

Creating Educational Programs that Work

By Melanie Janiszewski,
AmeriCorps Civil War 150
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Editor's Note: It's not too early to start thinking about school programs for this fall. This article offers helpful tips and food for thought!

On February 10, 2012, all of Wilmington's fourth graders experienced a day of living history at Wilmington College. In six hours, over 250 ten-year-olds saw programs presented by eight organizations and learned about President Lincoln, the Civil War, and President's Day. The program was offered at no cost to the schools, to Wilmington College, or to the Quaker Heritage Center. Want to know how to create educational programs that work for everyone?

Get the schools on board. First, when determining the content of your program and its audience, you need to become comfortable with the academic standards for history. Once you have decided on a program, talk to your school district's curriculum director. A curriculum director can be a historical society's best friend, but you have to speak his or her language. We walked into our meeting with a flyer that listed the academic standards and content statements that would be covered in the single day of programming. We also determined ways to incorporate fourth grade language arts and math standards into supplementary educational materials we created. If the curriculum director is impressed, she will send the word out across the district.

Wilmington's curriculum director made the decision that all classes and schools in the district would participate, and disseminated our flyer to the schools. She connected us with a teacher looking for experience in curriculum development to hone our educational booklet and ob-



Abraham and Mary Lincoln speak to Wilmington fourth graders at the Quaker Heritage Center's Lincoln Day in February. Photo courtesy of the Quaker Heritage Center.

tained the support of the principals and superintendent.

Get the community on board. If your school districts have seen a decrease or elimination of their field trip budgets, speaking the language of academic standards may not be enough. In our meeting with the curriculum director, the Quaker Heritage Center pledged to pay for busing to our location so there was no cost to the schools. We applied for a grant from the county foundation to pay for the busing and were immediately accepted.

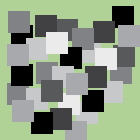
Outside of bussing, there are always program costs. For Lincoln Day we looked to the community to fill these needs. A period-inspired dinner with Abraham Lincoln followed by a preview of our exhibit sold out. Several community members who could not attend
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President's Message:

One of my New Year's resolutions this year was to do a better job of keeping up with the latest news, thoughts, and opinions of people in the museum field. This was easy and fun during the spring when I was able to visit so many interesting museums for our regional meetings. It is hard keeping up with the written stuff. Probably like you, I have enough to do just managing the day-to-day operations of my museum. And with the explosion of social media . . . good heavens! Now, in addition to traditional journals like AAM's Museum News, there are hundreds of museum related blogs, Facebook sites, online newsletters, LinkedIn discussion groups, etc.,



OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE

Inspire. Connect. Educate.

The **Ohio Local History Alliance**, organized in 1960 under sponsorship of the Ohio Historical Society, 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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etc., that could potentially have that critical piece of information that will make me jump up from my desk and shout "AHA! I have solved our (fill in the blank) problem." Nevertheless, I am committed to my resolution, and after six months of diligently setting aside just 20 minutes during (most!) of my workdays, I have noticed a big difference. And while I believe that The Local Historian is one of the best sources for news and information from the field, here are three online sites that I regularly follow and find very useful:

Center for the Future of Museums:

www.futureofmuseums.org. This site is produced by the American Association of Museums. They also publish an annual report called TrendsWatch that forecasts a few of the most important issues to which we should be paying attention. The 2012 TrendsWatch is available as a pdf on the website and is well worth the read.

Museum Unbound: www.museum-unbound.com. This is a delightful and insightful blog with multiple authors who expound on everything from the cost (Continued on page 3)

President's Message

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of positionable mounting adhesive to tips on how to extend your museum's reach into the community.

Know Your Own Bone: www.colleendilen.com. This blog is authored by an employee of a social media consulting company who works with museums, zoos, and aquariums. She shares the results of some of their research studies and also articles like, "Why Offering Discounts Through Social Media is Bad Business for Nonprofit Organizations."

But before you check out these sites, keep reading this issue of The Local Historian! There are helpful articles about partnerships, ideas for creative museum programs and also details about the Alliance's Awards Program. The deadline to apply is August 1st, do not miss out on the opportunity to nominate your creative museum project for public recognition!

