



RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January through April 2024 Newsletter

Historical Museum of Richfield
www.richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org

Hours of Operation
Open Tuesday & Thursday 9am to 12pm
Also open by appointment and upon request for special occasions - call (330) 659-0336

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a joyous holiday season with friends and family. Just want to share some upcoming events for the 2024 RHS year. First however, I want to welcome our new board member, Dwayne Gentner! He joins his cousin Scott Luther on our board. We are happy to have Dwayne join us, and we look forward to tapping into his unique talents.

Look within this newsletter for details of 2024 upcoming events. I'll share a couple already planned ones of which I'm aware. One is the *TakeMeBack* series presentation "Growing Up Cleveland: Barnaby, Captain Penny and Ghouardi" presented by Dennis Sutcliffe of Lost Cleveland Memories. This should be an enjoyable journey back into our childhood -- for those of us raised in the 50s and 60s watching Cleveland television! In the words of Ghouardi, "Stay sick ova-dey, you knifs!" Join us on April 10, 7:00 p.m., at Fellowship Hall, for this trip down memory lane.

Spring will once again bring our Cabin Fever Tour -- along with the Richfield Library Book Sale! The Friends of Richfield Library enjoyed a good turnout last year -- when they held one of their book sales the same day as our Cabin Fever Tour -- so they are joining in as a destination again in 2024.

The Society will also offer our 2024 scholarship award to a deserving graduating high school senior. Application details are included in this newsletter.

Paul Swan, President

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS FLOWER POWER!



Our fall fundraiser, through the organization Flower Power, was a resounding success! Eleven customers purchased \$404 worth of amaryllis bulbs. Pictured is one of the lovely plants in full bloom. This was our second fundraiser

with them. Our first was a spring bulb sale, held in the fall of 2022, which raised \$505 for the Society. This is a win-win fundraiser -- our customers receive gorgeous flowers, and the Society earns funds to help support its mission "to preserve and interpret the history of Richfield as well as to create and promote appreciation for Richfield's diverse cultural, social, and economic history." Thanks to those who supported one or both of these sales!



BUILDING DOCTOR CLINIC COMING THIS SUMMER

The Ohio History Connection's Building Doctor is returning to Richfield this summer and will be making house calls!

Ours will be one of just three clinics being held throughout the state during 2024. The "doctors" work in teams, teaching the owners of old buildings how to recognize and solve some of the most common sources of problems in maintaining these structures as well as how to make informed decisions about repairs and improvements.

While the exact dates have not yet been finalized, there will be a free seminar from 7-9 p.m. the night before the building visits which will cover topics like peeling paint, failing plaster, wet basements, deteriorating masonry, window repair, damaged wood, and bringing buildings built before 1960 up to date without sacrificing historic integrity as well as the very features that make them so appealing. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session. Advance registration is required (and attendance at the seminar is mandatory if requesting a site visit). Walk-ins that night (for the seminar only) will be accepted if there is available seating.

The day after the seminar, the Building Doctors will make the rounds of ailing buildings -- within a five-mile radius of the center of town -- to examine problems and prescribe cures. Their consultations are free, but they are limited to 10 sites. You need to request a visit by the Building Doctor when you register for the clinic and must attend the free seminar to qualify. The Building Doctors will visit all kinds of pre-1960 buildings: schools, churches, factories, stores, offices, farm buildings, and homes. Those selected for a site visit will be contacted sometime during the week prior to the clinic to set up a time which will fall between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Specific details on how to register will be provided as soon as our Building Doctor Clinic dates are confirmed by the Ohio History Connection.

GABIN FEVER RELIEVER

OUR MARCH 16 CABIN FEVER TOUR WILL PROVIDE SOME RELIEF FROM YOUR WINTER DOLDRUMS

To help support local businesses and institutions, the Richfield Historical Society is holding its annual Cabin Fever Tour on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Created in 2009, it continues to be a popular event which offers individuals the opportunity to escape their winter doldrums and visit treasure houses of local history, art, antiques, cuisine, gardening, gift items, home furnishings and much more in the communities of Richfield, Hinckley, and Peninsula. More detailed information about tour participants -- including their location, hours, and any special promotions they're offering that day -- can be found online at richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org.

