

Regional Meetings: Be The Change

Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, Ohio Local History Alliance

I'm excited about the prospect of seeing everyone in person for this year's Regional Meetings! The board and I are monitoring the ongoing developments with COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, and we remain hopeful about being able to meet in person in the spring. Should the situation change so as to make it unsafe to meet in person we anticipate being able to offer regional meetings online. We are working on setting specific COVID-safety policies for each region in consultation with the meeting hosts. Specific updates will be provided to registrants before the meeting. Due to the ongoing public health situation, we urge you not to come to the meeting if you're not feeling well. Refunds will be given upon request to registrants who are unable to attend due to illness.

Even wearing a mask, I greatly enjoyed the chance to get out around Ohio again and visit our host sites while planning the meetings. We can't thank this year's host sites enough for welcoming all of you to their sites and helping us put together inter-



ested and educational meetings. If you'd be interested in hosting a regional meeting in the future, let me know or volunteer at your regional meeting!

In addition to the chance to see places rich in history, 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 your history.

The Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum of the City of Defiance will host the **Region 1** meeting on April 9 in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Sessions will include a discussion of managing paid and unpaid staff, a presentation on recognizing cognitive changes in older adults and how to cope, and a session on the collections dilemma of unwanted family heirlooms. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Tuttle, located in a former bank building. Ask them about the creative ways they've used the bank vault for audience engagement.

The **Region 2** meeting will be hosted by the **Seneca County Museum** on April 2. Meeting sessions will cover collections care basics with a limited budget, adapting and creating public programming to attract visitors, and engaging young people

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It's officially a new year filled with renewed hope and opportunity for us all. As we enter the slower winter months, now is the time to think strategically as to how you may better serve your community. What goals have you set for yourself and your organization for this year?

Museums and historical sites are a respite for many during the challenging times we've faced over the course of the past two years. They serve as a place to immerse oneself in your local history, community, and culture in a safe and somewhat naturally socially distanced environment. We should all take pride in what we have accomplished and continue to accomplish within our organizations despite the challenges placed before us.

I look forward to the upcoming Regional Meetings as an opportunity not only to learn about what everyone else is doing with their organizations, but to gather new invigorating ideas that can be incorporated at my own museum. Aside from educational and insightful sessions, the opportunity to hear how everyone else has provided outreach to their communities and schools is always energizing. More information on the Regional Meetings is in this newsletter and the registration brochure will in your mailbox!

Christy Davis
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One more award!

We would like to apologize to the Sutliff Museum for omitting the announcement of their award from the November/December 2021 issue of the *Local Historian*.

The Sutliff Museum received an Outstanding Achievement Award in the History Outreach/Exhibits or Displays category for their online exhibit, "A Million Ways to Die in the 19th Century."

The Sutliff Museum presented its first digital exhibit titled, "A Million Ways to Die in the 19th Century". This exhibit within the Sutliff Museum's website consisting of three components: Mini episodes, feature videos, and photographs. There are six mini episodes that touch on specific areas that were deadly to the 19th century population. This ranges from household items like lighting and wallpaper to fashion including clothing and makeup. Each of these episodes are between 2 and 4 minutes long. They included two feature videos in the exhibit. The first is on diphtheria, a disease that touched the Sutliff family personally as well as many families in the 19th century. The second video discusses the difference between miasma and contagion theories. There were a lot of debates in the 19th century between physicians on how diseases were spread and how to treat them. This video briefly touches on this topic. The third component consists of 15 photographs provided by the Melnick Medical Museum. These photographs show medical tools and medicines used by physicians in the 19th century which prove to be very deadly today. This exhibit is available on the Sutliff Museum's website.



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in history with the example of Ducky McQuacker. The meeting will come to a close after a tour of the Seneca County Museum.

The **Chagrin Falls Historical Society** will host the **Region 3** meeting on April 2. The meeting will feature sessions on new ways to think about sharing your collections, digitization and online community outreach, and maintaining institutional and local government records. The meeting concludes with a tour of the Chagrin Falls Museum.

The **Sebring Historical Society** hosts the **Region 4** meeting at their Strand Theatre on April 9. The meeting will focus on historic preservation and community outreach, with sessions on the grants for growing your organization, and on the basics of historic preservation. Lunch will be held at the nearby Sebring Mansion, an example of historic preservation in action, and include a rare chance to tour the mansion. The meeting will conclude with a screening of a movie highlighting the life of Victor Schreckingost, a world-renowned inventor and designer from Sebring.

Dennison Railroad Depot Museum hosts the **Region 5** meeting in their new Streetside Center on March 19. The meeting will provide two session tracks: the collections track will include sessions on preparing a collections policy and on designing a space for collections storage; while the other presentations will focus on the experience of surviving 2020 and on models of safely re-engaging volunteers. The meeting concludes with a tour of the Depot Museum.

In **Region 6** the **Franklin County Genealogical and Historical Society**

will welcome you to the Main branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library on March 19. The sessions will include a follow up on the keynote address at the 2021 Annual Meeting with a session on discovering the stories of African-American pioneers, settlers, and builders in Franklin County; and a session discussing the Ohio & Erie Canal Southern Descent Heritage Trail as a model of partnerships to promote heritage tourism. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Local History and Genealogy resources at the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

The **Armstrong Air and Space Museum** will host the **Region 7** meeting on March 12. The meeting will be held in the museum's new STEM Inspiration Center and feature sessions on state educational standards and expanding outreach to schools, as well as the challenges and rewards of volunteer management. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the museum, where you can learn more about Ohio's connection to space exploration.

