



### Alliance Regional Meetings

**March 31** **Regions 9 & 10**  
(combined)  
Belmont County Historical Society, Barnesville  
[www.barnesvilleohio.com/belmontcountymuseum](http://www.barnesvilleohio.com/belmontcountymuseum)

**April 07** **Easter Weekend**  
no meetings

**April 14** **Regions 2 & 3**  
(two meetings per day)  
**Reg. 2:**  
Marion County Historical Society, Marion  
<http://mchs.hb2web.net/>  
**Reg. 3:**  
Berea Historical Society, Berea  
[www.bereahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bereahistoricalsociety.org)

**April 21** **Region 1 & 4**  
(two meetings per day)  
**Reg. 1:**  
Stryker Area Heritage Council, Stryker  
<http://www.strykerahc.org>  
**Reg. 4:**  
Century Village of the Geauga County Historical Society, Burton  
<http://geaugahistorical.org>

# 2012 Regional Meetings Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century



By Kristina Kuehling,  
Development Officer,  
Ohio Historical Society,  
Columbus

The Ohio Local History Alliance is off to a great start in 2012 with exciting new plans for Alliance members and friends. Plans to outdo the Alliance's great 2011 state-wide annual meeting are already in the works, the Ohio Historical Society's new History Fund matching grant program for local historical and historic preservation organizations is gearing up, and the Alliance will  
*(Continued on page 3)*

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** President's Message
- 3** Your Tax Refund Making History
- 4** People in the News
- 5** Dear Local Historian
- 6** Tax Refund Article
- 7** *Journey Stories*
- 8** Outta Space
- 9** History Day/Facebook
- 10** News from Regions
- 12** Certification and StEPs

## President's Message:

As in nature, winter is a time when many local historians slow down a bit, and focus on planning all those spectacular programs that will burst forth in the spring. Don't miss out on great opportunities to be inspired, to make connections, and to enrich yourself by attending the Alliance's highly educational spring regional meetings. You'll find more information about the meetings on page 1. The number one thing that comes through in evaluations of regional meetings is the value of networking. We all like to hear what our colleagues are up to. Hearing about their activities gives us new ideas, or ways out of conundrums that we may be facing at our organizations. Of course, we have the chance to

learn from our peers, too, at the many panel sessions and workshops at the meetings.

In addition to networking, you'll also learn about a new and never before available grant program, the History Fund. The History Fund is a grant program created by the Ohio Historical Society that will benefit history organizations, like yours and mine, across the state. Articles on pages 3 and 6 share a few details about the program. This spring, as the majority of Ohioans are working on filing their state tax returns, the main thing to remember is this: Many donations = large grant fund = cool history projects all over the state. The more Ohioans who check the OHS box and

designate all, or a portion, of their refund to the Ohio Historical Society, the more projects The History Fund will be able to support. OHS has promised to create this grant fund for us since it first proposed the "tax check off" in 2006. Now we have it—let's build it up!

**Christie Weininger**  
President, Ohio Local History Alliance  
Executive Director, Wood County Historical Center & Museum, Bowling Green  
(419) 352-0967, [director@woodcountyhistory.org](mailto:director@woodcountyhistory.org)

## 2011 Board Members Ohio Local History Alliance

**President**  
**Christie Weininger**, Director  
Wood County Historical Center & Museum  
Bowling Green  
(419) 352-0967 (office)  
[director@woodcountyhistory.org](mailto:director@woodcountyhistory.org)  
<http://www.woodcountyhistory.org>

**1st Vice President**  
**Maggie Marconi**, Museum Administrator  
Sandusky Library/Follett House Museum  
Sandusky  
(419) 625-3834 (office)  
[mmarconi@sandusky.lib.oh.us](mailto:mmarconi@sandusky.lib.oh.us)  
[http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/follett\\_house](http://www.sandusky.lib.oh.us/follett_house)

**2nd Vice President**  
**Beth Weinhardt**, Coordinator  
Anti-Saloon League Museum, Westerville  
(614) 882-7277, Ext 160 (office)  
[bweinhar@westervillelibrary.org](mailto:bweinhar@westervillelibrary.org)  
<http://westervillelibrary.org/local-history>

**Secretary**  
**Nancy Sams**, President  
Belpre Historical Society, Belpre  
(740) 423-7382 (office)  
[sams5myway@suddenlink.net](mailto:sams5myway@suddenlink.net)

**Treasurer**  
**Kathleen Fernandez**, Director  
North Canton Heritage Society  
North Canton  
(330) 494-4791 (office)  
[ncantonheritage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncantonheritage@sbcglobal.net)  
<http://www.northcantonheritage.org>

**Trustees-At-Large**  
**Joy Armstrong**, Director  
Sylvania Historical Village, Sylvania  
(419) 882-4865 (office)  
[hist.village@sev.org](mailto:hist.village@sev.org)  
<http://www.cityofsylvania.com/default.aspx?namespace=CityOfSylvania.Home.Discover-Sylvania.SylvaniaHistory.HistoricalVillage>

**Ruth Dobyns**, Curator  
Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington  
College, Wilmington  
(937) 382-6661, Ext 719 (office)  
[ruth\\_dobyns@wilmington.edu](mailto:ruth_dobyns@wilmington.edu)  
<http://www2.wilmington.edu/qhc>

**Wendy Zucal**, Director  
Dennison Railroad Dept Museum  
Dennison  
(740) 922-6776  
[director@dennisondepot.org](mailto:director@dennisondepot.org)  
<http://dennisondepot.org>

**Immediate Past-President**  
**Pat Murphy**, Director  
Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O., Oberlin  
(440) 774-1700 (office)  
[patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org)  
<http://www.oberlinheritage.org>

**Ex-Officio (Executive Secretary)**  
**Jackie Barton**, Director  
Education & Outreach Services  
Ohio Historical Society, Columbus  
(614) 297-2228 (office)  
[jbarton@ohiohistory.org](mailto:jbarton@ohiohistory.org)  
<http://www.ohiohistory.org>

**Region 1**  
**Randy Brown**, Curator  
Wood County Historical Society  
Bowling Green  
(419) 352-0967 (office)  
[curator@woodcountyhistory.org](mailto:curator@woodcountyhistory.org)  
<http://woodcountyhistory.org>

