

# Congratulations 2024 Award Winners!



## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2** President's Message | People In The News
- 5** Cover Story (continued)
- 9** Deaccessioning Basics
- 12** LoneSailor Memorial Dedication
- 13** Announcements
- 16** News from the Regions
- 17** Members | Calendar
- 18** Contact Us

**S**ince 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.*

#### Exhibits and Displays

#### Clinton County History Center: “Beyond The Scoreboard: An Exhibit Celebrating Clinton County Sports Throughout The Years”

Step into the exhilarating world of Clinton County sports in our latest exhibit, where we celebrate the vibrant history and enduring legacy of athletics in our community. From the early days of grassroots competitions to modern-day sporting triumphs, this exhibition offers a captivating journey through the heart and soul of Clinton County's athletic culture.

*(continued on page 5)*



My term as the OLHA President has come to an end. Man, I love this group! I love the camaraderie, the suggestions that come from us sharing our issues, and the relationships and trust we have built with each other. It's not always positive feedback or news I hear, but I end my presidency with nothing but positivity for how the Alliance continues to adapt and grow in a post-COVID world. I truly thank you for having trust in me to lead the Alliance.

Leslie

**Leslie Wagner**

Historian

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### In Memoriam: **Larry R. Zapp**

(reprinted from [www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/gahanna-oh/larry-zapp-12024629](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/gahanna-oh/larry-zapp-12024629))

Larry Richard Zapp, age 76, passed away on October 9, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio, surrounded by his immediate family members and loved ones.

Larry was born in Columbus to the late Richard Carl Zapp and Dorothea (Huffman) Zapp and lived the majority of his youth in Grove City, Ohio. He graduated from Grove City High School in 1966 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Franklin University in 1969. In 1979, Larry became a Certified Financial Planner. He served as the treasurer of the Financial Planning Association (FPA) for many years. He founded his own insurance and investment firm, Larry R. Zapp & Associates, Inc., which he operated for over 50 years.

Larry was an active member of his community, his local church, and numerous historical societies. He served for a number of years on the Grove City Chamber of Commerce, the Grove City Planning Commission, the Gahanna Planning Commission, and the Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau. He was a longtime member and served on the board of trustees at the Gahanna Community Congregational Church. He served as member and treasurer of four different historical societies, including those of [Southwest Franklin County](#), [Franklinton](#), [Gahanna](#), and [Whitehall](#). He was also an active member of the Deshler Park Civic Association.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife Linda (Rogerson) Zapp; his four daughters Laura Nanna, Lisa Conrad (Andrew), Elizabeth Parrot (Sean), and Emily Piercy (Grant); and his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his father Richard, mother Dorothea, brother Michael, and first wife Wanda (Santee) Zapp.

Larry leaves behind a long legacy of civic engagement, commitment to work, and love for his family. An avid conversationalist, his personality was one of a kind, with a sharp wit and an appreciation for the absurd. He was never afraid to share his opinion on any topic. He and his family owned many pets throughout the years, and he once noted that when he passed, he hoped to be reunited with all of them. He adored his wife, his girls, and his grandkids more than anything. We are better for having known and loved him. He will be sorely missed.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 from 4-6pm and Wednesday, October 16, 2024 from 11-12pm at Schoedinger Northeast, 1051 East Johnstown Road, Gahanna, Ohio 43230. A funeral service will follow beginning at 12pm at Schoedinger Northeast.

In lieu of flowers, any contribution in his memory can be made to any of the four historical societies of which Larry had been a member or to Gahanna Community Congregational Church.

*OLHA Executive Secretary addendum:* In addition to his service to the individual historical societies noted above, Larry was an active supporter and proponent of the Ohio Local History Alliance. In particular, his role in encouraging and facilitating every board member he worked with to attend the Region 6 Meeting each spring will be hard to replicate. I will miss our yearly phone call, several days after the registration deadline, telling me he's finally convinced between 6 and 10 people from those organizations to attend the meeting, and asking if I can still add them to the list. We always found a way to make it work!

(continued on page 3)

### In Memoriam: Virginia McCormick

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Virginia “Jennie” McCormick (1934-2024), who served as the Worthington Historical Society’s Historian for several decades, passed away on September 19, 2024. Jennie authored numerous books, including many with late husband Bob McCormick, meticulously documenting Worthington history including “New Englanders on the Ohio Frontier”. During her lifetime, McCormick also was a volunteer for the Ohio History Connection Archives-Library and Historic Preservation Office, the Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library, and was a tour guide

at the Ohio State House. She received a Partner in Education award from the Worthington Schools, the Rose Award for volunteer service from the Ohio Historical Society, the William Henry Harrison award for biography from the Ohio Genealogical Society, and the Public Education and Awareness Award from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

The Society is grateful for the work that Jennie did for the benefit of Worthington which will leave an indelible mark on our understanding of Worthington history.

### In Memoriam: Michael Frush

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(reprinted from <https://www.graumllichfuneralhome.com/obituaries/michael-frush>)

Michael Allen Frush, 76, of Powell died October 1, 2024, after a short illness due to cancer. He was born in Columbus to his late parents William Frush and Norma Strayer Frush. Also predeceased by good friend Paul, beloved grandparents and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

A graduate of Marion-Franklin High School and The Ohio State University, Mike was a semi-retired CPA with over 50 years in the business, mostly running his own accounting firm. He passed on his knowledge to future accountants as an adjunct faculty member at Franklin University and guest lecturer at The Ohio State University. He proudly served in the United States Army Reserves. Member of All Shepherds Lutheran Church and a man of faith.

Survived by his wife of 38 years, Diane, and son, Chad William Frush (Amie). Very proud grandfather of Jonathan, Cailey and Cadey. Also missing him will be many cherished family members, friends, clients and Billy.

