

2012 Award Winners Inspire!



2012 History Outreach Award winner Julie Carpenter of The Betts House with Alliance President Christie Weininger. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

Last issue, *The Local Historian* printed the list of 2012 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award winners. History Outreach Awards spotlight exemplary local history public programs, exhibits, media, and publications. Individual Achievement Awards recognize those individuals who have greatly contributed to Ohio's historical societies and to the understanding of local history. We are pleased to present descriptions of each of the outstanding programs, publications, and people that were honored at the Annual Meeting's Awards Luncheon on October 6.

History Outreach Awards, Organizations with Budget Under \$25,000

Public Programming, "How 9/11 Changed Our Lives Forever," Shelby County Historical Society, Sidney: The program started as a 10th anniversary project without a penny in the budget that turned into a wealth of good. An exhibit accompanying the program was enhanced with donated artwork featuring the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Local Vietnam veterans built a flag display in the historical society's lawn, and a USO show was presented as part of "Make a Difference Day" on October 22, 2011. The memorial rooms provided a sanctuary to display the names of the over 3,000 victims from 9/11. This area also featured a local resident who

By Leianne Neff Heppner,
Executive Director, Summit
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Local History Alliance

Advocacy and Public Awareness
Committee

is suffering from health problems as a first responder to Ground Zero. Besides working with the local public schools and veterans organizations, the project also provided partnership opportunities with the Dorothy Love Retirement Community, the Blue Star Mothers, and the Lockington Methodist Church.

Public Programming, "History 101 – Sesquicentennial Civil War Series," Evendale Historical Commission,

Evendale: In September 2010, the Evendale Historical Commission (EHC) began discussions on the upcoming American Civil War commemoration in their efforts to provide a new series in the organization's "History 101" programming. As a result of their diligent historical research, 19 lectures were developed by 12 different presenters, including Civil War reenactors Dave and Betsy Koonce and EHC charter member Ed Gassert. EHC worked with its
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President's Message:

My, my...how fast two years can fly! It seems like yesterday I was asked to write my first column as president of the Ohio Local History Alliance and now, here I am, composing the last one.

When I started out as a very green intern through a program of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, I had no way of knowing how important this organization (which became the Ohio Local History Alliance in 2010) would become to me, professionally and personally. I attended my first annual conference in 1992 and remember how inspired I was by the sessions I attended and the people I met. And now, 20 years later, I am still continually inspired by the regional and annual meetings, events like Statehood Day, and the enthusiasm of the local historians I meet. Attending all of the regional meetings while I was president was heartening. You all are doing such a terrific job preserving,

saving, and sharing your important community stories, often in the face of difficult situations, such as lack of funding, time, or staff and volunteers. I cannot think of any other group of people who have the "can do" attitude of local historians.

I am proud of the fact that when you are in need of inspiration, connections, and educational experiences the Alliance is here for you. Together, we have shared amazing ideas, created a new source of revenue through the History Fund, increased awareness of the significance of our work, and forged strong partnerships with similar organizations, not to mention the transition to a new name!

I would like to thank the Alliance board members and the staff of the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office for their energy,

creative ideas, and strong vision for this organization. And I would like to thank our members, who attend Alliance meetings and events, speak up for local history, support each other, and carry on. We are a dynamic organization well positioned for continued future success.

I am excited to pass the reigns over to our next president, Maggie Marconi of the Sandusky Library Follett House Museum, who will no doubt continue our tradition of excellence.

I am honored to have had this opportunity to serve.

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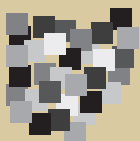
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**OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE**
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

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.

The Local Historian (ISSN 9893-3340) is published bimonthly by the Ohio Historical Society, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2497, as a benefit to Ohio Local History Alliance members. Periodicals Postage Paid at Columbus, OH. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: *The Local Historian*, Local History Office, Ohio Historical Society, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43211-2497. Editors: Amy Rohmiller, Andy Verhoff, Rosa Rojas

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Visit **The Alliance** online at www.ohiolha.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ohiolocalhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:

Organizations:
Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100
Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75
Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60
Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35

Individuals:
Benefactors: \$50 and up
Individuals: \$35
Students: \$15
Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian* only are available for \$25 annually.

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local Intercommunity Cable Regulatory Commission to record all the sessions that were then broadcast on the public cable channel. Topics included John Hunt Morgan and his raid (Evendale's only brush with Confederate soldiers), women in the Civil War, medical services in the Civil War, and the war in West Virginia.

Media and Publications, *Alliance As I Knew It*, Alliance Historical Society, Alliance:

Tucked away in the Society's archives for nearly 60 years was a manuscript documenting the community through the eyes of a lifelong resident, William H. Magrath. An interesting read with fascinating short stories providing a glimpse of the late 1800s, *Alliance As I Knew It*, edited by Karen Perone and designed by Dick Ellicot, is the first and only major book on life in Alliance during this period. A bricklayer who helped organize the Alliance Local Bricklayers Union, in which he participated until age 80, Magrath became a storyteller to future generations. Historic images, maps, and an index make this work a tool for local organizations documenting the past and a treasure to Alliance's residents.

