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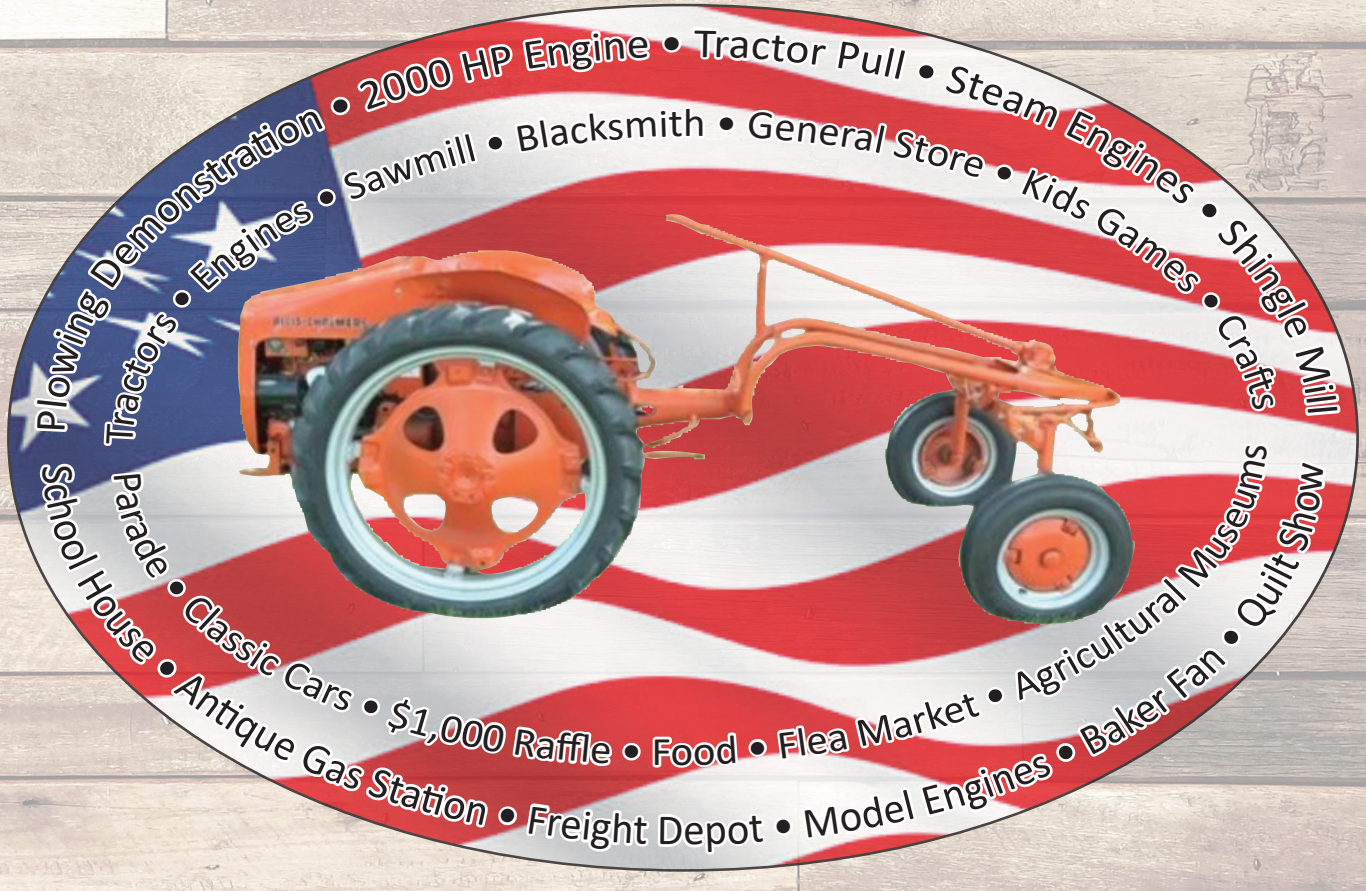

