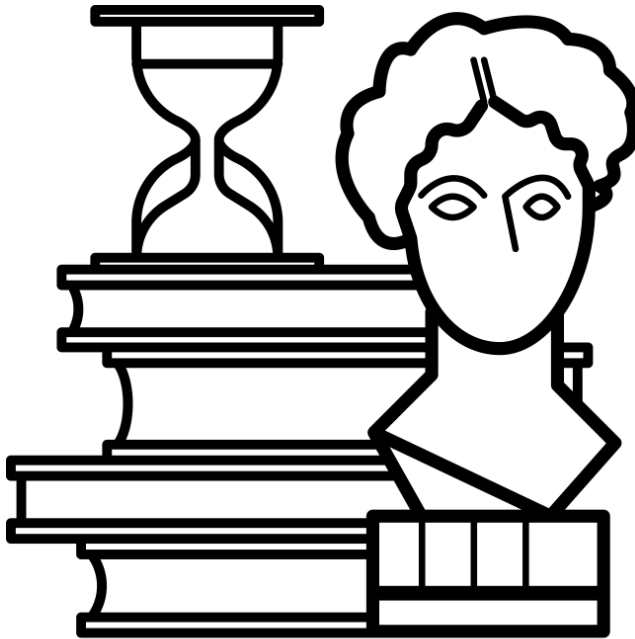




OHIO ACADEMY of HISTORY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



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Call for Papers

The Ohio Academy of History seeks papers in all fields of history for its annual conference to be held at the University of Akron on April 8-9, 2022.

We seek proposals for individual papers (20 minutes each), panels, and/or roundtables. Topics in all fields of history are welcome; faculty, adjunct faculty, lecturers, graduate students, independent scholars, and museum, archive, and library professionals are all encouraged to apply. Presentations need not be confined to Ohio history. Although residents of Ohio are especially encouraged to submit proposals, we invite out-of-state students and scholars to apply as well.

Proposals must include:

- a title and 250-word abstract of each paper
- a brief CV (one page) of each participant
- contact information for each participant

The deadline for proposals is December 15, 2021. Please submit proposals as a .docx or .pdf file with the subject line "OAH Proposal" to Dr. Amy Laurel Fluker at alfluker@ysu.edu.

Those interested in serving as a chair or commentator should feel free to email alfluker@ysu.edu stating their field of expertise.

For further information about the Ohio Academy of History, including membership and conference registration (when it becomes available), visit our website: www.ohioacademyofhistory.org

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

Oral History: Catching the Stories of Our Lives

Donna M. DeBlasio, Ohio Academy of History
27 March 2021

Oral history is one of the best tools for democratizing history; one does not need a PhD to engage in collecting, preserving, and presenting the past through interviews. Those who do so, understand the importance of recording the memories of people who were eyewitness to or participated in events in modern history. Oral history has long been accepted as a primary source that can illuminate the past in a personal and compelling manner. The power of oral history to enrich how we interpret the past is an important instrument in the historian's toolbox. As we know, documenting the life stories and experiences especially of groups left out of the traditional history books has been greatly enhanced through interviews. It gives us a way to look at our past from many facets, not just from the "winner's" perspective.

Oral history can be defined as "collecting spoken memories and personal commentaries of historical significance through recorded interviews. An oral history interview generally consists of a well-prepared interviewer questioning an interviewee and recording their exchange on audio or video tape [or digital format]"¹ The Youngstown State University oral history program, which I ran for over twenty years, notes that "Oral history allows us to use first-person narratives to explore the private dimensions of public careers, add new voices to the historical record, track the creation and recreation of historical memory, and present history to the public in creative new forms."²

The earliest recognized programs in the United States such as the one at Columbia University, originally focused on history from the top. By and large, this young methodology on the US side of the Atlantic centered on collecting interviews with the elite. Oral historians in Great Britain, on the other hand, were more interested in interviewing average people. By the late 1960s, American oral historians began shifting their focus to the broader society. Several events and developments influenced the direction of oral history in the United States. The Civil Rights Movement, the Women's movement, and other calls for social justice all contributed to demands for history to be more inclusive in its interpretation. At about the same time, the cassette tape recorder, with

its greater portability, made doing oral history interviews far more accessible to more people. No longer were oral historians stuck with the fifty pound, decidedly not portable, reel-to-reel machines. Nor did the interviewees have to come to them. Rather, the interviewers could meet their subjects on neutral territory or places where they were most comfortable. Over time, oral historians have broadened our perspectives by interviewing people from all walks of life, catching their stories, all of which contribute to and democratize the larger narrative of historical interpretation. As someone who not only conducts oral history interviews, but uses them in my own research, I'm often amazed by the gems of stories that are there waiting for someone to discover them.