Christie Weininger

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Ohio Local History Alliance 2012 Outstanding Achievement Awards

By Leianne Neff Heppner, Executive Director, Summit County Historical Society, Akron and Bill Lawson, Executive Director, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown, Co-Chairs, Ohio Local History Alliance Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee

Now is the time to advocate for your outstanding local historians and local history projects, by nominating them for the Ohio Local History Alliance's 2012 Outstanding Achievement Awards. Nominations must be postmarked and sent to the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office no later than August 1, 2012 to be considered. To get a nomination form, contact the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878 or (614) 297-2340. You can also email Erin Rickman at erickman@ohiohistory.org. 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 or local history. Nominees must have been involved in a historical society, museum, or related organization for at least five years and demon-

strate activity and excellence in more than one area of the organization's operations. If the nominee is a teacher, he or she must demonstrate creativity in teaching methods and expertise in local and state history.

History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding local history projects. These must have educational content, have contributed to the promotion and understanding of local and state history, and have had an impact on the community. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories: public programming, media and publications, and exhibits/displays.

A group of reviewers will evaluate all nominations, and it is anticipated that all award winners will be announced by the end of August. Awards will be presented at the Ohio Local History Alliance Awards Luncheon, which will be held in Columbus on Saturday, October 6, 2012 during the Alliance's Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Worthington. Good luck! ■

Creating Educational Programs that Work (Continued from page 1)

the dinner donated as well. Between our mini-grant for busing, a small grant for public programs attached to our traveling exhibit, and the Lincoln Dinner, the Quaker Heritage Center was able to provide the full of day of programming free of cost.

Get regional partners on board. The Lincoln exhibit at the Quaker Heritage Center was gorgeous, but elementary schools would not have given up a day of class to come see only that. Knowing this, we reached out to other organizations in the region to create a full day of programming. The Lincoln Society of Dayton, Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village, and four historical interpreters shared their historical acumen with students. The Wilmington Public Library had the children do a craft while talking about their collection of Lincoln and Civil War children's books. Grow Food Grow Hope talked about food delivery and gardening then and now. All but two of our programs were volunteered in exchange for press coverage, access to the curriculum developer for Wilmington

City Schools, and a great day spent with children. Rather than seeing your peers as competitors, invite them to participate in your program, and help with their programs.

Get Feedback, and Use It! Hard numbers are the primary language of such key stakeholders as educators, foundations, and the community. When we spoke to our schools, we used statistics from a similar successful educational program to show the potential for increased test scores. In exchange for participation, students were required to complete pre and post tests to ascertain the scholastic value of our programs for next year. When we went looking for grant money, we estimated the value of services that would be donated by volunteers. When we write next year's proposals, we will have hard calculations to that effect. Every educator, program giver, and volunteer was also given a survey. The results have already been used to create a plan to improve next year's event. It is important not only to ask for feedback but to use it, and

it is important to share statistics with your stakeholders.

Leverage the Success of Your Peers. Plans are already underway for next year's event. The hope is to offer the day of free living history education to the fourth graders not only of Wilmington, but of Clinton County as a whole. If your organization is looking to create a similar educational experience, ask organizations who already have them. We would never have been able to orchestrate Lincoln Day without the assistance of Tilda Philpot at the Shelby County Historical Society, who was happy to spend an hour on the phone with us whenever we called with a list of questions. The least we can do in return is to happily spend an hour answering the questions of anyone who may call us! You can contact the Quaker Heritage Center at (937) 382-6661. ■

Check Out the New *Small Museum Toolkit*, A Resource Tailor Made for You!

By Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin

As a small museum, historical society, or historic site staff person, you wear many hats and have many duties and responsibilities, probably including some areas outside of your expertise or training. Juggling many balls and becoming an expert on all subjects is indeed a challenge with not enough funding, staff, and hours in the day. Information is power, especially when it is geared to an institution like yours. You need a quick reference for staff, board members, and volunteers that makes the process of becoming a sustainable, valued institution less overwhelming. The *Small Museum Toolkit* is a collection of six books that serves as a launching point to pursue best practices and meet museum standards. These brief volumes address governance, financial management, human resources, audience relations, interpretation, stewardship for small museums and historic sites, and much more. The *Small Museum Toolkit*, written by thirty-four experienced small museum professionals, helps you define the questions you should be asking, gives you tools to achieve your goals, and guides you where to go for help. The volumes include practical advice, sample policies, procedures and forms, photographs, useful tips and pointers, suggestions of where to go for additional information and appendices.

