



RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May through August 2026 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



Your Historical Society is very busy this year! There are eight *Take Me Back* presentations planned (the first one was held on 4/14), our Plant Sale (6/13), the annual RHS membership meeting (6/28), Picket Fence Art Show and our 'booth' at Richfield Community Day (8/9)

plus all our SemiQ activities. I hope to see many of you at these events. An update on our SemiQ events is provided in this newsletter by RHS Trustee Kitty Butler – who's coordinating the Society's efforts to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary.

And just a reminder to renew your RHS membership dues if you haven't already done so this year. A membership form is included with this newsletter for your convenience. The Historical Society relies on membership dues and donations to help fund our events and cover our expenses. Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Paul Swan, President

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GARDEN TOUR AND PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

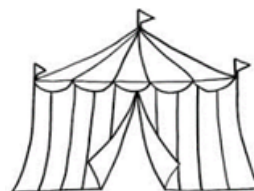
The Society will hold its annual garden tour on **Saturday, June 13, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the Society's Museum. An email blast, with more details, will be sent to members just prior to the event.

Look for your favorite perennials on sale at the Museum on June 13 as well. The shared divisions of plants come from local gardens. They are, therefore, mostly deer resistant -- and many are native. Prices range between \$1-\$3, and all profit benefits your Richfield Historical Society.

For more information about the garden tour and plant sale, call Linda Fleming at 330-659-0336 or 330-659-6819. Check our website for event updates.

VISIT US UNDER THE BIG TOP AT RICHFIELD COMMUNITY DAY!

The Society will participate in the annual Richfield Community Day -- scheduled for **Sunday, August 9**, at Richfield Woods Park (4100 Broadview Road). We'll be there from 1 - 6 p.m. so be sure to stop by our table under the 'big top' to check out our "wares" and chat with our volunteers. We'll also have some fun games available for children of all ages!



MEETING!!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



The Society will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on **Sunday, June 28, 2:00 p.m.**, at Richfield Fellowship Hall (3903 Broadview Road). The meeting will include highlights from the past year, a financial report, a preview of upcoming activities and events, as well as the election of RHS officers and trustees. It will also feature a special *Picture This* presentation which will include photos from the Museum's collection -- accompanied by a captivating narration from RHS photo archivist and Vice President Mark Mitchell.



TAKEMEBACK SERIES PRESENTATIONS

HAVE WE GOT SOME GREAT TALKS LINED UP FOR YOU!

Tuesday, May 19, from 7-8 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, **Carl Quatraro** (of Speaking on Q) will present "Traitor – The Tragic Tale of Benedict Arnold".

Tuesday, June 30, from 7-8 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, **Dale Fellows** (with "We Made History" Presidential Living Historians) will present (in full character) "**George Washington and the Constitution**".

Tuesday, July 28 from 7-8 p.m. at the Historical Museum of Richfield "**Ohio Battles of the Revolutionary War**" will be presented.

Tuesday, August 25 from 7-8 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, **Mary Louise Daley** (with A Portal in Time) will present "**Oliver Hazard Perry: Hero of the Battle of Lake Erie -- A Life of Courage and Honor.**"

Tuesday, September 22, from 7-8 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, "**A Brief History of the Women Airforce Service Pilots**" will be presented by a member of the International Women's Air & Space Museum.

Tuesday, October 20 from 7-8 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, **John Burke** (John Burke's Living History) will present "**The Real Story of the First Thanksgiving.**"

Sunday, November 15 from 2-3 p.m. at Fellowship Hall, **Dr. Gary Domanick** will give the latest of his WWII presentations.

PICKET FENCE ART SHOW – WHERE IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ART!

