Congratulations
2023 Award Winners!

Since 1960, the Alliance – in partnership with the Ohio History Connection – has led the state in recognizing excellent projects, programs, publications created by Ohio historical societies and museums, as well as recognizing individuals who have contributed greatly to the field of history.

HISTORY OUTREACH AWARDS

History Outreach Awards, which recognize outstanding projects that have educational content, that have contributed to the promotion and understanding of local and state history, and that have had an impact on the community – in other words, projects that inspired, connected, and educated their audiences to local history.

DELPHOS CANAL COMMISSION:
“Leslie Peltier: World’s Greatest Non-Professional Astronomer”

The Delphos Canal Commission created a wonderful exhibit on Leslie Peltier, who was dubbed “the world’s greatest non-professional astronomer.” During his 65-year career, Peltier discovered 12 comets and two novae and made 132,000 variable star observations.

(continued on page 4)
The World Heritage designation from UNESCO for the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks is the hot topic in the state right now and rightfully so. It was a focal point in many of the OLHA conference workshops and covered in a multitude of online articles. Ross, Licking and Warren counties are united together with the designation, keep track of the latest news here: hopewellearthworks.org

I wish you and your sites the best for 2024.

Leslie

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The new exhibit centers on a replica of Peltier’s homemade Merry Go Round Observatory, so called because he used a children’s merry go round as the base, enabling the observer to rotate as they followed the stars. Peltier scavenged much of the rest of the materials from his father’s farm and local junkyards. The Merry Go Round Observatory was the first of its kind and drew astronomers from across the country to view it. The exhibit also includes photographs, artifacts and a video on Peltier’s life and achievements.

SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center

When Rich Wallace first moved to Sidney, he remembers walking past an old, dilapidated building in downtown Sidney. Soon, he learned more about the building and its grand past as Ohio’s first and most important Civil War Memorial Hall. Inspired by this discovery and all that he learned about the history of the community, Wallace encouraged and supported the creation of a learning & innovation center at the Shelby County Historical Society.

The mission of the Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center is to celebrate the visionary leaders of Shelby County’s past, in order to foster pride in the community and inspire the great minds of the future. Its interactive galleries are leadership focused and feature the men and women whose passion and ingenuity guided the development of Shelby County.

DELTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
“Journey to Delaware County”

Encompassing culture and education, the exhibit includes photographs, artifacts used by early homesteaders, exhibit panels and QR codes, which help create an interactive experience for visitors. The displays explain how and why pioneers traveled west to Delaware County in the early 1800s. Visitors can read first person accounts of these early pioneers, explore a replica covered wagon, learn about the founding of the 18 townships in Delaware County, and see a list of the earliest settlers. Delaware County residents are encouraged to add their ancestors to that list as well.

School children especially enjoy the opportunity to shop at the local mercantile for the supplies needed to complete the long journey. They learn at the end of their visit if they have selected the best items to ensure a safe and successful journey.

MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS

WESTERVILLE HISTORY MUSEUM AT THE WESTERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY:
“So You Think You Know Westerville”

Westerville History Museum staff created a 24-episode video series about the history of Westerville, Ohio, which has garnered over 52,000 views (and counting).

“So You Think You Know Westerville?” has inspired conversations about landmarks, trailblazing residents and hidden history. Viewers can learn the story of the Ohio Home for Aged & Infirm Deaf and of Minerva France, who helped set a precedent for Black women in librarianship and higher education. In another episode, the museum staff shared the research process in real-time, while searching for an indigenous people’s mound that appeared, and then disappeared, from area maps.

The series connects viewers with the rich history of the community and provides a deeper level of understanding of that history’s impact on present day life in Westerville.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
“A Night with Cincinnati Chili Royalty”

Many of us have sampled Cincinnati’s distinctive chili, but thanks to the Delhi Historical Society, many more now know its fascinating history.

Introduced in 1922 by the Kiradjieff family at their Empress chili parlor, Cincinnati-style chili has become the comfort food of the region. The Kiradjieffs trained Nick Lambrinides who founded Skyline Chili in 1949. The Daouds opened Gold Star Chili in 1963 after learning the trade from another Kiradjieff employee. Numerous other chili parlors abound in Greater Cincinnati: each with its own recipe based on the original, with their own special taste and twists.

For the 100th anniversary of Cincinnati chili, the Delhi Historical Society hosted a “A Night with Cincinnati Chili Royalty.” Representatives of the three main chili families participated in a lively, informal panel discussion and shared family photos during this once-in-a-lifetime event.

More than 350 people from across the Greater Cincinnati area attended the program, which was a celebration of successful immigrant families, local culture, and civic pride.
INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Individual Achievement Awards recognize people who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio's historical societies or history museums or to the understanding and appreciation of state or local history.

Mary Louise Platko

During her 65 years in Perry, Ohio, Mary Louise Platko shared and celebrated the community's history. Mary co-founded the Perry Historical Society and served in many positions there, including president, vice-president, secretary, curator, historian, school tour guide, and trustee.

She researched sources and interviewed citizens of Perry for the eighty some articles she wrote under the banner "A Little Bit of Perry History". These articles were later edited into a book with the same title, published posthumously in 2021.

