

GREEN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization)



Heritage News

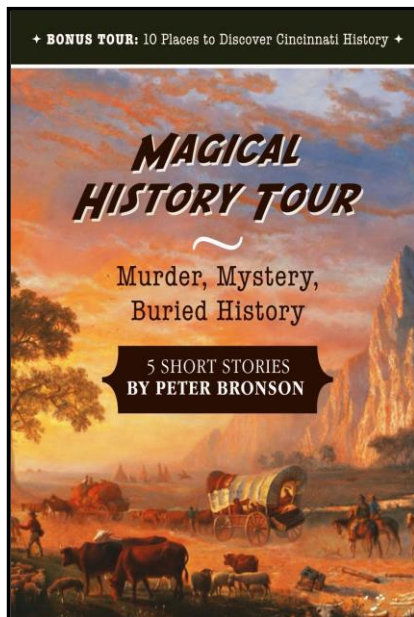
May 2026

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Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary in 2026.

May 19 –Peter Bronson – *Magical History Tour*



Peter Bronson's latest book, *Magical History Tour*, is all about five short stories of Murder, Mystery, and Buried History in Cincinnati history.

The stories include graver robbers who stole the body of President William Henry Harrison's son from his North Bend grave, the first woman executed in Ohio's electric chair who was a serial killer in Over-the-Rhine, two young women who died in a Cincinnati hotel in 1877 after being banished from Whitewater Shaker Village near Harrison, Ohio, and two more mystery stories. The book also includes a "bonus tour" that includes 10 places you can still visit today and discover more Cincinnati history.

Join us and be sure to bring a friend (or three!) to hear about Peter Bronson's *Magical History Tour*. He will have this book and others he has written available to purchase.

Time: 7:00 pm Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Place: Nathanael Greene Lodge (6394 Wesselman Rd.)

From Our March Meeting –



Joe Flickinger traced the evolution of law enforcement in Green Township. The program included many photos of the earliest days of the Green Township Police Department from the collection of Art Pfaff, Green Township's first Police Chief (see his photo left).

Officer Brandon Jones also displayed his award winning Green Township Constabel Car – a restored 1969 Chevy Biscayne .

2026 MEETING DATES

May 19 (Magical History Tour – Peter Bronson)

July 21 (Picnic)

September 15 (Famous and Infamous Green Twp Characters)

November 17 (Ohio Aviators and Astronauts – Jim Delaney)

Coming in July – Our Annual Picnic – IMPORTANT – at the May meeting we will have sign up sheet for dishes to bring to the July picnic. If you cannot attend the May meeting and sign up, contact **Marsha Hon at 513-574-3151 after the May 19 meeting** to select a dish to bring.

Dues Renewal



Thanks to the many members who have already paid their 2026 dues. Dues are \$15 for the year. Simply send your dues to the address on the enclosed DUES RENEWAL FORM or pay them at the May meeting. There is no dues form for those who have already paid. If you do not pay, we will remove you from our membership list.

Please Renew – we do not want to lose you as a member! You will be the first to hear all the new museum news.

Museum Update

By Joe Flickinger



Great News!

We are happy to report that we have received two grants from two foundations, the Unnewehr and the Edelwiess Foundations. The funds will cover the cost of display cases, display tables, and UV film for the windows. We cannot thank them enough for believing in our vision of a museum in the Diehl-Unnewehr House. Once the cases and materials are

delivered and assembled, we can begin the process of preparing our exhibits and move closer to the opening the museum to the public.

You can always donate money in memory of a relative or friend or a general donation to the museum. We still need to purchase a laptop as well as several more storage containers and bookshelves for our artifacts. Donations to our organization, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible.

We are currently in search of pre-European settlement objects for our displays. Do you have arrowheads or other Native American objects found in Green Township? Would you be willing to donate them for a permanent display in our museum? Let us know at a meeting or send us an email at greentwphistory@gmail.com with a picture and/or description where it was found. So far we only have one arrowhead in our archives. Let us know!

A College in Green Township ?



.With the success of the Miami Red Hawks football team this past year, you might be interested to know that Miami University *should have been* right here in Green Township. What’s that all about?

