

Annual Meeting of the Ohio Genealogical Society

Saturday 30 April 2016

Great Wolf Lodge

Mason, Ohio



Call to Order	Margaret Lance Cheney, President
Pledge of Allegiance	Assembly
Welcome	Margaret Lance Cheney
Adoption of the Agenda	Margaret Lance Cheney
2015 Annual Meeting Minutes	James Mainger, Secretary
Treasurer's Report	Robert Keener
President's Report	Margaret Lance Cheney
OGS 2015 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
OGS Trustees	Margaret Lance Cheney
OGS Staff	Margaret Lance Cheney
Bylaws report	Eric Johnson
Elections Report	Russ Pollitt
Installation of Officers & Trustees at Large	Sunda Anderson Peters
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
2017 OGS Conference in Sandusky	Stacey Adger & Marleen Applegate
2018 OGS Conference in Columbus	Sheryl Dayton & Russ Pollitt
Adjournment	Margaret Lance Cheney

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

OGS MINUTES OF THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business meeting of the Ohio Genealogical Society was held 11 April 2015 at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio. President Margaret Cheney called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. and welcomed all, after which the assembly joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the serving of the banquet meal.

At 1:32 p.m. Paul Morehouse moved for the adoption of the meeting agenda, seconded by Kay Hudson. That motion carried. The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting, having been presented to the assembly in the meeting brochure, stood adopted as presented, as no amendments or corrections were offered.

Treasurer Bob Keener was not present as the meeting due to illness. The Treasurer's report was also available in the meeting brochure for the assembly to read.

President Cheney presented highlights from her report, also in the meeting brochure. She noted the GoFundMe campaign to fund additional shelving for the Isaly Library.

President Cheney introduced the officers of the Society: 1st Vice President Russ Pollitt; 2nd Vice-President Eric Johnson; 3rd Vice-President Don Clark; Secretary James Mainger; Treasurer Robert Keener (absent) and Past President Sunda Peters as well as Library Director Tom Neel. She then introduced the Trustees of the Society. Each of officers acknowledged the chairs of committees under their jurisdiction with President Cheney acknowledging Robert Keener's committee chairs and the OGS staff members under Tom Neel's direction, Sherri Dulin and Linda Reed.

Eric Johnson, who served as chair of the Nominations & Elections committee reported on the results of the 2015 Trustee elections. 578 electronic and 35 paper ballots were cast. Eric Johnson installed the winners - Stacey Adger, Deborah Deal, Debra Jeffers, and Richard Juergens - in their new term of office.

Fellows & Awards Committee Chair Marleen Applegate introduced her committee members. She recognized the 20 chapters whose years in OGS were multiples of five. Shelby County was induced as a new chapter of OGS and its officers and members who were present came forward to receive their charter and certificate from President Cheney. Marleen Applegate proceeded to announce the winners of the chapter and book awards. Outstanding Chapter Officer was presented Barbara H. Hart of Ashland County and Guy and JoAnne Stallman of Holmes County were awarded Outstanding Chapter Volunteers.

Fellow of the Ohio Genealogical Society was awarded to Kay Hudson for her many years of exceptional service to OGS. She was the first to receive one of the newly redesigned Fellows pin.

Kay Hudson announced the winners of the OGS Writing Contest in place of Contest Head Jennifer Alford who had lost her voice. Overall winner was Mari Margaret McLean with four other awards presented.

President Margaret Cheney revived the tradition of presenting “Presidential Key awards”(instead of “President’s Award”) for those who have offered exceptional service to OGS. She bestowed Presidential Key awards to Marleen Applegate, Shelly Bishop, Paul Morehouse, and Tom Neel.

