ANNUAL MEETING 2023:

Recognize History as Necessity

We're excited to return to the Quest Conference Center in Westerville for the 2023 Annual Meeting, October 6-7! We're planning a full day of sessions and workshops on both days, in collaboration with the Society of Ohio Archivists on Friday.

Our conference theme, History as Necessity, encourages all of us to think about the ways that our work is essential to helping people create a sense of community and of themselves. We've got a great slate of breakout sessions planned, including a thread regarding American Indian history. Other sessions on Friday include discussions of borrowing and lending museum collections, food and drink at your site, building community partnerships, historic structure reports, and much more! Sessions arranged by the Society of Ohio Archivists will include working with community groups to tell untold stories and advocating for yourself.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our keynote speakers and the support of Ohio Humanities, we're pleased to welcome two keynote speakers this year! Chief Glenna

(continued on page 4)
Greetings Alliance members! With summer comes more families and children enjoying our historic sites. I struggle sometimes with connecting kids to history, as history was not my favorite subject in school. If I didn’t like it, how can I inspire another child? My passion for history began with the study of material culture, the everyday object telling a story about who we are as a society. “Dissecting” an object’s function and use has been a fun practice to adopt for children’s engagement with history. Hook them while they are young!

Please fill out the OLHA member survey if you have not done so already. The board needs your feedback to direct this alliance to its strongest capacity while still representing our members.

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Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma will provide the lunchtime keynote, speaking about American Indians in Ohio’s origin story and about the inscription of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Professor Colin G. Calloway of Dartmouth University will speak to us from New Hampshire later in the afternoon, highlighting the American Indian aspects of Ohio’s origin story as described in his research, including his recent work *The Victory with No Name: The Native American Defeat of the First American Army.*

Friday’s activities will conclude with a Ghost Tour of Walnut Grove Cemetery in Worthington. We hope this will be both a fun event and provide inspiration for similar events in your town. We encourage you to visit the shops and restaurants of Worthington’s historic district at the conclusion of the tour.

Saturday’s sessions will include discussions of volunteer recruitment and engagement, museum education and the schools, suggestions for re-envisioning your museum and advocating for your museum, caring for historic vehicles, insurance needs for historic sites and more! Saturday’s lunch session will recognize outstanding projects and people from Ohio’s local history community.

As we did last year, we will conclude the meeting on Saturday with two workshops. Join Lauren Barber from the Ohio History Connection for a discussion of Human Resources issues and best practices for small organizations; or Megan Fitze and Simone Robinson from Art Possible Ohio for a hands-on workshop on creating sensory-friendly experiences for your guests, including building a sensory kit for you to take away (pre-registration required).

Check our website at [https://ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting](https://ohiolha.org/what-we-do/alliance-annual-meeting) for registration details and the full program as it is finalized. We will be mailing the full program to members later in July. Please contact us at ohiolha@ohiohistory.org with any questions.
Deeds of Gift

by Julia Marec, Ohio History Service Corps AmeriCorps member serving at the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum.

The process of creating a deed of gift can be intimidating. There are a few factors to be considered before one can send a deed out to an artifact donor. But, when broken down into smaller, more manageable steps, the whole process can become that much easier. This article will outline those steps and create a clearer understanding of what should and shouldn’t be included when writing a deed of gift.

The first step in creating a deed of gift is to consult your organization’s scope of collections policy. A collections scope will be your best friend when it comes to deciding whether or not an item belongs within an organization’s collection. The collection policy should specifically outline the parameters of what the organization is willing to accept into its collection. For example: You are the curator of a local museum that is dedicated to the preservation of the history of beekeeping in your town. Your scope of collections would highlight the goal of accepting donations of beekeeping supplies, protective garments to be worn while working around bees, or different products that were produced specifically within that town from the local hives. Any artifact donation that would fall outside of these parameters should then not be considered for accession.

The second step to creating a deed of gift should be to make sure that when items are donated to your organization, the donor signs a temporary custody receipt. A temporary custody receipt is a small, but extremely important, step in creating a deed. In order to consider an artifact donation for accession, the donor must sign a temporary receipt. The temporary receipt should give a brief summary of the artifacts that are being donated, as well as have a section for the donor to leave their contact information should the need for more information regarding the artifact arise. After filling out the temporary receipt, make sure to provide a copy of the form to the donor for their records. After securing the artifact donation in a safe place, make sure to place a temporary label on the artifact. The temporary label should have the name of the donor and the temporary number, which should be logged in a gift register.

