Ottawa County Historical Society

www.ottawacountyhistory.org December 2017

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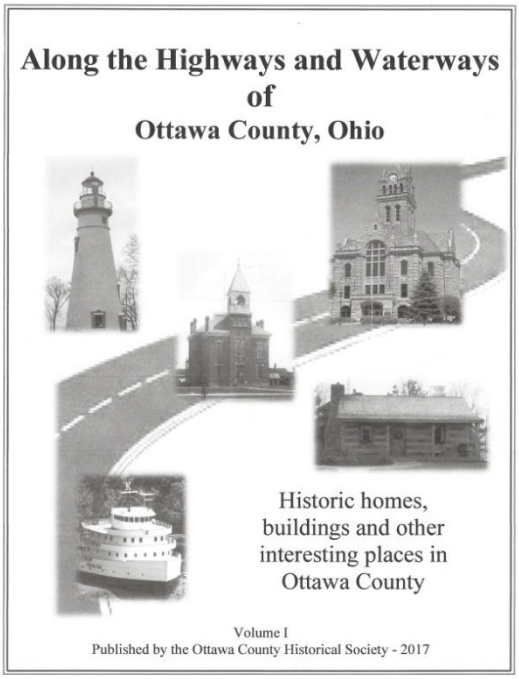
Page&Stage Publishes a New Book



Page&Stage, the Ottawa County Historical Society Oral History Committee, has published six volumes of oral history, interviewing county residents and historians. Now we have focused on the buildings, places, and monuments that these same people and others shaped with their hands and their hard work. These physical contributions have been important in shaping our county's history as places of residence, business, memories, government, and social gatherings. We have written this volume by researching the sites, collecting old photos, taking new photographs, and interviewing people involved with building or maintaining them.

We have done our best to be accurate, but origins of old places are sometimes difficult to determine. County residents familiar with our subjects have been generous with their time, knowledge, photographs, and literature regarding these places. We hope you will enjoy learning about the diversity of our county through the places our people have built and preserved and that you will consider sharing your information about places we have not been able to include in this volume.

Along the Highways and Waterways of Ottawa County hopefully will be available before Christmas. This 263-page book will sell for $20 plus tax (and shipping/handling). MARTHA DYKES, EDITOR

From the President's desk.....

First things first: Please join me in a heartfelt thanks to retiring trustees, Bill Coder and Karl Kessler, and retiring officers, Paul Moon, President, Dick Taylor, Secretary, and Kyle Johannsen, Treasurer. These are the folks who made us who we are. We look forward to their continuing generous contributions to the Society's efforts.

Secondly, I considered my nomination to the presidency of the Ottawa County Historical Society with a few thoughts. Chief among them: what exactly would I do? Part of that was the natural human reflex to be wary of entering unchartered (for me, that is) territory. But as thoughts gurgled upward from the primitive to the (hopefully) more refined layers of the mind, I began to see a landscape full of opportunity for us.

In 2015, Board member Bill Coder had an idea (he's known for doing that!). He took it to the President Paul Moon, who immediately proposed it to the trustees at the February Board Meeting: produce a new history book to coincide with the 175th anniversary of Ottawa County's founding.

As a relative newcomer to the Society and to Ottawa County, I was amazed to witness a single idea become a fuse that fired a sudden burst of enthusiasm. People throughout the County rallied around the production of that book, coming forth as financial donors, volunteers, interviewers, writers and editors. And, most important, of course, were those who volunteered content sources: artifacts, photos and stories, many from family history as well as from libraries, museums, attics and barns, that so enriched the telling of our story.

Upon publication, that initial enthusiasm yielded a bumper crop of interest, not only in celebrating local history but in discovering how all of the diverse dimensions of that interest could have ready distribution to the community at large. Therein lies that landscape full of opportunity mentioned above. We, the relative newcomers to the organization, have been handed a piece of land that has already been drained, cleared and put under cultivation with richly rewarding activities, programs, events, and a structure to keep it all going.

