THE Local Historian

OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

Bridging the Gap: Tips for Running a Youth Docent Program in Your Museum

By Michael Craft, Local History AmeriCorps Volunteer, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati

The Freedom Center's youth docents in class. Photo courtesy of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

When the staff from The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center asked me to coordinate their Youth Docent Program two months into my AmeriCorps year of service, I jumped at the chance. I had been volunteering as a docent for the past three years, and I am comfortable around young people. But ten minutes into the first class I held, I started to feel like I had bitten off more than I could chew. Seventeen silent teenage faces stared out at me. I questioned if a middle-aged history geek like me was going to be able to relate to my class of 15 and 16 year olds.

The anxious moment passed, however, and with every weekly class, both my confidence and my connection with this great group of teenage docents grew. During the last four months, my youth docent group has completed their docent training, helped host a presentation at the Freedom Center, and have begun history related projects, which will be completed and pre-

sented at the end of their year of service. I am looking forward to the remaining six months with these great young people. I have learned as much or more from these students and this experience than they have from me. How did I get there? What things should you focus on if you are given the opportunity to lead a youth docent program?

Enjoy yourself. It sounds obvious but this role is something you have to enjoy. The youth are perceptive and, like all volunteers, they are docents because they want to be there. Let your own interest and enthusiasm for the museum's mission and content show. If you do not express that enthusiasm in your docent class, there is little chance any of your youth docents will either.

Treat your youth docents with respect. Chances are you are older, more educated, and more experienced than the young people you are responsible

for training. It is possible, without realizing it, to come across as condescending or patronizing. Again, young people are perceptive. They are used to having adults behaving this way towards them. Be genuine with them, and you will establish a trust that will serve you both.

Take advantage of the other support in your museum. Your museum most likely has experienced adult docents whose experience and knowledge can complement your own. Despite how great your knowledge of the museum's content, or how great your skill as a talented guide, your young people will benefit and grow from interacting with other skilled docents. Just as they learn from different teachers in school, give your docents the opportunity to enrich their education by learning from the various styles and skills of the others who also guide.

Be aware of the generation gap. If you are where I am in in life, you are quite a bit older than the young docents. Despite how genuine and approachable you might be, a generation

WHAT'S INSIDE:

President's Message:

It is summertime, and for many Ohio local historical organizations, that means it's your busiest season of the year! Be sure to check out this issue of The Local Historian *for all of the upcoming opportunities around the state—you will not want to miss them.*

*This summer, the Ohio Local History Alliance is very pleased to welcome intern Katherine Buckingham. Katherine graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with majors in History and English. The focus of the internship, sponsored by the Alliance and made possible, in part, by the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endow-*ment for the Humanities, is to focus on making the Alliance's new website and social media more robust and more useful to you, our constituency. Katherine is headquartered in the Local History Office at the Ohio History Center, and is working with Program Assistant Amy Rohmiller.*

Changes you can already see at our website (www.ohiolha.org) include a new board member page, where you will find photographs, board positions and contact information (http://www.ohiolha.org/about/2013-board-members-2/) A grants page is being populated with information and will prove useful for our members from all over the state (http://www.ohiolha.org/resources/grants/). Behind the scenes, Katherine will be creating a procedures manual that will pave the way to our short-term and long-range plans for continued improvements and maintenance of digital communications. Be sure to also visit our social media outlets, including Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/OhioLocalHistoryAlliance?ref=hl), LinkedIn (http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Ohio-Local-History-Alliance-1832786), and YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hbdA22Ouy8).*

Our sincere thanks to the Ohio Humanities Council and the Ohio Historical Society for helping the Ohio Local History Alliance make this internship possible. We are so pleased about the progress we are making, and we trust that you will reap many benefits from it!

Maggie Marconi
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2013 Board Members
Ohio Local History Alliance

General Assembly Update

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

The Ohio General Assembly and Governor John R. Kasich recently finalized the state's two year budget for fiscal years 2014-15. The budget includes an unprecedented increase in state funding for the Ohio Historical Society – a 22 percent increase over the previous two years.

This is a most welcome boost for Ohio History. The increase will help bring stability to the Society's budget after several years of using private reserves to offset huge state funding cuts from four years ago. The Society's state funding for the fiscal year that began July 1 amounts to $9.64 million and $10.14 million in the next fiscal year. The Society's annual state funding levels have zigged and zagged considerably in recent years – from $13.5 million in fiscal year 2008 to as low as $7.3 million in fiscal year 2013.

"We're very appreciative of the support we received from both the governor's office and the Ohio General Assembly," said Burt Logan, the Society's executive director and CEO. "They understood the need to take corrective action in this budget, and it will make a world of difference in advancing Ohio History and position the Ohio Historical Society for future growth."

The Ohio General Assembly has been busy so far this year addressing a number of issues affecting Ohio History:

- Sen. Bill Seitz was successful in adding an amendment to the state's two–year budget that incorporates some of the recommendations from the Legislative Commission on Education and Preservation of State History. Among other things, the amendment includes the creation of a new Ohio History license plate and the creation of a cemetery law task force.

