



CLINTONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2025 Newsletter

Mary Rodgers: A Tribute

Mary Rodgers has been everything to the Clintonville Historical Society. While serving ably as its president, she has also been a community educator and project manager whose deep knowledge of its history and love for the place has influenced and informed residents in the larger Columbus community as well as those in Clintonville.

Mary has lived in Columbus her entire life. She grew up in the University District and later in the Knolls. Attending Ohio Dominican, Mary majored in history and social science with a minor in accounting. After college her first home in 1988 was on Jeffrey. Mary and her husband Paul settled first in the Knolls but in 2002 moved to North Broadway to live in a beautiful 1937 federal style home, similar in style to the Clintonville Theater.

It was this location that brought Mary into the historical community in Clintonville. The homeowners on North Broadway became interested in having their street placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and they asked Mary, who had served as a volunteer with Columbus Landmarks, to facilitate this process. This was a natural role for Mary to play as her special focus in the study of history was the architecture of the neighborhoods of Columbus and the quirky details of the individuals who lived in them. She also had contacts within the Columbus historical community and was able to introduce her neighbors to Nancy Ritchie and Jeff Darby, two well known local historians who were experts on Columbus neighborhoods.

Mary then became involved in the Clintonville Historical Society where she expanded her role as a community educator. She is a gifted speaker and has given presentations on Clintonville history to many community groups as well as to CHS members on bus and walking tours. In these she showcased Clintonville's different architectural styles, most recently the Scenic Drive homes designed by E. A. Poling. She has also organized booths on the Clintonville Historical Society at local events and facilitated the publication of coloring books featuring local historic buildings

with drawings by Sandy Trinter. She worked with the artist Danielle Poling on the creation of the murals based on Native American motifs that appear on the Cooke Road underpass. Additionally, Mary has served as an advocate for historic structures and provided background about them to aid decision-making by the Clintonville Area Commission.

Thanks to Mary, Clintonville history is available to everyone in the community. She has researched, written, and arranged for the production and installation of the historic markers around Clintonville as well as the four memorials on West North Broadway that commemorate the soldiers lost in the WW II and Vietnam wars, Clintonville's role in the Underground Railroad, and the Clintonville Theater.

Mary's organizational skills were invaluable as she raised funds for these projects. She also took in hand the consolidation and ordering of historical materials that had been located in various locations around the community by finding a central location for an archive in St. James Episcopal Church. She was given a small storage space which first required her to clean it out, rip up the carpeting, and build shelving. In doing so, Mary created a rich resource for future study. Finally, at her own business, Moxies, on High Street, Mary organized lovely dinners after which she quizzed the group about Clintonville history as entertainment. At other meetings she presented well organized material on local figures such as George Moore who built solid red brick ranches from the 1950's on across Clintonville. Mary also brought in fascinating speakers on a variety of subjects, for example, Mathias Armbuster who painted and then distributed theatrical scenery for opera houses across the country and the Native American Bill Moose, a member of the Wyandotte Nation, who had a small house in Clintonville.

Mary has been a visionary leader of the local historical community, believing that Clintonville has been a "time capsule of Columbus" in that it has reflected the "conversion of farmland into community" and the establishment of the middle class in the Midwest. We are lucky to have had Mary Rodgers as our leader, researcher, spokesperson, teacher, and friend. Thank you, Mary!

Clintonville Historical Society

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Board Profile: Jeffrey Carter

Jeffrey Carter, President of the Clintonville Historical Society, was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio, the oldest legal settlement in the state. Jeff earned a BA in history at Ohio State University. He has lived in Clintonville since 1974 with residences on Crestview, Richards, and Breevort. His career was with the Ohio Department of Taxation, where he served as a Corporate Audit Resolution Agent. His special interest in history is American Foreign Policy.

A Clintonville Memory from Nora Huber



My first memory of Clintonville is visiting my grandparents' home at 110 Brevoort. They bought the house just after WW II for \$5,000. I was 5 or 6 years old and was allowed to run up to the intersection of Brevoort and Torrence—where they "X." My aunt took me downtown to Lazarus, and I truly have never been more enchanted. I loved visiting Clintonville. Another time my uncle took my sister and me to the Olympic Pool—here again, I was awed. I thought this city and our community of Clintonville was heaven. I still do!

Upcoming 2026 Events

(Specific times and locations to be emailed later.)

February 14th

Valentine's Day Gathering

March 7th

History Day at the Whetstone Library

June 9th

Presentation on Brad Schwartz's Home Built in 1872

July 18th

250th Year Celebration of the Declaration of Independence

October 20th

Annual Meeting and Danielle Poling Talk about the Cooke Road Underpass Mural

Steve Cotter has kindly sponsored
the mailing of this newsletter.



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Clintonville Historical Society Projects

100-Year-Old Home Plaques

By Libby Wetherholt

Thomas Bull purchased the first portion of land in Clintonville in 1813, three years before Columbus was named Ohio's capital. Clintonville's post office was established in 1847. In the intervening years settlers and new residents continued to find Clintonville a great place to build a life.

Research from the Franklin County Auditor's files shows that there are nearly 3,000 houses in Clintonville that are older than 100 years old—with more reaching that milestone every year. The Clintonville Historical

Society thinks it's time for the residents to show their pride in their older homes by placing a beautiful plaque near or on their homes. Bexley, Upper Arlington, and German Village all have programs of this type. We are in the early stages of planning for the recognition of these homes. We will be contacting owners of homes that qualify and would appreciate hearing about any interest in such a program or in providing financial support for this project.

Memory Lane Sites on West North Broadway

The four memorials on West North Broadway began with the WW II stone that was Mary Rodgers' first public service project in Clintonville. This memorial and others now need to be updated and improved. Work has begun to remove some of the original plantings around the memorials as they had gotten so tall that it was impossible to see the memorials. To insure improved visibility, a small patio will be installed at the base of each memorial made of the bricks that were the original paving material on North Broadway. The CHS is working to acquire the funds to accomplish this task and would greatly appreciate any donations for this purpose, perhaps as a way to thank Mary for all of her hard work over the years.



Learn about local history and support local projects.
Join the Clintonville Historical Society Today!

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Membership options:

_____ Individual \$30
_____ Household \$50
_____ Lifetime \$500
_____ Sponsor/Corporate/Business \$100

Projects in need of your support:

100-year House Plaques \$ _____
Maintenance of Memorial Sites \$ _____
General Donation \$ _____

Please cut off this form and return it with your check to The Clintonville Historical Society to P.O. Box 14315, Columbus, OH 43214. CHS is a qualified 501c3 organization for tax purposes.