Mary Louise's legacy continues as she has given identity to Perry's past and those who have gone before in the Perry community. Her work has instilled life into houses, streets, her church, and the historic people of Perry, Ohio. Her co-founding of the Perry Historical Society and museum are a gift to past, present, and future generations of Perry citizens.

David M. Cox

David Cox, a retired podiatrist, receives an Individual Award for his second life's work as a local historian in Darke County.

David's research serves as the heart of the Crossroads of Destiny exhibit at the Garst Museum, which explores the Treaty of Greene Ville in 1795, which ended forty years of conflict with native peoples over the upper Ohio Valley and opened the door to the settlement of the Midwest by white pioneers. A misplaced map drawn by the son of Anthony Wayne, and rediscovered by David during his research, served as a center point for the exhibit.

David also established the Friends of Fort Jefferson and lead the efforts to study and preserve the history of this important 18th century military outpost.

The Darke County Historical Society appreciates David Cox's passion for local history and contributions to the study of Ohio's history.

Lindsay McLean

During her 30 years as a member of the Indian Hill Historical Society, Lindsay MacLean has made significant contributions to the organization's archival and educational efforts.

Lindsay has researched and written ten articles per year, for the last 27 years, for the official publication of the Village of Indian Hills. Her articles focus on the local history stories she discovers within the society's archives. Additionally, she regularly provides articles for the historical society's publications.

Lindsay has conducted over 200 oral history interviews that provide insights into the village's history and have been recorded, transcribed and indexed. And since 1994, she has organized and directed the museum's award-winning One Room School House Experience, which has been given to several thousand local 4th grade students.

Leslie Blankenship

Leslie Blankenship has made innumerable significant contributions to the understanding of Ohio's history. Over decades, she has shared the stories of many people previously left to the periphery of Ohio's story, including those of African Americans and women. She co-founded the Friends of Freedom Society in 1996, an organization that raises public awareness about the lives of enslaved African Americans related to the Underground Railroad movement. Meticulous research enables Blankenship to portray numerous Ohio women from history in first-person presentations, bringing forward lesser-known stories.

Leslie has been a dedicated volunteer with several history organizations, including the Franklinton Historical Society and the Kelton House Museum & Garden, both of which she's been involved in since the 1990s. She has presented programs and done first-person interpretations at many historical societies around the state.

Leslie impacts countless local historians through her work as a Board Member at the Ohio Local History Alliance. She connects historians, groups, and organizations to help them further their great work through collaborative partnerships. She freely shares her knowledge and experiences, and is constantly working to support her colleagues and encourage participation. She also writes articles for the Local Historian newsletter and proposes speakers and presenters for the regional and annual meetings. Her work benefits not only our OLHA members, but also people across the state who are engaging with local history.
BASICS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION TERMINOLOGY

What’s With All the Lingo?

by Beth Johnson, Cincinnati Preservation Association

Historic preservation is a broad subject with a lot of different levels, organizations, and tons of acronyms. In this article we are outlining some basic terminology as it relates to the governmental framework of historic preservation to help you navigate conversations you will come across as you talk about and work with historic buildings.

Let’s first start at the ground with first defining **what exactly is historic preservation**. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has a very clear and simple definition as “the process of identifying, protecting, and enhancing buildings, places, and objects of historical and cultural significance.” This definition is based in the activities and process that are used within the field. The National Park Service provides a broader definition as “a conversation with our past about our future. It provides us with opportunities to ask, “What is important in our history?” and “What parts of our past should we preserve for the future?” Through historic preservation, we look at history in different ways, ask questions of the past, and learn new things about our history and ourselves. Historic preservation is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations.” This definition provides us with a base understanding of why historic preservation is important.

While formal historic preservation activities had started as early as the 1850s with the governmental designation of the Revolutionary war headquarters for George Washington in Newburgh, NY, it wasn’t until 1966 with the passage of the **National Historic Preservation Act** that nationwide laws were in place. This act (abbreviated to NHPA) established a framework for preservation through creating the National Historic Preservation Fund, National Register of Historic Places, Section 106 review, (continued on page 7)
the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Offices.

**National Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)** was established to provide financial assistance to states, tribes, territories, governments, and non-profits, to carry out activities related to preservation. Funding is provided from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues, not tax dollars, and an amount is appropriated annually by Congress.

**National Register of Historic Places** is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. This list is largely honorary and does not put any restrictions onto the property unless a project is using federal funds. This program is administered through the National Park Service with partnerships of the State Historic Preservation Office.

**Section 106 Review** is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This review requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally-assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place.

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)** is an independent federal agency whose sole mission is promoting the preservation of the nation’s diverse historic resources. Their largest responsibility is overseeing the Section 106 Review Process.

**State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO)** are established in each state and their responsibilities include surveying and recognizing historic properties, reviewing nominations for properties to be included in the **National Register of Historic Places**. Section 106 reviews, and supporting federal, state, local governments and private sector preservation activities.

