

Your State Tax Refund Can Help Promote, Preserve Local History!

Editor's note: Alliance members, please feel free to reprint this article in your organizations' newsletters now through April! It's tax time and we want you AND your organizations' members and friends to contribute to OHS's grant fund for local history.

History advocates have a new and convenient way to demonstrate their support for history and preservation in Ohio. For the first time, taxpayers will be able to donate a portion of their income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society. The 2011 Ohio individual income tax forms provide a "tax check-off" option—a blank box on which those receiving a refund can designate an amount of it for donation.

The Ohio Historical Society will use the revenue generated from the tax check-off to create a new grant program to support history-related projects throughout Ohio. These will include repair or restoration of historic properties, care for historic objects and documents, education initiatives, public programs, and more across the entire state of Ohio. The Society is busy preparing criteria for the grants program, which they expect to be unveiled in the spring.

The Ohio Historical Society income tax check-off was approved as part of the state's two-year budget that was signed into law by Gov. John R. Kasich on June 30. The Society does not know how much the new tax check-off will generate, but officials estimate it to be at least \$200,000 per year.

Please be sure to remember that tax time is also your time to support local history! ■

Welcome to the first electronic issue of *The Local Historian*!

Your Ohio Local History Alliance is pushing into the 21st century! At long last, *The Local Historian* will only be published digitally beginning with this issue. *The Local Historian* will look the same, mostly, but it will be mailed electronically using email. No paper copies of this November/December issue will be mailed. The Alliance's savings in printing and postage costs will be devoted to other services for you, the Alliance's members.

Each electronic issue will be published as a PDF file, which will look the same as the former print version of *The Local Historian* and which you'll easily be able to print yourself, for your paper copy files. Because, however, *The Local Historian* is now electronic, we can include color photographs and live web links in stories. No need for you, gentle reader, to retype a web address into to your Web browser. Just click and you're there! Color photographs will brighten each issue and make it a more enjoyable reading experience.

Although only paid-up, current members of the Alliance receive *The Local Historian*, the electronic version is your opportunity to share your membership with non-members—and to encourage them to join! Every member of an Organizational Member of the Alliance will receive *The Local Historian*, so long as their organization is a member. Every member of an organization will also

receive discounted registration fees to the Alliance's regional and annual statewide meetings. To join, see page 11.

We're glad to share this new iteration of *The Local Historian* with you. Published since the spring of 1985, *The Local Historian* brings to members of the Ohio Local History Alliance news of the field, helpful "how to" information, and notices of great programs—we inspire, we connect, and we educate. Welcome to this new, 21st century version of *The Local Historian*! ■

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** President's Message
- 3** Thanks Rep Gardner Alliance Awards
- 7** Annual Fund
- 8** AmeriCorps
- 9** Marker Grant Recipients
- 10** News from the Regions
- 11** 2012 Regional Meeting Schedule
- 12** Message from OHS Director

President's Message:

It was wonderful catching up with many of you who attended the annual meeting and conference October 7th and 8th. Once again, I was inspired by the energy and creativity you all devote to local history. In each session I attended, there were wonderful discussions occurring and ideas being shared. At lunch and in the hallways, people were meeting, greeting and reconnecting.

Thanks so much to the Worthington Historical Society for providing such a delightful evening event for us on Friday. Thanks also to the Alliance's education committee for their work on developing the conference, and to our speakers and presenters, new attendees, veteran attendees, the OHS Local History Office staff and all who helped make our conference

terrific. It was a very successful event and we're thankful for your comments on the surveys which will help us plan next year's conference.

In the meantime, we are approaching that time of year when we reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year and begin to make plans for 2012. Although the economy is not as strong as we would like, and many of us have experienced difficult budget cuts; if we continue to work together, we can help history to thrive in Ohio.

There are many exciting opportunities for us in the upcoming year. For the first time, Ohioans will be able to choose to contribute all or a portion of their state income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society for a statewide competitive

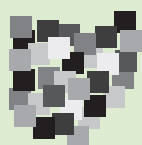
matching grants program. That's exciting! Together, we've worked hard for this moment and now it is here. Statehood Day, in a slightly different format, will offer us a few minutes to sit down face to face with decision makers and let them know why history is critical to the future of our state. And our regional meetings will begin in March, during which I hope to hear all about your important plans for 2012.

In the spirit of the Holidays, I offer my gratitude to each of you, for all you do to make our Alliance a strong one and to ensure that our past always has a future.

Christie Weininger

President, Ohio Local History Alliance
Executive Director, Wood County Historical Center & Museum, Bowling Green
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2011 Board Members Ohio Local History Alliance



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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Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60
Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35

Individuals:
Benefactors: \$50 and up
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Students: \$15
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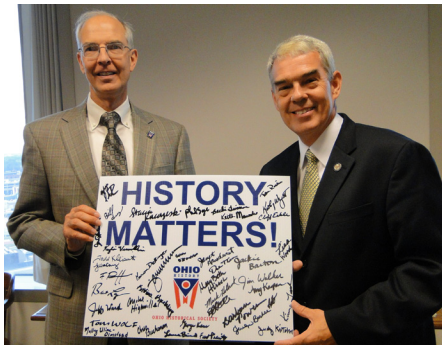
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Thanks Representative Gardner!

