

Heritage Tree Planted

From the Director's Desk

Outreach Archivist to Join Digital Curation Cohort

Digital Collections Feature



Greene County Records Center & Archives

*Beyond
the*

clocktower

calendar of events >>>

December 6th, 1:30 p.m. in the Media Room (541 Ledbetter Rd.)

Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

December 25th and December 26th
Archives closed for Christmas

January 1st, 2026
Archives closed for New Year's Day

January 19th, 2026
Archives closed for Martin Luther
King, Jr. Day

January 3rd, 2026
Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

February 7th, 2026
Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

February 16th, 2025
Archives closed for Presidents Day

Heritage Tree Planted

With America's 250th anniversary quickly approaching (just seven months away!), preparations for this momentous milestone are well underway, and across Ohio, heritage trees are being planted in honor of the occasion. Here in Greene County, we planted our tree in September, with some much-appreciated help from our local scout troops. We also dedicated the tree with a public ceremony and ribbon cutting.

Thank you to Greene Soil and Water Conservation District, Greene County Parks & Trails, and America 250-Ohio for making this heritage tree possible! May it live and grow along with our nation for another 250 years!

Left: Scouts, County Services, and GSWCD staff pose with the newly-planted tree.

Right: Jen Haney Conover, Amanda McKay, Sarah Mays, Dick Gould, and Chuck Frazier stand with the newly-dedicated tree.



View and share this newsletter digitally!

Scan the QR code here or visit our blog at
greenecountyarchives.wordpress.com.

From the Director's Desk:



We are officially in December and the giving season. Something that I strongly encourage is continuing education. This keeps staff up to date on the newest trends and makes us better archivists. This also means giving their time and expertise. Mary attending the joint Ohio Local History Alliance and American Association of State and Local History conference in September set the stage for the rest of the fall. Not to brag on her too much, but she was also given a scholarship to attend! Go Mary, go!

Left: Vendor hall of the AASLH 2025 Conference.

Below: Ohio Local History Alliance members pose for a photo together at the conference.



Later in the month, I was honored to talk about the future of microfilm and the importance of standardization in digital imaging in the state of Ohio with Union County Records Manager Stephen Badenhop. County Recorder Joe Kennedy was also there in support as we move towards a future without microfilm.

Right: Jen Haney Conover and Greene County Recorder Joe Kennedy



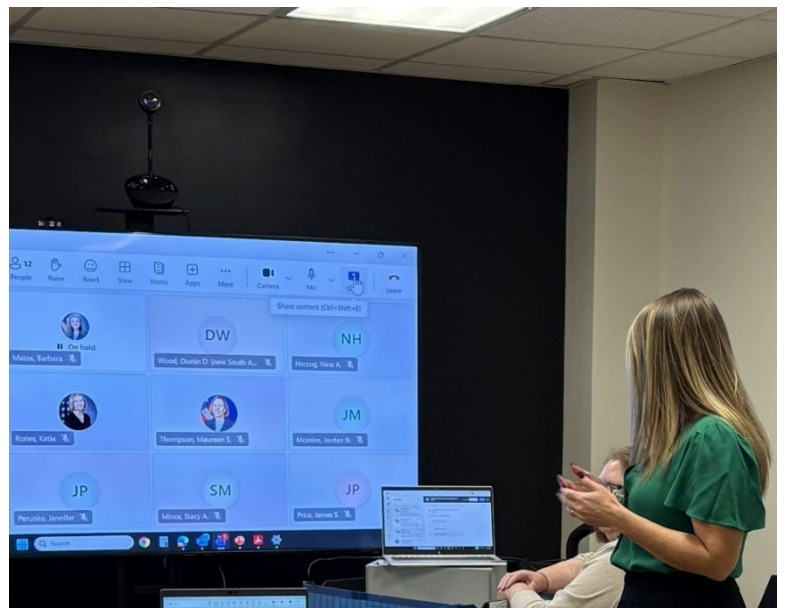
Training, training, training!



Elise Kelly took the baton in October by joining a stacked lineup for the NAGARA Fall Forum, Boosting Advocacy for Archives. Her presentation on advocating for standardization, best practices, and sustainability in the digital preservation of permanent records was seen online by over 200 attendees!