On March 5, the **Cincinnati Observatory** will host the **Region 8** meeting. Meeting sessions will begin by focusing on small museums as agents of change, with a choice of afternoon sessions on collections assessment or public/private partnerships. Attendees are asked to bring their mission statement to share and discuss during Sharing Time. The lunch break will include a chance to view our nearest star through the 1845 telescope (weather permitting). The meeting will conclude with a tour of the historic observatory.

The **Region 9** meeting on March 12 will be hosted by the **Adena Mansion and Gardens Historic Site** in Chillicothe.

Meeting sessions will include discussions of becoming more present on the internet so that new audiences can find you, collections care on a budget, and a follow-up to the 2021 Annual Meeting keynote on ways to research African-American history in your area. A tour of the Adena Mansion will conclude the meeting.

On March 5, the **Noble County Historical Society** will welcome you to the Ball-Caldwell Hospitality House for the **Region 10** meeting. During the meeting, you'll learn about engaging audiences through social media, ways to find and write grants, and advice on best practices for engaging teachers. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Noble County Historic Jail and Museum, a fascinating example of the time when the county jail and the county sheriff's house were the same building.

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—maybe to see a site you've always been interested in, or to take in an interesting presentation.

The brochure, with more complete descriptions of each meeting, should have arrived in your mailbox this week. Copies can also be found online at www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-regional-meetings. You can register by mailing in the form on the last page of the brochure with a check or by using the online registration links on the OLHA website to pay via credit card or check. Have questions? Call or email Betsy Hedler, Executive Secretary, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org

Your Tax Refund + Ohio Income Tax Return = Support for Local History

By Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager,
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History
Connection, Columbus

The Ohio History Fund is the state's only competitive matching grant program exclusively for history projects. But there's a hitch: the grants are made from money donated to the Ohio History Connection and we start at \$0 every January. To raise money to make History Fund grants, we need your help. The more donations the History Fund receives, the more and larger grants the History Fund can make. Case in point: in 2021, we had \$130,900. This year, we have \$207,100.

That's right - \$207,100! The big reason is because we have a new source of revenue this year. It's from the Rover pipeline settlement that the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection was a party to. Whether we can count on "Rover" in the future, the program's largest source of revenue for grants is still the Ohio History Fund tax check-off on your state income tax return, line 26b. How much we have to grant is up to you. The average donation in 2021 was \$11.68, so if 18,000 Ohio tax filers give the average in 2022, we'll have more than \$210,000 to award to organizations like yours in 2023.

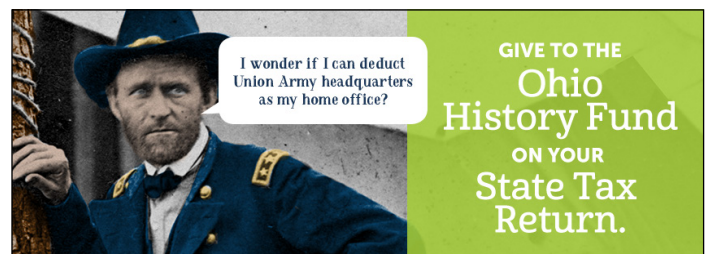
When you give via the History Fund tax check-off, you support the work of local history in Ohio. See examples in sidebars to this story and on the Alliance's Facebook and Twitter feeds as the tax filing deadline of **April 18** draws closer. Nearly half of the History Fund's 94 recipients are Alliance members and you collectively have received approximately \$425,000 in grants (out of nearly \$870,000). For a complete list of Ohio History Fund recipients, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/history-fund/recipients.

Applications for this current grant cycle (2021-2022) are under review. Recipients will be publically announced at the Statehood Day event, March 1. For more about Statehood Day, go to: www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday

The deadline for applications in 2022 will be posted in June on the History Fund's website: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The application deadline is not scheduled yet, but will likely fall around Labor Day. The website also includes information about eligible projects and applicants, grant amounts, and instructions for applying. Or, contact Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager Andy Verhoff at 614-562-4490 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org.

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

Right: Annie Oakley, U.S. Grant, Oliver Hazard Perry, and the Wright Brothers team up again to promote donations to the Ohio History fund tax check-off in 2022. Promotional materials are available digitally in a variety of sizes for your social media, newsletters, and website at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund



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Ohio History Fund-funded Projects Completed by Alliance Members – Congratulations!

The Digital Precontact Experience

Explore thousands of years of Ohio precontact history with the touch of a button.



Made possible with an \$8,303 grant from the Ohio History Fund and \$8,231 in matching support, the Fort Recovery Historical Society created "The Digital Precontact Experience." It is a virtual exhibit about the Ohio Country's Pre-Contact American Indian cultures. A centerpiece of the exhibit is 3-D scans of 101 artifacts stewarded by the society. Using the scans, you can examine artifacts virtually as if you are holding the real thing. You can view the exhibit and scanned artifacts remotely through the FRHS's website, or access it while at the museum, to enrich your visit. The Fort Recovery Historical Society, the Fort Recovery State Museum, and Ball State University's Applied Anthropology Laboratories collaborated to complete the year-long project in the summer of 2021. The Fort Recovery Historical Society has been an Alliance member since 2010.



A History Fund-supported project at the Lakeside Heritage Society enabled much needed renovation to its Heritage Hall in 2017. Work included replacing the roof, reconstructing the vestibule, and painting the exterior. Built in 1875, the structure was originally a Methodist Episcopal church and became the society's museum in 1968 after being saved from demolition. A "Contributing Structure" to the Lakeside Historic District, Heritage Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and all work met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The grant from the Ohio History Fund was \$10,000 and was matched in the amount of \$12,276. The Lakeside Heritage Society has been a member of OLHA since 1994.

