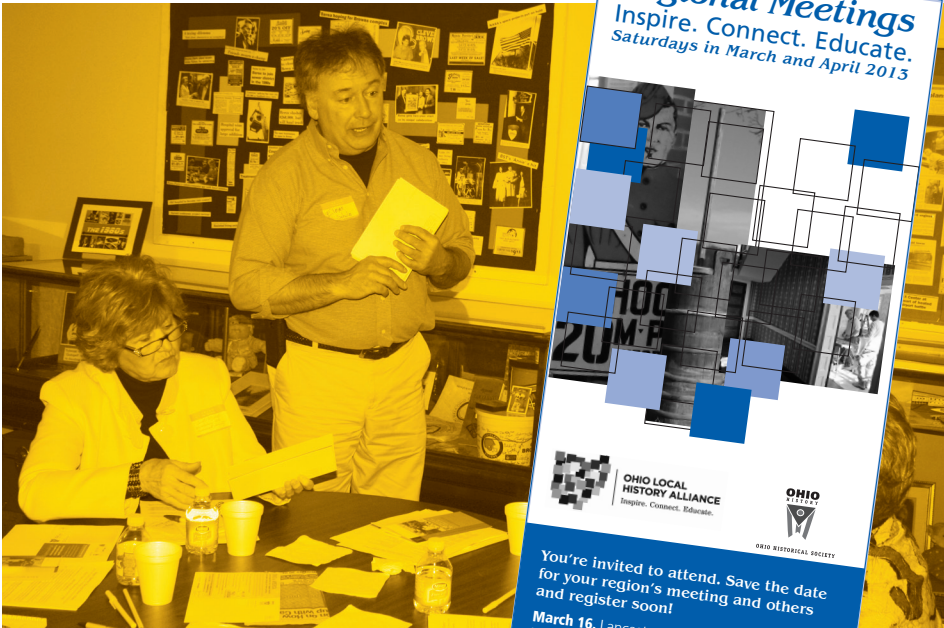


2013 Regional Meetings Begin March 16



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



Regional meetings are great places to connect with other local historians in your area. Photo courtesy of the Berea Historical Society.

The Ohio Local History Alliance's regional meetings are a wonderful opportunity for local historians across the state to be inspired by, to connect to, and to learn from each other. In the words of an attendee, regional meetings are filled with the "sharing of ideas, examples, successes, and failures, of speakers talking on their subject, or attendees commenting on their experiences." This year's meetings, whose theme is *Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures*, promise to be no exception. Join us and learn how your organization, big or small, can ensure a bright future for your community into the 21st century.

Regional Meeting Agendas

Regional meeting sessions are created by your peers, who rely on comments and suggestions from previous meeting evaluations. They feature presenters who are all from Ohio and who are often from your own region. This year's meetings cover a wide variety of relevant topics. Sessions like "Social Media Demystified" will address issues such as promoting your institution's collections online and using social media. Another popular topic is developing policies and plans to ensure treasured collections last well into the future. This is covered in sessions like "Collections Management for Today and Tomorrow." You can learn about creating and energiz-

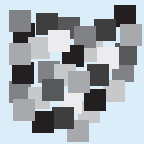
ing exhibits (a "Hands On Exhibits" workshop for example) and engaging educational institutions (e.g. "What are these 'Standards' Teachers Must Teach To and How Can Local Historical Societies Use Them to Engage Students"). Finally, many meetings cover the challenge of finding money to pay for it all, through sessions like "Where's the Money, How to Find It and How to Get It." You will also learn about important updates from the Ohio Local History Alliance and OHS's Local History Office. In addition, every meeting includes sharing time, the regional meetings' most popular feature. It is another informal chance for organizations to be *(Continued on page 4)*

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- 12** Message from OHS Director

President's Message:

I am delighted to greet you as the president of the Ohio Local History Alliance! My first connection with this amazing organization was nearly 20 years ago, when I was selected as an OAHSM intern. Since 2004, I have served the Alliance in a variety of capacities, including regional representative, trustee-at-large, second vice-president, first vice-president, and now as president. In the year ahead, we look forward to continuing to provide you with the services and opportunities you have come to expect from us.



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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Visit **The Alliance** online at www.ohioha.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ohio-localhistoryalliance

Annual Membership Dues:
Organizations:

Annual budget over \$200,000: \$100 (\$190 for 2)
Annual budget \$100,000-\$200,000: \$75 (\$140 for 2)
Annual budget \$25,000-\$100,000: \$60 (\$110 for 2)
Annual budget below \$25,000: \$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individuals:
Affiliate: \$35 (\$65 for 2)
Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)
Students: \$20

Business: \$100 (\$190 for 2)
Individual subscriptions to *The Local Historian* only are available for \$25 annually.