Participants to date include: **in Hinckley** -- Greensmith Garden & Gift Shop, Minnehaha Water (offering a free bottle of water), and Southern Breeze Salon & Boutique (with a drawing for a gift certificate and styling products); **in Peninsula** -- Century Cycles, Cuyahoga Valley Historical Museum, (where two exhibits will be featured -- Stone Quarries in Peninsula and Bits & Pieces of Peninsula History), Peninsula Library (holding a \$3/bag book sale), Peninsula Art Academy, Peninsula Village Antiques, River Light Gallery (featuring "Sun Light/Moon Shadow", an exhibit on the sun and the moon), and Trail Mix Peninsula; and **in Richfield** -- Carter Manor (featuring a doll show and sale), Country Maid Ice Cream, Ohio Hardwood Furniture, Olesia's Tavern of Richfield (reservations required), POC's Pierogi Market (offering a drawing for a \$25 gift card), Polka Dot Pincushion, Richfield Branch Library (featuring a book sale), Richfield Historical Society (buy any item from gift shop and earn a chance to win a gift basket), Somerville Antiques, Stitches & Stowaways, and Stone & Sage.

Patronizing independent shops spares us the big box store experience, and dollars spent locally are more likely to stay within the community! For additional information, call the Richfield Historical Society at 330-659-0336.

TAKEMEBACK SERIES 2024 PRESENTATIONS

Mark your calendars for the following *TakeMeBack* Series presentations on April 10 and May 29:

GROWING UP CLEVELAND: BARNABY, CAPTAIN PENNY AND GHOULARDI



Dennis Sutcliffe of Lost Cleveland Memories

Our first *TakeMeBack* Series presentation of 2024 will be held on **Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.**, at Richfield Fellowship Hall (3903 Broadview Road). **Dennis Sutcliffe**, of Lost Cleveland Memories, will talk about "Growing Up Cleveland: Barnaby, Captain Penny and Ghoulardi". Baby boomers raised in Cleveland grew up with a variety of unique children's television hosts -- including the lovable Barnaby, the affable Captain Penny, and the outrageous Ghoulardi. Relive the days of early television and also have fun with some children's television trivia.



BLACK FRIDAY-- OCTOBER 20, 1916



Join us on **Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 p.m.**, at Richfield Fellowship Hall, when **Christopher Gillcrist** -- with the National Museum of the Great Lakes -- will present "Black Friday -- October 20, 1916." He'll share the story of the worst day in commercial shipping on Lake Erie -- when four ships and over 50 lives were lost.

(Left) Christopher Gillcrist, Director Emeritus, National Museum of the Great Lakes



We're in the process of lining up the rest of our speakers for this year's *TakeMeBack* Series and will provide future presentation details in our next newsletter. Information will also be posted on the Society's website and shared via our Facebook page.



Cathy and Dwayne Gentner

SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE DWAYNE GENTNER

The Society is pleased to announce that Dwayne Gentner has been appointed to complete the term of RHS Trustee Bob Neillie, who recently stepped down from this position. We thank Bob for his years of dedicated service and will miss his presence (and great sense of humor) at our monthly board meetings.

Dwayne has lived in Richfield for over 40 years -- with family roots dating back more than 100 years to Charles Townsend as well as the Luther and White families. He grew up in Richfield and remembers the days of riding his bike to Vann's Pharmacy to buy candy and baseball cards, participating in Cub Scout troop 3387, and playing little league baseball games behind the town hall. He is a 1987 graduate of Revere High School and is

married to fellow Revere graduate Cathy (Collins) Gentner. They share two children, Kailey and Drew -- who also attended Revere schools.

