

We're looking for:

- Photos and stories of:
—Floods/ice shoves/snow
—1918 flu pandemic
—Polio crisis 1940s/50s
—Photos of agriculture
—Rural Townships
—Used ink cartridges

Donations:

Port Clinton High

School students have always been integral to our operations. They have moved furniture, raked lawns, and assembled newsletter mailings, including this one. They are willing and cheerful and great examples of our fine young people in this community. Thank you, Redskins!

We are donating

duplicate Revistas and other yearbooks to the Ida Rupp Public Library and the Ohio Genealogical Society for their archives.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

*President Jim Rusincovitch
Secretary Dianne Rozak
Treasurer Doug Huber
David Barth
Dottie Douglass
T. Park McRitchie
Tom Priesman
George Wight*

OTTAWA COUNTY MUSEUM

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton, OH 43452 419-732-2237

ochm@cros.net.

Open hours:

Memorial Day Until Labor Day, Tues., Wed., Thurs., noon to 3 pm

Labor Day Until Memorial Day, Wednesdays Noon to 3 pm

Or whenever you want—call Peggy Debien: 419-732-1039 (home)

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

Dear Friends, **Another membership year passed by!** A major change we have made this past year is to “lighten the load” with a cleanout and box-up of many items. Thanks to a generous donor, we have been able to rent a clean, climate-controlled storage area at West Harbor Storage in Portage Township.

Thanks to our locals’ generosity, your donations have once again outgrown our space, and we have to make room for visitors to easily see and enjoy what we have on display. We have been boxing up seasonal items, duplicates, and items that allow us to simplify our displays without losing relevance. We are gathering items again for a “yard sale” of items that do not pertain to Ottawa County, many of which were donated along with gems we want to keep.

For many months, we have been working on entering the manual account of our inventory into a digital file maintained in Past Perfect museum software. 15 years ago, Meridith Beck and Kay Eberth, two good friends, enjoyed a weekly get-together to make a manual accounting of our holdings. Meridith used to say it was the highlight of her week! They were not computer-oriented, so they did not do digital entries. But the fact was that a paper inventory was better than no inventory. We have since put their work into digital format and are now working toward an internet version. This is a long intense undertaking because though we have many, many objects, we have few, few workers. Someday, with the help of Webify, we will have our inventory online for all of you to see.

Please “like” us on our new **Facebook page—The Ottawa County Museum**. We had to change the name, so we added “The” before our name Ottawa County Museum to satisfy the Facebook gurus. Every Wednesday, I post a **What’s It? Wednesday**, and Chuck Zelms has aced them all. Hopefully, someone else will ID other strange artifacts that are pictured. **Next up**—Webify is working on a website for us. We have requested a grant from the Stensen Foundation to help us move into the 21st Century!

Peggy

The third annual Ottawa County Purple Heart Day is scheduled for Thursday, August 7. Specific details including location and time will be available in the coming weeks. If you have a Purple Heart recipient you would like to add to the Ottawa County Purple Heart registry, please contact Dave Barth, drb360@gmail.com or by calling him at 419.357.2057.



The spirit of 1776 is alive in Ottawa County as individuals from across the county plan the semiquincentennial, 250th, anniversary of the USA. A committee of 13 individuals are working with communities and organizations on events ranging from reenactments to musical performances to driving tours throughout the county. The Ottawa County AM250 committee, known as OCA-250, is looking for organizations to plan events, volunteers to assist with events and businesses and individuals to provide financial sponsorship to support these countywide events. For online information regarding OCA-250, visit Ottawa County Historical Society website: ottawacountyhistory.org/america250 ...look under the events tab for America 250. You can also contact Dave Barth, museum board member and the Ottawa County Commissioner's OCA-250 committee liaison at 419.357.2057 or email at drb360@gmail.com.

History Mystery!! This carpenter's level was donated to the museum recently without info on who H. Tebbe is/was. Does anyone know?



Here today, gone tomorrow.! Emily Kay, a recent Master's Degree graduate of BGSU in history, came to us in February as an Ohio History Corps volunteer under the auspices of the nation-wide Americorps program. In April, DOGE cut Americorps funding and we lost Emily at the end of the month. She was a great help, especially in the technical and computer areas where she set up our overhead scanner and scanned antique books that could not be placed on a regular scanner, helped us set up our Facebook site, helped us set up the web version of Past Perfect Museum Management software and also packed up artifacts to put into storage. We already miss her!