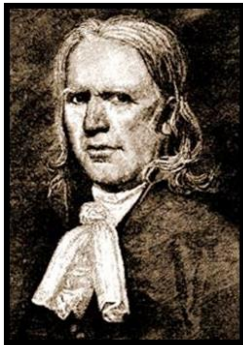


Green Township University

Imagine you are driving along North Bend Rd. in Monfort Heights or Bridgetown Road in Mack or Race Rd. in Bridgetown and you approach the entrance to the campus of “Green Township University.” That did not happen. Instead there is Miami University, **not** in Green Township. It’s in Oxford, Ohio in Butler County!

If John Cleves Symmes had his way, Miami University would be located right here in Green Township. In fact one of his early maps shows our township marked “Reserved for College.” What was this all about?

Ohio was part of the Northwest Territory whose land was measured or surveyed into a grid pattern of squares. The basic unit of measure was a square, 6 miles long on each side. It was called a *township*. Note these *surveyed townships* were not the same as our governmental or *civil townships*, which could be larger or smaller or the same size as the 36 square mile surveyed township. Green Township, our civil township, is the same size and location as the original surveyed township. It was identified as the Township 2 in the second layer or fractional range of townships north of the Ohio River in the Symmes Purchase.



As part of his agreement with Congress to acquire the land between the Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers known as the Symmes Purchase or Miami Purchase, Symmes agreed to set aside one entire surveyed township for the purposes of an academy or college.

← **John Cleves Symmes**

The College Township was supposed to be the entire complete township as nearly opposite the Licking River as possible. The old Millcreek Township could have been that township – the township was due east of Green Township. But a very small part of the southeast corner of the Millcreek Township was cut off by the Ohio River, so it was not an “entire” township”. So Millcreek Township was not a candidate as the College Township. Symmes then offered our township – it was an entire 36 square mile surveyed township. Remember this was before Green Township was established as a civil unit of government in 1809 – so what he offered as the College Township was “Township 2 in Fractional Range 2” of the Symmes Purchase. That is the legal description of our Green Township that you might find on your house deed even today.

Symmes must have “forgotten” that he had promised a one-half interest in our township to Elias Boudinot, one of his New Jersey land partners. Perhaps he thought he could talk Boudinot out of his one-half interest. Boudinot later won a lawsuit against Symmes who tried to back out this deal. So Green Township could **not** be the College Township for the Symmes Purchase. In fact Symmes had apparently sold pieces of land throughout all the “land between the Miami’s” and no entire township remained when Symmes was battling to settle the question with the United States and Northwest Territorial governments in the 1790s and early 1800s. Symmes must have been very “loose” in his paperwork and recordkeeping.

What about the College Township? The US, territorial and Ohio state government finally had to look outside the area of the Symmes Purchase to find the needed land. They finally settled on land in the Oxford area of Butler County – land west of the Great Miami River and Symmes Purchase territory. The college eventually became **Miami University** in 1809.

This Green Township – College Township story appears in the *1881 History of Hamilton County Ohio* by Henry A. Ford and Kate B. Ford. It was originally documented by Jacob Burnet in his *Notes on the Early Settlement of the North-Western Territory* published in 1847. Similar details of the College Township problem Symmes faced are discussed in Chapter 1 of the book *The Miami Years 1809 – 1984* by Walter Havighurst.

Charles Reemelin gave an “alternate” version for the rejection of Green Township as the College Township in an 1882 speech at the Harvest Home Fair. He said a federal government committee rejected “Greene Township because it was an undesirable locality, being **too rough for farming and too wild for uses of civilized life.**” Now that’s not a very nice way to talk about Green Township!! Reemelin’s comment is interesting, since he made a living by farming in Green Township, an area “too rough for farming.”

Note: Perhaps portions of both versions are reliable. It was detailed as early as 1847 by Jacob Burnett and Elias Boudinot did win his lawsuit against Symmes for a ½ interest in Green Township, making it impossible to be the College Township.

By the way, do you think Green Township is still “**too wild for uses of civilized life**”?

Your Ideas and Old Photos and Artifacts

If you have an idea for a newsletter article or a meeting program, please let us know at a meeting or email us at greentwp@gmail.com . Any old Green Township photos or artifacts are most welcome for our museum.

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