Mike had many hobbies including golf, poker (both local and in Las Vegas at the WSOP), lunch with the guys, OSU and other local sports, traveling, spoiling many pets over the years, buying books, and everything local history.

He was passionate about the Columbus Historical Society, being one of its founding members and serving 34 years on the Board. Currently in his seventh year of his second stint as President, he worked diligently to fund and secure a home for the Society and a permanent place to share and preserve Columbus history. He lived to see the project get under way at Columbus Engine House #6 on West Broad Street. Mike also could be found on other history related boards including Columbus Landmarks Foundation, the Franklinton Historical Society and the Franklin County Bicentennial Commission.

Mike asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to finishing his special project at the Columbus Historical Society, ‘CHS Engine House #6 Restoration’ c/o 717 W. Town Street, Columbus, OH 43222. Donations may also be made through [www.columbushistory.org](http://www.columbushistory.org)

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Discover the evolution of sports in our region as you explore displays, rare memorabilia, and engaging narratives that highlight the pivotal moments, legendary rivalries, and remarkable achievements that have shaped our local sporting landscape. From the adrenaline rush of game-winning touchdowns to the graceful precision of championship-winning slam dunks, every aspect of Clinton County sports is brought to life in this immersive showcase.

Through compelling exhibits and insightful storytelling, visitors of all ages will gain a deeper appreciation for the role sports have played in shaping our community's identity, fostering camaraderie, and inspiring generations of athletes. Whether you're a die-hard fan or simply curious about the history of sports in Clinton County, this exhibition promises an unforgettable experience that celebrates the enduring spirit of athletic excellence and sportsmanship that defines our proud community.

### Fairfield County Heritage Association: Fairfield County History Exhibit

The Fairfield County Heritage Association proudly unveils its latest attraction, the Fairfield County History Exhibit, located on the lower level of the Georgian Museum in Lancaster, Ohio. Spanning the "Well Room" and the "Goslin Room," this comprehensive exhibit immerses visitors in the county's rich past, offering an experience akin to walking through a local history book.

Executive Director Wendy Gregory and Marketing Director Michael Johnson designed the exhibit to align with educational standards, making it an appealing destination for school field trips. Their goal was to ensure the exhibit supports social studies curricula through engaging, hands-on learning.

In the "Well Room," visitors embark on a chronological journey starting from the Ice Age through the rise of local industry. Highlights include a map of Ohio's glacial extent, a mastodon tooth, and artifacts related to the Wyandot Tribe. The room also covers Zane's Trace, early settlers, and Black History, featuring significant local figures like Scipio Smith and the Underground Railroad network in Rushville.

The "Goslin Room," named after historian Charles Goslin, houses 14 cabinets filled with artifacts. Here, you'll find displays on canals, railroads, the Boys Industrial School, women's history, and Civil War contributions, including items related to General William T. Sherman. Noteworthy collections include the Herb Turner Pioneer Collection and a large exhibit on local cigar manufacturing.

Adding to the interactive experience is the "Then and Now" display that allows visitors to compare historical and contemporary views of Fairfield County. This new exhibit promises to be a dynamic educational resource and a captivating exploration of local history.

### Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House: "Cincinnati's Lost Founders"

Cincinnati's vibrant jazz scene would not be complete without the unassuming Mr. Clark, an octogenarian known for his

extensive knowledge of jazz and tendency to make friends wherever he goes. People who know Mr. Clark are rarely aware that he is a descendant of the famous Hemings family of Monticello. Mr. Clark's ancestors were enslaved at Monticello; among them were important cooks and blacksmiths. One such ancestor is Peter Fossett, born into slavery, who gained his freedom and moved to Cincinnati. There, he partnered with Sarah Mayrant Walker, with whom he helped build up the Cincinnati neighborhood of Cumminsville. They established a Baptist church there and were linked to the Underground Railroad. Sarah Fossett was also involved in a court case against the local passenger car company. As a result of her suit, Black women and children were permitted to ride the streetcar in Cincinnati.

Mr. Clark provided an oral history interview and facsimiles of important family documents. This exhibit explores whose stories are told, why we need to provide more inclusive history, and how we can all tell our own family stories.

### Fulton County Historical Society: "All Aboard: Fulton County's Railroad History"

Twelve trustees, five volunteers, and the Swanton Area Model Train organization all came together under the direction of John Swearingen to create a special exhibit entitled "All Aboard" which tells the story of railroads in Fulton County.

The exhibit is divided into 4 sections based on the four railroads that ran through the area: New York Central, Wabash, Detroit Toledo & Ironton and the two electric railroads (cable cars). The timeline for each railroad is filled with information, dates, and artifacts from the collection.

Designed for children, a separate exhibit shows eight life-size cartoon characters (real people from the county's past) that tell their stories of how the railroad influenced their lives. Each character is life size but eye height of 43-51 inches so they can engage the children. There is a QR code so visitors can use their mobile devices to see and hear the character speak. The local model train club created a scene for their trains with all of the accessories (trains, buildings, parks and shrubs). Other volunteers built an observation DT&I Switch tower platform for the kids to climb on and look down on the model railroad display, and there is a wooden train for toddlers to play with. There is also a station where visitors can create a telegram using Morse Code symbols, and oversized book pages of the iconic children's story "I Think I can."

### Lorain County Historical Society: "Lorain County 200 Years"

The Lorain County 200 Years Traveling Exhibit is a captivating celebration of the county's rich history and vibrant present. This impressive exhibit, a collaboration among over 20 dedicated organizations within Lorain County, brings together diverse perspectives and showcases the area's growth and cultural heritage over the past two centuries. It offers an immersive experience that not only highlights significant moments from

(continued on page 6)

the county's past but also unites the community in a shared appreciation of their collective legacy.

The exhibit stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, demonstrating how a unified effort can create a meaningful and impactful portrayal of local history. It is a remarkable achievement that celebrates Lorain County's enduring spirit and the collective commitment of its people.

