



## SOA ANNUAL SPRING MEETING RECAP

# Show Me the Money: Sustaining Archives and Archival Programs

### MORNING PLENARY SUMMARY

Summary by Michelle Sweetser, Educational Programming Committee

The in-person portion of the Annual Meeting, hosted at the University of Toledo, began with a plenary talk, [Archives, Access, and Knowledge](#), by Patricia Hswe, Program Director for Public Knowledge at the [Mellon Foundation](#), the largest private funder for the arts and humanities.

Hswe highlighted the five program areas in which Mellon funds programs: [Arts and Culture](#); [Higher Learning](#); [Humanities in Place](#); [Public Knowledge](#); and [Presidential Initiatives](#). Archives are significant beneficiaries, as nearly one in ten grants made by Mellon involves archives in some manner. Programs funded by Mellon enable preservation and access, including programs such as collaboration with CLIR (Council on Library Resources) to offer regrant funds for digitization and access ([Digitizing Hidden Collections](#)) or support for the work at WGBH’s Educational Foundation to preserve endangered public media content through the [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#) (in collaboration with the Library of Congress). WYSO in Ohio received a shout out for their work on a Mellon-funded project to preserve the [audio holdings of HBCU radio stations](#).

“It is the continuing demonstration of use that helps ensure that archives will be preserved. Preservation begets access and access begets preservation,” said Hswe. “This interdependence is akin to

a virtuous circle.” She then described Mellon support for projects like [AV Annotate](#), which allows users to provide context for and annotate AV resources; the [Community Webs program](#), providing training and space for web archiving as a source of public memory; support for post-custodial, community-based archival program partnerships; and [Social Networks and Archival Collections](#) (SNAC).

Mellon has also supported projects related to climate change, including Ohio colleague [Eira Tansey’s study](#) on the effects of the changing environment on archives. Eira’s work will help to guide Mellon grant planning in the coming years.

The virtuous circle notion reappeared when Hswe described “sustainability-ish” stories: examples of how archives might develop as sustainable organizations or programs, acknowledging there are often other factors at play as well. Some examples include ArchivesSpace and [Tropy](#) – a desktop client for archives research management – where there is oversight by some main organization, but member/user demand drives platform development which in turn helps to make the platform sustainable. How can we drive use? How are our users? Mellon is further supporting sustainability through cohorts focused on training to help organizations think about how to develop financial resilience.

*(continued on page 3)*

### Inside This Issue

**1**.....Annual Meeting

**2**.....President’s Message

**5**.....SOA Awards

**10**....New Feature

**12**.....DEIA Feature

**13**.... Feature

**14**.... Guest Feature

**16**.... News & Notes

**18**.... Editor’s Note |  
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## The President's Message



Dear Society of Ohio Archivists members,

This year archivists in Ohio and across the country have encountered changes and challenges in rapid succession. As we each navigate our own individual and organizational situations, connection with other memory workers is vital. The Society of Ohio Archivists continues to be an opportunity for archivists and other memory workers to connect, support, and learn from each other.

At the same time, the depth and extent of this year's changes, some challenging fundamental principles, values, and resources of our profession, bring increasing urgency to our work.

There is emotional labor as we respond, pivot, stand firm, and practice resilience.

Sometimes challenges are an opportunity to think differently, to approach ourselves and our work differently, and to engage differently. This may be a time to experiment, to create, and to ultimately strengthen both the archives profession and the preservation of history.

Above all, we can persevere. We can continue, every day, no matter what our circumstances, doing what we can. We can support and strengthen each other along the way.

To this end, SOA will continue facilitating connection in 2025-2026, sometimes in different ways. SOA has partnered with the Midwest Archives Conference for a joint annual meeting in Columbus on May 14-16, 2026. With both one-day and full conference registrations available, the joint MAC/SOA Conference will be a unique opportunity for SOA members to present, serve, and learn with archivists throughout the region. It is also an opportunity for SOA members to network with archivists who are navigating similar changes and challenges, may work with comparable collections, and have helpful career insights. Please mark your calendar to participate in this event.

SOA looks to explore further ways of connecting as well, such as mentorship, increased collaboration, and new avenues for advocacy. This is in addition to SOA's communication channels, awards and scholarships, and continued commitment to justice, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion.

Which current SOA opportunities are most helpful for you? What other opportunities would you like to see? How can you support others? Feel free to share your ideas with [SOA Leadership](#).

Thank you to everyone for persevering. I look forward to connecting with you this year!

Best wishes,

**Jennifer Long Morehart**

President, Society of Ohio Archivists

## SOA Mission

*Founded in 1968, the Society of Ohio Archivists' mission is to improve the state of archives in Ohio by promoting the archival profession and providing professional development and networking opportunities for Ohio's professional and aspiring archivists.*

Hsw concluded by encouraging the audience to think about what future-proofing the profession might look like, including evolution

but also ongoing relevancy, as well as how we might frame archives as a public good that needs to be retained.

### AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SUMMARY

Summary by **Michelle Sweetser**, *Educational Programming Committee*

After lunch, keynote speakers Jordan Cravens and Sara Bushong described a recent [fundraising campaign](#) that built support (over \$880,000 and counting) for the restoration of a mural on the external of the [Jerome Library](#) at [Bowling Green State University](#). Cravens, Senior Director of Development, and Bushong, Dean of University Libraries, discussed how they have gone about growing and strengthening relationships with donors over time.

Strategy played an important role in raising the funds for the project and the pair utilized an organized marketing and solicitation that any archival organization could develop. The plan included a gift pyramid strategy outlining the number of donors at different amounts needed to result in success (in the form of a pyramid, such that one major gift at the top rests upon larger numbers of smaller gifts as you progress toward the bottom). Funds for this project were raised through leadership commitments in combination with a BGSU One Day drive (online day of giving), direct mailings, and e-appeals. Progress videos and updates, marketing

and communications, and conversations about a celebratory event helped them to cross the finish line in raising the funds.

Developing authentic relationships, they suggested, involves getting to know your stakeholders and finding those who have an affinity for the kinds of projects that you want or need to fund. Cravens and Bushong have worked hard to engage with board and leadership councils as connectors to other potential donors as well as champions of projects to which they connect as individuals. They understand donors' capacity for support as well as ways in which they are interested in the library's and archives' holdings.

After a brief primer about the kinds of gifts that help to create sustained support for fundraising (annual, in-kind, major, special, and estate gifts), Cravens also suggested ways in which archivists might position their leader for success in fundraising ("managing up"). These included scheduling joint visits with donors, allowing the fundraising expert to ghost-write fundraising emails, and finding ways to help them tell their own story.