In 1977, after all of the framework set forth by the NHPA was established, the **Secretary of the Interior’s (SOI) Standards** were created as guidance for housing programs funded by the federal government and was soon expanded and into the Code of Federal Regulations. The Standards (as they are often shortened to) provide guidance and best practices to historic building owners and building managers, preservation consultants, architects, contractors, and project reviewers prior to beginning work.

Within the Standards, the treatment of historic buildings is 4 treatments categorized into Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction. While each one has their purpose and place within the field cultural, or architectural values

**Restoration**- the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

![Image: Restoration work at the John Hauck House in Cincinnati has uncovered original 1870s and 1880s intricate ceiling murals.](image_url)

Preservation and Rehabilitation make up the majority of preservation activities across the country.

**Preservation**- the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

**Rehabilitation**- the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, Reconstruction-the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Another common word that is used within treatments is **Adaptive Reuse**. Adaptive Reuse is a form of Rehabilitation that focuses of finding a new use for an existing building other than the original use. For example, repurposing a church or school building into housing.

(continued on page 8)
Historic Preservation Terminology (continued from page 7)

The Secretary of the Interiors Standards are also used as the basis for review on **Historic Tax Credits (HTC)** projects. The Federal Historic Tax Credit program was created in 1976 and currently provides a 20% credit for qualified rehabilitations on certified historic structures. This program is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The framework for Historic Preservation in the United States has established partnerships between the federal government and the states through the State Historic Preservation Office, however there is also a partnership that folds local government into this funnel as well. The **Certified Local Government** (CLG) Program was established in an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act in 1982. A Certified Local Government is a local government that has met standards for a preservation program including appropriate preservation legislation and appointing a qualified preservation review commission. This designation helps communities qualify for funding opportunities and receive technical support through the State Historic Preservation Office. Certified Local Government each will have an established process for local designation of historic resources. **Local Designation** is usually attached to zoning and requires the review of exterior work on designated properties to make sure the changes are architecturally and historically compatible with the building or district. The work on these resources is reviewed and approved through a **Certificate of Appropriateness** (COA).

While historic preservation will look slightly different in each community, there is a basic consistent framework from the national government to the state and local government. The above fundamentals will give you a foundation as you navigate the regulatory world of historic buildings.
Looking Back on the Basics of Archives

by Bethany Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer, American Association for State and Local History.

Originally published on the AASLH website, October 3, 2023

When I started working at AASLH as Program Associate in October 2005, one of my first programs was a brand new project, just coming out of the beta testing phase, for an online course called the Basics of Archives. It was AASLH’s first online professional development offering. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, it was a collaboration of the American Association for State and Local History, the Ohio Historical Society, the Michigan Historical Center, the Council of State Archivists, and the New York State Archives to create, evaluate, deliver, and maintain a comprehensive, self-paced, interactive set of basic archival lesson plans available in both online and traditional on-site workshop formats for those who are not professional archivists. Kathleen Roe, then on staff at the New York State Archives in Albany, and Charlie Arp, then an archivist at the Battelle Memorial Foundation (formerly of the Ohio Historical Society) in Columbus, Ohio, served as project directors, writing much of the original content for the course and serving as co-faculty for many of the early online courses.

In the final grant report for the project submitted to IMLS in the fall of 2005, Arp wrote, “The introduction into online learning has been a success for AASLH and as the evaluations prove our audience is well pleased with the educational materials we have produced. How helpful these educational materials are will be measured by how often they are used by the archival community. It is our great hope that the educational materials created by this project will serve the archival and historical communities for the next twenty years in one form or another.”

It has not quite been the twenty years Charlie envisioned, but AASLH has offered the Basics of Archives course at least fifty times since it was first launched as a primitive website and each registrant also received a CD-ROM of the course for further reference in the mail. Every year, I would budget for the course to have fewer registrants, but each year it kept growing. It was the gift that kept on giving, not only to AASLH, but also to the history field, especially small museums and historical societies.

Since the beginning, however, the one constant in the course has been Charlie Arp. He is retiring as the instructor for this course at the end of the year and deserves our thanks for leading the Basics of Archives for the last eighteen years through numerous course updates, four technical platforms, six AASLH program staff, and hundreds of students. In 2019, he also turned the course into a book for AASLH: Archival Basics: A Practical Manual for Working with Historic Collections.

From this course, AASLH has grown its virtual programming in ways I could never have imagined back in 2006. I am happy this part of our continuing education program continues to grow and evolve, embracing new topics and technologies as our field changes. But, as we continue to innovate, we (especially as historians) cannot forget those who have gone before us.

Thank you, Charlie, for your love for helping make people better custodians of their archival materials. We will be looking for another instructor soon, so, maybe, we will hit the twenty-year mark you set for the course back in 2006. If so, we owe it to you. Cheers on your retirement, and hearty thanks from me, the rest of the AASLH staff, and your hundreds of students.

Charlie Arp. Photo courtesy of AASLH.
Celebrating 200 Years of White Water Shaker Village

Mother Ann Lee predicted that the next wave of converted Believers would be in the “West”. This year White Water marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the last society formed at the end of rapid Shaker expansion in the West. White Water was like other Shaker West communities as these converts were prosperous yeomen farmers who owned land and some were prominent citizens who held township offices before joining the Shaker society.

