



RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January to April 2023 Newsletter

Historical Museum of Richfield
www.richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org

Hours of Operation

Open Tuesday & Thursday 9am to 12pm
Also open by appointment and upon request for
special occasions - call (330) 659-0336



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

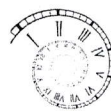
Happy New Year RHS members! I'm writing this on January 27th, and I'm contemplating what I think may be the most moderate January in recorded weather history. In any case, we're on the correct side of winter...getting through another one!

The 2023 slate of events for RHS is coming together, and I want to get your thoughts focusing on SPRING! The March 18th Cabin Fever Tour will be here before we know it! Read your RHS newsletters and check our website for all our upcoming program dates and times. Your board is beginning to choose the speakers for this year's *TakeMeBack* Series presentations. Believe me when I tell you there are many quite interesting talks being planned! Last year we held the Richfield Garden Tour and Picket Fence Art Show as well as participated in Richfield's Annual Community Garage Sale and Community Day---and many other events that we'll do again this year. We'll also keep you apprised of what's happening at the Richfield HERITAGE Preserve. There will be a levy issue on the November ballot which will allow all Richfield residents the opportunity to express our continuing support for the HERITAGE PRESERVE!

Most of those involved with the operation of the Preserve are continually referring to the "Heritage Preserve" as a 'park'. I don't know if you are as disturbed as I am with what appears to be an attempt to consider the "Heritage Preserve" just another park. My wife Michal and I took a few moments back in December to think about how many real 'parks' there already are in Richfield, and we came up with EIGHT! There are also another FIVE that are just across Richfield's borders! I firmly believe we have a real gem in our Richfield Heritage Preserve. We don't need a ninth 'park'! RHP is unique so please don't let it become something less! Vote to support it financially, and

stress to the Richfield Joint Recreation District board that the voters want to preserve what makes it unique! Also, be sure to read the article in this newsletter about how to become a Richfield Heritage Preserve structure champion.

Paul Swan, President



TAKEMEBACK Series **WWII Normandy Invasion**

Our first *TakeMeBack* Series presentation of 2023 will take place on **Sunday, April 16th at 2:00 pm** at the Richfield Fellowship Hall (3903 Broadview Road). **Gary Domanick** will be back to give another talk on WW II's D-Day invasion. Titled "Keeping Our History Alive -- The D-Day Invasion and What it Means Now", it will cover the vast significance of the U.S. and our allies liberating Europe from Nazi Germany as well as how the planning started and was altered to best achieve the goals of this historic mission. He will also talk about the D-Day reenactment that takes place each August in Conneaut, Ohio.

We're in the process of lining up the rest of our speakers for this year's *TakeMeBack* Series and will provide future presentation details in our next newsletter. Information will also be posted on the Society's website and shared via our Facebook page.



Visit us on Facebook at
Historical Museum of Richfield, Ohio

Historical Museum of Richfield
Richfield Historical Society
PO Box 215, 3907 Broadview Rd
Richfield, OH 44286

CABIN FEVER RELIEVER

GET SOME RELIEF FROM YOUR WINTER BLUES

BY TAKING OUR CABIN FEVER TOUR

Been cooped up inside and got the winter blues? Get off the couch, out of the house and take our Cabin Fever Tour on **Saturday, March 18th**. Created in 2009, it continues to be a popular event which offers individuals the opportunity to visit treasure houses of local history, art, antiques, cuisine, gardening, gift items, home furnishings and much more in the communities of Richfield, Hinckley, and Peninsula.

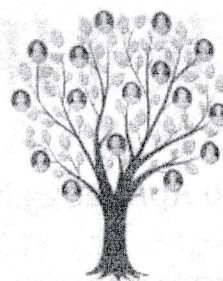
The aim of the Cabin Fever Tour is to promote shopping locally. We have many independent stores which are owned by individuals or families. Money spent at these shops stays within the community---and funds are not going for large overhead costs as found in big box stores, franchises, or chains. Our local institutions, libraries and museums are also most often staffed by folks who may very well be our neighbors or from a nearby community. As of this writing, the following have signed up to participate in this year's event:

In Hinckley -- Greensmith Garden & Gift Shop, Hinckley Historical Society, Southern Breeze Salon & Boutique (offering a drawing for a basket), and Minnehaha Water (offering a free bottle of water);

In Peninsula -- Cuyahoga Valley Historical Museum, Peninsula Library, Peninsula Art Academy, Peninsula Village Antiques, Purplebrown Farm Store, River Light Gallery and Trail Mix; and

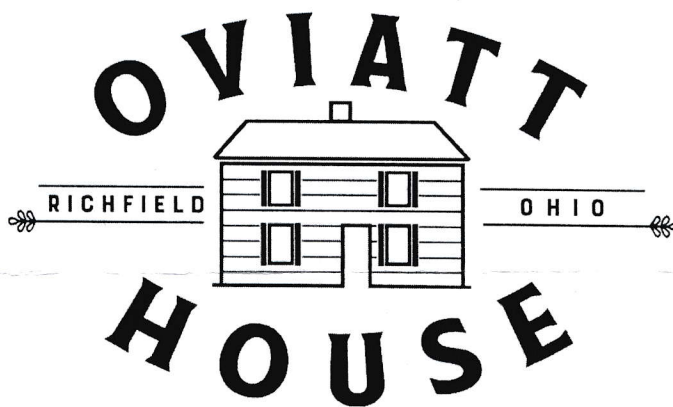
In Richfield -- Carter Manor (featuring a doll show and sale), Country Maid Ice Cream, Ohio Hardwood Furniture, Olesia's Taverne of Richfield (reservations required), Pierogies of Cleveland Market & Café, Polka Dot Pincushion, Richfield Branch Library (holding a book sale), Richfield Heritage Preserve (open for hiking from dawn to dusk), Richfield Historical Society, Somerville Antiques, Stitches & Stowaways and Stone Garden Farm.

A complete listing ---including locations, hours, and any new participants---will be posted on the Society's website and available at the Museum. Please get out of the house on March 18th and support your local merchants and services!



INVESTIGATE YOUR FAMILY TREE AND DISCOVER HOW YOUR ROOTS GREW

The Society offers the opportunity for any interested individuals to come in during regular Museum hours, or by special appointment, to research their family history---using the Society's Ancestry.com account---as part of our free "Don't Wait - Investigate" program. Every family has a story---investigate your family tree and find out yours!



Stop by the Oviatt House located in Richfield Heritage Preserve - right off of State Route 303 at 3771 Oviatt Rd - on **Saturday, May 6th** from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for a fun May Day Celebration! Picnic-style food and beverages will be available along with kids' crafts and activities. Don't forget your NPS Passport! Look for more information to be posted on their website at www.oviatthouse1836.com.

amazonsmile
PROGRAM ENDING

AmazonSmile has announced that it will be ending its donation program -- created in 2013 to help Amazon customers support their favorite charities -- effective February 20th. Going forward, they will invest in specific areas and focus their philanthropic efforts in the communities where their employees live and work. Thanks to all who supported the Society through AmazonSmile over the years. Your donations did help to make a difference as we earned nearly \$350 during the years we were part of this program.



RICHFIELD HERITAGE PRESERVE (RHP) STRUCTURE CHAMPION PROGRAM

The Richfield Joint Recreation District (RJRD), as part of its strategic plan for Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP), has adopted a building champion program. The RJRD board believes its current resources and operational constraints will not allow them to support all the historic structures located in RHP---but they realize that many of the structures have inherent historic, sentimental, and functional value so they are providing the community with an opportunity to champion structures. To "champion" a structure means to raise funds and perform or contract for work to restore/renovate/reuse a structure in a manner that is consistent with a successful application to participate in the champion program. According to the RJRD board---regardless of involvement in the champion program, all structures within RHP must ultimately---and at the earliest possible time---be accessible to the public and contribute to the mission of RJRD which is "to safeguard, support and maintain the natural properties of Richfield while encouraging recreational and educational opportunities in our community".

Applications will consist of two parts: a Champion Letter of Intent (LOI) and a Full Champion Application. Review of applications will consider the following elements: 1) structure currently in use? 2) priority for RJRD? 3) located outside priority resource conservation area? 4) structural integrity/historic value (National Register Contributing Structure) 5) proposed use alignment with RJRD mission 6) vehicular access 7) accessibility for public and ADA compliance 8) proposed fundraising timeframe 9) proposed construction/adaptive reuse timeframe 10) established organization (demonstrated past performance) as champion?