### SESSION SUMMARIES

#### Find the Grants and Endeavor to Write!

Presenter: **Shelby Beatty**, *Sinclair Community College*

Synopsis by **Meghan Crawford**, *Capital University*

Shelby Beatty, Archivist and Records Manager at Sinclair Community College, shared her experience and sage advice for finding grants and writing grant proposals regardless of the size of one's institution or staff. After a brief profile of Sinclair Community College and its archives, Shelby provided a list of standard grants issued by cultural heritage organizations throughout Ohio for libraries and archives. She proceeded to walk through the grant application process using her previously awarded digitization grant from OHRAB as an example, noting the importance of including photographs as evidence in your proposal. Shelby concluded with five tips for successful grant writing.

#### Developing Rapport: Working with Advancement Professionals to Support Special Collections

Presenter: **Judith A. Wiener**, *The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library*

Synopsis by **Meghan Crawford**, *Capital University*

Judith A. Wiener, Associate Professor and Associate Director at The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library, presented on the importance of establishing connections with Advancement professionals to meet funding goals. Regardless of the size or scope of one's collections, building rapport requires communi-

cating the significance of collections and advocating for collection needs. Judith stressed the importance of learning to speak the language of Advancement professionals, which includes translating collection needs into budgetary requirements that align with general fundraising goals. Judith included a list of common fundraising terms and their definitions to aid with this translation process. She concluded with a case study of the Medical Heritage Center to demonstrate how to collaborate with development professionals as well as establish long-term relationships with donors, departments, and development officers.

#### Highlighting Ohio Grant Opportunities for Cultural Heritage Organizations

Presenters: **Virginia Dressler**, *Kent State University*; **Jeff Regensburger**, *State Library of Ohio*; **Betsy Hedler**, *Ohio History Connection*; **Andy Verhoff**, *Ohio History Connection*; **Tina Ratcliff**, *Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board*; **Amber Bales**, *Ohio Preservation Council*

Presenters Amber Bales, Betsy Hedler, Virginia Dressler, Tina Ratcliff, Jeff Regensburger, and Andy Verhoff guided session participants on a tour of grant opportunities available to cultural heritage organizations in Ohio.

Tina Ratcliff led the tour with a description of the criteria for the OHRAB Regrants Program, a funding source with a preference for smaller collections. Andy Verhoff discussed the Ohio History Connection's Ohio History Fund, a crowd-funded opportunity with grants falling into 3 categories: Bricks and Mortar, Organizational Development, and Programs and Collections. Betsy Hedler presented the requirements, funding details, and schedule for Ohio Local History Alliance Digitization Grants. Awarded to OLHA

members, projects have an online component and demonstrate local or state historical significance in Ohio. Jeff Regensburger provided vital information about two grants awarded through the State Library of Ohio: Open Grants and Competitive Grants, both funded through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Amber Bales wrapped up the tour by describing the Ohio Preservation Council's two grant opportunities: the Conservation and Preservation Grant funds the preservation of a particular item, while the Continuing Education Mini Grant—funded by OPC membership dues—supports professional development for students and professionals in Ohio.

Also invaluable was the session's overview of the grant tour—a chart comparing all of the grants, including funding purposes, deadlines, and amounts—as well as the Ohio Local History Alliance's chart of additional Ohio grant opportunities. By the end of this presentation, audience members gained tools to determine the best Ohio grant funding source for their needs.

### **Sustaining the Collection: A Case for Funding Environmental Needs Through Persistence, Data, and Teamwork**

*Presenter: Eric Harrelson, Miami University*

Eric Harrelson, Preservation and Conservation Librarian at Miami University, presented both through the lens of a new cultural heritage professional and of a funding need for a large-scale project to stabilize temperature and humidity. Noting the importance of context, Harrelson described the library, special collections, and archive environments, as well as the series of events preceding Harrelson's involvement. Harrelson then detailed the journey through data collection, executing a planning grant, and following the data to prioritize the replacement of a specific air handling unit. Next, Harrelson discussed the application process for an implementation grant, including challenges and solutions. In conclusion, Harrelson outlined lessons learned, next steps, the effect of political events, and future options. Throughout, Harrelson included the importance of working together with university administration, library administration, engineering, sustainability, consultants, and others to request the funding necessary to create a more stable collection environment. Harrelson's presentation provided helpful insights into leading a large project as a new professional, how to gather and apply data, and the importance of persistence in fulfilling organizational needs.

### **Finding the Perfect Fit: Grant Selection Strategies for Archives and Libraries**

*Presenter: Kristen Newby, Columbus Metropolitan Library*

Kristen Newby, Special Collections Manager at Columbus Metropolitan Library, discussed approaches and case studies for selecting grants. Newby acknowledged the effect of recent events on grant funding and noted that the approaches presented were applicable to existing and alternative funding sources. First, Newby

spoke about grant readiness, considering a variety of factors, including: an organization's available projects—both in progress and potential, whether the project is competitive for a grant opportunity, the capacity of an organization to implement the grant, and the types of expenses involved. Newby also articulated the Columbus Metropolitan Library's goals, which inform grant selection.

Next, Newby described four case studies demonstrating Columbus Metropolitan Library's grant selection successes. Grants awarded by the Council on Library & Information Resources, the American Library Association (2 grants), and the Ohio Humanities Council helped the Columbus Metropolitan Library advance its commitment to its constituents by serving communities through digitization, youth engagement, local partnerships, and programming.

While presented in the context of a larger organization, Newby's presentation of grant selection strategies could be applied to organizations of all sizes.

### **They Never Trained Me on That: Tips for Navigating Grant Research, Submissions, Management, and Reporting**

*Presenters: Christopher Harter, University of Cincinnati; Sophia McGuire, City of Gahanna*

Sophia McGuire and Christopher Harter shared their experience from the perspective of both grant applicants and grant reviewers. McGuire spoke about grant application and grant management processes. Helpful advice included attention to detail when completing the grant application, identifying and prioritizing the grant's end product, organizing the grant timeline and communications, and the value of collaboration. McGuire provided illustrations from county record conservation and municipal record digitization grant projects.

Harter shared further information about grant reporting and the grant reviewer's perspective. Regarding reporting, Harter stressed advance preparation, attention to grant guidelines, communication about challenges, and the opportunity to promote the project. Harter also noted the value of numbers, screenshots of promotional material, and brevity in grant reporting. From a grant reviewer's perspective, Harter described the criteria by which grants are evaluated as well as emphasizing the importance of communication, including the opportunity for feedback on drafts and final applications. Overall, McGuire and Harter's helpful tips were applicable to a variety of projects, organizations, and memory workers.

SOA would like to thank the [Ohio Local History Alliance](#) for continuing to allow SOA to partner with them in their fall meeting. For more information about the meeting, please visit [OLHA's Annual Meeting page](#).

## History Day Awards

The Society of Ohio Archivists collaborated with the Ohio History Connection to present two SOA History Day Awards on April 26, 2025, at Capital University in Bexley, Ohio. SOA President Matt Francis was on hand to make the presentation. Ohio History Day, affiliated with National History Day, helps students in grades 6-12 learn to research using primary and secondary sources, build a thesis and supporting argument, and create a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website presenting their work.