Founding of White Water Shaker Village

According to Brother Richard Pelham’s memoir in the Library of Congress, Miriam Agnew traveled to Union Village near Lebanon, Ohio, in early spring 1823. Union Village was the parent settlement for the Western Shaker settlements including West Union in Indiana; Pleasant Hill and South Union in Kentucky; and North Union, Watervliet, Darby Plains and White Water in Ohio.

This solo journey for Miriam was a long one from home with the last 18 miles from Hamilton on foot. She came to learn about the Shakers. After a few days, she confessed her sins and became the first member of what would be called White Water Shaker Village. The community of White Water is located about 25 miles northwest of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Richard Pelham and George Blackleach were sent by the Union Village ministry in early May 1823 to preach to neighbors and relatives of Miriam and her husband Joseph Agnew. As word spread that a Shaker would preach in Joseph Agnew’s barn, the gathering drew such a large crowd that the service was moved outside. At the end of the service, Joseph and his brother Brant joined the Shakers. Within the next month, 30 locals had joined the faith.

The earliest use of the term White Water was when Pelham and Blackleach traveled back to Union Village stating in a journal they had returned from White Water. Union Village sent 78 members from Darby Plains (near Columbus, Ohio) to White Water when Darby Plains closed.

In 1825, Union Village provided funds to purchase 100 acres. That same year, four elders/eldresses came to lead this newly expanded group. In 1826, White Water thrived with a good crop. A school house was built at the South Family. A report from the Union Village Ministry to the Central Ministry in the east stated that White Water was prosperous and could support themselves and bear burdens.

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In August 1827, construction began on the two- and one-half story meeting house. This 35 x 44-foot structure was built with bricks that were hand-molded and fired on site. The first floor was for worship services. The second floor had four retiring rooms for the elders and eldresses. This building has a unique architectural design in which the second floor and attic are suspended by a truss and hanger system in the attic. Therefore, no support columns are on the first floor leaving space for dancing without the obstruction of columns. Dark wooden pegs were placed in the floor as dancing cues. Four months later, the first church meeting was held on December 2, 1827. A brick dwelling, the same size and shape as the meeting house, was built in 1832 beside it.

Industry at White Water included many prosperous endeavors. Following additional land purchases, the grist mill (1828), sawmill (1829) and a brewery (1832) were built. Spirits, brooms, and produce were sold to the world. The garden seed trade routes went as far west as Missouri. In the late 1850s, White Water earned more than $5000 from the seed business. On the second floor of the Sisters' Shop, they raised silkworms and created bonnets.

At its height before the Civil War, there were 180 Shakers living at the White Water Village. The turn of the century brought modern technology including a telephone at the Center Family and North Family, an automobile, and indoor plumbing. As the result of a devastating fire in 1907 and the decline in membership, the village closed in December 1916 after 93 years. The land was sold to three local farming families. In 1990, over 600 acres of the former Shaker Village was purchased by Great Parks of Hamilton County.

**Friends of the White Water Shaker Village**

In 2007, an all-volunteer nonprofit, Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Inc. (FWWSV), leased eight acres and the ten remaining historic structures at the North Family site of the village. Since then, volunteers have worked diligently to open the only substantially intact surviving village in Ohio to the public. FWWSV has completed many projects, including restoring all windows in the meeting house, building new modern restrooms, and installing a septic system. Current projects include restoration of the 1849 milk house and a volunteer painting initiative in the meeting house and dwelling.

During this 200th anniversary year, FWWSV is working to raise awareness of the Shaker village, to increase membership, and to raise funds for restoration work. Memberships and donations are important, as they provide the resources to preserve the great treasures in this village. You can help FWWSV continue its work to preserve, restore, and open the Shaker buildings to the public by becoming a FWWSV member. Visit the FWWSV website, [www.WhiteWaterVillage.org](http://www.WhiteWaterVillage.org), for more information about membership. The first Open House of the season will be on Sunday, May 26, 2024, from 2-5 pm. Please check Facebook and the website for the other events scheduled in 2024. To learn more about this Shaker Village, read the feature article in the July & August 2023 issue of the Ohio History Connection publication, *Echoes*. We would be glad to schedule a private tour for you on your next trip to Ohio's only surviving Shaker Village here in the “West”.

*Photos courtesy of the Friends of White Water Shaker Village.*
America 250-Ohio Partners with Ohio Humanities to Launch Grants Program

By Chris Hurtubise, Communications Director

The America 250-Ohio Commission, Ohio’s official state commission charged with creating the celebration of the country’s semi-quincentennial, announced it will offer grants up to $50,000 to nonprofit, education, and local government organizations, as well as independent artists and musicians. America 250-Ohio will work in unison with Ohio Humanities, a statewide nonprofit, to distribute $1 million in grants by June 30, 2024. The grants program is designed to showcase the achievements, struggles, honors, innovations and significance of all people in Ohio since before its founding to the present day.