Columbus School for Girls students worked to make the Adena Pipe the state's official artifact. Photo courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

- Reps. Kirk Schuring and Anne Gonzales introduced House Bill 112 that would create a new tax check-off for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Project. The bill also proposes a new threshold for all tax check-off programs, including the new OHS tax check-off that provides funding for the History Fund grant program. The bill initially stated that any tax check-off that generates less than $250,000 two consecutive years would be eliminated. The legislative sponsors later agreed to lower the threshold to $150,000. The bill appeared to be close to passage at the time of publication.

- The Adena Pipe is now the state's official artifact, thanks to legislation that was recently signed into law by Gov. Kasich. Senate Bill 33 won the unanimous approval of the Ohio House and Senate before being signed into law May 16 in a bill-signing ceremony that included several classes of students from the Columbus School for Girls who had lobbied for the legislation since 2009.

Todd can be reached at tkleismit@ohiohistory.org. ■

Bridging the Gap: Tips for Running a Youth Docent Program

gap exists. Take advantage of museum staff or young adult volunteers are closer in age to your youth docents. They will understand pop culture references that you do not (and vice versa). I have been blessed with young adult volunteers who have helped me with my class this year. Their insight into the behavior and motivation for my youth group has been tremendously helpful to me, especially given that my two young women volunteers help me connect with my 14 female youth docents!

Be prepared. Know what you are going to teach. As anyone who has ever taught can tell you, the best way to ensure that you know your subject is when you begin to teach it to others. For me, this meant I needed to make sure I knew the exhibits and the content. But along with the educational and factual information, the most important thing to remember in training a docent is that the factual information they learn is only half of their responsibility. A docent is guide. And our role as museum guides is to reveal what the museum has to offer so that visitors can interpret what it means to them.

If you can remember these things and realize that your interaction with every young student you work has the potential to enrich your experience and improve your ability to serve your museum, you will be well on your way to having as much fun as I have. ■

Probably Not a Good Idea

By Patricia L. Miller, Executive Director, Illinois Heritage Association, Champaign

[The following is excerpted from IHA Technical Insert No. 128 Mar-Apr 2004, Still Not a Good Idea – Part II. *We print this excerpt with permission.]*

Selling Deaccessioned Artifacts in the Museum Store

The Museum Store Association (MSA), a standing professional committee of American Association of Museums (AAM), states in its Code of Ethics, "The sale of any deaccessioned materials in the museum store is unacceptable. Even though the item may have been properly deaccessioned, the public may perceive the transaction as the museum store participating in the liquidation of the museum's collection."

A related problem may arise if the museum sells antiques or original artifacts that are similar to those in the collection. It is easy for the public to get the idea that these artifacts came from the collection. A museum that acquires the reputation of selling off collection pieces in the museum store may find the public's perception very difficult to alter.

The MSA code also addresses the sale of replicas and reproductions, noting, "Their sale in the museum stores must be carefully regulated because of the ease with which they may be misperceived by the public." Replicas and reproductions (each has a specific definition) can be good sources of museum store income and can meet the test of relatedness to the museum's purpose. But it is essential to identify them clearly as such and to build on their educational potential.

Selling the Collection

Although it is a commonly understood tenet that museums should hold clear title to all collection objects, thereby having the legal right to dispose of any of them, the deaccessioning of any part of a collection is an area of great sensitivity. In theory, a museum should acquire only those objects that fulfill its mission. Therefore, there are limited legitimate reasons to remove permanently any objects from the collection.

The decision to deaccession any collection object should be based on several considerations. These might include a shift in focus of the museum's mission, the inappropriateness of an object in relation to the collection's scope, or the deteriorated condition of an object. If one of these conditions is met and a decision is made to deaccession an object, the means of disposal then becomes important. One course may be to move the item to a study collection or education collection where it may be useful for research or educational programs. If the item is not appropriate for the museum's collection, a more fitting home may be found, such as another museum or school. The item might be given, traded, or sold. On no account should the object be given to any but a public organization.

If an item is to be sold, a number of other considerations come into play. Museum staff must consider how, where, and to whom the object will be sold. Holding a "garage" sale on the museum property and auctioning off some of the collection is probably the worst choice a museum could make to dispose of inappropriate objects. Giving the donor any preference in reclaiming or repurchasing an object is not just unadvisable; it may be illegal. Once a donor transfers legal title to an object to a public entity, he or she should have no more right to it than any other person. There may be tax considerations, as well, if an item is returned to the donor.

Public notice and public sale are other means of deaccessioning. Some museums prefer to sell quietly in some other location in order to avoid creating the perception that selling collection items is a common practice. Other museums meet the issue head on and use the opportunity to educate the public about why a sale is considered necessary. Individual circumstances dictate the appropriate action here.

A further consideration is how proceeds from the sale of collection objects should be spent. The recommended approach is to use such funds to purchase appropriate collection objects that can replace those that have been deaccessioned. This requirement does not address the needs of some museums where objects acquired in the past may actually be inappropriate items that should be eliminated. Such a museum may need to narrow its focus and reduce the size of its collections, whether by sale or other means.