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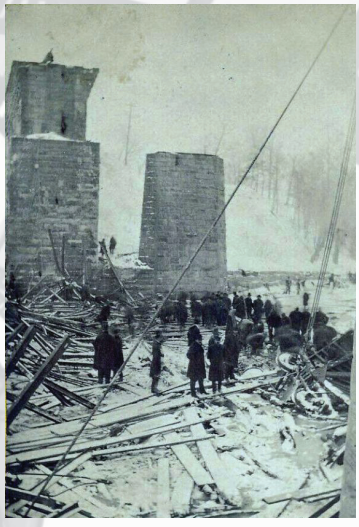

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TIME OF SETTLEMENT OF ASHTABULA COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

(*From the History of Ashtabula County, Ohio, by William W. Williams, 1878*)
The following furnishes a statement of the date of settlement of townships in Ashtabula County, with the names of the first permanent settler or settlers.

- **Harpersfield**, 1798; Harper, Gregory, and McFarland, emigrated from New York State
- **Conneaut**, 1799; Montgomery, Wright, King, and Bemus, from New York
- **Austinburg**, 1799; Austin, Beckwith, Stevens, and Allen, from Connecticut.
- **Windsor**, 1799; George Phelps, from Connecticut.
- **Monroe**, 1799; Stephen Moulton, from New York.
- **Morgan**, 1801; Nathan Gillett, from Connecticut.
- **Pierpont**, 1801; Ewins Wright, from Connecticut.
- **Geneva**, 1802; Tobalt Bartholomew, from New York.
- **Wayne**, 1803; Joshua Fobes, from Connecticut.
- **New Lyme** (*originally known as Lebanon*), 1803; Joel Owen, from Connecticut.
- **Williamsfield**, 1804; Charles Case, from Connecticut.
- **Ashtabula**, 1804; Matthew Hubbard, from Connecticut.
- **Andover**, 1805; E. Lyman, from Connecticut.
- **Jefferson**, 1805; Michael Webster, from Connecticut.
- **Kingsville**, 1805; Walter Fobes, from Connecticut.
- **Plymouth**, 1805; William Thompson and Thomas McGabe.
- **Richmond**, 1805; Yateman, Newcomb, and Tead.
- **Rome**, 1806; William Crowell, from Connecticut.
- **Lenox**, 1807; Lisle Asque, from Maryland.
- **Denmark**, 1809; Peter Knapp, from New York.
- **Saybrook**, 1810; George Webster, from New York.
- **Orwell**, 1815; A. R. Paine, from New York.
- **Sheffield**, 1817; Chancey Atwater, from Connecticut.
- **Trumbull**, 1818; Daniel Woodruff, from New York.
- **Cherry Valley**, 1818; Nathaniel Hubbard, from New York.
- **Colebrook**, 1819; Joel Blakeslee, from New York.
- **Dorset**, 1821; John Smith, from Massachusetts.
- **Hartsgrove**, 1828; Thomas Burband.

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PROGRAM ON 'LOCAL PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION' TO BE HELD AT GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY ON MAY 20

GENEVA - The Daughters of the American Revolution will host a discussion highlighting local patriots of the American Revolution on 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, in the Robert S. Morrison Foundation Community Room at Geneva Public Library.

AMERICA 250 NORTHEAST OHIO
A GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS PUBLICATION

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Jefferson Diner holds special place in community

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

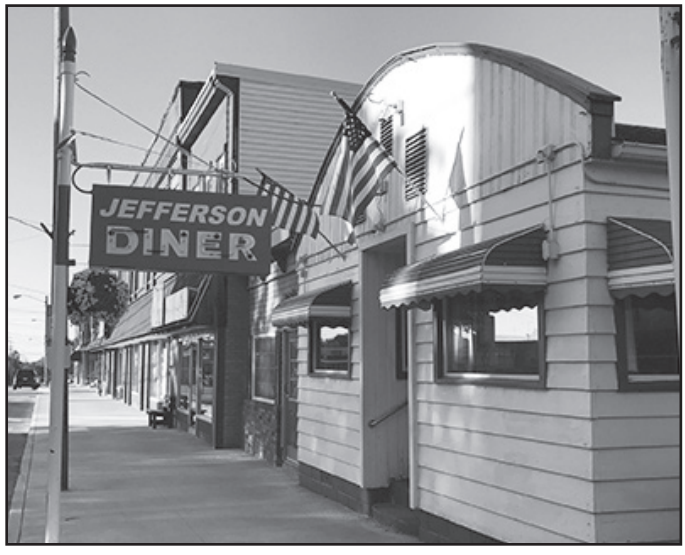
JEFFERSON – There are buildings in every town that have been around for nearly a century, but they're just walls, windows and doors as businesses have come and gone.