Grants will be offered during a fall 2023 and winter 2024 funding cycle with two funding levels available during each cycle. The Buckeye Impact Grants offer up to $50,000 for projects with a statewide, regional, or significant local impact. These projects may include significant exhibitions, regional commemorative activities, substantial digital and documentary media projects and signature public events. Additionally, the America 250-Ohio Commission will offer Trillium Local Activity Grants for up to $5,000 for projects with a local or community-wide impact. Trillium Local Activity Grant projects may include exhibitions, interpretative panels, local commemorative programs or activities, local public events, educational, public programs, and smaller digital and documentary media projects.

“Our goal is that these grants will build momentum leading up to 2026 for educational and commemorative activities at museums, libraries, historic sites, cultural centers and educational institutions and amplify the under-told stories from Ohio’s illustrious history,” said Doug Preisse, co-chair of the America 250-Ohio Commission. “By supporting projects that align with these priorities, we will elevate our state’s history and bolster our communities’ efforts to execute impactful initiatives during such a monumental celebration.”

The America 250-Ohio Commission encourages grant applicants to consider the themes surrounding Ohio’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and to partner with Ohio Humanities staff during the application process. Themes identified for Ohio’s 250th anniversary programming include:

- Celebrations and Signature Events: Impacting tourism and economic development
- Ohio Originals: Highlighting points of pride and unity
- Engaging Youth and Lifelong Learners: Education and scholarship
- Inclusive Statewide Engagement: Museums, arts and culture
- Telling Ohio Stories: Highlighting stories of Ohioans past and present

The winter 2024 cycle will open January 15, 2024 with applications due March 1, 2024.

For more information on eligibility, project guidance and information on applying for a grant, visit America250-Ohio.org/grants/.

Follow America 250-Ohio on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/amercia250ohio/ and on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/am250ohio/ for updates on Ohio anniversary programming and ways to get involved.

Visual Assets: Visual assets including the America 250-Ohio Commission and Ohio Humanities logos are available for download here.
Elizabeth Greer Coit
Inducted Into the Columbus Hall of Fame

On the evening of September 21, 2023 three members of the Worthington Historical Society (WHS): Director, Kate Lalonde, Sandy Andromeda, and Leslie Blankenship gathered at the historic Lincoln Theater in the King-Lincoln Bronzeville neighborhood of Columbus to attend the Induction Ceremony of five notable nominees to the 2023 Columbus Hall of Fame. Among them was Elizabeth Greer Coit (1820-1901), a pioneer Woman’s Rights leader of Columbus and Ohio, who was born in Worthington and attended the Female Seminary there as a young woman. The organization she founded in 1884 was the precursor of today’s League of Women Voters—Metropolitan Columbus. Leslie provided remarks about Elizabeth’s amazing life. She received the award from the Mayor of Columbus, Andrew J. Ginther, on behalf of the WHS, which will display the award. Interestingly, Elizabeth was Mayor Ginther’s own personal pick for the 2023 Hall of Fame after he read the article about her life published in The Local Historian. The article, written by Leslie for The Worthington Intelligencer, was reprinted in The Local Historian (March-April 2021, pp.6-7). According to Mayor Ginther’s aide, “...he considers Elizabeth a ‘bad ass’ worthy of recognition.”

Images courtesy of the Worthington Historical Society.

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site

On Tuesday, September 19, the 21 countries on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee issued their decision to inscribe Ohio’s Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks as the United States’ 25th addition to the World Heritage List.

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, which include five locations managed by the National Park Service and three managed by the Ohio History Connection, were built by Native Americans between 1,600 and 2,000 years ago. They are complex masterpieces of landscape architecture and are exceptional among ancient monuments worldwide in their enormous scale, geometric precision and astronomical alignments.

Collectively, these special and sacred places constitute Ohio’s first World Heritage Site.

“Inscription on the World Heritage List will call international attention to these treasures long known to Ohioans,” said Megan Wood, Executive Director and CEO of the Ohio History Connection.

World Heritage inscription brings recognition to places of exceptional interest and value. There are only about 1,000 World Heritage sites around the globe.

The eight Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks sites are in Licking, Ross and Warren counties.

The National Park Service’s Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe includes the Mound City Group, Hopewell Mound Group, Seip Earthworks, High Bank Works and Hopeton Earthworks.

The Ohio History Connection’s Great Circle Earthworks and Octagon Earthworks are in Heath and Newark, respectively, and Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve is in Oregonia.

The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks were nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List in January 2022 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, but the process to get to that point has been over a decade in the making.

For more information about the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks and upcoming commemoration activities, go to hopewellearthworks.org.
The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for its annual Public History Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage the dissemination of historical scholarship beyond the walls of academia. To be nominated, a public history project, publication, or program must have been accomplished within the previous two years and completed by December 2023. All public history endeavors will be considered, including museum and digital exhibits, museum publications, documentaries, oral history projects, public programs, symposia, archival and historic preservation projects, and lecture series.

The winner must demonstrate original research and creativity in communicating with the intended audience. The project must meet professional standards in its statements, facts, and conclusions.