Some museums use sale funds to "enhance" the collection or to conserve the collection, but others object that such vague intentions invite abuses. Museums have been known to use these funds to build additions or for other capital expenses. Their boards may argue that their priority is to eliminate any objects that don't belong in their collection, to make sure that objects that are left fulfill their mission, and then to take the best possible care of them. It may be that by disposing of inappropriate items, the museum will be better able to care for objects that should be in the collection. There are strongly divided opinions within the profession about this issue.

The AAM Code of Ethics states that funds realized from the sale of collection items should be used only for the purchase or direct care of collection items. The Statement of Professional Standards and Ethics issued by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) states that collections should not be deaccessioned or disposed of in order to provide financial support for institutional operations, facility management, or any other reason other than the preservation or acquisition of collections.

Controversies continue to arise about selling collections, and in tough economic times there is a temptation to view collections as disposable assets. Museums that have a clear mission and a written collections plan that guides their acquisitions will be in the best position to deal with pressures to sell off collections to improve financial well-being. ■

From Film to Digital: The National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio

By Jenni Salamon, Project Coordinator, National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio, Ohio Historical Society

Interested in digitizing your community's newspapers but not sure how it works? Keep reading to learn how the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) transforms archived newspapers into dynamic, keyword-searchable digital images.

Background

OHS began its newspaper digitization program in 2008 with funding provided through the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a collaborative effort of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, and state projects to preserve and provide increased access to America's historical newspapers. Participating institutions (one per state) are awarded two-year grants to digitize 100,000 pages of their microfilmed newspapers, published between 1836 and 1922. Digitized content is made freely available through the Library of Congress's *Chronicling America* website (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). By August 2014, OHS will have contributed over 300,000 pages to the site, representing 67 papers from 52 counties.

Newspaper Selection

The National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio (NDNP-OH) relies on an advisory board comprised of librarians, archivists, historians, curators, and educators from all over the state to select the newspapers that will be added to *Chronicling America*. Considering the paper's geographical and chronological coverage as well as its historical significance, the board chooses at least one paper from each of the ten Ohio Local History Alliance regions. This method has allowed us to build a collection that represents Ohio's geographic diversity. Before the list is finalized, NDNP-OH staff reviews each of the selected papers. Once this is complete, the "reel" work of digitization can begin.

The Digitization Process

Digitizing to the NDNP technical specifications requires several steps to ensure a high quality and sustainable end product.

1. To create the best quality images, negative microfilm is scanned. This creates better optical character recognition (OCR), which makes the pages keyword searchable.

2. Use copy microfilm is extensively reviewed at the reel, issue, and page level by staff. The digitization vendor uses the information we provide to create the data ("metadata") that connects pages to issues to titles in the correct order.

3. Digitized content is sent to OHS for quality review. Staff checks the images, metadata, and OCR for quality and accuracy. Any errors we find are corrected.

4. After our review, the content is sent to the Library of Congress to be uploaded to their *Chronicling America* website, where it is freely-available and keyword-searchable for users all over the world.

5. Repeat steps 1-4 for each 8,000-10,000 page batch until project is complete!

Beyond NDNP

Not every paper ever published can be included on *Chronicling America*, so another goal of NDNP is to provide states with the experience and tools they need to build newspaper digitization programs on a state or regional level. OHS embarked on its first major non-NDNP newspaper digitization project in 2010. Since then,

OHS has digitized over 25,000 newspaper pages for Ohio Memory and is currently processing another 70,000. These projects have been funded through local partnerships and other grant programs.

Do you want to learn more about NDNP-OH and newspaper digitization, or find out how you can get your newspapers digitized through the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Memory Digitization Program? Contact Jenni Salamon, Project Coordinator for NDNP-OH, at 614-297-2579 or jsalamon@ohiohistory.org.

HELPFUL LINKS

NDNP Program Resources: http://www.loc.gov/ndnp

NDNP Grant Information:
http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/national-digital-newspaper-program

Chronicling America: http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
Access over six million digitized newspaper pages published from 1836 to 1922 from all over the nation as well as information about America's newspapers from 1690 to present

Ohio Memory: http://www.ohiomemory.org
The collaborative digital library of the Ohio Historical Society, State Library of Ohio and over 360 cultural heritage institutions around the state
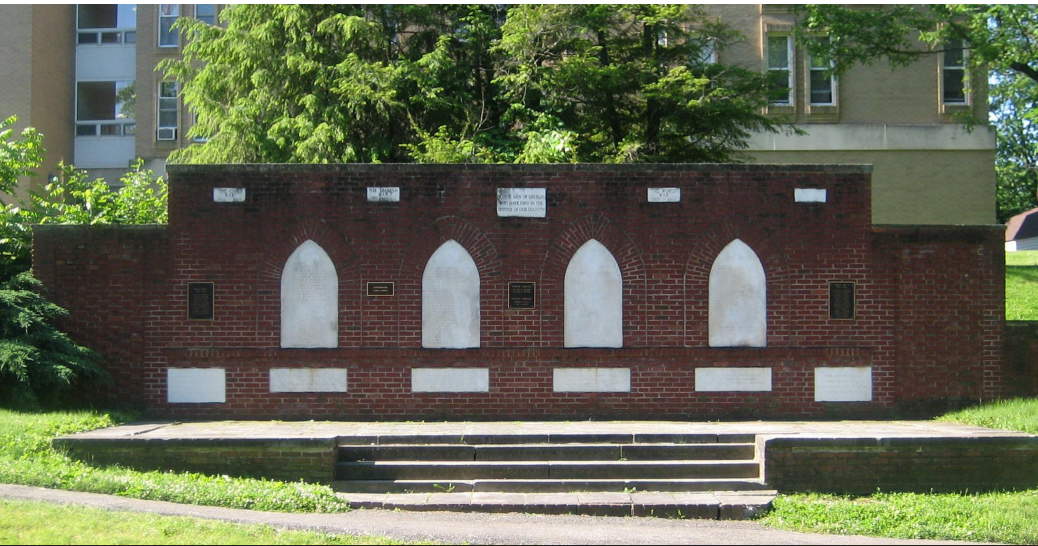
Ohio Digital Newspaper Portal:
http://www.ohiohistoryhost.org/ohiomemory/odnp
See what newspapers are currently available on Chronicling America and Ohio Memory and which ones are coming soon as well as tips for accessing digitized content!