Do you want to purchase some incredible artwork for yourself or as a gift? Then you need to stop by the 24th Picket Fence Art Show -- which will be held on Sunday, August 9, from 1-5 p.m. at the Johnson Barn located in Richfield Woods Park (4100 Broadview Road). This highly anticipated show is sponsored by the Richfield Historical Society and the Richfield-Hinckley Art Group. The prestigious art event originated with Theo and Ane Marie Kirk -- who hosted a weekly art group at their home and restaurant, then known as the Danish Smorgasbord. The art group organized and held the original outdoor art show, known as "The Picket Fence Art Show" (where framed artwork hung on an actual snow fence), back in the mid-1950s and 1960s at the historic Farnam Manor. While the event's format and location may have changed over the years, admission remains free to the public. Original framed art, ceramics, photography, jewelry, and fine crafts will be on display and available for purchase. For more information about the event or if interested in participating in the show as an artist, contact Linda Fleming at 330-659-0336 or 330-659-6819. There is a \$10 participation fee, and a limit of 4-5 pieces of framed artwork per artist. Entries will be accepted as space allows.



Future President George Washington presiding over the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia during the summer of 1787



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

Preservationist (\$500.00 and up)

Village of Richfield

Sandy & Pat Norris "250 for 25" donor

Roger & Gwen Rains "250 for 25" donor

Jeff & Regina Taussig

Reggie Taussig "250 for 25" donor

Douglas Wisneski in honor of Ellen Wisnieski Lazecko and in memory of Walter & Mildred Wisnieski

Jon & Joan Wolf in appreciation of Linda & Richard Fleming for their dedication to RHS

Curator (\$100.00-\$499.00)

Kitty Butler

Richard & Linda Fleming in memory of Drew Gentner

Dwayne & Cathy Gentner in memory of Drew Gentner

Steven Gerbasi

Mike & Sharon Hargrove

Scott Luther in memory of Helen & Rudolph Luther

Angie Remen

Peter Schueler

Karen Smik in memory of Louise (Waltz) Patterson and Gerald Waltz / in memory of Drew Gentner

Regina & Jeff Taussig (toward the Symphonic Winds Concert on the Green)

Archivist (\$50.00-\$99.00)

Dean E. Davis

Patricia Healey in memory of Ken & Evelyn Swan

Richard Jandrey in memory of Regina Jandrey

Joann Martinak in memory of Jerry & Jeff Martinak

Roy Richardson

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

Tricia Steiner



Historian (\$25.00-\$49.00)

Bethel Church Membership

David & Karen Butera

Linda Corsi "250 for 25" donor

Judy Heit in memory of Richfield Elementary School on Rt 303

Don Laubacher

Sandra S. Laurenson

Roy Richardson

Tricia & Ethan Steiner

Bill & Juanita Taylor

Rose Marie Torma

Researcher (any amount under \$25.00)

Linda Wilhelm Murr in memory of deceased classmates of Revere High Class of 1961

Sheila Schreiner

David Stetz

Chris Sweet in honor of the Eastwood & Vowles Family



Stop by the museum to see our exhibits and displays as well as some items for sale including Richfield Patriot t-shirts and ceramic ornaments. The museum is open 9 am to noon on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** as well as during announced dates during the year.

Our Patriot Wall of Fame honoring Revolutionary War veterans with ties to local families will be featured on **July 4** from 9:00 am to noon. We will also have a special American Revolution display. Stop by and check it out!

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY!



May 19, 2026, 7:00 PM

TakeMeBack program
"Traitor – The Tragic Tale of Benedict
Arnold"
Fellowship Hall

June 30, 2026, 7:00 PM

TakeMeBack program "George
Washington and the Constitution"
Washington is portrayed by Dale
Fellows of We Made History
Fellowship Hall

July 14, 2026, 7:00 PM

Akron Symphonic Winds Concert
Pavilion on the Green
(Alt site Revere High School in case of
inclement weather)

May 27, 2026, 6:30 PM

250th USA Anniversary Parade
Starts at Revere Middle School, north on
Revere Rd then east on Everett Rd
concluding at the Western Reserve
Playhouse Barn
Parking at Revere High School, Richfield
Elementary, and St. Victor's Church

July 4 2026, 9:00 AM to Noon

Patriot Wall of Fame
American Revolutionary Exhibit Debut
Richfield Historical Society Museum

July 28, 2026, 7:00 PM

TakeMeBack program
"Ohio Battles of the Revolutionary
War"
Richfield Historical Society Museum

YOU'VE HEARD OF PAUL REVERE BUT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SYBIL LUDDINGTON?

