pathway, flower garden, benches or the public, or maybe creating a hands on activity for children. At Fort Ancient, Eagle Scout candidates create hiking trails, benches, picnic tables, boardwalks and bridges. If you are interested get in touch with your BSA Council in your area and let them know of your needs. They can help you locate a Scouting troop in your area. ■



Images courtesy of Jack Blosser, Fort Ancient Earthworks and Nature Preserve.

On the Web

Colleen Dilenschneider, Know Your Own Bone

Colleen Dileschneider is the Chief Market Engagement Officer at a research and predictive technology company called IMPACTS Research & Development. IMPACTS's primary expertise is developing intelligence to predict discretionary consumer behaviors – the kind of information that helps organizations understand not only what their constituents are doing, but also why they are doing it.

www.colleendilen.com

The company has given Dilenschneider express permission to share its data on this site. IMPACTS is tracking how the COVID-19 pandemic is influencing perceptions and intentions to visit cultural entities. New articles updating this information are posted multiple times per week. The data provided by this website is a valuable tool as cultural organizations try to plan for reopening and beyond.

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 **Cleo Redd Fisher Museum** has earned a Silver certificate for Management in the StEPs program. StEPs certificates are awarded by the American Association for State and Local History and mark an institution's progress towards enhancing standards and management of their resources.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

In response to COVID-19, the **Lorain Historical Society** has launched the COVID-19 Living History and Journaling Project. Everyone who lives and works within the City of Lorain is invited to write daily journal entries documenting their days and how their lives have been impacted by the pandemic. This project is welcome to all age groups, genders, and walks of life. These are unprecedented times and the long-term impacts of this virus on our community are not yet fully known. In order for journal entries to be donated to the project, the writer must fill out a permission form. For more information please email info@lorainhistory.org.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

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

In March, the **Dennison Railroad Depot Museum** earned a Gold certificate for Stewardship of Collections in the StEPs program. StEPs certificates are awarded by the

American Association for State and Local History and mark an institution's progress towards enhancing standards and management of their resources.

We are all trying to stay connected to our visitors, members, and with each other in these times of uncertainty, and continue to bring content that is educational and fun for families at home. The **Canton Museum of Art, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Massillon Museum, McKinley Museum and Presidential Library, National First Ladies' Library, and Pro Football Hall of Fame** have partnered up in a social media program called the Stark and Tuscarawas County Cultural Collaboration. Every week, Monday through Saturday, each organization debuts new educational material at 12pm. These programs are cross-promoted on Facebook and Instagram, and include art activities and lecture content.

Region 6

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

Featuring little-known stories, new spins on old stories, and myth-busting about Westerville, Ohio, the **Westerville History Center & Museum** produced a 12-episode web series called *So You Think You Know Westerville*. The videos

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 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.

were posted on the museum's [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#). Engagement was high; the channel and page saw increased views, followers, shares, comments and subscribers. It was a way to connect with audiences during current closures and program cancellations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, **The Dawes Arboretum** created a victory garden expressly to feed the local community. Dawes' Executive Director laid out and planted seeds in April for a variety of cold and warm season crops located west of the Visitors Center. The vegetable varieties were chosen for the large amount of produce produced. Food banks are located in Jacksonstown and Newark, produce will be harvested and donated by Arboretum volunteers.

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

The **Clinton County History Center** has developed a Historical Marker Tour Guidebook featuring 13 Ohio History Connection markers throughout Clinton County that feature prominent events or individuals in the community's history. Developed as a result of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, the guidebook allows individuals and families to learn about local history while exploring the community and practicing safe social distancing. For more information and the full guidebook please visit clintoncountyhistory.org/clinton-county-historical-marker-tour/

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

Joined or renewed between February 1 and April 6, 2020

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Mary Louise Hawkins, *Columbus*