Then, there are buildings with a heart and soul, buildings like the Jefferson Diner, 20 N. Chestnut St., Jefferson, which have a life all their own because of the people that cross their threshold.

"A lot of people come here every day," Anita Licate, co-owner of Licate's Jefferson Diner with her husband, Gary, said. "We also have some people that eat here two, three times a day. They get a good meal. They know it's home cooked. They know that the staff takes care of them. They know what they're going to get for their money, and that's important to people."

SEE DINER: 16

Anita and Gary Licate, owners of Licate's Jefferson Diner, were presented a proclamation by the village council in 2025 celebrating 25 years of the Licate family owning the community landmark. FILE PHOTO



Licate's Jefferson Diner has long been an important location in the community. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Colonists' grievances grew with time

BY BOB ETTINGER
Gazette Newspapers

Revolutions are not born of a single act or a slight difference of opinion.

American colonists didn't wake up in the summer of 1776 and decide they wanted to control their own destiny free of British input.

Patrick Henry had to be pushed to the breaking point before he decided that a life without liberty was one not worth living. Likewise, his impassioned speech might have landed flat in a room full of men who were happy with the colonies' relationship with the British crown.

As the United States of America prepares to celebrate two-and-a-half centuries since declaring itself independent of British rule, it's important to look back at the events leading to John Hancock and 55 other delegates signing a document that likely would have ended in a prison cell or with death had Gen. George Washington not delivered victory on the battlefield.

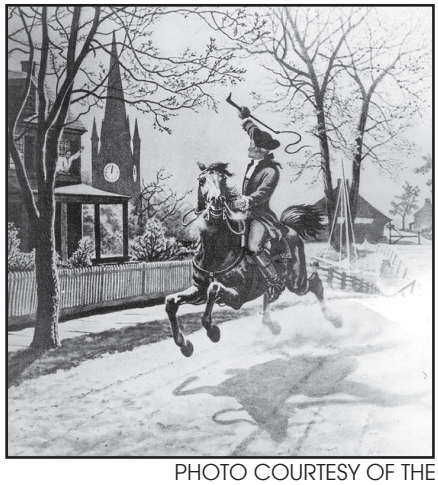

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

Paul Revere's famous ride gave American Minutemen notification that British soldiers were on the move during the night of April 18, 1775.

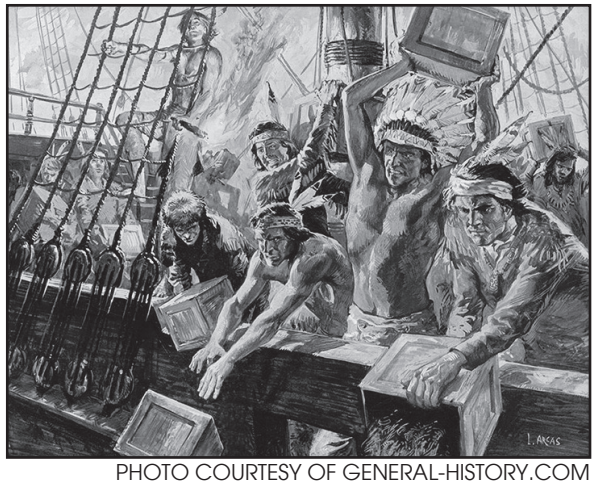

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERAL-HISTORY.COM

The Boston Tea Party, depicted in this painting by Louis Arcas of downwithtyranny.blogspot.com, was one of American colonists' earliest acts of rebellion leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

See TIME LINE: 34

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We would love to have you become a member! Memberships with newsletters are available for $15 by mail or $10 by email.

