

The Fine Art of Dying

James C. Oda, Director, Piqua Public Library and Trustee at Large, OLHA

Every township, county, village, town and city in Ohio has cemeteries. Some are tiny with only a few graves and others have tens of thousands of lots and memorials. They all have a history along with a firm grounding in folk and formal art. The purpose of this article is to provide a modest taste of the styles and construction of the markers, monuments and memorials of cemeteries of Ohio's smaller town and rural areas. This review will concentrate on the universality of many of these smaller cemetery styles. However, many cemetery markers, much like architectural structures, have their own local stylistic flavor to them.

One of the earliest and certainly simplest of marker styles was the Tablet Style. It can be found in hundreds of cemeteries throughout Ohio prior to the Civil War. It was rectangular in shape, about four feet tall, relatively thin and usually made of marble. This was the easiest and cheapest way to carve tombstones from larger blocks of marble that came to a community by wagon, canal boat and later by rail. Originally thought to be very durable, Ohio's acid rain (particularly in the nineteenth century) has turned many of these grave stones soft with a powdery surface. Of all the markers, the tablet style is the most likely to crack or break off at its base. These are the stones often seen lying flat on the ground or

stacked up against a fence line. The earlier Tablet Style in Ohio have a squared top while the later Domed Style Tablet is often thicker with a rounded or domed-like top. A smaller Tablet Style marker found next to a full sized marker is an indication of the burial site of a child.

After the Civil War, the marble Egyptian Revival Obelisk Style became very popular. The earliest variant of this style was the Simple Obelisk Style. This marker began with a square limestone base with an additional marble base (often used for the family name) topped by a marble squared shaft (obelisk) with a modest pointed top. Family names and dates could be carved on all four sides of the shaft which was roughly five to six feet tall. By the late 1870's and 1880's, the obelisk itself became highly decorated while sitting on the top of substantial square pedestals. These pedestals raised the height of the obelisks (height was status) thus reducing the need for taller and more expensive marble shafts.

The Egyptian Revival Obelisk Style slowly gave way to the Pilaster Pillar Style. This style uses the square pedestals while replacing the obelisk with other toppings such as draped squares (mourning) and large urns (representing the earthly vessel). This style becomes more and more elaborate with toppings consisting of Gothic points, stylized flames and crowns. The highest development of this style includes marble statues of angels, mothers and apostles. A popular

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The Domed Style with adult and child's markers



Left: The early Egyptian Revival Obelisk Style) Right: The Pilaster Pillar Style with draping and urn)

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President's Message:

History Matters is the theme of the 2017 OLHA Annual Conference. However, John Dichtl, President & CEO of the American Association for State and Local History, gave us a precursor to this theme as the keynote speaker at the 2016 OLHA Annual Conference. Dichtl shared with the attendees the History Relevance Campaign's The Value of History. The History Relevance Campaign is a group of history professionals that first met in 2013 to come up with a document

on the value of history. After various meetings and forums, the group came up The Value of History and its seven principles of why history is essential.

*The seven principles are broken down into three categories. **To ourselves** history 1) gives us an **identity** and 2) teaches us **critical thinking**. **To our communities** history 3) helps make them **vital places to live and work** and 4) helps with **economic development**. **To our future** history 5) helps make us **engaged citizens**, 6) inspires **leadership** and 7) provides us with a **legacy**.*

A goal of the History Relevance Campaign is that historical organizations, large and small, adopt these principles

to become more effective advocates of their institutions and history in general. The OLHA board voted to endorse the History Relevance Campaign's The Value of History at our January 2017 board meeting. I encourage you and your organization to take a closer look at the History Relevance Campaign and The Value of History by going to www.historyrelevance.com. Share the document with your board and perhaps have your organization endorse it as well.

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statue of this nineteenth century style was the “Rock of Ages” which shows a woman draped over a cross. This was inspired by the popular hymn verse “Simply to the cross I cling”.

The twentieth century brings many new grave marker styles. This parallels Ohio architectural styles that saw towns grow from homes built in just Federal or Greek Revival Styles in the early part of the nineteenth century to dozens of styles after 1900. By the turn of the century, it was common to find large headstones (at the top of the lots) with smaller footstones at the bottom of the burial. Changes also came in the building material. People saw what was happening to the marble markers, so the practically impervious granite (in colors such as gray, rose and red) became the stone of choice. The Grand Egyptian Revival Obelisk Style made a comeback. These newer granite obelisks were generally plain and reached heights of fifteen to twenty-five feet or taller.