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



OHS Executive Director Burt Logan thanked State Rep. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) for his work in gaining legislative approval for the OHS tax check-off by visiting his office recently to present him with a "History Matters!" sign with signatures of dozens of advocates of the tax check-off. Rep. Gardner was the legislative sponsor of the tax check-off that was included in the state's two-year budget that was signed into law on June 30. The Society will use the revenue from the tax check-off to create a new competitive matching grants program for local history-related projects. The OHS tax check-off will be on the 2011 Ohio income tax forms that become available in January. More information about the grants program will be available in the January-February issue of *The Local Historian*. ■

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Congratulations! Sonja Koehler, former AmeriCorps Civil War 150 Member at the Quaker Heritage Center (Wilmington, Region 8), has been hired by the Center as the project manager for its Quaker Scenic Byway project.

Congratulations! 2011 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award Winners Perspectives

By Leianne Neff Heppner, Co-Chair, Ohio Local History Alliance Advocacy Committee & Executive Director, Summit County Historical Society, Akron

The highpoint of the second day of Ohio Local History Alliance's annual meeting was the Outstanding Achievement Awards luncheon, October 8. After a delicious lunch, eleven organizations and one very special individual were honored with the Alliance's Outstanding Achievement Awards. Individual Achievement Awards recognize those who have contributed greatly to Ohio's historical societies and to our understanding and appreciation of local and state history. History Outreach Awards shine the spotlight on outstanding history projects: public programs, exhibits, media, and publications that have advanced the ways we experience, learn from, and enjoy the past.

History Outreach Awards Organizations with Budgets under \$25,000

"Talking to Jacob," a one-act play produced by the North Canton Heritage Society Little was known about Jacob Gaskins of New Berlin (now North Canton) until the North Canton Heritage Society (NCHS) co-sponsored an effort to have an Underground Railroad marker erected to tell his story: that of a freed slave from Virginia who was the first African American resident in the area. After the marker, the NCHS felt that they needed to do more to make Mr. Gaskins come to life. Using a grant from their local Target store, the NCHS produced a play by local playwright, Lois DiGiacomo. The NCHS also created and distributed a teacher's guide and student handbook for all 3rd grade students prior to their atten-

dance at the play and turned the general public's interest in the production into a fundraising opportunity—a dinner hosted prior to a performance. During the play itself, the audience learned about Jacob and his wife, Hannah, a Quaker, and their involvement in the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War. The award committee felt this was an excellent example of public programming reaching the 3rd grade social studies benchmarks while also tying local history to national history. Accepting the award was Kathleen M. Fernandez, North Canton Heritage Society.

A Pictorial History of Russell Township, a book published by the Russell Township Historical Society

According to one member of the Russell Township Historical Society: "One evening at our monthly meeting [in 2005], while passing around newly donated pictures for our many notebooks and boxes of historic memorabilia, someone asked "What are we going to do with all this stuff we have been collecting?" Another member said, "Why don't we write a book." So, they did! After meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month for 4 years, it was delivered on Easter Monday 2010. Finally, their 304-paged, "Russell Green," cover book about the township's 200 year history was ready to share with the community. Award committee judges agreed with a statement from one of the letters of support that mentioned that this work was an "important milestone in preserving the heritage of our community." It has a great index, along with works cited sources, appendices of local officials, war veterans and photo credits. Accepting the award were Christine Livers, Jeanne Schroeder and Mary Mobilia of the Russell Township Historical Society. (continued on page 4)



Awards winners: Standing L to R: Gailmarie Fort, Eric Wheeler, Kathy Fernandez, Julie Parke, Kate Smith, Wendy Zucal, Jeanne Schroeder, Kay Fisher, Jessica Thress, John Zimkus, Tilda Philpot, Randy Winland, Anne Menefee, Bill Lawson and Christie Weininger, representing the Alliance. Sitting L to R: Elizabeth Schultz, Donna Shurr, Peg Hetrick, Mandy Pond, Christina Livers, Mary Mobilia.

(continued from page 3)

History Outreach Awards Organization with Budgets over \$25,000

“Honoring Those Who Serve: Healing Field of Flags, AVTT Traveling Vietnam Wall and APO: Shelby—A Vietnam Experience Exhibit”, public programs of the Shelby County Historical Society.

In 2008, Shelby County was suffering from divisiveness in the community, split by a school levy vote while suffering 10% unemployment. At this time, Shelby County Historical Society decided to take on the task of hosting the travelling version Vietnam Wall as part of their Vietnam Experience exhibit. The historical society board came under scrutiny for taking on such a large financial commitment of bringing the Wall to the community. It eventually received a lot of community support prompted by weekly articles in the Sidney *Daily News*, which earned the paper an Associated Press award. The end result touched the entire community. The program was completed by volunteers. On September 1, 2010, the rolling thunder of over 2,500 motorcycles escorted the Wall from Wapakoneta to

Custenboard Park in Sidney as 10,000 patriotic people lined the sides of the highway to watch the motorcade. By September 12, 2010, over 1,000 flags were waving in the wind—sold by the historical society representing past and present soldiers. The award was accepted by Tilda Philpot, Shelby County Historical Society.

“T-County History Patriot Youth Rally,” produced by the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum.