### Morrow County Historical Society: Military Room

The Military Display, located in the Morrow County History Center, was formerly housed in a small room in the back part of the museum. The display consisted of four small, jewelry type display cases and an antique case. Lack of space forced some items to be placed directly on the floor, crowded on the walls and even hanging on the curtains. Organizing the individual wars to showcase the artifacts was also difficult with the size of the room. Each set of artifacts mixed with the next and displays did not distinctly focus on each war.

The Curating Team made the decision to move the military display closer to the front of the museum that houses the Pollock cannon display. We were able to acquire five large display cabinets from the Delaware County Historical Society. A coat of fresh paint on the walls and UV window film was applied to the windows to protect items from sunlight.

Each of the new cases now highlight the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War in their own cabinets. The Middle East and Afghanistan wars have their own area. All uniforms are on valets or mannequins giving them the respect they deserve.

The Historical Society hosted a private opening of the new Military Room for the Veterans of Morrow County and received a positive response. Ohio Treasurer, Robert Sprague sent a representative to present us with a proclamation at our private opening. Mr. Clark provided an oral history interview and facsimiles of important family documents. This exhibit explores whose stories are told, why we need to provide more inclusive history, and how we can all tell our own family stories.

## Media & Publications

### Dover Historical Society/Reeves Museum: *Jingle Jeeves*

*Jingle Jeeves* is the third book in our children's book series featuring our mascot Jeeves. In trying to find creative ways to reach out to new audiences, especially kids, and make local history more interesting, we came up with the idea of a children's book. Our mascot Jeeves participates in local children's events so it made sense to use him as the central character in our stories. The books are sold in our museum giftshop, a local bookstore, and available at our local libraries.

### Wood County Museum: *Ohio's Infirmity Buildings*

*Ohio's Infirmity Buildings* uses historic and documentary photography as a tool to examine the structures once used

to house Ohio's poor. The former Wood County Infirmity story, coupled with information related to the other 87 county infirmaries, serves as an example of how superintendents and matrons managed people in need before modern social services existed. As early as 1937, Ohio counties began tearing down infirmaries, leaving behind few photographic records and institutional documentation. *Ohio's Infirmity Buildings* is a comprehensive work used to humanize Ohio's poor population from 1867 until present day.

## Public Programming

### Alliance Historical Society and Alliance Area Preservation Society: "East Main Street Historic District Walking Tour"

The Alliance East Main Street Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. The Alliance Historical Society and the Alliance Area Preservation Society have offered guided walking tours along East Main Street beginning in 2007, using temporary paper signs and display boards to showcase photographs of how the area used to look and briefly explain the significance of the buildings. Once the event was completed, the signs came down and the significance was lost until the next walk was scheduled.

A grant from the Greater Alliance Foundation allowed permanent signposts to be installed along the path. Each signpost includes a stop number, name of the stop, and a QR code. When the QR code is scanned, the user is directed to the [Clio website](#) or app for historic narrative (audio and written), photographs, and maps of the building or lot. Clio has been used successfully by the Alliance Historical Society for two previous self-guided walking tours.

Alliance joined the Main Street program in 2023 and has successfully increased visits to downtown with its monthly Final Friday events. The Walking Tour is now an integral part of the growing interest in Alliance's historic downtown.

### The Auglaize County 175th Anniversary Committee: Auglaize County 175th Anniversary Celebration

Auglaize County celebrated its 175th Anniversary in 2023 with a year's worth of events and programs designed to include as many people, organizations, institutions, and communities as possible in the celebration. The project involved the ongoing, multi-year collaboration of the county and village historical societies as well as many other entities. It demanded that people travel—historically speaking—beyond their individual hometowns to celebrate the unique and remarkable history of Auglaize County as a whole.

### Lorain Historical Society: Centennial Commemoration of the Lorain Tornado

The Lorain Historical Society collaborated on a collaborative project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Lorain Tornado. One significant outcome of the programming is the

(continued on page 7)

fostering and rebuilding of connections within the community. About 175 people attended the Tornado Memorial Ceremony on June 28, 2024, at Lakeview Park. Attendees immediately began conversing, swapping family tornado stories, and sharing the names of family members they never got to meet, all while standing in the very spot where the tornado first touched down in Lorain.

Among the attendees were approximately 20 members of the Richards and Van Deusen families, who had traveled from across the country. These families suffered the most significant losses in the tornado, with five members perishing in the disaster. Many family members met for the first time during this gathering, sharing their poignant stories and connecting archival records with personal family accounts. This interaction filled in historical gaps and enriched the community's understanding of the tragic event.

The Tornado Committee was intentional in ensuring that the legacy of Lorain's resilience and strength was the focus of the centennial commemoration. The event not only honored the memory of those lost but also highlighted the community's ability to rebuild and learn from past hardships. The lessons of resilience and community spirit drawn from the tornado's aftermath continue to inspire and guide Lorain's residents today.

### Mahoning Valley Historical Society: Suitcase Programs

Mahoning Valley Historical Society's Suitcase Programs are hands-on classroom experiences presented by MVHS education staff in local schools. These programs bring artifacts, historic images, maps, letters, business documents, games, clothing, and other materials into the classrooms for students to study and explore. These programs are highly sought after by local teachers and schools, many noting that they plan their annual lesson plans around these immersive and primary source based activities.

MVHS works with more than 40 local public, private, and parochial schools annually. These schools cover a wide range of settings including inner-city, suburban, and rural communities with diverse students. Each program is aligned to Ohio's Social Studies standards with programs available and adaptable for every grade level. Topics include Storytelling, Native Americans

of the Valley, Pioneer Life, Old Fashioned School Day, A Journey through Local Industry, The Underground Railroad, Civil War Exploration, Women's History, The Women's Suffrage Movement, Immigration History, and Music as History: The 1960s.

