



# OHIO ACADEMY of HISTORY NEWSLETTER

**FALL 2020**

2020 OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

## We are more than stardust

*Marsha R. Robinson, PhD, Miami University*

A tiny speck of complex stardust called the coronavirus caused us to delay the conference until next year. We know that epidemics and pandemics affected historians who advised monarchs and governments in past centuries. Some historians contributed to social media and news articles their knowledge about communities that isolated during the pandemic flu of the last century. Stay-at-home orders and lifestyle changes are not news to our profession. Nevertheless, I feel obliged to maintain an Ohio Academy of History tradition by attempting to encapsulate the sum of what my research has taught me and by delivering that nugget of knowledge in the form of a phrase to share with scholars more seasoned than me, with graduate students and new faculty, with public historians who create primary

documents and with the guardians of the archives.

We are more than stardust.

Well, there it is, to borrow a phrase from Britain's Prince Charles.

What is my proof? Stardust does not murder. Oh, asteroids and moons may collide, nebulae and black holes may erase entire solar systems where life as we do or do not know it dies in the process. None of that activity is a willful act of murder.

If humans are only stardust, then they cannot commit murder. Murder involves pain for the victim, the victim's circle of humans and for the whole human family who is deprived of the victim's brilliant, unrealized contributions. Stardust feels neither

*(continued on page 3)*

Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Conference was postponed until March 25-27, 2021. The Ohio State University will host the 2021 virtual conference. The program will remain largely the same as that created for the 2020 conference. There is limited space for new submissions. If you wish to submit a new proposal for 2021 conference please contact Marsha Robinson at [robins78@miamioh.edu](mailto:robins78@miamioh.edu). Paper sessions generally include three papers (20 minutes each) and a chair or commentator. In addition to traditional format sessions (scholarly papers with chair and commentator), the Ohio Academy welcomes non-traditional formats such as roundtables, discussion panels, or teaching-focused formats.

Proposals must include:

- a title and 150-word abstract of each paper
- a short biography, resume, or curriculum vita (one page) of each participant
- telephone numbers and e-mail and mailing addresses

Those interested in chairing or commenting on papers should contact the committee chair with their areas of expertise.

**2** Letter from the OAH President

**3** 2020 Presidential Address *(continued)*

**3** In Memoriam

**5** 2020 Award Citations

**7** Nominations for 2021 Awards

**9** Announcements

**10** Events of Interest to Historians

**11** Minutes of Meetings of the Executive Committee

**12** Financial Report

**13** Committees



The Ohio Academy of History newsletter is edited and published for the Ohio Academy of History by the Ohio History Connection.



Dear Colleagues,

In the spring, I penned to you a statement that we are all more than stardust since stardust cannot commit murder. In the six months since then, a virus continues to kill so many Americans that it now ranks between WWI and WWII as the most lethal war in U.S. history, neither of which amounts to the number of First Nations people killed in the name of Manifest Destiny.

Manifest Destiny is imaged in our textbooks in such a way that we can almost call her a child of the three Fates who seem to control our social media: the Spinner, the Allotter and the Inflexible. We can know their adopted children as spindoctors and talking heads who join their older siblings who were ministers of information and propaganda. Of course, I am taking liberties with the story much as Hesiod did.

In the last six months, the United States is on the world stage again for taking away the liberties and life of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and too many other African Americans who were sacrificed to the blood-thirsty god of white privilege, a deity who demands that we abandon the principals of the United States Constitution.

I am a person who qualifies for sacrifice to the god of white privilege.

Colleagues, how and why have we collectively valorized, or failed to sufficiently condemn, the prophets of privilege against whom our ancestors fought (Hitler, Mussolini) to the point that their cults of personality resurge?

As you prepare your lectures, ask if you are nominating me for speedier sacrifice by what you write into the minds of your students.

**Marsha Robinson**

*President*

*The Ohio Academy of History*

*October 6, 2020*



### In Memoriam

Dr. Lawrence S. Kaplan 95 years old, born on October 28, 1924, and passed away on April 10, 2020. His wife, Janice (Eyges) Kaplan, passed away on January 29, 2020. They were married for 72 years. He is survived by his two children: Deborah Kaplan and Joshua Kaplan.

He was a distinguished historian of American foreign relations, with a particular focus on the diplomacy of the early America Republic and on U.S.-European relations following World War II, especially the creation and development of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He served with the U.S.

Army Signal Corps in the Philippines, where he came under Japanese fire. Like many of his generation, he sought to understand the causes of war in order to prevent its recurrence. His undergraduate studies at Colby College were interrupted by military service, but were completed in 1947. He then obtained his M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. (1951) at Yale, where he studied under Samuel Flagg Bemis, a "founding father" of the field of American diplomatic history.

[www.forevermissed.com/lawrence-samuel-kaplan/about](http://www.forevermissed.com/lawrence-samuel-kaplan/about)

loss nor grief. Murder, loss and grief, like the mourning which begins the morning after wars as Ashoka once learned, prove that humans are more than stardust.