Media and Publications, "Lake Erie Shores and Islands Civil War Destination Guide," Erie County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, Sandusky:

The Committee produced this to promote the area's rich Civil War era history. Their goal was to provide an inclusive work in an easy to follow format. Included in the piece are 15 museums, historic sites, and local libraries in Erie and adjacent counties, as well as pre-existing self-guided tours of Sandusky. Each listing includes the site's address, phone number, and website. Featured sites include the 1861-1865 war period and sites relevant to residents before and after the war. Subcommittee members involved in the project include Maggie Marconi of the Sandusky Library Follett House Museum, Angie George for the Lake Erie Shores & Islands Welcome Center, and Randy Koch, president of the Erie County Historical Society and Chairman of the Erie County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.

Media and Publications, *Bicentennial History of Fort Jennings: 1812-2012*, Fort Jennings Bicentennial Book Committee:

Most people know the proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention," but Deb Birkemeier applied it in a completely different context. Looking for a project to complete while laid up from back surgery, Birkemeier started compiling a history of the people of Fort Jennings. Word leaked out to friends and neighbors who asked for copies. Then came the suggestion of a commemorative book, coordinating with the town's efforts to commemorate the War of 1812. (Fort Jennings was founded as an American supply outpost during the war.) A diverse group of 13 individuals started meeting regularly to compare notes on public records searched and seniors interviewed. *Bicentennial History of Fort Jennings: 1812-2012* is the result of their efforts, a 320 page book of pictures, lists of veterans, school graduates, and more. This project was nominated by the Putnam County Historical Society.

Exhibit, *The Place to Be*, Rural Life Center, Kenyon College, Gambier:

The following, by Howard L. Sacks, Director of the Rural Life Center, provides an overview of this impressive and inclusive program: "*The Place to Be* explores past and present public spaces in Knox County, Ohio and the changing character of public life in rural society. The exhibit draws upon stories collected from area farmers, businesspeople, grange members, sports fans, restaurant patrons, librarians, civic leaders, and church members to explore the meaning and significance of public life for Ohio's rural communities." Thirty color panels feature text, photographs, and ephemera collected by Sacks's students at Kenyon. The completed project included almost 100 interview recordings and their transcriptions, field reports, over 300 photographs, and other documentation. These materials are now also available to students, faculty, and the general public at the Rural Life Center archives at Kenyon College.

History Outreach Awards, Organizations with Budget Over \$25,000

Public Programming, "Saturdays in Zoar Free Speaker Series," Zoar Community Association, Zoar: As a communal society nestled in the rolling hills of Tuscarawas County, Zoar Village (1817-1898) is appealing to researchers and visitors. The Zoar Community

Association established the "Saturdays in Zoar Free Speakers Series" to address questions received on tours of the village. Eleven programs were presented featuring lectures, historic character portrayals, and musical lessons. One letter of support gave kudos for the Saturdays in Zoar series, stating that it filled a void due to the "few opportunities adults had to learn more about Zoar outside volunteering." Even Zoarite descendants delighted in the programming, especially if their ancestors had not shared details of their life in the community. Becka Hackett Lash, assistant site manager, coordinated the speakers, publicity, and grant writing to defray expenses, which resulted in well-attended and diverse programming.

Public Programming, "Lincoln Dinner and Lincoln Day," The Quaker Heritage Center at Wilmington College, Wilmington:

Ohio Civil War 150 AmeriCorps volunteer Melanie Janiszewski had little time to prepare for a series of programs and events that started on her second day of service at the Quaker Heritage Center. It all revolved around a traveling exhibit from the American Library Association and National Constitution Center, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, scheduled for display January-February 2012. Researching 4th grade social studies standards, Janiszewski, under the tutelage of curator Ruth Brindle Dobyns, prepared educational materials that received the approval of the local curriculum director, allowing the 4th grade students to participate in programming for Lincoln Day on the Wilmington College campus. Grant funds covered student transportation costs to the site. A Lincoln dinner held for the exhibit preview also served as a fundraising initiative, resulting in a sold out event and a successful relationship building endeavor. These donations helped provide funding for eight separate programs during Lincoln Day.

Public Programming, "Lunch and Learn Lecture Series," Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon:

The Society's "Lunch and Learn" program has been one of the organization's most successful programs within the last few years. Attendees are attracted from the local county and throughout Southwest Ohio. Participants pay an \$18 fee for a

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catered meal at the museum while listening to a guest speaker bring to life aspects from Warren County history. One attendee states, "This series has provided a great opportunity to promote both the history of our area as well as the museum itself." The topics include biographical portraits, food interests, historical novel discussions, and Ohio's oldest hotel, the Golden Lamb. The concept for the program was inspired by the Society's historian and education director, John Zimkus, who was often requested to give off-site lectures as part of the adult lifelong learning program at Sinclair Community College.

Public Programming, "Cemetery Walk: Civil War Heroes," Sandusky Library Follett House Museum,

Sandusky: Last fall, visitors with umbrellas set out on a walk through the Oakland Cemetery as part of a program entitled "Civil War Heroes." The rainy weather did not dampen the experience. It only made the journey of past soldiers more poignant. Featuring the lives of 20 men and women involved at the home front and in battle, this program was unique in its technological enhancements. Research collected and organized by Maggie Marconi, Dorene Paul, Karen Billman, and Ron Davidson was transformed into links and blogs using QR codes for smartphones or online visitors, and a video was professionally produced with a visit to each gravesite in the original walking tour.