The next step in putting together a deed is creating the artifact description. When creating an artifact description, being as descriptive as possible will not only make your job easier, but also those who join the organization years after you. When I first started creating deed descriptions, my mentor used the example of finding a specific lampshade in a room full of lampshades. How would you describe this one lampshade that someone could easily and quickly pick out of a crowd of lampshades? Be specific in what materials the artifact is made out of, what color is the artifact? Is the surface of the artifact shiny or dull? These, and more, are all details that should absolutely be included in the artifact description. Be sure to note the most obvious details first, imagine someone is in a hurry to retrieve this object; what details will they be looking for to quickly accomplish their task? Colors and shapes are some of the most notable descriptors. Be sure to also include any damage marks or the condition that the artifact is in once it enters your organization’s collections.

Now that you have a completed description, the next step is to create a permanent number that will be assigned to each artifact in the donation. It is important to remain consistent in numbering practices. Most museums use a three-point system. The first number in the set would be the last two digits of the year the item was donated. The second number in the set would tell museum staff what group number the artifacts were donated in that particular year. The last set of numbers would point to the individual item within that group. For example, if a donor came in to donate a group of five objects on August 13, 2023, the first and third numbers in the three-point number would be 23, and 5. The middle number will be found by referring back to your gift registers to see how many previous donations had been made in that calendar year. If this particular donor is the 15th donor that year, then the middle number would be 15. The final number would read out as 23.15.5, with numbers 1-5 of the third number referring to each individual object within that collection.

After filling out the donor’s information on an official deed printed on carbon copy paper, make sure to print out three copies of the descriptions and attach them to each piece of paper from the deed. Enclose the white and yellow copies in an envelope and send it to the donor for their signature. Adding a letter of thanks is a nice touch and is also a good way to include instructions on how the donor is to complete their part of the deed, and what to send back. Keep the pink form in records until the donor sends back the signed white form of the deed back to your organization. Hopefully this article has made all the steps of creating a deed less intimidating. Each deed can take a varied amount of time to complete, but there is always something new to learn along the way, you never know what fascinating artifact will cross your desk next!
How to Keep Teachers and Students Thinking About Their Experience

The Local Historian | July/August 2023

Claudia Bartow is an Ohio middle school Social Studies teacher, military veteran, and author. She has orchestrated many field trips with her students at locations around Ohio, Pennsylvania and in Washington, D.C. Claudia loves to create effective and customizable tools to help small to medium-sized museums and historic sites increase engagement with their local schools and teachers. Her latest offering, “Field Trip Kickstart Kit”, features the downloads in these articles and much more. She can be reached at 78ssteacher@gmail.com.

Before we look at the important things a museum or site can do to foster the relationship between teachers, the students and their parents after a field trip, let’s revisit what has been presented so far in this field trip series.

First, you want to make it easy for them to schedule a field trip. Including frequently asked questions and their answers about the visit on a website for teachers to view, or providing it in written form if you solicit schools and groups for field trips that way would make the beginning of your relationship with them smooth and seamless. Having whoever is setting up the field trip for the group complete a survey can give you all the information you might want and need, such as the number of students/chaperones coming and if there are any special needs students that require a wheelchair, etc.

The next tip discussed, and possibly the most important part of this whole process in my opinion having been the teacher to set up many field trips for my students, is a “before you come” teacher packet. I can think of the information the Ohio Judicial Center provides before my seventh graders go there on a field trip. There is a map with instructions on how to get there, a flyer telling where the buses should drop us off and park, a list of important behavior information to relay to students since the Judicial Center is a very secure building, etc. The Judicial Center also provides a number of student-friendly court cases we discuss with our students before we go. The tour guides there then go through these actual cases with the students.

In the third field trip tip article there were many suggestions on how to make a group’s visit organized and memorable. From the moment a group of young people set foot on your property, it is best to be very specific on how you want them to do things. Should they split into three groups beforehand? Is there a place where they can put their coats and packed lunches when they arrive? While touring the museum, is there something they should be doing while looking at exhibits? Are the objects and exhibits displayed in a way that tells a compelling story that would interest students?

Offering materials for teachers to use during or just after the field trip was the topic of the fourth suggestion in the series. A template for students to write a reflection or journal entry or a scavenger hunt to encourage students to dip deep into the exhibits are great choices. Keeping students active and engaged will make their visit to your site a fun and worthwhile one.

