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**Volume 7
Issue 2**

Greene County Records Center & Archives

*Beyond
the*

clocktower

calendar of events >>>

**June 6th, 2026, 1:30 p.m. in the
Media Room (541 Ledbetter Rd)**
Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

June 19th, 2026
Archives closed for Juneteenth

July 3rd, 2026
Archives closed for Independence
Day

**August 1st, 2026, 1:30 p.m. in the
Media Room (541 Ledbetter Rd)**
Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

**September 5th, 2026, 1:30 p.m. in the
Media Room (541 Ledbetter Rd)**
Greene County Chapter Ohio
Genealogical Society Meeting

September 7th, 2026
Archives closed for Labor Day

Harris Receives Gen-Fed Scholarship

*2026 Richard S. Lackey Memorial Scholarship Secures
Attendance at Genealogical Institute on Federal Records*

Lori Harris, the Archives's Administrative Coordinator and resident genealogy expert, has been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Richard S. Lackey Memorial Scholarship. Awarded by the Genealogical Institute on Federal Record, the scholarship provides acceptance and full tuition to the institute's annual week-long program (known casually as Gen-Fed). Gen-Fed is a highly sought-after opportunity that provides advanced courses on genealogically significant federal records at the National Archives in Washington, D. C. and College Park, Maryland.

The scholarship is named in honor of Richard S. Lackey, recognized in the genealogical community as a leading figure towards professional standards in genealogical research and source citations. It is awarded annually to an individual who is an experienced researcher with high potential to benefit the genealogical community.

Congratulations to Lori on this well-deserved honor and opportunity!



Above: Lori Harris



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at
greenecountyarchives.wordpress.com.

Grant Updates >>> Archives Receives Two State Grants

OLHA and OHRAB Grants Enable Parks & Trails Slide Digitization



Above: Gabby Halcomb sorts photographic slides

The Greene County Records Center and Archives is pleased to announce that we have received two grants to support efforts to preserve the history of Greene County Parks & Trails, especially images and records that document the development of Greene County's remarkable trail network.

An Ohio Local History Alliance Digitization Grant funded the purchase of a photographic slide scanner. An Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board ReGrant funded a part-time, three-month internship. The internship allows Gabby Halcomb, who recently earned a Master of Arts in Public History at Wright State University, to continue her work with the Greene County Parks & Trails collection.

This project will enable us to better preserve photographic slides within our collections, since photographic slides are not a stable preservation format. Even if stored in proper conditions, slides are likely to undergo color fading, with Ektachrome slides especially prone to cyan fading that causes them to appear red. Digitization and digital preservation are excellent options for preserving and providing convenient access to these records.

Thank you to the Ohio Local History Alliance and the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board for making this project possible!

Conference Season in Full Swing

Spring and summer tend to be busy months for professional development, with numerous opportunities for Archives staff to meet with and learn from fellow archives and information professionals. This year is no exception, and May was particularly busy with conferences for staff and interns alike!

First up was the joint Midwest Archives Conference and Society of Ohio Archivist annual meeting, held at The Ohio State University Student Union. This conference was a particular pleasure to attend because intern Gabby Halcomb was recognized as a student scholarship recipient and colleague and Montgomery County Records and Information Manager Tina Ratcliff was recognized as a 2026 SOA Merit Award winner.

Next, Digital Archivist Elise Kelly was off to Indianapolis for the Best Practices Exchange, digging deep into technical specifications and best practices for digital preservation. The theme of the conference was Sustaining Best Practices: Humans Required, and many sessions focused on the impact of AI and accessibility requirements and best practices.

Top: Left to right, Director Jen Haney Conover, intern Gabby Halcomb, Outreach Archivist Mary McKinley.

Bottom: Left to right, Montgomery County Records and Information Manager Tina Ratcliff and Director Jen Haney Conover



Kelly Selected for Library Leadership Ohio

Digital Archivist Elise Kelly has been selected as a member of the 2026 Library Leadership Ohio cohort, a premier leadership program presented by the State Library of Ohio and OhioNet. Members of the prestigious cohort program are selected for “outstanding leadership potential, collaborative spirit, and deep commitment to the profession.”