MVHS strives to teach important areas of local, regional, and national history through hands-on and interactive lessons, critical thinking, and group discussion. Programs do not "water-down" history or shy away from sensitive or serious subjects. While all materials are age appropriate and presented in a safe and inclusive way, students are encouraged to explore history from a wide and diverse perspective. Students come away from the programs with a deeper and more personal understanding of events from our collective past and are able to form relevant connections to their modern-day lives.

### Shelby County Historical Society: "Happy Birthday Big 4 Bridge!"

For the last 100 years, the Big Four Bridge has stood as a gateway to the Miami Valley and has become an iconic symbol for Sidney. CSX currently still uses the railroad bridge to transport freight nationwide. Although it shows wear and tear as old concrete structures do, it still can withstand the daily rumble of a freight train across its span proving that it is still a valuable landmark worth preserving and celebrating. This impressive feat of early 20th century engineering dominates the skyline when taking the old Dixie Highway into Sidney, Ohio, from the south end of town. Glimpses of this structural marvel can be seen from the surrounding area.

On October 5, 2023 the Shelby County Historical Society celebrated the Big Four Bridge's 100th Anniversary. Constructed in the early 1920s, the Big Four Railroad Bridge has served its purpose of allowing trains safe passage through Sidney for nearly 100 years. Work began on the bridge in 1922 after a decision was made to reroute the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis line through the south end of the city to avoid any more tragic fatalities downtown. Ultimately, the aftermath of the 1913 flood affected the previous railroad bridge over the Great Miami River combined with multiple accidents involving trains and pedestrians as well as automobiles were the catalyst for a more practical railway route. Saturday, October 18, 1924, heralded the first freight train to cross the new bridge over the Great Miami River.

## 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.*

### Susan Logan

Susan Logan is at the center of the Delaware County Historical Society. She transformed it into a dynamo of digital information now available across the globe. She benefits us all by applying her professional expertise to volunteerism after retiring from the Ohio State University Library. She is the force behind digitization

at the Historical Society. She implemented PastPerfect and managed the cataloging of thousands of entries. In addition, she shares her expertise with other Historical Societies. With OHC support, she has championed digitizing local newspapers for online access to this rich source of local history through OHC's on-line library.

She has supervised multiple interns from Ohio Wesleyan University, Ohio State University and Columbus Community College. As Volunteer Co-chair she puts the right people in the right positions. Her support has resulted in many successful

(continued on page 8)

endeavors including Oral Histories, planning monthly programs for adults, and developing award-winning exhibits at our museums.

A librarian by education, her love of research scratches that itch of inquisitiveness that is so vital to any historian. She encourages the exploration of local history by volunteers and the general public. Her ongoing interest in technical tools is a unique blend of the old with the new, with history at the center. Currently, she is engaged in two initiatives - a countywide barn survey, and developing mobile tours using Clio History Software. Through her inquisitiveness, and deliberate efforts to share history, Susan embodies our Vision to build a community that values its past, as it plans its future.

### David M. (Mitch) Taylor

Every detail, every person, every event ... these bits of information are just the tip of the iceberg that Mr. David Mitch Taylor knows related to Putnam, the Underground Railroad, Zanesville, and Muskingum County. Dedicated to Muskingum

County History, also known as the Pioneer & Historical Society of Muskingum County, Mitch has been connected with the organization for well over 50 years. He has served as Vice President, President, Curator, and Interim Executive Director. The role in which he has served the longest is Curator, but that title doesn't encompass enough of a description of Mitch's role within the community. He is often sought as guest speaker, tour leader, author, and storyteller. He knows that the best way to preserve our history is to share it, to tell young students, and to write about it—he lives that every day.

Being a historian was not necessarily his first choice of jobs. Now a retired pharmacist, he became involved in Muskingum County History while still handling medicines and caring for his customers. While he still keeps up to date in the pharmacy world, he is a proponent of being a lifelong learner—the field of history provides that daily for him. As his colleagues, we gain the benefit of learning from him, sharing the love of our local history, and creating ways to connect with our society's members and our community's citizens.



# Deaccessioning Basics

OR HOW TO DECLUTTER YOUR MUSEUM WITH A PURPOSE

By Ronald Marvin, Jr., Director/Curator, Wyandot County Historical Society

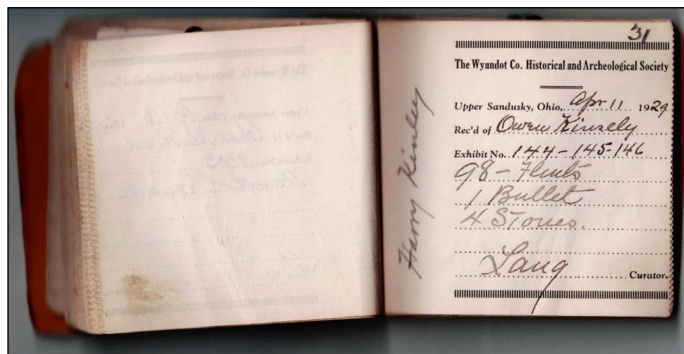
One of the scariest words to museum personnel, whether new to the field or with years of experience, is Deaccessioning. This is because it goes against the very nature of museums and what most of us were taught. Museums are meant to house objects and archive materials from the past and present for future generations, so that they can be used for education, exhibits, research, or just a testament to a particular time, place, or event.

What is deaccessioning really? According to the American Alliance of Museums, deaccessioning is the act of formally removing that object from the museum's permanent collection. Disposal is the physical act of removing an object or document from the organization's collection or facility via the process dictated in the Collections Management Policy and decided upon by the individual or committee leading the deaccessioning project. This can be in the form of offering the item back to the donor's family (if you can track them down), transferring to another organization (thereby keeping the donated item or items within the public trust), public sale or auction (usually recommended to be completed a fair distance away—at least two counties—from the organization's hometown to avoid locals seeing items from the museum collection up for sale), destruction (items that pose a safety or health hazard to other objects or personnel), or simply throwing away (placing items into the trash that are too severely damaged, torn, ripped to be displayed or have no research value).

