

Medina County Historical Society



John Smart House

206 N. Elmwood Medina Ohio 44256
 www.medinacountyhistoricalsociety.com
 mchs@zoominternet.net
 Established 1922



McDowell-Phillips House

Thank you for your support over the past year. We ended our 100th year in 2022 and are well positioned to continue our mission of preserving Medina County History with an amazing collection in two wonderful museums.

Programs and events are taking shape for early 2023:

- 3rd annual Trivia Night event. This is a fun event and you and or your table can all participate in finding the correct answer. Please consider joining us on Saturday March 18th at the Medina Eagles Hall. Details will be coming soon.
- The annual yard sale will be held Saturday May 6 on the front lawn of McDowell-Phillips House Museum.

The program schedule is listed below. During the winter months we use the Medina Library Conference rooms that are comfortable and easily accessible.

Our major spring projects include landscaping the rear of the McDowell-Phillips House Museum with the new driveway and hopefully recreating the original Victorian garden drawn by the architect of the house in 1889. War Bond Building needs repairs. We are looking for a Scout (Eagle Project) that will build a Victory Garden alongside to help explain the importance of the gardens during WWII.

The collection committee has been quite busy and is making steady progress getting through documents and museum inventory to catalog and make sure our systems have current location information. We received some very nice items from Nancy Gowe. Her late husband Jim Gowe restored the King-Phillips-Deibel house at Union & Broadway in Medina. Jim Gowe's ancestors, the Deibel family, were quite prominent and once lived in the big white house. Nancy also donated a beautiful baby grand piano that has been moved to the turret parlor of the McDowell-Phillips House. The wonderful piano that was in the McDowell-Phillips House was on loan to us by Miriam Phillips and her daughter Anna Phillips-Locke. Professional movers handled the job during the week of January 16.

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2022 Officers	Board Members	Emeritus Members
Brian Feron-President	Mary Jo Palmer, Pieri Levandofsky	Joann King
Open-Vice President	Lila Lehrer, Judy Davanzo, Chet Simmons	Richard Clark
Mike Davanzo-Secretary	Andrea Spickler, Beth Biggins-Ramer	Tom Hilberg
Carole Feron-Treasurer	Charles Ramer, Bill Parker, Dave Arbogast	

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

(continued from page 1)

The board of Trustees met January 14th to plan the year and strengthen our committee structure. If you have a talent to share, you don't have to be on the board to be on a committee. We always need fresh ideas and talent.

Finance committee

Financial operations sub committee
Fundraising sub committee

Administrative committee

Membership development sub committee
Publicity/communications sub committee
Program sub committee
Newsletter sub committee

Museum operations committee

Collection sub committee
House maintenance sub committee
Docent sub committee

Other special committees

Genealogy and research committee
Historic homes committee

-Brian Feron, President

Medina County Historical Society Membership Renewals are Due!

If you have not already sent in your Membership Renewal for 2023, please see attached membership form. It is due by March 31, 2023. Mail to: MCHS, 206 N. Elmwood, Medina, 44256.

SAVE THE DATE MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Saturday February 4, 1pm - Miles Reed presents "The Story of a Medina Treasure - Porter Shoe Repair."

Saturday March 11, 1pm – Showing of “Our Town” ca. WWII 1945 a short movie about Medina area and Bob Hyde talking about the War Bond Building

Saturday April 8, 1pm – Author & Veteran Dave Taylor presents “Medina County at War”

Monday May 8, 6:30pm – Emilie Illson presents “Antique Buttons” from 1840-1940

All above meetings are at Medina County District Library, 210 S. Broadway St., Medina, Room A/B 1st floor.

Monday, June 12, 6pm - Wolff Dairy Farm tour & Pot Luck. Details to come! Members & guests only.

For more information, check our Facebook page, email mchs@zoominternet.net, or call 330-722-1341.

MCHS YARD SALE!