The Society of Ohio Archivists supports Ohio History Day and archives by selecting the SOA History Day Awards based on the following criteria:

- Project must demonstrate exceptional research and use of primary sources to include at least two of the following: letters, speeches, diaries, newspaper articles from the time, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, artifacts, or anything else that provides a first-hand account about a person or event.
- History Day Project winners must have used primary resources on site at a research institution housing those materials.
- All primary sources must be cited accurately in the bibliography of the paper.

The 2025 SOA History Day winners are:

### JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 6-8):

**Lucy B.**

*Whose Law? The Rights & Responsibilities of the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue*

### SENIOR DIVISION (GRADES 9-12):

**Jonathan P.**

*Cleveland Public Schools: The Fight For Integration*

**Congratulations to the 2025 SOA History Day Award winners!**

Thank you to the [SOA Membership and Awards Committee](#) for coordinating SOA History Day Awards selection!

[Link to the Ohio History Connection's Ohio History Day web page](#)

To learn more about History Day and SOA's involvement in the event, see George Bain and Connie Connor's blog post [National History Day at 50: A Salute](#).

## Student Scholarship Award

### MATIAS CRUZ, SOA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



My beginning in archival work was more of an experiment than a deliberate foray into a new field. I was enrolled at the University of Akron as an English student and stumbled my

way into an archive-based class without much understanding of what that entailed. While at first I was terrified and quietly steeling myself against a poor grade, I soon fell in love with the intricacies of archiving, especially the process of converting a collection to a digital one. When pursuing my master's degree in English while working on my own grant-funded archival project, I decided to enroll for a certificate in the public humanities as well. Although I was slightly more confident in my abilities, I was worried going into the related classes that I would be so far behind everyone else- I was

one of only three non-history majors.

That is when I discovered something truly beautiful about the world of archives: everyone's voice is listened to. I was treated as an expert in my respective field of English, my input just as valued as anyone else. I was consulted by my peers when drafting text for exhibits and praised for my unique outlook on our materials. My fears of being limited by my English background were unfounded, as it was seen as a boon by those around me. While everyone else can analyze the historical information of an artifact and present its past, I was able to tell a story. My skill set overlapped with those of a more traditional archivist in ways I hadn't anticipated but made me appreciate the field all the more.

Every experience I have with archives and established archivists solidifies my adoration for this art form. Attending the SOA conference was phenomenal- I want more than anything to pursue a career in archives, especially after hearing some of the presentations. This field is so much vaster and diverse than I had ever anticipated, and

although I am now a certified Ohio archivist, I know that I will never stop learning new things about what that means. As a student and soon-to-be professional, I immensely enjoyed the conference for tackling the financial aspects of archiving, a less glamorous topic which is not discussed, in my experience, nearly as often as the more human elements. I could go on for hours about the political and social roles and implications of archives, but just as important as these more philosophical discussions is the practical matter of financing.

I cannot conceive of a more practical and helpful event than this for new and seasoned archivists alike. True to my experience as a student, everyone was so willing to listen and learn especially from those of different backgrounds, both academic and otherwise. I sincerely hope that I find an archive or museum in Ohio where I could build my career, but until then I am going to continue to find events like this and absorb as much as I can, as this field is one of constant education and evolution, especially in our rapidly changing world.

## Student Scholarship Award

### MS. NUSBAUM, SOA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



It is an honor to be a recipient of the SOA Student Scholarship Award. I fell in love with archives during my first year at Miami University when taking a tour of the Special Collections and Archives Library on campus. The rich history in and passionate curators of the space were evident in the short time I spent there, and I knew instantly that I wanted to become more involved with the field. I spent the rest of my undergraduate career working as a Student Assistant in that very archive, forging connections with librarians all

around Ohio, and looking forward to eventually becoming a librarian myself. Earning this award helps me achieve this overarching goal. Not only can I continue to connect with professionals in all facets of archiving, but I also feel more secure in my place within the field.

As I look forward to beginning my MLIS (with an Archival Studies concentration!) at Kent State University in August, and settle into my newfound role as a Graduate Assistant at its library, I find it extremely enlightening to learn about the range of opportunities archiving has to offer. This conference specifically highlighted the role of grants in helping libraries have the means to restore, protect, and preserve their collections. Grant writing was a career I had considered doing before finding my passion for librarianship. It is fascinating to see how it has a unique place in fulfilling the diverse needs of institutions all across the state.

One session in particular that stood out to me is Patricia Hswe's keynote on ways in which the Mellon Foundation can aid libraries. Gaining insight into just one avenue that librarians can take to gain resources for their collections alludes to the vastness of options that exist. It provides hope that there will always be

some means to continue to fund libraries and their endeavors – even with the risk of decreased government funding. Another session that I found helpful was Shelby Beatty's presentation on gaining experience in grant writing. I learned that 1) the practice is more accessible to beginners than what meets the eye, and 2) finding the correct grant to match the specific needs of a project is of the utmost importance to having a higher chance of success. Learning about how intertwined grants are with many projects throughout all libraries further reinforces the many ways in which they are vital to the longevity of a library or its specific collections.

All in all, I am very grateful to have earned this award and, by extension, have the chance to attend this meeting. One thing that has characterized my experience with all libraries, both when I was exclusively visiting my local library throughout childhood and as I currently find myself building my career in the field, is community. The Society of Ohio Archivists is a paramount example of what the labor of a connected group produces, and just how important it is to come together to advance the goals of such important public institutions. I feel so lucky to become a part of said community, and hope to continue my membership throughout the years to come!

## New Professional Award

### KEEGAN KILEY, SOA NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



As a new professional, the opportunity to participate and experience this year's SOA Annual Meeting was extremely exciting. This was my first conference as a new budding archivist, and I couldn't be prouder to be within this field. The opportunity to talk and share experiences with other archivists, librarians, and like-minded professionals

was the highlight of the whole conference for me.

Since high school I knew I wanted to work with history. It wasn't until college that I realized my passion for history was leading me down the path of archive work. I instantly fell in love with archives and the idea of keeping historic records preserved for future generations was a mission I couldn't ignore. My almost 2 years of work at the Warren County Records Center & Archives and the great people within the archival field has proven to me that this is where I want to be.

The theme of this conference couldn't be more apt given the current situations we are all dealing with, grants. Many archival institutions and libraries depend on outside funding to complete projects and obtain materials for conservation and preservation. Grants are the lifeblood for some smaller institutions, which makes this whole conference so important.

Both days discussed how to write grants,

where to find grants, and what we do going forward. My favorite sessions were the ones that brought a personal touch to the discussion like Eric Harrelson's *Sustaining the Collection: A Case for Funding Environmental needs through Persistence, Data, and Teamwork*. I loved hearing how a repository finds solutions to their money problems and preservation needs.