On April 18, 251 years to the date of Paul Revere's famous ride, the Society partnered with the Richfield Library to present a children's program on **Paul Revere** and the lesser-known **Sybil Luddington**. In 1777, as Sybil's neighboring town of Danbury CT was torched by British troops, she rode out for forty miles to direct the militias and Continental Army troops to assemble in her hometown -- where her father Colonel Luddington would lead them into the Battle of Ridgefield where the British were forced to retreat.

Librarian Diane Nagy, dressed as Betsy Ross, led the children in a reading of the poem "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere". As the reading ended, in rode Paul Revere and Sybil Luddington on horseback! The kids (and adults) enjoyed petting and feeding the horses -- then returned to the library to gather up a gift bag containing a George Washington book, coloring pages, a new set of crayons, replicas of colonial coins and paper currency, a flag and a patriotic pinwheel.

A big thanks to librarian Diane Nagy, riders Sue Cunningham and Molly Eastwood, Molly's two horses and photographer Becky Lybarger.





DID YOU KNOW ...

From www.history.com

Abraham Lincoln wasn't an Abolitionist. He did believe that slavery was morally wrong, but there was one big problem: It was sanctioned by the highest law in the land, the Constitution. The nation's founding fathers, who also struggled with how to address slavery, did not explicitly write the word "slavery" in the Constitution, but they did include key clauses protecting the institution, including a fugitive slave clause and the three-fifths clause, which allowed Southern states to count enslaved people for the purposes of representation in the federal government.

In a three-hour speech in Peoria, Illinois, in the fall of 1854, Lincoln presented more clearly than ever his moral, legal and economic opposition to slavery—and then admitted he didn't know exactly what should be done about it within the current political system.

Abolitionists, by contrast, knew exactly what should be done about it: Slavery should be immediately abolished, and freed enslaved people should be incorporated as equal members of society. They didn't care about working within the existing political system, or under the Constitution, which they saw as unjustly protecting slavery and enslavers. Leading abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison called the Constitution "a covenant with death and an agreement with Hell" and went so far as to burn a copy at a Massachusetts rally in 1854.

Although Lincoln saw himself as working alongside the abolitionists on behalf of a common anti-slavery cause, he did not count himself among them. Only with emancipation, and with his support of the eventual 13th Amendment, would Lincoln finally win over the most committed abolitionists.



With the **Great Depression** already making life difficult, a drought struck the Great Plains in 1931 and essentially lasted for the rest of the decade. Combined with short-sighted agricultural practices, it induced huge clouds of dust that turned the skies dark, lodged in residents' lungs, and precipitated a mass migration to greener pastures. The apex came in 1934, which NASA researchers recently called the worst drought year of the last millennium in North America. Not far behind was 1936, when, amid the dust storms, a devastating summer heat wave killed upwards of 5,000 Americans and 1,100 Canadians.

The Ides of March refers to March 15 in the ancient Roman calendar. Though it was once a normal—and even festive—date in Rome, it became synonymous with betrayal after **Julius Caesar** was assassinated on March 15, 44 BCE. You've probably heard the soothsayer's warning to Julius Caesar in William Shakespeare's play of the same name: "Beware the Ides of March." Not only did Shakespeare's words stick, they also branded the phrase—and the date, March 15—with a dark and gloomy connotation. It's likely that many people who use the phrase today don't know its true origin.



The Ides of March actually has a non-threatening history. Kalends, Nones and Ides were ancient markers used to reference dates in relation to lunar phases. Originally, ides simply referred to the first full moon of a given month. Since the Roman calendar was based on lunar cycles, a full moon usually fell between the 13th and 15th. The ides eventually became fixed dates—falling on the 15th in March, May, July and October. The Ides of March was once part of Roman New Year's celebrations. Because calendar months and lunar months were different lengths, they quickly got out of step.

Perhaps it was Julius Caesar himself (and not the famous playwright) who caused all the drama. After all, he's the one who uprooted Rome's New Year celebration from their traditional March 15 date to January, just two years before he was betrayed and butchered by members of the Roman senate

JOIN US FOR THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL PARADE!