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," line 26b.
- Under "Ohio History Fund," fill in the amount that you'd like to contribute. Last year's average contribution was \$11.68. A small donation can make a big difference – but if want to round it up to special year, please do – contributing \$20.26 commemorates the United States' upcoming 250th anniversary (also known as the semiquincentennial!)
- The amount you contribute supports the Ohio History Fund grant program. Since 2012, the History Fund has made 94 grants across our state for a total of nearly \$870,000. The Fund supports local history projects in communities throughout Ohio - all because of donation from generous history-minded Ohioans like you. Thank you!

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Help the History Fund and It Can Help You!

Here's what you can do between now and that red letter tax-filing deadline of **April 18** to support Ohio History Fund grants for organizations like yours:

- Share some of your state income tax refund with the History Fund, line 26b, "Ohio History Fund" on the 2021 Ohio IT 1040 Individual Income Tax Return. Tell your history-loving family and friends about it, too. Find "talking points" and other materials listed below at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund - "Promote the Ohio History Fund"
- Reprint in your newsletters an article about the Ohio History Fund, found here. (That's one less article you'll have to write for your newsletter! Adapt and edit as needed.)
- Forward emails and share social media posts about the Ohio History Fund tax check-off from the Ohio History Connection and the Ohio Local History Alliance.
- Digitally distribute fun promotional materials about the Ohio History Fund. They feature:
 - Annie Oakley** - "Oh shoot! My taxes are due!"
 - Gen. Ulysses S. Grant** - "I wonder if I can deduct Union Army headquarters as my home office"
 - The Wright Brothers** - "Taking deductions without receipts? That will never fly."
 - Oliver Hazard Perry** - "All hands on deck" (Give to the Ohio History Fund on Your State Tax Return.)
- You can find images of Annie, Orville and Wilbur, Ulysses, and Oliver promoting the History Fund here. Because the pandemic is still with us, we're only distributing "digital swag" again, like we did last year.
- Besides 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-geninfo.aspx (at the site, click on "Organizational Plates" and then "History")
- You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on "Give." Be sure to designate your gift this way: "For Ohio History Fund."

The more the Ohio History Fund receives in donations, the more grants the Ohio History Fund makes to you.

Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 94 grants across our state for a total of nearly \$870,000. Proving that there's a great need for the History Fund, it has received 474 grant applications totaling more than \$5.7 million in requests!



SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Ohio History Fund—Support History in Your Community

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" on line 26b of your state income tax return.

Your donation with those from your friends, relatives, and thousands of other history lovers makes possible grants for local history projects throughout Ohio. Since the Ohio History Fund began in 2012, it has made 94 grants across our state for a total of nearly \$870,000 Proving that there's a great need for the History Fund, it has received 474 grant applications totaling more than \$5.7 million in requests! For a list of grant recipients, visit: www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/local-history-services/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-geninfo.aspx (at the site, click on "Organizational Plates" and then "History")

You can also make a donation directly to the Ohio History Connection for the History Fund, visit www.ohiohistory.org and click on "Give." Be sure to designate your gift "for Ohio History Fund."

The more you give to the Ohio History Fund, to more grants it can make to organizations like yours that preserve history in our state.

Questions? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or call Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund & Outreach Manager, State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection, averhoff@ohiohistory.org or 614-562-4490. Thanks!

Beyond Maps:

How to Bring Emotional, Disturbing, and Poignant Primary Sources into the Classroom



Traci Manning,
Curator of Education,
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Society

In third grade, students begin learning about the differences between primary and secondary sources when studying history and social studies. As they advance in grades, students learn to compile historic narratives from multiple perspectives and how to analyze the causes, effects, and correlations between historical events. These points are noted in state-wide content standards and teachers use a variety of methods to reinforce the lessons including outreach programs from local museums or historic sites. Through these, students explore maps, old images, and maybe an artifact or two to learn about the past.

History and museum educators have an opportunity to expand those teaching methods to include unique and deeply personal primary sources. All too often, outreach programs focus on a very general story aimed at “feel good” history but does this limit learning? Students today are bombarded with news broadcasts, social media, imagery, and stories from their modern world that spans the spectrum from happy to devastating. In the end, these are also primary sources



Top: Youngstown Vindicator, Page 1. May 21, 1921. Volume XXXII, No. 258.

Bottom: Youngstown Sheet and Tube Hospital Image, Mahoning Valley Historical Society Archival Collection

documenting their lives today. If they are able to process these moments, history and museum educators can give them the tools to process similar primary sources from the past.

The first step in creating an outreach program diving deeper into primary sources is to determine where your story fits in. Using state content standards as a guide, educators should have a clear sense of what teachers and students are studying at each grade level. Does the story offer students a new way to uncover

the complexity of history? How can the story guide students towards discussion and critical thinking and beyond the “right answer” mentality in today’s world of academic testing? Whose voices are missing in the story?

One of the first questions to consider is whether the story is appropriate for both the age of the student and their general learning. Never teach a story simply for its shock value, like a salacious local bank robbery from the 1920s. While the

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story might be interesting, does it offer the student an opportunity to make a relevant connection to their own life? Consider placing the story in the context of worker's rights or the history of the legal system. Dive deeper and the students will follow.