Unfortunately, most small historical museums—especially county historical societies—did not operate under the same policies and procedures we do today. Many of these were begun and operated by well-meaning individuals within the community with a desire to preserve their town or county's heritage. Many of our current organizations received their start sometime during the 1900s and in the early years were almost exclusively volunteer-run organizations without what we would call a "professional curator." They had no training but rather just set things out for their fellow residents to look at. Labels varied widely by organizations containing all sorts of information for visitors to read. Inventorying and assigning accession numbers to their collections was rarely done or crudely at best.

Here are some examples from the early days of the Wyandot County Archaeological & Historical Society, which was founded in 1929:

1. Receipt book with basic description (a detachable receipt says the item can be retrieved by bringing the receipt back to the museum) This causes another whole set of headaches



which could be addressed in another session on abandoned museum property laws.

2. Artifacts with the original "accession number" glued on the front—seriously frowned upon today. In fact, this oil painting depicting the one of the first farmsteads in Wyandot County on display at the Overland has the "accession number"

(continued on page 10)

attached to the right side of the image. This shocked an art conservator we brought in to access our collection in 2020.

3. Postcards and paper ephemera were often assigned a number, which was written in ink on the item. Another interesting part of this is that whole collections would just be given the same number (without an A, B, C or a .1, .2, .3, etc.)

However, the majority of items in the early collections received no number on them, have had the number fall off over time due to the label simply being taped to the object, or unfortunately a former curator did not like the labels, so they were removed from an object. This leaves a vast amount of items without their accompanying history. Without provenance, it becomes much more difficult to tell the story of an object or use an image in our exhibits.

Why am I talking about bad or non labelling and accessioning of artifacts and documents when this session is about deaccessioning? It is necessary to understand the provenance (aka history of the items) because that influences the method of deaccessioning as well as the disposition of the items, whether by trying to return it to the former owners, transfer to another organization, public sale, or simply tossing the items into the trash. It is much easier to remove an object from the collection that has never been formally accessioned because there are fewer steps necessary to remove it. The number one thing to remember is to leave a paper trail for future museum personnel to follow.

When I was hired at the Wyandot County Museum in 2011, our storage area was wildly unorganized with a variety of cardboard boxes, archival boxes, and other random means of storage (think cigar boxes, plastic ice cream buckets, suitcases, trunks, manilla folders, loose on shelf, etc.). If I was going to inventory the collections, I needed to organize it and know what was there. Having an inventory, or at least an idea of what you have that is relevant to your community, is a necessary early step.

Over the course of the first few years I was there, a series of activities took place to organize the storage area. I will not go into a lot of detail, but this included building shelves, applying for (and receiving) numerous grants to purchase archival storage materials, and many, many hours of physical work moving and reorganizing the area. Most items were transferred into banker boxes from the random assortment of boxes, simply because they were the same size as traditional archive storage boxes. This made it easier to figure out later special needs.

With the assistance of my fellow curators (Robin Conley and Sarah Fisher) we began to compile handwritten lists of items in the numerous boxes beginning in the winter of 2018-2019. It soon became apparent that we had quite a bit of non-Wyandot County related material in our storage area. There were expected items from surrounding counties and throughout Ohio (both paper and three-dimensional objects) as well as some more unusual pieces of ephemera (Elvis' death, Nixon's resignation, and the Kennedy assassinations) which were taking up valuable storage space but would most likely never be displayed. It was during this organizational period that we realized our textile, clothing, and uniform

collections were badly comingled and needed to be sorted. Many items were stored in cardboard boxes lined with aluminum foil.

We were lucky that our Board had recently undertaken the process of evaluating and updating the Society's policies circa 2015-2017. This included the Collections Management Policy featuring updated deaccessioning procedures. This resulted in a renewed focus of telling the story of Wyandot County with local objects including the idea of removing non-local materials from the collections.



Before



After

(continued on page 11)

I mention this because one of the first things you need to complete a successful deaccessioning project is buy-in from your Board of Directors. Ultimately, they will make the final decisions regarding the status of objects. It does not matter whether you have a committee working on the project, an individual such as the Curator-Director-Registrar, etc., they can only compile a recommendation list of items to be removed from the collections and present it for discussion and a final vote. I feel very lucky that our Board trusted my judgement (as well as that of my fellow curator Sarah Fisher) to make recommendations that were in the best interests of the organization.

Once you have an idea of what is in your collections, what you want to remove, have Board approval to conduct a deaccessioning project, have a well-written procedure to follow, and have identified the personnel to complete it, how do you actually do it?

There is truly not a real “one-size fits all” method to completing a deaccessioning project. Since all organizations vary slightly in their focus, and the makeup of collections are vastly different across the board, it is necessary to figure out what will work best for your organization.