The urgency to catch individual experiences and stories is becoming even more tangible. The rapid and widespread growth of electronic communication has certainly altered many aspects of everyday life. While there is an overwhelming plethora of information, the question arises is how will we save these bytes of life for future generations? It's not a surprise to anyone that archivists and other keepers of the past are developing ways to preserve this material, much of which is ephemeral and living in a cloud somewhere in the ethernet. While this material will provide fodder for future historians, it, like other historical materials, will need to be used with other sources. This is where oral history can become an even more valuable resource. People's recollections about their life experiences, participation in or eyewitness to historic events, observations and reflections on moments in time will provide the future with invaluable keys to understanding the past.

The times we are living in are interesting, to say the least; they are monumental, to say the most. That we need to get these stories now is imperative. The events of this past year, culminating in the insurrection on January 6 (another date that will live in infamy), I think has created a new urgency to understand the times that we are living through. Doing oral history interviews I think can help us come to terms with the turbulence and upheaval surrounding us. We need to preserve how people are coping with and surviving in this landmark era. We need to get these stories now, not wait a generation as memories fade, people pass away, time changes perspectives. While there is value in perspective

1 Donald Ritchie, *Doing Oral History*, (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1995), 1. There is a growing literature on oral history methodology, process, and theory, some of which are geared to academics and others to a broader audience. Some of the more recent works include: Valerie Yow. *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2005. Donna M. DeBlasio, et.al. *Catching Stories: A Practical Guide to Oral History*. Athens, OH: Sparrow Books, 2008. Thomas L. Charlton, et.al. *A History of Oral History*. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2008.

2 YSU Oral History Collection. http://www.maag.yosu.edu/oral_hist.

and reflection, there is also value in fresh memories and experiences.

This past year inspired the topic for my graduate oral history class this spring semester at Youngstown State University. YSU possesses one of the largest regional archives in the state, dating back to 1974, when Professor Hugh Earnhart started the program. In the early years, Hugh adopted what he called a “shot gun” approach, doing as many interviews on a wide variety of topics. Since I took over the program in 1999, I decided that we would have a more directed approach, selecting a specific topic for each time I taught the graduate course. I looked over all the topics that have been done over the years, and realized we had a paucity of interviews dealing with African Americans in the Mahoning Valley. Given all the deep discussions about race in America, I decided that African Americans would be the topic of our interviews. As I write this, each student has done at least one interview—and all the interviews have been very long and in-depth. The interviewees were gracious and open to discussing their feelings about race and racism, both in the past, up to the present. Besides the basic biographical information, the interviews are also covering topics like COVID, vaccinations, and Black Lives Matter. I’m very encouraged about the quality of these interviews to date and I think they will be valuable assets in preserving our history.

Of course, it’s not just conducting the interviews that’s important. They need to be accessible to a wider audience. The YSU program has a web site through the university’s Maag Library (http://www.maag.ysu.edu/oral_hist), where the transcripts as well as the audio interviews are available to the general public. Transcribing, which is the most difficult part of the process, is the way to go, since most end users often don’t want to listen to an entire interview to get the information they’re seeking and it’s also the truly only archival method of preservation. While voice recognition software exists, it’s not sophisticated enough to deal with transcribing multiple voices as one would

have in an oral history interview. For anyone interested in transcribing, it takes 8 to 10 hours to transcribe about one hour of an interview. That being said, digitization does allow us to upload the raw interviews and make them accessible to the general public. Or, as we said back in the days of the cassette tape—oral history interviews do no good sitting in storage inside of a shoe box. We must make these interviews available to all, whether in an on-line archive, through publications, web sites, exhibits, or other methods of disseminating these important stories.