Lastly, make a conscious effort to keep them thinking about their visit. At the end of their time with you, provide students with flyers or a brochure to take home. Consider offering their families a discount for a return visit. Keep them excited about what they learned and what you have to offer. Ask teachers to do a survey, on paper or online, preferably while they are still with you! Teachers get exceptionally busy once they return to school. Ask for honest feedback so that you can improve the student experience. Most importantly, ask them to come back next year! There are several places, like the Ohio Judicial Center, the Ohio Statehouse, and the Columbus Zoo that students in my school experience every year. These places do an exceptional job welcoming school groups and do so in an organized and engaging fashion. It is a no-brainer to take students to these places year after year because of this.

There is no doubt a field trip to a great location is a win-win-win. Students make memories and learn new things, teachers cover the curriculum in a unique and fun way, and museums gain the attention of young people and their families who are engaged and interested in what they have to offer. How can you make your museum or site more field-trip friendly?

The following teacher survey can be edited for your use. Simply add your museum or site’s logo at the top if you wish and ask teachers to fill out this quick survey before they leave your site. This could also be offered digitally to teachers through a QR code they can scan with their phone, making it even more convenient. When you click the template link, it will have you “Make a Copy” so that it becomes your own. Download the template here.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Images of America Series Adds New Publication

Arcadia Publishing released Images of America – Brook Park that tells the story of a rural community that expanded to become an industrial hub featuring the Cleveland Municipal Airport, Cleveland Bomber Plant, NASA Glenn Research Center (still expanding with the new astronaut center), Cleveland Tank Plant, and the Ford Motor Company plants which were the second largest company complex in the country. The historical images in this book illustrate the roles that Brook Park played in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, space technology, vehicle manufacturing, and this area of Ohio becoming an airport center.

OLHA JULY WEBINAR: Partnering for Patrons

Ohio Local History Alliance Members are not just connected to each other for help and information. Reaching out to community groups, like local libraries, can result in valuable partnerships. What does a library and a non-profit history group have in common, and how can they benefit from a working relationship? Find out during this informational web-based workshop on Friday, July 21 at 3:00pm. OLHA members will share their experiences with creating joint exhibits, collections management collaborations, on-line and in-person research opportunities, public educational programming, sponsorships of museum admissions, and joint-project funding. Museums and groups with few or no employees will benefit greatly from this workshop.

The workshop is free, but registration is required. Click here to register.

National Historical Publications & Records Commission Announces Grant Opportunities

Important: You should contact NHPRC early on in the application process to discuss your project. They encourage you to provide a draft, which the program director will review and offer advice for revision before the final deadline.

Archival Projects
For projects that ensure online public discovery and use of historical records collections.

• Draft Deadline (optional): August 15, 2023
• Final Deadline: November 2, 2023

Public Engagement with Historical Records
For projects that encourage public engagement with historical records.

• Draft Deadline (optional): August 15, 2023
• Final Deadline: November 2, 2023

Publishing Historical Records in Collaborative Digital Editions
For projects to publish documentary editions of historical records. This program has two application cycles.

First cycle:

• Draft Deadline: February 15, 2023
• Final Deadline: May 3, 2023

Second Cycle:

• Draft Deadline: August 15, 2023
• Final Deadline: November 2, 2023

Tell Us How We’re Doing!

The mission of the Ohio Local History Alliance is to inspire, connect, and educate local history organizations across the state of Ohio. We’d like to hear from you - current, former and potential members of OLHA. Tell us about the issues your organization is facing and how we can help. Please fill out this survey (it takes just five minutes!). Your answers will help OLHA develop future programming and outreach activities.
William G. Pomeroy Foundation Launches New Historical Marker Grant Program

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation has officially launched a new historical marker grant program named Hometown Heritage. Their goal with this fully funded, national program is to help communities commemorate the people, places, things or events that are historically significant to their area and beyond. Hometown Heritage is focused on highlighting local history, especially for those in states without marker programs or for subjects that may not qualify for their state marker program. Hometown Heritage gives communities like yours an opportunity to preserve their own historic milestones – making them a part of the larger fabric of our shared national history.

To get started, everything you need to know about the marker design, program guidelines and applying online for a grant are available on the Hometown Heritage webpage, via the Pomeroy Foundation’s website.
Building Doctors Help Local History Museums, Too!

Historic preservation and local history go together like bricks and mortar. At many local history societies, the largest “artifact” they care for is a historic house museum or building. The Building Doctors, a free program from the Ohio History Connection’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), can help.