Historians, more than philosophers or scientists, have the sacred task of reminding the human family that we are more than stardust. In recent years we historians are facing a challenge from those who privilege the science of education above the content that we historians hoard. I say hoard on purpose. In the last forty years, far too many historians have abandoned our public role. We rewarded only those who inhabited archives and abandoned the survey classes to work only with the almost-worthy graduate student. My predecessors Lavanya Vemsani and Steve Conn made comments on this theme in their addresses. I agree, especially when I reflect on the culture of too many professional historians whom I have met from around the world, especially while I was trips to archives. We laude those who hide in archives, or who ration hoarded knowledge by trickling it only to those who can afford our hardback books and the dictionaries for our vocabulary. Some of us may even discourage those who teach the general public. Consequently, the depth of historical knowledge among political leaders and the voting public evaporates.

In our absence from public space, journalists, fiction writers, and possessors of scales, protractors and tabulators fill the void we created. We desiccate public discourse when we do not disseminate ubiquitously our findings to those whose taxes and tuition fees feed us. Those who finance our research addictions do so because they know that they and we are more than stardust. In response to our hoarding of knowledge in violation of our Platonic social contract, they are cutting our rations, taking our gilt place cards from our dining halls, and denying us more tallow and quills. It is getting cold in the global academy, as cold as outer space.

Are we ready to repent?

If we want our privileged lives to continue, and if we want our colleagues and students to continue our craft, we must return to our sacred role that is perhaps the oldest political function. We must conserve, liberate and serve the stories that separate us from animals, that make us humane, and that affirm what we all know to be true. Humans are not mere stardust.

Even into the late twentieth century, before we retreated to the archives after that heady time of the 1960s, we were advisors to monarchs and to generals. We did more than remember the intermarried royal lineages, consequent transfers of property and the dissatisfaction that fermented into skirmishes, feuds and wars that populate social media. Such things are the quantifiable detritus of politics. Historians are the conservers of emotion and the human

experience. Military strategist von Clausewitz recognized the sum of a community's public memory as the engine of the will to fight. Historians know what brought joy to the citizens in the past. Joy-filled lives are the foundation for political stability according to Kautilya's political theories. Historians also know what brought pain that lashes out and infects neighbors across a border or behind a portcullis. Glorious warfare is not the representative essence of history because there are always tears that drown its flames. Many are the times when students asked me, "Hannibal versus Genghis Khan: who wins if all weapons are equal? Shaka Zulu versus the Bruce? Julius Caesar versus Tokugawa Yoshinobu?" I tell them to measure by the number of orphans and widows.

More than once, in the U.S., U.K. and Norway, students asked me, "Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini were efficient and it's okay to admire them for that, right?" Stardust might agree. I remind the students of some of the overlooked targets of that efficiency such as Slavic Eastern Europeans, Pacifica, the Caribbean, Africa, South Asia and the Norsemen in Denmark, the Netherlands and Oslo, especially the women. Pain like theirs is not an inherent feature of stardust and only stardust would unwittingly aspire to repeat Hitler's or Tojo's or Mussolini's patterns of such efficiency. Stardust is the product of education systems where historians do not rein in the tabulators, calculators and technocrats. Historians must conserve and transmit our hoard of emotional narratives because therein exist the vital elements of humane international and domestic relations; furthermore, we must do so without consigning to morganatic ostracism in the global Academy those who transmit research findings to the general public.

When we are not in the archives, historians are the catalyst of progress and societal evolution for we shape the future by educating leaders. One can assume that we have all at some point in our careers discussed the impact on world history of professional graduate student Aristotle because he whispered dreams of India into Alexander's ears. Our undergraduates love to dash a little Santayana in their essays, hoping we will add a gold star to their grade. Some of our graduate students may tell us that General George Marshall learned that it is one thing to win the war and another to win the peace. Others might correct that by citing Kautilya, Sun Tzu, Usman dan Fodio or Túpac Inca Yupanquí. I can tell you stories of two twenty-first century kings. I met one king whose knowledge of comparative modernization history led him to take his nation from radio to high-definition television, from illiteracy to mail-order public education, and from fickle tyranny to constitutional monarchy without creating a single slum. I met the history teacher of another king whose constitutional reforms mean

*(continued on page 4)*

that high school students will no longer face torture and prison for asking for better books. I also met several of his father's tortured victims. History teachers continue to change nations as we liberate our students from ignorance of the joys and pains of historic political agendas.

We must treat every student as a future powerbroker because we know about sleepers in class who later won elections or worked their way into high political offices. The world suffers when historians retreat to our hoards in the archives. Now, historians too are suffering because too many of us retreated from the 1960s people's history movement into some aloof conceptual space where culottes are de rigueur. A generation or so later and we have a new global era of dangerous demagoguery that is partially our fault because it could only have grown in the widespread ignorance that is the wake of our retreat. Perhaps only historians in public conversations can liberate us from crystalline repetition of the almost-compulsory courses of action spawned by such demagoguery.