**Janet Rozick**, Instructor  
University of Toledo, Toledo  
[jkenedy26@hotmail.com](mailto:jkenedy26@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.utoledo.edu/lhs/history/index.html>

**Region 2**  
**Kathleen Addlesperger**, Trustee  
Richland County Museum, Lexington  
(614) 645-6937 (office)  
[Kathleen@richlandcountymuseum.org](mailto:Kathleen@richlandcountymuseum.org)  
<http://www.richlandcountymuseum.org>

**Brenda Stultz**, Curator  
Clyde Heritage League, Clyde  
(419) 547-7946 (office)  
[bjstultz@embarqmail.com](mailto:bjstultz@embarqmail.com)  
<http://www.clydeheritageleague.org>

**Region 3**  
**Leianne Neff Heppner**, Director  
Summit County Historical Society, Akron  
(330) 535-1120 (office)  
[leianne@summithistory.org](mailto:leianne@summithistory.org)  
<http://www.summithistory.org>

**Craig Holbert**, Archivist  
University of Akron, Uniontown  
(330) 972-7670 (office)  
[holbert@uakron.edu](mailto:holbert@uakron.edu)  
<http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/archives>

**Region 4**  
**Bill Lawson**, Director  
Mahoning Valley Historical Society  
Youngstown  
(330) 743-2589 (office)  
[hwlawson@mahoninghistory.org](mailto:hwlawson@mahoninghistory.org)  
<http://www.mahoninghistory.org>

**Region 5**  
**Kim Jurkovic**, Interim Director  
Dover Historical Society, Dover  
(800) 815-2794 / (330) 343-7040 (office)  
[kjurko@roadrunner.com](mailto:kjurko@roadrunner.com)  
<http://www.doverhistory.org>

**Kate Smith**, Director  
Spring Hill Historic Home, Massillon  
(330) 833-6749  
[director@springhillhistoricalhome.org](mailto:director@springhillhistoricalhome.org)  
<http://springhillhistoricalhome.org>

**Region 6**  
**Christie Evans**, Trustee  
Gahanna Historical Society, Gahanna  
(614) 476-0371  
[Evansc76@gmail.com](mailto:Evansc76@gmail.com)  
<http://gahannahistory.com>

**Jim Gibson**, Director  
Knox County Historical Society  
Mt. Vernon  
(740) 393-5247 (office)  
[jlgibson@scr.net](mailto:jlgibson@scr.net)  
<http://www.knoxhistory.org>

**Region 7**  
**Vickie Bondi**, Director  
Centerville-Washington Township  
Historical Society, Centerville  
(937) 433-0123 (office)  
[Vickiecwths@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Vickiecwths@sbcglobal.net)  
<http://www.mvcc.net/centerville/histsoc>

**Todd McCormick**, Curator/Director  
Logan County Historical Society  
Bellefontaine  
(937) 593-7557 (office)  
[logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com](mailto:logancomuseumtodd@embarqmail.com)  
<http://www.logancountymuseum.org>

**Region 8**  
**Region 9**  
**Margaret Parker**, President  
Meigs County Historical Society, Pomeroy  
(740) 992-3810  
[meigscohistorical@frontier.com](mailto:meigscohistorical@frontier.com)  
<http://meigscohistorical.org>

**Michael Stroth**, Trustee  
Jackson Historical Society, Jackson  
(740) 978-8021  
[michaelstroth@yahoo.com](mailto:michaelstroth@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.jacksonhistoricalsociety.org>

**Region 10**  
**Jessica E. Goodnite**, Education Director  
The Castle, Marietta  
(740) 373-4180 (office)  
[castle.marietta@gmail.com](mailto:castle.marietta@gmail.com)  
<http://mariettacastle.org>

## YOUR tax refund can MAKE HISTORY

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

### “Contributing” means other activities, too:

- Take and wear a free button about the program at the regional meetings—and take one for a friend.
- Post a notice about the program on your Facebook page or Twitter account (or Pinterest or any social media you use).
- Tell family and friends AND tax preparers about the History Fund
- Ask your library to put a sign about the History Fund next to Ohio tax return forms (signs at [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund))

Elsewhere in this issue, OHS asks Ohio Local History Alliance members and local historical societies in Ohio to promote the History Fund, the new official name for the “tax check off” program. In this article, we ask you to personally contribute to the Fund. The greater the amount of money donated to the program, the more the Ohio Historical Society will have to re-grant for local history and historic preservation projects across this great state.

“Contributing” means donating a portion of your tax refund to the program. On your Ohio income tax return, look for **NEW—Ohio Historical Society** in red letters and fill in the boxes! (Thanks)

Ohio taxpayers who do not receive refunds, but want to support the program, can help by making a tax-deductible contribution to:

Ohio Historical Society  
**ATTN: History Fund**  
800 East 17th Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43211

### 2012 Regional Meetings... Continued from page 1

have a new website later in 2012. It is an exciting time to be a member of Ohio Local History Alliance!

The Alliance will carry out its mission this year to inspire, connect and educate by offering fantastic professional development opportunities at the springtime regional meetings, too! These meetings provide local history groups both small and large, and experienced and new with vital information and resources to help Ohioans preserve and share the past of their places. Meeting participants continue to rave about the value of the meetings, saying, for example, that “the ideas were really flowing and were great” and “one of the most informative programs I’ve attended as part of the regional meetings.” One attendee liked “the oatmeal cake,” as well as “the opportunity to network [and] hearing what is going on in other communities.” Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend 2012!

### Regional Meeting Agendas

Under the guidance of its strategic plan, one of the Alliance’s “New Year resolutions” is to pave the way for Ohio’s historical organizations to adapt to 21st century changes in such

areas as technology, audiences, membership, and volunteer administration (among others). To carry out this resolution, the Alliance’s regional meeting theme is “Inspire or Expire: How to Remain Relevant in the 21st Century” and will feature exciting sessions like “How Your Museum Can Become a Leader in the Community” and “Unintimidating Online Marketing Techniques” as well as “How to Transform a Menagerie of Artifacts into a Museum Exhibit that Inspires and Educates”. All sessions were created by your peers and feature speakers from across the state. You will have many opportunities to discover new resources, increase your knowledge of local historical society management, swap success stories, and network with other people dedicated to local history when you attend the Alliance’s Regional Meetings.

### Meeting Dates & Registration

See the meeting schedule elsewhere in this issue. The 2012 regional meeting brochure should have already arrived in your mailbox. Meetings started on March 17 and continue through April 21 and always take place on a Saturday. We have scheduled two regional meetings on each Saturday (except March 31). All meetings begin at 9 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast and

All these things will generate donations to the History Fund, which as of the end of February stood at \$45,700. Since many people file their taxes in March and the beginning of April, OHS expects the size of the Fund to grow dramatically.

Contact the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Office at 800-858-6878 or [localhistory@ohiohistory.org](mailto:localhistory@ohiohistory.org) with any questions about the History Fund, or visit [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund). Guidelines governing the program are in draft form and will be discussed at the Alliance’s regional meetings. The guidelines will also be explained in future issues of The Local Historian, as well as in other communications from the Ohio Historical Society. **Thanks!** ■

end by 4 p.m.

OLHA members are welcome—and encouraged—to attend meetings in any region (besides your own) that suits your needs for professional development. Members are also welcome to invite non-members and friends so they can benefit from the camaraderie and resources the Alliance offers. To register, fill out and return the registration form attached to the brochure. You can also register online at: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/register> or by phone by calling toll-free 1-800-858-6878. For a complete meeting schedule, go to: <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/portal/localhistory-p.shtml>

Registration fees have not increased in 3 years – and they will not in 2012, either. For Alliance members, the registration fee is \$25 and \$32 for non-members. The fee includes lunch provided by the host organization and all meeting handouts and other materials. If your organization is an Organizational Member of the Alliance, the member rate applies to all members of your organization. Remember to register for your meeting no later than the Monday before the meeting date.

*We look forward to seeing you at the Alliance’s 2012 regional meetings!*



**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: Andy Verhoff, Bonnie Such, Rosa Rojas

Please direct materials or phone inquiries to:

**The Local Historian**  
Local History Office  
Ohio Historical Society  
800 E. 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211-2497  
1-800-858-6878  
FAX: (614) 297-2567  
[averhoff@ohiohistory.org](mailto:averhoff@ohiohistory.org)

Visit **The Alliance** online at [www.ohiolha.org](http://www.ohiolha.org)

#### 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.

© 2012 Ohio Historical Society



**Jonathan Wotring** is the new executive director of the **Lakewood Historical Society**. He was formerly an independent consultant in the field of historic preservation and director of preservation at the Historic Second Church in Chicago. Mr. Wotring has degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has completed post-graduate, continuing education programs in Museum Administration and History of the Arts and Crafts movement at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and an internship in Irish architectural conservation practices with the *Dúchas* (Irish Heritage Services) in Ireland. He takes the place of former long-time director **Mazie Adams**, who retired from the position in 2011. For more about the Lakewood Historical Society, go to: <http://lakewoodhistory.org/>

**Jack Shortlidge** has been promoted to senior program officer at the **Ohio Humanities Council** in Columbus. He is responsible for the Council's major grants program (\$5,001-20,000), as well as its K-12 Teachers Institutes and Media grant lines. He also assists in the review of regular grants (\$2,001-5,000). Jack has been with the Council since 2000.

**David Merkowitz** joined the **Ohio Humanities Council's** staff as a program officer in August 2011. He came from Otterbein University, where he taught American history and western civilization courses. He earned a M.A. and Ph.D. in history at the University of Cincinnati. David is responsible for the Council's mini grant program (grants up to \$2,000), assists with the review of regular grants, and is active in OHC's heritage tourism initiative. David takes the place of **Frank Dunkle** who administered mini and regular grants, helped develop OHIO CHAUTAUQUA, and maintained OHC's popular Speakers Bureau. Frank left the Council to take on a new career as the pastor of a church in southern Ohio.

For more information about grants and programs from the Ohio Humanities Council, please visit <http://www.ohio-humanities.org>

Congratulations to **Kathy Fernandez**, executive director of the **North Canton Heritage Society** and Ohio Local History Alliance treasurer. Kathy was honored by the Canton-Stark County Soroptomist Club as its 2011 "Woman of Distinction." Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. To learn more about the North Canton Heritage Center, see: <http://www.northcantonheritage.org>

The Ohio Local History Alliance is saddened to report the death of **Jim White**, a winner of an **Outstanding Individual Achievement Award** from the Ohio Association of Historical Society of Museums in 2010. Jim received the award for his long and distinguished service to **Oberlin Heritage Center**. He had served as the Heritage Center's president

from 2005-2010 and was one of the first Endowed Life Members of the Oberlin Heritage Center. Since 1999, he recorded 1,400 volunteer hours with the organization and was a dedicated fundraiser for the organization. During his tenure on the Board, the Oberlin Heritage Center became accredited by the American Association of Museums, built its endowment, donated the Burrell-King House for use as Oberlin Conservatory of Music's Community Music School, and developed/implemented two ambitious five-year Strategic Plans. Describing him in OAHSM's award nomination, Oberlin Heritage Center Executive Director Patricia Murphy recalled that "Jim epitomizes common sense, civility, and fun...and I count having the opportunity to work with him as a great honor, pleasure and joy." For more about the organization Jim White so ably led, go to <http://www.oberlinheritage.org>

### WELCOME

The Ohio Local History Alliance welcomes five new regional representatives to its board, beginning in January 2012: **Christie Evans**, Gahanna Historical Society; **Jessica Goodnite**, The Castle (Marietta) (appointed in August 2011); **Margaret Parker**, Meigs County Historical Society; **Kate Smith**, Spring Hill Historic Home (Massillon), and **Brenda Stultz**, Clyde Heritage League

### THANK YOU

The Alliance is grateful for the service of the following regional representatives, trustees-at-large, and board officers, whose service ended in 2011 (and on whose experience will continue to advance our field): **Ann Basilone-Jones**, Milan Historical Museum; **Heather Hussong**, Athens County Historical Society; **Mike Ippoliti**, Canal Winchester Area Historical Society; **Wendell Lauth**, Bristol Historical Society; **Dolly McKeehan**, Museum at the Friends Home (Waynesville); **Steve Paschen**, Kent State University Special Collections and Archives; **Margo Stafford**, Wayne County Historical Society; **Emery Stewart**, Belmont County Historical Society, and **Sally Thomas**, Sutliff Museum, Warren-Trumbull County Public Library.

### CONGRATULATIONS

The following officers were elected or appointed to lead the Ohio Local History Alliance for 2012. Elections were held at the Alliance's annual meeting, October 7, 2011. *President*: **Christie Weininger**, Wood County Historical Center & Museum. *1st Vice President*: **Maggie Marconi**, Sandusky Library / Follett House Museum. *2nd Vice President*: **Beth Weinhardt**, Westerville Public Library. *Secretary*: **Nancy Sams**, Belpre Historical Society. *Treasurer*: **Kathleen Fernandez**, North Canton Heritage Society. *Trustee-at-Larges*: **Wendy Zucal**, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum and **Ruth Brindle Dobyns**, Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College.

## Dear Local Historian

### How can I provide a steady diet of engaging content on my organization's Website and social media pages?

Websites and social media pages offer an exciting and easy way to communicate with your audiences and they provide organizations with a way to reach new audiences that may not be able to visit your museum or site. While newsletters are often planned well in advance and are usually mailed/e-mailed out no more than once a month, websites and social media pages need to be updated constantly with new material or risk being forgotten or, heaven forbid, "un-liked". Creating a constant stream of dynamic content on your online sites may seem intimidating but there are 5 easy steps to follow to help you keep your online audiences interested in your organization and programs.

#### 1 What do people like? Quizzes, competitions, and special announcements!

When people go to your website and/or social media page, they want to know what your organization is doing at that very moment. Get your online audience involved in your work by sharing information about projects you are working on (such as new artifact acquisitions or developing a new exhibit). Don't just tell them about it, though. Give them details about what you have discovered, ask questions, and give them the ability to participate by offering helpful information. People love to get a "sneak peek" of new exhibits or artifacts so be sure to post images!

It's even easier and faster to create engaging content by posting quizzes or competitions with small prizes

(buttons, posters, and bookmarks are always popular and inexpensive!) to test people's knowledge of local history. Once your audience answers, you have the opportunity to share even more information about the topic. For example, the Ohio Historical Society Collections Blog asked the question, "Why Don't People Smile in Old Black and White Photos?" People were eager to get involved and share their own answers and OHS staff were able to share images from the Society's collections and provide fascinating information about how long it took to take a photograph in the late-1800s. In addition, posting images of an artifact and asking people what they think it is or was used for are always popular posts.

#### 2 Plan ahead

Yes, it is possible to plan your content ahead of time much like a newsletter but it costs less time and effort to produce. In a Word document (or on your website) develop a list of fun facts and quizzes, program announcements, interesting artifacts in your collection, guest author articles, local history stories, photos, etc. Plan on posting one new, short article on a designated schedule. It is recommended that articles be between 1-4 paragraphs but no longer than that. Some organizations may be able to post once a day; others, only once a week. Compile all your topics for about two weeks' to one month's worth of articles so it will take you less than a minute of your time to post it.

#### 3 Respond to your audience

Always try to respond to your audience when they ask or answer a question or post a comment. Successful websites and especially social media platforms allow back-and-forth conversations with your audience so they can interact with you and other followers. Don't make your audience feel like they are talking to a wall! Offer encouragement, post links for

additional information, congratulate contest winners, and give them your contact information so they can get in touch with you. It takes very little time to respond and it can be done by staff, interns, or volunteers.

#### 4 Encourage user-generated material on social media sites

Getting your audience to post their own photos, quotes, and links is a great way to keep your followers engaged and conversing with one another while also alleviating the need for you to constantly create new content. Make sure to ask people to post their own content such as images of family heirlooms, photos taken while visiting a historic site, favorite quotes, and website links. When you have followers adding new content on a regular basis, you know your site is successfully engaging your online audience.

#### 5 Don't be afraid of the silence

Not getting any responses to your questions and articles? Don't worry! It often takes a little while to get people to respond, especially until you have a steady following. Oftentimes, people are reluctant to be the first to post because they don't want to be wrong or say something "dumb." Consider having another staff member or volunteer be the first to respond to get the conversation started and show your online audience that people are welcome to engage on your website or social media page. In addition, make sure your questions are interesting and encourage discussion. Post a provocative question (but not too controversial!) or an interesting quote.

*Answered by Kristina Kuehling, Development Officer, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus*



## Ohio Income Tax Refund Donation + Ohio Historical Society = Grant Program For Local History

*Editor's note: Please feel free to reprint this article in your organizations' newsletters now through April! Its tax time and we want you AND your organizations' members and friends to contribute to OHS's grant fund for local history. Regular readers of The Local Historian will note that this article appeared in the previous issue, too. We need your help to generate donations to a grant program for your organizations. Thanks!*

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 blank box in which those receiving a refund can designate an amount of it for donation. The box is labeled "NEW - Ohio Historical Society" and you can find it at line #25d on your Ohio Form IT1040; line #18d on Ohio Form IT1040-EZ, or line 13d-4 of the TeleFile worksheet.



The Ohio Historical Society will use the revenue generated from tax refund donations to create the History Fund—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 will be unveiled March 1, Ohio's Statehood Day.

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, 2011. 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! For more information, go to [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund) (and check back for updated information). For copies of forms IT1040; IT1040EZ, and the TeleFile worksheet, go to [http://dw.ohio.gov/tax/dynamicforms/searchresults\\_individual.asp](http://dw.ohio.gov/tax/dynamicforms/searchresults_individual.asp) ■

## Thanks from Local History Office

The Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office greatly appreciates the space the following organizations devoted in their newsletters and websites to reprint the adjacent article. The Local History Office thanks them for their help to promote donations to the tax refund donation program. The list here is derived from newsletters received in the Local History Office as of January 2012.

Jackson Historical Society, *The Salt Reserve Bulletin*, January/February 2012, Volume 11, Number 1

Lake Township Historical Society (Stark County), January-March 2012, Volume 17, Issue 1

Logan County Historical Society Newsletter, January-February 2012, Volume 24, Issue 1

Miamisburg Historical Society, *The Tavern Log*, February 2012, Volume 21, Number 1

Ohio Archeological Council's website at: [http://www.ohioarchaeology.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=1&Itemid=45](http://www.ohioarchaeology.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=1&Itemid=45)

Ohio Museums Association website at: <http://www.ohiomuseums.org/enews.html>  
Preservation Ohio's website at: <http://preserveohio.com/2012/01/07/remember-to-check-off-for-history-this-year>

Putnam County Historical Society, *Putnam County Heritage*, December 2011, number 125

Quaker Heritage Center, Wilmington College website at: [http://www.wilmington.edu/news/Ohio-Historical-Society-Announces-Tax-Check-Off-Program-for-2012.cfm?grp\\_id=5562](http://www.wilmington.edu/news/Ohio-Historical-Society-Announces-Tax-Check-Off-Program-for-2012.cfm?grp_id=5562)

Richland County Museum, website at: <http://www.richlandcountymuseum.org>

Wood County Historical Society, *The Black Swamp Chanticleer*, Winter 2012

If your organization has promoted the tax refund donation program, but you are not listed here, please tell us! Reply to [local-history@ohiohistory.org](mailto:local-history@ohiohistory.org) with the name of your newsletter or web address, your organization, and the newsletter date, volume, and number. Your organization will be recognized in later issues of *The Local Historian*. For electronic versions of the logo in this story for your organization's newsletter, go to: [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund).

## New Exhibit from MoMS and the Ohio Humanities Council, *Journey Stories*

By Jack Shortlidge,  
Senior Program Officer,  
Ohio Humanities Council,  
Columbus

Starting in June, 2013, the Ohio Humanities Council will sponsor a 10-month tour of *Journey Stories*, an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street (MoMS). This exhibition was developed especially for small institutions and rural audiences that typically do not have access to traveling exhibits. OHC invites applications from historical societies and museums, libraries, or other institutions with the requisite resources for hosting *Journey Stories*.

### EXHIBIT SUMMARY

*Journey Stories*, or tales of how we and our ancestors came to America, are a central element of our personal and national heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell of how they came to live where they live. The reasons behind those decisions to move are myriad.

Our transportation history is likewise more than boats, buses, cars, wagons, railroads, and trucks. The Museum on Main Street exhibition *Journey Stories* will examine the connection between our modes of travel and Americans' desire to feel free to move. The story is wide-ranging and focuses on immigration, migration, innovation, and freedom.

It is accounts of immigrants coming in search of promise in a new country, as well as oral and family stories of Africans and Native Americans forced to move. *Journey Stories* also recounts stories of fun and frolic on the open road. The exhibit uses engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building a diverse American society.

### EXHIBIT DESIGN

The structure for *Journey Stories* is freestanding with seven lightweight, modular sections, which require 700 square feet of space and 9-foot ceilings. The exhibit travels in easy-to-handle wheeled crates and requires no tools for assembly. The exhibition space must be clean and well lighted, but no specific environmental controls are needed. Only limited security is required, but personnel must be near the exhibit at all times it is open.

Host institutions and community partners will be expected to develop associated programs that expand on the themes

presented in *Journey Stories*. Activities could include school design and essay contests, oral history projects, film and literary discussions, guest lectures, and artifact collection and interpretation for an exhibit on stories of how residents and their ancestors came to live in or near the host community, as well as about memorable trips that people have taken. The Ohio Humanities Council partners with other institutions to create programs that will be available to most exhibit hosts.

### EACH HOST INSTITUTION WILL RECEIVE:

- Exhibit rental for approximately 4-6 weeks
- An exhibition support manual detailing installation, public relations, and evaluation
- Promotional materials such as posters, brochures, banners, and a press kit
- Workshops on program planning and exhibit installation
- Consultation with OHC staff for project planning and implementation
- Access to OHC's mini-grant program

### EACH HOST INSTITUTION WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

- Pay a \$1,000 cash fee to the Ohio Humanities Council to offset exhibit rental and shipping costs
- Identify a staff member or volunteer who will attend all planning meetings and act as project director
- Maintain and publicize regular exhibition hours (no less than 25 hours per week)
- Conduct locally-based public programming during the exhibit's stay. OHC will select host institutions based on factors such as geographic distribution, ability to provide public access to the exhibit, and interest in community programming. Luxurious facilities and previous experience with traveling exhibits or public humanities programming are NOT essential to a successful application. The application deadline is April 30, 2012. For more information, please contact Jack Shortlidge at 1-800-293-9774 or [jacks@ohiohumanities.org](mailto:jacks@ohiohumanities.org).

For more about *Journey Stories*, visit the Smithsonian's Museums on Main Street website: <http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeystories> ■

## Thank Alliance Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee!

The Advocacy and Public Awareness Committee are responsible for evaluating entries to the Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award program.

We recognized the winners in the last issue, but not the judges. Thanks to the following: Kathleen Addlesperger, Richland County Museum; Leianne Neff Heppner, Summit County Historical Society; Craig Holbert, University of Akron Archives; Kristina Kuehling, Ohio Historical Society; Bill Lawson, Mahoning Valley Historical Society; Andy Verhoff, Ohio Historical Society (coordinator). In 2011 the Alliance's awards program received 18 nominations and gave 12 awards. Awards nomination forms 2012 will be sent in April; the deadline for nominations is August 1, 2012.



## Calendar

### ■ March 31 and April 14, 21

Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meetings See page 1 and <http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/oahsm/regmeet.html>. Register by the Monday prior your meeting.

### ■ March 31

District History Day Competitions throughout Ohio for students in grades 6-12 (see page 9 and <http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday>)

### ■ April 1

Application Deadline: Ohio Historical Marker Grants. See page 8 and <http://www.remarkableohio.org/ProposeA-Marker.aspx>

### ■ April 28

State History Day Contest, Columbus. See page 9 and <http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday>

### ■ May 1

Application Deadline: Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions, National Endowment for the Humanities, <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>, (202) 606-8570, or [preservation@neh.gov](mailto:preservation@neh.gov).

### ■ May 1

Application Deadline: Major Grants (\$5001 - \$20,000) and Media Grants, Ohio Humanities Council, [www.ohiohumanities.org](http://www.ohiohumanities.org) or contact Jack Shortlidge, (800) 293-9774, [jacks@ohiohumanities.org](mailto:jacks@ohiohumanities.org)

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

## Ohio Historical Marker Grant Applications Deadline April 1

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

Thinking of erecting a Ohio Historical Marker in your community? The deadline for applications for the markers grant program is April 1. Grants are for up to \$750, which is approximately one-third of a marker's total cost. Local sponsors of markers pay the remaining two-thirds. Markers range in price from \$2,200 to \$2,450 (depending on amount of marker text and text size).

Applying for a markers grant is easy. Just check a box on page one of the marker application. Competition for grants is strong, however. There are just five grants available per round and two grant rounds a year, one round with a deadline of April 1; the other with a deadline of October 1. For the five grants available in the October 2011 grant round, the program received 15 applications. Nonetheless, go for it – apply for a grant. (Also note that one does not have to apply for a grant to erect a marker. Communities intending to pay the entire cost of a marker may submit applications year 'round.)

For a marker application, go to: <http://www.remarkableohio.org> and click on "Propose a Marker." To see all the markers by county, click on "Browse Markers." There are to date 1,392 Ohio Historical Markers erected across the state, with more to come in 2012. Questions about markers? Contact the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office, 1 -800-858-6878, (614) 297-2340, or [localhistory@ohiohistory.org](mailto:localhistory@ohiohistory.org). ■

## FREE Workshops

### Outta Space: Best Practices in Storage and Space Planning Registration now open!

The Ohio Connecting to Collections survey in 2009 identified inadequate storage space for cultural heritage collections as the number one preservation problem statewide. This day long workshop will provide ideas and best practices on how to address space issues at your institution. Professionals from libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies and conservation communities will discuss how they evaluated space concerns at their institutions and the space planning methodologies and practices they have adopted. Featured speakers include Wes Boomgaarden, associate professor and preservation officer for the Ohio State University Libraries, who will provide the keynote, and national expert on facilities design for special collections Christian Dupont, providing practical advice on space and workflow considerations.

Two identical workshops will be offered, one for the south half of the state and one for the north:

#### Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Cincinnati Museum Center  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

In conjunction with the 2012 Ohio Museums Association Annual Conference

#### Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Akron-Summit County Public Library  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

In conjunction with the Ohio Preservation Council spring meeting

Registration for the conference is free. There is a fee for parking and an optional box lunch. To register and view a preliminary agenda, go to: <http://www.ohiomuseums.org/workshops.html>

Conference Sponsors: State Library of Ohio, Ohio Museums Association, Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Local History Alliance, and the Ohio Preservation Council. Conference made possible by federal Institute of Museum and Library Services funds, awarded by the State Library of Ohio. ■

## National History Day in Ohio Looking for Judges!



Interested in learning more about History Day while experiencing student achievement firsthand? Sign up to judge for regional or Ohio History Day! Judges evaluate students' efforts, work in teams, and decide which projects move on to the next level of competition. Judging typically starts at 8 am with an overview of the program and training and is done by 1 pm. Judges are provided with continental breakfast and lunch. Regional events take place Saturdays in March. The state-wide Ohio History Day competition is April 28, 2012 at the Ohio Union at The Ohio State University.

National History Day in Ohio is a yearlong program for students in grades 4-12. Students conduct research around an annual theme and create historical papers, performances, documentaries, exhibits, and web sites. The 2011-2012 theme is Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History.

Judge sign up forms can be found online at: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyday/hd08.html>

For more information contact state coordinator Mary Bezbatchenko at [mbezbatchenko@ohiohistory.org](mailto:mbezbatchenko@ohiohistory.org) or call (614) 297-2528. National History Day in Ohio can be found online at [www.ohiohistoryday.org](http://www.ohiohistoryday.org). ■

## Opening the Gates of The Castle Wider - Using Facebook to Reach the Community

By Jessica Goodnite, Education Director, The Castle Victorian House Museum, Marietta

It seems like Facebook is everywhere. In the news, on your phone, even Hollywood has made a movie about Facebook! I used Facebook personally for many years and so when I arrived at The Castle in Marietta, Ohio as a brand-new volunteer, and learned that The Castle did not have a Facebook page, it was surprising. For me, as a member of the technology-obsessed generation, it seemed like The Castle was missing an important tool for reaching members of the community that wanted to be part of an organization that was forward thinking and technologically savvy. Just because our focus is history, doesn't mean our approach to advertising, reaching new members and contacting volunteers has to be archaic as well. But a lot of the tech tools that make running a historical society or museum easier needs a little explanation for those who are frankly too busy to mess around with new technology. This article explains the details of starting a Facebook page for your organization.

### How to get started:

- You will need a personal Facebook page to create you organization's Facebook page. To create a personal Facebook page, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). You need a personal Facebook page because your organization's page will need someone to change pictures, post new events, and update statuses.
- Once you have set up a personal page, you can create your organization's page. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/create.php>
- Then you will choose which type of page you want to open for your organization: The Castle uses 'Local Business or Place'.
- You choose a category (The Castle is under Museums), put the name of the organization, the address and phone number
- You must agree to Facebook terms of service. After all, for the use of this free service, you have to play by the free service's rules.

### Once your page is created you can:

- Add a picture of your organization. Remember, if you are going to post pictures of anyone make sure you get their permission.
- Add events, and you can get as specific as you want
- Add open hours and contact information
- Invite friends to 'like' your page. The more 'likes' you have, the wider your range of influence! Facebook influence travels through people: invite a lot of friends to 'like' your page. When they 'like' it, it will show up on THEIR friends' pages and then those friends may 'like' your organization, too.

For tips on how to keep people interested in your page, see the "Dear Local Historian" column, also in this issue. The short answer is update often! Post pictures, statuses, events, comments, and notes. You can write about local places that are important to your historical society, post pictures of events, write about the people who used to live in your historic home, and advertise the events that you are having. The more information, the better.