It shall be my objective to lead an effort that engages the eagerness of folks in every part of the county to enrich the rest of us with their knowledge, their stories, their enthusiasm for celebrating those people and events that have brought us this treasure that is Ottawa County. Celebrating history is not a thought, a feeling, or a belief. It is an activity, one that folks who will walk here long after we are gone now call us to perform.

PATRICK O'KEEFFE

Lighthouse Festival Annual Fundraising Drawing Winners

One of the activities at our annual Lighthouse Festival Civil War encampment is the fundraising drawing. The three winners for this year's drawing were: first place - Anne Butcher of Port Clinton who selected a copy of the *History of Ottawa County—The First 175 Years;* second place - Pam Lubowicz of Lakeside who selected the ProHardware gift certificate and third place - Jim Knisley of Port Clinton who also selected a copy of the *History of Ottawa County* book rather than the Ben Richmond print.

Congratulations to all!

OCHS Fall Meeting

Members and friends of Ottawa County Historical met recently at the Catawba Island Club for the annual meeting and election of officers, and a program by Toledo area media personality and author, Lou Hebert.

Rich Norgard presents Paul Moon with certificate for his ten years of service.

Outgoing president Paul Moon was honored with a certificate for his ten years of service.

Moon passed the gavel to incoming president Patrick O'Keeffe.

Other incoming officers are, vice president, Rich Norgard; treasurer, Brennan Madison; and secretary, Linda Huber. Moon thanked retiring Board members Karl Kessler and Bill Coder for their service, and welcomed new board members Jennifer Fording and Rich Norgard.

Kathleen Giesler is returning for another three year term. Other returning Board members are Linda Huber, Nancy Dunham, Paul Moon, Kathy Leonard, Becky Shemenski, Patrick O'Keeffe, and John Starcher.

The OCHS's activities for 2017 included continuing sales of *Ottawa County, the First 175 Years*, published in the fall of 2016 and written and edited by Mr. O'Keeffe and his committee; and sponsorship of a barn mural on Route 105, depicting Oliver Hazard Perry, as part of Ohio's Painted Barn Project.

The podium was handed over to Mr. Hebert, a Genoa native, who told dramatic tales of early Ottawa County residents: a Civil War soldiers tale, a young girl stolen from her family and reunited years later, finally a 'rest of the story' supplement to Ottawa County's famous businesswomen, Rosie Pasco, and, Lillian Pasco Belt, redeeming later years after incarceration.

KATHY LEONARD

Wolcott Keeper's House Christmas Social

We're not certain how the Wolcotts would have spent their Christmas in the early 1800s but Saturday, December 9th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we held our first Christmas Social. Warmed by two fireplaces, with a backdrop of live music by by Ron Brooker and Brian Shifflet of the Firelands Symphony helped us picture the scene some 200 years ago when Benajah and Rachel celebrated the holidays with their young children.

A hardy crowd warmed up 1820's style by the heat from the fireplaces, sipped hot mulled cider and nibbled on gingerbread cookies served by costumed docents. Hosts were fireplace cooks, Ray Machar and Becky Shemensky, who answered questions about the restored home of the Marblehead Peninsula's first lighthouse keepers, Benajah and Rachel Wolcott.

Brian Shifflet & Ron Booker of the Firelands Symphony provide festive music for the event.

Becky Shemensky rolls out gingerbread dough.

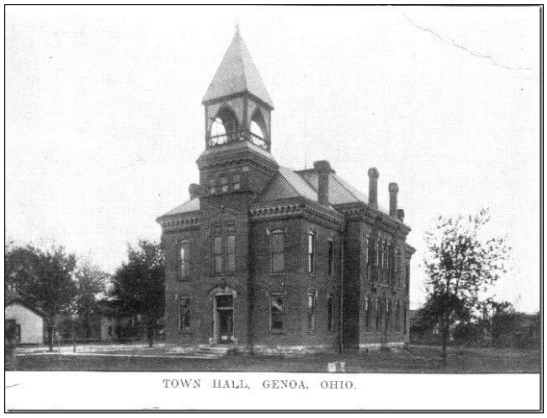
Ray Machar checks the spiced cider at the hearth.