Public Programming/Media and Publications, Original Programs and Support Materials for ALA's Lincoln Traveling Exhibit, Sandusky Library Follett House Museum,

Sandusky: The Sandusky Library hosted the traveling exhibit *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* in May 2012. Using creative advertising and programming, the Sandusky Library and Follett House Museum drew large crowds and received numerous compliments for their efforts. Mailers and advertising posters were designed featuring historic images to capture attention. Exciting drama, including a mock trial, attracted new patrons. Adroit planning allowed 8th grade students to tour the exhibit before going on a field trip to Gettysburg and Boston. Michael Les Benedict, Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University, lectured to a

capacity crowd on "Abraham Lincoln and Constitutional Politics of the Civil War Era." Another program featured a first person portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln, while participants of International Museum Day had their hands busy making stove pipe hats and lucky Lincoln necklaces.

Media and Publications, Oberlin: Origins and Onward!, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin:

A comic book, *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* was inspired by a donor to the Oberlin Heritage Center who wanted to provide an opportunity for school children as a memorial to a dear friend, Nicholas Stevenson. Mr. Stephenson had served on the board of the Heritage Center and also volunteered as a "grandparent reader" in the Oberlin Public Schools. A number of individuals were involved in making history cool and modern, including illustrator Bentley Boyd, retired teacher and Heritage Center volunteer Gail Wood, Oberlin Public Schools, Oberlin College, and others. The Heritage Center, through foundation grants and corporate donations, was able to provide each 3rd grade student with a comprehensive history of Oberlin in a format that was exciting for their interest level.

Exhibit, The Big Shake – How the New Madrid Earthquakes Racked the Ohio River Valley, The Betts House, Cincinnati:

Although the New Madrid earthquakes affected much of the Midwest, most people living in the area today have no knowledge of this event or its impact on the region. The Big Shake exhibit at The Betts House in Cincinnati combines natural, cultural, and scientific history. Changes in topography, Tecumseh's prediction of the quake, anchor plates and their role in construction stability, and modern seismic research are highlighted. *The Big Shake* is available as a traveling exhibit.

Individual Achievement Awards

Cathie Clager, Brecksville Historical Association, Brecksville:

Cathie Clager retired from teaching and began volunteering at the Brecksville Historical Association (BHA) on a weekly basis. She has been involved in BHA as a docent at the Squire Rich Museum, assisting with school programming, working at fundraisers, accessioning artifacts using PastPerfect, and researching genealogy requests. In com-

memoration of The City of Brecksville Bicentennial, Cathie served as a member of the Historian Committee, and she volunteered to research, organize, and present a series of historical programs on behalf of the Brecksville Historical Association. Her scripts were synchronized with images and placed on DVDs organized around five topics: *The Center of It All*, a look at the development of Brecksville from 1811 to 2011; *I Know That Place*, a history of landmarks in Brecksville; *Heroes Part I and Part II*, a history of soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the present; and *Cemeteries and Their Famous Residents*.

Frank and Carolyn Sipkovsky, Black River Historical Society, Lorain:

The Sipkovskys joined the Black River Historical Society in 1989. They witnessed many changes and progress in the organization, especially as its growing collections resulted in the move of these artifacts into a new storage facility in 1995. Black River Historical Society president, Patricia Morrisson, shares that, "There were many people involved in the move...but...no one worked more than the Sipkovsky's in organizing and preserving our collection." Involved in committees for many years, the Sipkovskys took a more prominent leadership role first with Carolyn's election to vice president in 1997 and then Frank's selection as president in 1998. They served eight years, while also participating in Alliance conferences, stringing Christmas lights, and selling ice cream and pop from the Society's restored milk wagon. In 2000, the Sipkovskys became life members of the historical society. ■

Thank You Judges!

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Leianne Neff Heppner, Co-Chair
Summit County Historical Society

Kathleen Addlesperger,
Richland County Museum

Craig Holbert, University of Akron

Todd Kleismit, Ohio Historical Society

Kim Jurkovic, Dover Historical Society/
J.E. Reeves House

Margaret Parker,
Meigs County Historical Society

Janet Rozick, University of Toledo

Brenda Stultz, Clyde Heritage League

Awards Program Coordinator

Amy Rohmiller, Ohio Historical Society

First History Fund Grants to be Awarded at Statehood Day Event

By Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

The Ohio Historical Society plans to unveil grant awards from the newly-created History Fund grants program at the annual Statehood Day advocacy event, which will be held Wednesday, February 27 at the Ohio Statehouse. Statehood Day is a legislative advocacy event that brings together history advocates from across Ohio to learn more about important legislative activities and to encourage people to meet with their state legislators.