The Victorian Rustic Cross Style became popular with rough carved logs in the shape of a cross. They were decorated with vines and sat on relatively low carved stone-like bases. This style was too intricate for granite, so they are usually done in marble. Another style shows square granite slabs with rough cut (undressed) sides and bases which are known strangely enough as the Undressed Base Style. The smooth front of the memorial often has a scroll with the family name, palm leaves or grape leaves and upside-down torches (life extinguished). Other styles include the Stump Style which is a realistically carved stump of a tree covered in vines (life cut short), the Gateway Style which has two columns on a base topped by a semi-circular arch or cap (entrance to heaven) and the horizontal above ground Sarcophagus Style with minimal decorations. There were even marble monuments (up to four feet tall) sold in the Sears & Roebuck Company catalog (with prices reaching over fifty dollars). This is just a brief sampling of styles from c.1890 to c.1930. The Great Depression and World War II led to simpler styles of polished granite.

Visiting a cemetery should always be done in a respectful manner. Sometimes the best way to enjoy the art is just to walk around the graveyard and not be looking for an individual marker. Our cemeteries (coming from the Greek for a sleeping place) hold physical reminders not only of our ancestors but also a wonderful snapshot of stone carving and burial customs of our communities. The internet is a wonderful place to find the meaning of all the symbols you will find on or around the memorials such as the hand pointing to the sky (going to heaven), the broken rose stem (a person who died before their time) or the lamb (a child's grave). ■



Left: The Pilaster Pillar Style with “Rock of Ages” statue
Right: The Victorian Rustic Cross Style on carved rocks



The Undressed Base Style with front scroll

Greater Impact through Board Advocacy: How the Massillon Museum's advocacy led to increased funding and community support

Reprinted with permission from *Museum* magazine, April/May 2017.
www.aam-us.org

Strong board leadership is not just about checks and balances; it is about creating the circumstances that will allow our missions' to be achieved. Advocacy is essential for museums to maintain financial sustainability. This case study is from the pages of *Stand for Your Mission, The Power of Board Advocacy: A Discussion Guide for Museum Trustees*. Produced by AAM in partnership with BoardSource, it provides a discussion guide for trustees on the importance and impact of board advocacy.

The Vision

Since 1933, the Massillon Museum (formerly the Baldwin Museum) was envisioned as a place that would bring "immeasurable joy" to the city of Massillon, Ohio, and the region. It has certainly lived up to that promise. The museum is keenly attuned to the needs of and constantly striving to reach deeply into its community.

The museum has a diverse permanent collection of more than 100,000 artworks and artifacts, most of local and regional significance, and it has been accredited by AAM since 1972. The Massillon Museum's mission is to collect, preserve, and exhibit art and artifacts to enrich the Massillon community through education and experience. The museum's strategic plan is threefold: to be the cultural center of the community, a key destination of cultural enrichment, and a respected member of the museum field.

The Opportunity

In 1996, the museum moved to a new location, and the board recognizing the potential for growth secured a first right of refusal on one of the adjacent properties. As an anchor tenant in Massillon's downtown, the museum was credited for much of the city's revitalization.

After consulting with the board, staff, guests, and community leaders over several years, the board made the decision to enlarge the footprint of the museum to meet the Massillon community's growing needs. The museum envisioned an expansion and renovation to add approximately 15,500 square feet of space to the existing 29,000-square-foot museum. The plan involved a new partnership with the Massillon Tiger Football Booster Club and the Paul E. Brown Museum.

The Strategy

The board and staff are empowered to advocate at the local, state, and national levels. The executive director chairs the advocacy committee for the Ohio Museums Association, and the museum has been represented each year at AAM's Museums Advocacy Day in Washington, DC.

"Board members are advocates in a number of ways, from attending legislative breakfasts and state and regional conferences to soliciting memberships and going door-to-door during our levy campaign," said Alexandra Nicholis Coon, the Massillon Museum's executive director. "They are truly a working board

and an amazing group of leaders."

Board members keep their elected officials informed and in tune to the fact that the Massillon Museum is the downtown community's keystone. Public officials—including congressional representatives, state senators, and the Massillon mayor—are frequent visitors of the museum, and the board plays an active role in hosting these visits. The museum works closely with the mayor's office to organize special events and educational programs, and the City of Massillon maintains the museum's landscaping.

The Result

The museum provides free admission to all, and nearly 25,000 visitors are welcomed each year. An additional 8,000 children and adults are served annually through outreach programs. As part of its mission to the people of Massillon, the museum hosts an annual thank-you to the community in the form of an island party. This event attracted 2,540 visitors in 2015, including several public officials.

With its stated goal of being the community's cultural center, the museum hosts annual juried shows of Stark County artists and sponsors brown-bag lunch lectures, classes, and workshops. It also holds the Artful Living program, which immerses 1,000 preschool children weekly in the visual arts, literature, music, drama, and dance.

While it is a community-based and supported museum, the Massillon Museum's reach goes far beyond the city. The museum has gained a reputation for excellence within the professional realm on a number of fronts.