Four decades and a couple dozen months ago, when televisions still used glass vacuum tubes, my family listened to AM radio on a cross-country trip through the Ozark Mountains where a disc jockey announced he would play a warped old 78 rpm found in Grandma Smith's hope chest. "If you rock in your chair on the porch, you should be able to match the warbles from the record playing just fine." Four years and a couple dozen months ago as I drove a few times through fly-over America where grain silos are taller than steeples on big box churches, and libraries are nowhere to be seen, I heard the rumblings of angry innuendo delivered as incontestable fact. I thought, "At any moment, we will all be cutting down our own tall cherry trees." The talk-radio voices are right about being incontestable. Where are the historians to out-shout them? Cognizant that they are pinched by the claws of ignorance because the science of teaching leaves too little room for historical content in the training of teachers, the pained public has created new twin gods: Information and Source. Have you seen these gods? If you have not been served a huge helping of this new religion, then I am now outing you as a history hoarder. Only those in the bowels of the archives are beyond earshot of our democracy's demand that we historians return to our sacred role. People are hungry for the historical knowledge that they paid us to find. They are dismantling our academies

desk by desk, graduate program by undergraduate major, tenure-line by department. They will continue to do so until our last tallow candle sputters in the cold breeze of budget cuts. Then, and maybe before we retire, we will freeze because we stopped serving the people who feed us. We left them in the hands of purveyors of stardust's numerical sequences with their narratives that contain neither joy nor pain. When our profession disappears into the political nebula that grew in our abandoned classrooms, no one will hear the murder of History.

This essay has taken far longer to write and to read than the instant in which I first had this thought about the correlation of stardust and humanity. I was sitting in the lobby of the Gerald Ford Presidential Library during a reception that was part of the first Big History Conference. I was in a conversation with one of the founders of this promising school of history and he explained the rational, crystalline beauty of this new gospel's narrative. As he spoke, I noticed in this narrative the silence of deep space where there should have been noisy human activity. If we are only the most complex arrangements of matter, is our behavior changeable? After all, there are pyramids everywhere around the planet and not a sign of alien life forms or their blueprints to be found. If we are only complex patterns of Goldilocks moments, does human agency exist? If we are only stardust, is domestic violence wrong? To be sure, it is not deemed wrong in some places such as a few European countries where more than once I have seen it practiced on the street in midday. It is just an ordinary pattern of life so who is to blame? No one is if we are only stardust and that is why the screams of pain cannot be heard in the space of Big History. At this point I asked him, if we are only stardust, then does murder exist? The implication of a positive answer leads to the death of humans by the hundred million. We know this.

This year, I may call you and ask you to serve in some way in our Ohio Academy of History because our mission is to "promote the development and dissemination of historical knowledge among the citizens and students of Ohio". I hope you will liberate some time in order to conserve the relevance of our much-needed and sacred ancient role outside of the archive, because every human on the planet, including you, is much more than stardust.



## AWARD CITATIONS FROM SPRING 2020

# 2020 Ohio Academy of History Awards

### DISSERTATION

#### Isacar Alexander Bolaños

*The Ohio State University*

#### **“Environmental Management and the Iraqi Frontier during the Late Ottoman Period, 1831–1909”**

The Ohio Academy of History Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee, consisting of Pamela Sayre, chair, and Thomas Mach, is pleased to announce that “Environmental Management and the Iraqi Frontier during the Late Ottoman Period, 1831 - 1909” by Isacar Alexander Bolaños of The Ohio State University has been awarded the 2020 OAH Outstanding Dissertation Award. Deciding on this year’s award was more of a challenge than in recent years due to the fact that no one dissertation stood out as best. The two dissertations submitted were very different in subject and methodology, but not in quality of research and argument, and both are worthy of publication for a larger audience. The Committee would have liked make two awards this year, but that was not possible, so after much consideration, Dr. Bolaños’ dissertation was awarded the OAH Outstanding Dissertation Award for 2020. This dissertation was well-argued and proved its thesis, and put the Ottoman Empire’s eastern frontier zone securely into its historical and geographic context. A wide variety of primary sources, both Ottoman and European (in several relevant languages), including travel accounts, reports from Ottoman officials, and British representatives of the British government and the East India Company, were utilized and well-integrated into the analysis. Dr. Bolaños’ dissertation examined a number timely topics, including climate change (or climate instability), emerging new diseases (the First Cholera Pandemic), and government responses to the problems (including quarantines and control of immigration and travel, among others), all of which are relevant today. Despite a wide variety of topics, Dr. Bolaños’ dissertation remained focused on his thesis. All in all, the Committee felt that this dissertation, along with the dissertation written by Aaron Noel Pride, “Religious Ideology in Racial Protest, 1901 - 1934: The Origin of African American Neo-Abolitionist Christianity in the Religious Thought of William Monroe Trotter and in the Public Rhetoric of the Boston Guardian in the Struggle for Civil Rights in the Early Twentieth Century,” was more than worthy of the 2020 OAH Outstanding Dissertation Award. We are sorry that only one award could be given.

### DISTINGUISHED HISTORIAN

#### Paul Lockhart

*Wright State University*

This year the award goes to Wright State University history Paul Lockhart. Prof. Lockhart is an expert on Scandinavian history especially but on military history more broadly. He is the author of 7 books—most recently *Firepower: Military Technology and the Art of War in the West, 1400-1945* - numerous articles and reviews, and he has lectured widely in the country and abroad. He has been a member of the history department at Wright State since 1989 and in 2014 the University recognized the excellence of his scholarship by naming him the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor.