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We will be implementing a new membership structure which was designed to better serve our members. This spring the board will come together for a one-day strategic planning retreat. We are getting ready to tune up and refresh the excellent plan that led us through a rebranding, new name, and renewed vitality just a few years ago. The new plan will help guide our activities over the next couple of years.

In the meantime, a lot is happening in Ohio's local history community. Statehood Day is February 27th in Columbus at the Ohio Statehouse. It will provide an excellent opportunity for advocacy and networking. New this year at Statehood Day will be the announcement of the inaugural recipients of the History Fund grants.

Spring regional meetings are just around the corner. Local History Office staff, regional representatives, and the staff and volunteers of the host sites have worked hard to put together outstanding line ups for each of the meetings – we look forward to seeing you in March and April all around the state.

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Your tax refund can **MAKE HISTORY**

**Ohio Income Tax Refund
+ Ohio Historical Society
= History Fund Grant
Program**

Your Tax Refund Can Make History, Again!

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

In this same space last year, we asked you – members and friends of the Ohio Local History Alliance – to donate to the “tax check off” program through your Ohio income tax return (or directly to OHS if you were not receiving an income tax refund). We all knew the donations would go to our new History Fund re-grant program, but we did not know how much to expect. We were also drafting the grant application and fine tuning the program’s governing guidelines – so we could not predict who or how many would apply for grants, or how much would be asked for.

Fast forward to now. As of its October 29 application deadline, the History Fund received 64 applications for a total of \$891,000 in grant requests. In December, after receiving our share of “tax check off” funding, OHS determined that it had \$114,000 to re-grant. Competition for History Fund grants this first year of the program is strong. It is clear that local historical organizations need the History Fund.

It is also clear that the History Fund needs you. The program is entirely made possible by donations to the Ohio Historical Society - more donations equal more grants! Please consider a voluntary donation of part of your Ohio income tax refund to

OHS for the program. If you do not receive a tax refund, but still want to help, consider a direct donation to OHS for the program. All contributions to the Fund at OHS are tax-deductible. To see the tax forms or for a donation form, go to www.ohio-history.org/historyfund (Hint: it’s line 25b on form IT-1040 or line 18b on the IT-1040EZ)

You can help in other ways, too:

- Cut and paste the article in the far right column into your newsletter (and feel free to edit and adapt for your readers).
- Tell family, friends, and tax preparers about OHS and the History Fund
- Post a notice about the History Fund on your Facebook and LinkedIn pages, or on Twitter (or Pinterest or any social media you use)
- At upcoming regional meetings, take and wear a free button about the program – and take two or three for friends. People will ask about your button and it’s your “in” to talk about the History Fund

To learn more about the History Fund, go to www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or contact the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Office: localhistory@ohiohistory.org or 1-800-858-6878. Thank you for your help.

[Editor’s Note: You are welcome and encouraged to “cut and paste” this article to reprint in your organization’s newsletter, now through April. OHS needs your help to promote contributions to the History Fund, a competitive matching grant program created to support local history and preservation projects. Thank you!]

Tax time is your time to support local history in Ohio. Again this year, Ohio taxpayers have a convenient way to donate part of their tax refunds to the Ohio Historical Society for the History Fund, OHS’s competitive grant program for local history and preservation projects. In 2012, OHS accumulated \$114,000 to re-grant, but had \$891,000 in grant requests. You can narrow the gap between what the History Fund receives and what it gives for great history projects with your contribution to OHS and the History Fund.

On your Ohio income tax return, look for “Ohio Historical Society” at line 25b on Form IT-1040 or line 18b on Form IT-1040EZ. Fill in the box and that’s it – you have made your contribution. Not receiving a tax refund, but still want to help? Visit www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund for a downloadable donation form.

On the website, you will also find information about the History Fund grant program. The History Fund accepts applications for projects in three broad areas: Bricks & Mortar, Organizational Development, and Programs & Collections. The Fund welcomes applications from local historical societies, historical preservation groups, libraries, archives, archeological organizations, and any non-profit group based in Ohio.

The number, amount, and size of grants is determined in part by the dollars OHS receives in donations. Tell your friends, family, and tax preparers about the program and post information to your Facebook page, Twitter account or other social media. Contact the Ohio Historical Society’s Local History Office with questions: 1-800-858-6878 or localhistory@ohiohistory.org Thank you!

Join us for STATEHOOD DAY!

The State of Ohio celebrates its 210th birthday in 2013. On February 27, come celebrate Statehood Day with other members of Ohio's local history community at the Statehouse in Columbus. Statehood Day is your opportunity to meet with your legislators to advocate for your local historical organizations and history in Ohio.

This year's event will feature the unveiling of the first-ever grant award recipients from the History Fund grants program. Approximately \$114,000 in grants will be awarded. Other Statehood Day activities will include remarks by Speaker of the Ohio House William Batchelder and lunch.

How do I sign up?

To register and for more information, visit online at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday> or contact Todd Kleismit at (614) 297-2355 or tkleismit@ohiohistory.org.