Two Building Doctor Clinics are scheduled for October: at Bowling Green (Region 1) on Oct. 19-20 and in Lorain (Region 3) on Oct. 24-25. The Clinics are free, but registration is required. Sign-ups for the Clinics will open in September, at ohiohistory.org/buildingdoctor

Cosponsored by a local host, the two-day Building Doctor program consists of an evening seminar about common old building issues and best practices for historic preservation. The next day, the Building Doctors make “(old) house calls” and provide customized advice. In their 40+ years, Building Doctors have made well over a thousand site visits across the state.

Recommendations from the Building Doctors in 2016 helped the Alliance Historical Society (Region 5) to apply for a grant from Ohio History Connection’s History Fund in 2018. The grant of $13,240 supported, in part, the installation of a new, historically appropriate roof on the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home (shown c. 1890), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about the Building Doctor program, visit the website above or contact the Ohio History Connection’s SHPO at shpo@ohiohistory.org or 614-298-2000.

Thanks the Auglaize County Historical Society (Region 7) for ccohosting a clinic in Wapakoneta on June 15-16. If your organization is interested in hosting a Clinic, contact us!

AASLH Releases 2023 National Visitation Report

On June 8, 2023, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) released the 2023 National Visitation Report.

This report is the only national effort to analyze trends in visitation at history organizations of all types and sizes across the United States. Through an annual survey, AASLH gathers visitation data to better understand year-to-year shifts in the way Americans engage with history organizations, and to provide organizational decision-makers with benchmark data against which they can compare their own institution.

This is the fifth consecutive year AASLH has conducted a visitation survey and issued a report. The 2023 report includes trends and analysis for visitation to history organizations in 2022.

Visits to history organizations increased by 37 percent from 2021 to 2022, a continuation of the recovery trend that began in 2021. Although this overall number represents substantial growth and is a positive sign for the field, most history institutions still received fewer visitors last year than they did before the beginning of the pandemic.

Year-to-year visitation changes vary considerably by budget size:

- Small institutions—those with annual budgets of less than $250,000—reported some of the largest visitation increases. These institutions reported longer closures in 2021 and sharper visitation declines during the height of the pandemic.

- Mid-sized to large institutions have reported greater difficulties returning to pre-pandemic visitation. For these institutions, with annual budgets between $1 million and $10 million, the average number of annual visitors reported in 2022 remains well below the levels reported throughout the 2010s.

- The largest institutions, with budgets greater than $10 million, have reported the most complete recovery in visitation figures.

- Fewer than half of respondents (43 percent) reported using virtual programming to reach their audiences, suggesting that online events and exhibits still serve as complement to more traditional forms of in-person engagement, not a replacement.

Next Survey in 2025

Moving forward, the National Visitation Survey will shift from an annual effort to a more intermittent schedule, as part of an effort to increase our response rate and provide more useful analysis. We plan to conduct the next survey in 2025.

Read the 2023 National Visitation Report
More than 300 people attended the Crawford County History Alliance’s History Fair on Sunday, April 23. Eleven organizations with an interest in showcasing their part of Crawford County’s rich history came together for a history fair at Lowes-Volk Park to kick off a new Summer Passport Program for adults and kids and to sign a “declaration of understanding” after a year of quarterly meetings. This ad hoc group has focused on promoting local history and finding ways to work together to promote each other and share costs. The Crawford County History Alliance includes representatives of the Bucyrus Historical Society, Crawford County Center for the Arts, Crawford Park District, Crestline Historical Society, Friends of the Big Four Depot, Galion History Center, Gill House (Preserving Galion, Inc.), Harvey One Room School, New Washington Historical Society, Ohio Lincoln Highway League (Hopple Monument restoration) and the T&OC Depot.

Between June 6-10, Director Ronald Marvin, Jr. (Wyandot County Historical Society in Upper Sandusky) visited with members of the Wyandotte Nation in Wyandotte, Oklahoma and the Kansas Delaware Tribe in Bonner Springs, Kansas. He visited several local museums and historic sites plus immersed himself in the cultures of the Wyandottes and Delaware (Le-nape). The goals of this work trip were to enhance relationships, foster a greater understanding of the modern nations, plus learn useful information for updating exhibits and enhancing tours at the Wyandot County Museum.

