FINAL REPORT

Ohio Genealogical Society
611 State Route 97 W
Bellville OH 44813-8813
www.ogs.org

THE OHIO STORY SCRIPTS: Bringing Radio Back to Life

Tom Neel, Project Director
419-886-1903
tneel@ogs.org

Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) received $2000 for a $4000 project to scan and post the Ohio Story Scripts. This is a series of 1309 brief radio broadcasts that aired throughout Ohio from 1947 through 1955 on general interest Ohio history. Each script was normally 8 pages in length. The program was developed by Frank Siedel and was sponsored by Ohio Bell Telephone Company and WTAM Radio, Cleveland. A set (2 ft.) of scripts (although incomplete) was donated to OGS by Jonathan Siedel, son of the author.

We used three interns to complete the project as they were getting degrees, finding jobs, and moving on throughout the project period. Aaron Turner, Deborah Phillips, and Nancy Strayer each took over where the other left off. Aaron returned several times to train others and assist where needed. Carla Cegielski, OGS webmaster, arranged our material online. Tom Neel, OGS Library Director, assisted with the paperwork and administration.

It was quickly determined that any project of this type had to be placed online using content management software. Our library catalog program was not suitable and the amount of coding would have been prohibitive to place the material directly into our web site format. We looked at open source software, studied other library web sites, and chose Omeka software for this project. Although it lacks several features and shortcuts which would have been desirable, it was free, so it fit our budget plan.

A separate web site was set up – www.ogsarchive.org – to house the Ohio Story Scripts images and metadata. The site is linked to our main page – www.ogs.org – and will expand with other collections until such time that we are able to acquire other content management software. A link is currently

(January 2015) on the front page but will remain permanently under the Library tab – Special Collections.

We initially scanned 940 individual scripts (6-8 pages each) in separate files. Each of these was cropped, straightened, run through OCR software to make them searchable, and then the file size was optimized for the web site. Each file was uploaded to the Omeka program. Then metadata was entered for each episode, pursuant to Dublin Core recommendations, including Title, Description, Creator, Source, Publisher, Date, Contributor(s), Format, Language, Type, Identifier, Collection Title, and Citation. In addition, subjects and keywords have been entered for many stories and are still being added. This will improve search capabilities using terms not found in other parts of the metadata. The original unaltered scans were also saved and both were backed up on a separate drive in the Digitization Lab and on our library server. Hopefully Omeka will be supported for many years but the work can be reconstructed if we choose to move our digital collections at some point. Please note that there are only 921 entries on the web site. We discovered that some later scripts were repeats of earlier programs. Although we initially scanned them, we decided to make references in the metadata to the original airing rather than post the duplication. Guidelines to the scanning process were developed by our interns that OGS staff and volunteers can use on other digital projects.

There were several features added to the Ohio Story Radio Scripts web site in addition to the scanned episodes and more are planned for the near future. The "About" section describes the project, its funding, the workers involved, the goals, and anticipated results. A lengthy finding aid identifies the titles and air dates of all the radio show episodes in the OGS collection. They are numbered as well to make searching easier. The finding aid is in our standard form and will be posted to our online Manuscript Key with an entry made in the library catalog. A biography of the author, Frank Siedel, is included along with his short obituary. He didn't die in Cleveland and perhaps his fifteen minutes of Ohio fame were not realized by his Catawba neighbors. The web site should correct that! We have a link to PDF files of two books authored by Siedel – *The Ohio Story* (1950) and *Out of the Midwest: More Chapters in the Ohio Story* (1953). These were outgrowths of the radio project, were extremely popular in the early 1950s, and were required reading material by many schools for Ohio history classes. In