2013 Regional Meetings

(Continued from page 1)

inspired by each other's achievements in 2012 and plans for 2013. Come prepared to spend two minutes sharing what your institution has been doing. As someone said, "We all need ideas that work and don't have time to reinvent the wheel."

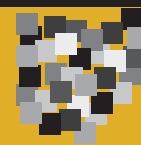
Meeting Dates and Registration

Meetings are on Saturdays in March and April, beginning March 16. There are two meetings per day, except for March 30, which is Easter weekend, and April 6, which is the combined meeting for Regions 9 and 10. See the sidebar on this page for the complete list of regional meeting dates and locations. All of the meetings begin at 9 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast, and all of the meetings end by 4 p.m. after a tour of a local historic site. The complete schedule for each regional meeting is in the regional meeting brochure. Watch your mail or check <http://www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-regional-meetings> to see your meeting's schedule.

To register for the regional meetings, complete and return the registration form attached to the brochure, visit www.ohiohistory.org/register, or call the Local History Office toll-free 1-800-858-6878. Cross-region meeting attendance is encouraged and welcome – you can attend any meeting in any region besides your own that fits your needs. Non-members and friends of OLHA are also welcome to attend, so they can experience the camaraderie and networking that are one of the Alliance's most popular benefits. Please register for your meeting(s) no later than the Monday before the meeting date.

Registration fees remain a bargain at \$25 for Alliance members and \$32 for non-members. The fee includes breakfast and lunch, provided by the host organization, as well as 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. (Join the Alliance when you register and save!) Individual Memberships are non-transferable.

Come participate, share, see old friends, and make new ones. We hope to see you at the Alliance's 2013 regional meetings! ■



OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

REGIONAL MEETING DATES

- Region 1: April 13**, Van Wert County Historical Society, Van Wert
- Region 2: April 20**, Ashland Historical Society, Ashland
- Region 3: April 13**, Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Cleveland
- Region 4: April 20**, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Youngstown
- Region 5: March 23**, Magnolia Historical Society, Magnolia
- Region 6: March 16**, Fairfield Heritage Association, Lancaster
- Region 7: March 16**, Auglaize County Historical Society, Wapakoneta
- Region 8: March 23**, Evendale Historical Commission, Evendale
- Region 9 & 10 (combined meeting): April 6**, Hocking County Historical Society, Logan

Not sure what region your county is in? See News from the Regions on pages 10 and 11.



Underground Railroad Research with Ohio Memory

Did you know the text of correspondence with Underground Railroad participants, photographs of agents and former slaves, and maps of Underground Railroad routes are available online? This fascinating material about the Underground Railroad in Ohio, and other states, was collected and compiled by Wilbur H. Siebert, a former history professor at Ohio State University. His original papers have been held by the Ohio Historical Society's Archives/Library since 1946. The initial processing and digitization of the Siebert Collection was made possible by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The Ohio Historical Society made the collection available online in 2009.

Siebert was a professor at the Ohio State University from 1891-1935. His research material on the

By Jamie Glavic, Strategic Projects Coordinator, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus

Underground Railroad, collected over a period of 50 years, includes survey responses, interviews, and copies of notes from books, diaries, letters, photographs, newspapers, biographies, memoirs, speeches, annual reports, trial records, census records, and legislation. He organized his research by state and county, eventually binding his notes in volumes by location.

Among the many fascinating items in the collection are transcripts of letters by well-known abolitionists, like John Brown and John Rankin, an Underground Railroad conductor in Ripley, Ohio; a letter Siebert received from famous abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass; and documents that show the large role Ohioans played in the abolitionist movement.

For the price of a subscription, researchers can view over 4,700 Ohio-related items from the Siebert Collection 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through Ohio Memory, the

A photograph of Ohio abolitionist John Rankin's house from the Siebert Collection in Ohio Memory. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

collaborative digital library project of the Ohio Historical Society and the State Library of Ohio. Established in 2000, Ohio Memory contains digital collections from 355 participating cultural heritage institutions around Ohio, representing all 88 counties.

In addition to unlimited access to the materials, subscribers also have access to full-text searching of documents; the ability to page through multiple-page documents; the ability to zoom in to view documents more closely; and the ability to save interesting items to a "my favorites" list.

The individual subscription rate for digital access to the Siebert collection is \$50 (Ohio Historical Society members, \$30). If you have any questions or would like to subscribe, just email images@ohiohistory.org. Interested in learning more about Ohio Memory? Contact Strategic Projects Coordinator, Jamie Glavic, at jglavic@ohiohistory.org or 614-297-2502. ■

OHRAB Grants Available!

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) announces the availability of grants between \$500 and \$2,000 to archival institutions to fund projects to preserve and/or provide access to Ohio's historical records. Proposals must be received by February 28, 2013. Awards will be announced March 20, and projects must be completed by December 31, 2013. Full details of this grant opportunity will be available at OHRAB's website: <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohrab>.