Village of Genoa 150th Anniversary

In June 2018, Genoa will be celebrating their sesquicentennial the first weekend in June. Part of Clay Township, the Village of Genoa was incorporated September 7, 1868. First started as an agrarian community, Genoa benefitted similarly to Danbury Township with the discovery of high-grade limestone bring

ing a burgeoning quarry industry and becoming an important source of lime products to the national marketplace. The first bank in Ottawa County was established in Genoa serving the needs of thriving commercial businesses, such as livestock, dry goods, and lumber, as well as the farming community made up of the original inhabitants of the area.

The Village of Genoa's Opera Hall was completed in 1886 with an opening show in January 1886 production of "The Three Wise Owls". Since then the Opera Hall has been a hub of activity with council and other important meetings; church suppers and bazaars; plays, minstrel shows and other entertainment; and high school commencement exercises. The Genoa Opera Hall is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as the oldest free-standing municipal building in Ottawa County.


TOWN HALL, GENOA, OHIO.

Please visit our website at
www.ottawacountyhistory.org
or the Village of Genoa's website at
www.genoaohio.org

for information on the sesquicentennial as it becomes available.

Keeper's Boathouse Planned

The Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy is actively seeking funding for the completion of landscaping and other enhancements in the area adjacent to the lighthouse which, once completed, will be known as "Lighthouse Park." Centerpiece of this project will be a replica keeper's boathouse, to be built by volunteers from original plans located in the National Archives. The boathouse will be built this winter at an, as yet, undetermined location and placed at the west end of the Derby Pond in late spring.

RICH NORGARD

Ottawa County Historical Barn Mural

The Bonnie and Ron Schimming barn in partnership with Ohio History Connection and the Ottawa County Historical Society was selected to be the Ohio History Barn of Ottawa County. The Ohio History Connection's project is to have a County-themed painted barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry was chosen as the image because there are no other counties in the entire country that can make two very important claims with national importance. The Battle of Lake Erie settled any remaining hostilities between America and Great Britain as well as establishing the longest border with another country, Canada. The mural was done by Scott Hagan. Dedication of this barn was held on September 22, 2017.

Ottawa County Commissioners Meeting

On September 14, 2017, the Ottawa County Commissioners held their bi-weekly meeting at the Keeper's House

Assistant Clerk Theresa Elder;
Commissioners:
Mark Stahl, Mark Coppler, and Jim Sass

You Can Help Support the Ottawa Co. Historical Society

Online: Using PayPal, you can make a donation directly to the Society by clicking the PayPal button on our new website

Through purchases you make:
When you purchase items through Amazonsmile (Amazon's charity website) or through Kroger supermarket and designate your charity as Ottawa County Historical Society, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Society.

Support
Ottawa County
Historical Society.
When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**,
Amazon donates.
Go to smile.amazon.com
amazonsmile

Lighthouse Festival Civil War Encampment

On October 14, 2017, the annual Lighthouse Festival Civil War Encampment at the Keeper's House honors Henry Wolcott, son of Benajah and Rachel. The Ohio 14th Volunteer Infantry encamped for the occasion. There were special performances by the Ohio 73rd Volunteer Regimental Band with uniforms and 15-piece authentic instruments playing Civil War era music. A model railroad train depicting quarry work was on display in the Annex, courtesy Roger Jensen. Frontier craft demonstrations, bean soup, corn bread, cider and hearth cooking enjoyed by all. Partial funding support for this event was provided by a grant from the Ohio Art's Council.

