

THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER - NEWSLETTER - *History Matters*

IN THIS ISSUE

LCHC'S Americorps Member	1
Appeal Letter	2
Calendar of Events	3
New Members	3
Volunteer Appreciation	3
Christmas at the History Center Open House	4
LCHS Board Election	6
Save the Date - A Salute to America 250	6
The Logan County Genealogical Society Winter Closure 2026	6
LCHC Staff	6
Artifact Donations	7



LCHC'S AMERICORPS MEMBER

Chloe Simmons

If you do not know me, my name is Chloe Simmons of Rushsylvania. I graduated from Benjamin Logan High School in 2020 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and a minor in History from The Ohio State University at Lima. Shortly before starting my internship at the museum in 2024, I was accepted into the Museums, Galleries, and Contemporary Culture master's program at the University of Westminster in London, England. This degree was one-year long and consisted of field trips to museums, art galleries, and collections, projects, and a final thesis or project. While in London, I received an email

from Beth Marshall regarding a potential service position at the historical society, urging me to apply. This opportunity, the same one I have now, was an Ohio History Service Corps (OHSC) position through AmeriCorps.

OHSC is a "service based organization that provides specialized services to fulfill needs within their local communities" with an emphasis on local and public history. This year-long service opportunity allows me to help local museums with collection and project management, exhibition creation, conservation, and more. As the region 7 representative, I get to travel to various museums in the area such as the West Liberty Historical Society and the Cridersville Historical Society. While I am working on collections management with both institutions, each museum in the region will have unique needs and goals that AmeriCorps members will be able to assist.

At the Logan County History Center, I will be working on a main project with smaller projects in between. Some of the smaller projects include conserving paper artifacts, researching topics for community members, writing object and exhibit labels, and document donated objects for the collection, and more. For the main project, I will be inventorying and documenting objects in the museum's storage rooms. This is an important process for every museum, allowing for accessible use of the collection. Knowing what is in the collection, the object's use and condition, and storage space

available creates a better environment for the museum team and the visitors by presenting new and underrepresented histories through exhibitions and offering unique learning and research opportunities for all.

I look forward to serving the museums and communities of Region 7 for this year!



SERVE OHIO
 Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



2026 LCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Doug Chamberlain
President

Julie Schrader
Vice-President

Open Seat - Treasurer

G. Bruce Norris
Assistant Treasurer

Karen Beasley
Recording Secretary

Cheryl Hawkins
Corresponding Secretary

Dan Bratka
Immediate Past-President (2026)

Brian Harmon
Trustee (2024-2026)

David Willoby
Trustee (2024-2026)

Scott Gill
Trustee (2024-2026)

Brian Baker
Trustee (2025-2027)

Erin Rudat
Trustee (2025-2027)

Bill Tipple
Trustee (2025-2027)

Marilyn Springs
Trustee (2026-2028)

Mark Butler
Trustee (2026-2028)

John McPherson
Trustee (2026-2028)

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

521 East Columbus Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

www.loganhistory.org
(937) 593-7557

History Center Hours
Wednesday–Sunday
1:00–4:00PM



APPEAL LETTER

The Logan County History Center enjoyed another productive year in 2025. We held a “Salute to Veterans” open house on April 27th. The open house featured an updated Military Room exhibit, a new Cold War exhibit in the Rotating Exhibit Room, and an exhibit on the importance of Logan County Homefront during wartime in the Business & Industry Room. We had exhibits relating to our county’s veterans and military history throughout the Museum hallways. The Orr Mansion’s ballroom held our “Gallery of Uniforms” showcasing 77 uniforms representing nearly all of our country’s wars. Between the ballroom exhibit and the exhibits throughout the Museum over 100 uniforms of local veterans were exhibited. The “Salute to Veterans” open house was meaningful to those of us who worked on the exhibits, and I think was appreciated by our county’s veterans and their families.