If the narrative is sensitive or mature, consider its place. A rule of thumb: if it makes you feel uncomfortable, it will likely make the students feel uncomfortable. If the question remains, reach out to the teacher with some basic information and gather feedback. For example, a program about medical history which involves stories of painful industrial accidents during the height of the industrial revolution has the potential to be a powerful learning tool. In this case, work with the teachers to gauge the emotional maturity of the students. Also, consider offering warnings with images to allow students to choose what they see.

An important factor in creating these programs is knowing that every presentation will be different as the audience will be different. One class might focus on a particular element while another seemingly ignores it and questions will vary from student to student. Given this, the presenter must have a deeply broad knowledge of the subject in order to tackle those questions and variations.

While presenting the information, let the students guide how deep the discussion will go. Their questions and reactions will be very telling as to how they are absorbing the material and what curiosities they have. When presenting a program about the history of slavery, I introduced the students to an auction list which had some information penciled in by someone attending the auction. This primary source dated to the 1850s and the students were drawn to the ages of those listed, noting that several were in their age group. Others noted the "occupations" listed and asked general questions. One student noticed a word written next to the name of an enslaved young woman. The word referenced a medical condition which indicated that the woman would likely be unable to have any children. Learning this, the student asked why that would be something of note on this type of list. What resulted was a discussion led by several students about the impact of childbirth on a woman's perceived value during this time period. As the presenter, I was fully engaged but let the students guide their way through this discussion, ensuring that they stayed on topic and gauged the depth to which they were comfortable exploring. There will be times when it is appropriate to pull a topic back and refocus. Gauge and trust your students by reading their body language and listening to the side chatter to let you know when this is necessary.

A 2017 study by the Southern Poverty Law Center pinpointed seven key problems with how slavery is taught in the classroom: "We teach about slavery without context, preferring to present the good news before the bad. In elementary school, students learn about the Underground Railroad, about Harriet Tub-

LIST OF			
17 RICE FIELD NEGROES			
FOR SALE BY			
J. S. RYAN,			
AT PUBLIC AUCTION,			
On Tuesday next, 23d inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M			
No.	NAME.	DESCRIPTION.	AGE.
1	Marlow,	Engineer,	12
2	Hercules,	House Servant,	19
3	Betsy,	Field Hand,	30
4	Mary,	Field Hand,	23
5	Port Royal,	Field Hand and Ferryman,	50
6	Brass,	Engineer,	22
2 7	Dido,	Field Hand,	28
8	Hardtimes,	Field Hand,	21
9	Sabina,	Field Hand,	24
10	Toney,	Field Hand and Gardiner,	55
2 11	Cynthia,	Field Hand,	50
1 12	Bella,	Maid and Seamstress,	25
13	Meshach,	Field Hand,	25
2 14	Maria,	Field Hand,	23
15	Eve,	Prolap.	25
2 16	Eliza,		8
1 17	Peggy,		50

TERMS.—One-third cash, remainder in four equal annual instalments, secured by bond with undoubted and approved security, and mortgage of the property.

List of 17 Rice Field Negroes for Sale By J. S. Ryan, At Public Auction, 1857. *Emergence of Advertising in America: 1850-1920*, Duke University. idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/r4w952d86

man or other "feel good" stories, often before they learn about slavery." Offering poignant primary sources allows students to perceive a much more thorough and nuanced narrative.

This style of learning helps students make connections between events, places, people, actions, and other moments in time which have shaped, and continue to shape, the world. Allowing students to dig deeper into the past through these types of primary sources gives them the chance to explore pieces of history that are often lost in classroom lessons. Laying a foundation of context will help students work through the stories that many deem to be too disturbing, sensitive, or emotional. In fact, history is filled with every aspect of the human experience, not just the joyous ones.

QR Codes:

Challenges and Opportunities for History Organizations

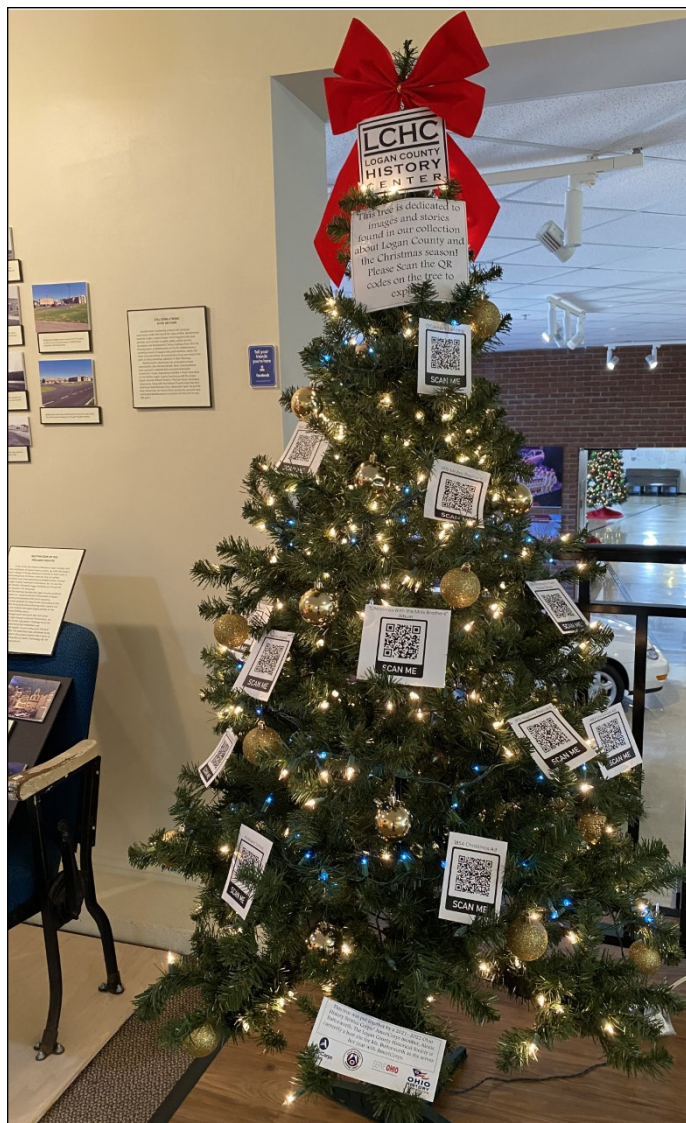
Alexis Butterworth, AmeriCorps Member of the Ohio History Service Corps Serving at the Logan County History Center

