

# 1 December 1999-30 November 2002

## From OHRAB

The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board

Final Report

1 December 1999 - 30 November 2002

This grant was awarded to the Ohio Historical Society to "pay expenses associated with Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) meetings -- travel, lodging, supplies, and meals for a two year period." More generally, funds were to be used to support the Board as it worked to implement The Ohio 2003 Plan/A Statement of Priorities and Preferred Approaches for Historical Records Programs in Ohio, drafted in anticipation of the bicentennial of Ohio statehood. The award letter highlighted five activities:

1. Submit in a timely manner complete reports and three copies of the grant products as specified in NHPRC guidelines and the grant notification letter.
2. Hold eight meetings of the full Board.
3. Reestablish the state's local government records program.
4. Conduct a survey of local government records.
5. Participate in the Ohio Memory project for digitizing collections related to Ohio history.

The original grant covered the period from December 1999 to November 2001, but it was extended to November 2002, meeting costs being less than anticipated. This final narrative report highlights and summarizes activities for the full three-year period, during which the board met nine times. The full scope and content of board activities are detailed in interim reports previously sent to NHPRC and the minutes for these meetings, both of which can be found on its website: <<http://www.ohiojunction.net/ohrab/minutes/index.html>>.

During the grant period, board size was increased from eleven to thirteen members, expanding its representation of Ohio's many historical records communities. The Ohio Historical Society Board of Trustees adopted Procedures Governing Records of State Agencies Transferred to the State Archives, designating the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board as an "advisor to the state archivist on issues which may arise in the application of these rules...." (A copy of these procedures is attached as Appendix A.) In June 2001 the board held a retreat to take stock and plan its future, near and long-term. It also maintained and expanded the OHRAB website: (<<http://www.ohiojunction.net/ohrab/>>).

Activities designed to "reestablish the state's local government records program" fell into three distinct areas. First, the board endorsed the Local Government Records Initiative (attached as Appendix B) as the best means for funding the preservation of and improved access to Ohio's local government records. Secondly, the board promoted a revitalization of the Ohio Network of American History Research Centers as called for in The Ohio 2003 Plan. Among their other obligations network centers hold regional local government records of enduring historical value. In April 2002 the network met for the first time in four years; it met again in November 2002. Lastly, the board supported, using grant funds, the work of the network subcommittee on access, which drafted a plan for providing access to all archival Ohio local government records through the Ohio Historical Society's online catalog. (The 12 February 2003 subcommittee report is attached as Appendix C.)

The board both promoted and monitored a survey of local government records. It began in November 2001, when

2,346 short survey forms were mailed to all counties, municipalities and townships in Ohio. The goal was to learn about records management conditions at the local level to improve service. There was a 20% response rate, and as a follow-up, 273 detailed surveys were distributed. (A February 2002 report on the LGR surveys is attached as Appendix D.)

During this reporting period, the Ohio Memory Project achieved many successes. It is a board-conceived idea that is specifically mentioned in The Ohio 2003 Plan. Between 1995 and 2000, the Ohio Historical Society worked with the board, the State Library of Ohio <<http://winslo.state.oh.us/>>, the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) <<http://www.oplin.lib.oh.us/>>, and the Ohio Library Council <<http://www.olic.org/>> to refine the concept and secure funding for the project. In February 2000, OPLIN approved a grant of \$500,000 to the Ohio Historical Society to launch the first phase of the Ohio Memory Project.

The first phase concluded in June 2002. During the two-year effort, more than 1,000 collections from more than 250 institutions were selected for inclusion in the scrapbook. More than 13,487 digital images were created and made available via the website at <<http://www.ohiomemory.org/>>. Collections in the scrapbook represent a diversity of formats, subjects, time periods, and geographic areas. However, only items created before 1903 were accepted during Phase 1. In October 2002, Ohio Memory Project Phase 2 was launched, thanks to support from the Ohio Bicentennial Commission and the State Library of Ohio. It will incorporate materials into the scrapbook from the 1903 to 2003 period.

In these and other ways the board has been about the implementation of its plan. One measure of its success was selection of the Ohio Historical Society as the recipient of the Society of American Archivists' 2001 Distinguished Service Award. Projects, such as Ohio Memory, and others like it, called for by Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board were cited specifically as the reasons for this honor.

Respectfully submitted,

George Parkinson  
Deputy State Coordinator OHRAB

Retrieved from "[http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohrab/index.php?title=1\\_December\\_1999-30\\_November\\_2002](http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohrab/index.php?title=1_December_1999-30_November_2002)"

---

- This page was last modified on 5 October 2009, at 00:52.