The application should include a written description of the project no longer than 1,000 (one thousand) words; a one-page vita of the creator or creators; a short description of the audience; promotional materials, if any; online links, if any; and a letter of nomination; individuals may self-nominate.

Applications should be sent on email to the committee chair, Dr. Cheryl X. Dong at cdong@bgsu.edu.

The deadline is January 15, 2024.
OHRAB Announces Recipient of the 2023 Achievement Award

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is proud to announce that the recipient of the 2023 OHRAB Achievement Award is the Bay Village Historical Society.

In 2019, the Bay Village Historical Society began a project to conserve and increase access to the portraits and photographs in its Rose Hill Museum. These portraits are vital to the Bay Village Historical Society. According to the will donating the land and home to the historical society, the portraits of the descendants of the Cahoon family, the first settlers of Bay Village, and the portraits of other early settler families must be displayed.

In the first phase of the project, historical society staff and volunteers removed the portraits from their original frames and transported them to the Cleveland Public Library’s Main Branch where they were scanned as high-resolution tiffs. The Cleveland Institute of Art then produced an archival copy of each portrait. A local artist who volunteered with the historical society restored the frames, touching up the paint and using modeling clay to repair the cracks. The archival copies were placed in the repaired frames and hung on the walls of the Rose Hill Museum.

The historical society also consulted with staff from ICA-Art Conservation, Jamison Art Conservation, and Cleveland State University to develop a plan to conserve the original portraits. This included some portraits consisting of chalk drawings on paper with silk backing, which had not been anticipated. Custom-made archival boxes with archival foam core and all-cotton batting were built to house the original portraits and preserve them for future generations.

During the project the Bay Village Historical Society created an index to the portrait gallery, including biographical information about the individuals. A physical copy of the index is available for visitors at the Rose Hill Museum and the information, along with digital copies of the portraits, is available online at https://www.bayhistorical.com/portrait-gallery/.

OHRAB congratulates the Bay Village Historical Society for their accomplishments and wishes them continued success in their efforts to preserve the history of Ohio!

OLHA Membership Dues to Increase in January

The Ohio Local History Alliance will be increasing membership dues for most membership categories effective January 8, 2024. This is the first increase since at least 2012. Due to the rising inflation, this increase is necessary for OHLA to continue to provide high-quality programming to Ohio’s local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, genealogical societies, and historic preservation groups. We have kept membership rates the same for our smallest organizational category, as well as for Student memberships.

The new rates will be:

**Organizational memberships**

- Organization with operating budget under $25,000: $35 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Organization with operating budget of $25,000-100,000: $75 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Organization with operating budget of $100,000-200,000: $100 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Organization with operating budget over $200,000: $150 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Business: $130 ($10 two year renewal discount)

**Individual memberships**

- Individual: $65 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Affiliate: $45 ($10 two year renewal discount)
- Student: $20 ($10 two year renewal discount)

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Marking Diverse Ohio Community of Practice

The Gay Ohio History Initiative (GOHI) at the Ohio History Connection is recruiting members for our upcoming Community of Practice (CoP)! The CoP is part of Marking Diverse Ohio (MDO), a special project of GOHI in partnership with Equality Ohio and Dr. Susan Ferentinos, author of Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites. The group is open to all Ohio residents interested in the historic preservation of Ohio’s LGBTQ+ past and will include workshops on best practices in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to collaborate with others and build connections from other LGBTQ+ history enthusiasts from around Ohio. We encourage folks from all personal and professional backgrounds to apply! If you are an LGBTQ+ history enthusiast and interested in participating in the GOHI Community of Practice, please reach out to gohi@ohiohistory.org.
NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections, ensuring their significance for a variety of users, including source communities, humanities researchers, students, and the public, by building their capacity to identify and address physical and intellectual preservation risks. These collections may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine art objects, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials.

The Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions program focuses on foundational activities in preservation and management of collections, such as assessments, development of plans and policies, consultations with scholars and source communities, emergency preparedness, environmental monitoring, rehousing, format surveys and inventories, and training in preservation and collections management. Applicants may draw on the knowledge of consultants whose preservation skills and experience are related to the types of collections and the nature of the activities on which their projects focus. Within the conservation field, conservators usually specialize in the care of specific types of collections, such as objects, paper, or paintings. Applicants should choose a conservator whose specialty is appropriate for the nature of their collections. Similarly, when assessing the preservation needs of library, museum, or archival holdings, applicants should seek a consultant specifically knowledgeable about the preservation of collections in these types of institutions.

The program encourages applications from small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant; community colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities; and Native American tribes and Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian organizations with humanities collections. Furthermore, organizations or collections that represent the contributions of under-represented communities are highly encouraged.

