



RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September to December 2022 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**

HISTORY OF RICHFIELD WALKING TOURS:

EXPERIENCE A MAGICAL JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

Join the Richfield Historical Society at 1:00 p.m. every Sunday afternoon during the month of October, when the Society will magically transport you back in time with its annual History of Richfield Walking Tours.



Our narrators / story-tellers will take you on a leisurely walk (each approximately 1 mile) as you enjoy a 1-hour talk. Participants will meet at the Museum at 3907 Broadview Road for the start of

each tour except the October 30 tour, where attendees will meet by the flagpole at the West Richfield Cemetery at 4219 Broadview Road. Details are still being finalized as of this writing so look for tour specifics on our website.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT




Hello fall! I want to focus on the Wheatley Cemetery with this President's letter. Many of you likely have never visited the Wheatley Family Cemetery, may not even know where

it is. I've been somewhat connected with that cemetery ever since I started on the Village's Cemetery Board about 25 years ago. There was an attempt to have the remains exhumed and moved to Fairview Cemetery on Brecksville Road about 15 years ago. The result was that we were told we couldn't move them because there could still be danger of spreading cholera! So given that information, the Wheatley Family Cemetery will remain where it is in perpetuity.

Ryan Cunningham, grandson of Richfield Historical Society Secretary Reggie Taussig, chose revitalization of the cemetery for his Eagle Scout project. The grounds were cleaned up and mulch added. He provided and installed a bench along with a wonderful sign on a post that tells the history of the family members interred in the cemetery. Ryan did a wonderful job, and I commend him for his enthusiasm and perseverance!

Paul Swan, President

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<p align="center"> Historical Museum of Richfield Richfield Historical Society PO Box 215, 3907 Broadview Rd Richfield, OH 44286 </p>	

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS FIRST ONLINE AUCTION

Along with having an information booth and offering Museum merchandise for sale at Richfield Community Day, the Historical Society also sponsored the 20th Picket Fence Art Show in the Johnson Barn on Sunday, August 14. Many local artists had beautiful items on display; and for the first time ever, two nationally known artists with local roots – Barbara Osborne Haeme and Cathy Osborne Allison – donated artworks that were available as online auction items. Barb and Cathy's mother, Sue Osborne, was one of the early supporters of the Picket Fence Art Show. Barb now lives in North Carolina, and Cathy is in Tennessee. Barb has already offered to donate a couple pieces for next year's show.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Kitty Butler, Scott Luther and Reggie Taussig, the online auction worked like a charm. Mark Mitchell added pictures of the auction items and the bidding forms to our website, and Reggie got the word out through social media.

We are also eternally grateful to Linda and Rich Fleming for the countless hours they spent lining up artists, directing the displays set up, and dealing with clean up afterward. It took one truck, three SUVs and a sedan---carefully packed to the seams---to transport the art from the Museum to Johnson Barn---and then eight volunteers to carefully unpack and set it up. Linda and Rich are to be commended for spearheading this event!

WHEATLEY FAMILY CEMETERY

The Eagle Has Landed!



Revere High School student **Ryan Cunningham** has completed his Eagle Scout project - which was the **Wheatley Cemetery**. The project involved doing research on one of Richfield's pioneer families, the Wheatleys, and their family cemetery where the family had buried their loved ones since 1834 and which is located at the corner of Wheatley and Brecksville Roads---near the east entrance to what is now the Richfield Commons Shopping Plaza.

The deed to the cemetery was transferred to the Richfield Historical Society in 2017---when the last remaining member of the Wheatley family was no longer able to take care of it. Ryan designed an informational sign (pictured above on the left) which has been placed at the cemetery's entrance---and installed a bench (where you see Ryan taking a rare break from his work in the picture on the right!). Any debris in the cemetery was cleaned up, a fresh layer of wood chips was placed, and the area was raked smooth. Ryan funded this project through a GoFundMe campaign and with money he had personally been saving---and is very deserving of the Boy Scouts of America's highest achievement or rank attainable. He joins the more than 2.25 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912.



Earlier this year Oviatt House Inc. (OHI) applied to be included in Ohio's bi-annual capital budget. With the support of Representative Bill Roemer and Senator Kristina Roegner, they were awarded \$50,000 in state funding. As these funds become available, they will be applied toward the continued restoration of Oviatt House.

Additionally, OHI was the recipient of a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom grant. The award of \$3,528 will be used toward building and installing custom fabricated window sashes. This is an important step in their mission to restore the historic Oviatt House for use as an educational museum and further the mission of the Network to Freedom. OHI is a member of the Network to Freedom, whose mission is to "honor, preserve and promote the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight".

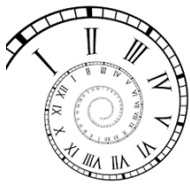
On **Saturday, September 24**, from 12-4 p.m., OHI is holding its first official fundraising event---which will include tours of the house. There will be kids' games, a raffle for a night at the BLU-tique Hotel in Akron with dinner, Luther Farm Market and more. The Oviatt House is located at the northeast corner of Rt. 303 and Oviatt Road. Individuals are also needed to help with set up, take down, parking, greeting, house tours, kids' activities, taking donations, etc. Individuals can work from 12-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m. or 12-4 p.m. If interested in volunteering, please email Judy Bowman at "oviathouse1836@gmail" and let her know what hours you'd like to help as well as what you would prefer to do.

VETERANS DAY



The Museum will be open on **Thursday, November 10**, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and on **Friday, November 11**, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.---with a special display of military uniforms dating from the Civil War to the Vietnam War---in observance of Veterans Day and to honor all those who have served our country. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice---or temporary cessation of hostilities---was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War" and the "War to End All Wars."

The observance originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of that armistice and was originally known as Armistice Day. November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.



TAKEMEBACK SERIES UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

We have two more fascinating *TakeMeBack* Series presentations scheduled for this year. Both will take place at the Richfield Fellowship Hall, located next to the Museum at 3903 Broadview Road.

Sunday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. – **Judy Bowman**, president of Oviatt House, Inc., will present “**Oviatt House – a Jewel in Ohio’s Hidden Treasure**.” She will share the history of the Oviatt House which is located in Richfield Heritage Preserve, along with progress on its restoration and future plans for the structure.

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. – **Judith MacKeigan**, Historian/Archivist for Cleveland Metroparks, will talk about “**The Canal That Created Cleveland**”— a program on the Ohio and Erie Canal, our manmade waterway. Judy joined Cleveland Metroparks in 2010. She was the lead author and content editor on “The Hundred Year Trail: A Centennial Celebration of Cleveland Metroparks” published in 2016.

DID YOU KNOW ...

From www.history.com

Archaeologists believe that the **Roman Colosseum** contained both drinking fountains and latrines. After nearly a decade of construction—a relatively quick time period for a project of such a grand scale—**Roman emperor Titus** officially dedicated the Colosseum in A.D. 80 with a festival including 100 days of games.



Author **Henry David Thoreau** was among those who spoke out in defense of **John Brown** after his arrest following the Harpers Ferry raid. Thoreau penned an essay, “A Plea for Captain John Brown,” in support of his fellow abolitionist. Born in Connecticut in 1800 and raised in Ohio, John Brown came from a staunchly Calvinist and anti-slavery family. He spent much of his life failing at a variety of businesses—he declared bankruptcy in his early 40s and had more than 20 lawsuits filed against him. In 1837, his life changed irrevocably when he attended an abolition meeting in **Cleveland**, during which he was so moved that he publicly announced his dedication to destroying the institution of slavery.

The night before the 1906 earthquake, renowned Italian tenor **Enrico Caruso** performed in San Francisco. The world-famous opera singer escaped the city’s **Palace Hotel**, where he was staying at the time of the quake; however, the hotel itself was destroyed later that day by fire.

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

Preservationist

- Richfield Village
- Russell & Marybeth Sibert in honor of Fred C. Copenhaver, Jr., Josephine Copenhaver, Mary Maxine Turley Copenhaver Sibert, Michelle Copenhaver, Fred C. Copenhaver and Jody Alice Copenhaver
- Joan Wolf

Curator

- Ken & Paula Brown
- Heather Liccardi
- Joyce Mihalik, DBA Cuyahoga Valley Inn – in memory of Frank & Loraine Merrill, lifelong caretakers & residents at the Orson Minot Oviatt House
- Karen Smik – in memory of Louise Patterson and Gerald Waltz
- Jeff and Regina Taussig

Archivist

- Denny & Terri Flanagan
- Judy Heit - in memory of Richfield Elementary School
- Richard Jandrey – in memory of Regina Jandrey
- Edna Larson – in memory of Ed & Myrtle Haslem and Fred Larson
- Joann Martinak – in loving memory of Jerry & Jeff Martinak
- Lynn Richardson
- Mary M. Ryan – in memory of Richfield Elementary School on Rt. 303

Historian

- Carolyn Cheverine
- Kathryn Fedrowisch – in memory of Ed Fedrowisch
- Clive Fetzer – in honor of Karen Smik, dedicated volunteer
- Jean Gentner – in honor of Linda Fleming
- Dick & Lynne Johnson – in honor of Richfield Heritage Preserve
- Helen Marshall
- Donna Nelson – in memory of Bertha (Carter) Grimm
- Roy Richardson
- Rose Marie Torma – in memory of Joe & Jane Torma

Historian

- Amy Hsu
- Chris Sweet – in memory of the Eastwood and Vowles Families
- Bill & Juanita Taylor



Please visit our website (richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org) to find out how shopping at Amazon can raise funds for the Richfield Historical Society through its AmazonSmile program. Your purchases will not only bring you or someone else joy but will also benefit all we do here at the Society. Be sure to think of the Richfield Historical Society when shopping online at Amazon!



“ONE IN A MILL-ION CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION” BENEFITTING KIRBY’S MILL RESTORATION

By the time you read this article, the water wheel should be back on **Kirby’s Mill!** Master Millwright **Ben Hassett** had removed the original wheel, which was in bad shape, and taken it back to his shop in Kentucky last year to reconstruct it. The wheel has been ready for a while, but there was a setback at the site. Originally, some repairs were going to be made to the concrete wheel pit and supports---but when work was started on them, it was found they needed to be completely replaced. By the time that work was finished, Ben had started on another job and wasn’t able to return to Richfield. Everything finally lined up on both sides---and the wheel is

now back home where it belongs!

To celebrate the return of the wheel and the 100th anniversary of Kirby’s Mill, the **Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve** are holding a “**One in a MILL-ion Centennial Celebration**” on **Sunday, October 16, 2022**, from 2:30-7:30 p.m., in The Lodge at **Richfield Heritage Preserve** (4374 Broadview Road). The tailgate-themed, adults-only festivity will include Northcoast Americana band Hey Mavis, Oktoberfest fare from Hofbrauhaus, an open bar, Mill tours, and a live auction. Attire is casual. Event sponsorships are available. Tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased at <https://www.friendsofrhp.org/one-in-a-million.html>. Seating is limited. A very important role of this event is to raise additional funds for the iconic Mill’s restoration. More than \$200,000 has already been spent on the rehabilitation---including a new roof and windows as well as reconstruction of the water wheel and concrete repair of the water wheel pit and supports---but an estimated \$300,000 is still needed to complete the effort. The Friends vision for the working Mill includes family gatherings, school field trips, university research projects, community leadership programs, and so much more---all devoted to utilizing the rich history of Kirby’s Mill and helping to make Richfield Heritage Preserve a top education and popular tourist destination.

Two other upcoming Friends events include a “**Turkeys in America**” presentation by **Chuck Jakubchak**---which will take place at the Richfield United Church of Christ (4340 W. Streetsboro Road) on **Sunday, November 20**, from 2-3 p.m., followed by a one-hour hike at Richfield Heritage Preserve. If interested in participating in this free event, please RSVP via Eventbrite at [www.https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turkeys-in-america-tickets-401635511627](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turkeys-in-america-tickets-401635511627). And Saturday, December 3, will see the full return of Winter Wonders at RHP. It will be held in The Lodge from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and will include the Friends famous Christmas cookie sale; handcrafted items offered for purchase by various vendors; horse-drawn carriage rides (from 12-2 p.m./cost is \$10 for adults; \$5 for ages 2-12; and under 2 is free); Sunny the Reindeer Horse (from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.); Father Christmas and his elves on horseback (from 2-4 p.m.); storytelling fireside by Miss Diane from the Richfield Branch Library (1:45 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.); kids crafts, cookie decorating and face painting; Friends merchandise available for purchase; refreshments; and more.

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