The History Fund grant program, funded through income tax donations from Ohioans, is in its first year. History-related organizations were encouraged to submit grants to the Ohio Historical Society by the October 29 deadline. Approximately \$100,000 in grants are expected to be awarded, according to Andy Verhoff, local history coordinator. "This is a competitive matching grants program," Verhoff said. "So this grant money will be leveraged in each community that receives a grant. We've seen that there is a very strong demand for these grants," he added. "We received 64 separate grant requests for almost \$900,000."

"We're always excited about all the Statehood Day activities we have planned," OHS Executive Director Burt Logan said. "This year we're obviously delighted to be able to provide grants to state and local organizations engaged in preserving and promoting Ohio history as part of our Statehood Day event."

Statehood Day activities will also include a guest speaker and lunch. Registration for the event is \$25 (for lunch) through Friday, February 15. The registration price increases for those registering after Feb. 15. To register and for more information, visit online at www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday.

Statehood Day is sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society, Heritage Ohio, the Ohio Archaeological Council, the Ohio Local History Alliance, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, Preservation Ohio, the Ohio Academy of History, the Ohio Council for Social Studies, and the Society of Ohio Archivists. ■



War of 1812 Blockhouse Ohio Historical Marker, Union County, which received a marker grant in April 2012. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

Grants for Ohio Historical Markers – October 2012 Round

By Andy Verhoff, Local History Coordinator, Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office, Columbus

Ohio Historical Markers are like pins on a map that say "history happened here." Communities – geographic or otherwise – decide what is marker-worthy and submit applications to the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office. Once OHS's LHO determines a potential marker has historical significance, the office collaborates closely with a marker's local sponsor to decide what the marker will say and then erect it.

To fund the creation of markers on especially noteworthy historical subjects, the Historical Markers Program makes grants twice a year. Five grants of up to \$750 each are made in April and five in October. For the October 2012 round, the markers grant review panel awarded funding to these five markers:

- **Akron Community Service Center and Urban League**, Akron Chapter of the NAACP, Summit County will commemorate a building that was a focal point for African-American life in Akron since 1950.

- **Major General William Starke Rosecrans and Ohio's Largest Glacial Erratic**, Big Walnut Area Historical Society, Delaware County will tell two different stories. One side narrates the life and achievements of Sunbury, Ohio native William Rosecrans, best known as a Union general during the Civil War. The other side goes much further back in time, to tell the story of a big rock (an erratic), moved to central Ohio more than 10,000 years ago.

- **Milton Holland Memorial**, John S. Townsend Camp 108, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Athens County will tell of the Civil War service of Milton

Holland, an Athens County native, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor and who recruited soldiers to serve in Company C, 5th United States Colored Troops.

- **Thunderstorm Project**, Clinton County Historical Society will tell of the Clinton County Army Air Force Base's role in combating thunderstorms. As the marker application states, the Thunderstorm Project's observations from the mid-1940s "remain the cornerstone of today's understanding of thunderstorms and related weather phenomena."

- **Underground Railroad in Champlain County**, Friends and Descendants of Lewis and Susan Adams documents some routes and honors the bravery of Lewis Adams and other conductors, as well as "passengers," on the Underground Railroad in this west central Ohio county.

Congratulations grant recipients! It is expected that these markers will sprout up in the spring and summer of 2013. When they do, you can find them and the more than 1,400 other Ohio Historical Markers at www.remarkableohio.org. The next deadline for markers grants is April 1, 2013. [Remarkableohio.org](http://www.remarkableohio.org) is also the place to find marker applications, prices, and information about markers grants, or call the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878.

Note that one does not have to apply for a grant to erect a marker. Local sponsors who are willing to pay the entire cost of a marker (\$2,300 - \$2,580) may work with the Local History Office at any time of year to erect a marker. ■

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Ohio Local History Alliance officers for 2013 who were elected at the Annual Meeting on October 6, 2012. President: **Maggie Marconi**, Sandusky Library & Follett House Museum, Sandusky. 1st Vice President: **Beth Weinhardt**, Westerville Public Library & Anti-Saloon League Museum, Westerville. 2nd Vice President: **Todd McCormick**, Logan County Historical Society, Bellefontaine. Treasurer: **Kathleen Fernandez**, North Canton Heritage Society, North Canton. Secretary: **Ruth Brindle Dobyns**, Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington. Past President: **Christie Weininger**, Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont. Trustee at Large: **Jim Gibson**, Knox County Historical Society, Mt. Vernon.

The Alliance also welcomes four new regional representatives to its board who will begin serving in 2013. Region 2: **Gale Martin**, Marion County Historical Society, Marion. Region 3: **Rebecca Larson Troyer**, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron. Region 6: **Leslie Blankenship**, Franklinton Historical Society, Columbus. Region 7: **Chris Burton**, Armstrong Air & Space Museum, Wapakoneta.

Thank you to those whose service on the Alliance board came to an end in 2012: **Kathleen Addlesberger**, Richland County Museum, Lexington; **Vickie Bondi**, Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society, Centerville; **Randy Brown**, Wood County Historical Society, Bowling Green; **Jessica Goodnight**, The Castle, Marietta; **Craig Holbert**, University of Akron, Uniontown; **Bill Lawson**, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown; **Nancy Sams**, Belpre Historical Society, Belpre; **Elizabeth Wantz**, Century Village Museum, Burton.

