



2025 OHRAB Grant Interim Report: Shaker Historical Society Photograph Archives: Phase II

In 2024, the Shaker Historical Society received an OHRAB grant to establish a subject-based photograph archive accompanied by an item-level finding aid. The project aimed to preserve and improve access to our photograph collection, addressing decades of scattered materials and inconsistent filing. As photographs are our most requested archival items, this work was essential to better serve public and research needs. Our 2024 intern inventoried three times more photographic materials than the estimated quantity in our grant application, prompting the need for a second project phase.

A 2025 OHRAB grant allowed us to launch Phase II by hiring an archives intern to continue assigning accession numbers, rehousing photographs in the subject-based photograph archive, and updating the finding aid. In May 2025, we welcomed Hilary Gallito, who recently graduated with both her BA and MA in History, as our project intern. Hilary has spent approximately 15 hours per week from June 4 through August 15 at the museum for a total of 150 hours, 17 of which were funded by the grant and the remainder supported by a grant match. She will complete another 30 hours by August 31, bringing her total to 180 hours as outlined in our grant proposal. Executive Director Brianna Treleven has contributed 22 hours of matching time for onboarding, answering questions, data clean-up, and publicity, with an additional 10-15 hours expected by year's end.

We estimate that roughly 70% of Phase II is complete. Hilary has rehoused and/or assigned accession numbers to approximately 1,042 photographs inventoried in 2024 (an additional 1.67 linear feet), bringing the total number of photographs in the archives to 1,415 (5.65 linear feet). All \$1,695.99 in grant funds have been used: \$289.00 for Hilary's salary and \$1,406.99 for archival boxes and Mylar sleeves. Matching funds of \$2,261.00 have been used toward Hilary's salary and \$1,085.00 toward shelving. With all supplies purchased, \$510.00 remains in the budget for Hilary's final 30 hours. The project is on track for completion by December 31, 2025.

Brianna shared a [press release announcing the grant](#) with local media in late April; a paywalled press run announcing the news was published on Cleveland.com in early May. She has also posted project updates on social media, examples of which are included below. An [archives open house](#) is scheduled for August 28 where the public can meet Hilary, view highlights from the photograph archives, and learn how to access these valuable resources through our finding aid.



SHAKER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



shakerhistory
Shaker Historical Society

shakerhistory In April 2025, the Shaker Historical Society received a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) to complete Phase II of our photograph archives project. We are excited to introduce our 2025 project intern, Hilary Gallito!

Hilary is a native of Shaker Heights and recently graduated from @johnshoptkinsu with her MA in History and BA in History (1st) and Classics. When she's not working with historical materials, she can be found learning to row on the Cuyahoga or walking her dogs. Although she primarily works in the eighteenth-century, Hilary is excited to learn more about Shaker's more contemporary past and spend a summer back home.

Hilary is responsible for organizing a subject-based archive, handling photographic materials, and updating a publicly accessible finding aid. Her work will improve preservation of and access to over 2,000 valuable visual resources that document the history of Warrensville Township, the North Union Shakers, and Shaker Heights.

The photograph archives project is made possible through consecutive awards from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and through the generous financial support of SHS member John Barber.

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We're back from a long holiday weekend, and our intern Hilary kicked things off with the most thrilling kind of unboxing video: archival supplies edition! ...

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Shaker Historical Society
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We're back from a long holiday weekend, and our intern Hilary kicked things off with the most thrilling kind of unboxing video: archival supplies edition! 📦📦

Yes, we're the kind of nerds who get giddy over mylar sleeves and fresh archival boxes. Hilary has been working on Phase II of our photo archives project thanks to support from **Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board - OHRAB** and SHS member John Barber. Watching our photos get safely rehoused gives us all the warm, fuzzy (and acid-free) feelings.

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👤 **Ajay Ladanyi**
Hilary is perfect for this job!
Keep us in the loop, Hilary!

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Posted July 9, 2025 on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)