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Volume 5  
Issue 1

## Greene County Records Center & Archives

*Beyond  
the*

**clocktower**

*what's new >>>*

*Mark your calendars!*

### **GREENE COUNTY HISTORY WEEK**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Greene County History week is designated annually by the Greene County Commissioners as a time to celebrate our community history.*

*Keep an eye out for announcements of special events and activities for Greene County History Week soon—you won't want to miss it!*



*Greene County History Week 2019 included opening the 1969 Jail time capsule.*

## 1974 Xenia Tornado Collection

**NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

The 50th anniversary of the April 3, 1974 tornado super outbreak that devastated Xenia is quickly approaching. As part of our efforts to commemorate this tragic event, we are excited to announce that our digital collection of county records and images of the 1974 tornado is now available through our digital repository! Check out the collection and find other resources on this subject [here](#).

This collection contains a variety of materials pertaining to the tornado that were created by county offices. The Parks and Trails Department, the Combined Health District, and the Soil and Water Conservation District all took photographs documenting the damage from the tornado.

This will be a permanent collection on our digital repository. At the beginning of April, we will also be adding the oral history interviews and written accounts we have been collecting as a separate collection--so stay tuned for that as well!

Find the 1974 Xenia Tornado collection and other Greene County records available through our digital repository [here!](#)





Robin Heise, Records Manager/Archivist for the  
Greene County Records Center & Archives



*note from the archivist >>>*

## *A Few Words from the County Archivist*

Spring is right around the corner! I'm looking forward to longer days, spring flowers, budding trees and the opportunity to get outside and enjoy warmer weather.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the F5 tornado that forever changed the County, Xenia and its residents. I did not grow up in the area, but I had heard of this event long before I moved to Greene County. I grew up in Mansfield, Ohio which is 129 miles from Xenia. After the tornado, my parents found a Xenia resident's checkbook in our back yard. It's hard to believe that someone's checkbook traveled so far and was dropped, intact, in our back yard.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary it's important to preserve the stories from that fateful day. The tornado reduced much of Xenia to rubble, forever changing the footprint of Xenia. Thirty-five individuals lost their lives due to this tragedy and those that survived were left with indelible emotional scars. This event also impacted the technology used to view storms (radar systems) and to alert individuals of impending storms. The Archives, in partnership with the Greene County Library, have been capturing the stories of individuals who survived this tragic event. We have completed a dozen oral history interviews and have also received several written accounts. The stories that have been shared with us have been incredible and I am humbled that these individuals were willing to share them with us. This tragic event is an integral part of Xenia and Greene County's history and we are doing our best to preserve these stories for future generations. We will be releasing the oral history videos and written accounts on April 1, 2024.

If you haven't already, be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) so you don't miss any of the posts highlighting our historical records. We hope that you'll join us for our weekly blog, "[Out of the Clock Tower](#)". We post some really interesting pieces of local history each week.

We are currently processing record requests through the window in our entry way during our normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM). Please note, *Archives' staff are UNABLE to provide genealogical, property, and/or other extensive research, but we will gladly provide you with the tools that you need in order to complete your research.*

Until next time,  
Robin Heise  
Greene County Records Manager & Archivist

*follow us >>>*

*Be sure to follow us on social media for all the latest updates and events happening here at the Archives! You can link to our accounts using the below icons.*



*Please note that we have discontinued our X (formerly known as Twitter) account.*

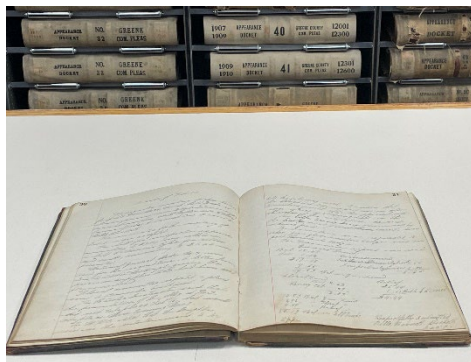
# Daughters of Veterans Minutes Books Now Available Online

The Daughters of Veterans was a women's organization that was centered around patriotism and veterans support, the idea for which is credited to President William McKinley. The Xenia chapter of the Daughters of Veterans was organized in 1910 as the Lucretia Garfield Tent in honor of the first lady of that name.

The Archives holds the minute books for the Daughters of Veterans from 1910 to 1916, and we are thrilled to say they are now available online through our digital repository!

Our fantastic volunteer Helen also transcribed a handwritten index for the Daughters of Veterans Minutes books so that they are name-searchable in our digital repository! This is very useful for genealogists or researchers interested in a particular person.

Since March is Women's History Month, it's the perfect time to explore these record books. View them online [here](#).