May 6th was a BIG day for the Historical Society/History Center with the passage of our 0.25 mill operating levy. It marked the seventh time the voters of Logan County have passed the levy. We cannot thank the people of Logan County enough for their support over the years. Through this support we have become one of the best and most respected historical museums in Ohio.

We continued our strong relations with area schools with around 700 students visiting the History Center and/or as part of our Logan County Landmark tour field trip going to some of the county’s more important and historical sites. Our Homeschool monthly class continued as well. This fall the Homeschool program expanded with the group meeting twice a month.

Our Halloween KidFest was our biggest yet. During the two-hour event we had 351 kids trick ‘or treat through the Transportation Museum and Logan County Museum with 300 adults accompanying them! The Christmas at the History Center open house was also successful, albeit a little shorter than we had planned. We had more people come to the Friday evening event than



in any of the previous three years we have been doing it. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the last day of the open house due to inclement weather and dangerously cold temperatures.

The History Center's social media presence continues to grow with over 9,270 Facebook followers. Some of our biweekly posts reach over 40,000 readers! These Facebook posts provide a great way to use our wonderful collection of photographs and historical resources in the LCHS Archives to share Logan County's remarkable history. We will have another way to promote Logan County's wonderful history this year when our new book *Historic Sketches of Logan County, Ohio* is published in late summer or early fall.

Our multi-year restoration project on the Orr Mansion's exterior continues. However, in 2025 we had to take a step back from the mansion and turn our attention to the Museum Entry columns which needed to be replaced after suffering water damage. The new columns look great! This year we will go back to the mansion restoration. We want to use materials that will look good but also need less maintenance in the decades that come. Unfortunately, this type of restoration work is specialized and beyond the regular maintenance of the historic home.

Once again, we are asking you for your support and help. Included in this newsletter is a membership and donor card; we hope you will consider one or more of the options available. We appreciate your contribution of money or time, but more importantly, we encourage you to visit the Logan County History Center. We know you will be pleased! After all, this is your museum and we want to share it with everyone. Remember your donation is tax deductible!

Thank you,

Todd McCormick
Curator/Director

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

MONTHLY \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWING

August Linda Larsen
September Mark Curtis
October Tanner Wical
November Sharon DeVault
December Kathy Iven

Welcome
NEW MEMBERS!

September Carol Edgecomb

November Heather Spangler

www.loganhhistory.org/membership-information

2026

Calendar OF Events

JANUARY

1ST & 2ND CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

8TH BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Room

12TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

FEBRUARY

9TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

14TH DAR MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Room

MARCH

9TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

12TH BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Room

14TH DAR MEETING

10:00AM AcuSport Room

APRIL

11TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

8:00AM Transportation Museum Atrium

11TH DAR MEETING

10:00AM AcuSport Room

13TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

26TH SALUTE TO AMERICA 250 OPEN HOUSE

1:00-5:00PM History Center

Christmas

AT THE HISTORY CENTER 2025

The Logan County History Center hosted our annual Christmas at the History Center Open House on December 6th, 7th, 12th and 13th. Thank you to all who participated in decorating, volunteering, performing, and attending!

TREE DECORATORS

Adult Trees

*OSU, Logan Co Alumni

*Ledley Family Farm

*Deep Roots, Renovations + Design Co.

Bellefontaine Lions Club, Don & Margaret Hilliker
YMCA, The Homestead at Logan Acres, Logan County
Art League, Logan County Visitor's Bureau, Eastern
Star, Shawnee Springs, Top of Ohio Patriots, Suicide
Prevention of Logan & Champaign County, West Liberty
Garden Club and TCN DVP/ Soteria House

Kid Trees

*Ben Logan Kindergarten

*Bellefontaine Intermediate School Third Grade

*Ben Logan First Grade

Ben Logan Second Grade, Ben Logan Third Grade, Ben
Logan Fourth Grade, Lo Co Art, Girl Scout Troop 2179,
Shooting Sports Living History 4-H.