New this year! In addition to the traditional option of printing, signing, and returning the summary page, it may also be completed and signed electronically in a PDF version for easier email submission along with your narrative and budget.

Funding is made available by a federal re-grant opportunity from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). OHRAB has been conditionally notified by NHPRC of the funds for this project. However, we are awaiting formal notification from NHPRC based on the recently passed federal budget. While it is necessary for OHRAB to announce this grant opportunity and begin to receive proposals, all awards are contingent on OHRAB receiving the funds from NHPRC.

If you have questions or require a hard copy of the application package, please contact Judith G. Cetina, County Archivist, 2905 Franklin Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44113, (216) 443-7262, or jcetina@cuyahogacounty.us.

National History Day in Ohio CALL FOR JUDGES!



The 2013 Ohio History Day competition will be April 27th at the Ohio Union at OSU in Columbus. National History Day in Ohio is sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society and is a year-long program where students choose a topic related to the annual theme, conduct research, analyze the information, and create papers, performances, documentaries, exhibits or websites. The 2013 theme is *Turning Points in History*. Ohio History Day is for students in grades 4-5 and 6-12.

Judges are needed for both district and the state History Days. Judges work in teams, interact with participants, evaluate student projects, and then decide which projects will 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 1pm. There are judging opportunities across Ohio every weekend in March and at the state event on April 27th. District contest dates can be found online at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/education/national-history-day-in-ohio/contest-information/districts> and correspond to the dates of The Alliance's regional meetings.

Judging is a great opportunity to learn about History Day, to meet and encourage enthusiastic students, and to be inspired by the work of young historians.

Anyone interested in judging or learning more about History Day can contact the State Coordinator, Mary Bezbatchenko at historyday@ohiohistory.org or visit the website at <http://www.ohiohistory.org/education/national-history-day-in-ohio/get-involved>.

AASLH Awards Nominations Being Accepted

*Did your
organization do
something amazing
this year?*

Every year, AASLH bestows the Leadership in History Awards in recognition of excellence in the field of state and local history.

The Leadership in History Awards were established to encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field.

AASLH recognizes excellence in the following areas:

- Projects, including programming, civic engagement, exhibitions, restoration projects, etc.
- Individual Achievement
- Organizational General Excellence
- Publications

Applicants can self-nominate or nominate another project. Organizations of all sizes are encouraged to apply!

The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2013. For more information, visit http://www.aaslh.org/aaslh_awards.htm or contact Bethany Hawkins at hawkins@aaslh.org or (615) 320-3203.

Tech Tip: Using Google Calendar in Your Museum

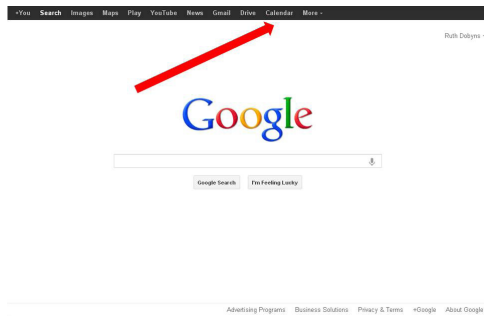


Image 1

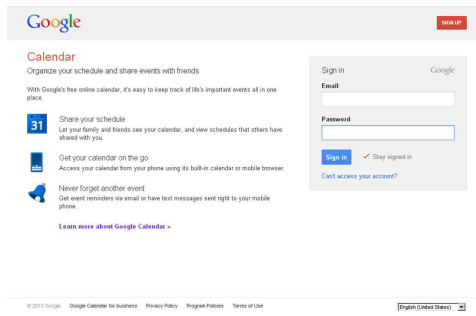


Image 2

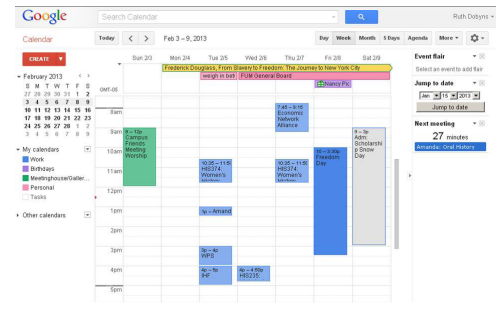


Image 3

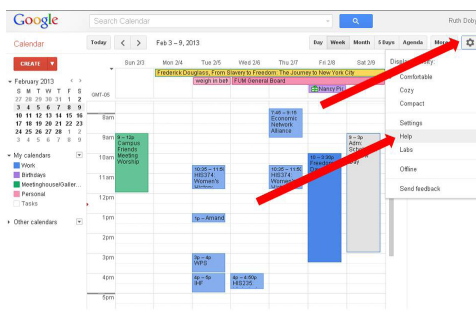


Image 4

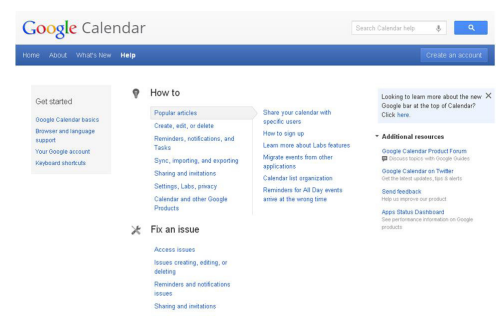


Image 5

By Ruth Brindle Dobyns,
Curator, Quaker Heritage
Center of Wilmington
College, Wilmington