Dwayne is involved with several other Richfield organizations -- serving as chairperson of the Richfield Township Zoning Commission and as a member of the Bath/Richfield Kiwanis. Professionally, he is employed as an operations manager for a local software company.

Dwayne is an avid genealogy researcher who has traced his family tree back through the American colonies -- including several ancestors who fought in the American Revolution. He sees Richfield as a treasure for its residents, and he looks forward to bringing his love of history and passion for the community to his new role with the Richfield Historical Society.

Welcome aboard our board, Dwayne!



SOCIETY OFFERS \$500 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY TO STUDENTS INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT AND PRESERVING HISTORY

The Richfield Historical Society will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to one graduating high school senior who is a resident of Richfield or who volunteers at the Richfield Historical Society's Museum -- and who best demonstrates that he/she "has a sincere interest in learning about history as well as helping to preserve and promote curiosity about it." Applicants are required to provide an essay of between 500 to 1,500 words about the importance of preserving local history. Deadline for submission is April 12, and the recipient will be announced at the May 20 Revere High School Senior Awards Assembly. Applications are available through the Revere High School guidance department or by contacting Karen Smik at kls1650@roadrunner.com. This is the 11th year for our scholarship program -- and each year has generated excellent candidates and very thought-provoking essays.

Thank you to the following for supporting the **Richfield Historical Society** through your generous gifts:

Preservationist (\$500.00 and up)

Village of Richfield

Jon A. Wolf *in honor of Linda Fleming - Thank You 'Big Sister'*

Curator (\$100.00-\$499.00)

Karen Smik *in memory of Louise (Waltz) Patterson and Gerald Waltz*

Dorothy Smith *in memory of the Massey Family*

Taussig Family Charity Foundation

Archivist (\$50.00-\$99.00)

Richard Jandrey *in memory of Regina Jandrey*

Historian (\$25.00-\$49.00)

Charlene Kuntz

Roy Richardson

Researcher (any amount under \$25.00)





DID YOU KNOW ...

From www.history.com

Where did **Valentine's Day** originate from? The history of the holiday—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was **Saint Valentine**, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first “valentine” greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed “From your Valentine,” an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

The Red Scare was hysteria over the perceived threat posed by Communists in the U.S. during the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, which intensified in the late 1940s and early 1950s. (Communists were often referred to as “Reds” for their allegiance to the red Soviet flag.) The Red Scare led to a range of actions that had a profound and enduring effect on U.S. government and society. Federal employees were analyzed to determine whether they were sufficiently loyal to the government, and the House Un-American Activities Committee, as well as U.S. Senator **Joseph R. McCarthy**, investigated allegations of subversive elements in the government and the Hollywood film industry. The climate of fear and repression linked to the Red Scare finally began to ease by the late 1950s.

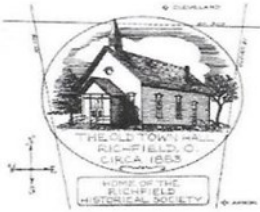
The relationship between **Napoleon Bonaparte** and his wife **Joséphine de Beauharnais** has been hailed as a love affair for the ages, but it was anything but a perfect picture of selfless devotion. While it's true that the French leader's countless letters to Joséphine overflow with intense declarations of infatuated love, their relationship was marred by frequent adultery and their marriage ultimately ended in divorce.

The Viking Age was filled with powerful kings, but research suggests that Viking women also held significant power as rulers—particularly a woman named **Thyra**. Four recently analyzed runestones mention Thyra by name, with one praising her as the “strength” or “salvation” of Denmark. Using 3D-scanning, researchers connected the carvings on these runestones to argue that they are all describing the same Viking queen Thyra, making her a distinctively honored and revered figure in Viking history. No other man or woman in Viking-Age Denmark is mentioned on as many runestones as Queen Thyra—including her husband, **King Gorm**, and her son **King Harald Bluetooth**, whom scholars have traditionally connected with the establishment of the state of Denmark. The presence of Queen Thyra's name on four runestones suggests that she held notable political clout, and she may have played a larger role in the formation of Denmark than previously thought.