addition, we link to a video of one of the televised episodes *Port of Toledo* that is available through YouTube. Posted also is a "Featured Item" permitted in the Omeka collection setup. This shows Mr. Siedel's process of first drafts, corrections, and story outlines in the making of one episode on *Colonel Johnston's Commission*, as US Indian Agent amongst Ohio's early Native American population. Jonathan Siedel tells us that it was not unusual for his father to make minor script changes as the live program was airing. Photographs and newspaper articles recently obtained will be added to another tab.
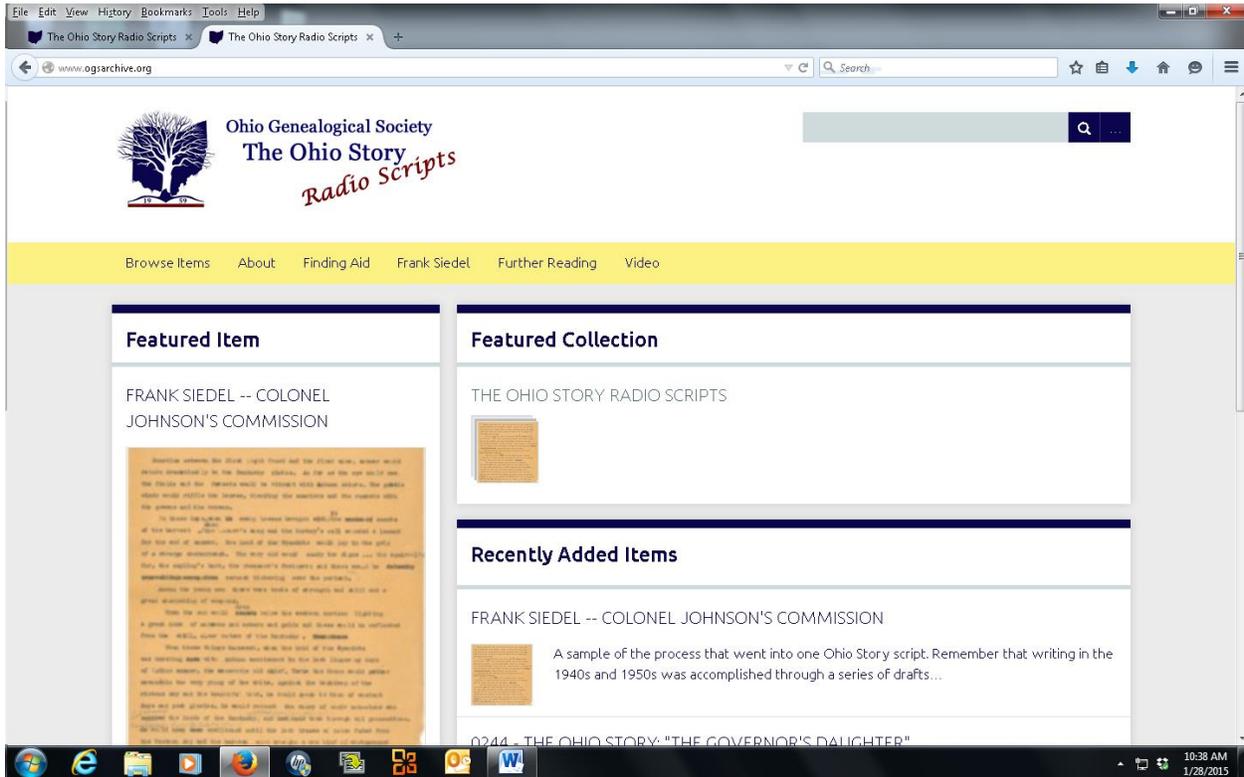
SUCCESSES:

All in all, the Ohio Story Scripts project was successful. Our staff, volunteers, and interns were able to set up open source content management software and use it for the first time in our library. We were able to digitize the entire collection through a step-by-step process to insure that each scan met minimum standards and was searchable. We added metadata to connect cataloging entries to each manuscript image and to make it user friendly. Search engines will be able to access the material for a wider number of users. We were able to identify which episodes were not part of Mr. Siedel's personal collection and pinpoint other institutions that could fill in these holes. We reached an agreement with Columbus Metropolitan Library to eventually retrieve scans of their copy to complete the online collection. We gathered history on the participants, the Ohio Story program, and the business Storycraft. We were able to interview Jon Siedel, son of the author, who provided many photographs and great insight as to how the radio show worked. We found that he had been a Storycraft employee in the early days and assisted his father firsthand. We located a sample of the TV show as an add-on to the site and scanned the two Siedel books for the benefit of researchers. We attended an Ohio DIG workshop and sought advice from

those at other institutions with much more experience in digitization. Our interns explained the project and in turn gave instruction to a group of Ohio genealogy librarians at our own library workshop. We were able to use what we learned to better develop our ongoing library digital project – the OGS Digital Library – on the member side of our web site. And our interns, three very new librarians going out into the world, got a good introduction to archives and how they treasure Ohio's history.
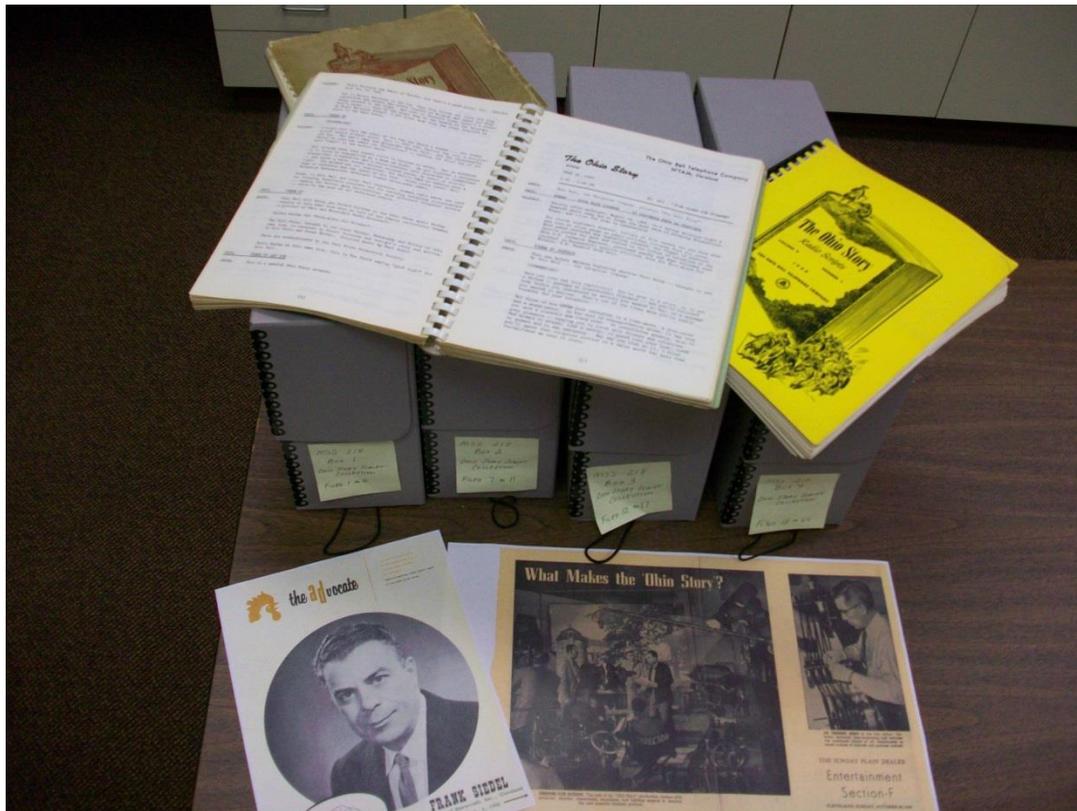
THE FUTURE:

Although we have spent the funding, our intern Nancy Strayer, who now works at the Richland County Public Library – Bellville Branch, has pledged to assist in adding the "missing" episodes as we retrieve them. The Columbus Metropolitan Library has offered to supply a scan from their collection, although they are now in the midst of a major construction project and temporary move to another location. We will continue to add metadata in the subject area which is not now complete for all episodes. We plan to promote our project beyond our institutional newsletters and blogs as we complete the final touches. We will add recommendations for teachers in the very near future so that the Ohio Story Scripts may be used in the classroom. We will expand the site to include Bible records, WWI cards, family group sheets, court case packets and other collections from the OGS Archives that are conducive to content management software. This will be more of a teaser – to introduce users to the array of material at the Ohio Genealogical Society. Each small sample will someday expand into a larger scale digital project that will benefit our members and the public at large.

FINAL REPORT

THE OHIO STORY SCANNING PROJECT - OGS MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION #218

Year	VOL	NO	EPISODE #'s	Scanned	Record Entered into OGS ARCHIVE	FINISHED in OGS ARCHIVE	TOTAL # EPISODES	MISSING - estimated	NOTES
MSS 218 - Box 1									
1947	1	1	1-37	37	37	37	37		
1947	1	2					39	39	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1947	1	3					39	39	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1947	1	4	116-155	40	40	40	40		
1948	2	1	156-194	39	39	39	39		
1948	2	2	195-234	40	40	40	40		
1948	2	3	235-270	36	36	36	36		
MSS 218 - Box 2									
1948	2	4					42	42	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1949	3	1	313-350	37	37	37	38	1	Missing 351
1949	3	2	352-389	39	39	39	39		
1949	3	3	390-429	39	39	39	40	1	Missing 425, need cleaner copy of 392 pg2
1949	3	4					39	39	
1950	4	1	469-507	39	39	39	39		
1950	4	2	508-546	39	39	39	39		
MSS 218 - Box 3									
1950	4	3	547-585	39	39	39	39		
1950	4	4					39	39	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1951	5	1	625-663	39	39	39	39		
1951	5	2	664-702	36	36	36	39	3	Missing 688, 689, 690
1951	5	3	703-741	38	38	38	39	1	Missing 714 pg 5
MSS 218 - Box 4									
1951	5	4	742-781	40	40	40	40		
1952	6	1					59	59	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1952	6	2					58	58	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1952	6	3	899-938	40	40	40	40		
1953	7	1	939-989	51	51	51	51		
1953	7	2	990-1042	53	53	53	53		
1953	7	3					40	40	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1954	8	1	1096-1144	49	49	49	49		
1954	8	2					53	53	NOT IN COLLECTION - MISSING ALL
1954	8	3	1185-1224	41	41	41	41		
1955	9	1	1228-1309	97	97	97	101	4	Missing - 1262, 1262-2, 1281, 1282
			TOTALS	**908**	**908**	**908**	**1326**	**418**	

Updated December 31, 2014

(SAMPLE OF EARLY PUBLICITY) - BLOG

OhioGenealogicalSociety

Followers

Join this site
with Google Friend
Connect

Members (130) More

Already a member? Sign in

Blog Archive

► 2015 (1)
▼ 2014 (23)
  ► December (1)
  ► November (1)
  ► October (2)
  ► September (3)
  ► August (1)
  ► June (4)
  ► May (1)
  ► April (2)
  ▼ March (2)
    Ohio Genealogical
      Society 2014 Writing
      Contest Win...
    OGS "Ohio Story"
      Digitization Project
      is Funded!
  ► February (3)
  ► January (3)
► 2013 (19)
► 2012 (28)
► 2011 (7)
► 2010 (15)
► 2009 (18)

About Me

OGS

View my complete profile

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014

OGS "Ohio Story" Digitization Project is Funded!

You might notice a familiar organization in the list of SNAP grants that were awarded this year through the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board. I'll cut and paste their press release issued today. We'll have more information on our specific scanning project when it is in full swing in a couple months.

The Ohio Archives Grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) through their State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grants program. The funded projects include organizing and preserving historical records and cataloging and digitizing records for improved access.

2014 Grant Recipients

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) announces its 2014 grants for archival projects:

Alliance Historical Society: *Alliance Historical Records Preservation and Cataloging Project* ($1,769.00)

Canal Fulton Public Library: *Preservation of Canal Fulton Local History Photographs* ($800.00)

Clinton County Records and Archives: *Indexing and Rehousing of Probate Records* ($1,500.00)

Hardin County Genealogy Society: *Digitization and Storage of Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection* ($640.00)

Historic New Richmond: *Preservation and Cataloging of Historic New Richmond's Archive* ($798.00)

Ohio Genealogical Society: *Digitization of the "Ohio Story" Script: Bringing Old Radio Back to Life* ($2,000.00)

Otterbein University: *Reclaiming the Presidential Papers, Part I: Walter G. Clippinger Papers Preservation and Indexing Project (1909-1939)* ($1,960.00)

Rocky River Public Library: *Rocky River Public Library & Cowan Pottery Museum Records Database Project* ($870.00)

Summit County Historical Society: *Captain Simon Perkins, Jr. Quartermaster Papers Preservation and Digitization Project* ($1,600.00)

Warren County Historical Society: *Historical Records Preservation and Digitization Project* ($1,042.00)

OHIO STORY SCRIPTS PROJECT – FINANCIALS

Income:

Ohio Historical Society	3/19/2014	OHRAB Regrant Award	$2000	
Ohio Genealogical Society	2014	Required Match	$2000	
Ohio Genealogical Society	2014	Additional	$1392.95	
TOTAL:			$5392.95	

Expenditures:

Payee:	Date:	Job:	Wages:	Income Tax, Social Security, Medicare
Aaron J. Turner	2014	intern	$1671.00	$127.87
Deborah H. Phillips	2014	Intern	$710.00	$90.72
Nancy Strayer	2014	Intern	$2097.50	$262.17
Carla Cegielski	6/28/2014	Web services	$105.00	
Carla Cegielsi	12/18/2014	Web services	$122.50	
Carla Cegielski	12/2014 – will be on Mar invoice	Web services	$210.00	
Tiger Technologies	4/16/2014	Addition of domain name	$16.95 (per year)	
Tom Neel	2014	Administrator	$460.00	
TOTAL:			$5392.95	

Note 1: Intern Aaron Turner put extra withholding on his W-4 form so no Federal income tax was taken out of his wages.

Note2: This special project was outside the normal webmaster contract that OGS has with Carla Cegielski.

Note3: The interns were paid $10 per hour. For any hours dedicated to instructional services, Aaron Turner was paid $12 per hour. Tom Neel, OGS Library Director, is paid a salary which is roughly equivalent to $23 per hour. His time on the project is estimated at 20 hours. All other wages/fees reflect invoice amounts and W-2 reporting for 2014. All work was performed between April 2014 and January 2015.