The state of Ohio is remarkably rich in oral history projects at all kinds of agencies including institutions of higher education, museums, historical societies, archives, and libraries. Less obvious entities that house interviews are for profit corporations, non-profit organizations, and religious institutions. This is not to mention the many individuals who have collected interviews with family members to preserve for their descendants. Ohio based projects are the tip of the proverbial oral history iceberg; there are hundreds of oral history projects and programs in existence globally. Oral history has become the embodiment of what Carl L. Becker described in 1931, “Everyman his own historian,” or as revised for our time: “Everyone their own historian.”³

Oral history interviews provide us with a window to the past, but they are the product of memory and subjective interpretation. Oral historian Alessandro Portelli challenges us to rethink our concepts of how people recall their own pasts. In his important essay, “The Death of Luigi Trastulli,” Portelli believes that oral histories are subjective and that how we remember the past is at least as important as what we remember.⁴ Oral history interviews are primary sources and should be treated as such, subject to historic analysis and interpretation in conjunction with other sources. This does not negate their value or their importance in giving a “voice to the voiceless.” The momentous events of 2020 should spur us to redouble our efforts in catching the stories of our lives.

3 Carl L. Becker. “Everyman His Own Historian.” *American Historical Review*. Vol. 37, no. 2, 29 December 1931. pp 221-36 .

4 Alessandro Portelli. *The Death of Luigi of Trastulli and Other Stories: Form and Meaning in Oral History*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991.

Seeking Newsletter Editor

The position of Newsletter Editor is open. The editor is responsible for gathering and organizing the materials for two annual newsletters – Fall and Spring.

Those interested in this important service position with the Ohio Academy of History please contact Janet Bednarek at jbednarek1@udayton.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations for 2022 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 2020 to July 2021). 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, 2021**.

Lavanya Vemsani, Chair, Shawnee State University,
lvemsani@shawnee.edu

Adam Hodge, Lourdes University, AHodge@lourdes.edu

Julie Mujic, Denison University, mujicj@denison.edu

Distinguished Historian Award

The Ohio Academy of History is now accepting nominations through December 15, 2021 for the 2022 annual award of "The Ohio Academy of History Distinguished Historian." This award will go to a historian:

- whose teaching and scholarship, including substantial publications, transcends specialized fields and
- who has an interest to educate persons even beyond the discipline of history.

The person will also have a close affiliation with a college, university, or historical agency in Ohio, if not actually residing in the state. The recipient of the award will agree to deliver a public address during the opening evening of the annual spring meeting of the Academy. Members of the Academy may nominate persons to receive the award with a written message including a current C.V. of the nominee to:

Joan Cashin, Chair, The Ohio State University, cashin.2@osu.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, 2021**.

Donna M. Deblasio, Chair, Youngstown State University,
dmdeblasio@ysu.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, 2021**.

Ruth Herndon, Chair, Bowling Green State University,
rwhernd@bgsu.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, 2020 and October 31, 2021 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, Janet Bednarek. The copy sent to the committee chair should also include a brief description of the book. Deadline for submissions is **December 15, 2021**.

(continued on page 5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(continued from page 4)

Carol Barger, Chair

Department of History, Central State University
400 Brush Row Road, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384

cbarger@centralstate.edu

Committee members:

Kevin Poole,

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

Molly Sergi

Kent State University
2183 Isabelle Dr, Girard, OH 44420

Janet Bednarek (*ex officio*)

Department of History, University of Dayton
300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-1540

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 **December 15, 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

Leslie Heaphy, Kent State University, lheaphy@kent.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, 2021. 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, 2021**.

Marcelle Wilson, Chair, Youngstown State University, mrwilson@ysu.edu

Symposium on Redlining

The symposium, “Imagining Community: Shaping a More Equitable Dayton,” will be held **April 7-8, 2022** at [the Hub](#) Powered by PNC Bank at the Dayton Arcade. The symposium, in partnership with the “[UnDesign the Redline](#)” exhibit, explores the impact and legacy of redlining, racial segregation and inequality, as well as how to move toward a more just, equitable, and inclusive Dayton. The symposium is free and open to all community members, activists, artists, students, scholars, and academics.

Any questions may be directed to Leslie.Picca@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 oaks.kent.edu/ohj. The Ohio History Connection provides free access and a fully searchable archive for issues from 1887-2004 at 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1946 RECONSIDERED

Filson Historical Society Biennial Academic Conference

The Filson Historical Society, supported in part by the Thomas Walker Bullitt Perpetual Trust, announces its 2021 biennial conference, *1946 Reconsidered: The Ohio Valley in the Post-World War II Era* on October 22-23, 2021.