The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum created awareness and enthusiasm for history among the county’s young people as they organized what became an amazing, first-time event that drew 2,000 visitors to see and hear the stories that make up Tuscarawas County’s history. An advisory council of local partners, teachers, elected officials, volunteers and—most importantly—kids, presented the county’s multifaceted history from the Revolutionary War to World War II and everything in between. The first obstacle was finding a location where young people were already hanging out. It was decided that the “coolest place” was New Towne Mall in New Philadelphia. The council worked with the mall and decided on a February date after Valentine’s Day, so the event

would also prompt spending at the mall during a typically slow time of year. The Depot was creative in its advertising, “leaking” details during their Polar Express program, distributing flyers, shooting a spoof video for high school students and placing teasers on Facebook to “Rock Your History.” Through the assistance of great financial and creative partners, the T-County History Patriot Youth Rally provided students with the opportunity to meet over 60 organizations, 50 volunteers and more than 30 re-enactors, impersonators and presenters throughout the mall. A historic fashion show was presented alongside current day fashions and the photo contest results were posted on Facebook. One of the fun and unexpected activities of the day was the spontaneous flash mob consisting of rivals Dover and New Philadelphia High School choirs singing Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire.” This extremely successful event reached its core audience of youth in the community and next year’s is scheduled for February 2012. The award was accepted by Wendy Zucal, The Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, and Kate Smith, AmeriCorps CW150 Leadership Corps Member.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

“It’s the Best Camp I Have Ever Been To” Oberlin Heritage Center Summer Camp Programs Children’s programming has been an integral part of the Oberlin Heritage Center since 1993 when Patricia Murphy became its director. Since that time, the organization has continued to expand its services and outreach especially regarding camp programs. In 2007, Oberlin Heritage Center was able to hire a museum education and tour coordinator to take over the development and running of the camp program. Coordinator Elizabeth Schultz’s energy, creativity and experience working with high school volunteers and college interns prompted the formation of a Junior Docent Camp for students age 13-17. With social service requirements set by local schools, the staff worked to develop a program to assist the students and educate them about their local history at the same time. \$50 of the \$75 Junior Docent Camp cost was reimbursed if the student completed 15 hours of service for the Heritage Center by the end of the year. Another successful program was introduced in 2010 entitled The Local Inventors and Innovators Camp. While capturing young imaginations and exploring a lesser known side of Oberlin’s history, Schultz was able to connect the organization and students with science learning and hands-on experimentation. Staff members documented the response of attendees and their parents and they can say that “All who attend the Oberlin Heritage Center’s camps come away with a new appreciation for history in general and for local history in particular. They discover that ‘cool stuff’ is part of history.” The OLHA award judges wish that they could attend these camps! The award was accepted by Elizabeth Schultz, Oberlin Heritage Center.

The Warren County Historical Society’s *HistoricalLog* newsletter.

Due to the diligent efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Golden Lamb in Lebanon, Ohio was recognized as “Ohio’s oldest hotel” by Governor Bricker in 1940. Civic and patriotic organizations gathered to establish a local historical society as a result of this designation and their first newsletter was distributed for July–August 1943. Ten years later, the *HistoricalLog* was intro-

duced to the membership; few format changes were made to it until the 1990s. With a mission to “uncover and preserve the rich history of their county,” the newsletter has become the disseminator of the historical society’s activities and illustrated journal of the rich history in Warren County and southwest Ohio. For the winter 2011 edition, a decision was made to produce a work more scholarly in nature that would provide a more in depth and informative look at individuals, places and events that helped form and sustain the region. Articles are written by the museum curator, assistant curator, archeologist-in-residence and historian. Newer residents to the area state that it is a “great vehicle for us to learn about, appreciate and explore further the colorful history of Warren County.” School teachers use the information for students because it’s relevant to traditions and legacies of local heritage while also teaching important civic principles. The award was accepted by John Zimkus, Warren County Historical Society.

Marion County Historical Society’s School Activity Book. Teachers in Marion area requested instructional and reference materials focusing on content standards. This material had to be historically accurate, easily incorporated into classroom instruction, and readily available for school districts with limited financial resources. *The Marion County Historical Activity Book* is a result of these requests and a need to provide a book on Marion’s history that would appeal to a general audience and help provide revenue to MCHS. Project developer Randy Winland collaborated with five retired elementary school teachers, local artists, a graphic designer and the director of Marion County Historical Society starting in October 2010. Within six weeks, they had a draft version of a publication to meet the Ohio Department of Education Academic Content Standards for Social Studies, grades 3 and 4. Each elementary school was provided with two free copies. The workbook was highlighted in the *Marion Star* newspaper and on local radio just in time to hit the holiday shopping season. And, the best news is that the entire work was funded by sponsors and produced at no cost to the historical society. All sales profits go directly to the organization. Educators say

that it is a “real service to the community and helped them fill the gaps when teaching Marion and Marion County history.” Receiving the award was Randy Winland, Marion County Historical Society.

