

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 11 April 2015  
Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio

## AGENDA

Call to Order	Margaret Lance Cheney, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Assembly
Welcome	Margaret Lance Cheney
Adoption of the Agenda	Margaret Lance Cheney
2014 Annual Meeting Minutes	James Mainger, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Robert Keener
President's Report	Margaret Lance Cheney
OGS 2014 Year in Review	Tom Neel, Library Director
Introductions	Margaret Lance Cheney
OGS Officers	Margaret Lance Cheney
Committee Chairs	
Administration	Russ Pollitt, VP Administration
Member Services	Eric Johnson, VP Member Services
Development	Don Clark, VP Development
Secretary	James Mainger, Secretary
Treasurer	Robert Keener, Treasurer
President	Margaret Lance Cheney, President
OGS Trustees	Margaret Lance Cheney
OGS Staff	Margaret Lance Cheney
Elections Report	Eric Johnson
Installation of Officers & Trustees at Large	Eric Johnson
Fellows & Awards Presentation	Marleen Applegate
OGS Writing Contest	Jennifer Alford
OGS President's Award	Margaret Lance Cheney
Reports & Announcements:	
Fund Development	Paul Morehouse
Chapter Management Seminar	Kenny Burck
October Seminar	Margaret Lance Cheney
Librarians Seminar	Bvenitta Williams
2016 OGS Conference in Cincinnati	Kenny Burck & Dana Palmer
Adjournment	Margaret Lance Cheney

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has given me an opportunity to learn even more about the functions of the Ohio Genealogical Society. It has been a year of looking to the future and the needs of the Society.

In order for any Society to grow, there has to be a constant watch on the technology that surrounds us as well as the needs of the Society in general. This can be a delicate balancing act. A Society needs strong by-laws and standing rules. OGS is in the process of reviewing ours to see where changes or additions can be made that will benefit the Society and the members.

As all officers and trustees are volunteers, we must also remember that everyone gives to the best of their ability. Some still are working, some are retired. All have a desire to see that OGS is the best that it can be.

OGS has signed contracts with FamilySearch to digitize several of our collections. Currently, the obituary collection is being digitized with thousands and thousands of images. This digitization project will allow indexes to be available on the FamilySearch website. OGS will retain rights to the images for copying purposes.

Many chapters are fighting the battle to stay solvent. But with good publicity and good programming chapters can continue to thrive. We are absolutely delighted to add a new chapter to the OGS umbrella this year – the Shelby County Genealogical Society. It is a pleasure to present their charter at this conference.

We continue to pay down our US Rural Development fund loan with your continuing financial support. We are currently running a campaign via GoFundMe.com <<http://www.gofundme.com/n0dn6>> to raise money for additional shelving units for the library. Your support for all needs of the library are always greatly appreciated. We are a unique library as we do not operate with public funds, we are supported solely by our members.

We continue to look for new ways to draw in new members and to give our members value for their membership.

Margaret Lance Cheney

## MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

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The Annual Business meeting of the Ohio Genealogical Society was held 3 May 2014 at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio. President Sunda Peters called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m. The assembly joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Conference Co-chairs, Margaret Cheney and Susan Zacharias and Fellows & Awards Chair Marleen Applegate. Paul Morehouse moved and Diane Gagel seconded a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion carried. Paul Morehouse moved and Diane Gagel seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting as corrected. Motion carried. Both the agenda and the 2013 Meeting minutes were provided to attendees in a meeting brochure.

Treasurer Bob Keener gave the Treasurer's report. 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.

President Sunda Peters presented the highlights of her report, which was printed in full in the meeting brochure.

Library Director Tom Neel gave a brief summary of the report "OGS 2013 Year in Review", which was printed in full in the meeting brochure. He urged OGS members to become more involved by volunteering, donating money, writing articles for OGS journals, and genealogy programing.

President Peters introduced the trustees and officers of OGS. The officers then introduced the Chairs of Committees under their jurisdiction. The President then introduced the OGS staff.

Marleen Applegate recognized the 5 and 10-year anniversaries of 15 OGS chapters and then followed with presentations of the

Chapter and Book Awards. Chapter Officer of the Year went to Missy Derrenberger of Richland County and Chapter Volunteer of the Year went to Philip Leonard of Richland County.

The OGS Fellow Award was presented to Joan Hamilton Wyatt and Susan Zacharias for their outstanding service to OGS over the years.

Kay Hudson presented the awards for the OGS Writing Contest. Overall winner was Deb Root Shell.

President Sunda Peters presented the OGS President's Award to two extraordinary volunteers:

John Early for his many volunteer hours given to OGS;  
Carla Cegielski for her exceptional work as OGS Webmaster

Eric Johnson, chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, announced the results of the 2014 officer and trustee elections.

Jean Barnes installed Margaret Cheney as the new President of OGS. Sunda Peters installed the other newly elected and re-elected Officers and Trustees.

Ted Minier was not present to give a Fund Development report. Kenny Burck announced the upcoming 2015 Chapter Management Seminar on 9 August 2014 in Lebanon, Ohio. Margaret Cheney announced that Josh Taylor will be the speaker at the Fall Seminar on 4 October 2014. Library Director Tom Neel announced the 2014 Librarians Seminar in October. Kay Hudson announced that the 2015 OGS Conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Capitol Square in Columbus 9 - 11 April 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

James Mainger  
Secretary  
Ohio Genealogical Society

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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### Budget Performance

Total revenue from operations (operating revenue, dividends, building fund donations, and life memberships) for the year of 2014 were \$427,383 vs. expenses (exclusive of depreciation) of \$454,775 for an operating deficit of \$27,392.

### Total Net Assets

Total Net Assets as of 31 December 2014 were \$2,262,997 vs. net assets as of 31 December 2013 of \$2,357,582.

### Investment Status

The OGS Fidelity Account, primarily representing our Endowment Fund, was valued at \$544,725 as of March 20, 2015.

### FDA Loan

The remaining balance on our loan from the Federal Department of Agriculture as of December 31, 2014 is \$257,116.19 vs. a balance on December 31, 2013 of \$433,050.88.

While our financial condition remains stable, it is increasingly obvious that our business model is obsolete and needs to be brought into the 21st century by taking advantage of the huge leaps in technology and communications that have occurred over the past two decades. Our membership has been slowly declining for the past few years as people use the internet for their research. It is imperative that we take advantage of the wonderful resources that are our most significant asset to allow people to access them remotely.

## OGS 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Any review of the previous year in an organization's history may be outlined as a series of facts, and then one compares the data to the group's mission and goals with a thought to the future to ensure sustained viability. It is always amazing to me how a volunteer organization can accomplish so much in a year, and 2014 is no different for the Ohio Genealogical Society.

- Ohio Civil War applications database extract completed
- Ohio Digital Library added to OGS web site with over 125 titles digitized in first year
- Winton Arnold, past OGS Trustee, the first 100-year old in Century Families of Ohio
- Early Ohioans Residences from the Land Grant Records reprinted
- FamilySearch team at OGS began scanning of over 600,000 Ohio obituary cards
- \$2000 NHPRC grant – The Ohio Story Scripts: Bringing Old Radio Back to Life – 3 interns completed this massive digital collection now at [www.ogsarchive.org](http://www.ogsarchive.org)
- Multiyear “Kickstart” Campaign completed with matching grant by Samuel Isaly to get half the building loan with USDA paid off (\$369,704 raised)
- NDNP Project to add Ohio digital newspapers to Chronicling America ending last grant cycle – OGS Library Director served on the committee representing OGS throughout the project
- Ohio Library Council Subject & Special Collections Division – Library Director elected to a two year term 2015-16 representing OGS
- Southwest Cuyahoga County Chapter disbanded, but a new Shelby County Chapter is ready to come on board in 2015!
- OGS welcomed a new President, Margaret Cheney, of Elyria
- OGS Conference at Kalahari – new resort experience brings many new members to OGS – with the help of our tour guides “George” and “Leonard”
- OGS represented at NGS Conference in Richmond VA and National Pal-Am Conference in Columbus OH
- Large library donations included Robert Longbottom Collection (over 100 volumes on Bedford-Blair Co PA); Draper Manuscripts nicely bound; 130-volume Official Records of the Union & Confederate Armies from Franklin Public Library; original Richland County naturalization records; Wayne County Cemetery Preservation Society volumes (35 books); Russell Earnest Associatesaktur series; and much more!
- 50,000 obituaries entered in Hayes Ohio Obituary Project in first six months – [index.rbhayes.org](http://index.rbhayes.org)

- OGS Fall Conference with Josh Taylor our largest ever!
- GenLib Seminar popular as always as well as our summer schedule of library classes
- Endowment Fund and Building Fund plaques put up recognizing our largest donors
- Ohio's Black Soldiers in the Civil War published (first OGS book available on Kindle)
- Also published Grave Marking Ceremonies: Planning and Conducting an Event
- Fundraising - \$106,990.77 total donations with the break down: \$82,852.49 Building Fund, \$2,070.00 Endowment Fund, \$8,250.00 Life Membership, \$4,625.00 Sustaining Membership, \$9,193.27 Operating Fund
- We began the year with 5497 members (653 of those digital) and ended the year with 5356 members (820 of those digital)
- The library had 4545 patrons in 2014 (compared to 4930 in 2013)
- 3512 new titles were acquired with 4345 titles added to the online catalog; the acquisition log at the end of the year totals 58,347 books with 49,456 of these catalogued
- 4225 volunteer hours were contributed in the library; many additional hours were given by off-site board members, committees, and volunteers
- The OGS web site is most impressive with 156,439 unique users; 435,740 visits; and 2.9 million page views during 2014

These are just a few of the many accomplishments of many people in 2014, but one must look at the big picture. We have been very successful with a 2.3 million dollar library project and the loan is now manageable just five years out, but the measure of success in a society is the completion of its public projects. Donations should be aimed at operational goals. Increased reference services, our digital library, the OGS web site, database (index) preparation, manuscript processing, shelving for our incoming collections, and the acquisition of Ohio books and microfilms and electronic resources are all at the top of the list. They all take money and a dedicated staff which takes even more money. We must treat OGS as the caretaker of Ohio's records dealing with our ancestral families and remember OGS in our will bequests and estate planning just like your local museum or college giving plan are important to you. OGS is a charitable institution and we can only survive through the generosity of donors. At the same time, we

Continued from page 3

realize that the "society" or social group as we know it is diminishing. We see it in every branch of today's society. We must sell ourselves and convince our friends to pay that \$35 membership fee each year. The online vendors have fantastic resources and they are new and wonderful and expanding, but there is value to exploring the world outside of your home computer. Listening to a good speaker, photographing a tombstone for that contact in another state, sharing stories of courthouse adventures with friends, going with a group on an overnight excursion to a conference or a library facility, extracting records and publishing them for the benefit of others in a community in which you may have no familial connection – these are all the extra benefits of participating in a society like OGS – the "add-ons", if you will, to those online publications, blogs, and Facebook chatter that keep us up at night. Spread the word and promote the organization that you believe in through your voice, if not by your pocket. This is how the Ohio Genealogical Society can grow and mature and maintain its viability in the future!

Thomas Stephen Neel, Library Director

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## 2014 OGS FELLOWS

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Joan Hamilton Wyatt  
Susan Zacharias (name inadvertently left off of Syllabus)

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## 2015 OGS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

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### Overall Winner

Mari Margaret McLean  
*Unintended Family History: Thomas Scholfield's Letter to His Brother*

### Ohio Genealogy News Winners

First Place: Jeremiah Edwards  
*War of 1812: 1st Regiment (Edwards') Ohio Militia*

Second Place: Corinne Konecny  
*Sharing Research, Brick Walls, and DNA*

### Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly Winners

First Place: Ronald Benson  
*Discovering the Children of Jesse and Sarah (McMillan) Ellis of Northampton, Summit County, Ohio and Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan*

Second Place: Ronald Benson  
*Was Anthony Carter a French Soldier Under General Marquis de Lafayette?*

## CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

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25 Years: Clinton County

30 Years: Champaign County & Delaware County

35 Years: Athens County, Cuyahoga Valley, Fulton County, Greene County, Jackson County, Madison County, Meigs County, Mercer County, Union County, & Van Wert County

40 Years: Pike County

45 Years: Ashland County & Franklin County

55 Years: Richland County

New Chapter to OGS: Shelby County

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## FELLOWS & AWARDS

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### Outstanding Chapter Officer

Barbara H. Hart, Ashland County Chapter

### Outstanding Chapter Volunteer

Guy & JoAnne Stallman, Holmes County Chapter

### Frances Dana Gage Award

*Fort Industry Reflections*, Editor Carol Guzzo

### Simon Kenton Award

*Tombstones of Oak Hill Cemetery*, by Louis J. Joseph & Sarah E. Jay Joseph

### U.S. Grant Award

*Index to the Fairview Herald*, by Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society

### Henry Howe Award

*Fultonham Area Cemetery Inscriptions and Obituaries*, by Sue Fetty Saylor

### William H. & Henry Harrison Award

*Nyland Family History & Genealogy*, by Mary Milne Jamba

### Lida Flint Harshman Award

*History Hall of Lake County Ohio Fairgrounds*, by Lake County Chapter, OGS

### Oliver Hazard Perry Award

*Ohio's Black Soldiers Who Served in The Civil War*, by Eric Eugene Johnson

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## OGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS REPORT

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The following trustees have been re-elected for another three year term of office. Congratulations!

Stacey Adger, Youngstown (2018)

Deborah Lichtner Deal, Chandlersville (2018)

Debra D. Jeffers, Galion (2018)

Richard D. Juergens, Woodville (2018)