FIRST FLOOR OF THE ORR MANSION

Decorated by

Kitchen - *Logan Piecemakers

Dining Room - *Logan County Genealogical Society

East Parlor - *Logan County Libraries

Orr Mansion Entry - AmeriCorps/Ohio

History Service Corps

West Parlor - Members of Logan Co. DAR

Music Room - American Legion Post 173

MUSICIANS THAT PERFORMED

Carol Burton, Chelsea Stierhoff, Kacey Adams,
Alicia Wilkins, Marie Wheeler, Leanna George,
Rebekah Heizer, Cindy Bleininger, St Patrick Church
Choir, Brenda Stinson Thomas, Kacey Adams, and the
Friendly Senior Center Choir.

KACEY ADAMS PIANO STUDENTS

Wellington Wickersham, Eve Clarkson
and Gabriel Clarkson

PAULA DEARDURFF PIANO STUDENTS

Crosley Stewart, Eva Wilson, Lydia Wilson, Rei Stamegna,
Kara Hartzler, Luke Cronkleton, Jacob Cronkleton,
Emily Cronkleton, Blakely Vollrath, Charlotte Burkhardt,
Griffin Burkhardt, Zoe Jervis, Tilly Jervis, Dori Jervis,
Emily Church, Benjamin Church, Gavin Wilkins,
Charlie Moreland, Rosie Moreland, Braelynn Neer,
Abram Blake, Samuel Blake, Gabriel Blake,
Annie Gallaway, Avery McCarty, Alexis Hogan,
Vivian Baker, Madelynn Baker, and Rayven Peters.

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE DECORATORS

Erin Rudat, Karen Tracey, Marilyn, Kyle, and Noah
Springs, Jaxon Clem, George & Diana Wackerman,
Jeanne Jenkins, Amy McCormick, Kit Wehe,
Tam Van Ness, Leslie Warne, Sharon Kinney,
Angie Messner, Judy Snyder, Bart & Rita Austin,
Pat Ortli, Don Corwin, Kathy Iven, Bob & Lois Stoll,
David Saxby, Linda Larsen, Kassie Larsen,
Chloe Simmons, and Beth Marshall, Chairman.

OPEN HOUSE WORKERS

Mark Curtis, Gary Haber, Doug Chamberlain,
David Saxby, Jody Nolin, Scott Gill, Cheryl Hawkins,
Erin Rudat, Pat Ortli, Imogene Van Voorhis,
Tam Van Ness, Kit Wehe, Sharon Kinney, Leslie Warne,
Jeanne Jenkins, Karen Tracey, Dwight Hansen,
Mark Butler, Dan & Sara Bratka, Tanner Wical,
Jeremy Smith, Sean Heights, Linda Larsen, Bob Mattfeld,
Bruce & Louise Norris, Kathy Iven, George & Diana
Wackerman, Julie Schrader, Ray Kramer, Bill Tipple,
Marilyn Springs, John McPherson, Chloe Simmons,
Todd & Amy McCormick, Beth Marshall
and Mary Mortimer.

COOKIE DONATIONS

Linda Larsen, George & Diana Wackerman, Sara Bratka,
Kathy Iven, Louise Norris, Kris Swisher, Julie Schrader,
Chloe Simmons, Marjorie Bixler, Beth Marshall
and Mary Ann Knecht.

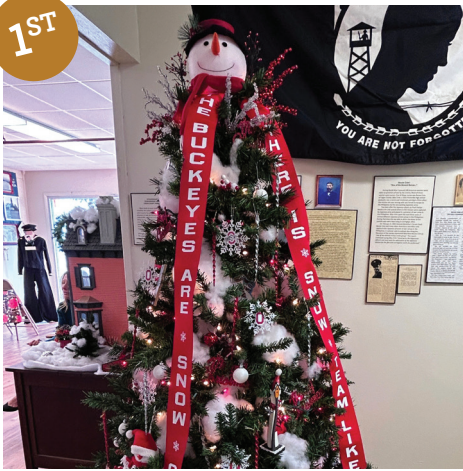
We apologize if your name was inadvertently missed.