Paul Morehouse gave the Fund Development report. He urged the Society to strive for the goal of paying off the remaining \$150,000 of the Library building loan by the end of 2016 through concerted donations. Kenny Burck announced the 2015 Chapter Management Seminar for 15 August 2015 in Zanesville, Ohio. Jay Russell reported on the upcoming May 16 Cemetery Seminar in Brunswick, Ohio. Margaret Cheney announced that Thomas McIntee will be the speaker for the OGS Fall Seminar in October. Library Directory Tom Neel commented on his report, 2014 Year In Review which was in the meeting brochure, noting that genealogical societies will need to reach the new generation of Internet genealogists. The 2015 Librarians Seminar will happen on the third Saturday of October. Kenny Burck reported on the 2016 Conference to be held at the Great Wolf Lodge near Cincinnati, 28 - 30 April 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

James Mainger
Secretary
Ohio Genealogical Society

TREASURER’S REPORT, April 2016

Budget Performance – Total revenue from operations (operating revenue, dividends, building fund donations, and life memberships) for the year of 2015 were \$477,646 vs. expenses (exclusive of depreciation) of \$431,483 for an operating surplus of \$46,163.

Total Net Assets – Total Net Assets as of 31 December 2015 were \$2,236,301 vs. net assets as of 31 December 2014 of \$2,262,997.

Investment Status – The OGS Fidelity Account, primarily representing our Endowment Fund, was valued at \$573,222 as of 24 March 2016. A cash flow shortage during the summer of 2016 was met by selling approximately \$34,000 of these funds. Since we have not previously used these monies, this withdrawal was well within our guidelines.

FDA Loan – The remaining balance on our loan from the Federal Department of Agriculture as of December 31, 2015 was \$231,948.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been one of challenges and changes. Our Standing Rules and Bylaws were updated to reflect changes in the Society. That is always a challenge to insure that the needs of the Society are met.

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. Social media is now a prominent part of publicity for any organization. Communication with our members and potential members is a must in today's world.

We hope that this next year will bring changes to OGS in the technology field. New databases are being added to the website. We will also be looking to provide instructional videos for lineage societies and other topics.

Many chapters are still fighting the battle to stay solvent. But with good publicity and good programming chapters can continue to thrive. Sadly, we have lost two chapters during this last year.

A new lineage society, The Society of Families of the Old Northwest Territory (SFONT) was formed under the direction of Eric Johnson. We are extremely excited about this. This will be the only lineage society for OGS that will allow non-members to participate. The charter inductions will be at the 2017 conference.

We continue to pay down our US Rural Development fund loan with your continuing financial support. We have initiated our "Burn the Mortgage" campaign as we are ever closer to paying off the current mortgage and actually Burn the Mortgage at the 2017 conference. Who would have believed that in 7 short years we would accomplish this! You are all valued and respected members and supporters and you are appreciated! We look forward to this new chapter for the library as we will now be looking to expand to provide more shelf space. 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

OGS 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

Digitization was the big push in 2015. We announced an 8 for 88 program to try to get at least 8 new digital references for each of Ohio's 88 counties. By the end of the year, we had 1160 databases and image sets online for our members [see *Ohio Genealogy News*, Spring 2016, p. 26]. Continuing our digitization efforts, we partnered with FamilySearch to scan some of our largest collections – 667,412 Ohio obituary cards; 43,262 Ohio obituary large sheets; 67,104 Florida obituary cards (folks from Ohio who died in Florida); 18,821 Bible records; and over 1 million cards indexing Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) probate cases. Indexes to these collections will eventually be

developed, be accessible to the general public, and will lead the user back to OGS for record copies. We could not have completed these large digital projects without their help.

Although our digital membership is increasing (1238 at the end of the year), our total membership (5132) continues to gradually fall back. Our high was around 6350 back in 1995 when all that "free stuff" on the Internet began to take hold. We are still membership-based financially (52% of our operating budget and 43% of our actual operating income in 2015) and it is our duty to promote OGS to our new genealogy friends. Your kind donations keep us going but are not enough. We have to rely on annual membership fees for our sustenance. We need 1,000 more members to guarantee our viability for the long term and still keep all our programs and benefits.