- The museum has secured numerous government grants, with board members playing a key role. One of these grants, funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Ohio's Cultural Facilities Commission, went toward a renovation of the museum's collections storage facility to include state-of-the-art environmental controls and cabinetry.
- Since 1988, Massillon voters have approved an operating levy for the museum—the only one of its kind in Ohio—which provides approximately 60 percent of annual operating funds. Membership has increased steadily since 2010.
- The museum has received an Arts in Stark operating grant since 2008, and the Ohio Arts Council has regularly supported the museum with funding for operations and programming. In addition, for nine consecutive years, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the museum a Big Read grant.
- Most recently, the state of Ohio's capital budget included a \$1.5 million allocation for the Massillon Museum's expansion project. Board members played a key role in facilitating the state's endorsement of this effort.

To obtain a copy of *Stand for Your Mission, The Power of Board Advocacy: A Discussion Guide for Museum Trustees*, visit <http://www.aam-us.org/advocacy/stand-for-your-mission>. ■

No Website? No Excuses!

Leann Rich, Manager of Education & External Relations, Mahoning Valley Historical Society

In today's ever changing digital world the options for building a professional looking website are expanding every day. Gone are the days of needing to learn HTML and CSS, worrying about if your plugin is going to crash your homepage, and figuring out servers and hosting. Sure, you can take on all of those things – it would be like building and maintaining your own home – or if you choose one of the new online website builders, it would be like leasing a shiny new luxury condo.

Names like Wix, Weebly, and Squarespace allow users to choose a professionally designed template, add in some text and photos, choose from a number of different tiered pricing plans, and in a few short hours publish a stellar website. These website builders are managed entirely online, so there is no need to purchase software, they are designed to be user friendly with options for live chats, or assistance on the phone, and if you don't mind a few ads and a long URL you can even choose a free hosting option.

Each of the above mentioned sites have pros and cons, and choosing which one is right for your organization should be easy after a bit of research on their functionality. For instance, if you want something that is super easy to use, Wix or Weebly are well known for that. If you are looking for very stylish designs, Wix and Squarespace are great choices.

When choosing, take into consideration: pricing, user experience, design features, technical features, marketing features, and user support.

Wix has a great collection of professional caliber design templates, an innovative drag and drop builder, and support available on every page. On the flip side, it's difficult to change templates without re-inserting your content, and there are visible advertisements on the free versions. Wix also has an app market to add on functions like e-commerce, online bookings, and event calendars and a full range of tools to set up and boost search engine rankings.



Weebly is another user friendly, drag and drop builder. Their templates are expanding and offering more options, and if you decide to change templates after finishing the customization, it is easy to switch. They also offer pre-designed page layouts – so you aren't staring at a blank page wondering where to start. Weebly limits the customization of the templates (which is why it's easy to change them up) and has been historically slower in introducing new features. It also offers extra apps to add, a section of SEO tools and excellent online and phone assistance.

Squarespace offers designer-quality templates, along with unique cover pages which can be used as a standalone site or combined with a template, and gives you extensive options to customize the

design. On the flip side, this could be overwhelming to someone that wants a simple site design. A recent update to the platform provided major changes to make the design interface more user friendly, and users are able to see the changes as they are edited. As with the other builders, Squarespace offers online live chats and a video library of tutorials to assist the user, and options for search engine optimization.

This review only scratches the surface on website builders and their functionality; there are dozens more platforms available with varying levels of options. Do your research, and decide which options are important to you and the organization, don't let the price be the only deciding factor. Good luck – because the decisions have only just begun... ■

On the Web

American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

www.conservation-us.org

The AIC's website provides a variety of resources regarding materials conservation and emergency response. Check out the National Heritage Responders program, which maintains a 24-hour help line and responds to the needs of cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters through coordinated efforts with first responders, state agencies, vendors and the public. The website can also help you find a conservator, and provides resources for emergency planning and preparation.

Finding Common Ground: The State Historic Preservation Plan for Ohio

Nathan A. Bevil, Community Planning & Preservation Manager, Ohio History Connection

Finding Common Ground: The State Historic Preservation Plan for Ohioans is a blueprint for historic preservation throughout the entire state. The plan is written by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection in consultation with archaeologists, planners, historians, state agencies, and local organizations. The purpose of the State Plan is to guide the work of the State Historic Preservation Office and to provide input to local communities about where we see the challenges to historic preservation and the protection of our resources.

The State Plan has six main goals, each with readily achievable objectives and ideas for implementation at all levels of involvement:

Goal 1: Finding Common Ground Through Partnerships.

The guiding principle for the plan is to work towards developing partnerships, both traditional and non-traditional, to protect our resources. This means reaching out to organizations and individu-

als that may not typically participate in historic preservation to both help them understand the importance of these resources, but also to help broaden the support for their protection.

Goal 2: Finding Common Ground Through Collecting and Evaluating Data.

We live in an age of information—the more information you have the better you can understand the needs of your community. We strive to learn as much as we can about how Ohioans value their historic resources and to identify where we have gaps in our knowledge. Only then can we work towards a comprehensive strategy for preservation.