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Email: jeffersonohiohistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: www.jeffersonohiohistoricalsoc.com

Hours: April-November, Fridays & Saturdays
10 a.m. to noon or by appointment

Our 2026 Schedule of Events

April- 10-11, 17-18 - Rummage Sale

May 2 - Antique Appraisal Day

June month long - Opening of Ohio Presidents Exhibit for America's 250th Birthday

June 20 - Autorama

July 4 - Visit the Historical Society booth at 4th of July Celebration in Giddings Park

August 22 - CornFest and Quilt Show

September 12 - Historical Cemetery Walk

October 3 - Annual Membership Dinner and Meeting

October 24 - Let's Get Ready for Christmas breakfast, auction and raffle

November 11-14 – Veteran's Day Exhibit: Revolutionary Soldiers from Ashtabula County-

December 5 and 12 - Model Train Show and Display

December 13 - Community Christmas Concert

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Lake County's activities honoring America 250

BY GABRIEL McVEY

Gazette Newspapers

PAINESVILLE – Lake County has a slew of activities honoring the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence, with more being worked out.

"2026 will be a landmark year as Lake County joins the nation in celebrating America's 250th anniversary," Tour Lake County Executive Director Naiel Stein said. "From people to places to pivotal moments, Lake County has played a meaningful role in shaping the United States. This anniversary gives us the opportunity to celebrate our local history and honor the freedoms Americans have enjoyed for the past 250 years."

Activities planned for 2026 include:

• Feb. 22: Lakeland Civic Band presents "Americana" with a guest appearance of President George Washington.

• April 12: Lakeland Civic Chorus presents "Across the Wide Missouri"

• April 25: Madhatters Canoe & Kayak Race commemorating the Battles of Lexington & Concord and Paul Revere & the Riders' Midnight Ride, Hidden Valley Park, Madison

• April 26: Lakeland Civic Orchestra presents "An American Ode"

• May 21: Heritage Tree planting, Veterans Park, Painesville

• June 12: America250/DAR table at the Lake County Captains game, with a special appearance by George Washington

• June 14: America250 County Picnic, Lake County Historical Society

• June 15: Smith Cemetery reopening celebration, Willoughby Hills, 3 p.m.

• June 20: Rededication of Revolutionary War Patriot's Marker, Veterans Park, Painesville

• By July 4: Unveiling of a 7-foot statue of President James A. Garfield, Mentor Civic Center

See LAKE COUNTY: 58

The Lake County Freedom Bell SUBMITTED PHOTO

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The founding of Lake County

BY GABRIEL McVEY
Gazette Newspapers

PAINESVILLE – Every once in a while, you'll hear someone tell you that half, or two-thirds, or some other large ratio of Lake County lies under Lake Erie – some will even add that's why it's called Lake County.

And, no, Lake County isn't some sort of Atlantis, it was just a way to find a loophole through a constitutional requirement the state had in order to split Lake off from Geauga County.

When Ohio was first settled in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, there were far fewer counties. Geauga County was massive and also included all of Portage, Ashtabula and Lake counties.

When northeast Ohio was first surveyed under the Northwest Ordinance, it was all on paper, but over time the counties and townships were split up into smaller and smaller plots as settlers came in and established.

Just prior to Lake County going its own way, tourism in what was then Geauga County began in the 1830s, when wealthy Clevelanders traveled to the country to partake in the "healing waters" of the natural spring located on Little Mountain.

Lake County was formed on March 6, 1840, by an act of the Ohio General Assembly. The land portion was made up of eight townships, seven of which were taken from Geauga County and Willoughby from Cuyahoga County.

These townships did not make up enough acreage to meet the then-constitutional requirements for a county and the shortfall was made up by including Lake Erie as far north as the northern line of the Western Reserve and extending east and west as far as the east and west boundaries of the county.

Also, at the time Lake County was founded, it was proposed to be named Perry, in honor of the victory won by Commodore Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie. Afterward its name was made identical with that of the lake.

The courthouse in Painesville was built immediately following the separation of Lake County from Geauga. The historical material notes that, as a result of differing interests on the part of residents of the northern parts of Geauga County, along the southern shore of Lake Erie, a movement to break off and form a new county was launched.