**Due to inclement weather, we had to cancel the
Christmas open house on December 14th. Our regrets
to the following musicians who were scheduled to
perform that day.**

The Mad River Dulcimer Society, Popular Demand
Quartet, Shirley McPherson's Piano Students, Shirley
McPherson, Kacey Adams, and Brenda Stinson Thomas.

Best Adult Tree

1ST



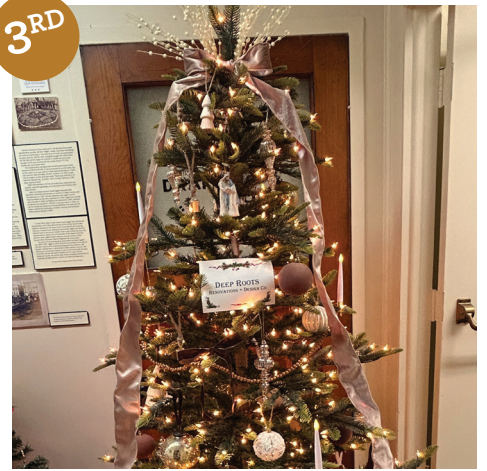
OSU, Logan Co Alumni

2ND



Ledley Family Farm

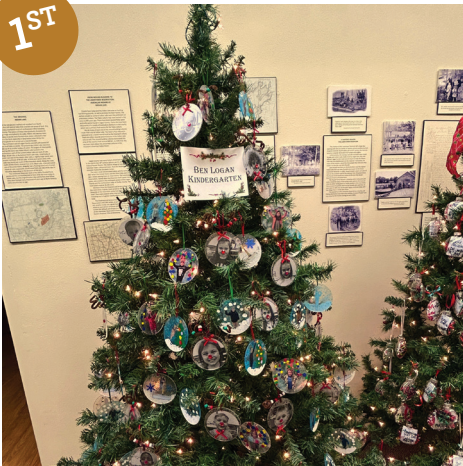
3RD



Deep Roots, Renovations + Design Co.

Best Kids Tree

1ST



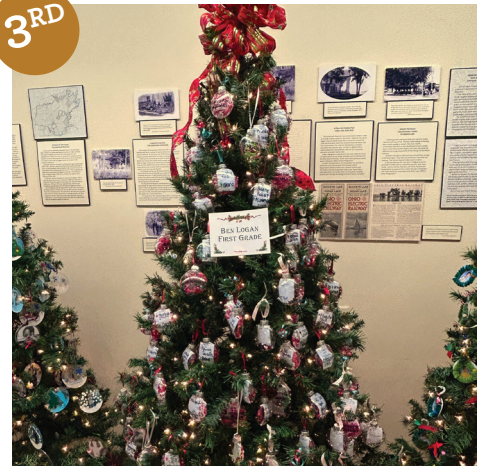
Ben Logan Kindergarten

2ND



Bellefontaine Intermediate School
Third Grade

3RD



Ben Logan First Grade

Best Room

1ST



Kitchen - Decorated by the
Logan Piecemakers

2ND



Dining Room - Decorated by Logan
County Genealogical Society

3RD



East Parlor - Decorated by Logan
County Libraries

LCHS BOARD ELECTION

The Logan County Historical Society membership elected the 2026 Board of Trustees at the society membership meeting on December 10, 2025. The following officers were elected to their first one-year terms: Doug Chamberlain (President) and Julie Schrader (Vice-President). Bruce Norris (Asst. Treasurer), Karen Beasley (Recording Secretary), and Cheryl Hawkins (Corresponding Secretary) were all re-elected to their respective positions. Marilyn Springs and Mark Butler were re-elected to serve their second three-year terms (2026-2028). John McPherson was elected as the third trustee for the 2026-2028 term and will be replacing Julie. Dan Bratka will serve as Immediate Past-President in 2026. We would like to thank Dan for his leadership as president over the last three years. We would also like to thank Abby Wolf for her service and guidance as LCHS treasurer for the last three years. The treasurer position will be filled in the near future. Thank you, Dan and Abby!