Andrea Brookover joins the Fairfield Heritage Association (FHA) in Lancaster as the organization's first executive director. She is responsible for the development, execution, and management of the policies, programs, and initiatives of FHA. Her prior experience includes positions at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, the Ohio Historical Society, and the Historical Center of York County, South Carolina. She holds a BA in History from Ohio State University and a Master's in Public History from Wright State University.

Bobbie Sweny, of the Miamisburg Historical Society, recently received the Miamisburg Classroom Teachers Association's "Friend of Education Award." The award recognizes her service to Miamisburg teachers and schools. Sweny created the historical society's children's education programs in 2002 and chaired the program until 2010.

New Membership Structure for 2013

By Kathy Fernandez, Treasurer, Ohio Local History Alliance
and Executive Director, North Canton Heritage Society, North Canton

In 2013, the Ohio Local History Alliance membership structure will change. A committee consisting of Second Vice President Beth Weinhardt and Treasurer Kathy Fernandez studied how memberships were sold at similar statewide museum organizations around the Midwest and came up with some new ideas for OLHA. These new rates and benefits were passed by the Alliance Board at its August meeting and approved by the membership at the October Annual meeting.

Central to the new structure is an affiliate membership for employees and volunteers of organizations that are already organizational members. At just \$35 per year, an affiliate member can receive most of the benefits of the institution (*The Local Historian*, discounted rate for meetings, eligibility for awards, etc.). An individual membership is still available to those who are not affiliated with a member institution.

Also new is a business membership at \$100 per year. This membership includes a discounted rate for displays at the Annual Meeting's marketplace, one set of mailing labels, and one advertisement each in *The Local Historian* and on the Alliance's website (www.ohiolha.org).

Members can now elect to renew for two years instead of one, saving the Alliance time in postage and paperwork and the member \$5 to \$10. The membership prices remain the same as the past few years, except for the individual membership, which is now \$50 instead of the original \$35.

Other membership perks are still being developed, including discounts to suppliers, online affinity groups, and ways to link your organization to the Alliance website.

Two scholarships were also included in the new membership package: the Trella Romaine Scholarship will be given each year to a qualified individual to pay his or her registration and lodging at each year's Annual Meeting. The J. D. Britton Scholarship will be awarded to a qualified beginning professional and will also underwrite the registration and lodging for the Annual Meeting. Applications will be handled through the Alliance website and more information will be coming closer to the meeting date.

There are lots of good things in store for OLHA members. As they say in the ad for another organization, "It pays to belong!" ■

2013 Ohio Local History Alliance Membership Rates

Organizational Membership

- Organization with operating budget over \$200,000 a year \$100 (\$190 for two years)
- Organization with operating budget of \$100,000-\$200,000 a year \$75 (\$140 for two years)
- Organization with operating budget of \$25,000-\$100,000 a year \$60 (\$110 for two years)
- Organization with operating budget under \$25,000 a year \$35 (\$65 for two years)

Affiliate Membership

(for members of organizations that are OLHA members)

- \$35 a year (\$65 for two years)

Individual Membership

(for individuals who are not affiliated with an OLHA member organization)

- \$50 (\$90 for two years)
- Discounted to \$20 for students

Business Membership

- \$100 (\$190 for two years)



Want More Information?

There are numerous resources online to help with disaster/emergency planning. We found this page from the Minnesota Historical Society to be helpful: <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/floodresponse.htm>

Also, Heritage Preservation's "Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel" is now available as a free app for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch users. Hard copy wheels and links to other resources are available at: <https://www.heritagepreservation.org/catalog/Wheel1.htm>.

Emergency Response Kits

By Pat Smith, Executive Director, Allen County Museum, Lima

On June 23rd of this year, storms raged across Ohio causing major power outages, downed trees, and severe damage. The storm hit Allen County in the afternoon. As we watched the skies go from yellow to black, we anticipated the weather radio would announce a tornado warning. Thankfully, that did not happen. But when we saw debris flying across the parking lot, we took no chances and evacuated our museum's visitors, volunteers, and staff to the safe area in the basement.

Thirty minutes later we ventured upstairs. Nervous visitors headed for their cars while staff began surveying the damage. A large tree had fallen across the driveway, landing on the museum's roof, piercing the rubber membrane. A large window was broken. Dripping water was pooling on top of the filing cabinets in the microfilm room of our library-archives. Broken glass and soggy ceiling tiles were in pieces on the floor. Nearby folders and books were uncomfortably close to the growing puddles. We were able to respond quickly, thanks to the disaster response kits we had created earlier in the year.

In 2011, our organization took a few weeks to completely review and update our emergency response plan. It began with a risk assessment survey completed

Items in the Allen County Museum's disaster planning kit. Photo courtesy of the Allen County Museum.

by the board and staff. From this we were able to prioritize what type of emergency we would most likely face, and the locations of the most vulnerable collections. This guided where we would place the response kits. After reviewing other museum's emergency plans, we made a list of items we would need for our kits. We purchased wheeled trash bins from a local hardware store and filled them with: rolled plastic; duct tape; basic tools, including box cutters, scissors, hammers, and screw drivers; buckets and rags; gloves; flashlights; dust masks; paper towels; protective eye goggles; and a copy of our emergency plan, which provides instructions for salvaging specific kinds of collections.

