



Pickaway County Historical and Genealogical Library

June 2024

210 North Court Street
Circleville, Ohio 43113

Library Hours:

Tuesday – Friday
1 pm – 4pm

Email us at:

pkwyhist@pchgl.org

Closed: Holidays & the
Friday after Thanksgiving,
& Christmas Eve through
New Year's Day

Phone: (740) 474-9144

<http://pickawaygenealogy.org/>



Watkins (photo: K. Deel)

All of us have family or friends who are 'collectors.' Some common collector items are stamps, coins, books, and the like. It is the people who are 'niche collectors' that have fascinating stories to tell.

Such was the subject matter at our May Library program. Our speaker, Leanne Watkins presented a program on **button collecting**. Watkins is a

member of the Buckeye State Button Society. She presented a program at their convention this past April. We learned that button collectors create displays based on color, composition, or themes. Watkins' oral presentation and displays focused on buttons inspired by famous works of art.

Among her collection were buttons copying classic sculptures by da Vinci and Michelangelo. Especially popular in the late 19th century were buttons incorporating children's book illustrations, religious artwork, and Egyptian motifs. Those familiar images were often 'borrowed' and then embossed or stamped onto the surface of a button.

Such clothing adornments became a status symbol. Watkins advised us to check vintage clothing from Grandma's attic before discarding. It's not unusual for old buttons to be worth a few dollars to hundreds depending on rarity and design.



Congratulations to Charlie Weaver, treasurer and past president of the Pickaway County Historical Society. Charlie was honored as the Grand Marshall of the annual Memorial Day Parade in Circleville. As one of our esteemed veterans, Charlie also recently returned from an 'Honor Flight' where he toured the many war memorial sites in Washington D.C.



DATABASE UPDATE! Volunteers continue to enter items in our Master Database so as to make it easier for visitors to cross-reference family names. As of May 31, the number of database lines totaled **1,092,001** records!



Your source for local history

Maintaining the Library building is an important part of conserving our Pickaway history. The Library's Building Fund paid to have outside painting done along with repair of the handicapped railing and spouting. Especially important was scraping and applying a new coat of paint to the north side block wall. The painters also touched up the wood framing on the front of the building.



Decoration Day dates back to the 1860s, when local groups from the North and South laid flowers on the graves of Civil War soldiers who fell in battle. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of Union veterans, officially established Decoration Day in 1868. The name Memorial Day was used with, or in place of, Decoration Day over the next few decades, and after World War I, the day came to honor veterans from all wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed the last Monday in May. In this photo, Library Director Darlene Weaver addresses a gathering at the Hallsville Memorial Day ceremony.

THIS IS HISTORIC...

Ohio has had its share of natural phenomena in 2024. In April we experienced our first total solar eclipse since 1806. Many saw the Northern Lights early in May for the first time. And now this summer we may get to hear the constant mating calls of two separate broods of cicadas. The Brood XIII and Brood XIX cicadas are set to emerge from the ground in the Midwest. Brood XIII lives on a 17-year cycle and typically appears west of us (mostly around Illinois). Brood XIX cicadas, meanwhile, live on a 13-year cycle and emerge over a much larger geographic area.



These two cycles only align every 221 years. So, yes, this co-emergence last happened in 1803. If that year sounds familiar to you it is because that was the year OHIO became a state. Pickaway County's formation was still 7 years away! People in the Midwest and Southeast are encouraged to snap pictures of cicadas in their area and report the sightings on an app called [Cicada Safari](https://www.cicadasafari.com/) or on websites: [Bugsinourbackyard.org](https://bugsinourbackyard.org/) or [Bugguide.net](https://bugguide.net/).

FOUND IN THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES...



A souvenir from the now-closed GE Lamp Plant.

The Library has conserved school records that otherwise would have been lost. Pictured to the right is a sample 'Record Card' from the Williamsport Elementary School.

This card must not be taken from the principal's office			
CUMULATIVE RECORD CARD			
Last name <i>Adams</i>	First name and initial <i>Paul</i>	Date of birth <i>7-27-22</i>	This card is a permanent record of pupil from first grade through high school. Utmost care must be used in making it out. On the reverse side record the average scholarship for the year. Write all dates as follows: 1917-4-30
Place of birth	Nationality	Descent	
Name of Parent or Guardian <i>Robert Bell</i>	Occupation of Parent or Guardian <i>Farmer</i>	Sex <i>M</i>	Latest place of residence, including residence outside of district when pupil is transferred <i>John Dunlops farm</i>
Former place of residence <i>Columbus</i>	Last school attended <i>Columbus</i>	Grade last attended <i>2</i>	
Age when discharged <i>13</i>	Yr. Mo.	Date of discharge <i>1935</i>	
Graduated in class of <i>1935</i>	Course <i>III</i>	Why Discharged <i>So Atlanta</i>	
Vaccinated			
In the above space record facts worthy of record			



The front page of a past issue of the Williamsport News reports on the April 1975 Drummond-Floyd wedding.