Stan Hywet Magazine by Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron publishes a four-color magazine twice a year. The visually appealing work is mailed to each member household with additional copies distributed by the marketing and development teams or as guest mementos. This publication has become Stan Hywet’s most complete promotional vehicle allowing them to stay in touch with members, potential donors and promotional partners. Featured stories focus on history, architecture, gardens and preservation of the estate. A detailed calendar of events that members and guests can use to plan visits to the property for tours and special programs is also provided. Designed, written and edited by the in-house marketing team, *Stan Hywet Magazine’s* compelling graphics and engaging photos produce a result that is specifically tailored to this organization. Award judges enjoyed the article from the spring publication entitled “The Power of Innovation,” linking the Seiberling family and their rubber manufacturing companies to the innovation and pioneering spirit of the era. The committee also wanted to highlight the numerous articles focusing on planned giving, tribute gifts and contributions to the annual fund. We could learn from their tactful expression of financial requirements and needs in a way that will draw the attention of potential donors. Accepting the award was Gailmarie K. Fort, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.

Exhibit: “Equal in Goodness: Ohio Decorative Arts 1788-1860”, by the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.

Andrew Richmond, curator of this exhibit, and the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster provide for us an exemplary model for public-private partnership. The partners brought together resources, talent and expertise from the Decorative Art Center, Garth’s Auctions in Delaware and a wide range of private collectors and specialists. “Equal in Goodness” focused exclusively on Ohio-made objects including furniture, metalware, (continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

glassware, ceramics, quilts, coverlets and samplers along with a few paintings, prints and maps. The exhibit debunks the myths of early frontier life filled with leather fringed clothing, coonskin caps and log cabins. Early Ohio was populated by settlers who had strong cultural ties to other places and they brought with them an established sense of style. Decorative art objects can offer some of the most compelling evidence of the cultural origins of both their makers and their users. Research conducted for the exhibition catalog revealed that within a decade, the multi-ethnic population of Ohio was constructing fine homes and public buildings, and creating beautiful decorative arts. Featuring over 200 artifacts from “individuals who came west seeking a better life,” “Equal in Goodness” text, labeling, and the exhibition catalog produced a visually appealing look at early 19th century Ohio. The award was accepted by Julie Parke, director of the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio.

Exhibit: “Pottery Discoveries at Union Village: Unearthing a Shaker Industry,” by the Warren County Historical Society. Union Village was the only known Shaker community that sold pottery to produce revenue. The earliest mention of pottery sales in the area was 1813, in reference to pipe production. The last evidence of their works dates to 1851. In 2005, the Ohio Department of Transportation began excavations in the area as part of a road alignment project. Due to the historical importance of the site, an archaeological review was necessary to extract artifacts and record data. The exhibit that Warren County Historical Society developed includes the items collected on this dig. The first task required accessioning and categorizing all the shards and one red earthenware jar, mostly intact. Artifacts already in the historical society collection were instrumental in documentation and comparison purposes. They were able to construct a Shaker style cabinet similar to those made in Union Village to display these artifacts with descriptive and comprehensive labels. Text was enhanced with examples of sales ads from period newspapers. Photographs and maps were also used to provide more detail as to how the

pottery work was completed and where the kilns were located. The exhibit was made possible with assistance from local philanthropic organizations. The award was accepted by Jessica Thress, Warren County Historical Society.

Massillon Museum Storage Renovation Project and Velma B. Erwin Research Room. Massillon Museum is an art and history museum located in the center of downtown Massillon. Besides carrying out basic museum functions of collecting, exhibiting, preserving and educating, the organization has a responsibility for creating access to its collections. In 1996, the museum moved into its current structure, an historic 1930s art deco building with 3rd floor storage. It was an ineffective use of space without adequate monitoring or storage for collections. By 2004, improvement of the collections storage area became top priority. The staff put together a step-by-step plan, wrote a new collections management policy, and participated in the Collections Assessment Program (CAP) to determine short and long-term goals for improvements to the collections. Staff began assessing environmental conditions and needs in 2005, and the museum was successful in securing the first of two Conservation Project Support (CPS) grants from the Institute of Museum and Library services (IMLS) for the planning storage renovation. The curator spent three summers taking coursework in collections care from the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation which helped to leverage additional funding. IMLS awarded a second CPS grant to purchase storage equipment for the new space in 2009. It was complemented by a state designation from the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission to fund all hard costs associated with the project including a new HVAC system. Contract work started December 14, 2009 and construction was completed the following December. It is the hope of the Massillon Museum staff that their collections storage renovation project serve as an example to other institutions in Northeast Ohio of how to implement best practices in collections care. The award was accepted by Mandy Pond, of the Massillon Museum.

Individual Achievement Award

Kay Fisher, Executive Director, Clinton County History Center.

Kay started out as a Region 7 representative for the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (now Ohio Local History Alliance) in 2000. The regions were realigned in 2002, so Kay moved over to Region 8 and continued on the board until 2003. Kay returned to the board in 2004 as its secretary, and she served in this role from 2005 until this year.

With a Masters of Science in Business, she was hired as the director of the Clinton County Historical Society in 1997. Through Kay’s tenure, the Rombach home, the society’s museum was expanded to add a community meeting room, a large research library, and upgraded to make the entire structure ADA compliant. Through her leadership, Clinton County Historical Society has also displayed a number of special exhibits from “Undiscovered,” looking at Victorian ladies undergarments, to “The Power of the Purse”, featuring vintage purses from the historical society collection.