Goal 3: Finding Common Ground Through Education.

Through outreach and the development of accessible educational materials we strive to reach out to both our traditional constitu-

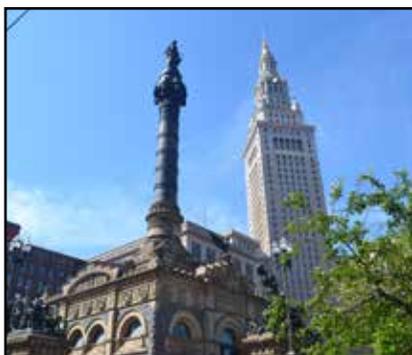
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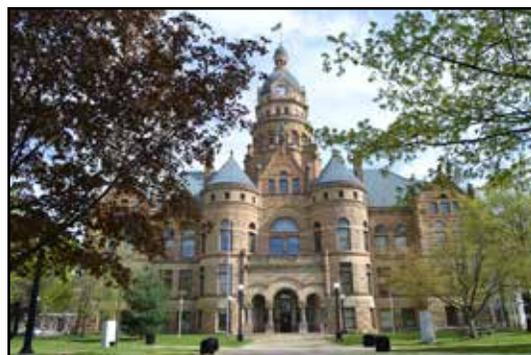
Celina Downtown



Troy Downtown



Cleveland Public Square



Trumbull County Courthouse, Warren



Highland County Courthouse, Hillsboro

All photographs by Nathan Bevil

ents and non-traditional allies to help them understand how they, too, can participating in protecting their heritage.

Goal 4: Finding Common Ground Through Policy.

By gathering data about our resources we can better develop ways to protect our historic and archaeological sites. We strive to encourage development by revitalizing our historic districts and providing incentives to help promote that continued growth.

Goal 5: Finding Common Ground Through Inclusiveness.

Ohio is a diverse state: from the hills of Appalachia to the farm fields of the northwest, from the villages of Milan and West Union to the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus. It is important that historic preservation help tell the story of all Ohioans. We also seek to have everyone included, no matter the gender, sexuality, race, religion, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. We also must strive to make sure that both these stories and our sites are accessible to all Ohioans, whatever their abilities.

Goal 6: Finding Common Ground Through Messaging.

No matter how hard we try, there are always more and more opportunities to explain the benefits of protecting our shared

heritage. Sometimes that involves looking at our stories through the eyes of someone else. We want to find ways to reach as many people as possible.

In working on the plan we reached out to as many different groups as we could. In trying to craft a document that would help guide historic preservation throughout the state we engaged community leaders, archaeologists, planners, local historians, museum staff, preservationists, and everyone in-between to craft a document that serves to guide our collective efforts.

The primary theme of the State Historic Preservation Plan is discovering our common ground—finding ways to reconnect our historic resources and our stories with everyone. We have had some great successes in Ohio when it comes to historic preservation. But there is much more work to be done. We look forward to working with our partners, like the members of the Ohio Local History Alliance, to spread the word about protecting our resources and learning how we can find our common ground.

To download the plan or request a hardcopy, go to <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/hpplanning/hpstateplan> ■

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

3rd Annual Ohio River National Freedom Corridor Conference

The Ohio River National Freedom Corridor (ORNFC) will host its 3rd Annual Underground Railroad Conference September 29 & 30, 2017 at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. The theme for this year's conference is: "How long, O God, how long?" The Unfinished Business of the Underground Railroad

With the theme of this year's conference the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor wishes to reflect on how religion influenced and motivated freedom seekers, abolitionists, and UGRR activists in the pursuit of freedom and equality both before

and after the American Civil War. In addition, we embrace the opportunity to explore and commemorate the stories of freedom seekers and valiant people of conscience who connected the communities up and down the Ohio River during the pre-abolition and post-abolitionist periods—further revealing the historical legacy of freedom in our communities.

The Ohio River National Freedom Corridor (ORNFC) is an organization that brings together non-profit historic sites, museums, libraries, and communities dedicated to continued education and exploration of the legacy of

the Underground Railroad (UGRR) within the Ohio River watershed in the states of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. The ORNFC partners with the National Park Service Network to Freedom as well as many local, regional, state, and other national organizations to collaborate on the continued preservation and interpretation of our shared Underground Railroad heritage and to promote heritage tourism.

For more information about the Ohio River National Freedom Corridor and the 2017 conference, visit the website; www.ohiorivernational-freedomcorridor.org ■

History Fund Grant Application Now Available!

The History Fund is a competitive matching grants program for history projects established by the Ohio History Connection in 2012. The program is supported by the funds Ohioans donate through the "Ohio History Fund" tax check-off on state income tax returns, the purchase of Ohio History mastodon license plates, and donations to the Ohio History Connection designated to the History Fund.

Since it started, the History Fund has made \$522,000 in grants to 53 organizations across Ohio. The History Fund invites you to join this distinguished group! Apply for History Fund grant at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

The application deadline is September 1, 2017 (by 11:59 pm).