In January 1915, Britain suffered its first casualties from an air attack when two German **zeppelins** dropped bombs on Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn on the eastern coast of England. The zeppelin, a motor-driven rigid airship, was developed by German inventor **Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin** in 1900. During World War I, Germany employed these hydrogen-filled behemoths to rain bombs on Britain in hopes that the bombings would spark such fear that it would force the country out of the war. In fact, the military ramped up zeppelin production to the point that Germany ceased production of sausage because the intestinal linings of cows that were used as sausage skins were required to fashion the skins of the zeppelins' leak-proof hydrogen chambers. (A quarter-million cows were needed to build one zeppelin.)



The Jelling 1 stone, commissioned by Thyra's husband [Gorm the Old](#) to commemorate her.



HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF RICHFIELD RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 215, 3907 Broadview Road, Richfield OH 44286
(330) 659-0336 www.richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org

Bicentennial Throw



2024 Membership Application

Dear Members of the Richfield Historical Society:

First of all, a big thank you for your continuing support through the years! Your dues and donations in 2023 helped us to fund our annual \$500 scholarship to a Revere High School senior, offer a variety of speakers in our *TakeMeBack* series and assist in purchasing new display/storage cases at the Museum. Stop in and see the new additions - we are open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon. We were able to hold all of our normal fundraising events this past year. We recently put on a program honoring the 25th anniversary of the Richfield tree in Rockefeller Center in 1998. We are starting early in planning ways to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States in 2026. Are you unsure of your membership status? Send a text to (330) 888-3101 or email us at richfieldhistoricalsocietysecy@gmail.com. If you received this notice in your home mailbox, look in the upper right-hand corner of the address label for the year of your last membership. If you see LM there, you are a lifetime member. If it is blank, your last membership was before 2016. DONOR means you made a donation only. We are honored if you choose to leave a legacy gift to the Society in your Will. Thank You!

Playing Cards



2024 MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND DUES

\$15 _____ INDIVIDUAL

\$20 _____ FAMILY

\$5 _____ STUDENT

\$100 _____ BUSINESS

\$150 _____ LIFETIME

(ages 17 and under)

DONATIONS - PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION IN ADDITION TO YOUR DUES

****Please check here if you would like the donation incentive gifts _____**

\$25-\$49 HISTORIAN

Richfield OH Playing Cards Edition 1 or Edition 2

\$50-\$99 ARCHIVIST

Richfield OH Playing Cards Edition 1 or Edition 2

\$100-\$499 CURATOR

Both sets of Richfield OH Playing Cards AND Newsletter

\$500+ PRESERVATIONIST

Both sets of Richfield OH Playing Cards, Newsletter, AND Richfield Bicentennial Throw in: Blue or Green

UNDER \$25 RESEARCHER

Please designate your donation in honor or in memory of: _____

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SEND MY RHS NEWSLETTER VIA: _____ MAIL _____ EMAIL _____ TEXT

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT (CHECKS TO RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY) TO:
RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO BOX 215 RICHFIELD OH 44286



This photo of the Richfield Town Hall was taken on September 25, 1938. Note the siren mounted on the roof.

The Richfield Historical Society Board of Trustees meets the first Monday of each month at the museum housed in the Old Town Hall.

The museum is open from 9:00 am to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at various points during the year for special events.

Follow our Facebook page or visit our website at richfieldohiohistoricalsociety.org to learn about upcoming events and more about the Society.

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul Swan, President

Mark Mitchell, Vice President

Karen Smik, Treasurer

Reggie Taussig, Secretary

Kitty Butler, Trustee

Linda Fleming, Trustee

Michal Swan, Trustee

Scott Luther, Trustee

Dwayne Gentner, Trustee

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