Save the Date A SALUTE TO AMERICA 250

The Logan County History Center will celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary with this year's spring open house "Salute to America 250" on Sunday, April 26, 2026, from 1:00-5:00PM.

There will be exhibits throughout the History Center illustrating how our Logan County history reflects American history and how Logan County events, businesses/industries, and people have left indelible marks on our country's history. The exhibits will stretch from Logan County's rich American Indian history to our role as booming railroad town to Olympians who called our area home. Many of the exhibits will remain up throughout 2026.

You can also follow us on our Facebook page and check our website www.loganhistory.org for updates and previews of the exhibits and stories that will be featured in "A Salute to America 250" over the next few weeks and months.

THE LOGAN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Logan County Genealogical Society's library will be closed part of the winter season for in-person patrons. The Genealogy Library will be closed from December 22, 2025, to March 1, 2026, and re-open on Sunday, March 1, 2026. The LCGS board has made this decision due in part to Ohio's unpredictable winter weather.

Our volunteers will check incoming emails regularly as well as the phone's answering machine, as weather permits. Be sure to leave your name, phone number, and/or email address and we will contact you as soon as possible. We are still committed to helping you with your genealogy research but feel this action is in the best interest of all involved.

We look forward to seeing you again in March!

Deb Allison, LCGS President

Phone: (937) 593-7811 | Email: logangs2@aol.com

LOGAN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

521 East Columbus Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

www.loganhistory.org
(937) 593-7557

History Center Hours
Wednesday–Sunday
1:00–4:00PM

Office Hours
Monday–Friday
8:00AM–5:00PM

historycenter@loganhistory.org
tmccormick@loganhistory.org

2026 LCHC STAFF

Todd McCormick
Curator/Director
tmccormick@loganhistory.org

Mary Mortimer
Administrative Assistant
Social Media/Website
mmortimer@loganhistory.org

Beth Marshall
Assistant Curator/Archivist
bmarshall@loganhistory.org

Matt & Joe Young
Custodians

Eric Adelsberger
Bookkeeper

Tim McPherson
Caretaker
dtimmcperson@gmail.com

Thank
You!

AUGUST 12TH, 2025 – DECEMBER 19TH, 2025

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Thank You!

Ann E. Beck

Misc. newspaper articles about the Beck family
law careers/Bellefontaine Municipal Court

Don & Susan Corwin

Holland Theatre/Windmill Productions programs

Nancy Decker

Belle Center High School class composite
ca. 1910, 1950s Ladies clothing

Shawndel Wilson

Liberty Gathering Place coffee mug with West Liberty
advertisements, pencils from local businesses

Sally Hubbell

Painting of the Shawan/Smithers Farm by Marge Shawan

Tam VanNess

Cookbooks by local organizations and churches, l
ocal car show awards

Roger Pugh

U.S.A.F. garment bag of Thomas G. Pugh
of West Mansfield

Alicia Wilkins

Various hand tools, Champaign National Bank
(WL) deposit bag

City of Bellefontaine

Pipe detector

Mac Smith

Badges, pins, tickets, and insulated cooler from the
1960 Democratic National Convention that he and his
father J. Ewing Smith (alternate delegate) attended,
1940s arithmetic teaching aid, DeGraff Journal
newspapers from 1936 & 1937.