As the head of a not-for-profit that does not receive county or city funding, Kay has been working diligently to make the public aware of the Clinton County History Center’s role in the community preserving gems of the region such as historic photographs; assisting with genealogical research and housing artifacts unique to Clinton County. Kay can also be found giving presentations to organizations and schools sharing the stories of the people from her region. These stories along with the artifacts that represent them are what she refers to as the museum’s most valuable items. Her story of perseverance and skill is important to Clinton Historical Society, the Ohio Local History Alliance and to history in Ohio. ■

Support the Ohio Local History Alliance's Annual Fund

By Christie Weininger, President, Ohio Local History Alliance & Executive Director, Wood County Historical Center & Museum, Bowling Green

Thanksgiving might just be my favorite holiday. It is an energizing time spent with the most important people in my life. And, at some point in between the big meal, the ferocious Euchre games, and the hearty laughter over family stories that have been told dozens of times, I make sure to reflect on all I am thankful for.

One of the things I've started doing after each Thanksgiving dinner is writing down the stories that are told at the table. It will be interesting to see how they change (or don't!) over the years. My family has two types of people, storytellers and listeners. For most of my life, I was a listener. My great-grandmother was a devout Democrat for one very specific reason: President Roosevelt brought electricity to the family farm. And she loved to tell that story. My grandfather (a steadfast Republican by the way) served in the Navy in World War II and likes to tell stories about the men on his ship who had never been out of Ohio and were now sailing the South Pacific.

Recording my family's stories naturally leads me to another "thankful." These stories are the reason why I wanted to make a career in public history. And my career was made possible by the Ohio Local History Alliance.

I first became aware of the Alliance when I was an undergraduate student. The number one question history students get asked is "What are you gonna do with a history degree?" I did not want to teach in a traditional sense; but I hadn't a clue what my other options were. At the suggestion of a faculty member, I went to my first Ohio Local History Alliance (known then as OAHSM) annual meeting in the fall of 1992 and was thrilled to meet people who were as excited about saving and sharing local history as I was. The following summer, I was accepted into the Alliance's Internship Program. I spent three months in the basement of a local history organization learning how to catalog photos. And I loved it. I was *inspired* by the efforts of local historians to preserve their history; I felt *connected* to them and to the people whose items I was cataloging and researching; and I appreciated the opportunity I was given to become more *educated* about the functions and responsibilities of a local history organization. And then I knew that this is exactly what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my working life.

I'm grateful to my family for giving me the stories that inspired me to seek a career in history. And I'm thankful for the Ohio Local History Alliance that provided me with the tools to make my career a reality. After that first internship back in

1992, I went on to do two more internships through the Alliance, which brought some terrific people into my life who became outstanding mentors. I would not be where I am without the connections and education I gained through my association with the Alliance.

Today, as director of the Wood County Historical Center and president of the Ohio Local History Alliance, I am awed by the perseverance, ambition and wisdom of our members and those who serve on our board of trustees. I am constantly turning to the Alliance's resources, be they workshops or people, for assistance. There are many threats and challenges to local history, but with a group like the Ohio Local History Alliance standing up on behalf of all of us, there's no limit to what we can accomplish.

You can help ensure that our Alliance continues to inspire, connect and educate! The Alliance provides educational workshops, technical tools and a strong voice to speak up for local history. The Alliance connects and inspires all of us to do what we do even better. Please join me in making a contribution to our Alliance's Annual Fund drive, so that we can continue to make sure that our past always has a future. ■

I _____ (name) am pleased to make the following unrestricted gift/pledge to the 2011 Ohio Local History Alliance Annual Fund Campaign to help support general operating expenses and special projects.

GIFT INFORMATION

___ A check for \$ _____ made payable to the Ohio Local History Alliance is enclosed.

___ Please charge \$ _____ to my: ___ American Express ___ Discover ___ MasterCard ___ VISA

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Name _____

For recognition purposes, list my/our name(s) as indicated (please print): _____

___ I wish to remain anonymous.

Please detach the form and send with your gift to: Ohio Local History Alliance
Annual Fund
c/o Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office
800 East 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211-2497

Ohio History Service Corps a Success!

AmeriCorps Program Provides Much Needed Support to Local History and Career Development for Volunteers

By Kristina Kuehling, Program Coordinator, Ohio Civil War 150, Local History Office, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

The Ohio Historical Society is excited to announce that the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism awarded the Society with a second grant to continue the nation's first statewide history AmeriCorps program, Ohio History Service Corps, from October 2011 to September 2012. The Ohio Historical Society and its statewide partners developed the Ohio History Service Corps in 2010 to promote sustainable community development and heritage tourism in Ohio. The program was a success with twenty members serving across the state "to get things done" on initiatives ranging from preservation efforts to digitizing collections to commemorating the Civil War sesquicentennial. Thanks to OHS partners and supporters, the members were able to engage and educate thousands of Ohioans in local communities about our great state's history. The members gained invaluable experience acquiring skills in exhibit and event planning, collections care, volunteer management, public speaking, meeting facilitation, historic preservation and leadership. Many of our members received valuable work experience that helped them land jobs in local museums and community organizations while others are returning for a second year of service or planning on graduate degrees.



