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A SALUTE TO AMERICA 250

The Logan County History Center will celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary with this year's spring open house "A Salute to America 250" on Sunday, April 26th, 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 a booming railroad town to Olympians who called our area home. Many of the exhibits will remain up throughout 2026.

The Madriver Dulcimer Society will be performing in the Transportation Museum Atrium beginning at 1:00PM. The Logan Piecemakers will have displays of patriotic and Americana items throughout the Orr Mansion. Visitors will be able to try hand quilting with the members of the Piecemakers. The group will also be selling tickets for the patriotic quilt they are raffling off this year in celebration of America 250.

There will be free refreshments served in the Presidents' Room. If you would like to donate cookies for the open house, please contact the office at 937-593-7557 or by email at historycenter@loganhistory.org.

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* leading up to the open house.



Don Stinson of Bellefontaine became one of the most renowned band organ makers in the world. Mr. Stinson's band organs can be found from the United States to Malaysia and Mexico to Japan. Mr. Stinson loaned the History Center this organ. The America 250-Ohio Commission selected the organ to be part of its "Ohio Creativity Trail" (Carousel Art theme).



The Mills Brothers were born in Piqua, Ohio but moved to Bellefontaine during their teenage years. The Mills Brothers broke racial barriers with their popularity, and their memorable sound still influences musicians today. LoCo Art's 2022 Mills Brothers mural (exterior wall at 209 S. Main St.) is part of the America 250-Ohio's "Murals Across Ohio" program.



This 1953 battery-powered railroad track car was used in the New York Central Roundhouse railyards in Bellefontaine. The Bellefontaine Roundhouse (first Big Four then New York Central) was one of the largest railroad repair centers in the U.S. and helped make Bellefontaine an important railroad town from the 1890s to the 1960s. The Logan County Transportation Museum was chosen to be part of the America 250-Ohio Commission's "Transportation Trail."

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CURATOR'S CORNER

As you have probably heard or already know; or if you have any subtraction skills or an interest in history, the United States is celebrating its semiquincentennial or in simpler terms the 250th anniversary this year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America 250 is being celebrated at all levels across the country. A national America 250 Commission was established during President Trump's first administration. That commission then asked the states to form their own America 250 commissions, and then many of the states, including Ohio, invited counties and communities to form a committee to encourage local events and programs to celebrate America 250.

On June 4, 2024, the Logan County Commissioners passed a resolution officially forming the America 250-Logan County Committee and asked me to chair the committee along with Commissioner Antram. The committee has met regularly over the last couple of years. Early on, the committee made the decision that it would not be in charge of planning and operating America 250 events throughout Logan County. Instead, we felt our main purpose was to promote America 250 to our townships, villages, organizations, etc. to encourage them to add an America 250 theme to their existing events or if they were inclined to come up with a new event or project celebrating America 250. Along those lines, committee members have spoken at the Logan County township trustees and the mayors' association about incorporating America 250 into their township or village celebrations or other projects or programs.

One event the America 250-Logan County Committee decided that they would help organize is an America 250-Logan County Parade. The committee has approached the Bellefontaine Downtown Partnership to help with the parade since they have the experience and knowledge of the ins and outs of parades with their annual Hometown Christmas Parade. The America 250-Logan County Parade will be on Sunday, September 20th. Why a September date for the parade? We knew it was vital to have area high school marching bands to participate in the parade and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to have the bands march in a July 4th parade. We also did not want to intrude on the traditional July 4th events throughout Logan County. We hope to see you on September 20th!

The America 250-Logan County committee is also encouraging the townships/villages to participate in America 250-Ohio Commission's theme for July which is "Ohio Gathers: Statewide Homecomings & Picnics." Again, this may be part of a long-standing Fourth of July event in a village or a new one for America 250.

The Logan County History Center will be celebrating America 250 throughout the year. In this newsletter you can read about our April 26th "Salute to America 250-Logan County" open house and a couple of programs happening over the next few months. I also urge you to keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming events, projects, and programs as Logan County communities, organizations, and businesses celebrate America 250!

Thank you,

Todd McCormick

Curator/Director

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



BOB NOTESTINE

Bob Notestine, the last surviving charter member of the Logan County Historical Society, passed away in March. Bob was a past trustee on the LCHS board and a long-time docent. Bob was also a fountain of Logan County history knowledge as anyone who knew Bob can attest. We also lost another long-time docent with the recent passing of Bob Easterday. Both Bobs will be greatly missed.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

January

Janet Murphy
Sarah Warren

February

Natasha Kennedy

[www.loganhistory.org/
membership-information](http://www.loganhistory.org/membership-information)