The books in the Toolkit:

BOOK ONE –
Leadership, Mission, and Governance

BOOK TWO –
Financial Resource Development and Management

BOOK THREE –
Organizational Management

BOOK FOUR –
Reaching and Responding to the Audience

BOOK FIVE –
Interpretation: Education, Programs, and Exhibits

BOOK SIX –
Stewardship: Collections and Historic Preservation

The *Small Museum Toolkit* was compiled and edited by Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko and Stacy Klingler, who have considerable experience working in small museums. Cinnamon is the chief executive officer of the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine and Stacy is the assistant director of local history services at the Indiana Historical Society. The *Toolkit* was published by AltaMira Press in December 2011. Ohio Local History Alliance Past President Patricia Murphy, who is the executive director of the Oberlin Heritage Center, is the author of “Human Resources Administration: Building An Effective Team,” a chapter in Book Three (Organizational Management). The six-volume *Toolkit* is available in soft cover, hard cover, and e-book form through AASLH, Amazon, and elsewhere. If your organization does not have the funding to purchase a copy, ask your local library to consider getting it or ask a donor to provide the funds to purchase it as a wise investment in your institution’s future. There is also a *Small Museum Toolkit* blog with additional useful information: <http://smallmuseumtoolkit.blogspot.com/>.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Erin Rickman has joined the staff of the Ohio Historical Society as the administrative assistant in the Education & Outreach Division. Local historians and Alliance members will come to know Erin well, as she is responsible for many administrative duties in the Local History Office, including processing Alliance memberships, Alliance regional and annual meeting registrations, historical marker applications, and “other duties as necessary.” She recently re-entered the workforce after a short break to spend time with her now ten-month old daughter, Maya. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.A. in French. As a child, she frequented the Ohio Historical Society, and is looking

forward to spending time there daily. Erin started May 14 and replaces Bonnie Such, who retired in March 2012.

The Ohio Local History Alliance is sad to report the passing of Henry Robert Burke on May 5, 2012. Mr. Burke received an Alliance Outstanding Individual Achievement Award in 2009. An indefatigable researcher and teacher, much of what is known about the Underground Railroad in the mid-Ohio and Muskingum River valleys is because of his work. He curated an exhibit about the Underground Railroad at the Belpre Historical Society’s Farmer Castle Museum and is the author of four books and hundreds of newspaper

articles. He hosted a website about his research and gave presentations about the Underground Railroad and slavery in antebellum Virginia. He also was responsible for the erection of seven Ohio Historical Markers tracing a route of the Underground Railroad from Marietta to Coshocton. He is survived by his wife Terri and seven children. His memorial service was May 11 in Belpre.

Tom Hilberg has resigned as curator of the Medina County Historical Society after 15 years in that position. He served as a member of the Ohio Local History Alliance Board as a Region 3 representative from 2006-2009. He will continue to volunteer for the Society.

Local Historical Societies Inspired (Not Expired) at the 2012 Regional Meetings

By Amy Rohmiller, Program Assistant, Ohio Historical Society Local History Office, Columbus



At the Region 1 meeting at the Stryker Area Heritage Council, Pete Wilhelm gave a talk about Native Americans in Northwest Ohio. The talk featured leaders such as Pontiac, Tecumseh, Little Turtle, and John Logan, who is the only Native American buried with full U.S. military honors in Ohio. Attendees also learned that the only county in Ohio without any documented Native American mounds is in Region 1 – Henry County. *Photo courtesy of the Stryker Area Heritage Council.*



Every regional meeting includes a tour of the hosting organization. Stryker Area Heritage Council President, Terry Perkins, led the tour of the Council's depot museum. *Photo courtesy of the Stryker Area Heritage Council.*