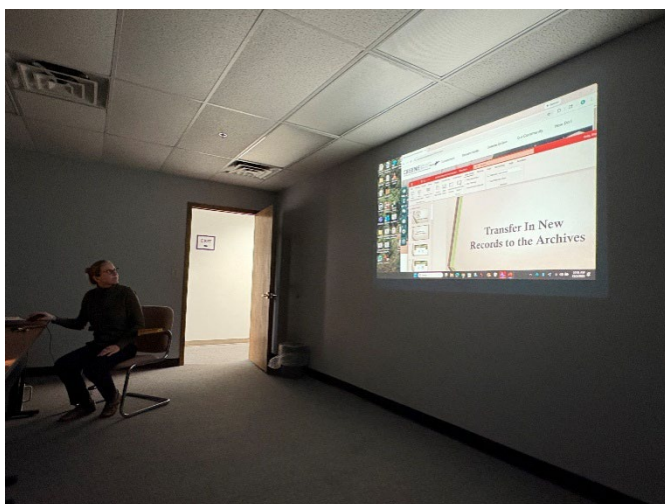
Sustainability in archives also means having good policies and strategies in place for succession planning. I was invited to speak to the Office of Veteran's Affairs History Office on how succession planning is not just a plan, but should be ingrained in what you do for a successful office. Getting to tour their newly renovated space was a major highlight. Thank you again to Senior Archivist Robyn Rodgers for the invite.

Right: Jen Haney Conover presents a hybrid training session for the Veteran's Affairs History Office.



In addition to sharing and receiving expertise from fellow archivists and records managers, we finished out the year providing training to our county colleagues. Elise and administrative coordinator Lori Harris have been working hard recently on creating a streamlined portal for records transfer and imaging procedures, and Elise's trainings for our county partners have been very well attended.

Left: Digital Archivist Elise presents training for county employees.



Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

Jen Haney Conover, Director

Outreach Archivist to Join Digital Curation Cohort

Outreach Archivist Mary McKinley has been selected to participate in the 2026 Digital Curation Cohort sponsored by the State Library of Ohio!

This competitive program allows 15 library and archives professionals from around the state to earn a certificate in digital curation from the Library Juice Academy. This certificate program won the 2020 National Digital Stewardship Alliance Innovation Award.

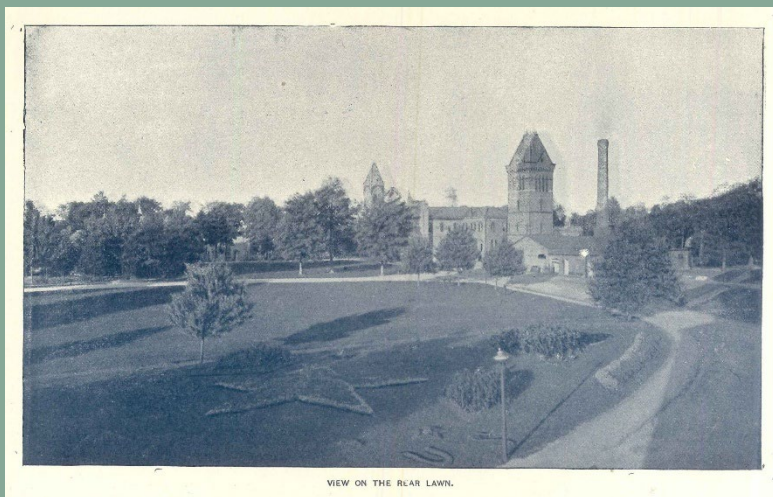
This is a fantastic opportunity to continue to grow the digital curation knowledge in the office and provide additional expertise to volunteer projects relating to digital projects, all while learning with and from other professionals from around the state. Mary will be completing the coursework for the certificate program from February to August of 2026.

Thank you to the State Library of Ohio for this fantastic program!

Digital Collections Feature >>>

The Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home Annual Report from 1900 is a wonderful piece of the history of the institution, showing a wonderfully complete picture of the home when it had been operating for over 30 years. The report includes not only the legal statutes governing the home, but also enrollment and program information and a wonderful collection of photographs from around the campus of the home and of the students.

This fascinating historical resource is now available online!



Greene County Records Center & Archives

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<https://www.greenecountyohio.gov/120/Archives>

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.



12,000 Obituaries Now Online >>>

Our obituary scanning project continues! We now have over 12,000 obituaries online in our digital repository, representing surnames Aaron through Boesch.

We currently have four volunteers working on the project, so it is a small but mighty crew! Are you interested in helping out? If you are available for even a few hours Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., you can be a part of preserving this trove of Greene County history!



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.