The move was successful, and in 1840 Lake County was formed, becoming the newest and the smallest of all Ohio counties. Painesville was selected as the county seat and residents raised $5,000 by public subscription to construct a suitable courthouse.

CITY OF PAINESVILLE HAS REVOLUTIONARY WAR TIES

BY ANGELO VELOTTA

Gazette Newspapers

PAINESVILLE – A statue sits proudly at 367 Mentor Ave., just past Lake Erie College, commemorating Gen. Edward Paine, with his bones buried underneath; it's not just a reminder of the city's namesake, but a connection to the Revolutionary War.

Born on Jan. 27, 1746, in Bolton, Connecticut, Paine would serve in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He later became a brigadier general in the New York militia.

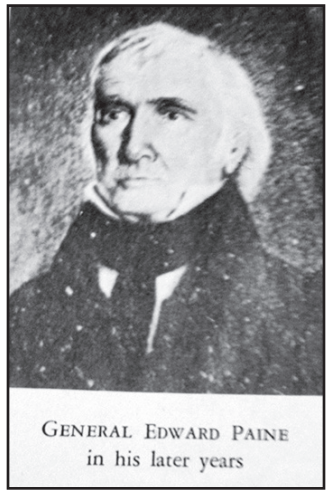
In 1799, Paine asked John Woolworth to go and investigate the area that is now northeast Ohio. Woolworth would purchase 2,000 acres east of the Grand River.

In 1798, Paine purchased

PHOTOS COURTESY OF "HERE IS LAKE COUNTY, OHIO"

This statue of Gen. Edward Paine sits at 367 Mentor Ave. Photograph taken on Paine's birthday, Jan. 27.

1,000 acres of land in Connecticut and then went back to New York, where he organized 66 settlers to move next to Woolworth between the Grand River and Lake Erie.



GENERAL EDWARD PAINE
in his later years

Gen. Edward Paine was instrumental in settling this area, as well as helping Ohio earn its statehood.

Woolworth's new Ohio home was given the nickname "Blooming Grove," which was the site of the new settlement's first 4th of July celebration.

The gala moved over to Paine's house next door, dubbed "Elysian Fields," and included patriotic talks, fife playing and much merriment.

The group would toast 16 times to commemorate the current 16 states of the United States of America.

In 1805, Abraham Skinner was employed by Henry Champion of the Connecticut Land Co. to lay out another town two miles south. Initially, settlers dubbed the area "Oak's Openings" and later was named Champion.

SEE PAINESVILLE: 41

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DINER

From Page 6

Community members like Dave Bastian have made Licate's Jefferson Diner into a hub in the community. FILE PHOTO

"Most people that are regulars, go 'I don't need a menu, I know what I'm going to get,'" Licate continued. "People sit in the same chairs. The coffee drinkers always sit in the same section every morning. When we rearranged the furniture, for COVID, they didn't know what to do, because I had to separate the tables, and that was their table and they were displaced. This is their socialization, it's their comfort to be here with their friends, to be here with comfort food."

The Jefferson Diner was originally opened in late 1936 or the early part of 1937 by Leonard Sheats. At that time, it was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and was the only food service establishment open these hours between Niles, Warren, Youngstown, Sharon, Pa., and Geneva-on-the-Lake.

The diner was sold to C.W. Hutchinson, a long-time restaurant owner from Conneaut, in late 1938 and moved to its current location. In 1941, he managed it as the 24-hour "Jefferson Dining Car." At the time, the building was described as small with limited seating space configured with two double booths and two single booths at the front south side which remain today. The only other seating was a row of stools along the counter with a narrow walkway behind.

Jim and Lila Cochran took over ownership in the 1950s and made significant alterations, including a new kitchen, and likely extended the extended curved parapet on the façade. They ran the business for approximately 20 years.

SEE DINER: 17

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DINER

From Page 16

Mike and Kay Uhrain bought it next and operated it for approximately 17 years before it was purchased by Kathy and J.R. Hagerdon, who operated it for two-and-a-half years.

Gary Pratt owned it until Lou and Barb Licate took over in 2000.