"Using Chronicling America" Podcast Series:
tinyurl.com/using-chronam-podcasts

This Oberlin Civil War monument is now a part of the Ohio Historic Inventory. Photo courtesy of the Oberlin Heritage Center.

Completing The Ohio Historic Inventory I-Form for Civil War Monuments

By Richard Donegan, Local History AmeriCorps Volunteer, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin

The Ohio Historic Inventory Form (I-Form) from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office is a great way to record information about historic buildings and other structures, like monuments, in your community. Having the information officially recorded in the Ohio Historic Inventory can help with local preservation efforts and making the information available to researchers across the state. Filling out the I-Form, however, can be a daunting task. This is especially true if you work to create entries for monuments or memorials, as a majority of the fields on the form are suited for information about actual buildings. I have recently begun to create I-Form entries for the Lorain County Civil War monuments I surveyed last winter. While the "Ohio Historic Inventory I-Form User's Guide" is the bible for completing the I-Form, here are a few hints and tips for those of you who may need a little extra help completing the form and surveying a monument.

A lot of groundwork is needed before filling out the I-Form. The first step is to survey the monument itself. When surveying a monument, be sure to bring along a digital camera and a large measuring tape. You might want to bring a friend or colleague, too. Some monuments are very large and the I-Form requires accurate measurements as part of the report. It is best to obtain measurements of as many dimensions of the monument as possible. Digital images of the monument will be helpful down the line when filing out the I-Form. Not only are two images required for the report, but the images will be useful in helping you describe the architecture of the monument in the architectural features segment of the report.

A lot of the information needed for completion of the I-Form requires some research. There are many fields regarding the construction and history of the monument. The name of the architect or sculptor and the materials used in the monument and its foundation may be found at your town hall or county clerk's office. Your historical society or library may have information too. Contemporary newspapers are a good resource to check. If you can't find resources there, http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ [*see an article on* Chronicling America *elsewhere in this issue*] has a wide collection of searchable, nationwide newspapers. Sometimes the name of the architect can be found on the monument itself. If you look closely enough, you may see a sculptor's signature with the year of completion on the side or rear of a monument. Of additional importance is the lot, section or VMD (Virginia Military District) number that is pertinent to the plot of land the monument stands on. This may take a bit of work to figure out through the county auditor's office.

Most of Ohio's auditors have websites you can use to access this information. A full list of websites and contact information can be found at http://www.caao.org/DIRECTORY/ohio.php.

One of the trickiest fields is Easting and Northing, or the geographic coordinates of your structure on the Earth's x-y axis. Every building or structure will have its own unique set of points to give researchers its precise location. Putting these exact points in the required form takes some work. You can use Google Maps (www.google.com/maps) and a website from the University of Wisconsin: Green Bay (http://www.uwgb.edu/dutchs/UsefulData/ConvertUTMNoOZ.HTM) to make it easier.

The "Ohio Historic Inventory I-Form User's Guide" is the official guide on how to complete the I-Form. But feel free to use some of these hints to make your work a little bit easier. ■

Congratulations!

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Grant

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) has awarded grants to eight institutions to support archival projects. The funded projects include organizing and preserving historical records and cataloging and digitizing records for improved access. The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). More information about these and past grantees is available at http://bit.ly/OHRABgrants.

- **Delaware County Historical Society:** Delaware County Historical Records Cataloging and Preservation Project, $720
- **German Township (Fulton County):** Historic German Township Records Processing and Preservation Project, $2,000
- **Historical Society of Mount Pleasant (Jefferson County):** Arrangement and Preservation of Genealogical Records, $954
- **Hudson Library and Historical Society (Summit County):** Preserving and Improving Access to Hudson, Ohio Historic Photographs, $1,838
- **Shaker Historical Society (Cuyahoga County):** Elizabeth Nord Research Library & Archives Map and Stereoview Collections Preservation and Reorganization, $888
- **University of Akron (Summit County):** Digitization of the Daniel Gugggenheim Airship Institute Technical Reports, $1,980
- **Welsh-American Heritage Museum (Jackson County):** Access and Preservation of Historical Records at the Welsh-American Heritage Museum, $1,967
- **Wyandot County Historical Society:** Wyandot County Historical Society Photographic Collection Storage Project, $653

OHRAB is the central body for historical records planning in the state. Board members are appointed by the governor and represent Ohio's public and private archives, records offices, and research institutions. Administrative responsibility for the board rests with the Ohio Historical Society's Museum and Library Services Division. OHRAB also acts as the state-level review body for grants submitted to the NHPRC, in accordance with that commission's guidelines.