The Library Leadership Ohio institute will be held July 21-23 in Logan, Ohio, at Hocking Hills State Park Lodge & Conference Center. Kelly and other cohort members representing public, school, academic, and other special libraries will participate in sessions to refine their leadership skills and empower them to lead from any position.

Congratulations to Elise for her selection for this program!



Above: Digital Archivist Elise Kelly

America 250 Exhibit to be Installed

With America 250 right around the corner and celebrations expected throughout the rest of the year, the time is right to install an America 250 exhibit in our media room lobby space!

We are excited to showcase Greene County’s history alongside the United States’s major milestones as part of the Moments that Made US exhibition. The exhibition was developed through a multi-state collaboration to ensure that Americans throughout the nation would have the opportunity to meaningfully engage in the nation’s 250th anniversary. It adapts the acclaimed Moments That Made US exhibition created by History Colorado and currently on view at the History Colorado Center in Denver into a format that allows host venues to customize it for their audiences and connect local history to the nation’s story.

The display is expected to be installed in late June and will take the place of the current exhibit exploring the 50-year legacy of the 1974 Xenia tornado. Be sure to stop by to explore the tornado exhibit before it is switched out, and then come back to see the new exhibit!



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.



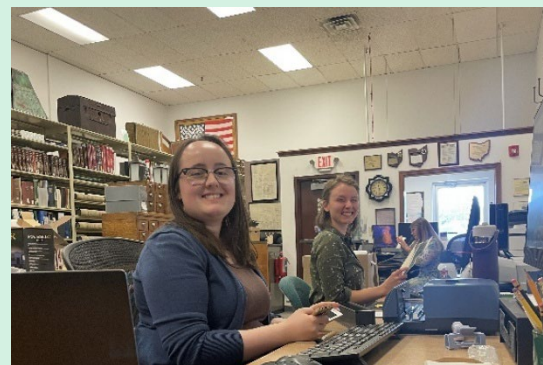
Volunteer Feature >>>

A rare and unprecedented occurrence happened at the Archives recently: our two Gabby’s were both working in the reading room at the same time!

Gabby Pollack has volunteered at the Archives since January 2025, and has been doing a fantastic job processing historical Clerk of Courts Miscellaneous Files.

Gabby Halcomb completed her capstone project with us earlier this year and is returning as an OHRAB ReGRant intern.

Thank you, Gabby and Gabby, for all you do for the Archives!



Above: Gabby Halcomb and Gabby Pollack work on projects in the reading room

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.

America 250 Features >>>

125+ Heritage Trail Coins Claimed!



In April, we launched the Greene County America 250 Heritage Trail in partnership with the Greene County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and we could not have asked for a better response! The community has been out exploring Greene County's heritage for two months, and already more than 125 of the America 250 Heritage Trail Coins have been claimed. There are only 250 coins available, so if you are hoping to earn one, we recommend hitting the trail as soon as possible!

Every person who completes 25 sites of the Heritage Trail before September 30th will receive a prize, and every person who completes all 50 sites will be entered into a grand prize drawing. The drawing will take place early in October and includes many fantastic prizes, so be sure to visit all 50 sites and call in to the Archives to register!



Upcoming Community Events

Flag Day 250

June 14th, 4-7:30 p.m. at the Greene County Fairgrounds

Fairborn Independence Days Celebration

July 3rd and 4th

2026 Kevin Sonnykalb Memorial 4th of July Fireworks

July 3rd at Shawnee Park in Xenia

Beavercreek Fourth of July Celebration

July 4th, 6-10 p.m. at Rotary Park

Spring Valley Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!

Old-fashioned community picnic celebration.
July 5th, 12-4 p.m. at Walton Park

Patriotic Business After Hours

July 8th, 4:30-6 p.m. at Xenia Adult Recreation and Services Center

America 250 Pioneer Ice Cream Social

July 20th, 5:30-7 p.m. at Wartinger Park

Bath Township Ice Cream Social

August 1st, 2026 at Bath Township Park



Greene County



Greene County Records Center & Archives

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