Jayne Smith

BHS music, drama, & sports programs, student
photos from mid to late 1940s, Y-Teens programs,
local business ephemera

John Adams

Honda of America magazines and newspaper articles,
commemorative pins from Honda Milestones

Alice Ann Pruett

Scrapbooks with miscellaneous local information

Betsy Forsythe Shoffstall

Various historical articles, Washington Local
High School Class of 1939 reunion photo

David Doss

1921 Uncle Sam/Frazer's Drug Store postcard

Robin Aldredge

Mark Twain Excursion Boat photos, postcards, tickets,
etc. (grandfather owned and operated the Mark Twain
at Indian Lake), Indian Lake booklets and guides Beth
Marshall – Father's WWII Army Air Corps uniform belts
(tan and green)

Donna Jolliff

East Liberty/Perry-Zane/Benjamin Logan Alumni reunion
registers, class photos (scans), obituaries, etc.

BHS Class of 1968

BHS Class of 1968 oversized class composite

Art Mortimore Family

Logan County High Schools Basketball program (1928),
Logan County maps

Alan Galvez

BHS Class of 1965 oversized class composite

Robin Zupp

Digitized photo albums/scrapbooks of the Angels of Ohio
Drum & Bugle Corps 1964-1969

Kay Marquis in Memory of Tom Marquis & Nick Johnson

7" reel tape recordings various local & national events,
Satan's Angels plumes (Items belonged to Nick Johnson
then Tom Marquis)

Brad Wilkins

Railroad timebooks, manuals, switch keys

Elbe V. Yoder Grandchildren

Columbus Dispatch Magazine article on Ohio Historical
Society storage warehouse with photo of the Elbe Yoder's
West Liberty RFD Route 2 Mail Buggy (now in LCHC
collections), Stone knife blades/projectile points found in
West Liberty area

Chuck & Diana Gamble

Dr. William Jackson (b. in Gretna) medical instrument kit
and Sphygmomanometer

In Memory of Jeanne Huffman

Collection of Hopewell Dairy milk bottles

Jane Lay

Henry M. Cline's handwritten speech/memoir about his
experiences as a prisoner of war in Andersonville and other
Civil War prisoners of war camps. The speech was later
published in the "Logan County Index" newspaper as a
40-part series. In the early 2000s CHS & LCGS turned
into it a book entitled "Life in Rebel Prisons" that we
sell in the gift shop.

Phyllis Burkhammer

U.S. Army uniform worn by Willie I. Burkhammer,
Army medals

Kathleen Robinson

Early 20th century children's books, boxset of well-known
novels written/printed in shorthand.

Karen Beasley

St. Patrick Church and St. Mary of Woods Church booklets

Andrell Roberts

Sloan's Liniment bottle

Janice Miller

Old hymnal "Songs of Hope"

Jane Madden

"Snack-Time Symphony" cookbook sponsored by the
Quincy Band Boosters

PLEASE CONSIDER ONE OF OUR GIVING LEVELS:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100–\$499 | Isaac Zane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500–\$999 | Myeerah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000–\$4,999 | William Orr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000–\$9,999 | Phebe Haines Sharp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000–\$24,999 | Dr. Earl Sloan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 & UP | Simon Kenton |

MEMBERSHIP:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (55 yrs.+) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple (55 yrs.+) | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Lifetime | \$300.00 |

Donations can be made using
PayPal or credit card online by
visiting our website at:

www.loganhistory.org

Your donation is tax deductible.

All donations of \$100.00 or more
includes a yearly membership.



SCAN TO DONATE
OR BECOME A
MEMBER ONLINE

I am enclosing: \$ _____

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Card

(Make checks payable to Logan County History Center)

Donations of \$500 and above will go towards the
Pillars of History Campaign unless otherwise noted.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State / ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____

Preferred Email Address _____

Master Card Visa Discover AmEx

Card Number _____

Expires _____ CID# _____

For Master Card, Visa, or Discover, the CID# is the last three digits
on the back of your card next to your signature.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

521 East Columbus Avenue
Bellefontaine, OH 43311