The end of the conference on Friday was what really moved me. The crucial conversation, *Archival Work and Advocacy in the Current Political Climate*, was a much-needed conversation and very therapeutic. I feel that all archivists, librarians, etc. need to have a place where they can freely and safely express their worries. The networking with other archivists was invaluable and I look forward to expanding and strengthening these bonds in the future. I'm extremely excited to see this cooperation and teamwork moving forward and want to thank the SOA Membership & Awards Committee for awarding me the new professional scholarship award!

## New Professional Award

### MADISON THOMAS, SOA NEW PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



I'm grateful to the Society of Ohio Archivists and their Members and Awards Committee for granting me the New Professional Scholarship. Attending this year's SOA conference at the University of Toledo was a wonderful opportunity to grow professionally and connect with others in the field. For the past three years, I've worked as a library associate at a public library, gradually building skills in digitization and preservation. The SOA conference opened new doors—introducing me to resources, ideas, and a welcoming professional community I'm excited to continue engaging with.

This year's conference theme focused on grant writing and, more broadly, on how we advocate for our collections and the value they hold. I was fortunate to attend both the virtual sessions on Thursday and the in-person sessions on Friday.

Thursday's virtual presentations included "*Crucial Conversations: Focus on Funding for JEDAI Projects*," presented by Jeff

Regensburger, Alyson Pope, Sharon Burney, and Hannah Kemp-Sheverance, and "*Highlighting Ohio Grant Opportunities for Cultural Heritage Organizations*," featuring Virginia Dressler, Jeff Regensburger, Betsy Hedler, Andy Verhoff, Tina Ratcliff, and Amber Bales. Both sessions were incredibly informative and helped clarify what kinds of support and resources are available to cultural heritage professionals. Sometimes the biggest barrier is simply knowing what's out there, and the presenters did an excellent job demystifying the process and showing that these resources are within reach.

Another standout presentation, "*Unveiling Pauline Trigere Through Grant-Funded Digitization*," showcased a grant-funded student intern project by Virginia Dressler, Edith Serkownek, Eve Fenn, and Katie Gable. It was inspiring to see how grants allowed students to engage in meaningful, hands-on work and how their efforts led to broader access and visibility for an important collection. It made me reflect on how beneficial it would have been to know these kinds of opportunities like this one were an accessible goal earlier in my academic journey.

Friday's in-person experience was just as rewarding. Keynote speaker Patricia Hswe offered a thoughtful exploration of archival access and the importance of financial stability in fostering equity and leadership in our field. The rest of the day built on this theme, showcasing how professionals are advocating for funding to support their organizations and collections.

I was especially inspired by Eric Harrelson's "*Sustaining the Collection: A Case for Funding Environmental Needs...*." Although

he described himself as new to the field, he delivered an excellent presentation on how he used data and collaboration to tackle a complex project within a strict timeline. It was encouraging to hear his story and to realize that with the right preparation and a supportive team, I too can advocate successfully for my organization's needs.

Other engaging sessions from Sara Bushong and Jordan Cravens; Kristen Newby; and Kathy Selking, Sarah Wammes, and Kristin K. McFadden offered a variety of strategies for approaching funding—from building internal and community partnerships to writing effective grant applications. I left with practical tools and new ideas I'm excited to bring back to my workplace.

To close out the day, we had the opportunity to sit down in small groups to reflect on what we'd learned and simply connect with peers. This chance to check in, share perspectives, and build community felt like the perfect end to the conference.

This year's theme could not have been timelier. It reminded me that even in uncertain times, there is still space to advocate for our collections, our work, and the profession itself. I left feeling hopeful, enlightened, and grateful to be part of a field filled with so many passionate individuals.

Thank you again to SOA for this incredible opportunity. The experience not only helped strengthen my understanding of grant writing and advocacy, but also showed me that I already have valuable skills to contribute. I'm looking forward to continuing in this organization and to next year's conference!



## Ohio Preservation Council Scholarship Award

### KELLEY HUMMINGBIRD, OHIO PRESERVATION COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



As a recent transplant to Ohio and a PhD student at The University of Alabama's College of Communication and Information Sciences, I was honored to receive a scholarship to attend the 2025 Society of Ohio Archivists Annual Meeting. This opportunity not only supported my professional development, but also helped me begin building relationships within a new state and archival community.

The conference theme, *Show Me the Money: Sustaining Archives and Archival Programs*, was both timely and relevant. Securing support for archival work is a persistent challenge, and in today's political climate, disruptions to funding for cultural

heritage programs are even more pressing. It was refreshing to hear so many creative and practical suggestions for sustaining the vital work of archival stewardship.

One of the most valuable sessions I attended focused on grant selection strategies for archives. The presenters offered a thoughtful framework to assess grant readiness by encouraging participants to consider: Are our projects well-developed and achievable? Do they align with the goals of potential funders? What expenses are allowable? These insights were immediately applicable and will guide my future proposal development efforts.

A particularly meaningful moment for me was hearing the keynote address by Patricia Hswe of the Mellon Foundation. As someone involved in a Mellon-funded project, I was incredibly proud and moved to hear our work mentioned during her remarks. Her reflections on sustainability and future-proofing archival initiatives resonated deeply. I was especially struck by her call to ask "so what?"—a powerful reminder to clearly communicate the significance of our work and to ensure that archival records reflect multivocal and inclusive perspectives. Her keynote reinforced the importance of building archival practices that not only serve the

present, but anticipate and support future needs.

Finally, I was grateful for the opportunity to connect with archivists, librarians, and cultural heritage professionals from across the state. As someone committed to Indigenous archival sovereignty and equitable access to information, I found these conversations both grounding and energizing. I met fellow members of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (JEDAI) Committee, and I look forward to becoming more involved in its important work.

I am deeply thankful to the Society of Ohio Archivists and the Ohio Preservation Council for making this experience possible. The support of this scholarship enabled me to fully engage with the conference and return to my work with new tools, connections, and inspiration. Not only was the content timely and relevant, but the atmosphere was warm and welcoming, easing any anxiety I had as a first-time attendee. I already look forward to returning in 2026. Thank you for investing in the next generation of archival professionals and educators!

Thank you to the [Ohio Preservation Council](#).

# Turning historical items into an interactive display

HOW ONE PUBLIC LIBRARY USED PRIMARY RESOURCES TO CREATE A LIVING HISTORY EXHIBIT

Each spring, Tiffin-Seneca Public Library (T-SPL) hosts a Community Read based on a novel carefully selected by our Community Relations Department. The novels selected are based on criteria such as relevance to the local community, a general topic that would appeal to a wide range of people, and a story that can easily initiate events that help make the characters and plot come to life so patrons can apply themselves to the story. Likewise, in the realm of archives and digitization, we have a natural instinct to also apply ourselves to the stories of our past. As time progresses and new generations of minds emerge, the challenge that archivists and librarians face of trying to help our audiences, especially the younger ones, apply the stories we preserve to their own lives has become harder. We, as a collective society of individuals, are bombarded every minute of the day with new information in all directions – social media, the television and radio, peers, Google. So constant is this barrage of information that it can be overwhelming to filter out what pieces and how much of it we'd like to disseminate. Often, we listen to presentations and breakout sessions from our peers at yearly

meetings and conferences on ways archival professionals can answer our audience's golden question, "But why should that be important to me?"