Due to the COVID-19-related postponement of the 2020 conference, Professor Lockhart will deliver his Distinguished Historian Address during the conference in 2021.

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

#### Scott C. Martin

*Bowling Green State University*

Scott Martin has been a member of the Ohio Academy of History since he arrived at Bowling Green in the 1990s. In that time, he has served the Academy selflessly in a number of different capacities. Of particular note among his many turns on various committees was his tireless, years-long efforts in service to the Standards Committee and his leadership as local arrangements coordinator for the 2013 OAH Conference at Bowling Green. These efforts alone should have qualified him for consideration for this award, but they are only part of what has made his service to the OAH truly distinguished. In 2015, Scott suddenly had to assume the office of President with the unexpected passing of Andrew Cayton, and then continued to serve his own term the following year. For a president to lead the organization through two consecutive conferences was unprecedented in the history of the Academy, yet Scott discharged this difficult service with remarkable equanimity. The fact that he was also serving as Chair of the BGSU History Department for a significant portion of his concurrent efforts for the Academy makes his service all the more exemplary. The committee can think of no one more deserving of receiving the OAH Distinguished Service Award for 2020 than Scott Martin.

(continued on page 6)

### PUBLICATION AWARD

#### Geoffrey Parker

*The Ohio State University*

#### Emperor: A New Life of Charles V

Geoffrey Parker, currently the Andreas Dorpalen Professor of History at The Ohio State University, adds to his long list of books and honors this massive biography of Charles V (1500-1558). Relying on a lifetime of studying early modern Europe and a prodigious command of sources, he has produced what reviewers agree will be the definitive life of this enigmatic figure for a very long time.



Professor Parker divides the work into four parts: Young Charles, Game of Thrones, ‘Ruler from the Rising to the Setting Sun,’ and Downfall.

Noting the advice of Heinrich Lutz to

focus, in a biography, on the things upon which Charles himself focused—“above all on war and preparation for war”—Parker has approached the man through three key issues: how Charles made crucial decisions, whether his policy failures stemmed from “structural faults or personal failures,” and what it was like to be Charles.

Parker is of course an expert on early modern military history—he received the Samuel Eliot Morrison award from the Society for Military History twenty years ago—and his trifold thematic approach gives the book a unity and purpose. The available documents—Charles signed more than 100,000 documents, in six languages—forced Parker to learn new languages, as had Charles. The resulting book, writes R.J.W. Evans, is a “meticulous and comprehensive account by a master of traditional biography,” most memorable for “Parker’s love of small descriptive or collaborative details.” (*New York Review of Books*, June 11, 2020). Suzannah Lipscomb, in her review in *Financial Times*, writes “seldom does one find a work of such profound scholarship delivered in such elegant and elegant prose.” (July 26, 2019). And in a dust jacket blurb, Bethany Aram calls this an “unprecedentedly thorough imperial, and, indeed, global biography,” that “marshals a breathtaking quantity of evidence, while paying meticulous attention to its quality. Brilliant.” And brilliant it is, an extraordinary biography of “an extraordinary man who achieved extraordinary things.” (533)

### TEACHING AWARD

#### Lucy Murphy

*The Ohio State University, Newark*

This year’s award is presented Dr. Lucy Murphy who teaches at The Ohio State University Newark. Dr. Murphy has been teaching for OSU for over twenty years, teaching mainly at the Newark Campus but also some courses in Columbus as well as working with graduate students. She has previously been awarded the Robert A. Barnes Award for Exemplary Teaching from the Newark Campus. She also has received the Ohio State University Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Award; and the Ohio State University College of Humanities Diversity Enhancement Award.

From her nomination letter it is apparent that Dr. Murphy is essential to the teaching mission and support to students at the Newark Campus. Prof. Murphy teaches a wide range of American history courses on Antebellum America, Native Americans, Immigration and Migration in the U.S., and Women and Gender. She also advises undergraduate history majors while also serving on graduate exam and dissertation committees. Her student comments focus on how helpful she is, how much she supports them but also pushes them to learn and think for themselves.

Many of her students have gone on to great success in graduate school and graduate students have found employment at universities all over the U.S. She is recognized by students as someone you can go to for assistance and help in all areas.

Professor Murphy has created a variety of new courses and programs. A couple of notable examples include being instrumental in developing Ohio State’s American Indian Studies Program and minor on the Columbus and Newark campuses. She still serves on the advisory committee for this program. In addition, she worked with a colleague to bring the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) minor to the Newark Campus in 2018. These types of opportunities have increased what students have available for their studies.

Professor Murphy is a dedicated and talented teacher who is devoted to constantly improving her craft and supporting our students. Dr. Murphy is an excellent recipient for this award.