Our annual Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, May 6 starting at 9am and closing at 2pm. It will be in the front yard of the McDowell-Phillips House Museum, 205 S. Prospect St., Medina. Come and look for some treasures and support Medina County Historical Society! The museum will not be open this day. Rain date will be Sunday, May 7th. Please do not park on Blake Ave. No early birds!



Trivia is back so mark your calendars for Saturday, March 18 for Trivia Night, benefiting the Medina County Historical Society!

It will be held at the Medina Eagles Club, 696 Lafayette Rd., Medina 44256.

Doors will open at 5pm with dinner at 6pm and Trivia starting at 7pm.

Pulled pork & Chicken, Mac-N-Cheese, salad and potato bar & dessert. Cash bar - 50/50 raffle - Gift Basket Raffles!!

This is a Team effort so get your teams ready for some fun and excitement!

\$35 per person, teams from are 1 - 8 people. Seating is limited - preregistration required.

If you have any questions, please call 330-722-1341 or email us at mchs@zoominternet.net.

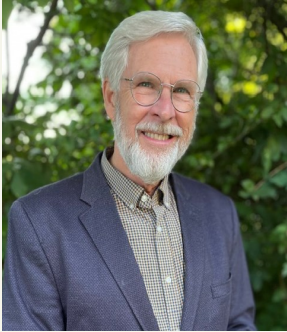
Send your name, number, email & checks made payable to MCHS to 206 N. Elmwood, Medina, OH 44256 ATTN: TRIVIA

Sponsorship levels are available. For more information call 330-310-7584 or 330-461-2080

Follow us at:

www.MedinaCountyHistoricalSociety.com

or on [Facebook](#)

W E L C O M I N G O U R N E W E S T T R U S T E E S

Charlie Ramer grew up in Medina, and after 7 years in Surprise, Arizona resettled back to his hometown in 2014. Charlie and his wife Beth purchased the Munson House upon returning and recently completed the seven year restoration. Charlie works as a consultant for Resource Recycling Systems doing solid waste and environmental planning. Charlie is also an accomplished watercolor artist voted best of the west while living in Arizona.



David Arbogast is the retired Chief of Police of Medina Township. He served with several other law enforcement agencies during his 43 years of service. In addition to his law enforcement career he was an educator teaching at the Medina County Career Center and the University of Akron. He currently works with the Ohio Collaborative for the State of Ohio and Carlson Funeral Home. He has served on the boards of Bluecoats of Medina and Project: LEARN.



Bill Parker lives in Weymouth with his wife Kelly. He has two grown children that grew up in the community. Bill is very passionate about history and is looking forward to the opportunity to work closely with the Medina County Historical Society.



HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM



Big thanks to Jim Haymond, owner of Liberty Upholstery, who donated his time and expertise to repair a red sofa at the McDowell-Phillips home.

War Bond Building in its
new location:
McDowell-Phillips
museum



The Society was delighted to receive the gift of a beautiful baby grand piano from member Nancy Gowe. The piano has been moved into the turret parlor at the McDowell-Phillips House to replace the wonderful piano that had been on loan to us from Miriam Phillips and her daughter Anna Phillips-Locke.

The Gowe piano was moved from the King-Phillips-Deibel house at the corner of Union St. and Broadway in Medina. Nancy has recently sold the house to move to a smaller home.

The piano has a history of its own – It was originally in the Deibel house but when Faith Deibel died, it was moved next door to Faith's daughter Joann Gowe's home. On Joann's death, her daughter, Jackie Kehnle, took the piano and she and her husband Jeff had it restored in 2000. They kept it until they sold their home on Wadsworth Rd. At that time, Jim and Nancy Gowe were finishing the restoration of the Broadway St. home, so it was returned to the King-Deibel house.