T-SPL purchased three display cases in 2023 in memory of former Director Patricia Hillmer, who served as its director from the late 1980s until she retired in 2008, and the Technical Services Department was put in charge of filling them with rotating displays. Technical Services departments in many smaller and mid-sized public libraries are responsible for digitizing local history items, in addition to the duties of cataloging and processing new books. The display cases became a way for our Technical Services Department staff to showcase the preservation "hats" that they wear. The first few displays were experiments and a great diversion outside of the back office where we usually hide. After we got a couple of themed displays under our belt, the Community Relations Manager at T-SPL and I put our heads together to find a way to cross-promote our local history collections – both in print and our digital version – the Seneca County Digital Library, which is a component of Ohio



Two adolescent females pose with a horse in 1920 at the Junior Order of American Mechanics Home in Tiffin, Ohio. Until the mid-1940s, this orphanage operated as an independently-ran campus that included a fully functional farm, newspaper press, woodworking shop, greenhouse and much more.



While his housemates read, converse or play games, one boy in Cottage #3 at the Junior Order of American Mechanics Home in Tiffin, Ohio, plays with two of the orphanage's pet dogs. Until the mid-1940s, this orphanage operated as an independently-ran campus that included a fully functional farm, newspaper press, woodworking shop, greenhouse and much more.

History Connection's Ohio Memory Project.

Events highlighting the essence of the Community Read selections are held leading up to the culmination of the author's visit and also continue afterward. The Community Relations Manager begins promoting the Read in March, the author typically visits in April, and events continue into May. Since our Technical Services Department curates displays on a quarterly basis, the Community Read timeline coincides with ours. In the spring of 2025, residents of Seneca County and the surrounding area read "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, which is about the friendship that develops between an aquarium employee and the resident octopus named "Marcellus." While a bit of a quirky idea, the story, if you get a chance to read it, is very endearing and as its summary on Amazon states, is "a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible." This is a pretty poignant idea for archivists at the present moment.

The angle that we decided to take for this display was a lighthearted one so that it would appeal to the masses – our pets. Using photos, articles, and other pieces, we sought to tell the story that the former residents in our community had with animals, which is really not much different than our own. Even 100-200 years ago, people had deep connections with the animals they owned and cared for, including not just dogs or cats, but also horses and other livestock. We discovered a mule team named "Dolly" and "Suzie" and a resident cat, "Major," who was saved from a drug store fire. We met a stray dog adopted by the children living at the National Junior OUAM orphanage in Tiffin that they named "Reward." We also displayed a county commissioners' journal we are currently digitizing where we found a city ordinance from 1865 declaring that cattle, sheep and geese be able to "run at large." And we even got acquainted with the founding of the Seneca Horse Guards, known on the streets as the "Clinton Protective Society" (Clinton is a township in Seneca County) – a group of concerned citizens who

combined forces, much like a neighborhood watch party, to try catch horse thieves.

To engage our audience and answer the question, "How does this all apply to me?," we had all staff members at T-SPL to share photos of their pets, along with their pets' names. We put this information on cardstock signs with a colorful background that matched the splashy cover of the Community Read selection, and scattered them throughout the display cases with the local history selections containing stories and photos of animals from the past. Then, with a QR code and a Google form, we asked our patrons to share photos of their own pets. We also shared a few of the historical photographs from the display as a "Throwback Thursday" post on T-SPL's Facebook and Instagram profiles as another avenue for patrons to both learn about the Community Read and post comments with photos of their pets. Thus, we transformed our archival displays into something more on the lines of living history displays. We helped our community feel more connected to its past by helping them find something in common with our former residents.

A total of 282 people attended the author visit presentation for T-SPL's 2025 Community Read. In addition, the library's annual Friends of the Library book sale was held later the same week. Our two rectangular flat display cases are situated advantageously along the walkway leading to our Youth Services Department, and as T-SPL holds its book sale in a meeting room adjacent to that department, our animal-themed display was visible to all of our book sale customers passing through. For the Technical Services staff, seeing patrons viewing the display cases results in the satisfaction of our ability to share Tiffin and Seneca County's unique history with its residents. This keeps us motivated to plan future displays well ahead of time, often months in advance. Stay tuned for the next Ohio Archivist issue to learn about how we promoted our IT Department's newly purchased 3-D printer!

# Archives and Mental Health

**A**s we head into the second half of 2025, I have been trying to take stock of where we are as Archivists. Nearly every meeting I've had for the last 6 months involves people who are at the breaking point, mentally, physically, and emotionally. Archivists are struggling with job loss, funding loss, personal loss, and more. We are struggling to keep our institutions, our collections, our jobs and our lives afloat during a time of chaos and turmoil. We are struggling to protect ourselves, our families, our friends, and our neighbors. None of us are ok but we are all making do. Some of us are taking to the streets, participating in protests; others are working to support people through donations of time, food, and funding. Some of us are writing to our Congresspeople, attending town halls, and running for office and the local, state, and national level. As archivists we focus on doing what's right for our collections, often at the cost of ourselves. This is not sustainable, advisable or even doable. So, let's take a break from talking and thinking about archives and focus on ourselves and think about ourselves.

- \* **We are all at the top of the panic scale.** When any small thing happens, it kicks us into flight or fight mode, causing us to react in extreme ways to small triggers. We snap at someone who doesn't deserve it. Burst into tears when someone speaks loudly. Can't focus on what's important, forget to eat, sleep, bathe.
  - Take time to breathe. In....and....out
  - Take time to eat. Panic burns a lot of calories. Our brains need calories to function. Feed your brains!
  - Try to get good sleep. If nothing else, lying down with your eyes closed helps.
  - Drink some water. More than once a day.
  - Take time to appreciate the small things.
  - Be proud of what you have done. Even if it's just making your bed today!

- \* **Self-care is more important now than ever**
  - We need to take care of ourselves before we can take care of others
  - Take 20 minutes a week to do something nice for yourself
  - Meditation, stretching, walking
  - Face masks, face-care routines
  - Anything that you don't already do regularly (wash day does not count)
  - Anything that focuses your attention on only you

- \* **We are all looking to help but are not sure where to go or what to do.**
  - The revolution works on multiple fronts. We don't all need to be on the protest lines. We need people to contact our elected officials, we need people to start petitions, we need people to run for office on the local, state and federal level. We need people to help spread information, provide counseling, providing food, create art, providing financial support, providing shelter. You do not need to be all things to all people.