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

MONTHLY \$20
GIFT CERTIFICATE
DRAWING

January

John McPherson

February
Judy Snyder

2026

Calendar OF Events

APRIL

11TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

8:00AM Transportation
Museum Atrium

11TH DAR MEETING

10:00AM AcuSport Room

13TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

15TH DAN BRATKA PROGRAM

7:00PM AcuSport Room

26TH SALUTE TO AMERICA 250 OPEN HOUSE

1:00-5:00PM History Center

MAY

6TH DAR MEETING

6:30PM AcuSport Room

11TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

14TH BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

7:00PM AcuSport Room

25TH CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE

6TH PIECEMAKERS WORKSHOP

8:00AM Transportation
Museum Atrium

8TH PIECEMAKERS MEETING

7:00PM Presidents' Room

10TH GREG SHIPLEY PROGRAM

6:30PM Transportation
Museum Atrium

13TH DAR LUNCHEON

11:00AM Presidents' Room

LOGAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Before 1936, only one in five rural households in Logan County had access to electricity. Residents near towns could sometimes connect to existing lines, but investor-owned utilities were generally unwilling to expand into rural areas due to low population density and financial concerns during the Depression. This changed after President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification program in 1935, sparking rapid interest in bringing electricity to rural communities.

Local organizers circulated petitions to assess interest and found that approximately 85% of the county's farms

were owner-occupied, with fewer than 13% operated by tenants. In Monroe Township, petitions were distributed by E.G. Denmead, Ed Duckworth, Samuel Lovett, Ralph Wade, C.C. Prall, and Melvin Sidesinger. The proposed southeastern Logan County electric line extended roughly 21 miles from Ludlow Road south to Route 287, then east past Smith Corners and the Charles Prall farm to Pickerelltown, and back past Monroe School and the State bridge.

Following community meetings, local residents formed the Logan County Cooperative Power & Light Association



Logan County Electric Cooperative office at 1587 Co. Rd 32 N. Photo courtesy of Logan County Electric Cooperative.



Employees of Logan County Power & Light pictured in the early 1950s.



Logan County Power & Light was located at 1015 S. Detroit St. in Bellefontaine until 1985.

on December 14, 1935, with articles of incorporation signed two days later. The organization's mission was to provide affordable electric service to rural Ohio.

On January 4, 1936, the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington D.C. approved a \$225,000 loan to build 215 miles of distribution lines serving more than 860 farms. By January 10, Association President E.G. Denmead announced progress toward the loan requirements: rate schedules had been approved, headquarters were established on Opera Street, and Betty Dow had been appointed secretary. The remaining task was securing rights-of-way for the erection of transmission lines. Electricity was to be purchased from the Bellefontaine municipal power plant. Rates included a \$3 minimum for the first 40 kWh, six cents per kWh for the next 30 kWh, and three cents per kWh for usage above 70 kWh. Commercial rates were not established at that time.

By June 1936, road lines on Ludlow Road and along the Bloomfield Township line had been staked. Approximately 1,000 poles were ordered as part of the first \$45,000 worth of materials, and construction labor was sourced through the National Re-employment Service in Bellefontaine. Plans called for employing 35-40 workers once full construction began.

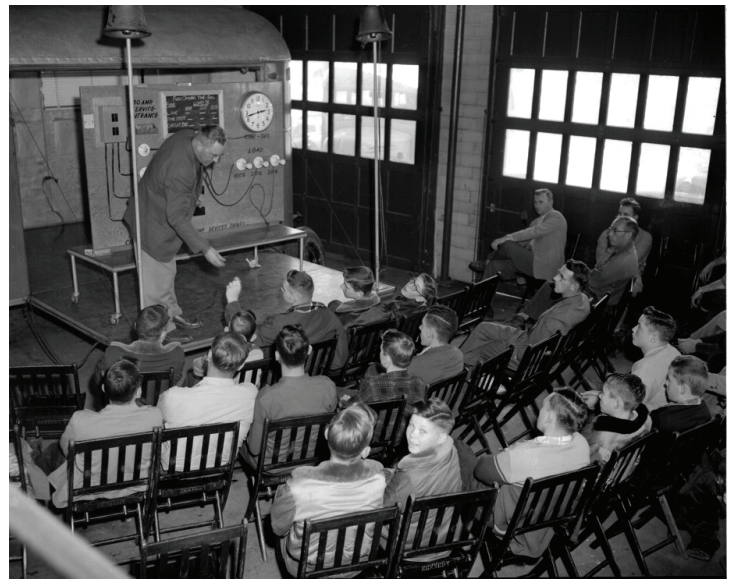
Electric service was first activated on October 21, 1936, for 50 members along Ludlow Road. The first recipients were Fannie and Mollie Yoder. Among the 860 original members, major motivations for electrification included powering washing machines (655 members), radios (608), well pumps (544), refrigerators (231), and equipment motors (98).