**\*Note to awardees: Please contact Betsy Hedler at [oah@ohiohistory.org](mailto:oah@ohiohistory.org) with a mailing address for your award plaque.**

# Nominations for 2021 Awards

## Dissertation Award

The Ohio Academy of History invites submissions for its annual outstanding doctoral dissertation award. The dissertation must have been completed, and the doctorate awarded to the nominee, during the previous academic year (August 2019 to July 2020). Each Ph.D. granting institution in Ohio may nominate one dissertation. There is a \$250 award for the winning dissertation. An electronic copy of the dissertation, along with a nomination letter from the chair of the department or the director of graduate studies, should be sent to each member of the Dissertation Award Committee. Please include current contact information for the nominee. The deadline for submissions is **December 15, 2020**.

Pamela Sayre, Henry Ford College,  
[psayre@hfcc.edu](mailto:psayre@hfcc.edu)

Adam Hodge, Lourdes University,  
[AHodge@lourdes.edu](mailto:AHodge@lourdes.edu)

Julie Mujic, Denison University,  
[mujicj@denison.edu](mailto:mujicj@denison.edu)

## Distinguished Service Award

The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for its annual Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service Award is given "to a person or persons who have actively contributed to the Ohio Academy of History through specific achievement or through long-time distinguished service." The recipient of this award receives an honorary lifetime membership in the Ohio Academy of History. To nominate an individual, either for specific achievement or for long-time distinguished service to the Ohio Academy of History, please submit your recommendation to the committee chairperson. Deadline for nominations is **December 15, 2020**.

Chair:  
Kevin Kern, University of Akron  
[kkern@uakron.edu](mailto:kkern@uakron.edu)

## Junior Faculty Research Fund

The Ohio Academy of History invites proposals for its annual Junior Faculty Research Grant. The purpose of the grant is to help defray the costs of travel necessary for a significant scholarly project. The current grant award is \$500. The grant is not restricted to any geographic area, methodological approach, or chronological period. The Ohio Academy of History will announce the award recipient at its Spring Conference.

To be eligible, the applicant must be:

- an untenured faculty member at an Ohio college or university;
- a recipient of a Ph.D. in history within the past six years; and
- a member of the Ohio Academy of History.

To apply, please submit:

- a one-page curriculum vita;
- a one-page budget with justification for how funds will be used;
- a three-page explanation of the project's objectives, sources and methods, significance, and timetable, as well as its contribution to the larger project;
- a letter of recommendation in support.

Applications and supporting materials should be sent in PDF format to the chair of the Grant Committee by **December 15, 2020**.

Chair:  
Deborah Marinski, Ohio University  
[marinski@ohio.edu](mailto:marinski@ohio.edu)

*Please note: The successful applicant is expected to file, within eight months, a one-page report on how the funds were spent, with the report to be considered for publication in the Academy Newsletter. Acknowledgement of this Academy support should also appear in any published work that results from this research. Successful applicants are encouraged to present on their findings at subsequent Ohio Academy annual conferences.*

## Publication Award

The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for its annual Outstanding Publication Award. Scholarly monographs published by members of the Academy between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020 are eligible. Books by previous winners may be considered, although no individual may win the award more than twice. Nominees should send one copy of the book directly to each member of the Publication Award Committee and to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio Academy of History, Kevin Kern. The copy sent to the committee chair should also include a brief description of the book. Deadline for submissions is **December 15, 2020**.

Chair:  
Dr. Robert Ingram, Ohio University,  
Department of History  
Bentley Annex 452, Athens, OH 45701-2979  
[ingramr@ohio.edu](mailto:ingramr@ohio.edu)

Committee members:  
Carol Barger, Department of History,  
Central State University  
400 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce,  
Ohio 45384

Kevin Poole, Pontifical College  
Josephinum, Humanities Department  
7625 North High Street, Columbus, OH  
43235

Dr. Kevin Kern, The University of Akron,  
Department of History  
Arts and Sciences 216, Akron, Ohio 44325-  
1902  
[kkern@uakron.edu](mailto:kkern@uakron.edu)

(continued on page 8)

### Distinguished Teaching Award

The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for its annual Distinguished Teaching Award. The award recognizes faculty in mid- or late career who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to teaching and service in Ohio. The committee is cognizant of the work involved in putting forward nominations for the teaching prize, so each nomination will be kept on file and considered annually by the committee for at least three years. Please send a nomination letter with supporting evidence (in an electronic format) to the chair of the Teaching Award Committee by **January 6, 2021**.

Appropriate supporting evidence should include:

- course syllabi
- examination questions and paper assignments
- student and peer evaluations
- any other evidence of a sustained record of impact on students

Chair:

Leslie Heaphy  
Kent State University, [lheaphy@kent.edu](mailto:lheaphy@kent.edu)

Committee Members:

Megan Threlkeld  
Denison University, [threlkeldm@denison.edu](mailto:threlkeldm@denison.edu)

J. Todd Uhlman  
University of Dayton, [juhlman1@udayton.edu](mailto:juhlman1@udayton.edu)

### Public History

The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for its annual Public History Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage the dissemination of historical scholarship beyond the walls of academe. To be nominated, a public history project, publication, or program must have been accomplished within the previous two years and completed by **December 15, 2020**. All public history fields are included: exhibits, publications, audio/visual documentaries, oral histories, public programs, symposia, archival projects, and historic preservation education projects.