Structures currently available for the champion program are:

Co-Champion with RJRD

Amity House
Boathouse
Chagrin Valley Cabin
Pack Out Building
Pool House
Waterfront Shelter

Secondary Champion Opportunities

Adirondacks Shelter	Kirby House
Adirondacks Sleeping Huts	Kirby Garage
Classroom	Hilltop Cabin
Coach House	North House
Garfield/Bounce House	Wayside Shelter
Gemini Cabin	Wonken Tonken Shelter

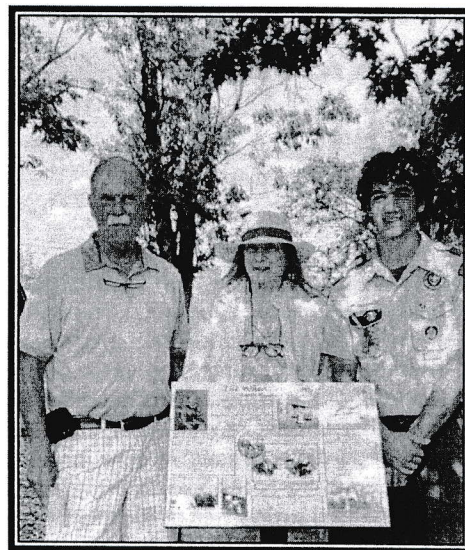
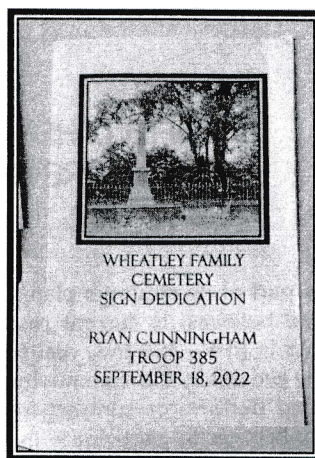
The structures listed under "Co-Champion with RJRD" are those which the RJRD wishes to secure, rehabilitate and renovate for public use within RHP but for which RJRD lacks sufficient funding. During the LOI approval process, it is anticipated that an applicant and RJRD would jointly develop a plan for the structure and that RJRD would be directly involved in the work on the structure going forward.

The structures listed under "Secondary Champion Opportunities" are those which RJRD is amenable to appropriate stabilization, rehabilitation, and renovation by a structure champion but which RJRD does not prioritize sufficiently to undertake such work itself.

Key program deadlines are:

October 15, 2023	Deadline for Letter of Intent (LOI) submission
December 1, 2023	Deadline for Full Champion Application (if LOI has been approved by RJRD board)
June 24, 2024	Deadline for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between champion and RJRD board to be in place (if Full Champion Application has been approved by RJRD board)
December 2026-2028	70% of funding and approved construction documents must be in hand before actions beyond (3-5 years maximum) basic maintenance are permitted. If terms of MOU are not met, it may be terminated and stabilization efforts discontinued---at the discretion of the RJRD board.
December 2032	100% of funds secured. If terms of MOU are not met, it may be terminated (9 years maximum) and stabilization efforts discontinued---at the discretion of the RJRD board.

Additional details about the RHP Structure Champion Program, along with pictures of all the structures, are available at the Museum. You may also obtain complete details and all necessary champion forms or have any questions answered by contacting the RJRD Park Director, John Peipsny, at park-director@rjrd.org or 330-888-0511.