- \* **Give everyone the benefit of doubt.** Assume that everyone you talk to is struggling with something terrible and proceed accordingly. It costs us nothing to be kind and your kindness might be what keeps someone going.

- \* **No matter where you are in your career you will benefit from seeing a mentor.** SAA has a mentoring program as well as a career counselling center for mentoring relationships or one-off mentoring sessions.

- Nisha Mody ([www.nishaland.com/](http://www.nishaland.com/)) Nisha is a trauma-informed, justice-oriented mentor, writer, and educator for libraries and library professionals. Nisha's courses and workshops are perfect for all information professionals
- Michelle Ganz ([michelleganzarchivist.com/](http://michelleganzarchivist.com/)) I am a long-time disability advocate whose mentoring efforts focus on archivists or people thinking about becoming archivists

- \* **Therapy is one of the best ways to get specialized help, but there are barriers to access**

- Look for a therapist that offers a sliding scale
- Look for group therapy offered through a community center or non-profit
- Virtual therapy offers access to lots of therapists on a sliding scale
- Seek out specialized therapists
  - Deaf Council Center provides therapy for D(d)eaf and hard of hearing people virtually and on a sliding scale

- \* **It is ok to be struggling right now, but we need you to be here tomorrow.** The world is a better place with you in it. If you feel like your struggles are overwhelming, please seek help. There is no shame in asking for help, we all need a hand sometimes.
  - Call 988 any time if you are in a crisis. You can call text or chat in English, Spanish or ASL 24/7
  - Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a crisis counselor
  - [The Trevor Project](#) text START to 678-678 to text with a trained counselor

I'd like to leave you with a quote from Mister Rogers who reminds us that it is important to feel our feelings.

*Confronting our feelings and giving them appropriate expression always takes strength, not weakness. It takes strength to acknowledge our anger, and sometimes more strength yet to curb the aggressive urges anger may bring and to channel them into nonviolent outlets. It takes strength to face our sadness and to grieve and to let our grief and our anger flow in tears when they need to. It takes strength to talk about our feelings and to reach out for help and comfort when we need it."*

—Fred Rogers—

[The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember](#)

# What's Your Why?

I don't know about all of you, but life for me has sometimes felt heavy recently. Each twenty-four-hour news cycle seems to bring about nothing but more bad news, on top of all the challenges our colleagues in the information professions are facing across the board, from budget cuts to book bans and beyond. I know the vast majority of us love our job and we love our profession, but times like these can make it hard to do even the things you love to do. That's why, for this newsletter, I wanted to spend some time reflecting on my "why" to remind myself of the good and important work that I (and each of us, by extension) do.

Many people are often surprised to learn that archiving was not "love at first sight" for me. I came to the profession by way of a research fellowship in undergrad, where I spent many painstaking hours combing through microfilm documents,<sup>1</sup> and at the end of it, knew that I wanted to pursue graduate studies in history. However, I was also aware that the job market for History PhD's was not as lucrative as I wanted it to be, so I thought, "well, people become archivists! Maybe that's a way to achieve a similar end." So, with a little help from a professor and an advisor, I ended up with an internship for credit at my university's archives. By the end of the semester, I never wanted to archive again. The windowless processing room was slowly eating away at my soul, the one friend I made was a graduate student in the library science program, and she complained about her classes and professors the whole time, and I couldn't imagine spending the rest of my life doing what I had done for ten hours each week that semester. So, I figured, no harm, no foul, and moved on with my life.

However, my post-college five-year plan, which did not involve anything to do with history or PhD's or archiving, failed about a year in. I was basically starting over again, and I really began to think deeply about what would get me out of bed each morning with a deep sense of purpose and fill me with joy. Over time, I realized it was helping people, and in a particular way, teaching. I knew I didn't want to be a teacher with a classroom, though – I wanted to show people that learning could be fun, that it didn't have to come with structure necessarily, and that there was so much more to learn and study outside of school. I realized that library work could be the way to accomplish this, and that perhaps my experience in the Archives in undergrad wasn't indicative of the entire profession. So, I began as a volunteer – both at the history museum where I was living outside of Ohio, and at the public library in their DIY digitization studio.

I received my "why" one day while working with a patron at the public library in the DIY digitization studio. The library had recently purchased a bunch of awesome equipment, including flatbed scanners, as well as equipment to convert VHS and audio to digital. Patrons could make appointments to utilize the equipment, and my job as the volunteer was to show them how to use the equipment and then troubleshoot any issues they ran into.

A patron came in with some VHS tapes and cassette tapes, and she was looking to digitize them. Usually, I showed people what to do, and then left them to their own devices, but this particular patron and I got to chatting and I stayed with her as she began working on one of her cassette tapes. As she was listening to the tape as it moved from the cassette to a digital format, she began to cry. Immediately, she explained why – her daughter was an adult, and the cassette tape had been recorded when her daughter was still a baby – she hadn't heard those baby cries for so long. And now, that it was digitized, it was saved.

It was this moment that I realized the power that archiving had. As archivists, we are stewards of memory. We stand in the breach, protecting precious memories from fading into oblivion. I realized then the value of the work that I had done in the windowless processing room in undergrad, and that indeed there was a deep human dimension to archival work. The hours of processing and organizing served a purpose – to remind us of who we are and where we have come from. After my shift ended and I sent the woman on her way with her digitized memories, I called my dad, and I recalled the encounter to him, and I remember saying, "if this is what I spend the rest of my life doing, then it will have been a life well spent." Since then, I haven't looked back.

Despite all that may be going on, I encourage all of you to remember your "why" – what was your moment that sold you on this profession? An encounter with a patron, an amazing collection, great coworkers? Whatever it may be, let that "why" be the sails that carry you across the rough seas – whether those rough seas are here for you right now, or they find you sometime in the future. Whether you can see it or feel it or not, the work you are doing matters, both now and in the future.

**\*A fond farewell from the newsletter to Emily Ahlin, as she moves on to fantastic new things. Thank you for all of your work with the [Ohio Archivist](#), Emily!**

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<sup>1</sup> So many hours that even after the project was done and it had been several months since I stepped foot in the microfilm room, the librarian in charge stopped me randomly one day in passing to let me know the collection had been moved just in case I needed it again.