On June 23rd, when we first used our new kit, we were amazed at how much time we saved by not having to locate and gather materials. Two of us immediately went to work moving threatened items and soaking up water, while others gathered larger things, such as a stepladder and plywood for the window. The rolled plastic was especially helpful. We were able to drape it and create a funnel to control the dripping water until repairs could be made to the roof.

In a situation where minutes mean the difference between losing or saving important collections, an emergency response kit allows responders to act with greater efficiency. ■

Homes Wanted

The Ohio Historical Society has two large cases and five monitor/computer cases that are available to a good home. The two large cases are wooden with a plexiglass front and measure 6'8" wide x 9' tall x 4' deep. The monitor/computer cases will hold 17" monitors. One is off-white, one is burgundy, and three are light gray. You will be responsible for pickup from the Ohio History Center in Columbus and transportation. For more information, contact Dave Newell at dnewell@ohiohistory.org. The deadline to give these items a home is January 30.

www.ohiolha.org

In 2009 the board of the Ohio Local History Alliance (then known as Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums) gathered together for a strategic planning retreat. Something that quickly became clear was that the Alliance needed a new website, a task assigned to the board's new 21st Century Communications Committee. The committee worked to ensure that the final product would be something useful to the Alliance's constituency. The Alliance board referred frequently to a membership survey, in order to include many features that members asked for.

Working with Mark Tebeau and Erin Bell of the Cleveland State University Center for Public History + Digital Humanities, the 21st Century Committee met to sketch out what the website would look like. The committee then worked closely with Erin Bell, who created the website by customizing a WordPress platform. As content is added to the website, it will grow and become an even greater asset to members. Board members will be regular contributors to the website, keeping members up to date on important issues.

What will you find when you point your browser to www.ohiolha.org? You will find a home page, a news page, an events calendar, a searchable member directory, and a resource tab. Take a moment to explore!

The website was developed in partnership with the Building Collections initiative that was funded with support from the [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#), the [Ohio Humanities Council](#), and [Kent State University](#). If you look under resources you will find a link to Building Connections and the amazing information regarding internships that was a result of the collaborative project.



Photo courtesy of the Berea Historical Society.

Save the Date for Your 2013 Alliance Regional Meeting!

The theme for next year's Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meetings is "Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures." Be sure to check your mailbox for the information and registration brochure in February and mark the dates below on your calendar now!

Region 1: April 13, Van Wert County Historical Society, Van Wert

Region 2: April 20, Ashland Historical Society, Ashland

Region 3: April 13, Cuyahoga County Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument, Cleveland

Region 4: April 20, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown

Region 5: March 23, Magnolia Historical Society, Magnolia

Region 6: March 16, Fairfield Heritage Association, Lancaster

Region 7: March 16, Auglaize County Historical Society, Wapakoneta

Region 8: March 23, Evendale Historical Commission, Evendale

Region 9 & 10 (combined meeting): April 6, Hocking County Historical Society, Logan

Ohio Civil War 150 Advisory Committee Announces 2013 MONTHLY THEMES



The Ohio Civil War Sesquicentennial is about to start its third year and the Ohio Civil War 150 Advisory Committee is announcing its themes for each month. The theme for 2013 is "Ohio's Impact on the War." Each month's theme will focus on a different aspect of Ohio's impact on the war effort. Ohio organizations and groups are encouraged to use these themes as they plan their Civil War programming.

January	Emancipation
February	Ohio Generals
March	Medal of Honor
April	The Costs of War
May	Ohio Civil War Road Trips
June	United States Colored Troops
July	Ohioans in Battle
August	Ohio's Regiments and Militia
September	Political Leadership
October	Immigrants in the Civil War
November	Why They Fought
December	Supplying the Military

For more information, visit the Ohio Civil War 150 website at www.ohiocivilwar150.org.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Each year, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) recognizes achievements in historic preservation through its Ohio Historic Preservation Office Awards. Of the 11 award winners this year, three local history organizations were recognized with Preservation Merit Awards. The Preservation Merit Award is for preserving Ohio's prehistory, history, architecture, or culture. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to, restoring, rehabilitating, or otherwise preserving an important building or site; longtime stewardship of a property; promoting protective

legislation; funding preservation projects; offering leadership, support, or service; and furthering preservation at the local, regional, or state level. Awards were presented at the annual Ohio Historic Preservation Office Awards Luncheon on November 3, 2012. Congratulations to:

- **National McKinley Birthplace Memorial and Library and Balog, Steines, Hendricks & Manchester** for restoration of the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial, Niles
- **Lorain County Historical Society and Arkinetics** for

rehabilitation of the 1857 Horace Starr House, Elyria

- **Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, Colonial Brick Corporation, and George Wischt and Sons Construction** for the restoration of 16 chimneys at Stan Hywet Hall, Akron

For more information about the OHPO Awards, including the nomination form and a list of past winners, go to www.ohiohistory.org/ohio-historic-preservation-office/ohio-historic-preservation-office-awards.

