

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Final Report, Grant NAR-RC-100229

This is an update on the activities of the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) between January 1 and December 31, 2018, as funded by a grant of \$30,270.

Board Personnel

On March 31, 2018 the following members left the board due to term limits, per OHRAB's bylaws:

Dawne Dewey, Head, Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University

Pari Swift, University Records Manager, The Ohio State University

Between January 1 and June 30, 2018 the Governor of Ohio reappointed the following members to the board:

Stephen Badenhop, Records Center and Archives Coordinator, Union County Records Center (Term: April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2021)

Ron Davidson, Archives Librarian, Sandusky Library (Term: April 2, 2018 – March 31, 2021)

Between January 1 and June 30, 2018 the following new appointments were made to the board:

Virginia Dressler, Digital Projects Librarian, Kent State University (Term: March 31, 2018 – March 31, 2021)

Tami Kelly, Clerk of Council, City of Grove City (Term: March 31, 2018 – March 31, 2021)

Margaret Roulett, Archives and Special Collections Manager, Cleveland History Center (Term: March 31, 2018 – March 31, 2020)

Michelle Sweetser, Head Librarian/University Archivist, Bowling Green State University (Term: May 17, 2018 – May 17, 2021)

An updated board roster is available at <http://www.ohrab.org/members/>.

Board Meetings

The board met on January 26, 2018 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board discussed its membership vacancies and voted to revise its bylaws pertaining to the appointment of members. The board also discussed the Ohio History Connection's collections expansion project and Statehood Day event, OHRAB's regrant committee

gave an update and the board voted to endorse the *History Relevance Value of History Statement*.

The board met on May 4, 2018 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. The board received an update on the Ohio History Connection's World War I transcription project. OHRAB also received updates on the board's regrant program and Archival fellowship and discussed improving its communications with stakeholders.

The board met on July 20, 2018 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. Members discussed the board's participation at the Ohio Local History Alliance/Society of Ohio Archivists conference in October, including participating on a panel discussing grant opportunities. The board also discussed improving its advocacy and publicity efforts.

OHRAB met on October 26, 2018 at the Ohio History Connection in Columbus. Board members elected a chair and vice chair for 2019. The board discussed the 2018 Archives Achievement Award recipients and also discussed creating a video on how to apply for a regrant.

Copies of the minutes for these meetings are attached.

Bylaws Revision

At its January 26, 2018 meeting OHRAB voted to revise its bylaws pertaining to the appointment of members. In addition to three ex officio members who serve on the board due to their responsibilities at the Ohio History Connection, there will now be three members appointed by the Governor's Office, three members appointed by the board at large and seven members appointed by the board and representing various archival and records management organizations of the state. The revised bylaws are available at <http://www.ohrab.org/governance/#bylaws>.

History Day

On April 21, 2018 OHRAB presented two awards for the best use of Ohio's historical records in a History Day project. Alison Lupton, Natalie Green and Caitlan Bocks were recognized in the senior category for their website *Mount Pleasant Quakers: Pacifism or Abolitionism* (<https://11285369.nhd.weebly.com/>). The awards committee cited Lupton, Green and Bocks for using primary sources from around Ohio to build a website that powerfully presents the compromises each Quaker was forced to make with his or her conscience during the Civil War.

The OHRAB History Day award recipient in the junior category was Van Weinmann for his website *The Conflict that Compromise Couldn't Resolve: Prohibition and Its Unintended Consequences* (<http://78725426.nhd.weebly.com/>). Weinmann was recognized for using primary sources to develop a comprehensive website describing local and national views about Prohibition and how this movement unintentionally fostered violence and the growth of organized crime.

Educational Outreach Workshop

On April 20, OHRAB, with funding provided by the NHPRC, sponsored the *Bringing History Home: Educational Outreach Using Local Government Records* workshop. The workshop was developed by the Greene County Archives and Records Center and was led by Robin Heise, Greene County Archivist and Records Manager, and Melissa Dalton, Greene County Archives Outreach Archivist. It was held at Kent State University and there were 17 attendees, including archivists, records managers and museum and historical society staff. The workshop reviewed the Greene County Archives' outreach program which uses local primary sources to engage students. Attendees learned how the Greene County Archives uses primary sources to teach fourth grade students about the 1913 flood, sixth graders about immigration and eighth grade students about slavery. The presenters also shared how repositories could start their own programs. Funding from the NHPRC paid for the travel of the presenters and lunch for the attendees.