Ohio 14th Volunteer Infantry

Ohio 73rd Volunteer Regimental Band

OCHS 2017 Membership

Life Member - Ruth Weisenauer

Patrons ($100 +)

John Bayliff '17
James Blum '18
Bill & Sharon Coder '17
Mark Coppler '17
Peggy Debien '17
Ron & Diane Gerkensmeyer '18
Carl & Mary Anne Koebel '17
Richard & Catherine LeSourd '17
Paul & Maria Moon '17
Holly Gast & John Starcher '17
Jim & Judy Walser '17

Sustaining ($35)

David & Sue Blankenbeker '17
Lee & Natalie Bredbeck '17
Dale & Gretchen Davis '17
Doug & Connie Focht '17
Rod Gale '17
John & Mary Jane Gibson '17
Marlene Gulas '17
Joel & Kim Hirt '17
Linda Kresser '17
David Moon '17
Oak Harbor Public Library '17
Robert & Norma Nehls '17
Janice F. Netcher '17
Robert & Norma Netcher '17
Bill & Jean Nicholson '17
Jim & Molly Sass '17
Sandra Zenser '17

Sponsors ($50)

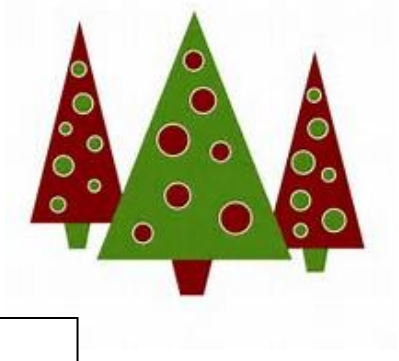
Lydia Moon Barnard '18
Bill & Sharon Bird '17
Bob & Anne Butcher 17
Kathleen Brunt '17
Richard Celek '17
Lloyd & Audrey Dayton '18
Diane DeVries '17
Jim & Kathy Egan '17
Joanne Fleming '17
Larry Fletcher '17
Bob & Cindy Grimm '17
Dr. Derrill Hablitzel '17
Dr. Mark & Tina Hablitzel '17
Dr. Michael & Cathy Hablitzel '17
Roger & Barbara Jensen '18
Karl & Carol Kessler '18
James I. Kleinhans '18
Ray & Jeanne Lambert '18
Paul & Carol Lehmann '17
Warren & Kathy Leonard '17
Elizabeth & Frank Maloney '17
Masonry Construction '17
John Millisor '17
Kathryn Orta '17
Virginia Prusik '17
Richard & Jeannie Rice '17
Mark & Judy Stahl '17
Robert & Katherine Steinmiller '17
Janet Stephenson '18
Richard & Susan Taylor '17
Wayne & Sally Walter '17
Dennis Warga '17

Members

Joe & Jean Alexander '17
Dick & Jan Batke, '18
Denise Bell '17
Mayor Jacqueline Bird '18
Robert Bredbeck '18
James Cagle & Bailey Van Kirk '17
Charles & Arlene Carr '17
Ro Chapman '17
Jim & Betsy Deer '17
LaVonne Dodge '17
Richard & Nancy Dunham '17
Cheryl Grissinger Dunn '17
Martha Dykes '17
Diane Fowler '17
Joseph & June Gall '17
Genoa Bank (Todd Marsh)
Judge Kathleen Geisler '17
Dr. David & Pat George '17
Jill Gray '17
Deb Grissinger '17
Donna Gyde '17
Jill Hansen-Lawrence '17
Jim & Edna Hansen '18
Edward E. Hartung '17
Ron Hart & Nancy Beadle '17
Eileen Hasselbach '17
Dan Hearlihy '17
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Heilman '17
Jim & Joan Herl '17
David Hirt '17
Sue Homsy '17
Linda & Doug Huber '17
Jeanne Huskey '17
Nancy M. Ihnat '17
Kyle Johannsen '17
Carolyn Jones '17
Donna M. Lueke '17
Ray & Georgette Machar '18
Dan & Lynne Madden '17
Richard Martin '17
Karin Messner '17
Bill Moon '18
Ralph Moon '18
Carol Morgan '17
Richard Norgard
Patrick O'Keeffe '17
David O'Neal '18
Virginia Park '17
Shelby Peto '18
Margaret Phillips '17
Linda Price '17
Jim & Lisa Recker '17
Randy & Sarah Riedmaier '17
Mary Ann Robbs '17
Forest & Arline Sabin '17
Donna M. Schell '18
Carlton & Judy Schwan '17
Rebecca Fritz Shemenski '17
Lucille Smith '17
Susan M. Smith
Robert & Patricia Sondergeld '17
Robert & Annette Textor '17
Alex & Bonnie Thomas '17
Judy Twarek '17
Sally Heximer & Rich Vedell '18
Glen & Mary Wagner '17
Ruth Whipple '18
Richard Williams & Laura Womack '17
Tom & Mary Wiseman '17