Congratulations!

2013 Ohio History Day Winners

On April 27, over 500 students presented exhibits, performances, documentaries, papers, and web sites to volunteer judges at Ohio History Day. The National History Day theme for 2012-2013 was *Turning Points in History.*

Two projects were awarded the Ohio Local History Alliance Award for creating outstanding entries based on a local history topic, one each in the Junior and Senior divisions. The Junior division winner was Maya Farhat, from Birchwood School, for her performance titled "The Underground Railroad in Ripley, Ohio: A Turning Point in the Lives of Thousands of Slaves." The Senior winners were Abigail Arnold, Lacey Brenneman, Hannah Johnson, from West Jefferson High School, for their exhibit "Alan Freed: The Big Beat in American Music."

The top two projects in each category were selected to represent Ohio at National History Day. Projects were also honored as National Alternates, Honorable Mentions, and a series of Special Prizes that are sponsored by state and local organizations

The 60 Ohio finalists headed off to National History Day at the University of Maryland June 9-13th where they competed with other students from across the country, Puerto Rico, America Samoa, and Department of Defense Schools. Ohio was well represented at National History Day, where 10 of the 35 projects placed in the top 12 in the country. John Vodrey, from Shaker Heights High School, took first place for his senior individual website on the election of 1860. The full lists of winners for state and national history day can be found online at www.ohiohistoryday.org.

Next year's NHD theme is *Rights and Responsibilities* in History. It's never too early to sign up as a judge for the contests in March and April 2014. Send an email to historyday@ohiohistory.org to be added to our judge mailing list.

Congratulations!

Ohio Historical Marker Grant Recipients

The following organizations and markers subjects received grants from the Ohio Historical Markers grant program during its spring round of awards in April.

- **President William McKinley's Boyhood Home, Poland, Mahoning County.** The marker chronicles McKinley from the time his family moved to Poland when he was nine, though his Civil War service, to when he moved to Canton in 1867. Marker application submitted by Town One Streetscapes of Poland.
- **Chagrin Falls & Eastern Railway, South Russell, Geauga County.** The marker shares the history of the railway, which became the Eastern Ohio Traction Company and operated from 1899-1925. Marker application submitted by the Village of South Russell.
- **Johnny S. Black, Hamilton, Butler County.** Johnny Black is to be honored for writing the Mills Brother's hit song and popular classic "Paper Doll." Marker application submitted by the Johnny S. Black Memorial Fund.
- **State's First Female Lawyers, Tiffin, Seneca County.** In 1873, sisters Nettie Cronise Lutes and Florence Cronise were the first women admitted to the practice of law in Ohio. Marker application submitted by the Seneca County Bar Association.
- **St. Aloysius Orphanage, Cincinnati, Hamilton County.** The marker will share the history of an orphanage founded in 1837 to care for children orphaned by the cholera epidemics of the 1830s. Marker application submitted by St. Aloysius Orphanage.

The committee had five grants to award and was challenged to make tough choices from a field of 17 applications. Grant applicants who did not receive grants are free to work with OHS's Local History Office to erect the marker and cover the cost of the marker without a grant. Marker grants pay up to $750 towards a marker's cost.

For more information about the Ohio Historical Markers Program, visit: www.remarkableohio.org.

Grants!

History Fund Now Accepting Grant Applications

Thanks to the generosity of more than 15,000 Ohio taxpayers (as of June 1, and counting), the Ohio Historical Society's History Fund has more than $100,000 (as of June 1, and counting) for the History Fund grant program in 2014. The online application for the History Fund grant is available at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund. The deadline for applications is September 5, 2013.

History Fund grants support projects in three broad areas: Programs & Collections, Bricks & Mortar, and Organizational Development. Projects funded in the first year of the grant include two digitization projects, production of a video documentary, two collections management projects, a historical reenactment, a museum exhibit, an archeological field study, and two building preservation and construction projects – to name a few. The Fund is limited only by an applicant's imagination AND adherence to the History Fund's Guidelines, at www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund.

To assist History Fund applicants, the OHS's Local History Office is planning a History Fund Help webinar. Scheduled for July 18 and August 7 from 10:00 to 11:30 am, the webinar will walk applicants through the application process, and answer your questions. The webinar is free, but registration is required, at www.ohiohistory.org/register. Applicants are not required to attend a webinar, but it might give you a "leg up" on your application.

Grant recipients will be announced on February 27, 2014 at the annual history advocacy event, "Statehood Day." Between the application deadline of September 5, 2013 and February 2014, the History Fund will be in contact regarding the status of applications. Projects will commence according to the schedule developed in each recipient's application, but no sooner than May 1, 2014.