On June 23, the Wyandot County Historical Society (Upper Sandusky - Region 2) hosted Board members from the Hardin County Historical Museums, Inc. (Kenton - Region 1) to discuss museum operations, collections storage, fundraising, tour the site, and visit the Attic Storage Area of the Wyandot County Museum. This was a great way to encourage collaboration and foster partnerships between the neighboring organizations.
Region 8
Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, and Warren Counties

The Cincinnati Observatory is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibit, 150 Years on Mt. Lookout: Celebrating our National Historic Landmark. It will run through October 1, 2023. Built in 1873, the main Observatory building was designed by renowned architect Samuel Hannaford in the Greek Revival style and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997. Other programming and events throughout the year will also highlight this historic anniversary, including a 150th Celebration Gala on September 30, 2023 that will kick start a fundraising campaign to creating the foundation to take the Observatory into its next chapter and to continue to inspire generations to look to the stars for another 150 years. For more information, check our website: www.cincinnatiobservatory.org

White Water Shaker Village includes buildings that are rich in religious, social, and architectural history. White Water Village is home to the only brick Shaker meeting house (church) in the United States and is the only intact Shaker village in Ohio. The 1827 brick meeting house has a unique architectural design in which the second floor and attic are suspended by a truss and hanger system in the attic. This design enabled the Shakers to dance during their religious services on the first floor without the obstruction of columns. Fall open houses celebrate the 200th anniversary of the village’s founding.

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

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society received state-level honors with the 2023 Excellence in Tourism Award given Friday, April 28, by the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance in Holmes County. In addition to the award, they also received a proclamation from U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance, R-Ohio. The renovation of this distinctive landmark into a walking trail has been a long time coming, according to Belmont County Tourism Director Jackee Pugh, who nominated the group for this award. “Few structures in Belmont County are as iconic as the Great Stone Viaduct. For over 150 years, the towering stone arches have greeted visitors to Bellaire. On June 21, 1871, the first train traveled over the 43-stone arch bridge connecting Bellaire to Benwood, West Virginia,” Pugh wrote in the application. As of Oct. 23, a 20-arch portion of the stone viaduct is now open to the public, along with a new plaza and overlook. The $2 million project was funded by the Ohio Department of Transportation and was more than a decade in the making.
MEMBERS

Joined or renewed between April 21 and June 22, 2023.

Welcome New Members

ORGANIZATIONS
Overfield Tavern Museum, Troy

Thank You, Renewing Members

INDIVIDUALS
Jennie L. Self, Massillon
Jacqueline B. Pasternack, Columbus

ORGANIZATIONS
Alliance Historical Society, Alliance
Berea Historical Society, Berea
Brimfield Historical Society, Kent
Butler County Historical Society, Hamilton
Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, Loudonville
Darke County Historical Society, Greenville
Delphos Canal Commission, Delphos
Fairfield County Heritage Association, Lancaster
Firelands Historical Society, Norwalk
Harveysburg Community Historical Society, Harveysburg
Henry County Historical Society, Napoleon
Holmes County Historical Society, Millersburg
Logan County Historical Society, Bellefontaine
Lorain County Historical Society, Elyria
Madison Historical Society, Madison
Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown
Mariemont Preservation Foundation, Cincinnati
Morgan Township Historical Society, Shandon
Roselia C. Verhoff, Ottawa
Todd McCormick, Bellefontaine

ORGANIZATIONS
Museum of Fulton County, Ohio, Wauseon
Muskingum County History, Zanesville
National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association, Niles
New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany
New London Area Historical Society, New London
New Washington Historical Society, New Washington
North Baltimore Area Historical Society, North Baltimore
North Canton Heritage Society, North Canton
Perry History Club, Inc., Canton
Springboro Area Historical Society, Springboro
Stow Historical Society, Stow
The Dawes Arboretum, Newark
The Harriet Taylor Upton Association, Warren
Toledo History Museum, Inc., Toledo
Trotwood-Madison Historical Society, Trotwood
Tuscarawas County Historical Society, New Philadelphia
Upper Arlington Historical Society, Upper Arlington
USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation, Cleveland

CALENDAR

JULY 21:
OLHA Webinar: Partnering for Patrons. For more information, see page 7.

AUGUST 15:
NHPRC Grants Draft Deadline. For more information, see page 7.

AUGUST 18:
OHRAB Professional Development Scholarship Application Deadline. For more information, see page 8.

OCTOBER 19-20:
Building Doctor workshop in Bowling Green. For more information, see page 9.

OCTOBER 24-25:
Building Doctor workshop in Lorain. For more information, see page 9.

NOVEMBER 2:
NHPRC Grants Deadline. For more information, see page 7.
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:

www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx

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

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