A lot of people have heard of a QR code, which stands for Quick Response. These codes are a two-dimensional encoded image, similar to a barcode, usually in a square shape. As QR codes have evolved over time, they now can be different shapes and colors. When participants scan the QR code, they receive hidden information that is connected to the code.

QR codes were created in 1994 by a Toyota subsidiary. The original purpose of QR codes, because of the company's connection to Toyota, was to improve the efficiency of manufacturing and organization of vehicles and their parts. As with most technology, over time QR codes became more accurate and could include more information. According to Insight Works, a company that provides add-ons for Microsoft Dynamics NAV ERP business systems, the main difference between barcodes and QR codes is the physical dimensions. Barcodes are scanned in a line. Because of this, the amount of data is limited to what can be uploaded to the stripes within the bar. QR codes on the other hand, can be in different shapes and sizes from which information can be added. Instead of a single line, QR codes can be read both vertically and horizontally.

The use of QR codes seemed to ebb and flow as technology advanced and cell phones have become more of a common piece of equipment to own. Statistics presented by Statista found that in June of 2011, 14 million mobile users in the U.S. scanned a QR code on their mobile devices. 7 years later, QR codes interactions increased 81% from 2018-2020, with the U.S.A Covid pandemic starting in early 2020. As the concern of spreading germs increased, QR codes became a valuable tool. This included museums.

One of the benefits of museums using online platforms is showcasing their collections online where people can access them from home or can view the object without retrieving it from the collections. It is with the latter idea that I wanted to use QR codes at the upcoming Christmas Open House hosted at the Logan County Historical Society. Because the museum would be decorated with Christmas trees, we came up with an idea we called the history tree! The idea was to decorate a tree with QR codes! Each labeled code would show a story or item from our collections that pertained to Christmas. Visitors could take out their smart phones, open their camera app, and scan the code. Previously, phones relied on apps to scan QR codes. However, today, most phones can scan QR codes through their phone app, usually displaying a link that only needs to be tapped to be taken to the linked content. I had previously written some



stories highlighting some Christmas pictures and there was a vast collection of historic Christmas postcards in the archives, so I was good on content. It was then time to turn them into QR codes!

I turned to Google for help. There are a lot of QR generator sites on the internet, but some features require a paid subscription. I unfortunately learned this lesson the hard way. Most of the QR code generator websites connect the code to a website url, but some can save images, text, pdfs, and other types of information. The one I chose to use was QR Code Generator. In the free version of this program, you can connect QR codes to urls, virtual business cards, text, emails, text messages, wifi information, bitcoin, and Twitter profiles. If you Google "QR code generator," many other free and subscription QR code pro-

(continued on page 11)

grams will be listed. Depending on your resources and what you need to use the codes for, there are plenty of options to choose from. Most websites had an easy platform to upload the information and created the codes. For my project, I wanted to upload images from our archives along with text. I successfully created the desired product... except I learned that I had signed up for a free trial of the pro QR Code Generator version and I had to pay to keep my QR codes. The free version did not limit the activation time my QR codes could be scanned, but because I did not pay for the pro version, my QR codes were rendered inactive. Again, be wary of free trials!

I ended up creating the images and labels on Google Slides, similar to Power Point, and linking those to create the QR codes. I printed the codes out, put them on the tree, and waited for the Christmas Open House. I volunteered the first day and stood near the tree so I could answer any questions. To my surprise and mild disappointment, a lot of visitors walked by or looked at the tree, but never really tried to scan the codes. Why? QR codes, in my mind, were not that hard! The Christmas Open House ended and I felt like my codes had been a failure. But I wanted to learn from this experience.

Talking with my coworkers, as well as the President of the Board, I reflected on my experiences. First thing that I realized was the different levels of technology-savvy visitors had. It seemed that a lot of visitors did not know how to scan the codes or were not comfortable attempting to scan them. Second thing I realized that there needed to be more in-depth instructions. I was somewhat surprised on how many people did not seem to know how to scan a QR code. Some simply stared at the codes and walked away. Why? I had not included instructions on how to scan the codes because I thought people would know-how or the process was pretty straight forward. While I was confused, I grew up while cell phones were evolving into the high-tech devices they are now, so I have been able to adapt to the changing technology. As one of my coworkers said, "what is intuitive to you, may not be intuitive to others."

After the Christmas Open House, I was a bit disappointed on how the QR code experiment turned out. However, I wanted to learn from this experiment and come up with a different tactic for QR codes. The biggest thing I would improve for next time is more in-depth instructions. I just assumed that the visitors would know what to do, and that was an incor-

rect assumption. Not everyone knows how to scan a QR code, and some were even scared the code would do something to their phone. After brainstorming with other staff members, we figured a possible course of action would be to make a "how-to" QR video to post to social media as well as to train docents on how to explain QR codes to visitors. The "how-to" video would allow visitors to be aware that the exhibit or events uses QR codes and permits them to practice scanning a code. This will hopefully allow visitors to become more comfortable scanning QR codes before they arrive and allow them to fully participate in the exhibit or event.