Here are some basics steps to remember:

- **Collections Management Policy** (Updated with Deaccessioning Policies Spelled Out)
- **Board of Directors Buy-In** (Necessary to Face Potential Public Backlash)
- **Inventory** (A Basic Knowledge of What You Have and Wish to Dispose)
- **Time and Personnel** (These Projects Are Not Quick and Simple—Identify Who Will Actually Do It and When)
- **Paperwork** (Keep Track of Items Being Removed—Whether They are Accessioned or Not, and List Why You Wish to Remove Them)
- **Board Approval** (Once Items Have Been Targeted for Removal, Present the List to the Board for a Yes or No Vote)
- **Record Keeping** (Once the Final List is Approved—Place a Copy with the Secretary Minutes or Other Permanent Records Kept by Your Organization)
- **Removal of Objects** (Via Transfer, Sale—Remember to Follow Ethics Policy, or Trash)

An important part of the paperwork is a preliminary deaccession list, which includes the following information about each item:

- **Accession Number(s)** (Any and all numbers you find associated with the items because this helps you look up the item's history)
- **Basic Description** (A simple description to identify the item)
- **Date Accessioned** (Can be found in the collections register or accession forms and gives an idea as to how long the item has been in the collection)
- **Reason For Deaccession** (A simple note such as broken, stained, single item of a pair, damaged, transfer, etc. allowing the Board to know why you think it is beyond keeping)
- **Who Is Making the Recommendation** (The name of the Curator or Committee Supervisor making the assessment)
- **Date Recommended** (The date the item was reviewed and/or moved out of the collections while awaiting a decision on its disposition)
- **Location of Item** (A note of where the item was moved to a Transfer/Deaccession location separate from the main collections)
- **How To Dispose of Item** (The recommendation for Transfer, Sale, Trash, etc. of the item)

If possible, you may want to have the items recommended for deaccessioning physically present at the board meeting as well as having the list to present to board members for their vote.

Today, many of us have collecting policies which allow us to try not to bring everything and anything into our museums as they did in the past. Deaccessioning is a great way to correct several of the challenges created by our predecessors, many of which never had the formal training (or access to it) we have today. This way, those following us will have an easier task to share the history and heritage of our great communities in northwest Ohio.

*All images courtesy of Wyandot County Historical Society.*

# USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation Dedicates Cleveland's Lone Sailor Memorial



By Tim Daley, Chair of the Heritage Committee, USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation

The Cleveland Lone Sailor Honor Guard

On October 12th, hundreds of individuals gathered at Voinovich Bicentennial Park for the ribbon cutting of Cleveland's Lone Sailor Plaza. Since September 2021, the Lone Sailor Statue has been housed at the Great Lakes Science Center. The Lone Sailor Plaza features two Honor Walls and Memorial Wall including personalized plaques with the names of men and women who have served the Nation in America's Sea Services and is a remarkable addition to Cleveland's lakefront.

The ceremony featured the Shaw and Warrensville Heights Marching Bands. The Bands will be playing in the 2024 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in December. LCDR Shawn Turpin provided the invocation and benediction. The Color guard was provided by Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines. CAPT Brad Kelly, USCG, represented the Ninth Coast Guard District and provided comments. We welcomed our special guest, VADM John Nowell, USN (Ret) and CEO, Navy Memorial Foundation who provided remarks about the importance and meaning of the Lone Sailor.

A special feature of the ceremonies was the over 80 members of the Cleveland Lone Sailor Honor Guard who came together to provide an impressive patriotic backdrop for the ribbon cutting ceremony of Cleveland's Lone Sailor Plaza. Representatives from civic, educational, fraternal, religious, and Veteran organizations throughout Northeast Ohio supported the event with their presence and provided a striking testimony that the memory of those who have served in the sea faring services will not be forgotten. Additionally, they served to illustrate to the greater community their support for the labors of the USS Cleveland Legacy Foundation.



Cleveland's Lone Sailor Memorial

Additionally, Bill Synk, a Sub Vet and longtime volunteer and supporter of the USS Cod, also located on Cleveland's lakefront, created a video summary of the dedication events.

The YouTube Link to the ribbon cutting is: [youtu.be/Jdc17Y7vKIQ?si=LhJicQWGfILiHTdD](https://youtu.be/Jdc17Y7vKIQ?si=LhJicQWGfILiHTdD)

## AASLH and OLHA Open Calls for 2025 Conference Proposals

**DEADLINE DECEMBER 13**

The 2025 Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting will be held in Cincinnati, in partnership with the American Association for State and Local History, on September 10-13. Session proposals are now being accepted and are due on December 13.

**If you are interested in presenting at the Annual Meeting and Conference, you have two options (both due December 13):**

1. The Ohio Local History Alliance is requesting proposals for 8 sessions and one half or full-day workshop to be presented by and for OLHA members and friends. Proposals for these sessions are due December 13, 2024. The Session Proposal Form can be downloaded as either [a PDF](#) or [a Word document](#).

2. Those interested in presenting a proposal for the national local history community as part of the AASLH programming may submit proposals [through the AASLH Conference Webpage](#) before December 13, 2024.

The theme of the conference is *The American Experiment*. As we approach America 250, we history practitioners can help the public at large explore the origins of our civic institutions, think critically about how they've changed, and how they will actively shape our nation for the next 250 years. [Learn more about the conference.](#)

## Learn More About Ohio Humanities Grants!

Join the Ohio Humanities program staff for an overview of the grants program and what funding opportunities are available to humanities-based organizations across Ohio. This webinar is designed specifically to reflect the needs and interests of OLHA members and is a great opportunity to learn more about Ohio Humanities grants and how they can help your organization.

Time: Monday, December 9, 12-1:30 pm.

[Click here to register.](#)

**OHIO HUMANITIES**  
Sharing stories. Sparking conversations. Inspiring ideas.

## Time to Start Planning Your Event for Ohio Goes to the Movies

In 2026 Ohio will sizzle with movie magic! To celebrate 250 years of America's independence, communities all over Ohio's 88 counties will have the opportunity to work with Ohio Goes to the Movies to showcase their stories and contributions to the big screen by showing movies made by, starring or affiliated with Ohioans or linked to Ohio villages, towns and cities.