The Region 1 meeting also included a roundtable led by Joy Armstrong, Ohio Local History Alliance trustee-at-large and director of the Sylvania Historical Village, and Janet Rozick, a regional representative from the University of Toledo Department of History. They led a discussion of common challenges faced by local history organizations and inspiring solutions. *Photo courtesy of the Stryker Area Heritage Council.*



The Region 3 meeting was in Berea. Here, Danielle Sharron and Catie Hewitt, from Baldwin-Wallace College, present during the session, “Inspired by the Expired: Local History Projects and Programs and Cemeteries.” *Photo courtesy of the Berea Historical Society.*



Dr. Indira Gesink, Chair of the Baldwin-Wallace College Department of History, talks about the Adams Street Cemetery Project during a session on creating mutually beneficial internships. The students gained experience using professional historical research methods. The Berea Historical Society gained an exhibit and a walking tour brochure. In addition to a great exhibit and interesting walking tour, the community gained an online searchable database of those buried in the cemetery. *Photo courtesy of the Berea Historical Society.*



Lunch time at each regional meeting is also Sharing Time. One person from each organization represented at the meeting gets two minutes to talk about what that organization has accomplished in the past year and what they are planning for next year. *Photo courtesy of the Berea Historical Society.*



Every spring for at least thirty years, Ohio’s local historians have gathered at Ohio Local History Alliance regional meetings to learn from each other and experts in the field. This year, the meetings attracted 293 local historians—up from 2011’s total of 267. The theme of 2012’s Regional Meetings (and of the upcoming annual meeting October 5-6) is “Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century.” At each of the nine meetings, sessions explored how local historical societies can remain true to their missions, yet adapt to changing times—for history is indeed the study of change over time. A few meetings took the theme literally. An example: the Region 3 meeting at the Berea Historical Society hosted a session titled “Inspired by the Expired: Local History Projects and Programs and Cemeteries.”



Thanks to Hosts of the Alliance's 2012 Regional Meetings

Thanks to the generosity of Ohio's local historical societies over the years, the Alliance is able to co-host regional meetings in some very special places. The year 2012 was no exception. Thanks to the Alliance's local regional meeting hosts!

Region 1

Stryker Area Heritage Council, Stryker

Region 2

Marion County Historical Society, Marion

Region 3

Berea Historical Society, Berea

Region 4

Century Village of Geauga County Historical Society, Burton

Region 5

Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, Dennison

Region 6

Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Grove City

Region 7

Cridersville Historical Society, Cridersville

Region 8

Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon

Region 9 & 10

(combined regional meeting)
Belmont County Historical Society, Barnesville



Region 4 attendees enjoyed the view while on the tour of the Geauga County Historical Society's Century Village Museum (but the children missed the meeting!).

Photo courtesy of the Geauga County Historical Society.



Judy Craig and Judy Jenewein from the hosting Belmont County Historical Society check attendees in at the combined Region 9 & 10 meeting in Barnesville. Photo courtesy of the *Belmont County Historical Society.*



Lunch at the Region 9 & 10 meeting featured pumpkin deserts (representing the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival) and strawberries. From the 1880s until WWI, Barnesville was known as the Strawberry Capital of the Midwest. During berry season, the city shipped several thousand bushels daily to cities like Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Cincinnati. *Photo courtesy of the Belmont County Historical Society.*

Helpful Hints for Successful Partnerships

By Jackie Barton, Director, Education & Outreach,
Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

Partnership. Collaboration. Leverage.

More than just buzzwords, these point to the power available in sharing resources with other organizations to reach shared goals. If you are feeling a little stagnant in your outreach – or just getting started, the tips below should give you a little food for thought.

1 Nothing worth having is easy. Partnership can be complicated and difficult. It can really pay off, but it takes work: calling, emailing, attending meetings, staff time, funds, and more can be needed. Therefore, be thoughtful about what partnership you enter with whom: is it worthy?

2 It's all about who you know. Start with your existing good relationships and those you respect and trust. Try to do an informal “reference check” on possible new partners to screen any issues in advance.

3 Birds of a feather flock together. Who has similar collections, themes, focus, mission, or needs? Can you make a bigger impact or address an outstanding need together? For example: You have a great collection of 1800s political memorabilia. Who has a similar collection from the 1900s? You could combine forces for a presidential election year exhibit and programs.

