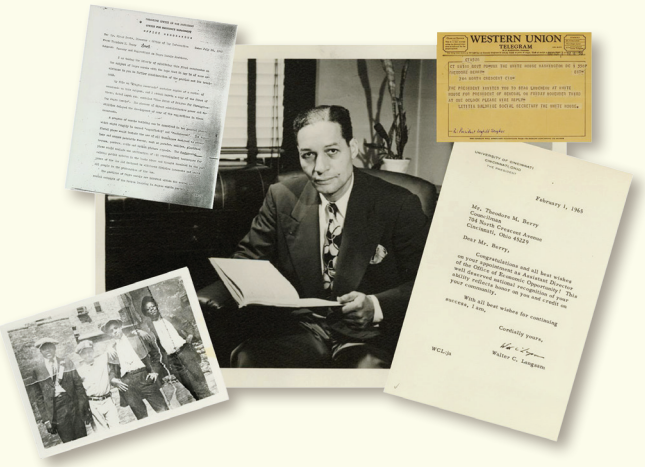# How *you* can help OHRAB preserve Ohio's history.

- **Protect funding that protects Ohio's documents** by contacting your representatives in Congress to express support for NHPRC. Let them know how important NHPRC funding is to the protection and preservation of Ohio's historical documents.

- **Share this brochure and information** with other history and genealogical organizations. Historical records provide the foundation for understanding the past; preservation – and the benefits of accessible, well-managed and archived documents -- should be of interest to all history enthusiasts and genealogists.

- **Volunteer** at your local historical society or records archives. Staffing is often the greatest cost in preservation initiatives. Developing a strong volunteer base allows the most to be made with limited preservation dollars.

- **Remain informed** by visiting OHRAB's website http://www.ohrab.org to receive OHRAB updates, award announcements and information regarding OHRAB events.

The University of Cincinnati received a NHPRC direct grant of $61,287 to process the Theodore M. Berry Papers. Berry was a civil rights pioneer, community activist and first African-American mayor of Cincinnati.

Map of Ohio created by mapmaker John Melish, ca. 1812 (Ohio History Connection VFM 0003-8)

The *Ohio Historical* Records Advisory Board

Safeguarding Ohio's Historical Heritage

What is OHRAB?

OHRAB is the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, a state-level advisory board funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-making division of the National Archives.

Safeguarding Ohio's Historical Heritage

Ohio's historical records hold the stories of our families, communities, and state. OHRAB actively seeks to protect these records by advocating on behalf of Ohio's archives, promoting the importance of Ohio's historical documents and making Ohioans aware that federal funding of NHPRC is vital to ensuring Ohio's story is preserved for future generations. OHRAB:

- Acts as the state-level review body and mentor to Ohio institutions submitting grants to the NHPRC for large records preservation and archival efforts.

- Administers a second level re-grant process also funded by the NHPRC, awarding smaller grant amounts to smaller institutions to support records archiving and preservation efforts.

- Sponsors an award for students for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project.

- Works annually with the Society of Ohio Archivists to promote Ohio records preservation during Archives Month in October.

- Offers training on electronic records management and preservation with the Ohio Electronic Records Committee.

- Educates government officials and Ohio's citizens on the importance of records management and preservation at events like the Ohio History Connection's Statehood Day.

- Honors Ohio archival programs for significant achievements in the management, preservation, access, advocacy, and use of historical records.
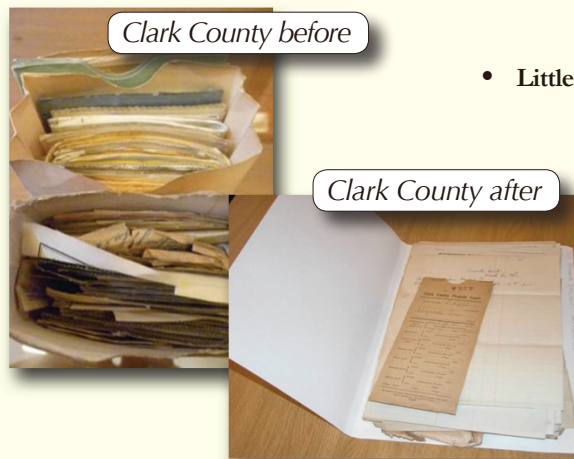
Helping Ohio preserve its history

Since 1987, the NHPRC has provided more than $1 million to Ohio's libraries, archives, and historical societies. This funding has provided critical resources such as supplies, equipment, and staffing necessary to preserve, archive and make Ohio's records accessible for future generations.

A few examples of NHPRC direct and regrant funds making a difference for Ohioans:

- **Ohio University** in Athens received a grant of $116,514 to catalog over 7,000 cubic feet of historical university records and other collections pertaining to the history of Appalachian Ohio, including southeastern Ohio business, industry, labor union activity, and politics. Researchers can now access these collections through indexes and online catalog records. *(NHPRC direct grant funds)*

- **Shaker Heights Public Library** used its grant of $3,500 to digitize the building index cards that catalogued development of every home in the Shaker Heights community. These cards provide the names of the architect, builder, original owner, building date, and estimated cost for each home. These records are now available online to researchers through a searchable database. *(NHPRC regrant funds)*

- **Clark County Historical Society** purchased folders and boxes with its award of $1,520 to preserve the original records of the Clark County Probate Court, including will packets, estate files, and guardianship records. These records were deteriorating due to inadequate storage. *(NHPRC regrant funds)*

Clark County before

Clark County after

- **Little Cities of Black Diamonds Archives** received a grant for $2,606 to provide proper storage, organization and cataloguing of documents, maps, photographs, newspapers, and other records pertaining to the businesses, industries, and communities of Perry, Hocking and Athens counties. This project will significantly increase public access to these materials. *(NHPRC regrant funds)*

- **Clermont County Records Center** obtained a grant of $2,467 to secure proper storage for its original, deteriorating Common Pleas appearance dockets and funding for the scanning of those records. This project protected the original records and improved access for researchers. *(NHPRC regrant funds)*

- **Union County Archives and Records Center** received a $1,275 grant for its Clerk of Court records, including court journals, naturalization records, and wills. These records had been stored mixed together in the same boxes, making them essentially inaccessible to researchers. This grant allowed these records to be organized and stored separately, greatly increasing their accessibility. *(NHPRC regrant funds)*

For a complete list of direct and regrant projects awarded to Ohio's document preservation efforts, please visit the following websites.

http://www/archives.gov/nhprc/projects/states-territories/oh.html

http://www.ohrab.org/grants/regrant/