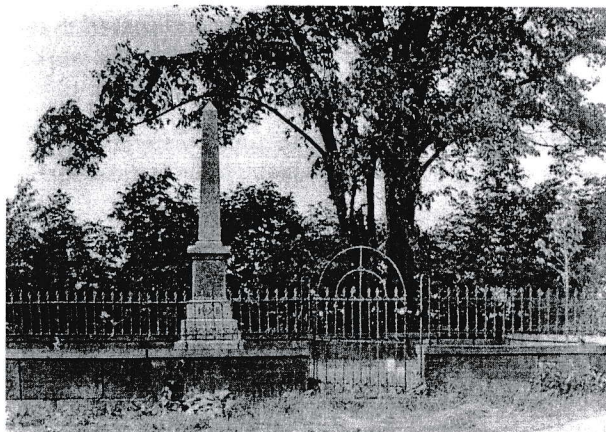


(Left) Mary Ann Thomas and Ryan Cunningham at the sign dedication for the Wheatley Family Cemetery

Paul Swan, Linda Fleming, and Ryan

WHEATLEY FAMILY CEMETERY SIGN DEDICATION CEREMONY

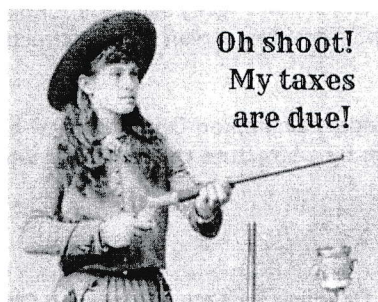
In our last newsletter, we told you about Revere High School senior **Ryan Cunningham** completing his Eagle Scout project -- which involved designing an informational sign (which you can see in the above pictures) and installing a bench at the Wheatley Family Cemetery. A special Wheatley Family Cemetery Sign Dedication took place on September 18th where the sign was officially 'unveiled' by Richfield Mayor Michael Wheeler and Richfield Historical Society President Paul Swan. Mary Ann Thomas, wife of Jeffrey Thomas (grandson of Daniel & Lucille Wheatley Thomas and nephew of Alan Wheatley Thomas, who had transferred the cemetery deed to the Society when he was no longer able to take care of it), attended and spoke about the Wheatley family as well as the farm and memories she and her husband had experienced with his grandparents. Ryan provided a project recap and presented a gift of \$673 to the Society, which represented monies leftover from his fundraising efforts for this project. Approximately 30 guests attended the dedication and dessert reception following the ceremony.



The Wheatley Family Cemetery circa 1920

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Ryan joins the 2.7 million Boys Scouts who have achieved Eagle Scout status since it was first awarded in 1912 to Arthur Eldred of Oceanside, Long Island, NY. Only 6% of Boys Scouts earn the award - congratulations Ryan!



YOUR TAX RETURN CAN HELP PRESERVE HISTORY!

You can't help Annie Oakley with her taxes, but you can donate to Ohio History on your Ohio tax return and help fund history projects in local communities. The History Fund creates grants to help support local history and preservation-related projects in communities throughout Ohio. It's funded by Ohio taxpayers who select "Ohio History Fund" as a donation on their state tax returns. For more information about the History Fund grant program and how to apply for grants, visit ohiohistory.org/historyfund or contact the Ohio History Connection (formerly known as Ohio Historical Society) at averhoff@ohiohistory.org or call (614) 297-2341.

DID YOU KNOW ...

From www.history.com

On January 1, 1892, teenager **Annie Moore** from County Cork, Ireland, became the first person admitted to the new immigration station on **Ellis Island**. On that opening day, she received a greeting from officials and a \$10.00 gold piece. Annie traveled to New York with her two younger brothers on steerage aboard the S.S. Nevada, which left Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland, on December 20, 1891 and arrived in New York on the evening of December 31. After being processed, the children were reunited with their parents, who were already living in New York.

Alexander Graham Bell's patent application for the **telephone** was filed on February 14, 1876, just hours before rival inventor Elisha Gray filed a caveat with the U.S. Patent Office that announced he was working on a similar invention. On March 7, the 29-year-old Bell was awarded the first U.S. patent for the telephone, and three days later Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, clearly heard the inventor's voice crackle across a wire in their Boston laboratory in the first successful telephone transmission. The message? "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you." It didn't take long for the first of hundreds of legal challenges to Bell's patent to begin. Five of them reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which ultimately upheld Bell's claims in one of the longest patent battles in American history.

Some of the most storied reigns in history, like that of Catherine the Great, took place against a backdrop of horrifying smells, overcrowded quarters, overflowing chamber pots and lice-filled furniture. While paintings of Louis XIV's opulent court at **Versailles** show royals clad in gorgeously embroidered garments, viewers today are missing one of the main effects of their finery: the odor of hundreds of garments that have never been washed, all in one unventilated room. And Charles II of England let his flea-bitten spaniels lie in his bed chamber, where they rendered the room "very offensive and indeed made the whole Court nasty and stinking," according to a 17th century writer.