4 Opposites attract. What are your needs and gaps, and what organizations could fill them? What are your strengths that could fit with another organization's needs? For example: We make great experiences for visitors. Convention and Visitors Bureaus market to visitors. It's a perfect match!

5 Good fences make good neighbors. When getting a project or partnership started, there comes a point when you have to talk about who brings what resources to the project. Put this in writing every time even if it is as simple as an emailed letter of understanding. For example: One of my funding partners had leadership turnover and tried to change the terms of a project. It was only because we had a signed contract that we were able to keep our project on track.

6 Honesty is the best policy. Be open and honest in creating the partnership, and be willing to be honest with partners about what is not working or needs addressing along the way. When you approach a partner with an issue, I recommend a call or visit over an email or letter. For example: If a partner is not pulling their weight as promised, talk with them about it and get a remedy in place. Document the conversation with a follow-up email summarizing what you decided together.

7 If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all. Be honest in the partnership, but respect your partners when talking to others about the project. If there are issues, resolve

them “in the family” and do not air them publicly. For example: Do not chat at the Alliance annual meeting about how your partner did not pull their weight in the project. Work out those issues during the project with the partner.

8 “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” (Harry S. Truman) Give your partners credit generously and happily. The good will come back to you tenfold. There is no drawback to giving people credit, but if you obsess about getting credit for every little item you do, you come across as nagging and negative.

9 Sometimes one is not the loneliest number. It is okay to pass on a partnering opportunity when you are too busy, the potential partner has a bad track record, the project is outside your mission, etc. For example: I turned down being part of a national grant application once because I knew the person organizing the grant had a reputation of not following through, and we did not have the ability to run the administration of the project.

10 “You gotta know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em, know when to walk away, know when to run.” (Don Schlitz) Take time to assess existing relationships and partnership projects, and do not be afraid to change the terms or to end a partnership. You have limited resources: guard against efforts that do not pay off.

Calendar

■ July

History Fund grant guidelines and intent to apply available. Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund for more information.

■ July 20, 24, 26, 31; August 1, 9, 14, 16, 21, 29, 30

Various grant writing workshops from the Foundation Center, Cleveland. Visit <http://foundationcenter.org/cleveland> and click on "View our Calendar." Workshops are repeated throughout the year.

■ July 23-26

2012 Association of Midwest Museums (AMM) Conference: Civic Engagement and Public Discourse: The Role of Museums in the 21st Century, Indianapolis, IN. For more information, visit www.midwestmuseums.org.

■ July 31

Early Bird Registration Deadline, **National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference.** Conference is in Spokane, WA from October 31- November 2, 2012. For more information, visit www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/.

■ August 1

Nomination Deadline: Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards. See page 3.

■ September 1

Grant Deadline: Ohio Humanities Council Major Grants. Grant funds projects ranging from \$5,001-\$20,000 that have a humanities (including history) focus, the involvement of a humanities scholar, present a balanced viewpoint, and benefit the public. For more information, see www.ohiohumanities.org.

■ October 5-6

Save the Date! Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference, at Worthington Holiday Inn, Worthington. Meeting hotel website: www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/worthington/cmhwo/hoteldetail. Annual meeting brochure to be mailed in August.

Calendar items are chosen on the basis of available space and applicability to the largest number of our readers, who are mainly volunteer and professional leaders of local historical societies, history museums, archives, libraries, historic preservation groups, and genealogical societies in Ohio. We cannot include events mainly of local interest; for these we suggest the online calendar at www.ohiohistory.org/oahsmevents, local newspapers, broadcast media, Ohio Magazine, 1-800-BUCKEYE, and, if arts related, www.ArtsinOhio.com.

Blue Star Museums Returns for Summer 2012

Blue Star Museums is a national program offering free admission to more than 1,500 museums across America to all active duty military personnel and their families. The program runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day (September 3, 2012). Fifty museums of all kinds in Ohio are participating in this summer's program. Below is a list of all the participating Alliance members. For more information on the Blue Star Museums program and to sign up visit www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums.