The History Fund application for the 2017-2018 grant cycle mirrors application forms from previous years, but contains a few tweaks in response to comments from last year's applicants. Example: see the website for a sample application you can print for reference.

We've also added a new resource: "Do This, Don't Do That / History Fund Grant Application." This short list is not a substitute for reviewing the History Fund's Application Instructions, but will help you steer clear of obstacles that have bedeviled applicants in the past.

If listening and seeing is a way you learn, check out our History Fund Help webinars at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. There are two webinars. The "History Fund Help" webinar is an introduction to the grant program and a detailed overview of the grant application. The second webinar, "Digitization Nuts and Bolts," will help you compile a strong application for digitization project (it's more than buying a scanner). We originally hosted both webinars in 2016, and the information still applies in 2017. Please note that **2017's application deadline is September 1** (NOT September 7, 2016 as in the webinars).

The Ohio History Connection will announce grant recipients at the annual advocacy event Statehood Day, scheduled February 28, 2018. Between the application deadline of September 1, 2017 and February 2018, History Fund grant projects undergo a rigorous review involving subject area experts at the Ohio History Connection and a panel of outside experts, who make the final grant recommendations. Local History Services contacts applicants regarding the final status of the applications in February, in advance of the public announcement at Statehood Day.

This spring, the History Fund presented grant-writing workshops at the Region 1, 5, and 10 meetings, as well as at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, the Ashtabula Foundation (Region 4), and for Museums and Historic Sites of Greater Cincinnati (Region 8). At each, we emphasized that if you would be applicants have questions they should call or write. We're here to help!

For more information, contact Andy Verhoff, Ohio History Fund grant coordinator, 614.297.2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org, or visit the History Fund's website. Good luck! ■



An Alliance member, the Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation receives the "big check" for its History Fund grant at Statehood Day 2017. L to R: Bob Lucas, Ohio History Connection board president, Sarah Welker and Rebecca Urban, Peninsula Valley Historic & Education Foundation, and Burt Logan, Ohio History Connection Executive Director & CEO. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.



Join OMA at the Toledo Museum of Art, Monday, August 28 from 9 a.m. - noon for the hands-on workshop, "Engaging Teens in Museums!"

Interested in developing teen programming at your institution? Already have teen programming but want to take it to the next level? Join us at the Toledo Museum of Art on Monday, August 28th for a brains-on, hands-on workshop exploring best practices for teen engagement. The workshop will start off with Pecha Kucha-style presentations from museum professionals managing a variety of teen programs, followed by a 90-minute design workshop to help you kick start the program design process.

Optional: Extend the conversation over lunch. Teen participants will join us to share their experiences and offer insights into your ideas.

When: **Monday August 28, 2017 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Where: **Toledo Museum of Art 2445 Monroe St Toledo, OH 43620**

Registration deadline: **August 23, 2017**

Learn more and register at https://www.ohiomuseums.org/Public/Professional_Development/Workshops/Public/Workshops.aspx ■

Professional Development: 2017 Alliance Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the Ohio Local History Alliance's 2017 Annual Meeting and Conference, History Matters! This year's conference, held in partnership with the Society of Ohio Archivists, will be held October 6-7 at the Crowne Plaza, Dublin.

This year's meeting features two full days of exciting and informative sessions, plus a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, October 5 at the Ohio History Center. Learn how to advocate for and promote your museum, how and why to apply for awards, hints and tips for using Excel and social media, and best practices for oral history projects. The pre-conference workshop will provide hints and tips on the resume-writing and interviewing process for Emerging Museum Professionals.

You'll also find sessions on timeless issues: presenting engaging programming for visitors of all ages, developing exhibits, preserving your historic house, and finding ways to expand your resources and money to pay for it all. This year you can also expect sessions on history content, including the First World War and the Ohio Constitutional Convention of 1912.

As always, this year's meeting includes plenty of time to network and learn from your colleagues. You can attend the annual awards luncheon to be inspired by the best local history projects from around the state, catch up with



old friends at this year's Friday evening reception, and meet new ones at the annual speed networking session.

Find more information in the Annual Meeting brochure (watch for it soon in your mailbox!) or visit the Annual Meeting's webpage at <http://www.ohiolha.org/alliance-annual-meeting/> ■

NEH funding for Public Humanities Projects

Receipt Deadline August 9, 2017 for projects beginning April 2018

Public Humanities Projects grants support projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history, or to address challenging issues in contemporary life. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming.

This grant program supports a variety of forms of audience engagement. Applications should follow the parameters set out below for one of the following three formats:

Community Conversations:

This format supports one- to two-year-long series of community-wide

public discussions that bring together a diverse group of residents to address important topics relevant to their town or city, guided by the perspectives of the humanities. Applicants must demonstrate prior experience conducting public and nonpartisan dialogues about important topics.