A great example of how The Castle uses Facebook is our Victorian Wake and Funeral reenactment. The event is a favorite of our volunteers. We dress up in period clothing, decorate the house in mourning and give tours about the Victorian Superstitions of Death. We always do this as a special October event, and this year we wanted it to be big so we started a month early. We chose a fictitious resident to "die" at The Castle. And on Facebook, we updated about how her illness progressed. Each week we would add something about poor Mistress Charlotte Bell's weakening spirit. We also added "did you know?" facts about Victorian mourning rituals to garner interest. Soon we had a following of people wanting to know how 'Mistress Charlotte' was doing. Finally, a few days before our event, 'Mistress Charlotte' passed on. We then invited everyone to visit The Castle (dressed in mourning clothes if they so desired) and give their condolences to the family. Our attendance to this event more than doubled and we had many people expressing their interest in next year's wake. Connecting in such a way to The Castle's fans would not have been possible without Facebook. Facebook is easy to use, but it does require a little time and effort. But once you embark on this journey, the possibilities are endless and completely up to you! Check us out at: [www.facebook.com/castle.marietta.oh](http://www.facebook.com/castle.marietta.oh) ■



## Thank you Renewing Members

### Individual

Christy Evans, Gahanna  
Nancy Gracely, New Bloomington  
Edward J. Hall, Jr., Kent  
Sharon Hays, Canton  
Joshua Mann, Mentor  
Elizabeth Swartz-Khan, Kent

### Organizations

Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN  
Alliance Historical Society, Alliance  
Amherst Historical Society, Amherst  
Auglaize County Historical Society, Wapakoneta  
Austintown Historical Society, Austintown  
Belpre Historical Society, Belpre  
Butler County Historical Society, Hamilton  
Butler-Clearfork Valley Historical Society, Butler  
Crosby Township Historical Society, Harrison  
Dayton Police History Foundation, Dayton  
Delaware County Historical Society, Delaware  
Delhi Historical Society, Cincinnati  
Erie County Historical Society, Sandusky  
Friends of Kennedy Stone House, Blue Rock  
Friends of White Water Shaker Village, Cincinnati  
German Village Society, Columbus  
Geauga County Historical Society, Burton  
Granville Historical Society, Granville  
Hardin County Historical Museum, Kenton  
Harrison County Historical Society, Cadiz  
Hebron Historical Society, Hebron  
Highland County Historical Society, Hillsboro  
Historical Society of Olde Northfield, Northfield  
Kidron Community Historical Society, Kidron  
Lake Township Historical Society, Uniontown  
Lillian E. Jones Museum, Jackson  
Little Red School House Association, Willoughby  
Livingston House Society, Reynoldsburg  
Madog Center for Welsh Studies, Rio Grande  
Maritime Museum of Sandusky, Sandusky  
Meigs County Pioneer & Historical Society, Pomeroy  
Miamisburg Historical Society, Miamisburg  
Middleburg Heights Historical Society, Middleburg Heights  
New London Area Historical Society, New London  
Pickerington-Violet Township Historical Society, Pickerington  
Piqua Public Library, Piqua  
Plain Township Historical Society, North Canton  
Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument Grp, Cleveland  
Spring Hill Historic Home, Massillon  
Stow Historical Society, Stow  
Sutliff Museum, Warren  
Swiss Community Historical Society, Bluffton  
Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo  
Underground Railroad Museum, Flushing  
Western Lake Erie Historical Society, Ottawa  
Worthington Historical Society, Worthington

## Thank you New Members

### Individual

Rebecca Bailey, Crestview, KY

### Organization

Hebron Historical Society, Hebron

## 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](mailto: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

### Region 2

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

The Seneca County Courthouse, erected in 1884 and listed on National Register of Historic Places is no more. Despite the efforts of interested Seneca Countians and Ohio's historic preservation community, the court house was razed in early January. A victim of maintenance deferred too long, the county commission voted two to one to remove the landmark. Seneca County has been the only county in Ohio to tear down its courthouse since 1970 and the only one to demolish a courthouse listed on the National Register. For more on the story as it unfolded, see <http://www.toledoblade.com/senecacountycourthouse>

### Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** announces the recent publication of a new history comic book, *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* by Bentley Boyd of Chester Comix. According to a Heritage Center press release, the comic provides an "informative, broad introduction to Oberlin and its rich and diverse history. People, places and events from the founding of the town and college in 1833 to the present are included." Creating the comic was a collaborative process. The news release continues, "Boyd started with an outline provided by the Oberlin Heritage Center and then worked his creative magic." Staff of the Heritage Center served as editors; Center volunteers assisted with research and reviewed drafts. *Oberlin: Origins and Onward!* sells for \$6.95 per copy. To learn about the Oberlin Heritage Center and the comic, go to: <http://www.oberlin-heritage.org>. For more on Chester Comix, see: <http://www.chestercomix.com>.

### Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

### Region 5

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

Under the "every little bit helps" department, the Winter quarter newsletter of the **Lake Township Historical Society** near Hartville, reports two fundraising programs. The first is an effort to collect for recycling printer inkjet cartridges. The society sends the used cartridges to an organization called Recycle4Charity and receives in return a set amount of money per cartridge, depending on manufacturer. The second is the local Acme Fresh Market's Community Cash Back Program. Shoppers turn in their register receipts to the LTHS and the society in turn submits them to the market. The market then makes a donation to the historical society based on a percentage of the amount of the receipts. To learn more about the Lake Township Historical Society, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohlths/index.htm>

### Region 6

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

**Columbus Historical Society** has moved from its previous location on Jefferson Avenue in Columbus to COSI, Columbus's

science museum. The move doubles the historical society's exhibit space. With the help of graduate students from the **Harvey Goldberg Center for Teaching Excellence** at **Ohio State University**, the organization has installed new exhibits which feature innovative multimedia and interactive areas, and more traditional displays of artifacts and images. The new Columbus Historical Society opened in time for the start of the city's bicentennial in February. To learn more, go to <http://www.columbushistory.org>. Find COSI at <http://www.cosi.org> and the Goldberg Center at <http://goldbergcenter.osu.edu/>

### Region 7

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

The **Shelby County Historical Society** is forming collaborations this year with its brother and sister organizations throughout the county to tell its story. In cooperation with the community historical societies of Anna, Botkins, Jackson Center, and Fort Loramie, the Shelby County organization will be publishing historical articles about these communities in its newsletter and hosting public events. For details, go to <http://www.shelbycountyhistory.org>.

