



RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May—August 2023 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



Spring has sprung -- except today, April 18, when it was snowing on my way to work this morning! I guess Ohio has a special understanding of what spring is for us. We don't have to like it though. We always reserve that right!

On April 16, we were treated to Gary Domanick's updated and improved D-Day presentation. It was indeed new and enhanced since his talk in the fall of 2021 -- with additional information, expanded audience participation, and different visuals as well as handouts. It was a very engaging afternoon that was enjoyed by everyone in attendance! I believe there were 44 people, which for Fellowship Hall is pretty much maximum capacity. The rewarding of a 'cricket' -- which was used by U.S. paratroopers to communicate with other ally airborne troops in the total darkness and confusion of the airborne invasion immediately preceding the June 6 D-Day landings -- to those who correctly answered some of Gary's questions was certainly a fun addition. He will be presenting his talk at the Peninsula Library later this spring/summer so if you missed this one, contact the Peninsula Library for details. I highly recommend the experience!

Upcoming RHS events are listed within this newsletter, but I'll focus on a couple of them. Be sure to mark our *TakeMeBack* Series talks on your calendar so you can plan to attend. I also want to expand a bit on the September 9 Antiques Roadshow. This will be the first time the Society has presented this entertaining event since before COVID. If you have any antiques that you would like our expert to evaluate, and perhaps provide some provenance information about, be sure to read the roadshow article for more details. It's always an interesting and information-filled event. Michal and I will bring several items that we want to learn more about. It's lots of fun and wonderful to see what other attendees bring with them! In the meantime, enjoy the warm weather (once it's here to stay) -- and I hope to see you soon!

Paul Swan, President



GOT ANTIQUES? THEN LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

Discover the value of a favorite flea market find or treasured family heirloom at the Richfield Historical Society's Antiques Roadshow to be held on Saturday, September 9, at Richfield Fellowship Hall (3903 Broadview Road). Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. From 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., a local professional will evaluate your artifacts for just \$5 each (limit of three items per person). Pre-registration is required. Space is limited to 50 people. Send a brief description -- with a picture, if possible -- of each item you would like evaluated (so our appraiser can do a little research ahead of time) along with appropriate payment to: Richfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 215, Richfield, OH 44286. Be sure to include your name, email address, and phone number so we can confirm receipt of your registration and follow up with any questions the appraiser may have about your item(s). For more information, contact Karen at kls1650@roadrunner.com or 330-659-4750.

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

Bob Neillie, Honorary Trustee

**RICHFIELD
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY PLANT
SWAP/SALE**



RHS will be holding a Plant Swap/Sale on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. It will be located outdoors, behind the Museum. Bargains galore will be offered on a variety of perennials and houseplants. If you'd like to donate labeled perennial plant divisions or houseplant cuttings, please bring them in waterproof containers to the Museum at 10 a.m. that day. For more information, call Linda Fleming at 330-659-0336 or 330-659-6819.



PICKET FENCE ART SHOW — THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The 21st Picket Fence Art Show will be held on Sunday, August 13, from 1-5 p.m. at the Johnson Barn -- located within Richfield Woods Park (4100 Broadview Road). The eagerly anticipated show is sponsored by the Richfield Historical Society and the Richfield-Hinckley Art Group. This prestigious art event originated with Theo and Ane Marie Kirk -- who hosted a weekly art group at their home and restaurant, then known as the Danish Smorgasbord. The art group organized and held the original outdoor art show, known as "The Picket Fence Art Show" (where framed artwork hung on a snow fence), back in the mid-1950s and 1960s at the historic Farnam Manor. While the event's format and location may have changed over the years, admission remains free to the public. Original framed art, ceramics, photography, jewelry, and fine crafts will be available for purchase. For more information or if interested in participating in the show as an artist, contact Linda Fleming at 330-659-0336 or 330-659-6819. There is a \$10 participation fee, and a limit of 4-5 pieces of framed artwork per artist. Entries will be accepted as space allows.



In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn that E. Paul Morehouse, Jr. passed away last September. Mr. Morehouse was a past president of the Ohio Genealogical Society, a member of the Summit County OGS chapter and a former resident of Richfield. In 2017, he taught a very popular six-week session of genealogy (family history) classes for the Society. We express our condolences to the family of this special individual and long-time member of the Richfield Historical Society.



**RICHFIELD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MEMORIAL
DAY**



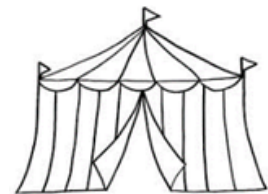
Museum open on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th from 9 am to 1 pm. Stop by after the parade to chat and learn more about Richfield and its citizens' military service.

COME VISIT US!