Development was another theme at OGS in 2015. We tried new avenues of fundraising, such as GoFundMe, RichlandGives, and the Amazon Smile Foundation. Several large gifts [\$500 and above] came in from Alan and Mary Ann Draves, the Nature Conservancy, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Hibben, Barbara Sohner-Leeds, E. Paul Morehouse, Virginia L. Cassady, Donald G. Armstrong, LaDonna O'Neal, Dorothea A. Martin, Betty J. Wilkins, Patty Drumheiser, Crawford County Chapter OGS, Louise Varisco, Connie S. Smith, Rebecca Mae Stephenson, Carla Hall, Regina M. Burley, Rachel and Wesley Gragson, Clara Harsh, Medina County Chapter OGS, Trumbull County Chapter OGS, Stark County Chapter OGS, Robert W. Wixon, Thomas E. Pelton, Charles Blakley, Anonymous Donors (2), Marsha Chadwick, Columbiana County Chapter OGS, Kathryn Cox, Mahoning County Chapter OGS, Lyle West, A. Elena Cogdell, Nina L. Ronshausen, Mark Seiter, and Timothy Leeds, to help us meet our operating goals and our commitment to paying off our building construction loan with the US Department of Agriculture (Rural Development). We raised a total of \$140,035.70 in all donation categories combined. Two steadfast OGS building supporters passed away this year, Jean Barnes (13 May 2015) and Lolita Guthrie (16 Nov 2015), but continue to support OGS through major estate bequests. These will come to fruition in 2016, and paired with incoming member donations in our Burn the Mortgage campaign, should permit us to fulfill our principal and interest obligations in that regard prior to our 2017 OGS Conference.

Our programs and activities are the most enjoyable side of library work. At our OGS Conference in Columbus in April our staff table had a record \$4741.39 in revenue taken in from donations, sales, raffle tickets, etc. We attended the National Genealogical Society Conference in St. Charles MO in May and promoted our great state. Our Fall Conference in October with Thomas MacEntee was packed. His knowledge of online sites, software, and marketing got a lot of attendees thinking. The Global Family Reunion this year was something new for us. Although attendance was small, it was quite a concept mixing online streamed programming and activities on site in the library. We created a Poster Session on OGS at the Ohio Library Council conference in Cincinnati in October portraying the relationship between our chapters and public libraries at the county level. We continue to educate ourselves through conferences and other events, because that is important in running an organization. We were awarded a grant to participate in the Osborne-Meese Academy at the Richland County

Foundation through 2016. This will train us on all aspects of running a non-profit organization. We have participated in classes at Ohio DIG (a digitization group - <http://ohiodig.org/>) and the OLC (Ohio Library Council Subject and Special Collections - <https://sscdblog.wordpress.com/>).

In the library, two wonderful OSU interns, Shayla Kenniston and Sherry Felty, completed their multi-year stints with us as they received their diplomas and have entered the real world. We got a lot of manuscripts processed and finding aids online through their good work. We put the *Ohio Story Radio Scripts* online and turned in the final report. Funded through an OHRAB grant, we scanned over 900 stories relating to Ohio history (www.ogsarchive.org). Dr. Don Wenner, a regular library volunteer (who happens to be 95) made us two wooden pocket cabinets to handle all our chapter brochures. The Cuyahoga County Lineage Group placed their pioneer families applications with the OGS archives and put their database on our web site. We completed processing Richland County coroner's inquests at the library and have now started with Supreme Court packets. We closed our library blog out in 2015 (created to show our construction photographs back in 2009) and created a new OGS blog (www.ogsblog.org) to promote our cause through social media. *Country Living Magazine* and *Heart of Ohio Magazine* both promoted the OGS Library with articles this year, and we are always looking for ways to market our library and organization through avenues that reach new groups of people. 2015 was quite a year indeed!

OGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION REPORT, Sat. 30 April 2016

TO: Ohio Genealogical Society Membership

The results of the 2015 Ohio Genealogical Society Election are as follows:

- Total Ballots= 854
 - 798 electronic ballots received
 - 56 paper ballots received

OFFICERS (2 year terms beginning April 30, 2016 and will expire at the end of OGS conference 2018)

- President - Margaret Lance Cheney—812
- Vice President of Administration (1st VP) - Russ Pollitt—826
- Vice President of Member Services (2nd VP) - Sheryl Dayton—816
- Vice President of Development (3rd VP) - Marleen Applegate—531
- Vice President of Development (3rd VP) - Dorothea Martin—409
- Secretary - James Mainger—829
- Treasurer - Robert L. Keener—828

