

Ohio History Fund Grant Recipients

Year 6, 2017-2018

By Andy Verhoff, Coordinator,
Ohio History Fund, Local History Services

The Ohio History Connection announced at Statehood Day on February 28 the recipients of \$76,000 in grants from the Ohio History Fund. The History Fund is a competitive matching grant program administered by the Ohio History Connection's Local History Services department. Money for the grants comes from you, who support the program in three ways: by donating a portion of your state income tax refund to the Ohio History Fund (the "tax check-off"), by purchasing Ohio History "mastodon" license plates, and by making donations to the Ohio History Connection designated to the "Ohio History Fund."

Your donation of a part of your Ohio tax refund is the lifeblood of the program. Most of the money the Ohio History Fund grants comes through the tax check-off, and most of that is generated during tax season, ending for many with the filing deadline on April 17. The goal of the Ohio History Fund tax check-off is to raise \$88,000. That breaks down to 9,800 donations of \$9, the average tax check-off gift. For the price of one lunch, you can help Ohio's historical societies and museums replace the roofs on National Register-listed house museums, digitize and share significant photographic collections, and preserve oral histories of local veterans.

Since 2013, the Ohio History Fund has made 63 grants in 36 counties totaling \$598,000. Proving there is a strong need for the grant program, it has received 295 grant proposals totaling \$3.6 million in requests. To date, 29 Alliance members have received History Fund grants, totaling more than \$295,000. Six of the nine recipients below are members of the Ohio Local History Alliance (indicated with **).

** Alliance Historical Society, Alliance

\$13,240 for "Rehabilitating the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home Roof," which will replace the deteriorated asphalt shingle roof of the house with a historically accurate standing seam metal roof. Second floor ceilings and artifacts have been damaged by leaks in the c. 1867 house and the roof can no longer be repaired. The new, period-appropriate roof will protect the structure and the society's collections therein. Once the new roof is installed, the society will proceed with other repairs to the house and the conservation of artifacts damaged when the old roof leaked. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation will guide the work.



This year's Ohio History Fund grant recipients. At Statehood Day 2018 on February 28, the Ohio History Connection announced nine new grant recipients and awards totaling \$76,000 (Photo courtesy Ohio History Connection)

Center for Archival Collections, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green

\$6,700 for "Experiencing War: A Project to Preserve and Make Accessible Oral Histories of World War II." The project will enable Bowling Green State University's Center for Archival Collections (CAC) to digitize, preserve, and publicly disseminate a collection of approximately 100 oral histories of Ohioans' experiences of World War II. The project will transfer recordings from unstable analog formats to preservation-quality digital files, as well as create descriptive metadata, disseminate files via the CAC's digital collections platform, and promote the project. The result will be easier access to a historically significant oral history collection and a greater awareness of the CAC as a steward of the region's cultural heritage.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland

\$10,000 for "Investigating Ice Age Mastodon Hunters in Ohio: Test Excavation of the Jackson Farm Clovis Site." The project will conduct preliminary archaeological excavations of the Jackson Farm Clovis site in Columbiana County. Surface collections from the site produced 13,000-year-old artifacts, including a fluted projectile point, 700 meters from where the remains of a mastodon were discovered. The project will reveal if there is a connection between these two discoveries. Archaeologists from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Kent State University will conduct test excavations, determine the age of archaeological deposits, and search for skeletal remains and organic residues on stone tools. This project will share its findings with the public and professional archeological community

(continued on page 6)

** Historical Society of Mount Pleasant Ohio, Mount Pleasant

\$6,000 to install an HVAC system and restore windows in the Mount Pleasant's Historical Center, and a part of the National Register's Mount Pleasant Historic District. The project will enable the society to provide climate-controlled storage conditions for its collections, thereby allowing the organization to consolidate and organize its holdings into one environmentally stable space and make them available to researchers and the general public. The work will be governed by Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

** Museum of Ceramics Foundation, East Liverpool

\$14,950 for the "East Liverpool Newspaper Project," which will to microfilm approximately 65 volumes of deteriorating newspapers from the city that exist only as physical volumes and have not been previously microfilmed. The project will rescue the information in local newspapers from destruction due to inevitable deterioration of the newsprint and will preserve the stories these papers can tell about a place that was a ceramics manufacturing center. The microfilm will be made available to researchers and will add to the body of knowledge pertaining to East Liverpool and the pottery industry.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Cleveland

\$9,100 for "NEO Sound: Home Movie Preservation Project." The project will digitally preserve and provide public access to one-of-a-kind amateur film and video recordings that document Northeast Ohio's musical heritage. The Rock Hall's library and archives will host a "Film Preservation Day" to collect donations from community members, digitize and archive analog recordings, and create a compilation video to be shown at a "Home Movie Day." The project will strengthen the NEO Sound collection and increase awareness of the library and archives' role in preserving local rock and roll history. Community members will learn about home movie and sound preservation and receive digital copies of their analog media, as well as gain understanding of Ohio's musical history; and, perhaps, see their footage in future exhibitions and programs. All media acquired will be

made publicly accessible at the Rock Hall's library and archive and online.

** Southeast Ohio History Center, Athens

\$7,000 for "Portraits of Southeast Ohio: Digitizing and Preserving the Jon Webb Collection." The project will digitize approximately 8,000 35mm negatives and rehouse and preserve the entire collection of more than 40,000 negatives in archival storage sleeves and boxes. These images are a beautiful portrait of Southeast Ohio taken by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Jon Webb at the start of his career. After the negatives are digitized, the center will upload approximately 2,000 of them to Ohio Memory so that they are available to researchers, other history organizations, and the general public.

** Trumbull County Historical Society, Warren

\$5,000 for the "Textile Collection Inventory and Rehousing Project." The project will inventory and re-house more than 580 textile and accessory items and is one of the first steps towards accomplishing the goals of the society's strategic plan. The grant will enable the society hire a part-time project manager to execute the project, to act on textile consultant's recommendations for the care of the collection, and to purchase collections storage materials.

** Wood County Historical Society, Bowling Green

\$4,010 for the "Collections Storage Preparations" project, the first of a multiphase collections storage initiative that will prepare 9,000 objects for eventual placement in preservation-quality collections storage cabinets. Overall, the project will enable the society to provide better storage for the artifacts in its collection. In addition, the deployment of the thermohygrometers, the creation artifact mounts, and the use of museum grade vacuum to clean items - all made possible by the grant - will increase the organization's capacity to care for its collections and will serve as model for other organizations.

Congratulations to this year's grant recipients!

Want to learn first-hand how to write a competitive grant, using the History Fund as an example?

Attend the session "How to Write a Good Grant." It's offered three times this spring:

- **April 14, 9:45 am** - Region 4 meeting, Ohio Local History Alliance, Canfield
- **April 16, 3:15 pm** - Annual conference, Ohio Museums Association, Dayton
- **May 5, 10 am** - Westlake Recreation Center, hosted by the Westlake Historical Society. For more information or the register, email claguemuseum@yahoo.com or call 216-848-0680.

Applications for 2018-2019's round of grants will be available in mid-June on the Ohio History Fund's web site: www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. In the meantime, contact Andy Verhoff, the Ohio History Fund's coordinator, with questions: 614.297.2341 or averhoff@ohiohistory.org. ■