

*We are giving away
pre-1950s Revistas.
Still looking for
“newer” Revistas,
from 1950 forward.*

We are looking for:

—Anything related to Matthews Boat Company—photos, items from boats, advertising.

—Photos and items from the western end of the county.

Donations:

Richard Budd, of ND, son of former Sheriff Merlin Budd—American Bank novelty banks.

Dennis Cooley—Matthews boat model, possibly from a kit.

Diana Pulschen—old wood/metal ice skates.

Greg Munoz—antique fishing lures.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President Tom Priesman

*Vice Pres: Park
McRitchie*

Secretary: Dave Barth

Treasurer: Doug Huber

Tracy Bodi

Dottie Douglass

Ric Faris

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., 12 - 3pm
Labor Day Until Memorial Day, Wednesdays 12 - 3pm**

Or by appt.—call Peggy Debien: 419-732-1039 (home)



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Dear Friends,

Think it's been a long time since you have heard from us? **YOU WOULD BE RIGHT!** The enclosed letter from the museum board explains what we have been busy with moving into the digital age. We have updated our current software system, reconfigured our mailing lists, had nearly 20,000 photographs entered into our digital archives, and made sure our current inventory entries are as accurate as possible. Asst. Curator Kaitlin Phillips happily took over this daunting project and we are almost ready to launch it along with our new website. **A LOT OF WORK** has occupied us for months, and we are so excited to share it with you!

On the back of this newsletter, Kaitlin explains some of the work we have been doing for the USA / Ohio / Ottawa County 250th celebration. When you drive by the museum, you will see our lawn signs designating us as “History Mystery” site #13. You can find out more from brochures and maps available in the museum. There are 31 total sites throughout the county that are described online on the Shores and Islands Visitors website. Our board member Dave Barth has served on the county commissioners’ committee to identify where county veterans are buried.

At the top of this page, you will see our new museum logo. I did the drawing of the Faugha Bella, a historic sailing ship located at an Oak Harbor sawmill on the Portage River and Kaitlin edited the overall design for the logo. We wanted a nautical theme, considering our location on Lake Erie, and utilized the iconic imagery of a sailing ship from another part of the county. We have also adopted Navy blue and white for our official brand colors. (You can take the girl out of the Navy...)

We hope you will come by to see what we have been doing and how your museum has been updated!!

Peggy

Follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook: The Ottawa County Museum (Don't forget "The") Look for "What's It Wednesday" to try to identify an artifact in the museum!



A Year of Celebration

As the country continues to celebrate its 250th birthday, the museum continues to celebrate our county's heritage! In doing so, we have debuted two new exhibits highlighting Ottawa County's innovative legacy and prominent influence throughout the country! The Biro Manufacturing history exhibit highlights the invention of the meat cutter, which revolutionized meat processing for the whole country. The technology was so effective it was used in the galley of almost every US Navy ship during World War II. Biro meat cutters are now found in 38 countries around the world and such US businesses as COSTCO. Our second exhibit, *Erie Dearie*, the fishing lure that put Port Clinton on the map as the "Walleye Capital" and was a key piece of equipment in assisting one of

the lake's only all female fishing teams to victory in the 7th Pro-Am Walleye Fishing Tournament. In just two days the team of five reeled in 471 inches and won \$8500 in cash prizes!

The Ottawa County Museum is now accepting

ONLINE DONATIONS

Let's make history accessible together! You can now go online to donate or purchase a membership for The Ottawa County Museum. Your support helps us develop exhibits, expand our online content, and bring Ottawa County history to as many people as possible! We appreciate your help!

ZEFFY

Monetary Donations

SCAN ME!

Membership Sign Ups

SCAN ME!

April 2026

OHIO MOVES

This month's theme is transportation, and we are highlighting Oak Harbor's Faugha Bella! The boat's iconic outline is a symbol for Ottawa County's unique heritage.