Exhibitions:

This format supports permanent exhibitions that will be on view for at least three years, or travelling exhibitions that will be available to public audiences in at least two venues in the United States (including the originating location).

Historic Places:

This format supports the interpretation of historic sites, houses, neighborhoods, and regions, which might include living history presentations, guided tours, exhibitions, and public programs.

NEH encourages projects that explore humanities ideas through multiple formats. Proposed projects may include complementary components: for example, a museum exhibition might be accompanied by a website, mobile app, or discussion programs. Your application must identify one primary format for your project and follow the application instructions for that format.

Program Statistics

In its initial competition the Public Humanities Projects program received 103 applications and made twenty awards, for a funding ratio of 20 percent.

Questions?

Contact the staff of NEH's Division of Public Programs at 202-606-8269 or publicpgms@neh.gov. Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact NEH via Federal Relay (TTY users) at 800-877-8399. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWARDS

OLHA Achievement Awards Nominations Due August 1

The Ohio Local History Alliance is now accepting nominations for its 2017 Outstanding Achievement Awards! The Alliance presents awards in two categories – Individual Achievement and History Outreach. Individual Achievement Awards recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio’s historical societies, history museums, or the understanding and appreciation of state and local history. History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding local history projects in the categories of public programming, media and publications, and exhibits/displays. Nomination forms and supporting materials must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2017. Download the complete guidelines and a nomination form at <http://www.ohiolha.org/resources/outstanding-achievement-awards/>

Awards are presented at the Alliance’s Annual Meeting in October.

General Rules:

- All nominations must pertain to Ohio state, regional, or local history.
- Any person or project is eligible to be nominated for the program; however, the nominator (person or group) must be a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance (to join, go to www.ohiolha.org/join-the-alliance).
- Ohio Local History Alliance members may nominate their own projects.
- Submitted materials become the property of the Ohio Local History Alliance unless return is requested and a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.
- Nominations may be described or reviewed in the newsletter and electronic publications of the Ohio Local History Alliance without specific permission.

Each nomination must be presented in a three-ring binder indexed into sections titled: 1) Nomination Form, 2) Description of Project/Individual’s Contributions to Local History, 3) Budget, 4) Letters of Support, and 5) Publicity. (Please note: “Budget” not applicable for Individual Achievement Awards).



2016 OLHA Awards winners at the Annual Meeting last October. Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.



New Travelling Exhibition from NEH on the Road and the Mid America Arts Alliance

Jacob A. Riis: How the Other Half Lives

Jacob A. Riis (1849–1914) was a pioneering newspaper reporter and social reformer in New York at the turn of the twentieth century. His then-novel idea of using photographs of the city’s slums to illustrate the plight of impoverished residents established Riis as forerunner of modern photojournalism. Jacob A. Riis: How the Other Half Lives features photographs by Riis and his contemporaries, as well as his handwritten journals and personal correspondence.

Visitors to the exhibition will experience a Riis presentation—immersive life-size photographs, as well as artifacts and personal documentation. The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities. It was adapted and toured for NEH on the Road by Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Venues that have previously hosted NEH on the Road exhibitions may be placed on a wait list, and depending on availability, all venues will be eligible to host after a wait period.

Tour: **Apr. 2018–Mar. 2023**
Booking: **7 weeks**
Booking Fee: **\$1,000**
Shipping Fee: **\$1,000**

All hosting venues qualify for a \$1,000 Educational and Public Programming Grant. ■

Upcoming webinars from AASLH

Instagram for Museums and Historic Sites

July 25 @ 3:00 pm Eastern
\$40 - \$65

<http://learn.aaslh.org/event/instagram-for-museums-and-historic-sites/>

Instagram is a growing image-sharing platform where younger audiences (and older ones too) share everything from casual snapshots to professional photography and art. Increasingly, Instagram connects artists, photographers, and influences around shared locations, interests, and hobbies. Museums and historic sites are well-positioned to use Instagram to increase awareness of their institution, further their mission, engage their audience online, and inspire new and existing audiences to visit. In this webinar, AASLH's Hannah Hethmon will give an in-depth lesson on Instagramming for museums.

History Crash Course: Immigration in a Changing America

August 2 @ 3:00 pm Eastern
Free

<http://learn.aaslh.org/event/history-crash-course-immigration-in-a-changing-america/>

Immigration has always been a major driver of both change and debate in U.S. history. This webinar – organized by the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota and led by historian, author, and IHRC Director Erika Lee, IHRC Program Coordinator Saengmany Ratsabout, and Immigrant Stories Project Manager Dr. Elizabeth Venditto – will introduce key themes in immigration history and the main issues that historians are considering in today's highly-charged climate. In particular, we will use the IHRC's #ImmigrationSyllabus which provides historical context to current debates over immigration reform, integration, and citizenship as our guide.