# The Revolutionary War Veterans Graves Project<sup>1</sup>

Michael R. Moran, B.A., J.D.<sup>2</sup>, Independent Public Historian<sup>3</sup>, Columbus, Ohio

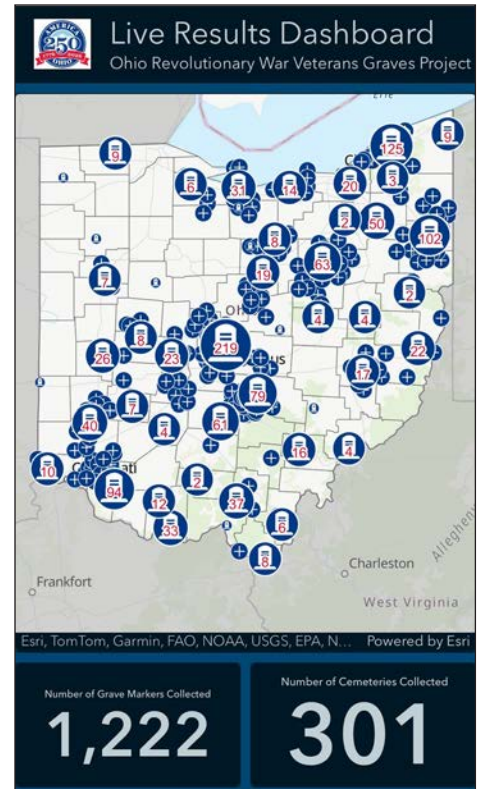
The ongoing celebrations of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America are reaching the pinnacle next Independence Day – July 4, 2026. The national effort to honor our country called America 250 is echoed by the state of Ohio. The legislature has created the Ohio Commission for the U.S. Semiquincentennial, or “America 250 – Ohio.”<sup>4</sup> There are a number of public engagement opportunities available as part of this effort. One of the most intriguing to me is the Revolutionary War Veterans Graves Project.<sup>5</sup>

The Commission and the Ohio History Connection are crowdsourcing this worthy project to identify and map every one of the graves of the estimated 7,000 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Ohio.<sup>6</sup> Crowdsourcing is defined as “the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers.”<sup>7</sup> The Project is utilizing volunteer “Public Researchers” with a phone application by ArcGIS called Survey 123 to survey graves and cemeteries, collecting GPS coordinates, electronic images, and observational data. All of this information is submitted via the app in real time to a database, where you can see a “Live Results Dashboard”

containing the submitted data.<sup>8</sup>

Teaming up with my partner, I am volunteering as one of the Public Researchers for the state of Ohio. The Project has already proved challenging at times. Records are spotty – databases are out of date, names are misspelled, gravestones are toppled and turned to dust. As I find myself dodging thunderstorms, ticks, multiflora rose, and tramping around my beloved Appalachian Ohio, I am learning many lessons. I am falling back heavily on my natural curiosity, investigative skills, love of geography, archivist experience, plus a strong interest in and academic training in history.

As a Project team member, we are conducting open-source intelligence gathering to identify target locations. After many years of public service in the region, I am focused on frequently overlooked Appalachian Southeastern Ohio. By examining public records like those of county recorders’ offices, libraries, researching proprietary and public databases, and interviewing sources, we are identifying known and probable locations for field work. We make on-site reconnaissance surveys of all places of suspected or previously identified Revolutionary War Veteran interment, including cemeteries and other plots and document this data for posterity.



Screenshots by Michael R. Moran

1 This article was submitted based on a suggestion contained in an article in this journal: Ahlin, Amy, “12 Ideas for Articles You Can Submit to the *Ohio Archivist*,” [ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ohio-archivist-2024-spring.pdf](https://ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ohio-archivist-2024-spring.pdf) (accessed on July 10, 2025) (“Have you been collecting material? Write and reflect on the idea of “archivist as collector.”).

2 B.A., Marietta College, 1990; J.D., Capital University Law School, 1994; served as the 27th Franklin County Recorder; member of the Ohio Academy of History & Society of Ohio Archivists.

3 (614) 476-6453 [MRMoran@MRMoran.com](mailto:MRMoran@MRMoran.com)

4 Ohio History Connection, “America 250 – Ohio,” [ohiohistory.org/ohio-commission-for-the-u-s-semiquincentennial/](https://ohiohistory.org/ohio-commission-for-the-u-s-semiquincentennial/)

5 Ohio History Connection, “Revolutionary War Veterans Graves Project,” [ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/history-preservation-where-you-live/revwarvet-graves/](https://ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/history-preservation-where-you-live/revwarvet-graves/) (accessed on July 10, 2025).

6 Glaser, Susan, “Thousands of America’s first veterans are buried in Ohio, and historians need your help to find them,” [cleveland.com/news/2025/07/thousands-of-americas-first-veterans-are-buried-in-ohio-and-historians-need-your-help-to-find-them.html](https://cleveland.com/news/2025/07/thousands-of-americas-first-veterans-are-buried-in-ohio-and-historians-need-your-help-to-find-them.html) (accessed on July 10, 2025).

7 Merriam-Webster, “Crowdsourcing,” [merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crowdsourcing](https://merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crowdsourcing)

8 [ohpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6c0513ba52704005b71e1783a00be8f0](https://ohpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6c0513ba52704005b71e1783a00be8f0)

Once veterans' graves are located, we take pictures and report data points: on-site observations of the gravesite and cemetery, monument conditions, plus GPS coordinates of these hallowed grounds.

One knowledgeable archivist from our Society has written about the importance of community archives:

*Collective memory refers to the shared knowledge, memory, and information of a social group....Diverse voices in historical records allow for more accurate interpretation of events while clarifying how the past affects current events.... Community archives are often left out of the search for source materials because there is no comprehensive search tool that will identify community archives alongside traditional repositories....The community-driven model flips the traditional model, placing the community itself as the focus of the repository, shifting scholars and traditional researchers to minimal importance. Community archives focus on documenting and preserving cultural groups and events.<sup>9</sup>*

The archivists in our Society have a once in a lifetime opportunity to flip the script with this Project. Instead of being merely organizers and preservers of history in the background, they can be on

the front lines of this community-driven model to create one of the most unique collections of community archives in the United States. It is an unprecedented effort in the state of Ohio. What could be more diverse than offering all Ohioans an opportunity to preserve important history in their communities?

The Project's goal is to have the graves of these patriots documented by America's Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026. By creating a public map and archive with detailed GPS data, photographs and historical records, the Project hopes to empower communities to protect and preserve these burial sites. As a former Franklin County Recorder, I know there are so many beneficial public uses by collecting and preserving this cultural history of our state. These benefits include bringing all Ohioans together with timeless values that are shared by most people: American patriotism, honoring veterans, understanding history, historic preservation, honoring all of our dead, community service, and volunteerism. It can also be part of future efforts at obtaining funding for improving the conditions of our state's cemeteries, thereby honoring these first patriots and all deceased Ohioans. All Buckeyes are encouraged to and can participate. Anyone can help. Join us!

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<sup>9</sup> Ganz, Michelle, The State of Research, [ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/OhioArchivist\\_Fall2024.pdf](https://ohioarchivists.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/OhioArchivist_Fall2024.pdf), (accessed on July 10, 2025).