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 Licking County Records Center and Archives and the Warren County Records Center and Archives. The Licking County Records Center and Archives was recognized for its commitment to expanding access to Ohio's public records. In particular the Licking County Records Center and Archives was cited for its cataloging project and its outreach initiatives, such as hosting a community scanning day and improving the reference area at its new facility. The Warren County Records Center and Archives was recognized for its work furthering the digital accessibility and the archival preservation of Ohio's public records. By processing, indexing and digitizing records such as wills, estates, and commissioner journal indexes, the Warren County Records Center and Archives increased access to its records while preserving the original documents.

Archives Fellowship

As part of its 2018 grant OHRAB received funding to implement an Archival Fellowship program. This program will provide two graduate students in public history or library science programs with archival training and practical, hands-on experience. During 2018, the program will focus on identifying and providing information about manumission records held by eleven counties surrounding Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Board members developed a position description and application form that were shared through Wright State University's History Department. A committee consisting of board member Tina Ratcliff, Dawne Dewey (Head of Wright State University's Archives and Special Collections) and Robin Heise (Greene County Archivist and Records Manager) reviewed the applications and chose the two recipients, Amy Brickey and Derek Pridemore. In May Brickey and Pridemore met with Heise and Dewey to learn more about the manumission records and the inventory process. They also met with Greene

County officials to learn more about county government and the types of offices that might hold these records.

During the course of the project Brickey and Pridemore found records or entries pertaining to 480 manumitted slaves. Where available, they recorded the name of the emancipated slave, name of the person who emancipated the slave, location where freed, date of freedom, location of record and page number. These inventories are available at <http://www.ohrab.org/2018-archival-fellowship/>. In addition, Brickey blogged about the project (<https://ohiomanumissions.blogspot.com/>) and created a story map for the counties she visited (<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=3ca47f61737c4b7c938b5f84d383c6e0>).

OHRAB plans to continue this project and will seek funding as part of its 2020 grant to sponsor visits to additional counties.

Grant Session at the Ohio Local History Alliance/Society of Ohio Archivists Conference
At the Ohio Local History Alliance/Society of Ohio Archivists Conference on October 5 in Dublin, Ohio, board members Ron Davidson and Fred Previts spoke about NHPRC grant opportunities and OHRAB's regrant program at a session on records preservation and access grants. Davidson, Previts and board member Liz Plummer also shared information on the grants to conference attendees at a table in the exhibit hall.

Regrant Program

As part of its 2018 NHPRC grant, OHRAB received \$20,000 for a regrant program. In early January 2018 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 14 applications requesting a total of \$53,512.

OHRAB's Regrant Committee reviewed the applications and chose the recipients via a phone conference. Eight applications received funding. Members of OHRAB are working one-on-one with the grant recipients to provide oversight and guidance for the projects.

The institutions that have received regrant funding are:

- **Broadview Heights Historical Society**, Broadview Heights, OH: *Inaugural Collections Archival Project* (\$2,003)
- **Brownhelm Historical Association**, Vermillion, OH: *Organization and Preservation of Brownhelm Township Genealogical Resources* (\$2,000)
- **Cleveland Metroparks**, Cleveland, OH: *Digitization of Slides from 100 Years of Park History* (\$2,000)
- **Delhi Historical Association**, Cincinnati, OH: *Organization and Accessibility of Delhi Historical Association Records* (\$2,294)
- **Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati**, Mount Saint Joseph, OH: *Preserving Films from the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Bedford, Ohio* (\$1,876)

- **Tiffin Glass Museum**, Tiffin, OH: *Digitization and Preservation of Tiffin & U.S. Glass Company Catalogs* (\$2,056)
- **University of Akron Archival Services**, Akron, OH: *Processing and Preserving the Opie Evans Papers (Phase I)* (\$4,680)
- **Village of Greenhills**, Cincinnati, OH: *Improving Access to Records of Historic Greenhills: Identifying, Organizing and Digitizing* (\$3,091)

Collectively the regrant projects processed more than 100 cubic feet of records and created more than 5,000 digital images. Project final reports have been posted to OHRAB's website (<http://www.ohrab.org/grants/regrant/>) and some examples of projects are:

- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Archives digitized 41 historical films pertaining to the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Bedford, Ohio and dating from 1942 to 1978 (<https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/search/searchterm/vincentian%20sisters!vincentian%20sisters%20of%20charity%20of%20bedford,%20ohio/field/all!create/mode/all!all/conn/and!and/order/nosort/page/1>).
- Village of Greenhills, Ohio: inventoried and rehoused approximately 400 building plans from the 1930s. These will be digitized as well.