SOCIETY OFFERS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP



The Richfield Historical Society will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to one graduating Revere High School senior who is a Richfield resident and who best demonstrates "a sincere interest in learning about history as well as helping to preserve and promote curiosity about it". Applicants are required to provide an essay of between 500 to 1,500 words about the importance of preserving local history. Deadline for submission is April 14th, and the recipient will be announced at the May 31st Revere High School Senior Awards Assembly. Applications are available through the Revere High School guidance department or by contacting Karen Smik at kls1650@roadrunner.com. This is the tenth year for our scholarship program.

Thank you to the following for supporting the Richfield Historical Society through your generous gifts:

Preservationist - \$500 and up

E.B. Miller *in honor of the Revere Class of '61*

The Village of Richfield

Curator - \$100 to \$499

Melissa Haslinger *in memory of Joanne Hutchinson*

Donna Nelson *in memory of Berta (Carter) Grimm*

Russell Sibert

Karen Smik - *in memory of Louise (Waltz) Patterson and Gerald Waltz*

Jeff and Regina Taussig

Archivist - \$50 to \$99

Judy Heit *in memory of Jean Heiser*

Richard Jandrey *in memory of Regina Jandrey*

Edna Larson *in memory of Ed & Myrtle Haslem and Fred Larson*

Heather & Dennis Liccardi

Richard Roznovsky

Mary M. Ryan *in memory of Richfield Elementary School on Rt. 303*

Historian - \$25 to \$49

Clive Fetzer *in honor of Paul Swan and his support for the historical heritage of the Richfield Heritage Preserve*

Don Laubacher

Sue Serdinak & Mark Parker

Researcher - under \$25

Helen J. Marshall

Linda Murr *in memory of Eva and Bob Oviatt*



In Memoriam

The Society has lost long-time members Ruth Knopp and Leonarda Ropar. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their families. Both will be truly missed.

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY— 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

Membership Program The Richfield Historical Society is a non-profit organization. Our membership year runs from January through December. Members receive a newsletter as well as a discount on Museum merchandise. We hold special events such as our *TakeMeBack* Series and *PictureThis* presentations throughout the year that are free to our members. Now is the time to renew your 2023 membership if you have not already done so. Since membership dues only cover a small portion of expenses, monetary gifts through our Donor Program are encouraged to provide services to the public and to strengthen education and preservation.

Membership Type ☐ Individual - \$15 ☐ Family - \$20 ☐ Student (age 17 or under) - \$5 ☐ Business - \$100 ☐ Lifetime - \$150

Donor Program Donations are the primary source of unrestricted, contributed income for the Historical Museum of Richfield. Your donation builds a foundation of unrestricted support—meaning your gift will be used where it is needed most. Your continued sponsorship will help us provide services, special events, and programs that will promote appreciation for Richfield's cultural, social, and economic history. Please consider making an "investment" to keep Richfield's past alive and help preserve our future. Please note that the Richfield Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and eligible for employer matching funds. You may also want to consider including the Society in your will.

Donor Levels ☐ Researcher - any amount under \$25

☐ Historian - \$25—\$49.99 - Receives Richfield, Ohio Playing Cards **1st** or **2nd** Edition (circle choice of edition) and newsletter.

☐ Archivist - \$50 - \$99.99 - Receives Richfield, Ohio Playing Cards **1st** or **2nd** Edition (circle choice of edition) and newsletter.

☐ Curator - \$100 - \$499.99 - Receives both sets of Richfield, Ohio Playing Cards and newsletter.

☐ Preservationist - \$500 and up - Receives Richfield Bicentennial Throw, both sets of Richfield, Ohio Playing Cards and newsletter.

Please circle your choice of throw color: **BLUE** **GREEN** **RED**

Name _____ I prefer to receive my copy of the RHS newsletter by: ☐ US mail ☐ email

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Mail this form and your payment to: Richfield Historical Society, PO Box 215, Richfield, OH 44286