Participants will also learn about the IHRC's Immigrant Stories project to engage with diverse local communities. A digital storytelling and archiving project, Immigrant Stories helps immigrants and refugees create digital stories: brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience and is a successful community engagement tool. The rich collection can also be used for teaching, learning, and exhibits.

Interpreting Anniversaries and Milestones at Museums and Historic Sites

August 8 @ 3pm Eastern
\$40 - \$65

<http://learn.aaslh.org/event/interpreting-anniversaries-and-milestones-at-museums-and-historic-sites/>

This Interpreting Anniversaries and Milestones at Museums and Historic Sites webinar will provide a wealth of ideas to jump start your anniversary planning. Everyone has an anniversary coming up – why reinvent the wheel? Learn from what others have already accomplished in their own communities. This webinar will discuss why people are drawn to celebrating and commemorating anniversaries in their own lives and in their communities, as well as the institutional benefits of planning this type of programming. Then we will explore case studies of specific institutions that have planned and executed an anniversary celebration or commemoration, including Signature Events; Programs and Tours; Fundraising Campaigns; Exhibitions, Books and Documentaries; Audience Outreach and Community Involvement; Preservation; Partnerships; and Commemorative Products and Souvenirs. Every idea can be scaled up or down, depending on your resources.

Instructor: Kim Kenney, Curator, McKinley Presidential Library and Museum

Interpreting Agriculture at Museums and Historic Sites

September 26 @ 3pm Eastern
\$40 - \$65

<http://learn.aaslh.org/event/interpreting-agriculture-at-museums-and-historic-sites/>

Interpreting Agriculture at Museums and Historic Sites (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017) encourages us to put an "H" (the humanities, not just history) into a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subject – a STEATH approach. During this webinar, Dr. Reid will summarize main points from Interpreting Agriculture, including an overview of different disciplinary methodology useful to interpreting agriculture (sciences, social sciences, and humanities), and then case studies of interpreting agricultural machinery using a social history and humanist approach. Reid will summarize a critical thinking approach that uses visual evidence (prescriptive literature and photographic evidence) to document agricultural tools and equipment). The session will continue with a conversation among participants about how they will document agriculture in their location (be it farms in the countryside or the city, or agricultural business that served farm families historically and today). The session will conclude with a discussion about what else museums and historic site staff need to interpret agriculture most effectively, and will end with a question and answer session.

Instructor: Dr. Debra A. Reid, Curator of Agriculture and the Environment, The Henry Ford ■

Region 1

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

The **Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum** in Defiance, Ohio has hired Jan Bechtel for the Curator of Exhibits position which became available with the retirement of Richard L. Witteborg. Mr. Witteborg has been appointed to serve on the museum's advisory board.

Six historic homes and gardens will be featured on a home tour July 8, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in Napoleon, Ohio. Contact **The Henry County Historical Society** for details; 419-592-8006 or www.henrycountyhistory.org.

Explore the Queen City on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, with the Historic Taste of Cincinnati bus tour hosted by the **Hancock Historical Museum**. Info and reservations at www.hancockhistoricalmuseum.org/events/taste-of-cincinnati or 419-423-4433.

Region 2

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

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

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

To celebrate the centennial of the **National McKinley Birthplace Memorial, McKinley Memorial Library** is hosting A McKinley Art Contest and show. The show is being sponsored by Chemical Bank. A McKinley Art Show will be on display at the Art Outreach Gallery in the Eastwood Mall in Niles from September 1-23.

Entry forms and contest rules are available at the library, all SCOPE Senior Centers in Trumbull County, and at the Eastwood Mall Customer Service Center. Artwork and entry forms will be accepted

the week of August 21.

A gallery opening and awards ceremony will be held 6:30-8:30 PM on Friday, September 1 at the Art Outreach Gallery in the Eastwood Mall. Awards will be presented by President William McKinley, and the ceremony will include musical entertainment by the Richie Wilkins Trio and light refreshments provided by the Friends of the McKinley Memorial Library.

Best in Show entries will be on display throughout October at the library.

The library will also host a Draw on the Lawn program on Saturday, July 15 at 2 PM which will involve sketching the Memorial building. Limited supplies available, or bring your own. Please call 330-652-1704 ext. 7212 to register. More information at www.artoureach.org and www.mcklib.org

Region 6

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

In February and March, **The Delaware County Historical Society** welcomed 160 5th graders to its inaugural Underground Railroad Program. The 3-hour presentation involved viewing PowerPoint images of Underground Railroad homes that are still standing in the county, hearing reenactors give first-person accounts of how the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 impacted their community, and observing the role the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers played in guiding people north. A hands-on component enabled students to explore potential hiding spaces in the Society's historic 1840s Meeker House. The program was the brainchild of the Curriculum Committee, a group of talented, retired Delaware educators.

