

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For the past four years I have had the privilege and honor of serving as your president. Today, I will be turning over the reins to your newly elected president, Margaret Cheney. I will now be serving on the board as past president and helping wherever I am needed.

During my term as president, OGS moved into the new Samuel D. Isaly Library, received and catalogued hundreds more books, modified our publications from three to two quarterlies, and scanned and placed our past publications online for members to use. We helped thousands of researchers through our website, library visits, educational programs, and conferences and we continued to build our good reputation in the genealogical community.

Our library director Thomas Stephen Neel, with the help of Sherri Dulin and Linda Reed, our office staff, have kept things running smoothly at headquarters. Our wonderful library volunteers continue to serve with caring hearts and welcoming smiles. Other volunteers come in once a month to help with filing and mailing or processing manuscripts. Many volunteers enjoy working from home on various indexing projects, such as typing names from our vast assortment of obituaries into the Rutherford B. Hayes Obituary Index. In addition, we have received help from student interns. Aaron Turner has probably doubled our Ohio high school and college yearbook collection and helps us out with scanning to put data onto our website for use of members.

OGS board members meet every two months at the OGS Library to discuss various projects, issues, and take action on society business. In addition, Trustees serving as district representatives often attend chapter meetings and help keep the lines of communication open between chapters and the Board. Others serve as committee chairs or committee members. Everyone serves as their interests, skills, talents, and time allow. I am very grateful for their service to our organization and to our members. Many volunteer to give talks at the Chapter Management Seminar and our summer learning sessions. Most belong to local OGS chapters and serve them in some capacity, whether it is holding an office, committee chair, or as a trustee.

This year we had several candidates run for available trustee positions. Election results will be reported by Eric Johnson. If you think this sounds like a volunteer job you would like to have, any of our officers or trustees would be glad to talk to you. Like the US Army, we're always "looking for a few good men and women."

The OGS website, [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org) is our face on the Internet. Webmaster Carla Cegielski has been a tremendous asset to us. The timely manner in which she makes necessary changes to the site is very much appreciated, as are her suggestions for improvements. If you have not visited our website, I urge you to do so. Sign in frequently and check out the databases. OGS pays for Heritage Pursuit, which contains most Ohio county histories and is searchable. It is a must for Ohio researchers. More data will be added as files are prepared for use. Contact Eric Johnson, our website coordinator, if you have something you would like added to the website. If you are considering DNA testing, we will soon have 23andme.com added to our choices on the website.

The OGS board is very appreciative of the financial support our members have donated to our building fund. We continue to raise money to pay off the US Rural Development Fund loan. If you have not done so yet, I encourage you to visit OGS for your family history research and see our facility. Genealogical gems await!

**Sunda Anderson Peters**

## AGENDA OGS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, 3 May 2014  
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center  
Sandusky, Ohio

Call to Order	Sunda Anderson Peters, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Assembly
Welcome	Sunda Anderson Peters
Adoption of the Agenda	Sunda Anderson Peters
Approval of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes	James Mainger
Treasurer's Report	Robert Keener
Report of the President	Sunda Anderson Peters
OGS Year in Review 2013/2014	Tom Neel, Library Director
Introductions	
OGS Officers	Sunda Anderson Peters
Committee Chairs	Margaret Cheney, VP Administration
Committee Chairs	Eric Johnson, VP Member Services
Committee Chairs	Don Clark, VP Development
Committee Chairs	James Mainger, Secretary
Committee Chairs	Robert Keener, Treasurer
Committee Chairs	Sunda Anderson Peters, President
OGS Trustees	Sunda Anderson Peters
OGS Staff	Sunda Anderson Peters
OGS Chapter Anniversary Years	Marleen Applegate
Awards and Fellows Presentation	Marleen Applegate
OGS Writing Contest	Kay Hudson
OGS President's Award	Sunda Anderson Peters
Nominations and Elections Report	Eric Johnson
Installation of Officers & Trustees at Large	Jean Barnes
Reports & Announcements:	
Fund Development	Ted Minier
Chapter Management Seminar	Kenny Bürck
October Seminar	Margaret Cheney
Librarians Seminar	Bvenitta Williams
2015 OGS Conference in Columbus	Deb Deal/Kay Hudson
Adjournment	Sunda Anderson Peters

**Any photographs will be taken at the conclusion of this meeting.**



**1** **MISSY DERRENBERGER**  
Richland County Chapter  
OGS Chapter Officer of the Year

**2** **PHILIP LEONARD**  
Richland County Chapter  
OGS Chapter Volunteer of the Year

**3** **CHERYL ABERNATHY**  
Wayne Ancestors  
Frances Dana Gage Award



## TREASURER'S REPORT

### BUDGET PERFORMANCE

Total revenue from operations (operating revenue, dividends, and life memberships) for the twelve months ending 31 December 2013 were \$462,332 vs. expenses (exclusive of depreciation) of \$424,808 for an operating surplus of \$37,324. However, of this amount, \$147,556 were represented by assets released from restriction.

### TOTAL NET ASSETS

Total Net Assets as of 31 December 2013 were \$2,357,582 vs. net assets as of 31 December 2012 of \$2,295,327, an increase of \$62,255.

### INVESTMENT STATUS

The OGS Fidelity Account, primarily representing our Endowment Fund, was valued at \$487,248 on 21 March 2014 vs. \$379,177 as of 18 January 2013.

While the Ohio Genealogical Society's cash position at year end was very favorable, expenses continue to rise at a faster pace than revenues. For the continued financial health of our organization, it is imperative that OGS use modern and creative methods to use our proprietary collection of genealogical resources to generate growing and continuing revenues in the future.

## OGS 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

### LIBRARY

It was an overall good year for the library in 2013. We gained 9,994 new titles, which is about three times the "normal" rate. In our third year at the new building, we have already been filling up available shelving. As of 1 March 2014, we have 55,293 titles. Our fastest growing collections were in yearbooks, England, Massachusetts, and of course, Ohio. We continue to digitize materials for the soon-to-be-released OGS Digital Library. Over 125 titles have now been scanned, passed through OCR software, and optimized for the web. We completed digitization of all OGS past periodicals in 2013 and these are now available to members on the OGS website: Report/OGSQ, 1961 to 2013; ORPF, 1960 to 2012; OCVGJ, 1997 to 2012; and OGS Newsletter/OGN, 1970 to 2013. Our Ohio yearbook collection is now bursting at the seams with nearly 15,000 titles and completion of the retrospective cataloging.

Check the Special Collections section of the OGS website for our yearbook holdings. We spent much of the year processing large collections that came in last year from the estates of Bob Cunning, Dr. William Houston, and Dr. Betty Reed, and we were given a large collection of books and manuscripts in person from our own Jean Barnes when she gave up housekeeping and moved into small quarters. We spent \$3,071.57 on library databases in 2013 with our normal \$10,000 used for book acquisitions. Our patrons can now use GeoMaps, American Ancestors, Heritage Pursuit, FindMyPast, NewspaperArchives, GenealogyBank, WorldVitalRecords, Ancestry, Fold3, HeritageQuest, Sanborn Maps, and many other online resources.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is about 5,500 with nearly 700 of those digital members. As this number

grows, we will realize more of a savings in printing costs. OGSQ alone is now \$11,099 per issue (printing and postage). Our last charter member from 1959, Donna Urban, passed away on 8 January 2013. She and her husband did the surname files at the OGS Library for most of those years. Other sad news for the record: the Southwest Cuyahoga County Chapter voted to disband on 12 December 2013, but we do have other groups interested in becoming chapters and hope to see an increase in that number in the future.

### FINANCIAL

If one subtracts our car raffle and non-cash building depreciation from our 2013 financial statement, we had \$400,808 in expenditures, or just under budget. Our income side was \$325,068, so we had to rely on our investments in the Endowment Fund to gain in value to break even. In a year with a downturn, this



**4 PORTAGE COUNTY CHAPTER**  
*Cleveland Worsted Mill Redfern Mill Annevar Dye House Employee Roster Record Book, 1900–1919*  
Simon Kenton Award

**5 KEVIN F. KERN AND GREGORY S. WILSON**  
*Ohio: A History of the Buckeye State*  
Henry Howe Award

**6 JEANNE B. WORKMAN**  
*The Wasser Record: Descendants of Peter and Catherine Wasser of Northampton County, Pennsylvania*  
William H. & Benjamin Harrison Award

**7 MEDINA COUNTY CHAPTER**  
*Longacre Funeral Home Records, 1909–1985*  
Lida Flint Harshman Award

method won't work. We need to seek more donations on the operating side and explore other means to generate revenue. Non-operating income was \$245,815 this past year, over twice what we had planned for in the budget. Members are to be congratulated for more than meeting the Isaly Kickstart Challenge with \$369,704 raised for the Building Fund loan payoff from 2011 to 2013 and \$127,482 in 2013 alone. Mr. Isaly has sent his final matching check, and we are finally paying more on principal each month than interest on our building mortgage with well over half that \$600,000 from USDA Rural Development now paid off. We will continue to be fiscally responsible, yet work toward getting this loan paid off, and seek funds for operations at the same time.

### GRANTS

OGS received well over \$62,600 in large gifts in 2013 from individual members: the Lolita Guthrie Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Black & Decker stock from Alan and Mary Draves, Proctor & Gamble Stock from Dan Reigle, Honda Motor stock from Carla Hall, and funds from the Nancy and Hal West Charitable Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. Some groups gave for special projects, the Richland County Chapter OGS for the purchase of original Mansfield Courier German language newspapers found on eBay, the Molly Stark Chapter of the Daughters of American Colonists for genealogy reference books from the southern states, and the John Mackintosh Chapter Colonial Dames 17th Century toward the purchase of the Victoria history series on England. Funding of \$6,745 came from Kent State University for intern Aaron Turner, and three \$3,000 grants plus extensions from The Ohio State University for interns Shayla Kenniston, Kathleen Bias, and Sherry Felty. Former OGS Trustee, Roger Marble, challenged the OGS Board of Trustees for \$100 each, a 100 percent group contribution to the OGS Building Fund. They more than complied (\$4,150), and Mr. Marble made his match.

### PROJECTS

OGS began a partnership with the Hayes Presidential Center and is participating in their Ohio Obituary program. As of 1 April, our volunteers have entered 50,099 obituaries according to the statistical report. We have nearly half our Florida obituary collection (Ohioans who died in Florida) entered into our own OGS database. A group of volunteers led by Dan Reigle has completed entry of eighteen rolls of Civil War headstone applications, being 33,349 entries with nineteen columns of data in the file. A reprint of the Mayburt Reigel book, *Early Ohioans Residences from the Land Grant Records*, was completed in 2013 through an online vendor, Lulu.com. As always, our public meetings are successful. Besides a fantastic conference in Cincinnati, we were packed at the OGS Fall Seminar with George Morgan and Drew Smith, and had just as many squeeze into the Fall Genealogy Librarians' Seminar with our free summer classes at the library reporting good attendance as well. All in all, 2013 was indeed a success!

## Nominations and Elections Report

The results of the 2014 OGS Election are as follows:

### OFFICERS

President: Margaret Cheney, 627 votes  
VP Administration: Vacant  
VP Member Services: Eric Johnson, 637 votes  
VP Development: Don Clark, 633 votes  
Secretary: James Mainger, 648 votes  
Treasurer: Bob Keener, 650 votes

### TRUSTEES

Deborah Abbott, 521 votes  
Paul Morehouse, 509 votes  
Chris Staats, 443 votes  
Jennifer Alford, 431 votes  
Dot Martin, 385 votes  
Lee Martin, 385 votes

## OGS WRITING CONTEST

### OVERALL WINNER

Deb Root Shell, MA, MLS, for her OGSQ article, "Far from Home: John Moss of Athens County, Ohio, and the Battle of Perryville." Shell received the top prize of \$50.

### OGN CATEGORY

First Place: William R. Hill for his article, "Discovering My American and Ohio roots: How I Found My Revolutionary War Ancestor." Hill received \$25.

Second Place: Corinne Konecny for her article, "Francy (SIPES) and Jacob George Rediscovered: Leaving No Stone Unturned." Konecny received \$15.

### OGSQ CATEGORY

First Place: Jeremiah Edwards for his article, "The Ties That Bind." Edwards received \$25.

Second Place: (tie) Pamela Guye Holland for her article, "A Broken Man: The Life of Birney Jay Pratt of Huron, Ohio," Timothy and Renee Kettering for their article, "Dreams of a Better Life: The Story of Heinrich J. Willenburg," and Jeremiah Edwards for his article, "Unsung Heroes of the Underground Railroad." Each received \$15.

# MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Membership Meeting of the Ohio Genealogical Society was held on 27 April 2013 at the Millennium Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. President Sunda Peters called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM and the assembly joined her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. President Peters welcomed all to the meeting.

Paul Morehouse made, and Henny Evans seconded, a motion to adopt the agenda that had been distributed to the members present. Motion carried. Paul Morehouse introduced a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, seconded by Russ Pollitt. Motion carried.

Treasurer Robert Keener was not present, but a written Treasurer's Report had been distributed to the members present. President Peters filed the report, subject to audit.

President Peters offered a short report, noting the continuing efforts to raise money to pay off the mortgage on the new OGS Library building and our stable membership numbers. She thanked the OGS staff members for keeping the organization running smoothly, and departing board members, Diane Gagel and Patrick Crippen, for their years of service. She asked for a round of applause for conference co-chairs, Kenny Bürck, Dana Palmer, and volunteers.

*Faith Chapel, Vol. 1*, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Henry Howe Award); *A Genealogical Review of John Jacob Renkert 1848-1923 and His Ancestors and Descendants*, Peggy Ann (Tissot) Brown (William H. & Benjamin Harrison Award); and *Veterans Buried in Medina County, Ohio, Vol. II War of 1812*, Nelson (Terry) Hard and Marcia Hart (Lida Flint Harshman Award). There were no entries for the Governor Thomas Worthington, Oliver Hazard Perry, and Salmon P. Chase book awards this year.

Kay Hudson presented the OGS Writing Contest Awards. Winner of the OGS Quarterly Award was Ronald E. Ballard of Naples, Florida, for the article "The Use of Y-DNA in Confirming the Identity of the Probable Father of Jesse Ellis of Northampton, Summit County, Ohio." Winner of the *Ohio Genealogy News* Award was Mari Margaret McLean of Pataskala for the article "Finding Maxa Ann Hadden and Mr. McLean". Honorable mention was given to articles by Rebecca Hilbert, George C. Hibben, Linda Davis Ballard, and Shelley K. Bishop.

President Peters introduced the OGS trustees to the assembly.

The President presented the President's Award to Bob McKown for his many hours of volunteering at OGS.

In his OGS Year in Review 2012–2013 Report, Library Director Tom Neel pointed out significant developments at OGS: the merger of our three separate publications into one; scanning and putting on the web all past OGS publications; outreach to a younger generation of genealogists with social media; our successful annual conferences; and the continuing value of a flesh and blood community of genealogists in a world of technology.

President Peters introduced the four OGS officers and the two OGS staff members present. Officers then briefly introduced the committee chairs under their jurisdiction. Margaret Cheney introduced Robert Keener's chairs and Sunda Peters introduced Eric Johnsons'.

Fellows and Awards Chair Marleen Applegate led the recognition of OGS Chapters celebrating anniversaries, then introduced and thanked the members of the Fellows and Awards Committee. Awards presented were: Hamilton County (Outstanding OGS Chapter); James Dempsey of Hamilton County (Outstanding OGS Chapter Officer); Robert Hyde of Medina County (Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer); *The Tracer*, Hamilton County, Deb Cyprych editor (Frances Dana Gage Award); and Gallia County (Thomas A. Edison Award). The book awards presented were: *Ashland County, Ohio, Birth Records Vol. 1–3, 1867–1908*, Marleen R. Applegate (Simon Kenton Award); *Hamilton County Burial Records Vol. 19–20, Old St. Joseph German Cemetery 1845–1879*, and *St. John German Cemetery, 1849–1879*, Jeffrey G. Herbert, editor (U. S. Grant Award); *A Guide to Genealogical Resources in Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Ohio*, 6th Edition, Connie Stunkel Terheiden and Kenny Bürck, compilers (Tecumseh Award); *Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church 1892–2012, 120th Anniversary*:

Paul Morehouse installed the newly elected and re-elected trustees to the OGS Board: Cheryl Abernathy, Derek Davey, Robert McKown, Bill Priest, Jay Russell, Patricia Van Skaik, and Christopher Staats.

Marleen Applegate presented Kenny R. Bürck and Marcella Anne Heisz Derrenberger the OGS Fellow Award for their outstanding service to both OGS and the field of genealogy.

Ted Minier, chair of the Fund Development Committee, was not present to deliver his report.

Co-chairs Kenny Bürck and Stacie Murry reported on the upcoming Chapter Management Seminar on 10 August 2013 in Cleveland, hosted by the East Cuyahoga County Chapter.

Margaret Cheney announced the Fall Seminar will be held the first Saturday of October at the Quality Inn in Bellville. She also promoted the 2014 Annual Conference to be held at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, a state-of-the-art facility in Sandusky the end of April and first weekend of May.

Bvenitta Williams announced the Annual Librarians' Seminar, held for the last ten years as an educational workshop for library staff who work in local history and genealogy reference, will be held at the OGS Library on 4 October 2013.

The winning ticket for the car raffle had been drawn two weeks earlier by OGS accountant Mark Wilging and placed in a sealed envelope. President Peters opened the envelope and announced the winner, John Cook of North Fairfield, Ohio.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 PM.