Watch for 2018 Lecture Series!
Time & Place to be announced

1st Quarter - *Prohibition*
2nd Quarter - *Harvesting History*



Ottawa County
Historical Society Website:
www.ottawacountyhistory.org

Please mail me the following items.

Item	Description	Quantity	Price each	Tax each	Shpg each	Total
Book	*Along the Highways & Waterways of Ottawa County*		$20.00	$1.40	$3.00	
Book	*History of Ottawa County - The First 175 Years*		$49.95	$3.50	$4.00	
Book	Volume I: *How We Got Here, What We Did*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Volume II: *Recollections and Voices*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Volume III: *Across the Townships*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Volume IV: *Threads and Textures of a Tapestry*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Volume V: *Ottawa County Through Their Eyes*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Volume VI: *Memories and Adventures*		$15.00	$1.05	$2.50	
Book	Complete set of Oral Histories: Volume 1 through VI		$96.30	$6.30	$6.00	
Book	*Combined Atlas of Ottawa County - 1874 & 1900 NEW PRICE*		$15.00	$1.75	$4.00	
Book	Historic Driving Tour Guide: *Historic Railroads of **Western** Ottawa County*		$4.00	$0.28	$2.00	
Book	Historic Driving Tour Guide: *Historic Railroads of **Eastern** Ottawa County*		$4.00	$0.28	$2.00	
Book	*The Keeper's House* - children's coloring/activity book		$3.00	$0.21	$1.50	
Book	*Hearth Cookbook*		$5.00	$0.35	$1.50	
DVD	Bicentennial War of 1812 Re-enactment: *The Skirmish on the Peninsula*		$15.00	$1.05	$1.50	

Note: if books are being picked up do not include shipping/handling charge. **TOTAL** ☐

PLEASE PRINT

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email (optional) _____

Please, make your checkpayable to the Ottawa County Historical Society and mail it to:

Ottawa County Historical Society
P.O. Box 385
Port Clinton, OH 4452

Allow 4-5 weeks for shipment.

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Inside:

New Book Published
From the President's Desk
Drawing Winners
OCHS Fall Meeting
Keeper's House Christmas Social
Genoa 150th Anniversary
Keeper's Boathouse Planned
Oliver Hazard Perry Barn Mural
Ottawa Co. Commissioners Meeting
Civil War Encampment
Membership
Books Order Form

OTTAWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES - due in January of each year
(If your address label does not say 2017 or Life Member it is time to pay dues.)

Single $15_____ Family $25_____ Student $10_____

Sustaining $35_____ Sponsor $50_____ Patron $100 or more $_____

Contributions $_____ Keeper's House $_____ Other $_____

The OCHS is a non-profit organization.. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

Name_____

Address/City/State/Zip_____

Phone Number_____

Email_____

Total enclosed_____ Date_____ Check #_____

Mail to: OCHS, P.O. Box 385, Port Clinton, OH 43452

☐ I am interested in volunteering.