In 1950, WWII veteran and Louisville architect Stratton Hammon wrote to a colleague at *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine:

“Before the war, Louisville was one of the lowest building cost markets in the country because its economy was largely based on agriculture, horses, corn for whiskey and tobacco. The war, however, changed all this. Because we have a hydroelectric dam here, a tremendous number of large plants located here—rubber, aircraft, aluminum, International Harvester, etc. This at once changed our non-union town to a union town and the price of building is, I believe, much above the balance of the country because of the high wages and because we have never yet caught up with the industrial building program.”

Hammon accounted for the sea changes he had seen in his professional field, but the social, demographic, spatial, institutional, and environmental changes wrought by the war went beyond the recounting of any one individual. What had Hammon overlooked? What changes were afoot in 1950 that would more fully emerge in later years? How was his world—and ours—fundamentally reshaped after soldiers and civilian war workers

returned home?

The conference will feature a hybrid in-person and online format. It is scheduled to run for two days, with approximately six sessions and an evening keynote. Individual papers, roundtables of structured discussion among four to six participants, and traditional panels of three papers plus a commenter will be considered.

The Filson is committed to ensuring that this conference has a long afterlife with diverse audiences. The editors of [Ohio Valley History](#) will produce a thematic special issue from some selected papers given at this conference.

Among the topics of interest to the conference are:

- Migration within and out from the region
- Redlining, suburbanization, and white flight
- Agricultural change including mechanization, centralization of landholding, pesticide usage, and the coming of monocultures
- The GI Bill and expansion of state higher education
- The VA, hospital expansion, and changes to healthcare
- Male veterans' reintegration into the workplace and civil life

- Displacement of women and African Americans from the postwar workplace
- Changes in the coal industry, particularly the shift to surface mining
- TVA, dams, and electrification
- Early civil rights organization in African American and LGBT communities
- Expansion of permanent military bases at Ft. Campbell and Ft. Knox
- Conversion of war-related industry to civilian production
- Evolution of transportation infrastructure, the rise of car culture and decline of rail and river
- Demographic and cultural changes brought by the Baby Boom
- Development of musical styles rooted in the Southern diaspora including rock & roll
- Communications change and the rise of television
- Anti-Communism in politics, the workplace, and popular culture

Contact Info:

Patrick Lewis, Ph.D.

Director of Collections & Research
Filson Historical Society

patricklewis@filsonhistorical.org
filsonhistorical.org/education/filson-biennial-conference/

Virtual Events from OHC

Check out virtual events offered by the Ohio History Connection:

www.ohiohistory.org/participate/event-calendar/ohio-history-center/virtual-events

News from our Members

Dr. Thomas Maroukis, professor emeritus at Capital University, has recently published “We Are Not A Vanishing People,” *The Society of American Indians, 1911-1923*, University of Arizona Press, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submissions for Spring 2022 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

Call for Nominations for 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 2022 spring meeting of the Ohio Academy of History. The preferred deadline for nominations is December 15, 2021. The service commitment is at total of 3 years (VP, Pres, Past-Pres). Nominations can be sent by email to: Scott C. Martin, Bowling Green State University (smartin@bgsu.edu).

Executive Council: The Ohio Academy of History invites nominations for the following offices to be elected at the 2022 spring meeting of the Ohio Academy of History for 3-year terms beginning in April 2022:

- One (1) Executive Council position from a public college or university and
- One (1) from a private college or university.

Self-nominations are appropriate, as well as nominations of members who have served previously. Preferred deadline is December 15, 2021. Nominations can be sent by email to: Scott C. Martin, Bowling Green State University (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, see the [Handbook](#).

Ohio Academy of History Statement on HB 322, HB 327

The Ohio Academy of History is a professional society bringing together teachers, scholars, public historians, and students interested in all fields of history. We seek to promote the development and dissemination of historical knowledge among the citizens and students of Ohio. The Academy promotes high standards of historical scholarship and teaching in the state's schools, colleges, and museums and was chartered to promote the study and teaching of history. Given our commitment to knowledge and its dissemination, the Academy opposes passage of HB 322 and HB 327. Interpreting and presenting the past is a complicated endeavor. Historians examine primary sources ranging from written materials to everyday objects to photographs, to films, to oral histories—a wide range of objects and archival resources to understand the human experience over time. In the process, we strive to understand the past by placing people in the context of their own time. As teachers of history, we encourage students to carefully examine primary sources and think critically about what they are reading and observing.