WHEN: MAY 27 at 6:30 PM

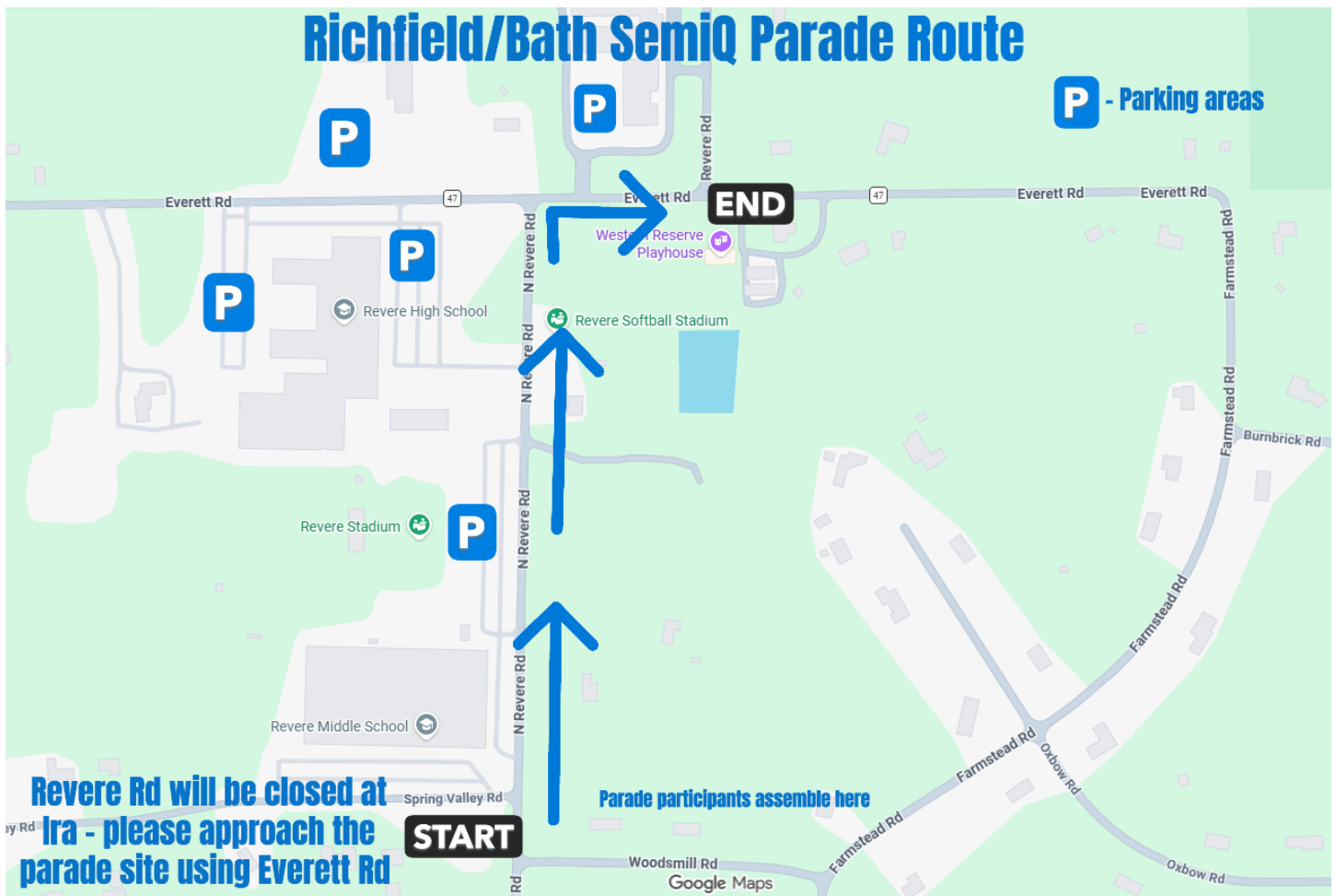
WHERE: REVERE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

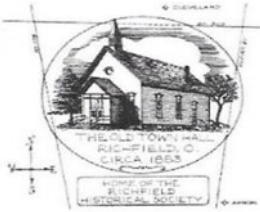
WHY: TO CELEBRATE THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

Come and watch the Historical Society's SemiQ parade which will start just south of Revere Middle School and end at the corner of Everett and Revere Roads.