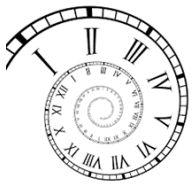
Historical Museum of Richfield
Richfield Historical Society
PO Box 215, 3907 Broadview Rd
Richfield, OH 44286



Saturday, June 3rd the Society will participate in Community Garage Sale Day - Stop by the Museum where we will have tables set up outside with various "treasures"!



Visit our booth at Richfield Community Day on Sunday, August 13th from 1 to 6 pm. Look for us under the "big top" at Richfield Woods Park and learn more about the Society!



TAKEMEBACK SERIES PRESENTATIONS - WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

All presentations are free and open to the public. Each of these terrific *TakeMeBacks* will take place at the Richfield Fellowship Hall, located next to the Museum at 3903 Broadview Road.

Sunday, May 21, 2:00 p.m. - "The Archaeology and Prehistory of the Richfield Heritage Preserve" will be presented by Cleveland State University archaeologist **Phil Wanyerka**. Although ancient Native Americans arrived in Richfield and the adjacent Cuyahoga Valley more than 13,000 years ago, historically little has been published regarding the archaeology and ancient prehistory of the native people who called the Richfield Heritage Preserve home. Cleveland State University archaeologist Phil Wanyerka has been exploring and conducting archaeological investigations in Richfield and the adjacent Cuyahoga Valley for almost 40 years. Join the Richfield Historical Society and Dr. Wanyerka as he presents an illustrated lecture on the archaeology and prehistory of this little explored area of Summit County.

Sunday, June 11, 2:00 p.m. - "Woodland Indian Wars of Ohio" will be presented by **John Burke** of John Burke's Living History. This talk will describe the Woodland Indian tribes who lived in Ohio from 1650-1840. It will trace the first encounters with white settlers and the wars that followed -- including the French and Indian War, Pontiac's War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812.

Sunday, July 23, 2:00 p.m. - "Let's Revisit the Richfield Coliseum (1974-1994)" will be presented by **Gerry Nemeth**. He will cover the history of the Richfield Coliseum, from its grand opening with Frank Sinatra to the final event featuring Roger Daltrey of The Who. Information will be shared on concerts, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Cleveland Force, and more. There will be prizes and surprises!

Wednesday, August 30, 7:00 p.m. - "Exploring the Flats: Up and Down a Crooked River" will be presented by **Judy MacKeigan**, Cleveland Metroparks Historian/Archivist. From the first log cabins to the vibrant venues of today, the Cleveland Flats has a long and varied history. This program will provide an overview of the Flats and the people who built it as well as of those who worked and played along the mouth of the Cuyahoga River.



AROUND THE MUSEUM

Things have been quite busy around the Museum. Our volunteers have been conducting research on historic homes as well as on family trees (including Buck, Garl, Oviatt, Pecsok and Sprague). Collections were donated to the Society by the Darst, Hersey, Mogan, Rovnosky, and

Swan families. New LED lighting was installed at the Museum by John Luther and Ken Orchard, under the supervision of the Village of Richfield Service Department. A display -- featuring glass paper weights from the collection of Laura Willis -- was created at the Richfield Senior Center by RHS volunteers Ken Orchard, Jean Gentner, Dorothy Hooper, and Barb Luther.

For the last six months, three volunteers — under the supervision of Linda Fleming — have been indexing parts of the Society's archival collection. RHS Secretary Reggie Taussig, along with her daughters Becky Lybarger and Sue Cunningham, have been working every Thursday on this. They've accomplished quite a bit in a short time. Their first project was to index our newspaper and magazine collections. They have now been documented and their detailed reports can be sorted by date or subject. Archival grade storage boxes have been purchased for this project, and our collections are now secure and in good order. Thanks to Barb Luther, Dorothy Hooper, and Jean Gentner for their assistance in sorting the vast quantity of newspapers — dating from the mid 1800's to current times. The second project on Linda's wish list was the indexing of the Richfield Times articles. Once again —

thanks to Barb, Dorothy, and Jean for keeping all our copies of the Richfield Times — and its predecessor publications — in good order! After that task was completed, the volunteers moved on to updating our obituary collection. They indexed over 1,300 obituaries and created five binders to house the obituaries and their reports. They also recorded if the obituary was for a veteran and will forward a report of all the veterans to the Richfield Village Cemetery Board for comparison with their records. Reggie, Becky, and Sue are all involved in veteran affairs through the Akron Chapter DAR and are determined that no veteran will go unrecognized. The trio is currently indexing articles about Richfield and its citizens from other local newspapers. These articles had been compiled in binders by the late Geraldine "Mickie" Mogan and her daughter Kim. Thanks to them both for their excellent work. Kim will soon be joining the team of indexers to assist with data entry.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bath Volunteers for Service (BVS), the Society recently added two new pieces of electronic scanning and storage equipment. The first addition is an IRIScan Portable Wand Scanner. This very lightweight (only 5.4 ounces) handheld scanner will be used primarily to scan vintage books and photo albums which should not be handled frequently due to their age and fragile condition. It has up to 1200 DPI resolution and can format files as JPG or PDF. It is able to scan in either color or black and white mode and can transfer files via WiFi to other devices. The second addition is a Toshiba Canvio 2TB portable external hard drive which will be used to store the IRIScan scans as well as to house a backup of the RHS laptop computer. Thanks again to BVS for their kind consideration!