One of Ohio's founding documents, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, states: "Article the Third. Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

With this in mind, we strongly urge the members of the Ohio General Assembly to vote no on HB 322 and HB 327.

If members are interested in contacting their legislators regarding these two bills, here are links to their information:

www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/house-directory

www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/senate-directory

The Ohio Academy of History endorses and is a signatory to the broader statement by the American Historical Association on similar efforts throughout the nation. To read the AHA's entire statement, click here: www.historians.org/divisive-concepts-statement

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Council Spring 2021 Meeting, 3/19/21

Present (virtually): Robinson, Hedler, Brooke, DeBlasio, Marinski, Fluker, Keefer, Mujic, Kern, Vemsani

Call to Order: 1:05

President's Report: Robinson

- Akron will host 2022 Spring Meeting
- Increased communication this year despite the challenges of pandemic
- Brooke and Cashin did a fantastic job in planning a virtual conference.
- Fluker and Mujic did more outreach than we have done in years, and did a wonderful job doing the virtual conference.
- Bednarek has done a great job on the newsletters and communication.
- Hedler has been a rock in the transition.
- DeBlasio and Robinson had listening tour and gathered advice. Sharing link to handbook helps new committee members.
- Robinson made congratulatory speech for History Day winners.
- New contact information for historians in Ohio.
- Membership Committee has been very active.
- Perhaps we should consider a podcast?

Past President's Report: Vemsani

- Was sorry we were not able to hold conference due to pandemic.
- Thanks to everyone who dealt with the cancellations (Hedler, Kern, Robinson).
- Thanks to organizing committee, and to Cashin for organizing and maintaining the program.
- Thankful for all of the Executive Committee

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Kern

- Despite the pandemic, finances have actually improved over the past year.

– As of 26 February 2021:

Checking/Savings:	\$38,521.70
CD (matures 4/18/21):	5,169.51
Total Assets:	43,691.21

Standing Committee Reports

Conference Committee-Spring: Brooke

- Presented the document showing how the online conference will work, with links to time slots and breakout rooms.
- People will click on the links to enter and get instructions for audience. Click on breakout box at the bottom to switch to another panel.
- Will also have host instructions for all potential hosts. Brooke will create breakout rooms in advance of each panel. Hosts can mute, stop video, remove people (e.g., "Zoom-bombing"). If there is a crisis, Brooke can start a new link for the panel.
- Robinson asked about whether there is closed captioning. Brooke said no.
- Robinson asked if there is a statement telling participants not to record sessions. Brooke will add one.
- Kern will email documents with links to all the people who registered for the conference.
- Brooke will adopt Hedler's suggestion of using the Online Meeting Safety and Responsibility Policy from the Ohio Local History Alliance for this meeting.
- Robinson thanked Brooke for all of his considerable work in getting all of this together.
- Brooke: OSU-History Department will pay two grad student co-hosts \$35/hour for their work during the conference.

Local Arrangements-Fall

- Robinson proposed another virtual Executive Council meeting in the Fall, and the consensus was yes.

Program Committee: Cashin, via email

The Program Committee for the 2020 annual meeting consisted of Joan Cashin, Chair, Amy Fluker, and Chris Phillips. We put together an excellent program of fifteen panels (15) and a distinguished scholar lecture for the conference; the meeting would have taken place in March at Ohio State University but for the pandemic. When the Executive Council agreed in summer 2020 to move the meeting online and hold it in March 2021, I contacted all of the participants. Three people dropped out, and all of them were replaced. All fifteen panels carried forward to the 2021 meeting, with the same high quality, and the distinguished scholar agreed to stay on board. We will cover many fascinating topics on American history and other fields, and the participants are a diverse group of scholars from different backgrounds, in Ohio and beyond the state. I wish to thank Amy Fluker and Chris Phillips for their hard

work on the committee, especially the fact that they did double duty for both conferences. Submitted by Professor Joan Cashin, Department of History, Ohio State University, 19 March 2021.

Membership Committee: Mujic

- Had a good turnout for virtual Meet and Greet events, and good, productive conversations.
- Event coming up in April, already have 14 tickets sent so far. Advocacy and activism is topic, and will have a guest speaker.
- Robinson wondered if this can grow into a professional development opportunity in the future. Mujic was open to this if we kick around and plan accordingly in future. Will depend on how active the committee is or will want to be.
- Will have to see if Zoom burnout will dampen enthusiasm for this in the future.
- Robinson and Kern wanted to thank Membership Committee for all the wonderful work and ideas they brought to the committee this year.