ORGANIZATIONS

Applied Anthropology Laboratories, *Muncie, Indiana*

Temporal House Foundation for a Livable History, *Toledo*

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

Leslie A. Blankenship, *Hilliard*

Marsha Friend, *Columbus*

Michael Hocker, *Galion*

Karen Dinsmore, *Maineville*

Rosalie Frazier, *Columbus*

Jennie L. Self, *Massillon*

ORGANIZATIONS

Ashland County Historical Society, *Ashland*

Guernsey County Historical Society, *Cambridge*

Society, *Caldwell*

Brethren Heritage Center, *Brookville*

Harrison Coal & Reclamation Historical Park, *Holloway*

North Canton Heritage Society, *North Canton*

Brewster-Sugarcreek Township Historical Society, *Brewster*

Historic Fort Steuben, *Steubenville*

Ohio Women's History Project, *Columbus*

Canal Winchester Area Historical Society, *Canal Winchester*

Hoover Historical Center, *North Canton*

Over-the-Rhine Museum, *Cincinnati*

Carlisle Area Historical Society, *Carlisle*

Huron Historical Society, *Huron*

Perry History Club, Inc., *Massillon*

Central Insurance Fire Museum, *Van Wert*

Indian Hill Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

Putnam County Historical Society, *Kalida*

Clermont County Historical Society, *Batavia*

Jackson Township Historical Society, *Massillon*

Roseville Historical Society, *Roseville*

Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc., *Dayton*

John Paulding Historical Society Inc., *Paulding*

Sauder Village, *Archbold*

Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, *Lancaster*

Kinsman Historical Society, *Kinsman*

Shanes Crossing Historical Society, *Rockford*

Fairport Harbor Historical Society, *Fairport Harbor*

Lake County Historical Society, *Painesville*

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens Inc., *Akron*

Four Corners Historical Cooperative, Inc., *Grelton*

Lorain County Historical Society, *Elyria*

Swiss Community Historical Society, *Bluffton*

Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, *Columbus*

Louisville-Nimishillen Historical Society, *Louisville*

The Castle Historic House Museum, *Marietta*

Franklinton Historical Society, *Columbus*

Lynchburg Historical Society, *Lynchburg*

The Grail In The USA, *Loveland*

Gahanna Historical Society, *Gahanna*

Mahoning Valley Historical Society, *Youngstown*

The John P Parker Historical Society, *Ripley*

German Culture Museum, *Walnut Creek*

Main Street Wilmington, *Wilmington*

Tippecanoe Historical Society, *Tipp City*

German Village Society, *Columbus*

Mason Historical Society, *Mason*

Union County Historical Society, *Marysville*

Grand Rapids Historical Society, *Grand Rapids*

Metamora Area Historical Society, *Metamora*

Ursuline College, *Pepper Pike*

New Washington Historical Society, *New Washington*

Wadsworth Area Historical Society, *Wadsworth*

Noble County Historical

Westwood Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

**Please note: Due to the closure of the Ohio History Center to all non-essential personnel under the statewide stay-at-home order, we have been unable to receive mailed-in memberships or renewals. The last batch of memberships processed prior to this newsletter were picked up from the Center on April 3, 2020*

MAY 11:

NEH CARES Act Grants Due. For more information, see page 13.

MAY 15:

OH CARES grants due. For more information see page 10.

JUNE 1:

Ohio History Fund COVID-19 Emergency Grants Due. For more information, see page 5-6.

JUNE 16-17:

Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Conference (online). For more information, see page 11.

JUNE 17:

Digitization 101 Webinar – Part 1: Plan Before You Scan. For more information, see page 10.

JULY 14:

Digitization 101 Webinar – Part 2: Tools and Techniques. For more information, see page 10.

AUGUST 1:

Ohio Open Doors sign up deadline. For more information, see ohiohistory.org/opendoors.

AUGUST 7:

Cracking the Code: Volunteer Programs Workshop in Fremont. For more information, see page 14.

AUGUST 8:

Cracking the Code: Volunteer Programs Workshop in Findlay. For more information, see page 14.

AUGUST 10:

Midwestern Roots Conference Session Proposals Due. For more information, see page 11.

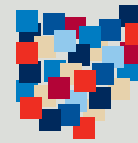
AUGUST 15:

Collections 101 Workshop in Wilmington. For more information, see page 14.

AUGUST 18:

Digitization 101 Webinar – Part 3: Providing Access and Measuring Success. For more information, see page 10.

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)
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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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www.ohiolha.org and on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)

Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75 (\$140 for 2)

Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60 (\$110 for 2)

Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individuals:

Affiliate:

\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)

Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

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

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and www.facebook.com/groups/OhioLHAMembers/



Ohio Local History Alliance



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