Your museum is open two days a week. You have 20 volunteers who staff the museum on a regular basis. You have another dozen volunteers who come in to work on special projects, like collections processing, exhibit research, or school tours. You have a ten-person board who can never remember when the next board meeting is. You have regularly scheduled events at the museum that guests have to RSVP to attend and that you need volunteers to staff. You also need to keep track of special events and festivals in your community so that you can have the museum open for out-of-town visitors. It can sometimes be a scheduling nightmare. This is where Google Calendar can help! It is a free, easy-to-use, online calendar program that can handle the most complicated scheduling issues.

Google Calendar lets you track multiple schedules at the same time. When you can see your volunteers' availability, the museum's tour and program schedules, and your community's special events side-by-side, figuring out who can work when is a snap.

You can get your calendar on the go. If you have a smart phone, you (and anyone else you invite) can access it that way, as well as seeing it on your desk-top. Your museum does not have constant internet access? No problem, you can work offline. You can view a read-only version of your calendar no matter where you are.

You (or your board members... or your volunteers...) will never forget another event again. Customizable reminders help you stay on schedule: email reminders, text messages, or pop-ups on your screen. You can even send invitations and track RSVPs by inviting other people to events on your calendar. Guests can RSVP to your events by email or via Google Calendar.

To get started, go to www.google.com and click on "Calendar" at the top of the screen. (Image 1) It will prompt you to sign in or create an account. (Image 2) Don't worry – you do not need to have a gmail (Google mail) email address to sign up. You can use any existing email account. Once your calendar is set up, you can create as many events as you want

and add as many different calendars as you like – the sky is the limit! I can see seven different calendars at once on my Google Calendar – my work calendar, my personal calendar, my co-worker's work calendar, a calendar for Gallery reservations, a generic US holidays calendar, birthdays I want to remember, and more. (Image 3) You customize what you want to see, and who else can see what you create.

One of the best things about Google Calendar is that you cannot mess it up! It has easy-to-find and use help features. (Images 4 and 5) Once you get comfortable with the program, you can add all sorts of fancy "bells and whistles," like graphics and pictures and documents tied to specific events.

Be fearless. Go online and play around with it. You may just fall in love!

The Story Behind an Artifact

By Todd McCormick,
Curator/Director, Logan
County Historical Society,
Bellefontaine



Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society

It is important that we know as much as we can about our artifacts, such as their provenance, their use, interesting stories, etc. In their article “Telling the Story: Better Interpretation at Small Historical Organizations,” Timothy Glines and David Grabitske, of the Minnesota Historical Society, write, “An artifact without a story or an interesting idea is not particularly educational.”

So how do we know or find our artifact stories? When bringing new artifacts into your collections, start with the donor. Usually, they are going to know more about the object than anyone else, especially what makes the artifact personal and, perhaps, historically significant. Your museum’s donation or accession forms, whether hard copies or computer programs, should have a space to write descriptions and background histories of the artifacts being brought in. Questions you can ask the donor include:

- What is it?
- Who used it?
- When, where, and how was it used?
- How was it obtained?
- Who made it?
- Are there any photographs of the artifact?
- Is there any original paperwork or manuals?
- Do the donors have any memories of the artifact or remember any stories about the artifact?

This question can be extremely useful and helps make the artifact personal.

Books are good sources to gather information on artifacts. One of the sources I have found valuable is collector guides. These books help in identifying the objects and providing such information as:

- Model name
- Who made it
- When it was made
- Description of use

This information does not necessarily give artifacts a personal story, but it can provide some information that you can use to make your exhibits better.

Period books, like a Sears Roebuck

catalog, are useful. They can help by giving descriptions or the original price of objects. They can also help put an object or topic in context. Catalogs can also help you identify objects on occasion. For example, we have several wooden pins or clubs, and I was not sure what they were. Most people I asked thought they were some type of bowling pin or juggling pin. One day, I was looking through a catalog and found an illustration of a man swinging two pins just like ours. The caption described them as exercise clubs and explained that they came in different sizes and weights.

History and subject books have proven to be helpful in identifying and providing information on some kinds of artifacts, including clothing styles, medical instruments, tools, etc. They can also be helpful in giving a chronological history of certain items.

The internet can be another useful source. You can get on a collector or museum blog and describe your artifact in question. You might get some responses that provide useful information. You can also search for general information about an artifact, such as a patent date or history of the item.

Local experts can be a great resource. Some of your members may collect certain antiques, like ceramics or railroad memorabilia. These experts can help identify styles, time period, uses, and much more.

Other museums are also valuable resources. They may have similar artifacts in their collections and may be able to help identify and describe artifacts.

Finally, visitors to our museums can sometimes be helpful in providing additional insights on artifacts and photographs. Take notes of the comments you hear from visitors or provide comment/evaluation forms. We have had visitors help identify people in photographs and identify and describe tools.

It can be time consuming to do this type of research, or to sit down with a donor, but it is well worth it. You will have a better understanding of your artifacts, which will ultimately lead to better exhibits. ■

ON
THE
WEB

ARRRRDUICATION! An AASLH Blog for Educators & Interpreters

<http://www.aaslhnetwork.org/educatorsinterpreters/>

Arrrrduication!, a blog created and maintained by the Educators and Interpreters Affinity Group of the American Association for State and Local History, is a “place to feed your inner pirate where you can “steal” ideas and inspiration for your next program or exhibit.” With a new post every week, affinity group members take turns presenting ideas and topics from all types of museums. Past topics have included displaying student art exhibits, docent training, bringing interpretation to museum rentals, and engaging younger audiences. Each post has specific ideas and examples to “steal,” and commenters are invited to share their own strategies and ideas that have worked.

April 1- Grant Deadline for Ohio Historical Markers

The marker in Lucas County recognizing the first chartered Girl Scout Council in the United States, which was partially funded by the Marker Grant Program. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.



The History Fund is the newest grant program administered by the Ohio Historical Society's Local History Office, (LHO) but it is not the only one. The LHO also administers OHS's grant program to erect Ohio Historical Markers. Applications are due April 1. The grants are for up to \$750, approximately a quarter to a third of a marker's cost of \$2,300 to \$2,580 (the local sponsor of the marker is responsible for the remainder). The grants are also competitive. OHS makes five grants per deadline, and it usually receives 10-15 applications.

Applying for a grant is easy - just check the box at the top of the marker application that reads "Check the box if applying for funding through Ohio Historical Markers Grants Program."

That is it. Marker applications are available online at www.remarkableohio.org. You will also find a complete and up-to-date list of all Ohio Historical Markers, which currently number 1,418.

Please note that you do not have to apply for a grant to erect a marker. Many local sponsors who are not grant recipients, or who do not apply for a grant, elect to pay the cost of the markers themselves. Correspondingly, marker applications are accepted year 'round.

Questions about the Ohio Historical Markers program? Contact the Local History Office: 1-800-858-6878, 614-297-2341, or localhistory@ohiohistory.org.

Catching Stories Oral History Institute in Ohio

If you are doing an oral history project, or are thinking about doing one, you should apply to attend this year's Oral History Institute, June 4-6 on the beautiful campus of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. The program trains participants in planning and conducting successful oral history projects. Emphasizing hands-on experience, topics covered in the two-and-a-half-day schedule include interviewing techniques, transcribing and archiving, and devising public programs based on oral history. To develop these skills, participants will work on a practice project that encompasses all stages of oral history and will also have time to consult with experts about planned projects. Sessions will also be available on using technology in oral history and on fundraising.

The faculty consists of professors from the fields of history, sociology, archiving, and journalism, who all have extensive experience with oral history.

The institute encourages volunteers or paid staff from local historical organizations, libraries, schools, and colleges and universities to apply. Admission to the institute is limited to thirty and is competitive. The cost of the institute is \$300, which includes two nights stay, six meals, and all other workshop materials. To obtain an application, contact James Calder at (800) 293-9774 or jimc@ohiohumanities.org. The application deadline is April 29, 2013.

List as of Jan. 29, 2013

Welcome New Members

Organizations

Fremont Speedway Historic Club, Inc.,
Fremont

Thank you Renewing Members

Individual

Austintown Historical Society, Austintown
Christy Evans, Gahanna
Sarah B. Hays, Malvern
Highland County Historical Society, Hillsboro
Patricia Murphy, Oberlin
Margaret A. Parker, Pomeroy
Elmer C. Schulz, Stow
Underground Railroad Museum, Flushing
West Licking Historical Society, Pataskala