Nominating Committee: Fluker

- Google ballot for the elections set up and will be distributed.
- Need to know who will be next chair so she can advise them on what to do next year.

Awards Update: Hedler

- Plaques have been mailed from last year. Will send out new plaques as soon as we have addresses for recipients.

Public History Committee: DeBlasio

- Committee reconstituted. Main job was to do the Public History Award: Ft. Meigs Association Podcast. Will work toward getting more Public History groups involved
- *Newsletter*—went out this year
- *Proceedings*—will do peer review after they present this year.

Awards Committees: Robinson

Distinguished Service Award: tba

Public History Award: The Foot of the Rapids: A Fort Meigs Association Pod Cast.

Dissertation Prize: No submissions.

Junior Faculty Research Grant: No submissions.

Distinguished Teaching: No submissions.

Publication Award: Professor Adam J. Davis's exemplary work, *The Medieval Economy of Salvation: Charity, Commerce, and the Rise of the Hospital* (Cornell University Press, 2019). Professor Adam J. Davis is a

member of the Department of History, Denison University, Granville, OH, where he specializes in Western Medieval social history. He is the Director of the Lisska Center for Scholarly Engagement, Fellows Hall - 426, Denison University, Granville, OH 100 West College Street, Granville, Ohio 43023. Email is davisaj@denison.edu.

Old Business: Robinson

- Have used it a bit so far for a few things, but this brings up questions
- Managing the database:
- **Who can use it?**
Vemsani: We can use it for our own purposes, but we cannot lend it to any other group. Another historical group was sued for doing this, so we should avoid that.
Robinson: Should have a database for programs in Ohio. Can invite each program to send in a page or a link to their program.
Mujic pointed out that Hedler needs to be in on these conversations before anything is decided for sure.
- **Who will manage it?**
--Should Secretary-Treasurer maintain (using grad students update)? Consensus was yes.
--Should this be available to all Executive Council members and Standing Committee Chairs? Consensus was yes.
--Is currently on Robinson's Google Drive.

New Business: Robinson

- Podcasting—a membership benefit?
- Profiles of faculty or graduate student research
- Current events in historical context
- Want to grow and modernize our footprint beyond Proceedings. Will send out survey to see how much interest there would be.
- Fluker suggests that the podcasts be short and sweet so they are more usable.
- Mujic suggested that to keep us relevant we should create the sense of community among all of the levels of history in the state. We could do something innovative by creating a mechanism through which there is real collaboration and partnership among all levels of history. Find synergies of all types of history in the state.
- Robinson: maybe a meeting in early summer to try to brainstorm and plan for this initiative. Will help in planning this effort. Maybe late May/early June.

Next meeting? TBA

Motion to Adjourn: Keefer moved, DeBlasio seconded to adjourn, Unanimously approved at 2:30.

My last of 13 years' worth of minutes, respectfully submitted 3/19/21

Executive Council Special Meeting, 6/29/2021

9:00 a.m. via Zoom

Present: (virtual) DeBlasio, Keefer, Robinson, Hedler, Mujic, Bednarek

The meeting was called to address how the Ohio Academy of History should respond to the actions of the state legislature (bills proposed concerning the teaching of history in Ohio).

Should the OAH ask members to send letters to their representatives? If so, what would be the appropriate timing for such letters?

Discussion then focused on creating a statement that would be posted on the Ohio Academy of History website and newsletter.

Also, should Ohio Academy of History sign on to the statement released by the American Historical Association? After discussion, the executive council decided that the OAH would sign on to the AHA statement.

The executive council decided to create a statement for the website and newsletter, also to be sent to the Ohio Academy of History membership. DeBlasio and Robinson finished wording of statement.

DeBlasio and Bednarek contacted the AHA to add our endorsement to their statement. The OAH statement will include a statement asking members to contact their representatives concerning HB 322 and HB 327 and state *their position* on this pending legislation.

The meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

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OHIO ACADEMY OF HISTORY

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of 4 September 2021:

Checking/Savings: \$41,123.61

Business Select Savings:.. \$100.38

CD (matures 4/18/21): ..\$ 5,174.95

Total Assets: \$46,398.94



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

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