2024 So Far >>>

258

Requests handled

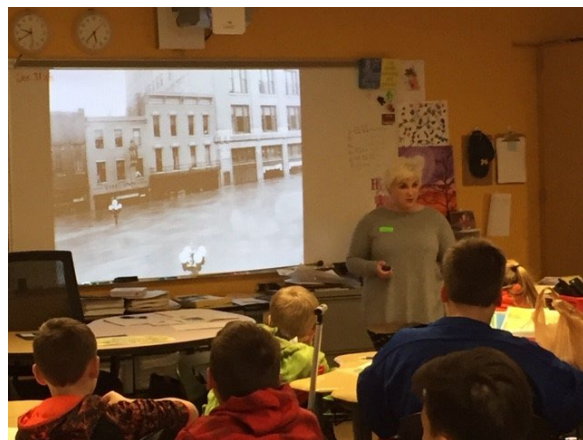
42, 151

Files made searchable

in online catalog

## Become a Volunteer!

*Do you enjoy local history? Are you interested in learning more about how an archives/records center functions? Do you want to work with a wonderful group of people? We have a number of great projects for our volunteers, both in-person and virtual! If interested, please call the office at (937) 562-6487 or contact [Mary](#) for more details or to obtain an application.*



Outreach Coordinator Melissa Dalton discusses the 1913 floods with students at Coy Middle School in 2019.

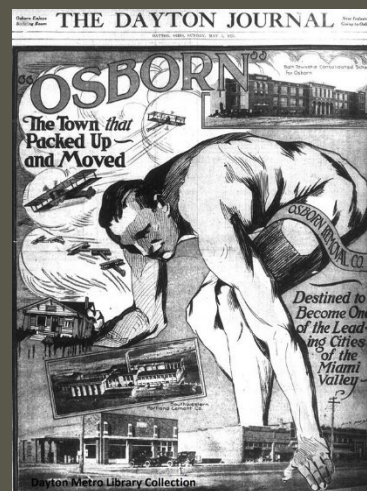


## Educational Outreach Springs onto the Scene

The Archives' Educational Outreach program takes local history into local classrooms, helping students engage with primary sources that have directly impacted the community they live in.

2024's educational outreach has begun as of March 1! We will be presenting 8 times for 4 different local schools this semester, and we hope to have an educational outreach program on the history of the Xenia tornado of 1974 available for the fall term.

Check out our educational resources [here](#)!

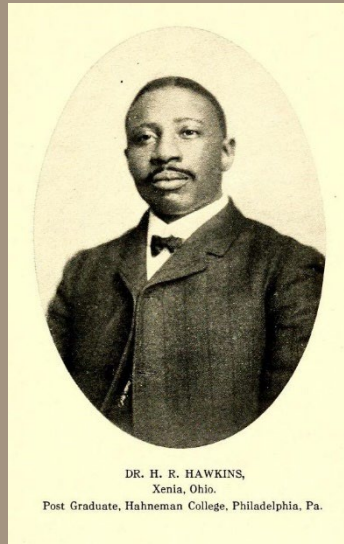


Item from our educational outreach program on the creation of Fairborn.

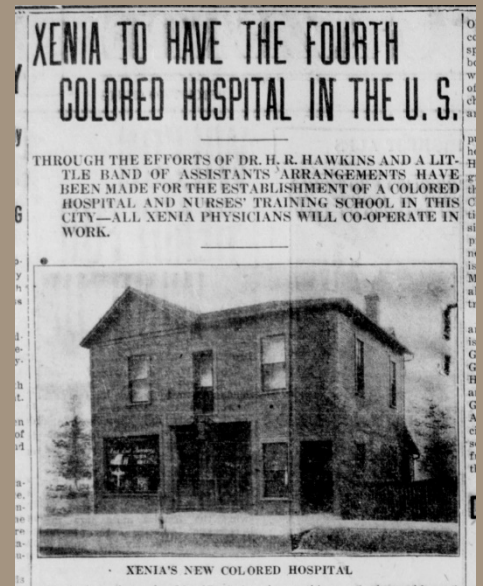
## Social Media Feature >>>

February was Black History Month, and we were excited to feature Dr. H. R. Hawkins and the Washington Hospital in honor of the occasion. The Washington Hospital was reportedly the first hospital in Ohio owned and operated by Black doctors and nurses.

Learn more about the Washington Hospital [here!](#)



DR. H. R. HAWKINS,  
Xenia, Ohio.  
Post Graduate, Hahneman College, Philadelphia, Pa.



# Exploring Local History

*Recent Talks in Jamestown and Beavercreek*

We love sharing local history with the community! 2024 started off strong with two local history programs: one with the Beavercreek Historical Society and one with patrons of the Jamestown Community Library.

In Beavercreek, we talked about the “Secrets” of Beavercreek that can be found in the Greene County Archives, from wolf scalpers records of brave Beavercreek men to surveyor’s maps of murder scenes that happened in the township.

In Jamestown, we talked about the 1884 cyclone that destroyed nearly two-thirds of the village and the creative “Building Week” festival that was arranged to help the village recover. To our delight, one of the attendees brought an original Building Week certificate with her to the program! The engraving for the certificates was designed by renowned illustrator Thomas Nast (of *Harper’s Weekly*) and signed by then-Ohio Governor Thomas Hoadly.

Keep an eye on our social media and website for future local history talks, and be sure to let us know if there are any topics you would like to know more about!



Mary McKinley, left, public outreach coordinator, shows a newspaper clipping of 1884 Jamestown Building Week Certificate. Right, an attendee of the Jamestown Library program holds a framed original 1884 Jamestown Building Week Certificate addressed to the Ivanhoe Lodge Knights of Pythias (of Xenia).



## Greene County Records Center & Archives

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