Our 2010-2011 AmeriCorps members! L-R, Back-Nick Napoli, Katie Dallos, Matthew Strobel, Aaron Booth, Katlyn Smith, Devin Miles, Amy Rohmiller, Chris Truex, Jodie McFarland. Front- Jessica Wobig, Callie McCune, Rachel Doddato, Sonja Koehler, Jen Gariety, Emily VanDoren, Karyn Norwood, Carla Zikursh. Not Pictured: Jessica Wilhelmus

Twenty-one new members of the Ohio History Service Corps are settling into their regions and are eager to assist local communities and historical organizations. The Ohio History Service Corps consists of three components: Civil War 150 Leadership Corps, to initiate educational programming and regional special events; Ohio History Tech Corps, to provide digitization of historic resources and develop an oral history program; and Historic Preservation Corps, to inventory historic buildings, support community revitalization, and assist local preservation initiatives.

To find out more about the AmeriCorps service members, visit www.ohiocivilwar150.org/ameriCorps. The following 2011-2012 partners and host sites are helping make this program possible:

Columbus Landmarks Commission: www.columbuslandmarks.org
Dennison RR Depot: <http://dennisondepot.org>
Downtown Mansfield: www.downtownmansfield.com
Heritage Ohio: www.heritageohio.org
National Underground RR Freedom Center: www.freedomcenter.org
Oberlin Heritage Center: www.oberlinheritage.org
Logan Co. Historical Society: www.logancountymuseum.org
Perry Co. Historical Society: www.perrycountyohiohistory.org
Preservation Ohio: <http://preserveohio.com>
Quaker Heritage Center: www.wilmington.edu/qhc
Sunday Creek
Maritime Museum: www.sandusky-maritime.org
Wood Co. Historical Center: www.woodcountymuseum.org
YSU: <http://web.ysu.edu>



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Resources for Planning Local History Internships

Building Connections

By Megan Wood, Visitor Experience Department Manager, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

Internships are important to the field of history. It is a way to nurture new professionals and to get needed help with projects. The experience of interns varies widely from location to location. The Building Connections project analyzed the state of internships in Ohio through a statewide survey, site visits, and a summit meeting of stakeholder groups. In response, project partners built a website with some best practices, resources and tips. The project looks at the three main audiences for internships- host sites, students, and supervising faculty.

The resources can be found online at <http://internships.ohiolha.org/>. Written by a group of students, college faculty, and staff at libraries and historical societies, local historical societies can find guidelines for hosting interns. There is also information to assess whether a site is ready to host an intern and how to evaluate the experience.

There are also links to model internship programs and examples of handbooks that other organizations have published. This web resource will continue to act as a clearinghouse for material about history-related internships.

Building Connections is a project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a partnership between the Ohio Local History Alliance, the Ohio Historical Society, and Kent State University. The Building Connections website was created in partnership with Cleveland State University. ■

Grant Recipients October 2011 Ohio Historical Marker Grant Program

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

The Ohio Historical Markers Grants Committee had a tough job of it for the October 2011 grant round. The committee received fifteen applications for 5 grants. The 5 marker applications that received grants were

Camp Hutchins, Trumbull County. As Ohio and the nation commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, this marker will denote the location of a Union army training camp in Warren, named for local Congressman John Hutchins.

Camp Meigs, Tuscarawas County. This marker will tell the story of another Civil War era camp, in Dover, that was the mustering in point for the 51st and 80th regiments of Ohio Volunteer Infantry in 1861.

First Chartered Girl Scout Council, Lucas County. Marker will be about the Toledo Girl Scout Council. It was the first officially chartered Girl Scout Council in the nation and comprised approximately 550 girls.

Mother of Fraternities, Butler County. On the campus of Miami University in Oxford, this marker will honor the university's place as the origin for many

Greek letter fraternities at colleges west of the Allegheny Mountains in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Ruth Lyons, Hamilton County. Marker will be about Ruth Lyons, pioneering Cincinnati broadcaster and businesswoman, who was best known for her television talk show, *The 50-50 Club*, and for her signature charity, The Ruth Lyons Children's Fund.

Marker grants can defray up to \$750 of marker's price, which range from a total of \$2,200 - \$2,500 (exclusive of custom art work). Grant applications are due every April 1 and October 1 and the next deadline for a Marker Grant is April 1, 2012. Local sponsors are not however obligated to apply for grants and marker applications are welcome year 'round. For more information, go to www.remarkableohio.org or contact the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878 or bsuch@ohiohistory.org. ■

Creating an e-mail account is simple, quick and FREE!

Need an email account? We recommend using Google's e-mail account, called Gmail, because it is simple to use and it provides a wide array of online features. They include a calendar that you can share with staff and your audience, a page to monitor local news (for example: to monitor what the local newspaper is saying about your organization), and a way to share documents with coworkers and your patrons, create mailing lists, and more.

To create a Google account:

- 1) Open up your Internet web browser (could be called Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Google Chrome, or Opera)
- 2) Then copy or type in the following web address, <https://mail.google.com/mail/signup>, and press the Enter key.
- 3) Fill out the form at <https://mail.google.com/mail/signup> to create an account.
- 4) Need help? For step-by-step instructions on creating an account, watch the video provided on the following YouTube page: <http://youtu.be/aBZPRjxtK4k>.

Gmail is free so you can create an e-mail account for your organization and for yourself. To set up an account for your organization, you need to follow the same process above but we recommend creating an e-mail address with your organization's name in it (for example: ohiohistoricalsociety@gmail.com) and then sharing the password with your coworkers so they can access e-mails. If you forget your password, you will need to answer your security question that you created when filling

out the form and, if answered correctly, you can change your password. Once you create an account, don't be afraid to experiment with the features! Click on every button and explore it; it is virtually impossible to "break" your e-mail account or do anything that cannot be reversed. To learn more about how to use Google's many features such as Google Docs, which allows you to create Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, and more, watch the following video: <http://youtu.be/bOQQPoWkTRE>.