While I was somewhat disappointed in my QR code experiment, I hope retelling my experiences here will help someone else using QR codes. In our world today, technology is becoming more and more integrated into our lives and the places we visit, including museums. Because visitors have different levels of comfortability with technology, I now know it is important to have clear instructions and training for volunteers when incorporating things like QR codes. Even if the first attempt does not go as smoothly as you hoped, the important thing is to keep trying and continue to include new ways of interactions, like QR codes.

Sample QR Codes from the tree. Try scanning them with your phone camera!

J.M. Abraham's Pure
Maple Syrup



1912 Hanger Postcard



1909 Hervey Postcard



Ohio History Day Call for Judges

Calling all educators, historians, museum professionals, and anyone with a love of history and community! We need your help to ensure this year's Ohio History Day is a HUGE success for Ohio's students.

Ohio History Day, an affiliate of National History Day, gives students in grades 4-12 the chance to become historians. Based on their own research aligned to the annual theme, students create exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites and academic papers, and present their findings at competitions. Thousands of students take part in Ohio History Day competitions across the state each year.

As we enter into contest season, we need over 550 judges across the state. We hope that you'll be one of them! Ohio History Day students are some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic in the state, and by volunteering as a judge, you are playing a vital role in helping them continue their learning journey.

Interested in learning more? Check out Ohio History Day's Judge Page for helpful videos, resources, and testimonials



from previous judges. To find an Ohio History Day contest and register as a judge, please visit our Sign Up! page here.

Got questions? We have answers – feel free to contact us at historyday@ohiohistory.org. We hope to “see” you soon at an Ohio History Day Contest!

2021 OHRAB Achievement Award Winner

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is proud to announce that the recipient of the 2021 OHRAB Achievement Award is the Muskingum County Records Center.

In 2019, the Muskingum County Records Center began a partnership with Family Search to preserve the historic records of the Muskingum County Common Pleas Clerk of Courts Office and make the records more accessible. These include the Common Pleas Civil and Criminal files from 1840 to the early 1900s and the Common Pleas Domestic Court files to the late 1980s. Prior to this project, the records could only be viewed at the Records Center. The lack of an index also hindered access to the documents, which were damaged by inadequate storage conditions.

During the project volunteers con-

tributed over 40,000 hours of their time to unfold, flatten, clean, image, and properly store the original historic documents. Once the records were preserved, the Records Center staff indexed the records, making the original records easily accessible to the public for the first time. Family Search then uploaded the records to its website where the images are now available for free to all researchers.

With this award, OHRAB also honors the memory of Muskingum County Common Pleas Court Clerk of Courts Todd Bickle. Mr. Bickle was a believer in the citizen's right to access public records. He spearheaded the creation of the Records Center and remained its champion. Mr. Bickle initiated the project with Family Search and his office purchased the materials needed

to preserve the historic records. Due to his untimely death, he did not see the project's completion, but his efforts will continue to benefit all Ohioans.

OHRAB congratulates the staff and volunteers of the Muskingum County Records Center for their accomplishments and wishes them continued success in their efforts to preserve the history of Ohio.

The Ohio Historical Advisory Board (OHRAB) is the central body for historical records planning in the state. The Board is funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Board members represent Ohio's public and private archives, records offices, and research institutions. For more information on OHRAB and its Ohio Archives Grant Program, visit ohrab.org/.

Call for Proposals, OLHA 2022 Annual Meeting



Do you have a great idea you'd like to share with the local history community? The Alliance is now accepting session proposals for the 2022 Annual Meeting. Next year's theme is Be the Change; and we anticipate being in-person at the Quest Conference Center just north of Columbus in the Polaris area on September 30 – October 1, 2022.

From roundtable discussions to panel presentations to workshops, 2022 sessions should explore ways museums and history organizations make a difference in their communities. We also welcome sessions on any aspect of public history theory and practice. We are considering ways to include an online attendance option, so presenters should consider whether or how their presentations could be adapted for online presentation in addition to a face-to-face delivery.

Submissions are due January 31, 2022. Click [here](#) to view our session proposal form.

2022 Ohio Museums Association Conference, Adaptability & Flexibility: Reflecting for the Future

The recent past has seen unprecedented challenges, disruptions, and changes in the world-at-large and for our field. Museums have had to stay nimble and embrace flexibility to adapt to ever-changing situations.

When we reflect on how museums responded in the past few years, how can we reconcile our learned experiences and apply them to future unknown disruptions? What role do museums have as places of healing? How has the past two years changed your institution? Your outreach? Your internal systems? How do we move forward with equity in our organizations? What are museums' roles in our communities?

Join us in Cincinnati, April 2-4 as we explore these topics and more at the 2022 Ohio Museums Association's Annual Conference: Adaptability & Flexibility: Reflecting for the Future. Learn more at ohiomuseums.org/2022Conference

OMA 2022 Conference At-a-Glance

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

- 9:00 am-4:30 pm – Saturday Cincinnati Tours

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

- 1:00-3:00 pm - Sunday Workshop, Open Your Mind: Understanding Implicit Bias - Presented by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- 4:15-7:30 pm - Sunday Evening Museum Tours
- 7:30-9:30 pm – Annual OMA Awards Dinner - Sponsored by Museum Acrylics Co.
- 10:00-11:00 pm – Emerging Museum Professionals Networking Hour

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- 8:10-9:10 am – Annual OMA Business Meeting
- 9:15-10:15 am – Concurrent Sessions Morning I
- 10:15-11:00 am - Morning Break & Roundtable Session
- 11:05 am-12:05 pm - Concurrent Sessions Morning II
- 12:10-1:30 pm – Luncheon & Plenary Address
- 1:30-2:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions Afternoon I
- 2:35-3:05 pm - Afternoon Break
- 3:10-4:10 pm - Concurrent Sessions Afternoon II

Call for Nominations: 2022 SAA Waldo Gifford Leland Award

Have you read a great new book about archives? Encountered a new documentary publication that is head and shoulders above the rest? Has a new web publication really stood out to you?