Want to participate, but don't know where to begin? Here are four easy steps for communities to get started in planning their local Ohio Goes to the Movies event:

- 1. Assemble a planning committee.** Members may include: Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVBs), theater owners, historical society members, local civic and business leaders, film buffs, professors/ teachers.
- 2. Identify a local venue to host an OGTTM event.** Possible locations might include commercial theaters, historic and art house theaters, drive-ins, a town square or park that shows outdoor movies, civic centers, libraries or school auditoriums.
- 3. Start planning your event.**
  - The [Ohio Movie Database \(OMDb\)](#) is a catalog resource that can help you find local film connections to your community (by city or county).
  - Our [Venue Partnership Guide](#) outlines the OGTTM financial stipend program for participating venues. The stipend will support a single showing of an Ohio-linked movie and events around it.
- 4. Add interactive experiences:** Set the stage for a fun experience... from a red-carpet event to costumes based on the movie characters, themed drinks or trivia contests. Consider hosting a Q&A after the screening and let people share their thoughts on the movie. Consider including the director, star or local film professor or film aficionado.
- 5. Stay connected.**
  - [Subscribe to our e-newsletter](#) for ongoing updates on OGTTM news, partners, programs.
  - Visit [OhioGoesToTheMovies.org](#) for more information.
  - Email [mkreuzman@ohiohistory.org](mailto:mkreuzman@ohiohistory.org) with questions or to receive partnership details.

## NEW BOOK:

### *Interpreting Christmas at Museums and Historic Sites*



Edited by  
Kenneth C. Turino and Max A. van Balgooy

INTERPRETING HISTORY SERIES



*Interpreting Christmas at Museums and Historic Sites* offers a wide range of perspectives on Christmas and practical guidance for planning, research, interpretation, and programming by board members, staff, and volunteers involved in the management, research, and interpretation at house museums, historic sites, history museums, and historical societies across the United States. Packed with fresh ideas and approaches by nearly two dozen scholars and leaders in this specialized topic (including Stacia Kuceyeski and Carla Mello of the Ohio History Connection), as well as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, they can easily be adapted for the unique needs of organizations of various budgets and capacities. An extensive bibliography of books and articles published in the last twenty years provides additional resources for museum staff.

Special Offer: 30% discount off list price. Order at [www.rowman.com](http://www.rowman.com) and use the discount code RLFANDF30 during check-out. Offer expires September 15, 2025 and may not be combined with other offers. Discount applies only to this title, includes hardback, paperback, and eBook formats.

## Bowling Green State University Center for Archival Collections Local History Publication Awards

The Center for Archival Collections congratulates our 2024 Local History Publication Award winners!

- Professional Division, Book Category:**  
 Ralph Lindeman, *Confederates from Canada: John Yates Beall and the Rebel Raids on the Great Lakes* (McFarland & Company, Inc., 2023)
- Professional Division, Article Category:**  
 Dr. Mary Natvig, "Samuel 'Golden Rule' Jones: Music and the Social Good in Progressive Era Toledo, Ohio" (*American Music*, Spring 2023)
- Independent Division, Book Category:**  
 Jack Legg, *Digging Up Devils: The Search for a Satanic Murder Cult in Rural Ohio* (Piminge Press, 2023)
- Independent Division, Article Category:**  
 Alexandra Bevins, "The Worthington Project: A Documentary History" (Defiance College, 2023)

Since the start of legal proceedings in 2018, our guiding principles have been to enable full public access to the Octagon Earthworks while ensuring Moundbuilders Country Club receives just compensation for its lease.

View the [complete list of Local History Publication Awards winners](#) since the awards' inception in 1993.

The CAC is now accepting submissions for the 2025 Local History Publication Awards. Works published between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 will be accepted for consideration. All submissions must be **postmarked by February 28, 2025** in order to be considered.

We will accept submissions in the Book and Article Categories for the Professional and Independent Divisions. The Professional Division will include works prepared and submitted by authors who exclusively or primarily make their living as a scholar and/or writer. The Independent Division will include works prepared and submitted by independent or local researchers, amateurs, and other creative writers who do not claim history as a profession. Each Division winner will receive a \$300.00 cash award and plaque. Please see our [Guidelines for Submissions](#) for more information.

Eligible works must address an historical topic within the nineteen county region of northwest Ohio. Works shall be judged by the Awards Committee on: literary merit, overall significance and contribution to explaining and understanding the history of the region. Consideration also will be given for style and content. Other considerations will include grammar, accuracy, illustrations, layout, indexes, and distribution.

To submit a work, authors should send two copies to the Center for Archival Collections, 5th Floor, Jerome Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, **postmarked by February 28, 2025**. All works submitted become the property of the CAC. For complete information about the award and submissions, please see guideline for submission below. For further information, contact the CAC at 419-372-2411 or [cac@libanswers.bgsu.edu](mailto:cac@libanswers.bgsu.edu).



## Join OLHA for a Webinar to Meet the Ohio History Service Corps

Did you know that the Ohio History Service Corps local history members assist organizations around the state in addition to serving their host sites? Members are tasked with helping sites with building capacity for educational and public programming, special events, regional initiatives, heritage tourism, historic preservation, non-profit administration, community engagement, and collections care/digitization. Ohio History Service Corps members will activate, recruit and train volunteers on best practices in the museum, archives, public history, cultural heritage and long range planning. Each service member shares their time each week between their host organization and other projects around their assigned region.

During this webinar, Ohio Local History Alliance members will be introduced to the 2024-2025 Ohio History Service Corps team and learn about how to request assistance at your own site from your region's current member.

This program is being sponsored by the Ohio Local History Alliance.

Join us at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14 to meet the OHSC members and learn more!

[Click here to register.](#)



**SERVE OHIO**  
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



**AmeriCorps**  
Ohio

## Ohio Roots Podcast Seeking Contributors

Would you like to have your organization, museum or historic site featured on an episode of the Ohio Genealogical Society's official podcast *Ohio Roots*? Interviews are around 30 minutes long, conversational style, conducted via Zoom, and very informal. You can listen to the podcast at [www.ogs.org/podcasts](http://www.ogs.org/podcasts) or anywhere else you can find podcasts (Apple, Spotify, Amazon, etc.). Scheduling an interview is easy and very flexible. To arrange an interview, email [ohiorootspodcast@ogs.org](mailto:ohiorootspodcast@ogs.org)



## OLHA 2024 Digitization Grant Recipients

The Ohio Local History Alliance awarded a total of \$7,500 in grants to member organizations in 2024.