Alliance Members Participating:

- Armstrong Air and Space Museum
- Betts House
- Buckeye Furnace State Memorial
- Butler County Historical Society
- Clinton County Historical Society
- Decorative Arts Center of Ohio
- Dennison Railroad Depot Museum
- Flint Ridge State Memorial Park
- Fort Ancient
- Fort Meigs
- Fort Recovery Museum
- Friends of the Museums, Inc., Marietta
- Fulton County Museum
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House
- Hayes Presidential Center
- Heisey Glass Museum
- Historic New Richmond, Inc
- Historic Zoar Village
- Jefferson County Historical Association Museum and Library
- Johnson-Humrick House Museum
- Lake County History Center and Museum
- Milan Museum
- Museum of Ceramics
- National Barber Museum
- National Road/Zane Grey Museum
- Oberlin Heritage Center
- Ohio History Center and Ohio Village
- Sandusky Library's Follett House Museum
- Summit County Historical Society
- Thomas Edison Birthplace
- Wood County Historical Center and Museum
- Wyandot County Museum

News from the Regions

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 arohmiller@ohiohistory.org. Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for News from the Regions are chosen with the intention of inspiring, connecting, and educating the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrating notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Region 1

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

Fort Meigs received a \$24,550 grant from the **Martha Holden Jennings Foundation** to create a new outreach program using iPad technology. SimMarch1812 will let students participate in a virtual march in 1812 and gain a better understanding of what "life in the field" was like for Ohio militia during the War of 1812. For more information, visit www.fortmeigs.org.

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 **Lorain County Historical Society** opened its new **Lorain County History Center** on May 11. The society adapted the Starr House, a historic mansion originally slated for demolition, into a new self-guiding museum. The center contains seven new exhibit galleries, the Johnson Library, the society's administrative offices, a new gift shop, and a significant amount of storage space for the society's collections. One of the new galleries will be devoted to showcasing the collections of other historical societies in the county, the collections of local industries, and private collections. The new center is the result of a decade of planning and a successful \$1.6 million capital campaign. For more information, visit www.lchs.org.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Mahoning Valley Historical Society** and the **Mahoning Valley Collecting Institutions Roundtable** have published *Local History Sourcebook: A Guide to Archives and Collections in Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana Counties*. The book is a guide for local history researchers and genealogists. It lists area museums, historical societies, and archives that give the general public access to collections. Each institution's entry gives a brief history and a description of programs offered and collections held. Entries also include contact information, hours of operation, and any membership or copying fees. *The Local History Sourcebook* was funded by grants from the Ohio Humanities Council and the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. View the book online at <http://mahoninghistory.org/sourcebook/>.

Region 5

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

The **North Canton Heritage Society** will be moving this fall from its current home at the former North Canton High School to a new location at the Portage Street School, due to the impending integration of kindergarten into the North Canton elementary schools. The society is raising funds to create a separate handicapped-accessible entrance to its new rooms. The Society has received grants from local foundations and is asking the general public to contribute to the project. Gifts of over \$100 will be recognized on a plaque at the new entrance. For more information, contact the Society at 330-494-4791 or visit www.northcanton-heritage.org.

Region 6

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

Residents of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds microregion have a new way to engage with their community. The **Little Cities of the Forest Collaborative**, of which the **Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council** is a member, has launched a new **Little Cities Volunteer Network**. The network will publicize the many volunteer opportunities and service projects available through email and a regularly updated website. Posted activities are diverse, ranging from restoring historic buildings and archiving artifacts to improving the Buckeye/North Country Trail. All volunteer positions

and projects are open to anybody with an interest in improving the region. For more information, go to www.littlecitiesvolunteers.org.

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

The **Butler County Historical Society** dedicated its new Olive S. and Herbert T. Randall Research Center on April 28. The new center offers visitors a place to access all the resources of the society's archives as well as Ancestry.com. With the additional space, the Society has created new exhibits in its Benninghofen House. These include an exhibit on the Benninghofen family and an exhibit on Hamilton industries.