DID YOU KNOW ...

From www.history.com

The **toothbrush**, as we know it, appears to have been invented in China, sometime during the Tang Dynasty, from 618 to 907 A.D. The earliest models had handles of bamboo or bone and bristles made with boar's hairs. Boar's hair brushes also remain available to this day, often promoted as an environmentally friendly alternative to the nylon-bristled, plastic-handled variety. **William Addis**, an Englishman, is credited as the first entrepreneur to mass-produce toothbrushes, supposedly creating his prototype in 1780, while in prison on rioting charges. In 1857, **H. N. Wadsworth**, a Washington, D.C. dentist, received the first U.S. patent for a toothbrush, which he claimed did a better job of scrubbing between the teeth. Numerous other innovations would follow, including the introduction of nylon bristles in 1938.

John Wilkes Booth initially planned to kidnap **Abraham Lincoln**. After meeting with Confederate spies in the summer of 1864, Booth spearheaded a plot to abduct Lincoln, bring him to the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, and use him as a bargaining chip to secure the release of rebel prisoners. On March 17, 1865, Booth and his fellow conspirators hid along a country road in Washington, D.C., intending to commandeer the presidential carriage that was scheduled to carry Lincoln to a matinee performance of a play at Campbell Hospital to benefit wounded soldiers. Lincoln, however, had a change of plans and never showed up. Some of the co-conspirators abandoned the plot thereafter, and Booth soon had a change of plans as well. After the fall of Richmond and Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, he decided to kill, rather than kidnap, Lincoln with help from the remaining co-conspirators.

During the early spring of 1863 in Richmond, Virginia — the capital of the Confederacy — thousands of working-class Southern women were struggling as their husbands were either off fighting the Civil War or had died in battle. Then, hyperinflation from spending and a weak Confederate currency drove the prices of food and other goods way up, and families started to go hungry.

Seething class resentment was building among working-class white women at the seemingly fruitless sacrifices they were making. By the beginning of April, it reached a boiling point, leading to one of the largest civilian uprisings during the Civil War. The **Richmond Bread Riot**—which took place on April 2, 1863—was the largest and most destructive and became one of several throughout the South led by women. Many participants were later brought to trial and charged with crimes for their rioting, but fewer than 100 were punished.

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

Preservationist - \$500 and up

E.B. Miller *in honor of the Revere Class of '61*

The Village of Richfield

Curator - \$100 to \$499

Melissa Haslinger *in memory of Joanne Hutchinson*

Donna Nelson *in memory of Bertha (Carter) Grimm*

Lynn Richardson *in memory of Eunice Merton*

Russell Sibert

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

Jeff and Regina Taussig

Archivist - \$50 to \$99

Judy Heit *in memory of Jean Heiser*

Richard Jandrey *in memory of Regina Jandrey*

Edna Larson *in memory of Ed & Myrtle Haslem and Fred Larson*

Heather & Dennis Liccardi

Joann Martinak *in memory of Jerry & Jeff Martinak*

Richard Roznovsky

Mary M. Ryan *in memory of Richfield Elementary School on Rt. 303*

Historian - \$25 to \$49

Clive Fetzer *in honor of Paul Swan and his support for the historical heritage of the Richfield Heritage Preserve*

Amy Hsu

Don Laubacher

Sue Serdinak & Mark Parker

Rose Marie Torma *in memory of Jane & Joe Torma*

Researcher - under \$25

Helen J. Marshall

Linda Murr *in memory of Eva and Bob Oviatt*



Find us on Facebook at
Historical Museum of Richfield, Ohio



RICHFIELD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE THROUGH THE YEARS



The Richfield Decoration Day (Memorial Day) Parade at Fairview Cemetery on May 30, 1939.



Richfield Memorial Day Parade at the West Richfield Cemetery circa 1959.



Pharmacist Richard Young (center) marching with the AMVETS as they pass the Underground Tavern ca 1968.



The Revere High School Marching Band — May 30, 1967.



Members of the Richfield AMVETS marching in the Memorial Day Parade circa 1965. The post office is in the background along with signs for Richfield Motors, Auto Parts, and Garage.



The Richfield High School Band plays at Fairview Cemetery on Decoration Day, May 30, 1939.

To see more Memorial Day photos, explore our Flickr account— [flickr.com/photos/richfieldhistsoc/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/richfieldhistsoc/)