Region 7

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

In June the **Clark County Historical Society** kicked off "Adventures at the Museum" kids programming that goes through mid-August. These weekly programs in the museum run 10-11am

on Saturdays during the downtown Springfield Farmers Market. Each week new history themes are explored through crafts, stories, activities, games, and mini museum tours. These Adventures are adaptable to multiple age ranges and are designed to be enjoyed as a family. The summer adventures end with the Summer Sky Family Festival from 1-5pm on August 12, an afternoon of games, crafts, activities, and shows in partnership with Clark County Job & Family Services.

Region 8

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

In March, the **Quaker Heritage Center** earned two certificates from the AASLH Standards of Excellence Program (StEPs). The QHC began the process of working through two sections of StEPs in September 2016 and earned the Bronze Certificates for both Stewardship of Collections and Audience. With these two certificates, the Quaker Heritage Center joined 11 other history organizations throughout the State of Ohio and became the first in Region 8 to earn this recognition for achieving and working toward the best practices of the field.

Region 9

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

Region 10

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

In June visitors to the **Kennedy Stone House Museum**, located within Salt Fork State Park in Guernsey County, were treated to dulcimer playing and lessons by the docents. The museum features a variety of special programming in addition to regular museum tours of the restored circa 1840 ancestral home of the Benjamin Kennedy family. The original one-story summer kitchen has been rebuilt. Hikers can enjoy the 1.7 mile Stone House loop trail which features the lake and a number of activities. This trail was listed as one of the 15 best in Ohio by knowyourstate.com. For more information visit: www.kennedystonehouse.org. ■

MEMBERS

Welcome New Members of the Ohio Local History Alliance

Joined between April 19 and June 8, 2017

INDIVIDUALS

Jarrold D. Burks, *Columbus*

Thank You, Renewing Members

Renewed between April 19 and June 8, 2017

INDIVIDUALS

Randy L. Winland, *Prospect*

Todd McCormick, *Bellefontaine*

ORGANIZATIONS

Akron Summit County Public Library, *Akron*
Andrew L. Tuttle Memorial Museum, *Defiance*
Bellevue Historical Society & Heritage Museum, *Bellevue*
Berea Historical Society, *Berea*
Butler County Historical Society, *Hamilton*
Cincinnati Observatory Center, *Cincinnati*
Cleo Redd Fisher Museum, *Loudonville*
Clinton County History Center, *Wilmington*
Cuyahoga Community College West Campus, *Parma*
Fairfield Heritage Association, *Lancaster*
Fayette County Historical Society, *Washington Court House*
Fulton County Historical Society, *Wauseon*
Hanover Township Historical Society, *Hanoverton*
Hardin County Historical Museums, *Kenton*
The Harriet Taylor Upton Association, *Warren*
Hilltop Historical Society, *Columbus*
Lillian E. Jones Museum, *Jackson*
Logan County Historical Society, *Bellefontaine*
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, *Chillicothe*
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, *Sandusky*
Muskingum County History, *Zanesville*
New London Area Historical Society, *New London*
Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation Inc., *Findlay*
Reynoldsburg Truro Historical Society, *Reynoldsburg*
Robbins Hunter Museum/Avery Downer House, *Granville*
Silver Lake Historical Society, *Silver Lake*
Springboro Area Historical Society, *Springboro*
Warren Heritage Center, *Warren*
Wilmington College, *Wilmington*

CALENDAR

JULY 25:

AASLH webinar Instagram for Museums and Historic Sites. For more information, see page 11.

AUGUST 2:

AASLH webinar History Crash Course: Immigration in a Changing America. For more information, see page 11.

AUGUST 8:

AASLH webinar Interpreting Anniversaries and Milestones at Museums and Historic Sites. For more information, see page 11.

AUGUST 9:

NEH Public Humanities Projects Grants Due. For more information, see page 9.

AUGUST 28:

OMA workshop Engaging Teens in Museums. For more information, see page 8.

SEPTEMBER 1:

History Fund Grant Applications due. For more information, see page 8.

SEPTEMBER 26:

AASLH webinar Interpreting Agriculture at Museums and Historic Sites. For more information, see page 11.

SEPTEMBER 29-30:

3rd Annual Ohio River National Freedom Corridor Conference. For more information see page 7 or www.ohiorivernational-freedomcorridor.org

OCTOBER 6-7:

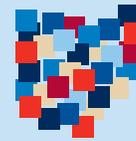
OLHA Annual Meeting. For more information, see page 9.

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 ehedler@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.

JOIN THE OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE...



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

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

Individual Member

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

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

Business Member:

	\$100	(\$190 for 2)
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Join at:

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

The Ohio Local History Alliance, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio History Connection, is composed of local historical societies, historic preservation groups, history museums, archives, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the state involved in collecting, preserving, and interpreting Ohio's history.

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Visit The Alliance online at

www.ohiolha.org and on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:

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

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

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

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

Individuals:

Affiliate:

\$35 (\$65 for 2)

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

Students: \$20

Business:

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

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

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Twitter: @ohiolha