**Grant Snapshot**

- **Maximum award amount:** $10,000
- **Funding Opportunity for:** Organizations
- **Expected output:** Format Surveys and Inventories; Preservation and Collections Care Policies; Preservation Assessment Reports; Preservation Supplies/Equipment; Preservation and Collections Care Workshops
- **Period of performance:** Up to eighteen months

**Deadline**

January 11, 2024

For more information and to apply, go to [https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions](https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/preservation-assistance-grants-smaller-institutions)

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The American Association for State and Local History presents a virtual summit that will celebrate the creativity and resourcefulness of small museums through the lens of resiliency. What have we learned about small museums responding to global change that can inspire the field? How can the challenges of operating a small museum also make it easier to be nimble when faced with obstacles? This virtual summit, developed by small museums for small museums, will provide practical information as well as inspirational stories to prepare participants for the future, in particular, the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Learn more and register.
**2023 OHRAB Citizen Archivist Award Winners**

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) is proud to announce that **Patti Ark of the Clark County Historical Society** and **Cristopher Shell of the Cummings Center at The University of Akron**, are recipients of the 2023 OHRAB Citizen Archivist Award.

The OHRAB Citizen Archivist Award honors volunteers in Ohio’s archives who work long hours, unpaid and often unacknowledged, answering reference requests, processing collections, and indexing historic records. This award recognizes those in Ohio archives who best exemplify the dedication and hard work volunteers—our citizen archivists—contribute to Ohio’s archives each day.

Patti Ark has been an invaluable volunteer for the Clark County Historical Society at the Heritage Center since she first stepped through its doors. Within the first week of being a volunteer, she was thrown into a disaster recovery effort after a pipe burst in the Heritage Center. Over the next several months, she helped dismantle and move the entire archives space. According to Natalie Fritz, Archivist and Outreach Director, “She never complained about the work, and we could always count on her to be there with a smile and encouraging words.” Since then, Patti has dedicated herself to the Clark County Historical Society, lending a hand wherever she can to preserve its collections and expand its reach into the community.

Cristopher Shell is a volunteer at the Cummings Center at The University of Akron. His area of expertise is the David P. Campbell Postcard Collection. He has worked tirelessly to preserve this collection of over 250,000 postcards. During his time working with the collection, he has relocated, organized, digitized, created metadata, and designed community outreach education for the collection. He is the co-founder of the Akron Postcard Club, which promotes the postcard collection and spreads Cris’s love of postcards. He created a postcard education table, teaching young people how to send a postcard. Cris has even pursued new postcard donations to be added to the collection and helped with fundraising. He is truly a dedicated protector, supporter, and promoter of the beauty, fun, and romance of postcards.

Please join OHRAB in celebrating the accomplishments of Patti Ark and Cristopher Shell and their contributions to the history of Ohio. We applaud the dedication, talent, and love that they and their fellow volunteers bring to Ohio’s archives each day.

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, visit [https://ohrab.org/](https://ohrab.org/).
Introducing **Ohio Roots**: The Official Podcast of the Ohio Genealogical Society

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) is thrilled to announce the launch of its official podcast, **Ohio Roots**. This captivating series offers listeners an immersive journey through Ohio's rich genealogy, history, and abundant resources.

Hosted by OGS Executive Director, Noel Poirier, **Ohio Roots** promises to be a must-listen for genealogy enthusiasts and history buffs alike. Each episode features insightful conversations with a diverse array of guests, ranging from OGS members, chapter leaders, and staff, to renowned genealogists, historians, and influential figures within the genealogical community.

Listeners can expect riveting discussions that delve into a wide range of topics, uncovering captivating stories and shedding light on Ohio's intricate past. With a blend of expertise and passion, **Ohio Roots** invites audiences to explore the unique tapestry of Ohio's genealogical heritage.

“We’re thrilled to launch Ohio Roots and share the incredible stories and resources that Ohio has to offer,” said Noel Poirier, Executive Director of the Ohio Genealogical Society. “This podcast is a platform for genealogists, historians, and enthusiasts to come together and uncover the fascinating roots of our state.”

Listeners are encouraged to grab their headphones or unmute their speakers, hit that play button, and embark on an enthralling journey through Ohio's roots. Whether you're a seasoned researcher or new to the world of genealogy, **Ohio Roots** promises something for everyone.

To tune in and explore Ohio's genealogical legacy, visit [www.ogs.org/podcasts/](http://www.ogs.org/podcasts/) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

For more information about the Ohio Genealogical Society and Ohio Roots, please visit [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org).
Region 1
Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties
The Historical Society of Elida (suburb of Lima in Allen County) announced on September 13 that they will be opening a small museum at 113 Kiracofe Avenue in Elida. They plan to open the new Historical Society of Elida Museum sometime in November 2023. They have put out a call for Elida themed artifacts and documents to help this small museum grow.

Region 2
Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot Counties
After several maintenance and safety issues with their former location, the Stemtown Historical Society Museum (Green Springs) was forced to find a new home. With the aid of generous donors, the organization was able to purchase the former Old Calvary United Methodist Church in July. Supported by their local community, the museum moved into its new location at 111 South Kansas Street during the month of August. The Board of Directors of the Stemtown Historical Society Museum (Green Springs) announced on September 14 that Brenda Rando (formerly the Board Treasurer) will be taking over as Curator of their museum.

The Wyandot County Historical Society (Upper Sandusky) learned in early September that their grant application to the Wyandot County Community Foundation was approved. The grant will allow the organization to purchase a variety of male, female, and child mannequins and dress forms to help display more of their clothing and uniform collections. Director Ronald Marvin, Jr. attended an Awards Breakfast on October 20 to accept the grant check on behalf of the Society.