Congratulations to the **Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler**, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2012. The organization was founded in 1977 as legacy of the community's Bicentennial Committee. For more about the society, go to: <http://www.historicalsocietvandalia-butler.org>

### Region 8

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

The year 2011 was filled with accomplishments at the **Butler County Historical Society** in Hamilton. In the spring, the society received a Community Appearance Award from the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, in large part thank to area's Master Gardeners, who maintain the historical society's grounds. The society also hosted four interns from Miami University in Oxford. The students digitized historical records, updated the society's web site, and developed an exhibit about the Moser safe company, from Hamilton. The society updated its inventory of its museum collection. Many grants supported the work in the society in 2011, including (but not only) those from the **Hamilton Community Foundation** and from **Herbert T. and Olive Randall** for construction of the research library addition to the Benninghofen House Museum, and from the **Lexis-Nexis Foundation** and

**Microsoft Corporation** for computer hardware and software. There will be a grand opening and formal dedication of the research library addition in the spring of 2012. To learn more, go to <http://www.bchistoricalociety.com/about.html>

### Region 9

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

The **Jackson Historical Society**, manager of **Leo Petroglyph State Memorial** for the **Ohio Historical Society**, recently took steps to provide accommodations for its winged visitors, in addition to those that are bipedal. The Jackson Historical Society installed bat houses on the site. This was to divert bats from the human shelter house, which the bats had previously inhabited and left great quantities of guano and annoyed picnickers and other visitors. For more on the Jackson County Historical Society and Leo Petroglyph, go to <http://www.jackson-historicalociety.org> and <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/portal/places.shtml>

### 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 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](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/oahsm/members.html)

## ON THE WEB

In celebration of African American History Month in February, see these online resources to guide your exploration of African-American history in Ohio and nationally:

<http://blackpast.org>, according to site "[Blackpast.org] is a 10,000 page reference center that is dedicated to providing information to the general public on African American history in the United States and on the history of the more than one billion people of African ancestry around the world. It includes an online encyclopedia of hundreds of famous and lesser known figures in African American history, Global African history and specifically the history of African Americans in the West. BlackPast.org also has full text primary documents and major speeches of black activists and leaders from the 18th Century to the present. There are links to hundreds of websites that address the global history of people of African ancestry including major black museums and archival research centers in the United States and Canada."

<http://dbs.ohiohistory.org/africanam> is a link to the digital collection The African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920. According to the introduction "this digital collection illuminates specific moments in the history of Ohio's African-Americans and provides an overview of their experiences during the period 1850 to 1920 in the words of the people that lived them."

## OAHSM Certification Program Ended in 1999

*Long Live StEPs!*



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

The Ohio Local History Alliance has sponsored many great programs since it began in 1960. Some of those programs are still vibrant and serving the needs of the majority of Ohio's local historians – such as regional meetings. Some, like the Certification Program, have run their course. If your organization still sports a “Certified by OAHSM” logo in its newsletter, please consider removing it. The program does not exist anymore.

While a certification program for local historical societies in Ohio ended in 1999, the goals of the old program—consistency, accountability, responsibility, and creativity—live on in a nation-wide program launched in 2009, the Standards and Excellence Program (StEPs) of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). StEPs is not a certification program in the way the old OAHSM program was, but it does on a nation-wide scale recognize excellence. Recognizing adherence to professional practice, and using it as one lever to raise funds and friends, was a reason behind OAHSM's certification program. The great thing about StEPs is that it is national program: organizations participating receive state-level kudos through the Alliance, but national recognition through AASLH. That looks good on grant applications! ■

## StEPs Enrollees in Ohio / StEPs Certificate Earners in Ohio

As of January 31, StEPs enrollment nationally stands at 354 organizations. Top enrollment states are Washington State (35); Texas (30); Connecticut (27); Ohio (21); California (15); Pennsylvania (13), and Kansas, Maryland, Michigan and Tennessee (11 each). Enrollees in Ohio include the:

Athens County Historical Society & Museum (Region 9)  
Auglaize County Historical Society (Region 7)  
Belpre Historical Society (Region 10)  
Canal Winchester Area Historical Society (Region 6)  
Cincinnati Observatory Center (Region 8)  
Cincinnati Public Library (Region 8)  
Clark County Historical Society (Region 7)  
Cleveland Masonic Library & Museum (Region 3)  
Clinton County Historical Society (Region 8)  
Lakeside Heritage Society (Region 2)  
Lakewood Historical Society (Region 3)  
Logan County Historical Society (Region 7)  
Mahoning Valley Historical Society (Region 4)  
McKinley Museum / Stark County Historical Society (Region 5)  
Milan Historical Museum (Region 2)  
National Cambridge Collectors, Inc. (Region 10)  
Oberlin Heritage Center (Region 3)  
Ross County Historical Society (Region 9)  
Sandusky Library/Follett House (Region 2)  
Summit County Historical Society (Region 3)  
Wood County Historical Center & Museum (Region 1)

### *Congratulations!*

Of these, three have earned certificates for meeting the following StEPs standards:

**Athens County Historical Society & Museum** (Region 9), Bronze certificate for meeting all the “Basic” performance indicators under the Audience standard.

**Milan Historical Museum** (Region 2), Gold certificate for meeting all the “Better” level performance indicators under two areas: the Stewardship of Collections standard and Audience standard.

**National Cambridge Collectors, Inc.** (Region 10), Gold certificate for meeting all the “Better” level performance indicators under two areas: the Mission, Vision, and Governance standard and the Management standard.

For information about “bronze” and “gold” certificates (and silver), performance indicators, specific standards, and on StEPs in general, go to: <http://www.aaslh.org/steps> or contact OHS's Local History Office ([local-history@ohiohistory.org](mailto:local-history@ohiohistory.org); 1-800-858-6788, or 614-297-2340)