The Cooperative's first office opened at 135 Opera Street in Bellefontaine, later moving to 1015 S. Detroit Street before relocating to the current facility at 1587 County Road 32 North in 1985.

In 1968, the Cooperative joined other Ohio rural electric cooperatives to form Buckeye Power, Inc., a generation cooperative in Brilliant, Ohio. Its first 615-MW coal-fired generator, Cardinal Station, was built to serve cooperative members statewide, with a second unit added as demand grew. In 2002, Buckeye Power added a 510-MW plant with three gas or oil-fired combustion turbines.

Each year the Cooperative distributes \$20,000 annually to the community through its Operation Round Up (ORU) program, funded by members voluntarily rounding their bills to the next dollar. Additional community efforts include member scholarships, science fair judging, energy-efficiency education, electrical-safety programs, support for the Top of Ohio Agriculture field trip, and participation in the 5K Run to Educate.

Logan County Electric Cooperative remains a community-driven utility dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to more than 5,000 homes, farms, schools, and businesses.



Logan County Electric Cooperative employee teaching students about electricity in the 1950s.



Logan County Electric Cooperative truck. Photo courtesy of Logan County Electric Cooperative.

DAN BRATKA PROGRAM

April 15th, 2026 7:00–8:30pm

Acusport Meeting Room in the Transportation Museum

Dan Bratka, Past President of the Logan County Historical Society, had the Honor and Privilege of serving in the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from 1973 through 1976. Along with his other duties in the Honor Guard, he served as the Air Force member of the White House Color Team from late 1975 through the Bicentennial Year of 1976. During that time, he attended 10 State Dinners to Honor Visiting Foreign Heads of State including, Emperor Hiro Hito of Japan, his first visit to the US, and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain. Dan will give a presentation of his White House Color days to Honor the 250th Anniversary of the United States.



GREG SHIPLEY PROGRAM

June 10th, 2026 6:30–8:00pm

Transportation Museum Atrium

Investigating Early Military Related Sites in Western Ohio

Long before Ohio entered into the union in 1803, many frontier forts had been built and numerous military activities had already transpired, in what was a part of the Old Northwest Territory, back then. Even after Ohio had become a state, conflicts with Great Britain and the Native American tribes brought about several more years of military activities and related turmoil in the western part of our state.

This PowerPoint presentation will allow program participants to see British army buttons found on a Logan County site, that are from the same units that had fought at Bunker Hill and a pewter “USA” button from a coat that had been worn by one of General Washington’s Continental Army troops.

During the summer of 2021, Mr Shipley’s group of amateur archaeologists located where one of the wooden stockade walls had been built at one of the outposts that was constructed by General Mad Anthony” Wayne’s troops, in October 1795. This program includes images and explanations about thousands of 1790s Wayne’s Legion and War of 1812 period artifact finds and about the military site locations where they were recovered.

Another discussion subject will be “Why have so many Civil War buttons and military belt buckles been found scattered across our part of the state, when no large battles connected to the “War between the States” had occurred in Ohio?” If you are interested in military history, you should enjoy this presentation.

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

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2026 LCHC STAFF

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You!

JANUARY 1ST, 2026 – MARCH 23RD, 2026

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Thank You!

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F.N. Johnson Annual Reports 1951 & 1952, Minnie's Place matchbook (Lakeview)

John Adams

Honda of America magazines, newsletters, etc., miscellaneous merchandise tins and containers

Linda Houchin in memory of Don

Framed photo of the Automobile Club of Logan County

Elaine DeMarsh

Yale's Indian Lake Guide

Daniel W. Floss

BHS Intramural pendant

Don & Susan Corwin

Eastern Star programs & papers, Roberts' family documents

Peggy Thompson

Cross-Stitch wall hanging by Frances (Pinkie) Thompson

Bruce & Louise Norris

1950s-60s hairnet

Mick Lile

1929 Bellefontaine Hi Point Baseball team photo

Mark & Cindy Allan in Honor of Ned Keener

1962 souvenir piece of the First Concrete Street

Dan W. Bratka

Certificate from Governor Kasich commissioning duly elected Dan W. Bratka to Judge of Common Pleas Domestic Relations, Juvenile & Probate Division, December 21, 2016

Pat Ortli

Reference books for miscellaneous historical research

Susan Muglich

1843 letter Glover-Haines, East Liberty & Quincy school grade cards

Shawndel Wilson

Ohio Grange certificates awarded to J.V. & Bertha Jenkins of Bellefontaine

Terry Voss

1864 plat map of Logan County that hung in the Courthouse

Brian & Mary Davis/Kandy Shroyer Wright

1931 "The Logannaire" program for 1931 Logan County High School basketball tournament

Toni & Erin Schrader

Robert C. Shrader's Japanese souvenir bomber jacket, souvenir pillowcase, souvenir army cap from his time in the Army (1950s)

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