If at any time you want to delete your Google account, visit: <http://www.google.com/support/accounts/bin/answer.py?answer=61177>.

Don't like Gmail option? There are other e-mail account options:

Yahoo – Go to <https://edit.yahoo.com/registration> to fill out the form and create an account

Hotmail – Go to www.hotmail.com to create an account

For more information on creating an e-mail account, contact OHS's Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878. ■

Thank you Renewing Members

Individual

Martha J. Burk, Columbus
Carl T. Engel, Painesville
Gerald R. Grimes, Minerva
Norman Hayes
Stephanie Keen, Kettering
Trella H. Romine, Caledonia
Elmer Schulz, Stow
Janet Thobaben, Centerville

Organizations

AB Graham Memorial Center Museum, Conover
Ashland University, Ashland
Ashville Area Heritage Society, Ashville
Belmont County Historical Society, Barnesville
Blanchester Area Historical Society, Blanchester
Boardman Historical Society, Youngstown
Bremen Area Historical Society, Lancaster
Bristol Historical Society, Bristol
Brunswick Area Historical Society, Brunswick
Canal Fulton Public Library, Canal Fulton
Canal Winchester Area Historical Society, Canal Winchester
Canfield Heritage Foundation, Canfield
City of Defiance, Defiance
Cleveland State University, History Dept, Cleveland
Clintonville Historical Society, Columbus
Columbia Historical Society, Inc., Columbia Station
Denison Museum, Granville
Edison Birthplace Association, Milan
Enon Community Historical Society, Enon
Evendale Historical Commission, Cincinnati
Fairview Park Historical Society, Fairview Park
Firelands Historical Society, Norwalk
Fulton County Historical Society, Wauseon
Garnet A. Wilson Public Library of Pike County, Waverly
Gates Mills Historical Society, Gates Mills
German Culture Museum, Walnut Creek
Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society, Columbus
Grand Rapids Historical Society, Grand Rapids
Granger Historical Society, Medina
Greater Loveland Historical Society & Museum, Loveland
Hinckley Historical Society, Hinckley
Jackson Historical Society, Jackson
Lake County Historical Society, Painesville
Lakeside Heritage Society, Inc. Lakeside
Licking County Historical Society, Newark
Lisbon Historical Society, Lisbon
Lucy Hayes Heritage Center, Chillicothe
Lynchburg Historical Society, Lynchburg
Maple Heights Historical Society, Maple Heights
Mariemont Preservation Foundation, Cincinnati
Marlboro Twp. Historical Society, Hartsville
Maumee Valley Historical Society, Maumee
Morgan County Historical Society, McConnelsville

North Fairfield Firelands Historical Society, North Fairfield
Oxford Museum Association, Oxford
Pickaway County Historical & Genealogical Society, Circleville
Progress Through Preservation, Akron
Richfield Historical Society, Richfield
Riverside Historical Society, Riverside
Roseville Historical Society, Roseville
Sandusky Library/Follett House Museum, Sandusky
Springfield Township Historical Society, Petersburg
Tallmadge Historical Society, Tallmadge
Tippecanoe Historical Society, Tipp City
Toledo History Museum, Inc., Toledo
Union County Historical Society, Marysville
We've Known Rivers, Canal Winchester
West Carrollton Historical Society, West Carrollton
West Licking Historical Society, Pataskala
Willoughby Hills Historical Society, Willoughby Hills
Windsor Historical Society, Windsor
Wood County Historical Center & Museum, Bowling Green
Wyoming Historical Society, Wyoming
Zoar Community Association, Zoar

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 averhoff@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

From its newsletter, the *Black Swamp Chanticleer*: "The **Wood County Historical Center** has partnered with a local technology firm, Techtol Imaging, the produce 3D images of its artifact collection. The images will be made available online as a part of a larger database of 3D images.... The museum will benefit from the project in several ways. Since the images are hosted on a free website, visitors

for any part of the world will have access to our collection. These images will also be useful in the many presentations given by museum staff. Due to their fragile nature, the [Center is] unable to take artifacts out for field trips and presentations. Instead, we can use these image files." For more about the Wood County Historical Center and the project, go to www.woodcountyhistory.org and www.3dtoad.com

Region 2

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

The second annual GroveFest fundraising event at the **Rutherford B Hayes Presidential Center** in Fremont netted a profit of more than \$50,000. That's \$10,000 more than last year's event. Held July 30, the event included Bluegrass music concerts throughout the day, a classic car show, and a croquet tournament. These events were free. A ticketed evening gala, Bid at the Grove, welcomed 140 guests for a fundraising auction. A 29-person GroveFest committee organized the event. For more information, go to www.rbhayes.org

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Lorain County Historical Society** in Elyria achieved an important milestone. The society exceeded the goal of its By the Light of a Star capital campaign by approximately \$4,000. The campaign's goal was \$1.6 million and its purpose was to raise funds for the organization's new history center. The campaign credits its success to a challenge grant from Bettcher Industries and its match by 30 other donors, led by LCHS board member Ivan Johnson. For more information about the Lorain County Historical Society, go to www.lchs.org