TRUSTEES (3 year terms beginning April 30, 2016 and will expire at the end of OGS conference 2019)

- Cheryl Brown Abernathy^{CG}—557
- Donald R. Clark—502
- Marilyn A. Gill—426
- Mary Jamba—579
- Eric E. Johnson—538

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Pollitt
Nominations and Elections Chair

“8 for 88 Campaign”

OGS hopes to add 8 new digital collections including database indexes and / or scanned books/manuscripts for each of our 88 Ohio counties as part of the OGS member website collection. Chapters are encouraged to submit materials to include in these databases in Excel, Access, MS Word and digital scans format. Make sure to include a note that your chapter gives OGS permission to scan any copyrighted materials from your chapter. If you or someone you know has an out-of-print county book or index from inactive chapters, consider donating a copy to the “8 for 88” campaign. Wouldn’t it be great if OGS members had access to more searchable indexes and records through the OGS website. Logged in users could search the members-only database, find their ancestor’s name and order a copy for a small fee from your chapter. These indexes benefit OGS and the local chapters and foster greater unity in the record collection availability and could provide additional income to the donating chapter.

The following chapters have already provided materials in 2015 for this new program:

- Huron County – 18 items
- Seneca County – 10 items
- Warren County – 8 items
- Erie County – 6 items
- Athens County – 4 items
- Washington County – 4 items

Make it a priority to donate at least one item in 2016 and help OGS create a worthwhile collection to assist all that have ancestors in Ohio.

FELLOWS & AWARDS

2015 OGS Fellows: Kay Ballantyne Hudson

2016 OGS Chapter & Book Awards

- ❖ Outstanding OGS Chapter: **Crawford County**
- ❖ Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer: **Cheryl Brown Abernathy**^{CG}
- ❖ Frances Dana Gage Award: *The Pastfinder*, **Ashland County**, Editor **Terry Haun**
- ❖ U.S. Grant Award: *1890 Pickaway Co. Residents List*, **Pickaway Co. Chapter OGS**
- ❖ Henry Howe Award: *Oberlin A Hotbed of Abolitionism: College Community and the Fight for Freedom & Equality in Antebellum America* by **J. Brent Morris**
- ❖ William H. & Henry Harrison Award: *Ohio Home of the Wright Brothers. Birthplace of Aviation* by **Louis Chmiel**
- ❖ Gov. Thomas Worthington Award: *Ashland Women 1815-2015* by **Shirley Fulk Boyd**
- ❖ Tecumseh Award: *Researching in Warren County, Ohio: A Guide to Genealogical Resources*, by **Dana Palmer**^{CG}

CHAPTER ANNIVERSARIES

30 Years: Huron, Putnam,

35 Years: Cuyahoga Greater Cleveland, Warren, Seneca, Brown, Morgan, Fayette, Williams

40 Years: Marion, Carroll, Columbiana, Erie, Lucas, Muskingum

45 Years: Allen, Summit

2016 OGS WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

The Ohio Genealogical Society is proud to announce the winners of its 2016 Writing Contest. Entrants submitted articles for either the Ohio Genealogy News (OGN) or the Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly (OSGQ). The Society would like to congratulate the following authors for their excellent writing:

- ❖ Overall Winner: **Jeremiah Edwards** for his OGSQ article, “*Dry Bones*”
- ❖ Ohio Genealogical News Winners
 - First Place: **Loretta Evans**^{CG} for her article, “*Finding Female Ancestors*”
 - Second Place: **Loretta Evans**^{CG} for her article, “*The Luse Family Reunion Book*”
- ❖ Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly Winners
 - First Place: **Sharon Alwart** for her article, “*Dwight Stephens: From Small Town Lima, Ohio to the Wild West*”
 - Second Place: **Betty Lou Malesky** for her article, “*Reuben Farley, Early American Preacher*”

We thank each author who chose to share their expertise and family lines with others by entering the contest. At the discretion of the OGN and OGSQ editors, all entries may be published.