For more about the History Fund, go to www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund or contact the friendly, helpful staff of OHS's Local History Office at 800-858-6878, or email localhistory@ohiohistory.org. Good luck!

Awards!

2013 Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards Deadline August 1

Nominate the amazing local history work being done in your community for a 2013 Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award! The deadline for nominations is August 1. Awards are presented at the Awards Luncheon on October 5, part of the Alliance's Annual Meeting.

The Alliance presents awards in two categories – Individual Achievement and History Outreach. Individual Achievement Awards recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Ohio's historical societies, history museums, or the understanding and appreciation of state and local history. Nominees must have been involved in a local history organization for at least five years and have demonstrated excellence in more than one area of that organization's operations. If the nominee is a teacher, he or she must demonstrate creativity in teaching methods and expertise in local and state history.

History Outreach Awards recognize outstanding local history projects. These projects must have educational content, contribute to the promotion and understanding of local or state history, and strengthened the local community. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories: public programming, media and publications, and exhibits/displays.

Download a nomination form at http://www.ohiolha.org/resources/outstanding-achievement-awards/ or contact the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878, 614-297-2340, or email localhistory@ohiohistory.org. Good luck!

Great Idea!

Celebrate Archives Month with an Evening of Readings

There are a number of local historical societies and public libraries across Ohio that conduct activities during Archives Month in October. These groups may do special exhibits or lectures or open houses. But has your local group ever tried a program of readings from some of the more outstanding items in your collections?

Are you interested? First identify some of those special items that you have and then make copies. Next, set a date for the event. Follow this with listing some of your strongest supporters as well as some of the more prominent members of your community whom you would like to be involved with your organization. Then invite these people to be your readers and encourage them to bring along family and friends to a fun evening. Once this is done, prepare a script for the program (watch the timing) and designate a narrator. Finally, do your customary publicity efforts, buy a few cookies and cups for warm cider, then enjoy the program with everyone else.

Consider working with another group just up the road or across the county line to share programming. Have two programs—be at your site one evening then at the other site two weeks later.

The theme for Archives Month in Ohio this year is "Disasters in Ohio." This year marks the centennial of the floods of 1913, but are many types of disasters, natural or human-made, to be commemorated. The Society of Ohio Archivists (SOA) will again have its Archives Month poster, but you do not have to use this theme. And, you can have the readings on an afternoon should you choose. Whatever you choose, let SOA know how your program turns out.

George W. Bain, Chair, Society of Ohio Archivists Archives Month Committee
bain@ohio.edu

Professional Development

Alliance Workshop Coming August 20!

On August 20 from 9am-4pm, the Ohio Local History Alliance will be hosting a one-day workshop at the Ohio History Center in Columbus, *Connecting Your Collections To Teachers and Students*. Through a combination of presentations, discussions, hands-on activities, and take-home materials, this workshop addresses the elements of museum education and program planning needed to create a successful program with a focus on collections-based educational programming. Topics include learning styles, presentation strategies, audience types, program assessment, and crafting programming that is meaningful to the education community. Participants will be asked to bring a challenge or a program in development to discuss during the course of this full-day workshop. This workshop is presented in partnership with The Creative Learning Factory at the Ohio Historical Society and will be presented by Stacia Kuceyeski, CEO of Creative Learning, The Creative Learning Factory, and Megan Wood, Visitor Experience Department Manager at the Ohio Historical Society.

Registration for the workshop is only $25 for members and $32 for non-members of the Alliance. The registration deadline is August 14, 2013. Register at www.ohiohistory.org/register or contact the Local History Office at 1-800-858-6878, 614-297-2340, or localhistory@ohiohistory.org. See you there!

Professional Development

Museum Educator Webinar Series

The Creative Learning Factory at the Ohio Historical Society has created a three-webinar series just for museum educators.

Learning Theory and Museum Education Practice, previously recorded, provides a brief history of learning theories and demonstrates how those theories play out in classroom and museum settings. A learning theory is composed of two parts – a theory of knowledge and a theory of learning. This presentation provides some basic definitions and provides time for discussion and questions. Other topics include: Multiple Intelligences, Bloom's Taxonomy, Informal vs. Formal Learning, and Family Learning.

How Inquiry-Based and 21st Century Learning Styles Are Affecting Museum Programming, on July 18, will focus on how museums are developing school programming around 21st century skill techniques such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. It will identify strategies to meet these growing trends in formal and informal education programs and demonstrate how inquiry-based learning is fueling the push toward the development of 21st century skills and thinking.

Common Core for Museum Professionals, held September 18, will give an overview of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English Language Arts and Math, including how they were developed and how they fit into the greater discussion of standards-based education. The presentation will examine how each set of CCSS is structured and then provide some strategies for designing new museum programs and activities that are aligned to the CCSS and adapt existing programs and activities for alignment. Finally, it will outline some key benefits to the CCSS like the encouragement of interdisciplinary instruction.

For more information about any of the webinars or to register, visit www.creativelearningfactory.org.