Region 3
Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties
The Lorain Historical Society’s Carnegie Center has been recognized by the National Park Service on the National Register of Historic Places. The cornerstone for the Carnegie Library was laid on August 18, 1903, marking the beginning of the construction of a beautiful library in the heart of a residential district and within walking distance to the downtown area. Fast forward to August 2013 when the Black River Historical Society (now known as the Lorain Historical Society) acquired the property from the Lorain Port Authority and began a Capital Campaign to raise money for its renovation.

Region 4
Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties
Region 5
Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne Counties
The Alliance Historical Society has received a collaboration grant from the Greater Alliance Foundation to create a self-guided walking tour of the East Main Street National Historic District in downtown Alliance. The Alliance Area Preservation Society will collaborate with the Historical Society to identify, research, and create the tour. The grant will pay for permanent signage marking the 25-30 stops on the tour. The Clio app for history will be used for recording the descriptions, historic photographs, and audio narration of the tour. The project will be completed during the winter with a launch in spring 2024.

Region 6
Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties
The Delaware County Historical Society (DCHS) recently announced its latest exhibit, Delaware County in the Roaring ’20s. The exhibit opened Sept. 1 and will be featured in the Nash House Museum, located at 157 E. William St. in Delaware. This latest opportunity to explore local history will include clothing, music, photos and other artifacts from Delaware County in the 1920s. The exhibit will also allow visitors to explore the historic Nash House Museum, originally built for Thomas and Mina Slattery in 1878.

Region 7
Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties
In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please e-mail 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.

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
MEMBERS

Joined or renewed between August 17 and November 1, 2023.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUALS
Andi Erbskorn, Archbold
Robert Leonhard, Columbus
Kayla Metzger, Cuyahoga Falls

ORGANIZATIONS
Adena Historical Society, Adena
America 250-Ohio Commission, Columbus

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS
Sarah Aisenbrey, Dayton
Leslie Blankenship, Hilliard
Doreen Uhas-Sauer, Columbus
Randy Winland, Prospect

ORGANIZATIONS
103rd OVI Memorial Foundation, Sheffield Lake
Adena Mansion & Gardens Society, Chillicothe
Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum, Defiance
Armstrong Air & Space Museum Association, Wapakoneta
Baltimore Community Museum, Baltimore
Bexley Historical Society, Bexley
Champaign County Historical Society, Urbana
Clyde Heritage League Inc, Clyde
Columbus Historical Society, Columbus
Columbus Jewish Historical Society, Columbus
Cortland Bazetta Historical Society, Cortland
Delaware County Historical Society, Delaware
Dover Historical Society/Reeves Museum, Dover
Fort Recovery Historical Society, Fort Recovery
Fostoria Area Historical Society & Museum, Fostoria
Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Cincinnati
German Village Society, Columbus
Greenfield Historical Society, Greenfield
Johnston Farm Friends Council, Piqua
Lillian E. Jones Museum, Jackson
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, Chillicothe
Marion County Historical Society, Marion
Massillon Museum, Massillon
Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor Inc, Napoleon
Mayfield Township Historical Society, Mayfield Village
Mercantile Library, Cincinnati
Mogadore Historical Society, Inc, Mogadore
Mount Healthy Historical Society, Mount Healthy
Museum Acrylics, LLC, New Philadelphia
Museums and Historic Sites of Greater Cincinnati, Oxford
Northwest Territory Museum Society, Marietta
Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin
Perry Historical Society of Lake County, Perry
Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums, Fremont
Sauder Village, Archbold
Southeast Ohio History Center, Athens
Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, Gahanna
Swiss Community Historical Society, Bluffton
Toledo Firefighters’ Museum, Toledo
Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, New Philadelphia
Washington County Historical Society, Marietta
Western Reserve Railroad Association, Cleveland

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 5-6:
AASLH Small Museums Virtual Summit.
For more information, see page 16.

JANUARY 8:
Ohio Local History Alliance Membership Dues Change. For more information, see page 15.

JANUARY 11:
NEH Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions Due. For more information, see page 16.

JANUARY 15:
Ohio Academy of History Public History Award Nominations Due. For more information, see page 14.
America-250 Ohio Grant Applications Open. For more information, see page 12.

MARCH 1:
America-250 Ohio Grant Application Due. For more information, see page 12.
Join the
Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

**Organizational Member**

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

**Operating budget:**

- Over $200,000 a year: $100 ($190 for 2)
- $100,000-$200,000 a year: $75 ($140 for 2)
- $25,000-$100,000 a year: $60 ($110 for 2)
- Under $25,000 a year: $35 ($65 for 2)

**Individual Member**

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

- Affiliate: $35 ($65 for 2)
- Individual: $50 ($90 for 2)
- Student: $20

**Business Member:**

- $100 ($190 for 2)

Join at:

https://www.ohiohistorystore.com/collections/ohio-local-history-alliance

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Need to Contact Us? **WE AT LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES LOVE HEARING FROM YOU!**

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GET SOCIAL WITH THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

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