If you have, please consider nominating it for the Society of American Archivists Waldo Gifford Leland Award. Nomination forms, a list of previous winners, and more information are at www2.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-leland. The deadline for nominations

is February 28, 2022.

The annual Leland Award – a cash prize and certificate – recognizes “writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, and practice.” (Please note that periodicals are not eligible.)

Established in 1959, this award honors American archival pioneer Waldo Gifford Leland (1879-1966), president of the Society of American Archivists in the 1940s and one of the driving forces behind the founding of the National Archives.

Let Ohio Women Vote Virtual Screening

Let Ohio Women Vote is a documentary produced by ThinkK TV in Dayton that tells the story of the long fight for women’s suffrage in our state – a fight which created unpredictable alliances as well as surprising connections to national events.

Think TV gives special thanks to League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton Area, Cincinnati Area, and the US, and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center for helping them bring these local stories to light.

Watch the recording on their website at thinktv.org/let-ohio-women-vote/



Statehood Day

The annual Statehood Day advocacy event for Ohio history will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on Tuesday, March 1. The event begins at 9 am in the Statehouse Atrium and will conclude before noon. This year’s event will be different than in past years, due to the pandemic – shorter agenda, no luncheon and the event is free.

This year’s event will highlight the national effort to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States, culminating on July 4, 2026. John Dichtl, the president and CEO of the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH), will give remarks. The program also includes the presentation of

the Ohio History Leadership Award and the 2022 History Fund grant awards.

Attendees are encouraged to schedule meetings (virtual or in-person) with their local state legislators sometime the week of March 1. A briefing on legislative priorities will be given during the Statehouse event.

Register online no later than Feb. 22 at ohiohistory.org/statehoodday. Registration is free. Questions? Contact Todd Kleismit, the Ohio History Connection’s director of community and government relations, at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org.

I'M KEEPING MY EYES ON

ohiohistory.org/markers • remarkableohio.org



We Need Your "Marker Eyes"

The Ohio Historical Markers program is in the process of a physical audit of the approximately 1,750 markers around the state. Why not sign up for a fun adventure around your home county or one you need an excuse to visit?

Laura Russell will supply you with an audit sheet, instructions, and a list of markers to hunt. Then you wait for a nice day, ask a companion to join you, and head out in search of some brown markers. After you return home you simply upload your photos and reports to the marker reporting form online.

We still need coverage in the following counties:

Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Gallia, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lake, Lucas, Mahoning, Medina, Meigs, Mercer, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Portage, Sandusky, Scioto, Warren, and Washington. Don't worry, Laura won't ask you to cover all 146 markers in Cuyahoga County!

Laura Russell, Historical Markers Coordinator
lrussell@ohiohistory.org

And, you just might receive some awesome marker swag for helping out! Email Laura Russell today and start planning your marker hunt.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ICA-Art Conservation

ICA is very happy to announce that ICA's new Director of Collection Services is **Kate Montlack**. Kate is a museum professional with 15 years of experience in a broad range of departments, including public programs, education, membership and development. However, the care and stewardship of art objects is her true love and for the past 10 years, she has manifested this passion by overseeing all aspects of registration and exhibition management for moCa Cleveland as the museum's Director of Exhibitions.

At moCa, Kate stewarded the planning and installation of nearly 100 exhibitions ranging from experimental sound and video to delicate works on paper and ceramics, and from monumental site-specific sculptural installations in wood, metal, and shea butter to magnetized gourds. While Kate has devoted the past decade to contemporary art, her educational background is rooted in the history of decorative arts and design, and it is this long-standing interest that drew her to ICA. Kate earned her M.A. from the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture and her B.A. from Mary Washington College. She lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband and 5-year-old daughter.

Digitization Grants Available

The Ohio Local History Alliance (OLHA) will award a total of up to \$7,500 to preserve local history collections through digitization. The grant is given yearly to OLHA members. The maximum award to be given to a single institution is \$2,500. The collections selected for digitization should be important to the history of the area represented by the applicant and/or to the history of Ohio.

Grant recipients will receive an Ohio Memory collection to publicly display their digital content. Each collection will be branded with the grantee's logo and organization information. For more information about the Ohio Memory Program, please visit www.ohiomemory.org.

Application

Applications are online only. Applicants must be an OLHA member and have either a Federal ID number or a State of Ohio Certification of Continued Existence number to apply. You can check on your membership status by contacting the OLHA Executive Secretary, Dr. Betsy Hedler, at 614-297-2538 or ohiolha@ohiohistory.org.

Deadline

Applications are due February 15th each year. Grantees will be notified by April 1st with projects beginning May 1st. Projects should be completed 12 months after start date.

For more information and to apply, visit www.ohiolha.org/what-we-do/grants/alliance-digitization-grants

Region 1

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

Region 2

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

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM)** partnered with the Liverpool Public Library (NY) to present a virtual program entitled "Women in the Armed Forces: An Examination of WWII and Beyond" on November 11. In honor of Veteran's Day, IWASM Executive Director Sara Fisher explored and shared the contributions of women in the military.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

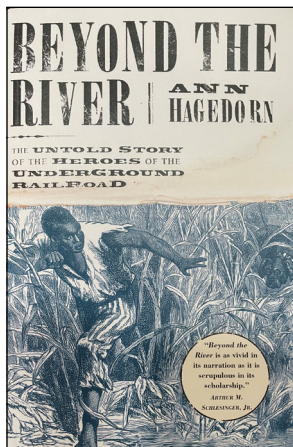
The **Trumbull County Historical Society** received a National Endowment for the Humanities Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant in the amount of \$119,250 for the construction of a two-story addition to the Morgan History Center for collections storage, training, research, and a welcome center.

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



The **Upper Arlington Historical Society** is pleased to announce a History Speaks event - "An Evening with Ann Hagedorn," author of 2003's *Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad*. Please join us Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Jones Middle School's auditorium as Ms. Hagedorn discusses the stories and background of her award-winning book focused on one of Ohio's main Underground Railroad routes through Ripley, Ohio. Ms. Hagedorn's presentation will be

followed by a Q&A session and a book signing event. \$20 general admission; masks required; tickets limited to 35% capacity; first-come, first-serve seating throughout the expansive theater. For more information and to buy tickets, go to uahistory.org.

Region 7

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

The **Shelby County Historical Society** acquired a building across the street from the present Ross Historical Center. Over the past few years the Society worked tirelessly to raise the funds to completely renovate the building which included a humidity controlled room, lift, security system, new furnace and air conditioning units, plumbing and electrical updates. The renovation was completed in August 2021. In January 2022 the Society launched a campaign to complete the Wallace Family Leaning and Innovation Center. The Center will emphasize the members of the community whose innovative spirits have inspired our community to continue to flourish even in times of uncertainty.

Region 8

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

Region 9

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

Region 10

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

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of The Local Historian. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 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.

Joined or renewed between
October 27, 2021 and January 11, 2022.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS

Elizabeth Kruthoffer,
Hamilton

ORGANIZATIONS

John Gee Black Historical Center, Inc., *Gallipolis* Stemtown Historical Society, *Green Springs*

Thank You Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS

JoAnn Bertram, *Cincinnati* Kelly D. Mezurek, *Dover*
Carl T. Engel, *Painesville* Walter Pechenuk, *Akron*
Ronald I. Marvin, *Kenton* David M. Taylor, *Zanesville*

ORGANIZATIONS

Avon Lake Historical Society, *Avon Lake* Lorain Historical Society, *Lorain*
Belpre Historical Society, *Belpre* Massillon Heritage Foundation Inc, *Massillon*
Blanchester Area Historical Society, *Blanchester* Miami University McGuffey House and Museum, *Oxford*
Bremen Area Historical Society, *Bremen* Miamisburg Historical Society, *Miamisburg*
Brunswick Area Historical Society, *Brunswick* Mogadore Historical Society, Inc, *Mogadore*
Clark County Historical Society, *Springfield* National First Ladies Library, *Canton*
Clovernook Center for the Blind, *Cincinnati* Preble County Historical Society, *Eaton*
Columbus Metropolitan Library, *Columbus* Pro Football Hall of Fame, *Canton*
German Culture Museum, *Walnut Creek* Randolph Township Historical Society, *Englewood*
Granger Historical Society, *Medina* Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, *Gahanna*
Heritage Sylvania, *Sylvania* Strongsville Historical Society, *Strongsville*
Hinckley Historical Society Inc, *Hinckley* Toledo Lucas County Public Library, *Toledo*
Holmes County Historical Society, *Millersburg* Ursuline College, *Pepper Pike*
Indian Lake Area Historical Society, *Russells Point* Vermilion Area Archival Society, Inc., *Vermilion*
International Women's Air & Space Museum, *Cleveland* Walhonding Valley Historical Society, *Warsaw*
Kelleys Island Historical Association Inc, *Kelleys Island* Warren County Historical Society, *Lebanon*
Kelton House Museum and Garden, *Columbus* Watt Center for History & the Arts, *Barnesville*
Kent State University Library, *Kent* Whitehouse Historical Society, *Whitehouse*
Lake Township Historical Society, *Uniontown* Wyoming Historical Society, *Wyoming*

JANUARY 31:

Annual Meeting Session Proposals Due. For more information, see page 13.

FEBRUARY 15:

OLHA Digitization Grants due. For more information, see page 15.

FEBRUARY 26:

Region 5 History Day Contest. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 1:

Statehood Day. For more information, see page 14.

MARCH 5:

Region 8 & 10 Regional Meetings. For more information, see page 1.

Region 3, 7 & 9 History Day Contests. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 12:

Region 7 & 9 Regional Meetings. For more information, see page 1, 3.

Region 6 History Day Contest. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 19:

Region 5 & 6 Regional Meetings. For more information, see page 1, 3.

Region 1, 2 & 8 History Day Contests. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 26:

Region 10 History Day Contest. For more information, see page 12.

APRIL 2:

Region 2 & 3 Regional Meetings. For more information, see page 1, 3.

Region 4 History Day Contest. For more information, see page 12.

APRIL 2-4:

Ohio Museums Association Conference. For more information, see page 13.

APRIL 9:

Region 1 & 4 Regional Meetings. For more information, see page 1, 3.

APRIL 18:

Taxes are Due! For more information on donating to the Ohio History Fund, see pages 5-7.

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)

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