Organizations

Akron Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division, Akron
Amherst Historical Society, Amherst
Auglaize County Historical Society,
Wapakoneta
Austintown Historical Society, Austintown
Belpre Historical Society, Belpre
Brimfield Historical Society, Kent
Butler County Historical Society, Hamilton
Canton Preservation Society, Canton
Columbia Historical Society Inc.,
Columbia Station
Crosby Township Historical Society, Harrison
Dayton Police History Foundation, Inc., Dayton
Delhi Historical Society, Cincinnati
Friends of Kennedy Stone House, Blue Rock
Friends of White Water Shaker Village,
Cincinnati
Granville Historical Society, Granville
Hardin County Historical Museums, Kenton
Historical Society of Olde Northfield,
Northfield
John Stark Edwards House, Warren
Lake County Historical Society, Painesville
Lake Township Historical Society, Uniontown
Madison Historical Society, Madison
Miamisburg Historical Society, Miamisburg
National Cambridge Collectors, Cambridge
Navarre Bethlehem Township Historical
Society, Navarre
New London Area Historical Society,
New London
New Washington Historical Society,
New Washington
Ohio Historic Bridge Association, Columbus
Pickerington-Violet Township Historical
Society, Pickerington
Stow Historical Society, Stow
Sutliff Museum, Warren
Swiss Community Historical Society, Bluffton
Tippecanoe Historical Society, Tipp City
Toledo History Museum, Inc., Toledo
Toledo Lucas County Public Library Local
History Dept., Toledo
Western Lake Erie Marine Historical Society,
Toledo
Willoughby Historical Society, Willoughby
Wilmington College Quaker Heritage Center,
Wilmington
Worthington Historical Society, Worthington

News from the Regions

In 100 words or less, do you have outstanding news to share about your organization? Please email it to your regional representative for the next issue of *The Local Historian*. Contact information for the representatives in your region is on page 2 of this issue. Of course, you are welcome to forward your news directly to the editor of *The Local Historian* at arohmiller@ohiohistory.org. Rather than serving as a calendar of events, items for News from the Regions are chosen to inspire, connect, and educate the Alliance's members all over Ohio and celebrate notable and imitation-worthy accomplishments of Alliance members.

Region 1

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

Welcome to a new museum in Region 1, the **Tri-County Historical Museum, Inc.**, in Metamora. It was organized in September 2012 at the urging of the **Metamora Area Historical Society**, and its mission is to preserve the rural personal heritage of the tri-county area. The museum has also obtained one of the largest farm toy collections in the country. Containing more than 7,500 pieces, the collection contains a cross-section of toy farm equipment from the United States and the world.

Region 2

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

The **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center** examined heritage tourism in a new way with their exhibit *Tales of Travel from the President's Attic*. Spawmed by visitors' reactions to seeing the attic of the Hayes Home filled with travel trunks, the exhibit used six trips the Hayes family took to examine the growing tourism industry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rutherford B. Hayes made two trips that are included, including his 1880 *Great Western Tour*, the first time a sitting president traveled to the West Coast. The exhibit included a variety of material from the Hayes family including diaries, letters, photographs, movies, and souvenirs, which allowed visitors to experience the exhibit in the Hayes's own words. For more information, visit www.rbhayes.org.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Lorain County Preservation Network (LCPN)** held its first "historic preservation

showcase" at the **Lorain County Historical Society's** History Center. More than 80 people attended to learn about historic preservation activities in towns throughout the county: Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Belden, Elyria, Lorain, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, and Sheffield Village. LCPN is funded as part of the Lorain County Historical Society's Community Educational Outreach Program with a grant from the **Community Foundation of Lorain County**. To learn more, go to www.lchs.org.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

Region 5

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

The **Holmes County Historical Society** has completed the purchase, renovation and opening of the Holmes County Cultural Center located next to its existing property. The expanded campus now includes the Victorian House Museum, the Millersburg Glass Museum, the Holmes County Genealogical Society, and a banquet facility for society events. The property acquisition took place in a March of 2012 with a generous grant from the **Heritage Leader Foundation** and private donors. The campus now provides a one stop historical experience for locals and the many tourists that visit Holmes County from around the world. For more information, go to www.holmeshistory.org.

Region 6

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

Region 7

Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties
Thanks to the hard work of some dedicated volunteers, the **Champaign County Historical Society** now has its collections records available online. Visit www.champaigncounty-historicalmuseum.org and click on the "Search Archives" button to view some of the fascinating collections.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Miami River's 1913 flood. The **Piqua Public Library**, the **Troy Historical Society**, the **Dayton Metro Library**, **Dayton History**, the **West Carrollton Historical Society**, the **Miamisburg Historical Society**, the **Franklin Area Historical Society**, the **Middletown Historical Society**, the **Midpointe Library**, **Miami University-Hamilton**, **Wright State University**, and the **Miami Conservancy District** have partnered to commemorate this
(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

historic event. The partners have created a variety of events including a play, a historical walk through downtown Dayton, lectures, and exhibits. They are also collecting flood stories from the community through their website, www.1913flood.com.

Region 8

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

The **Butler County Historical Society** partnered with a **Miami University** class for a research project in the society's costume collection. Students in "Dress in America" spent the fall semester researching men's and women's clothing dating from the 1860s to the 1920s. Students dated the clothing, studied the clothes' cultural context, and drew speculative conclusions about the wearers of their pieces. As a culmination of their research, the students shared their findings with the society's members and other guests just after Thanksgiving. For more information, go to www.bchistoricalociety.com.