Professional Development

Alliance Annual Meeting Coming October 4 & 5

Mark your calendars now for the Alliance's Annual Meeting, *Connecting Treasured Pasts & Bright Futures*, at the Holiday Inn Worthington October 4-5. This year's exciting program features sessions on all aspects of history museum work: education, exhibits, programming, and managing volunteers to name a few. Just like last year, the Society of Ohio Archivists will also be holding their fall workshops concurrently on Friday, which all attendees are invited to attend.

You will also find many great chances to network with your colleagues, hear about the War of 1812 from keynote speaker, historian Larry Nelson, and see all the fantastic local history work being done in Ohio at the annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday. Watch for your annual meeting brochure, coming in mid-July!

Membership

List as of June 6, 2013

Welcome New Members
Organizations
Museum of Postal History, Delphos

Thank you Renewing Members
Individuals
Kenneth E. Davison, Tiffin
Edward J. Hall, Kent
Judy C. Schroeder, Fort Jennings

Organizations
Allen County Historical Society, Lima
Alpine Hills Historical Museum, Sugarcreek
Anti-Saloon League Museum, Westerville
Barnes-Deinzer Seneca County Museum Foundation, Tiffin
Bedford Historical Society, Bedford
Berlin Center Historical Society, Berlin Center
Betts House Research Center, Cincinnati
Clinton County History Center, Wilmington
Darke County Historical Society, Greenville

Dover Historical Society, Dover
Fairview Park Historical Society,
  Fairview Park
Fayette County Historical Society,
  Washington Court House
Friends of Harbour Town, Vermilion
George Rogers Clark Heritage
  Association, Springfield
Greenfield Historical Society, Greenfield
Guernsey County Historical Society,
  Cambridge
Huron Historical Society, Huron
International Women's Air & Space
  Museum, Cleveland
Mantua Historical Society, Mantua
Monclova Historical Foundation,
  Monclova
Monroe County Historical Society,
  Woodsfield
Morrow County Historical Society,
  Mount Gilead
North Baltimore Area Historical Society,
  North Baltimore
Northeastern Railway Historical Society,
  Randolph
Northwest Ohio Railroad Preservation,
  Findlay
Peninsula Library & Historical Society,
  Peninsula
Perry Historical Society of Lake County,
  Perry
Pioneer & Historical Society of
  Muskingum County, Zanesville
Piqua Public Library, Piqua
Price Hill Historical Society, Cincinnati
Putnam County Historical Society,
  Kalida
Randolph Historical Society, Atwater
Reynoldsburg Truro Historical Society,
  Reynoldsburg
Ross County Historical Society,
  Chillicothe
Shade-Lodi History and Genealogy
  Association, Athens
Smithville Community Historical Society,
  Smithville
Southwest Franklin County Historical
  Society, Grove City
Springboro Area Historical Society,
  Springboro
Trotwood-Madison Historical Society,
  Trotwood
Tuscarawas County Historical Society,
  New Philadelphia
Van Wert County Historical Society,
  Van Wert
Vienna Historical Society, Vienna
Walhonding Valley Historical Society,
  Warsaw
Warren County Historical Society,
  Lebanon
Washington County Historical Society,
  Marietta
Washington Township Historical Society
  of Stark County, Alliance
Westlake Historical Society, Westlake

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

The **Wood County Historical Society** is now the home of the 100-year-old Bowling Green School time capsule that was laid in the school's cornerstone in 1913. The capsule was opened in the presence of 4th graders from Bowling Green public schools. With a grant from the Portage Lions Club, the society made a reproduction of the original tin box and its contents that can be used as a traveling exhibit for students and teachers. Items from the time capsule included photographs, attendance records, grade cards, and other 1913 school ephemera. For more information, visit www.woodcountyhistory.org.

Region 2

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

The **Maritime Museum of Sandusky** kicked off the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie with a ceremonial christening and launch of Perry's Longboat, a replica of the boat that carried Oliver Hazard Perry from a sinking ship. The Longboat was commissioned by the Perry Group – Friends of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. The boat will be displayed at the Perry's Victory Memorial and will be used in the battle's bicentennial commemoration over Labor Day weekend.
To learn more, go to www.sanduskymaritime.org.

Region 3

Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit Counties

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** made national news with a mention in the April 2013 *Smithsonian* magazine. The publication celebrated Oberlin as one of America's "20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2013," and the Heritage Center's tours and history walks are specifically noted an attraction that helped merit this distinction. In addition to continued endeavors to promote heritage tourism and historic preservation in the community, the Heritage Center has been designated a Preserve America Steward by the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for effective volunteer coordination in preserving Oberlin Heritage Center sites. For more information visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

Region 4

Ashtabula, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties

The **Ellsworth Historical Society** hosted a Building Doctors workshop in May. Thirty-one participants attened the Thursday evening clinic and presentation, and the consultants visited four sites on Friday. One participant flew in from Massachusetts for a site visit of his parents' home in Canfield. The site visits looked at structures from early to late 1800s. One of the inspections revealed a repair to the foundation that had restricted the ventilation under the building. The recommendations turned out to be far less expensive than the previous attempts to correct the problem.
To learn more, go to www.ellsworthhistoricalsociety.org.