Sarah Aisenbrey was elected as Vice President/President Elect of [Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious \(ACWR\)](#), and will assume the position in October. Sarah brings to the role a record of proven leadership.



Quentin Sledge recently completed the MLIS degree at Kent State University. As part of his degree, he wrote the paper *Archival Appraisal: Activism and Collaboration in a Digital Era Vs. Practicality*, which is about appraisal best practices and which was paired with an interview with archivists in Dayton Metro Library's Dayton Room special collections.

**Abstract**

At the behest of Howard Zinn, it is now a widely accepted concept that archiving is aligned with activism, however the practice of appraisal has undergone a few shifts to arrive at this school of thought. The influx of material during our current digital era has made the practice of appraisal all the more important in its 4th phase. Unlike the previous paradigm where scarcity forced archives into competition with each other to preserve rare collections, institutional collaboration is now emerging as a solution to meet the needs of users, assure that materials aren't unnecessarily duplicated, to cut spending costs, and evade record destruction by re-housing collections in more appropriate repositories. It is no secret that "best practices" are often ideal guidelines which are often aspirational given concerns like funding, staffing, storage, and limited resources. As such, Sledge felt it best to speak with two working archivists at the Dayton Metro Library to get their perspective of appraisal and how they develop collections given their real-world constraints.

[The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Archives](#) is pleased to welcome Sarah Hensler as the new assistant archivist. She recently earned her MLS from Indiana University, where she focused on manuscripts, religious records, and historical research support.

During her graduate studies, Sarah served as the sole Archival Processor for the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Collection at the Lilly Library, where she managed over 80 cubic feet of manuscripts, audiovisual materials, and born-digital oral histories. She also served as Project Coordinator for the Kripke Accession Project, leading the first comprehensive accessioning of a 20,000-item lexicography collection spanning five centuries.

Sarah's enthusiasm for archival work and her detail-oriented approach to managing collections make her a valuable asset to our team. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to her contributions.



[The Kroger Co.](#) appointed Ashley Durig as Lead Historian and Archivist, effective July 1, 2024. In this role, Ashley has been instrumental in reestablishing the connection between the company's rich history and its associates—an effort not seen since the last recorded activity of the corporate library in 1983.

With 26 business units, multiple manufacturing facilities, and warehouses, the company's nearly 150-year legacy is being carefully documented under her leadership. Ashley is laying the foundation to preserve stories for future generations while creating engaging content that helps today's associates connect with the company's enduring mission of serving America through food inspiration and uplift.

To share stories, artifacts, or photographs—or to explore how your organization may be part of Kroger's history—please contact Ashley at [history@kroger.com](mailto:history@kroger.com).

[The Archives of the History of American Psychology \(AHAP\)](#) in Akron is excited to [celebrate its 60th anniversary](#) this year. The archives has grown from 2 boxes donated in 1966 to over 6,500 linear feet of current holdings.

For 60 years, the archives has been telling the story of psychology through personal manuscript papers, photographs, film and sound, books, objects, and psychological organization records; now they are anticipating telling their own story with several events and exhibits planned throughout the year.

[Why Akron? Reflecting on 60 Years of AHAP](#) is a new exhibit on display at the National Museum of Psychology. If you're wondering why the world's largest archive of psychology lives in Akron, visit the exhibit and discover the answer to "Why Akron?" The National

(continued)





Museum of Psychology is located inside the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology building, which also houses AHAP and the Institute for Human Science and Culture. Explore rarely seen artifacts and documents from the archives at the [60th Anniversary Open House](#) on October 1 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Visitors can also explore stations set up throughout the museum showcasing film, audio, and paper preservation.

[A free symposium](#) on November 8 from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm will highlight the people and collections that have shaped this world-class archive. Lunch and light refreshments are provided. Registration is required.

Upcoming events, registration information, and directions to the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology at The University of Akron can be found at their [Upcoming Events page](#).

*Left: AHAP founder and first director, Dr. John A. Popplestone, ca. 1980s  
Middle: Second AHAP director, Dr. David B. Baker, ca. 2000s  
Right: Third AHAP director, Dr. Cathy Faye, 2025*

## In Memoriam: Robin Heise

We are saddened and heartbroken to learn of the unexpected death of former Director and SOA President Robin Heise. Robin was an instrumental part of growing the archives into what it is today, one of the best programs in the state. She worked at Greene County for 14 years, beginning as an intern in 2011 and worked her way up to director when Gillian Hill retired in 2015. I personally have known Robin for just as long, as the records and archive circle in the state is small, but mighty. I was fortunate to work with her on several different initiatives over the years through our time together

in CARMA, MVAR and NAGARA. It was an incredible honor to work with her and Pari Swift in 2018 when she chaired the CARMA committee that would change the law for opening previously closed permanent records after 75 years. Her influence will leave an effect on those around her and in the archival community for years to come. We extend our condolences to Robin's family, especially her husband Mark and daughter Morgan..

*Jen Haney Conover, Director, Records/Archives, Greene County, Ohio*



*Robin Heise, left.*



*Robin Heise, far right.*

## Editor's Note

Greetings, Ohio!

Please welcome our newest Assistant Editor, **Emily Rinaman**. Emily is the Technical Services Manager at Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. She and her staff maintain the Seneca County Digital Library (SCDL), which is a portion of the Ohio Memory Project, and catalog all incoming local history items (and new books). In January 2020, she began the [Seneca Strolls](#) blog. Using research from the items digitized on the SCDL, each monthly article describes how Seneca County, Ohio, fits into national historical trends. Her department also curates three display cases at T-SPL. Often, these displays and the blog articles work in tandem to complement events happening in the library or community of Tiffin, Ohio. She has been involved in several steering committees for state-wide and regional groups that pertain to digitization, including the Ohio Digitization Network's working group, served as unofficial "secretary" for the Ohio Digitization Group's Working Committee from 2021-2024, and was former co-chair of the Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Group (NWOCHG) from 2021-2024. Under her leadership, this group published two editions of the Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Passport ([Northwest Ohio Cultural Heritage Group Passport, version 2](#)). She is also currently part of Seneca County's America-250 committee. In her free time, she enjoys reading historical fiction, doing genealogy research, and spending time with her three swiftly growing children, Gabriel (16), Caleb (14) and Delilah (8).

[www.tiffinsenecalibrary.org/senecastrolls](http://www.tiffinsenecalibrary.org/senecastrolls)

[toledosattic.org/discover-resources/resources/passport-nwochg](http://toledosattic.org/discover-resources/resources/passport-nwochg)

I hope you enjoyed this issue of [Ohio Archivist](#). As always, feel free to contact me with suggestions, criticisms, or interest in being included in an issue. For the most up-to-date information on SOA, including ways to get involved, please visit the [website](#) and join us on the [listserv](#). Thank you for your readership!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and safe season,

Jessica

## Connect with SOA



For the latest news about SOA and the archives profession in Ohio, please join us:

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