List as of Dec. 5, 2012

Thank you New Members

Organizations

Cincinnati Astronomical Society,
Cleveland

Thank you Renewing Members

Individual

Susan M. Blumensaadt Smith, Eaton IN
Nancy R. Gracely, New Bloomington
Gerald R. Grimes, Minerva
Highland County Historical Society, Hillsboro
Kimberly Jurkovic, New Philadelphia

Organizations

Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne IN
Ashland University Archives, Ashland
Bremen Area Historical Society, Bremen
Brunswick Area Historical Society, Brunswick
Butler-Clearfork Valley Historical Society,
Butler
The Castle, Marietta
City of Defiance, Defiance
Delaware County Historical Society,
Delaware
Erie County Historical Society, Sandusky
Firelands Historical Society, Norwalk
Hebron Historical Society, Hebron
Heritage Commission Corporation,
South Charleston
Historical Construction Equipment
Corporation, Bowling Green
Jackson Historical Society, Jackson
Lillian E. Jones Museum, Jackson
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, Chillicothe
Lynchburg Historical Society, Lynchburg
Madog Center for Welsh Studies, Rio Grande
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, Sandusky
Middleburg Heights Historical Society,
Cleveland
National Cambridge Collectors, Cambridge
Noble County Historical Society, Caldwell
Oxford Museum Association, Oxford
Perrysburg Area Historic Museum, Inc.,
Perrysburg
Progress Through Preservation, Akron
Riverside Historical Society, Dayton
Roseville Historical Society, Roseville
Spring Hill Historic Home, Inc., Massillon
Springfield Township Historical Society,
Petersburg
Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo
Ukrainian Museum-Archives Inc., Cleveland
Wahkeena Nature Preserve, Sugar Grove
Willoughby Hills Historical Society,
Willoughby Hills
Windsor Historical Society, Windsor
The Works: Ohio Center for History, Arts
& Technology, Newark

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 to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Region 1

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

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 chosen to participate in Heritage Preservation's 2012 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). The Heritage Center was one of 97 museums across the county to receive a CAP grant. CAP grants are intended to assist small museums in caring for their collections and historic structures. A conservator and a preservation specialist visited the Center in mid-October and conducted a two-day assessment of its collections and buildings. Both followed up their visit with a written report, which the Heritage Center will use as guidance when developing long-term plans and goals. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

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

Alliance is home to a new museum dedicated to African American history, the **Alliance Historical Black History Museum**. The idea for the museum came after local gospel broadcaster Evelyn Brown gave her memorabilia

collection to her friend, Dyanna Myers, to preserve. The museum's exhibits highlight the accomplishments of past and present African American residents of Alliance. They include displays on Dr. K.T. Thompson, the city's first African American doctor; Harry S. Johns, an educator at Central State University; and William David Jackson, Alliance's first black city councilman (elected in 1932). For more information, call (330) 257-5782.

The **Dennison Railroad Depot Museum** recently held its National Historic Landmark dedication ceremony. The National Landmarks Commission and the National Park Service recognized the Depot as the most significant example in the nation of a railroad canteen still reflecting its World War II heritage. During the war, the Dennison Depot Salvation Army Servicemen's Canteen served free meals and cups of coffee to the 1.3 million soldiers who traveled through Dennison. The dedication ceremony included the National Park Service's official presentation of the National Landmark plaque, recognition of military veterans and canteen volunteers, and the grand opening of the Depot's restored Williamsport Business Car. For more information, go to www.dennisondepot.org.

Region 6

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

The **Heisey Glass Museum** took advantage of a different kind of investment opportunity offered by its bank. Park National Bank has a community service program in which its employees volunteer to do work for non-profit organizations in their communities. Four bank employees came to the museum and painted two rooms, ceiling, walls, and all. Both the museum staff and the bank staff enjoyed the interchange. To learn more, visit www.heiseymuseum.org.

Region 7

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

The **Logan County Historical Society** broke ground on its new Logan County Transportation Museum on November 2. The 15,000 square foot transportation museum addition will be built to resemble a railroad roundhouse. The first floor will house several large vehicles including a 1947 Cadillac hearse built in Bellefontaine, a railcar used in the Bellefontaine railroad yards in the 1940s, a covered wagon, and an airplane built by a local aviator. The second floor of the new addition will house the museum's archives and the Logan County Genealogical Society. Eighty percent of the Transportation Museum was funded by an **Ohio Department of Transportation** grant, with

the rest coming from corporate and individual donors. For more information, visit www.logancountymuseum.org.

Region 8

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

The **Wyoming Historical Society** has created an outdoor history trail that tells the story of Wyoming's past in one quarter mile. Metal signs along the Wyoming Hike/Bike Trail trace the community's history from the ice age through first permanent settlements of farmers. In addition, the signs also include some natural history. Those who follow the trail can learn about the animals and trees that were native to the area. To learn more, go to http://www.wyoming.oh.us/?page_id=383BF7A8-FC84-B557-CB9F6CE9D0D7234C.