Region 5

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

The **Jefferson County Historical Association** celebrated its 40th anniversary on May 11th with an open house and tours of the museum and the Vivian Snyder Memorial Library. For more about the Historical Association, visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohjcha/.

Region 6

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

The **New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society** is now submitting an article for each issue of *New Albany Life* magazine. The magazine reaches about 5,000 families, most of which are relative newcomers to the area, making this a great opportunity to share some local history. Society members will take turns writing articles and providing photographs.
To learn more, go to www.newalbanyplaintownshiphistoricalsociety.org.

The **Heisey Glass Museum** has completed an energy-saving project, updating the museum's lighting from fluorescent bulbs to LEDs. The project was made possible by **American Electric Power's** GridSMART program, which paid for a portion of the upgrade, saving the museum almost $6,000. The new bulbs have improved the look of the collections and have elicited positive comments from visitors. For more information, visit www.heiseymuseum.org.

Region 7

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

Greene County is now home to the 401st National Park in the United States. The dedication of the **Colonel Charles Young House National Monument** took place on April 2 at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce. Former Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis attended the ceremony. To celebrate, the **Greene County Historical Society** has an exhibit about the Charles Young House on display. To learn more, visit www.gchsxo.org. Col. Young's service to Wilberforce University earlier in his career is the subject of an Ohio Historical Marker, which you can see at www.remarkableohio.org.

Region 8

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

This summer marks the 150th anniversary of John Hunt Morgan's raid through southern and eastern Ohio, and many Cincinnati area historical societies are holding commemorative events. They kick off on the weekend of July 13 when the **Harrison Village Historical Society**, the **Coleraine Historical Society**, the **Glendale Heritage Museum**, and the **Sharon Woods Heritage Village** all mark the first day of Morgan's Raid. Events continue throughout July and August and include a bus tour of Morgan's route through Clermont County sponsored by the **Clermont County Historical Society**. For more information on the Cincinnati area events, visit www.ohiocivilwar150.org/morgans-raid.

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** celebrated the 224th anniversary of the founding of Belpre Settlement on April 11 with a groundbreaking ceremony for its new collections preservation building. A large donation from a member jumpstarted the fundraising for this new building. The small city has pulled together to help match the donation and move construction forward. To learn more, go to www.belprehistory.com.

CALENDAR 2013

July 14-17
Association of Midwest Museums Conference. This year's theme is *Locally Grown, Community Created*. Conference is in Madison, WI. For more information, visit www.midwestmuseums.org.

July 15
Application Deadline, Ohio Humanities Council Major Grants. Grants from $5,001-$20,000 available for programs to start after November 1, 2013. For more information, visit www.ohiohumanities.org.

July 18 & August 7
History Fund Help **Webinar.** For more information, see page 8.

July 18
How Inquiry-Based and 21st Century Learning Styles Are Affecting Museum Programming **Webinar.** For more information, see page 9.

July 21
NEDCC Digital Directions Conference. Learn from national experts about the challenges and opportunities around digital collections care. For more information, visit http://www.nedcc.org/preservation-training/conferences/digital-directions/.

August 1
Nomination Deadline – Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Awards. For more information, see page 8.

August 8
Application Deadline, NEA *Art Works* Grants. Grants fund up to $100,000 of activities relating to arts collections. For more information, visit http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/GAP14/Presenting-Multi-disciplinaryWorksAW.html.

August 20
Alliance Workshop, *Connecting Your Collections to Teachers and Students.* For more information, see page 9.

September 5
Application Deadline, History Fund grants. For more information, see page 8.

September 18
Common Core for Museum Professionals **Webinar.** For more information, see page 9.

October 4 & 5
Alliance Annual Meeting. 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. 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

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Sarah Sissler has been named the interim director of the Hancock Historical Museum. Sissler was formerly the museum's development coordinator. She has a bachelor of fine arts in historic preservation from the Savannah College of Art & Design and a master of community planning from Auburn University.

Katherine Buckingham has joined the Local History Office this summer as the Alliance's digital communications intern. She is working to make the Alliance's website a one-stop resource for local historians in Ohio. Buckingham has a B.A. in history from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Katy Straily served as the Local History Office's historical markers intern this spring. She reviewed 24 Ohio Historical Marker applications. To date 10 of "her" markers have already been dedicated, with the reminder scheduled for ceremonies in the fall. Straily graduated from Ohio State University in the spring with a BA in History. Her future plans include earning a graduate degree in Korean Studies and living in Korea.

The Local History Office's new marker intern, **Heather Miller**, a graduate student in Public History at Wright State University, started work on July 2.

Top: For more information about the Ohio Historical Markers program, see page 7.
Bottom: For more information about the Ohio History Day, see page 7.

ON THE WEB

Caring for Your Artifacts Fact Sheets from The Henry Ford

www.thehenryford.org/research/caring.aspx

The collections staff at The Henry Ford Museum's Benson Ford Research Center created a series of handouts on preserving and caring for all different types of materials found in a museum's collection. The handouts address antique textiles, clocks, furniture, glass, oil paintings, and photographs. Each sheet includes basic information on the handling, cleaning, and environment each type of object, a list of suppliers, and a bibliography for more information.

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

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