



2026 OHRAB Grant Interim Report: Processing and Preservation of the Shaker Historical Society Vertical Files

In April 2026, the Shaker Historical Society received an OHRAB grant to improve the preservation and accessibility of our vertical files, building on Phases I and II of our photograph archives project. Those OHRAB-funded projects, conducted in 2024 and 2025, addressed 8 cubic feet of photographs by establishing a dedicated photograph archive with an item-level inventory. The remaining vertical file materials include correspondence, deeds, ephemera, manuscripts, and clippings spanning approximately 150 years of regional history, and are currently available to the public. The vertical files developed over decades as a catch-all repository, managed by successive staff and volunteers with little to no formal archives training, resulting in inconsistent arrangement and file naming, improper storage, divided collections, and the accumulation of materials outside the scope of our collecting focus.

In early June 2026, we welcomed Aidan Sellman, a current MLIS student with a BA in History, as our project intern. Aidan has spent approximately 15 hours per week from June 10 through August 10 at the museum for a total of 98 hours, about 80 of which were funded by the grant and the remainder supported by the museum's operating budget. She will complete another 22 hours of physical arrangement and creation of a finding aid by December 31, bringing her total to 120 hours as outlined in our grant proposal. Executive Director Brianna Treleven has contributed 12 hours of matching time for onboarding, intern support, data clean-up, and publicity, with an additional 10-15 hours expected by year's end.

We estimate that roughly 70% of the project is complete. Aidan has completed a folder-level inventory of about 68 cubic feet of materials (400 folders) to inform a subject-based arrangement, identified out-of-scope materials for transfer, and developed an updated arrangement plan. All \$1,358.25 in grant funds have been used for Aidan's salary. Matching funds of \$316.25 have been used for Aidan's salary and \$501.67 for archival supplies. With all supplies purchased, \$365.50 remains in the project budget for Aidan's final 22 hours. The project is on track for completion by December 31, 2026.

Brianna shared a [press release announcing the grant](#) with local media in late April, although it was not picked up by any outlets. She has also posted project updates on social media, examples of which are included below. Aidan will table at our free AppleFest community event on September 26, which draws hundreds of people annually, to share highlights from the vertical files and updates on the project. Signage will credit OHRAB for making this project possible.



shakerhistory
Shaker Historical Society

shakerhistory In April 2026, the Shaker Historical Society received a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) to organize and describe our vertical files, which contain deeds, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and more. We are excited to introduce our 2026 project intern, Aidan Sellman!

Aidan has a BA in History from @cle_state and is currently working on her MA in Library and Information Science from @pennwestu. She hopes to work in archives/special collections after graduation. She has already found a lot of interesting documents in the files and is excited to make them more accessible! When Aidan isn't exploring Shaker's files, she enjoys piano, reading, fiber arts, and spending time with her pets.

Aidan is responsible for organizing a subject-based archive, handling paper-based materials dating back to the late-18th century, and creating a publicly accessible finding aid. Her work will improve preservation of and access to hundreds, if not thousands, of resources that document the history of Warrensville Township, the North Union Shakers, and Shaker Heights.

This project was made possible through an award 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).

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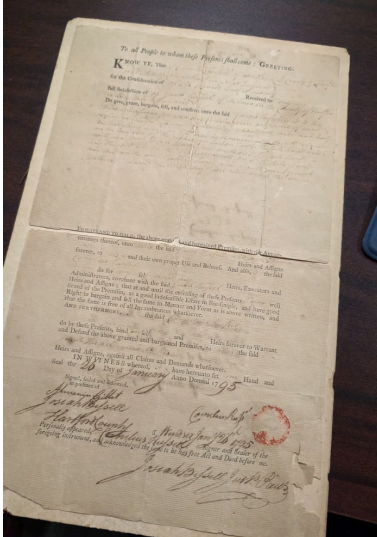
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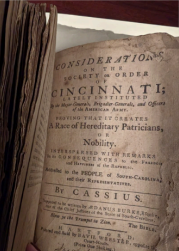
Shaker Historical Society
Published by Brianna Treleven · 7m ·

Aidan, our summer intern, has been deep in the SHS vertical files, and she's already come across some gems! On just her second day, she found a 1795 deed from Cornelius Russell to Jacob Russell, a Revolutionary War veteran whose family later left Connecticut for Warrensville Township. She also identified a hand-bound volume of 1790s pamphlets belonging to Jacob Russell himself, including sermons and a critique of the Society of the Cincinnati, which some viewed as an attempt to establish nobility in the United States. The pamphlets provide insight into his religious and political leanings over two centuries ago.

Reorganizing a collection of this size and complexity is no small task, but when Aidan is done, these records will be more accessible to researchers and the public for years to come!

This project was made possible through an award 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).





Posted August 25, 2026 on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)



SHAKER
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For Immediate Release
April 30, 2026

Media Contact: Brianna Treleven, Executive Director
director@shakerhistory.org
216-921-1201

Shaker Historical Society Receives Grant for Archival Materials

Shaker Heights, OH – The Shaker Historical Society has been awarded a \$1,358.25 grant from the [Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board](#) (OHRAB) to improve the preservation and accessibility of the museum's vertical files. This grant builds upon successful 2024 and 2025 OHRAB-funded projects that focused on relocating over 150 years of photographic media from the vertical files to a dedicated photograph archive.

The vertical files project will focus on correspondence, deeds, ephemera, manuscripts, and clippings, spanning approximately 150 years of regional history, that are housed in the museum's Elizabeth Nord Library & Archives. Grant funding will be used to hire an intern to complete a folder-level inventory, update the subject-based arrangement, identify materials for transfer, and create a publicly-accessible finding aid under the supervision of Executive Director Brianna Treleven.

This project reflects the Shaker Historical Society's broader commitment to preserving and sharing Shaker Heights' history through increased accessibility, thoughtful stewardship, and authentic community engagement.

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About the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board: The Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board's Ohio Archives Grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration through their State Board Programming Grants, to fund projects to preserve and/or provide access to Ohio's historical records.

About the Shaker Historical Society: Established in 1947, the Shaker Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of Shaker Heights to inspire curiosity and foster engagement between diverse communities and the people, events, and stories that shape local history. Learn more at shakerhistory.org.