The society is very grateful for the generosity of the Phillips and Gowe families and of all its members.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

Ed & Linda Ludwig
 Dr. William Washington
 Jill Heck
 Beth Johnson
 Pramila & Bijay Jayaswal
 Lisa & Tim Pettry



Miss Sydney Beckett
 Connie Frey
 Dina Chatelain
 Theresa Kuehn
 Barbara Eriksen
 Wichert Insurance



Nancy Sprowls
 Frank Haight
 Lee Geissman

Northrop Award Recipients

Volunteer of the Year
 Don Spickler



Miles
 Reed



Roger
 Havens



THE UNITED STATES NAVY, MEDINA AND WORLD WAR II

Two ships carried the name “Medina” during World War II. These are their brief histories:

The *USS Medina* PC1209, was the thirty-fourth combat ship commissioned for the Navy during WWII, in October, 1943; she was a sub-chaser. She was built by the Consolidated Shipbuilding Corporation of Morris Heights, New York. On her first voyage from New York to the Submarine Chaser Training Center at Miami, Florida, she narrowly missed being sunk by an enemy sub. After training she was assigned to the Eastern Sea Frontier with her home base at Staten Island, New York. She then spent the rest of the war escorting convoys from New York to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Key West, Florida. After the war she was assigned to Naval Reserve Training at Sanford, Connecticut.

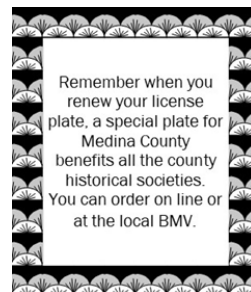
The other ship was the *SS Medina Victory* that was launched on February 10, 1945. I might say that this Victory Ship that bore the Medina name shared the honor with other Medina communities and counties around the nation. Besides Medina, Ohio, there are towns in New York, Texas, North Dakota, and possibly others that share the honor.

Medina, Ohio, could claim the biggest honor as Mrs. Chaffee, a local Medina woman, was selected as the sponsor. LaVern Thorp was married to a Naval Officer who was stationed on the West Coast. She and other locals from the county and Akron were a part of the launch party. The Medina County Historical Society has in its collection an engraved silver platter given to Mrs. Chaffee at the launch. It reads “LaVern Thorp Chaffee S. S. Medina February 10, 1945.”

It is interesting to note that the *Medina Victory* was the first American Merchant ship to be fitted with radar after the war. In 1948 the *Medina Victory* and the *Taos Victory* were sold to the Donaldson Atlantic Line and renamed the *Laurentia* and the *Lismoria*. They sailed from Scotland to Canada. In 1967 the *Medina Victory* – *Laurentia* was sold and scrapped.

-Tom Hilberg

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES



We have been informed the [Amazonsmile](#) program will be ending on February 20th. No longer will we receive money from your purchases. This being said if you need to purchase anything via [Amazonsmile](#) picking Medina County Historical Society, we would appreciate it if you do before February 20th. Thank you for your help in raising funds for Medina County Historical Society through this program. It is appreciated!

WANTED

Docents

*No Experience Necessary! Training, Docent Handbooks and Shadowing with an Experienced Docent Provided

*Great Volunteering Opportunity

*Wonderful Way to Greet Friends and make New Acquaintances

* Fun and Educational

*An Excellent way to explore the History of the People, Places and Events of Medina County

* Training will be held this Spring at both The John Smart House and The McDowell Phillips House.

Dates to be Announced.

A Docent is a person who acts as a guide or leads a guided tour, typically on a volunteer basis in a museum, art gallery or zoo.

Contact: Lila Lehrer via phone 330-725-8718 or email lilal@zoominternet.net

We need you Join Us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MEDINACOUNTYHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

Membership Categories:
Membership Year is Jan 1st – Dec 31st

Student/Senior	\$10.00	Organization	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00	Patron	\$50.00
Senior Family	\$20.00	Corporate	\$100.00
Family	\$25.00	Life	\$300.00 (one time payment)

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1922-2023

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MEDINA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY