

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Final Report, Grant NAR16-RC-10256-16

This is an update on the activities of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) between January 1 and December 31, 2016, as funded by a grant of \$23,361.

Board Personnel

The Governor of Ohio reappointed Rhonda Freeze, Director of the Butler County Records Center and Archives, to the board for the term of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019.

The Governor of Ohio appointed Meghan Hays, Local History Librarian of the Shaker Heights Public Library, to the board for the term of June 27, 2016 to March 31, 2019.

Board Meetings

The board met on January 29, 2016 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board discussed efforts to encourage county archives and records centers to collaborate on grant opportunities. Other topics of discussion included OHRAB's regrant program and conducting a survey to gauge the needs of Ohio's archival repositories.

The board met on May 6, 2016 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board received updates on the regrant program and the board's History Day award. The board also discussed its 2017 application to the NHPRC.

The board met on July 29, 2016 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board discussed possible changes to its by-laws pertaining to the appointment of members. The board also discussed hosting a grant writing workshop.

The board met on October 28, 2016 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board elected a chair and vice-chair for 2017. The board also continued its discussion of possible changes to the by-laws pertaining to the appointment of members and provided feedback on a draft of a grant application.

Copies of the minutes for the above meetings are attached.

Statehood Day

The 2016 Statehood Day advocacy event was held at the Ohio Statehouse on March 1. Three members of OHRAB attended the event which was held to promote and advocate on behalf of Ohio history. Copies of OHRAB's brochures were distributed to attendees and legislators.

History Day

On April 30, 2016 OHRAB presented two awards for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project. Jane Nilson won the junior category for her paper "A Violent Encounter: Cleveland's Hough Riots." Nilson's use of primary sources such as

interviews, transcripts, articles, grand jury reports, and speeches placed the reader in the midst of the Hough Riots. At the same time, she provided context to what was happening with the Civil Rights movement around the country and the after effects in the City of Cleveland.

Elizabeth Coulter won the senior category with her website “Ohio Penitentiary Fire.” Coulter recounted the tragic event and how it led to reforms in Ohio’s prison system. The story was told using primary source material such as photographs and newspaper articles, as well as public records from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. Coulter’s project website is located at <http://87031325.nhd.weebly.com>.

Archives Achievement Award

OHRAB awarded its Achievement Award during Archives Month in October. The award recognizes significant accomplishments in preserving and improving access to historical records in any format by an Ohio archival institution. This year the board recognized the Greene County Records Center and Archives and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The Greene County Records Center and Archives was recognized for its outreach program to schools. This program takes primary sources into classrooms to enhance students’ development of research and analysis skills while fostering an appreciation for history at the local level. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was recognized for its projects that have increased access and community engagement with records, in particular its *Scan Days* event which provided the public an opportunity to have its two dimensional memorabilia digitized.

Southeast Ohio Grant Workshop

On October 14 OHRAB hosted a workshop on the NHPRC grant application process at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. The board specifically targeted participants from southeast Ohio because that region of the state has not generated as many grant applications. Board members Galen Wilson and Dawne Dewey led the workshop for four participants, which included a step-by-step overview of the grant application process, application advice and discussion on possible grant projects. Attendees also participated in exercises drafting sample proposals. Funding provided travel reimbursement for the presenters and attendees as well as lunch.

Greene County Education Workshop

OHRAB received an extension on its 2016 grant to sponsor a workshop on developing educational outreach programs for archives. The workshop was led by staff of the Greene County Records Center and Archives, which was mentioned above. The workshop was held January 18, 2017 at Wright State University from 10 am to 3 pm. Twenty archivists and librarians attended. Attendees learned about Greene County’s outreach program and learned how to develop and market their own programs using their primary sources. Funding from OHRAB provided lunch for the attendees and also copies of Greene County’s educational outreach packets.

Grant Opportunities Webinar

Due to scheduling conflicts, the board had to postpone its webinar on grant opportunities until 2017.

Regrant Program

As part of its 2016 NHPRC grant, OHRAB received \$18,324 for a regrant program. OHRAB offered two grant opportunities in 2016 and awarded ten projects a total of \$17,968.

In early January 2016 OHRAB's Regrant Committee announced the regrant opportunity through Ohio archives and records management listservs and networks. In response to the grant announcement, OHRAB received 15 applications requesting a total of \$24,353.

OHRAB's Regrant Committee reviewed the applications and chose the recipients via a phone conference. Due to concerns about some of the proposed projects not meeting best practices and standards, only eight institutions were chosen to receive a total of \$13,770.

In June 2016 OHRAB offered a second opportunity for regrant funding. For these projects, the maximum award was increased from \$2,000 to \$4,500 and projects were also required to produce online content, such as digital finding aids or digital images. OHRAB funded two projects for a total of \$4,198.

Members of OHRAB worked one-on-one with the grant recipients to provide oversight and guidance for the projects.

The institutions that received regrant funding are:

- **Anderson Township Historical Society**, Cincinnati, OH: *Preservation, Organization and Storage of Family Histories Collection* (\$1,478)
- **Archbold Community Library**, Archbold, OH: *Creation of Digital Archives for Web Access to Local Newspaper* (\$2,000)
- **Clark County Historical Society**, Springfield, OH: *Springfield News-Sun Collection Processing Project* (\$883)
- **Columbus Historical Society**, Columbus, OH: *Columbus Mayoral Collections Processing Project* (\$1,539)
- **Cuyahoga County Archives**, Cleveland, OH: *Digitizing and Improving Access to Cuyahoga County's Historic Property Appraisal Records* (\$2,000)
- **Franklin County Children Services**, Columbus, OH: *Identify, Organize and Improve Access to Historical Records* (\$2,000)
- **Friends of Chrisholm**, Trenton, OH: *Transcribing and Providing Access to the Christian Augspurger Estate Packet* (\$2,323)

- **Huron County Community Library**, Willard, OH: *Protecting, Digitizing and Providing Access to the Huron County Community Library's Historic Images* (\$1,870)
- **Lepper Library Association**, Lisbon, OH: *Digitizing Local Newspapers from Microfilm* (\$1,875)
- **Ted Lewis Museum**, Circleville, OH: *Ted Lewis Record Collection Preservation and Digitization* (\$2,000)

Collectively the regrant projects processed more than 200 cubic feet of records and made publicly accessible more than 50,000 digital images. Project final reports have been posted to OHRAB's website (<http://www.ohrab.org/grants/regrant/>) and some examples of projects are:

- Clark County Historical Society: processed and posted the inventory online to the *Springfield News-Sun* "morgue" clipping files (<http://collections.heritagecenter.us/images/upload/SpringfieldNewsSunSubjectFileIndex.pdf>).
- Columbus Historical Society: processed three mayoral collections and posted the finding aids online (<http://www.columbushistory.org/finding-aid/>).
- Huron County Community Library: processed and digitized historic photographs (<http://huroncolib.org/picture-archive>).