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Trumbull County Historical Society** in Warren has had three interns from the history department at Youngstown State University recently: Ben Winings, Melissa McGowan, and Randy Ebert. All three gained experience using PastPerfect collections management software to catalog the Society's collection and in the process learned those collection handling techniques vital for the safety and long term preservation of historical artifacts. The interns also completed other tasks for the society, such as leading school tours, mounting artifacts for exhibit, and cataloging the society's extensive collection of books and other printed materials. For more about the Trumbull County Historical Society, visit: www.trumbullcountyhistory.org

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

Region 7

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

The Jacob Kercher Cabin was the home of an early American settler in Miamisburg. The structure is now the home of many of the programs of the **Miamisburg Historical Society**. The society recently raised upwards of \$40,000 to support the ongoing renovation of the house and the purchase of surrounding property. The society generated \$10,000 from its members and, through the generosity of the Miamisburg Rotary Club, was able to take advantage of a local matching grant. The society also received a \$10,000 grant from the Dayton Power and Light Company. For more on the Kercher Cabin and the Miamisburg Historical Society, go to http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm

Region 8

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

The **Wyoming Historical Society** is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding. This all-volunteer organization was established in November 1981 to collect, preserve, and share the history of Wyoming, Ohio, just north of Cincinnati. The society is accomplishing its mission in a variety of ways: talks, walking tours, house tours, in-class presentations for area schools, and the society's newsletter—to name but a few. For more on the Wyoming Historical Society, visit www.wyoming.oh.us and click on "Community/Religious Organizations"

Region 9

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

The **Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau** in Athens has posted on its Website the locations and a driving tour of historical markers in the county. Go to www.athensohio.com/whattodo/516 to learn more. The webpage also includes links to the **Athens County Historical Society and Museum** at www.athenshistory.org/ and to the official, statewide list of Ohio Historical Markers at www.remarkableohio.org.

Region 10

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

Congratulations! The **Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County** in Zanesville received the **Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area's** "Community Heritage Award" in August. The award recognizes the society for outstanding leadership and contributions towards the protection, preservation, and appropriate development of heritage, culture, and sense

of place in Ohio's Hill Country. The OHCHA encompasses 31 counties in southeast Ohio and is one of six heritage areas in the state. For more information about the OHCHA, go to www.ohiohillcountry.org. For more about the programs of the Pioneer and

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 bimonthly 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 bimonthly issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates. To join go to www.ohiohistory.org/resource/oahsm/members.html.

ON THE WEB

The War of 1812

www.warof1812.ohio.gov

Launched in October, this is the official website of the Ohio War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. The site includes, among other content, links to historical information about the war, a calendar of events, 1812-era sites open to public, and a record of Commission activities. The site is updated regularly, so visitors are encouraged to check in often or to subscribe to its RSS feed.



Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Ohio Local History Alliance meeting in your region. Two meetings per day are scheduled, except for Regions 9 and 10, which is hosting a combined meeting. Watch your mail and the Alliances website (www.ohiolha.org) in February 2012 for the regional meeting brochure, which will describe the content of each meeting and include a registration form. The year 2012's theme for the Alliance meeting is *Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century*.

March 17, 2012

Regions 5 & 7
(two meetings per day)

Region 5: Dennison Rail Road Depot Museum, Dennison

Region 7: Cridersville Historical Society, Cridersville

March 24, 2012

Regions 6 & 8
(two meetings per day)

Region 6: Franklin County Genealogical & Historical Society, Grove City

Region 8: Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon

March 31, 2012

Regions 9 & 10 combined Belmont County Historical Society, Barnesville

April 07, 2012

Easter weekend, no meetings

April 14, 2012

Regions 2 & 3
(two meetings per day)

Region 2: Marion County Historical Society, Marion

Region 3: Berea Historical Society, Berea

April 21, 2012

Regions 1 & 4
(two meetings per day)

Region 1: Stryker Area Heritage Council, Stryker

Region 4: Geauga County Historical Society, Burton



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

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Beyond Historical Things to Historical *People*

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

The late Stephen Weil, former Deputy Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, observed that museums must move beyond “being about something to being for somebody.” A recent celebration illustrated this point perfectly.

In August the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum celebrated its designation as a National Historic Landmark with a gala. It would have been all too easy to focus on the Landmark status itself – the thick application, the seemingly endless testimony before review panels, and the highly envied, stately plaque.

Yes, it would have been so tempting to make the gala about “something.”

Instead, the celebration did the opposite. After brief remarks by Dennison mayor Teri Edwards and by Wendy Zucal, director of the museum, a video explaining the historic importance of the Depot and the long, winding path to restoration and NHL designation was shown. Then, singing “God Bless America”, the audience rose to their feet and a procession of school children carrying American flags marched down the aisles as the stage curtain opened to reveal dozens of WW II veterans and canteen workers, each smiling and waving proudly.

They were the remnant of the nearly 4,000 canteen volunteers from an eight-county area who,

between 1942 and 1946, served coffee, sandwiches, cookies, and an encouraging smile to 1.3 million service men and women whose trains stopped briefly at the depot. The local hospitality was so overwhelming that servicemen gave the nickname “Dreamsville” to Dennison. These were the heroes, the “somebodies,” who earned and deserved National Historic Landmark status. ■