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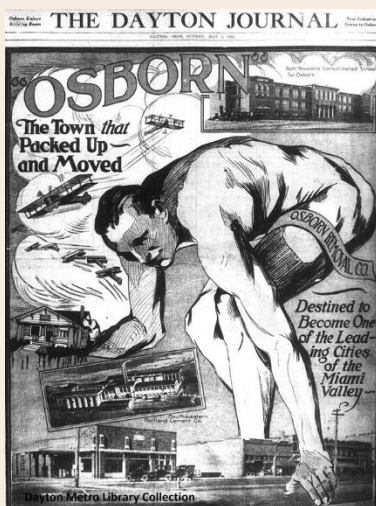
Carillon Historical Park Artifact



Greene County Records Center & Archives

Beyond
the

clocktower



Back to school!

Back to school means back to educational outreach, and we love getting to share local history with students! With 2025 being the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of Fairborn, this is a great year to explore the story of Fairborn with primary sources.

Do you know a teacher or school who might like for their students to experience local history in an onsite program created to meet state educational standards? (937) 562-6487 or [email](#) our public outreach coordinator for more details.

Exhibit On the Way!

Open House October 12th

The Greene County Archives received a Trillium Local Activity grant through the America 250-Ohio Commission to install an exhibit in the entryway of the Greene County facility on Ledbetter Road. The exhibit will explore how the historic 1974 tornado led to innovations in weather technology and disaster preparedness that continue to help keep Ohioans safe during severe weather today. We are grateful to the National Weather Service Wilmington for providing its expertise to the project.

We have been hard at work designing the exhibit, and we will have the installation completed by October. We hope you will join us on October 12th in the Greene County Media Room entryway for an open house from 1 to 3 p.m.

See the back of the newsletter for a special artifact feature!

Left to right: Mary McKinley, Public Outreach Coordinator; Robin Heise Records Manager and Archivist; Ohio State Senator Bob Hackett; Todd Kleismit, Executive Director, America 250-Ohio



Did you know: Ohio has only recorded four F5 tornadoes in its history, and two of them occurred on April 3, 1974?



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

note from the archivist >>>

A Few Words from the County Archivist

As I'm typing this, it's one of the hottest days of the year and I can hardly wait for fall to arrive! I'm definitely ready for the cooler days and crisp nights along with the beautiful colors that come along with the season.

Fall also brings us American Archives Month every October. This is our chance to tell you why Archives and Archivists are so important in ensuring that our historical record is preserved for future generations. This year, Archives Month will provide us with an opportunity to unveil a new exhibit outside of the Media Room at 541 Ledbetter Road. Keep reading for more information regarding the upcoming exhibit and associated events!

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.

Interesting Names at the Archives

Our volunteers sometimes find very interesting names here at the Archives! Here are a few that we have found lately:

- Gudran Buflod
- Icey Ford
- Nimrod Maddix
- Consolah Badger
- Hugh Pugh

America 250-Ohio is a multi-year commemoration where Ohioans will highlight Ohio's unique role in our nation's story. Greene County became an official America-250 Ohio community on January 11, 2024, by a resolution passed by the County Commissioners. This is Greene County's opportunity to share the stories of contributions to the nation and the world over the last 250+ years. As we approach 2025, watch for the Archives to begin sharing various records, including early veterans' records.

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



Remember when?

From the 1970s to the late 2010s, the former Greene County Children's Home served as the home for several county offices. This picture from the Greene County Parks & Trails Collection in 1977 documents several different offices in the building: Board of Elections, Building Regulations, Children Services, Regional Planning, Recreation and Parks, and Sanitary Engineer.

The building was demolished in 2012 when it was no longer able to be maintained, and these offices moved on to other locations.

Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home Student Accounts Cataloged

The processing of the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home Student Accounts has been an ongoing project for years here at the Archives. The files had been disarranged over the years, requiring them to be located among other Probate Court records, unfolded and removed from packets where necessary, alphabetized, and then indexed. For a collection of nearly 3,000 files, this process was quite lengthy. But our volunteers are fantastic, and were able to complete the project in July!

Why does this have us so excited? Now all of the accounts are findable in our online catalog! Although we do not have digital images of the files available, it is possible now to confirm through the catalog that a file exists for a particular person from a particular year.

Please note that these accounts are not the student records from the OS&SO home, but rather the financial accounts for OS&SO home residents through the Greene County Probate Court. The accounts include information about the resident's finances, which can include allowance and school book payments, receipts, and so forth.

Check out a blog post about the OS&SO home accounts [here](#) and explore the online catalog [here!](#)



THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

calendar of events >>>

October is Archives Month!

October 12th, 1-3 p.m.

Exhibit Open House

October 24th, 1 p.m.

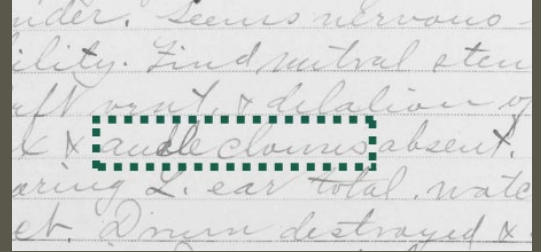
She Served with Honor: Remembering Greene County's Military Women at Jamestown Community Library

November 28th-29th

Greene County Offices closed for Thanksgiving and Day After Thanksgiving

Social Media Feature: Archives Audience Solves Mystery!

With hundreds of years' worth of handwritten records, we often have to decipher unclear script. But sometimes even we are stumped by a particular piece of handwriting. This time around, we could not identify what this Civil War Pension Application said about Henry Benson in April 1891.



Thanks to the medical knowledge of a few commenters, we now know that the words above are “ankle clonus,” which refers to an abnormal ankle reflex. In context, the pension is transcribed as follows:

“Limps when walking and drags his foot. Says cannot raise great toe high enough when walking and sometimes trips him. Motion of this toe limited to ½ degree and is numb. Says left leg is numb from hip to knee. Crep. [crepulation] of both shoulders and inability to raise right arm about horizontal position. Atrophy of lumbar and gluteal muscles to ¼ degree and tender. Seems nervous but has no general debility. Find mitral stenosis with enlargement of left ventricle and dilation of right. Patella reflex and ankle clonus absent.”

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.



Carillon Historical Park Artifact Recalls the Devastation of 1974

Much of Xenia was in pieces after the tornado of April 3, 1974. Entire houses, sometimes entire cul-de-sacs, had been torn apart and blown away, leaving only littered slabs behind. Some of the damage, though, was sporadic and much more strange. Stories abound of houses where walls and ceilings were ripped off the building by the force of the winds, but trinkets, papers, or money stacked on a surface within would mysteriously have remained in place throughout the chaos.

This artifact shows another strange phenomenon that occurred during the tornado: the sheer force of the wind making everyday items into dangerous projectiles. Reports have included a playing card stuck deep in a tree; a washcloth that came through a roof; a quarter stuck in a piece of wood; or, in this case, a piece of wooden debris driven through a metal gas meter.

This artifact was collected by R. H. Deeter, a Dayton Power & Light employee who worked in Xenia re-establishing services after the tornado. It is now part of the DP&L Collection at Carillon Historical Park.



Ohio Department of Transportation Aerial Image
Archive. Marshall Drive after the tornado.



"Salvaged from C. E. Wall Res. 394 Marshall Drive
Xenia, Ohio
April 10, 1974. R. H. Deeter Customer Service"



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