- \$1,500 to the Clark County Historical Society for the Margaret E. Baker Film Digitization Project
- \$2,420 to the Delaware County Historical Society for Digitizing the *Delaware Herald* (1869-1885) and the *Delaware Democratic Herald* (1885-1900)
- \$1,081 to The Dawes Arboretum for Collection of Beman Dawes Digitization Project
- \$945 to The Lillian E. Jones Museum for Apple Festival Program Digitization
- \$1,150 to the Waterville Historical Society for Digitization of Waterville Historical Society's Collection of Glass Plate and Medium-Format Negatives
- \$404 to the Worthington Historical Society for Gladiator Newspaper Digitization Project

Applications for the next round of grants will open in January and will be due February 15th, 2025.

## Region 1

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

The John Paulding Historical Society has rebranded as the **Paulding County History Museum**. “The new name reinforces our identity as being located in Paulding County,” said Museum President Melinda Krick said. “Hopefully it will eliminate confusion over the association with John Paulding, the Revolutionary War hero for whom the county was named. He died in New York two years before our county was organized—he never set foot in Ohio, he never owned land here and he didn’t donate any land here.” The name change is an important first before launching new initiatives, such as a logo, branded merchandise and a website.

## 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 **Oberlin Heritage Center** was excited that a documentary film they collaborated on, “A Higher Law: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858,” received an Emmy from the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. Congratulations to filmmakers Scott Spears and Christina Paolucci! The film is currently available free on demand on PBS Western Reserve’s website.

The **Lorain Historical Society** earned a Silver Certificate for Stewardship of Collections via the American Association for State and Local History’s STEPS program. [Learn more about STEPS.](#)

The **Cleveland Heights Historical Society** has been named a recipient of the State Historic Preservation Office’s Public Education and Awareness Awards for 2024. The organization was specifically nominated for its *View from The Overlook* journal series, of which there have been 50 issues so far.

## Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

## Region 5

Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Wayne 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](mailto: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 6

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

The **Columbus Metropolitan Library** has received an LSTA Conservation & Preservation grant to support their efforts to conserve building, transportation and land use maps and floor plans that document the changing landscape of Columbus, Ohio in the 20th century. These items document parcel level zoning, blighted buildings, and parking during a time of growth and change in Columbus. Included too in the project are the floor plans of the historic (and controversially demolished) Union Station in downtown Columbus.

The **Dublin Historical Society** officially opened the new Dublin History Museum on Saturday, October 19. The new museum is an important addition to the historical society’s interpretative space and allows for it to tell more of Dublin’s history.

## Region 7

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

## Region 8

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

## Region 9

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

## Region 10

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



Joined or Renewed between August 21 and October 29, 2024.

## Welcome New Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Alison Kovac, *Worthington*

Megan Sheeran, *Columbus*

### ORGANIZATIONS

Hallowed Hills Heros, *Circleville*

## Thank You, Renewing Members

### INDIVIDUALS

Kathleen M. Fernandez, *Canton*

Andrew J. Verhoff, *Worthington*

### ORGANIZATIONS

103rd OVI Memorial Foundation,  
*Sheffield Lake*

Greenfield Historical Society, *Greenfield*

Johnston Farm Friends Council, *Piqua*

Adena Mansion & Gardens Society,  
*Chillicothe*

Lakewood Historical Society, *Lakewood*

Amherst Historical Society, *Amherst*

Lillian E. Jones Museum, *Jackson*

Armstrong Air & Space Museum  
Association, *Wapakoneta*

Little Miami History Connection, *Morrow*

Little Red Schoolhouse, *Willoughby*

Baltimore Community Museum, *Baltimore*

Marion County Historical Society, *Marion*

Brewster-Sugarcreek Township Historical  
Society, *Brewster*

Morrow County Historical Society, *Mount  
Gilead*

Champaign County Historical Society,  
*Urbana*

Mount Healthy Historical Society, *Mount  
Healthy*

Clyde Heritage League Inc, *Clyde*

Northwest Territory Museum Society,  
*Marietta*

Columbus Jewish Historical Society,  
*Columbus*

Oberlin Heritage Center, *Oberlin*

Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors'  
Monument, *Cleveland*

Perry Historical Society of Lake County,  
*Perry*

Dittrick Medical History Center, *Cleveland*

Plain Township Historical Society, *Canton*

Edison Birthplace Association Inc., *Milan*

Price Hill Historical Society, *Cincinnati*

Fayette County Historical Society,  
*Washington Court House*

Radnor Heritage Society, *Columbus*

Fort Loramie Historical Association, *Fort  
Loramie*

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library  
& Museums, *Fremont*

Fort Recovery Historical Society, *Fort  
Recovery*

Toledo Firefighters' Museum, *Toledo*

Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors  
Bureau, *New Philadelphia*

Friends of Harriet Beecher Stowe House,  
*Cincinnati*

Western Reserve Historical Society,  
*Cleveland*

German Village Society, *Columbus*

Western Reserve Railroad Association,  
*Cleveland*

Grandview Heights Marble Cliff Historical  
Society, *Columbus*

### DECEMBER 9:

Ohio Humanities Grants informational webinar. For more information, see page 13.

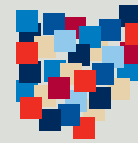
### DECEMBER 13:

Session proposals due for AASLH/OLHA Annual Conference. For more information, see page 13.

### JANUARY 14:

Meet the Ohio History Service Corps webinar. For more information, see page 15.

# 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/collections/ohio-local-history-alliance](http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/collections/ohio-local-history-alliance)

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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