Region 9

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

Boy Scout Troop 199 from Hemlock Grove in Meigs County lives up to the Boy Scout slogan to "Do a Good Turn Daily!" Earlier this year, the **Meigs County Historical Society** needed a new retaining wall, and the troop stepped in to provide one. Helped by some fathers and a few other volunteers, the Boy Scouts built a temporary retaining wall behind the Society's annex that diverts water from the hill behind the building to a drain. The new wall is working well, and now there is no more mud on the sidewalk behind the Society's buildings. For more information, visit www.meigscohistorical.org.

Region 10

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

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year: \$100
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year: \$75
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year: \$60
Under \$25,000 a year: \$35

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.

Local History Benefactor: \$50 and up
Individual member: \$35
Student: \$15

Join at <http://www.ohiohistorystore.com/Ohio-LHA-formerly-OAHSM-C120.aspx>

This is your last chance to join at 2012 rates. The Alliance's membership structure is changing in 2013. For more information, see page 6.

CALENDAR 2013

January 14-February 8

AASLH Online Workshop, "The Basics of Archives." This beginning level workshop consists of five lessons that take 15-20 hours to complete any time during the above dates. It will help organizations meet some standards in the STEPs program. For more information, see <http://laaslh.org/basicsofarchives.htm>.

January 15

CAP Application Deadline EXTENDED. For one Alliance member's experience with CAP, see page 10.

January 15

IMLS Museums for America Grant Deadline. The goal of the Museums for America program is to strengthen a museum's ability to effectively serve the public by supporting activities that advance its mission and strategic plan. For more information, visit www.imls.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=11.

January 23

NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grant Deadline. Grants fund the implementation of innovative digital humanities projects that have successfully demonstrated their value to the field. For more information, visit www.neh.gov/grants/odh/digital-humanities-implementation-grants.

February 25-26

The Buck Starts Here Fundraising Workshop. Heritage Ohio will host this two-day fundraising workshop to help organizations improve their abilities to raise funds and receive grants. For more information, visit www.heritageohio.org.

February 27

Statehood Day. For more information, see page 5.

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 local newspapers, broadcast media, Ohio Magazine, 1-800-BUCKEYE, and, if arts related, www.ArtsinOhio.com



Listening to Your Audience

By Burt Logan, Executive Director, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

For many people history is like fruitcake – they either love it or they hate it. We will leave the merits (or demerits) of fruitcake for another discussion, but let's think for a moment what we might do to help more people at least like history, even if they may never love it to the degree that we historians do.

The more I work in and around history, the more I am convinced that if we present the past in ways that meet the needs of our visitors, the more they will warm up to history. In other words, we need to make the past meaningful and relevant. Let's look for a moment at three examples of how the delivery of history is occurring in more meaningful and relevant ways.

In October, the Ohio Historical Society accepted three Awards of Merit at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History. The story behind the development and delivery of each illustrates how people respond to history when it becomes meaningful and relevant.

Ohio as America: Ohio's Story at Your Fingertips, the new 4th grade e-textbook,

Award winners (L to R): Dina Bailey, Rich Cooper, Burt Logan, Molly Uline-Olmstead, Jason Crabill, Mark Butler, Jamie Glavic, and Stacia Kuceyeski. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

received one of the awards. As we talked with 4th grade teachers several years ago, we heard a recurring refrain – they were not satisfied with the traditional Ohio history textbook, and they were looking for a more dynamic way to engage their students in Ohio history. Our education staff assembled a development team of teachers and Ohio history experts and set about to create one of the first state history e-textbooks in the nation. Now, 4th grade teachers have a participatory textbook that uses videos, interactive maps, primary sources, and other tools that enable their students to engage with history. *Ohio As America* has been successful because we listened to what teachers needed, and we involved them in the creation of the finished product.

Another award recognized *Controversy: Pieces You Don't Normally See*. In early 2011, we began testing with visitors a concept for a new type of history museum exhibit. We tested, refined, and tested again everything from the theme of the exhibit, to the selection of the objects that would be on view, to the exhibit's title. What emerged was an exhibit where visitors were able to have an intense, personal encounter with five controversial objects, each displayed within its own mini-gallery. Visitors' initial reaction to each object was based on their own experiences rather than on reading a series of labels. After viewing all objects, visitors could read extensive historical information about each of them and write their personal feelings on a note card for other visitors to read. Many visitors commented

about the power of the exhibit and how it had helped them think differently about the past – it is very doubtful the exhibit would have achieved such a high level of meaning and relevance if we had not involved visitors in testing from start to finish.

The third award was presented to the Ohio History Service Corps (OHSC). When we began to develop this program several years ago, we consulted with a number of history organizations throughout the state. We wanted to ensure that the OHSC would meet the needs of local history in ways that would create meaning and relevance. From helping communities plan Civil War 150 observances, to digitizing collections, to conducting surveys of historic properties, the OHSC has helped countless Ohioans connect with and see history in a new light. Here again, the success of this initiative was rooted in finding out the needs of local history before designing and launching the program.

Fruitcake has to have certain ingredients or it is no longer fruitcake. Likewise, our presentation of the past must remain true to the facts as we understand them. But the way in which history is presented often determines whether the receiving parties find it to be meaningful and relevant. The more we determine the needs of our intended audiences and involve them in the creation of how the past is presented, the more people will find history to be fascinating – a fact that we historians have long known. ■