Nominated projects, publications, or programs must:

- demonstrate original research that adds to a greater understanding of the past,
- demonstrate creativity in organization and presentation,
- demonstrate originality or uniqueness in design and historical interpretation,
- accomplish a goal of educating or communicating with the intended audience,
- follow commonly accepted rules of evidence and logic in providing proof of statements, facts, and conclusions.

Submit nominations to the committee chair by December 15, 2020.

Chair:

Meghan Reed  
Trumbull County Historical Society  
[director@trumbullcountyhistory.org](mailto:director@trumbullcountyhistory.org)

Susan Tietz  
Ohio History Connection [stietz@ohiohistory.org](mailto:stietz@ohiohistory.org)

Marcelle Wilson  
Youngstown Historical Center, [mrwilson@ysu.edu](mailto:mrwilson@ysu.edu)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Submissions for Spring 2021 Newsletter

Have you or has someone in your department published a book or received an award? Have you or has someone been promoted? Retired? Have your students been involved in particularly interesting projects?

Please send news of your accomplishments as well as those of your colleagues and students for inclusion in the Spring 2021 newsletter.

Send all items to the newsletter editor:  
[jbednarek1@udayton.edu](mailto:jbednarek1@udayton.edu)

## Ohio History Goes Virtual

*Ohio History*, the scholarly journal published by the Kent State University Press, is now an on-line, open access publication. Publication began in 1887 under the title *The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. *Ohio History* features scholarly articles and reviews focusing on the history of Ohio and the broader Midwest. The Kent State University Press took over publication from the Ohio History Connection in 2007. The back issues from 2007 to the present can be found at <https://oaks.kent.edu/ohj>. The Ohio History Connection provides free access and a fully searchable archive for issues from 1887-2004 at <https://resources.ohiohistory.org/ohj/>. To submit article length manuscripts and books for review or if you are interested in doing reviews, please contact the editor, Dr. Donna M. DeBlasio, [dmdeblasio@ysu.edu](mailto:dmdeblasio@ysu.edu).

## Call for Nominations

### Ohio Academy of History Executive Council and Vice-President/President-Elect

**Vice-President/President-Elect:** The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for the office of Vice-President/President-Elect, to be elected at the 2021 spring meeting of the Ohio Academy of History. The preferred deadline for nominations is November 15, 2020. The service commitment is at total of 3 years (VP, Pres, Past-Pres). Nominations can be sent by email to: Amy Laurel Fluker, Youngstown State University ([alfluker@ysu.edu](mailto:alfluker@ysu.edu)) or Scott C. Martin, Bowling Green State University ([smartin@bgsu.edu](mailto:smartin@bgsu.edu))

**Executive Council:** The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for the following offices to be elected at the 2021 spring meeting of the Ohio Academy of History:

One (1) Executive Council position from a public college or university for a 3-year term beginning in April 2021 and ending in the spring of 2024.

One (1) Executive Council position from a public history professional for a term beginning in April 2021 and ending in the spring of 2022.

Preferred deadline is November 15, 2020. Nominations can be sent by email to: Amy Laurel Fluker, Youngstown State University ([alfluker@ysu.edu](mailto:alfluker@ysu.edu)) or Scott C. Martin, Bowling Green State University ([smartin@bgsu.edu](mailto:smartin@bgsu.edu))

All nominees should be members in good standing of the Ohio Academy of History. Non-members who receive nominations must be an OAH member to stand for election in the spring.

For more information on the duties and responsibilities of these offices, visit our website: [www.ohioacademyofhistory.org/officerscommittees/](http://www.ohioacademyofhistory.org/officerscommittees/)

Would you like to see your department's news in the newsletter? Email updates to Newsletter Editor Janet Bednarek at [jbednarek1@udayton.edu](mailto:jbednarek1@udayton.edu)

## EVENTS OF INTEREST TO HISTORIANS

# SILVER LINING IN A PANDEMIC

Due to COVID-19 restrictions many events that had been in person are now available virtually via zoom. Here a couple of events sponsored by the Cleveland History Center, Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University, and the League of Women Voters—Greater Cleveland that are now available virtually to people state-wide.

### The City on the Hill: Tom L. Johnson and the Mayors Influenced by Henry George

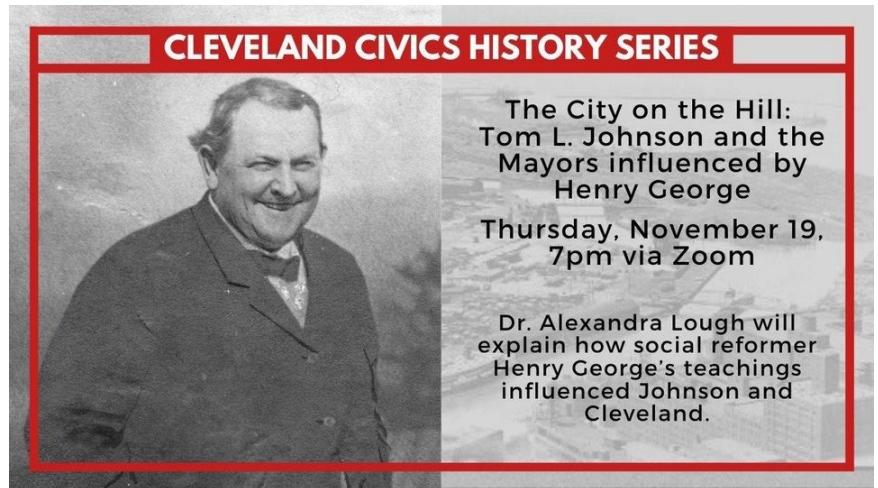
**Presenter:** Dr. Alexandra W. Lough, author of *The Last Tax: Henry George and the Social Politics of Land Reform in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*