Region 9

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

Bob Evans Farms has opened their newly renovated Adamsville Log Cabin Village exhibit, which relates the history of Appalachia and Southeast Ohio. The exhibit was originally located at the site of Adamsville, a village founded in 1800 along Raccoon Creek. Flood damage to the original exhibit prompted Bob Evans to move the exhibit to the farm and restore the cabins. The new Adamsville Village features a one-room school house, a cabin telling the story of the Underground Railroad, a pioneer home, an Appalachian Crafts cabin, and an early country store. In addition, Bob Evans Farms dedicated an Ohio Historical Marker to their founder on June 2. For more information, see www.bobevans.com/ourfarms/bobevansfarm/farmhistory.aspx.

Region 10

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

Thank you New Members

Members as of June 4, 2012

Individual

Thomas Berry, Bowling Green
Patricia Scarmuzzi, Niles

Organization

International Women's Air & Space Museum,
Cleveland
Lakeside Chautauqua Association, Lakeside
Magnolia Area Historical Society, Magnolia
Montgomery Historical Society,
Montgomery
Vienna Historical Society, Vienna

Berlin Center Historical Society, Berlin Center
Betts House Research Center, Cincinnati
Brewster-Sugarcreek Township Historical
Society, Brewster
Camp Sherman, Inc., Chillicothe
Clinton County History Center, Wilmington
Ellsworth Historical Society, Ellsworth
Four Corners Historical Cooperative, Inc.,
Grelton
Greene County Historical Society, Xenia
Guernsey County Historical Society,
Cambridge
Heisey Collectors of America, Newark
Historical Society of Russell Township,
Novelty
Huron Historical Society, Huron
Jefferson County Historical Association,
Steuenville
Miami University Art Museum/McGuffey
Museum, Oxford
Morrow County Historical Society,
Mount Gilead
North Baltimore Area Historical Society,
North Baltimore
Peninsula Library and Historical Society,
Peninsula
Perry Historical Society of Lake County, Perry
Putnam County Historical Society, Kalida
Randolph Historical Society, Atwater
The Rural Life Center, Kenyon College,
Gambier
Shelby County Historical Society, Sidney
Southwest Franklin County Historical Society,
Grove City
Tuscarawas County Historical Society,
New Philadelphia
Walhonding Valley Historical Society,
Warsaw
Washington Township Hist. Soc. of Stark
County, Alliance
Waterville Historical Society, Waterville
Whitehall Historical Society, Columbus

Thank you Renewing Members

Members as of June 4, 2012

Individual

Leianne N. Heppner, Akron
Richard D. Kudner, Perrysburg
Rebecca Larson-Troyer, Barberton
Judy C. Schroeder, Fort Jennings
Doreen N. Uhas-Sauer, Columbus

Organizations

Alpine Hills Historical Museum, Sugarcreek
Anti-Saloon League Museum, Westerville
Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum
Foundation, Inc., Tiffin
Bedford Historical Society, Bedford

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

Organizational Member

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

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. Join at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/oahsm/members.html.

ON
THE
WEB

Digital Preservation

www.digitalpreservation.gov/personal-archiving/padKit

With frequently changing digital technologies and formats, it can be hard to know how to best digitally preserve photos, audio and video, emails, websites, and social media. This site is designed as a kit to help institutions plan a "Personal Digital Archiving Day" to help their patrons with questions about digital preservation. Along with guidance on planning the event itself, the site also provides basic resources and handouts for preserving different kinds of media. These are useful for institutions with questions, as well as the people they serve.

Save the Date! Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference is October 5&6



A highlight of each year is the Outstanding Achievement Awards Luncheon. The Alliance is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Awards. Learn more on page 3. Remember the nomination deadline is August 1! *Photos courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.*

The 2012 Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference, *Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century*, will be held Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6 at the Holiday Inn, Worthington. This year's program includes over thirty inspiring sessions on topics such as volunteer management, creating exciting educational programs, developing successful partnerships with other organizations, and information on the brand new History Fund, the Ohio Historical Society's first grant program for local history projects. In addition, the Society of Ohio Archivists will be holding their annual fall workshop on Friday, concurrent with the Alliance's annual meeting. All attendees are invited to attend those sessions as well. Questions? Contact the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878 or localhistory@ohiohistory.org. Watch for your annual meeting brochure, coming after August 1!

The ten regions of the Ohio Local History Alliance. For a list of counties by region, see *News from the Regions*, pp. 10-11.

Map courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