It will feature historical wagons, cars, fire trucks, bands, and more! Bring a chair, grab a spot along the route, and celebrate the United States of America turning 250!

Parking is available at Revere High School, Richfield Elementary School, and St. Victor's Church.





HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF RICHFIELD RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 215, 3907 Broadview Road, Richfield OH 44286
(330) 659-0336 www.richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org

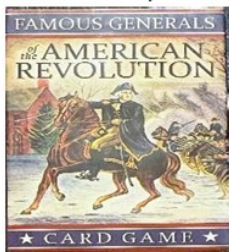
2026 Membership Application

Dear Members and Friends of the Richfield Historical Society:

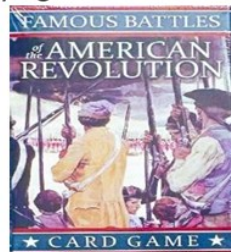
We are looking forward to all of our events celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States! We want to thank you for your support of these events. We continue to fundraise for everything we are planning! We are sending out a calendar of events for 2026 in our newsletter so you can save all the dates. We have restocked our T-shirts so be sure to stop by and pick yours up (\$20 in sizes S-M-



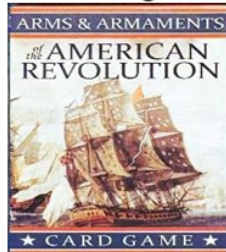
Richfield Historical Society inc.
@RichfieldOHHistoricals...



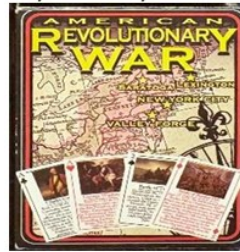
DECK 1



DECK 2



DECK 3



DECK 4



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

\$15 _____ INDIVIDUAL

\$20 _____ FAMILY

\$5 _____ STUDENT

\$100 _____ BUSINESS

\$150 _____ LIFETIME

DONATIONS - PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION IN ADDITION TO YOUR DUES

**Please check here if you would like the donation incentive gifts _____

- \$25-\$49 HISTORIAN Revolutionary War Playing Cards (1 deck) - Deck # _____
- \$50-\$99 ARCHIVIST Revolutionary War Playing Cards (2 decks) - Deck # _____ # _____
- \$100-\$499 CURATOR Revolutionary War Playing Cards (3 decks) - Deck # _____ # _____ # _____
- \$500+ PRESERVATIONIST Revolutionary War Playing Cards all four decks of cards and Green Bicentennial Throw
- UNDER \$25 RESEARCHER

Please designate your donation in honor or in memory of: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SEND MY RHS NEWSLETTER VIA: _____ MAIL _____ EMAIL _____ TEXT

IF PAYING BY CHECK, SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO: RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 215 RICHFIELD OH 44286

IF PAYING BY VENMO, TEXT A PICTURE OF YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM TO (330) 888-3101



Parades have been part of Richfield's community life for decades. Here longtime resident Buzzy Davis pulls the Mother's Float in the Richfield Sesquicentennial Parade on August 1, 1959. Iris Henderson and Dorothy Davis are riding on the float.

*Be sure to join the Historical Society for the SemiQ parade on **May 27!***

 <p>Find us on: facebook®</p>	<p>Find us on Facebook at Historical Museum of Richfield, Ohio</p>
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The Richfield Historical Society Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of each month at the museum housed in the Old Town Hall.

The museum is open from 9:00 am to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at various points during the year for special events. Please watch our website for news on the building's renovation which may interrupt our meeting and programming locations.

Follow our Facebook page or visit our website at richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org to learn about upcoming events and more about the Society.

**RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- Paul Swan, President
- Mark Mitchell, Vice President
- Reggie Taussig, Treasurer
- Dwayne Gentner Secretary
- Kitty Butler, Trustee
- Linda Fleming, Trustee
- Scott Luther, Trustee
- Karen Smik, Trustee
- Michal Swan, Trustee

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