**Date:** Thursday, November 19

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**About the Event:** Cleveland during the period of Mayor Tom L. Johnson (1901-1909) was considered by many to be one of the best governed cities in the nation. But Johnson was just one of several mayors who were followers of the 19th century political economist and social reformer Henry George. Dr. Alexandra Lough will explain how the teachings of Henry George influenced Tom L. Johnson's mayoralty in Cleveland.

**RSVP here:** [cwru.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VoURYKsXTRqjC57O2H1Tig](https://cwru.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VoURYKsXTRqjC57O2H1Tig)



**CLEVELAND CIVICS HISTORY SERIES**

The City on the Hill:  
Tom L. Johnson and the  
Mayors influenced by  
Henry George

Thursday, November 19,  
7pm via Zoom

Dr. Alexandra Lough will  
explain how social reformer  
Henry George's teachings  
influenced Johnson and  
Cleveland.

### Women and Philanthropy: The Monied Women of Cleveland and Their Impact

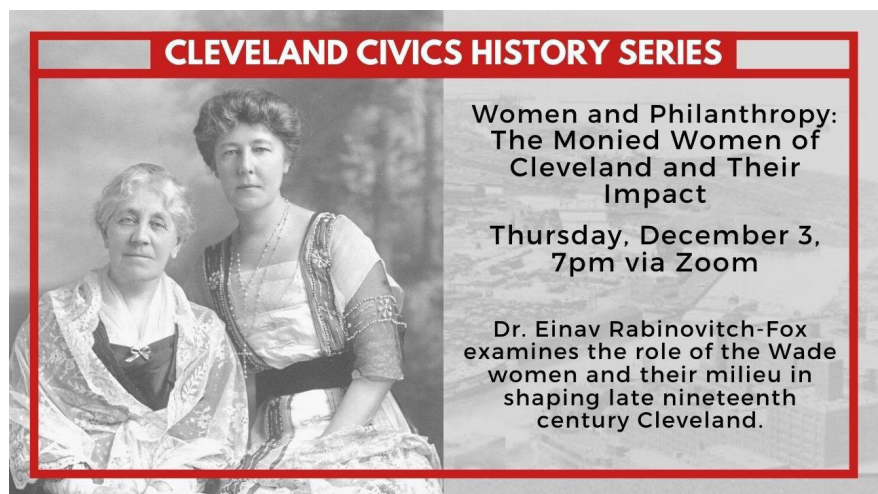
**Presenter:** Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University

**Date:** Thursday, December 3

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**About the Event:** This talk will examine the role of the Wade family women and their milieu in shaping the culture of philanthropy and the Settlement Movement in late nineteenth century Cleveland.

**RSVP here:** [cwru.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VoURYKsXTRqjC57O2H1Tig](https://cwru.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VoURYKsXTRqjC57O2H1Tig)



**CLEVELAND CIVICS HISTORY SERIES**

Women and Philanthropy:  
The Monied Women of  
Cleveland and Their  
Impact

Thursday, December 3,  
7pm via Zoom

Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox  
examines the role of the Wade  
women and their milieu in  
shaping late nineteenth  
century Cleveland.

*The Cleveland Civics History Series is sponsored by the Cleveland History Center, Siegal Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University, and the League of Women Voters—Greater Cleveland.*

# MINUTES

## Spring 2020 Executive Council Meeting

Ohio Academy of History Executive Council Minutes, March 27, 2020

### 12:28: Call to order

Present (videoconference and telephone): Amy Laurel, Bradley Keefer, Caryn Neumann, John Brooke, Kelly Mezurek, Levanya Vemsani, Marsha Robinson, Reed, Perry Rogers, Tom Taylor, Debbie Marinski, Steven Conn, Betsy Hedler, Janet Bednarek

Vemsani moved to dispense with usual agenda. Robinson 2nd. Approved Unanimously

### I. What shall be done with 2020 Meeting?

Vemsani: Original Proposal was to postpone until fall, other option is to just cancel and hold it in Columbus in spring 2021.

Conn agreed with latter, as it would be hard to put on two events in one academic year—If the Olympics can do it, we should, too.

Brooke noted that Joan Cashin concurred via email. But Brooke added that months from now, not all people will want to do the same paper for the conference. OAH could follow the example of the Organization of American Historians and allow panels to Zoom/Skype/Videorecord their papers so people can get the line on their CV. Personally, would like to see the meeting itself postponed until next year.

Robinson agreed, and added that we could allow the *OAH Proceedings* to host podcasts of those who'd like to present before then.