Region 9

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

Region 10

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

The **Belpre Historical Society's** Farmers' Castle Museum Education Center received a donation of 11 glass cases from The Memory Mall antique shop in Belpre after the shop closed its doors. Two of these cases are floor to ceiling sized and lighted. These additional cases will allow the museum to accept more of Henry Burke's Underground Railroad collection. To learn more, visit <http://belprehistory.com/>.

The **Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County** partnered with PBS's **American Experience** in an extension of *The Abolitionists* series that aired Tuesdays in January. The Abolitionist Map of America, an interactive website, uses the contributions of dozens of local history organizations and PBS member stations to connect the abolition story to their geographic locations. The P&HS's contributions feature a narrative of the anti-slavery movement in 1830s Putnam; pictures of the Stone Academy, site of two Ohio Anti-Slavery Society conventions; the Putnam Presbyterian Church; and the homes of A.A. and George Guthrie, noted abolitionist brothers. To view the map, go to www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/interactive-map/abolitionists-map. To learn more about the P&HS, visit www.muskingumhistory.org.

Join the Ohio Local History Alliance...

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

Organizational Member

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

Operating budget:

Over \$200,000 a year:
\$100 (\$190 for 2)
\$100,000-\$200,000 a year:
\$75 (\$140 for 2)
\$25,000-\$100,000 a year:
\$60 (\$110 for 2)
Under \$25,000 a year:
\$35 (\$65 for 2)

Individual Member

Get six issues of *The Local Historian*, save when you register for our Alliance regional and statewide local history meetings, receive periodic email updates.

Affiliate: \$35 (\$65 for 2)
Individual: \$50 (\$90 for 2)
Student: \$20

Business Member

\$100 (\$190 for 2)

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

CALENDAR 2013

February 25-26

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

February 27

Statehood Day. Join members of the local history community from across the state at the day-long advocacy event. Also, the first recipients of the History Fund grants will be announced. For more information, see page 4 and visit www.ohiohistory.org/statehoodday.

February 28

OHRAB Grant Application Deadline. For more information, see page 6.

March 01

AASLH Awards Nomination Deadline. For more information, see page 6.

March 2, 9, 16, 23; April 6

District History Day contests. For more information, see page 6.

March 16, 23; April 6, 13, 20

Ohio Local History Alliance Regional Meetings. See page 1 and www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/professional-development/alliance-regional-meetings for more information.

April 01

Historical Marker Grant Deadline. For more information, see page 9.

April 27

State History Day. For more information, see page 6.

April 29

Catching Stories Oral History Institute Application Deadline. For more information, see page 9.

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

the future of **HISTORY FUND** begins with **You**

At this year's Statehood Day on February 27, the first History Fund grant recipients will be announced, bringing to completion a quest that stretches back to 2005. This milestone event illustrates perfectly the appeal and the impact of Ohio History.

From the moment it was introduced in the Ohio Legislature more than seven years ago until its passage in June 2011, the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums (the predecessor of the Ohio Local History Alliance) made the income tax check-off one of its top priorities. Your persistent lobbying of your senators and representatives, in the form of thousands of letters, phone calls, and personal visits, paid off, as you convinced your elected leaders of the need and the wisdom to enact the income tax check-off.

During tax-filing year 2011, the first year that the Ohio Historical Society appeared on the Ohio state income tax return, more than 17,000 Ohioans designated a portion of their income tax refund to the History Fund. No doubt, many of those

contributors were OLHA members and their friends and families, while others were Ohioans with no particular affiliation other than wanting to support their state and local history.

By the October 29, 2012 deadline, OHS had received 64 applications from every corner of the state, seeking support to help build organizational capacity, to develop programs and to care for collections, and to address bricks and mortar needs. As this issue goes to press, the applications are being evaluated to determine which will be funded. With \$114,000 in the History Fund and total requests for funding equaling \$891,000 it will not be possible to fund all 64 grant applications – not necessarily because each project does not deserve to be funded, but because the need exceeds available funds.

But this deficiency can be corrected; the future of the Ohio History Fund rests with us. It was the collec-



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

tive voice of the local history community that convinced the Legislature to pass the income tax check-off. You stepped forward last year with your own tax refund contribution and you encouraged others to do the same. If the local history network continues to support the income tax check-off as enthusiastically and as effectively as in the past, the History Fund will grow and be able to award more grants. I urge you to make the Ohio History Fund a priority and to ask your fellow members, friends, relatives, and neighbors to do the same. I hope to see you at Statehood Day on February 27 as the Ohio history community celebrates the first of many grant award ceremonies yet to come. ■

Need to Contact Us? *We at the Local History Office love hearing from you.*

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