Hedler doesn't know how many extra slots that the Ohio Council of Social Studies has for webinars that the OAH panels could contribute—maybe one to three—would not be able to do a lot of the conference this way.

Vemsani: People always have option of podcasting in fall and then coming to the conference next year for discussion session.

Brooke queried if we are sure we have a place to put these videos.

Hedler said probably, but would need to find out for sure.

Vemsani said that we could just post link rather than full video.

Brooke: We need to work out technology to make sure we can do this, and will this material still be available next spring? Who pays for all this?

Vemsani: Can let presenters find a free platform to host it and post link.

Robinson: WordPress allows linking to a number of different platforms.

Vemsani Moved: No physical conference in the fall. Delaying conference until spring 2021 in Columbus, with the option of adding new conference panels as they come in, and allowing existing participants to host preconference videolinks and papers. Neumann 2nd. **Approved Unanimously.**

Brooke: Uncertain about what support the OSU History Department will be able to provide next spring. Budgets are uncertain. We need to confirm a date.

Kern said that we have enough money in the bank to deal with this. He added that because we do not have the expense of holding a meeting this year, we may be able to deal with unexpected future costs a bit better.

After much discussion, Vemsani moved to hold spring 2021 meeting at OSU from March 26-27 (if possible) Conn 2nd, **Approved Unanimously.**

### II. Regarding giving panelists option to upload and link presentations

Robinson volunteered to contact all panelists with this information and inquire if they want to do pre-conference presentations or present in spring 2021. She will host links to presentations on *Proceedings* page.

### III. Hedler: What shall be done regarding awards?

Hedler: 2020 Awards are already on the website. Also things like Dissertation Awards have to be given annually.

Bednarek: All 2020 awards must be given this year, and OAH will have a separate set of awards next year. Conn 2nd. **Approved Unanimously.**

(continued on page 12)

### **IV. Kern: What shall be done with elections?**

Kern: Do we have virtual elections or ask officers to stay for another year?

Hedler: According to OAH Constitution, Art. 4, sec. 2: Elections have to happen at the spring meeting.

Keefer: We have four candidates running unopposed for the positions. We should go ahead.

Bednarek: Executive Committee can vote to suspend the rules and hold a virtual vote.

Robinson moved that we make it clear that given the extraordinary circumstance of the Governor's decree banning large gatherings, the board has moved forward with an asynchronous meeting for the election of officers via a virtual ballot. Laurel 2nd. Approved Unanimously.

Hedler: We will need a cover letter, and then Google Forms for the ballot. She will try to get this done by the first of May. Kern will draft the cover letter.

### **V. What shall be done regarding the date of the Fall E.C. Meeting?**

Hedler remarked that we often set the date of this sometime in the summer. There was a general consensus to set the date later.

### **VI. Vemsani moved to adjourn, Neuman 2nd.**

13 yea, 1 nay (Kern, for the selfish reason that he enjoys seeing everyone, even if it is only virtually).

***Meeting adjourned at 1:33***



# 2019-2020 OAH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

## SENIOR OFFICERS (ELECTED)

### President

**Marsha Robinson**  
Miami University, Middletown  
robins78@miamioh.edu

### Vice-President

**Donna M. DeBlasio**  
Youngstown State University  
dmdeblasio@ysu.edu

### Immediate Past-President

**Lavanya Vemsani**  
Shawnee State University  
lvemsani@shawnee.edu

### Secretary-Treasurer

**Kevin Kern**  
University of Akron  
kkern@uakron.edu

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (ELECTED)

### Public History

#### Vacant

### Public University

**Chelsea Griffis**  
University of Toledo, (2017-2021)  
chelsea.griffis@utoledo.edu

### Joan Cashin

The Ohio State University (2019-2022)  
cashin.2@osu.edu

### Private College

**Janet Bednarek**  
University of Dayton (2019-2022)  
jbednarek1@udayton.edu

### Private College

**Julie Mujic**  
Denison University (2020-2023)  
mujicj@denison.edu

### Two-Year College or Regional Campus

**Bradley Keefer**  
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bkeefe@kent.edu

### Past or Present Grade 7-12 Teacher

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### Archivist

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## Ohio Academy of History

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### FALL BALANCES

CHECKING BALANCE, 30 AUG 2019 (plus \$100.38 in associated savings account)	\$33,596.68
BALANCE WITH OHC, 30 JUNE 2019:	175.59
REMAINING ENDOWMENT CD:	5,161.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$39,034.41</b>

### SPRING BALANCES

CHECKING BALANCE, 28 FEB 2020 (plus \$100.38 in associated sav- ings account)	\$34,474.68
BALANCE WITH OHC, 31 DEC 2019	221.04
REMAINING ENDOWMENT CD:	5,161.76
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>\$39,957.86</b>



The Ohio Academy of History  
newsletter is edited and  
published for the Ohio  
Academy of History by the  
Ohio History Connection.

# 2019-2020 Ohio Academy of History Committees

## Standing Committees

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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**Kevin Kern**  
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(Spring 2021 Annual Meeting)

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(send session proposals to Marsha Robinson)

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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**Jacalynn Stuckey**  
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**Lavanya Vemsani**  
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