"The story that I had heard, was that (Lou) and his buddy used to come here when Gary (Pratt) owned it, and he said to him, 'If you're ever going to sell it, I'll buy it from you,'" Licate said. "When it came up for sale, he bought it from him. My husband and my father-in-law ran the diner. My husband worked here, and he works for the village, and my father-in-law was retired at the time. They cooked. They did everything here at the diner."

Lou Licate passed away in 2005, the same year Anita married Gary, and Barb continued to own the diner as Gary and Anita managed it with the assistance of Kathy Gubanyar.

"Gary used to work at night with his dad, and I would come and I would sit in the diner and eat with his mom," Licate said. "It just got to be too much for my husband, working a full-time job and running the diner. Then Gary said, 'Can you pick up one of my days for me?' I took one of his days. I worked at night, and then, 'How about one more day?' I worked Wednesday and Thursday, and he still worked Friday."

Gary and Anita purchased the business from Barb in 2012.

"It didn't change," Licate said. "Nothing changed. The staff didn't change. The food didn't change. We just kept plugging along, doing our thing. It's about the community and what we serve and how we support the people that come in here. That's what we do. We're here for the community."

Throughout its lifespan, the Jefferson Diner has come to hold a special place in the community.

"First of all, it's in the middle of the town," Licate said. "That's helpful, and it hasn't changed in all these years. If you go away for 20 years, 30 years, 40 years, it's still the same. The decor might have changed because, now, our family is on the wall."

"It's still the diner," Licate continued. "We still do things the old-fashioned way. We still make soup, gravy, pie and biscuits from scratch. The food is consistent, always. You see people write reviews that say, 'The burgers are exactly the same.' We cook your food while you're here. You can watch it. You can sit at the counter and watch your breakfast being cooked."

More than the food remaining consistent for decades, the people inside the diner have made it such a special place.

"It's a family atmosphere," Licate said. "The staff knows our customers and makes them feel comfortable, so that they can still come out and eat on their own and not have to feel weird about being here."

The staff makes a point of not only getting to know the customers, but treating them as if they're family, the same as Gary and Anita Licate treat the staff.

"Girls that work here have been here 20-some years, they know everybody. They've already got your drink on the table when you walk in the door. They already know what you're having. We've watched people's kids grow up. I've been here about 22 or 23 years. I've watched people's kids grow up when their parents brought them in here, then I hired them. It's just a home. These people that work here, they're my family, they're not my staff, and that makes a big difference. That's why our staff doesn't turn over."

The Jefferson Diner has been the backdrop for important moments in people's lives, whether it be celebrations or more somber occasions.

"There's a lot of stuff on the wall," Licate said. "I have a picture up there of these two kids that were coming here all the time. They got engaged here. They came here on their first date, so he proposed here. There's a picture of a girl that was Miss Ohio on the wall. Everybody has some kind of memory of something that they've done here."

See DINER: 19

ASHTABULA COUNTY FIRSTS

BY BARBARA J. HAMILTON

Gazette Newspapers

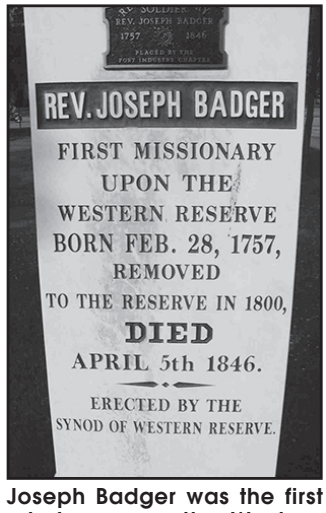
Although the Declaration of Independence had been signed in July of 1776, it would take more than 20 years before explorer parties would arrive in this part of the Western Reserve and what was called Trumbull County and in the district known as Richfield. Later it would be named Ashtabula County.

FIRST TOWNSHIP

The first township to be settled in the Western Reserve was Harpersfield in 1798 by a party of 25 souls led by Alexander Harper and his wife Elizabeth Bartholmew Harper and their children. They were well established in Harpersfield, New York, when they landed near Cunningham Creek (Arcola Creek) in Madison. The parties eventually went their separate ways and claimed their property. Alexander Harper chose the area known today as Harpersfield. He died of malaria two months after arriving here.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Shandy Hall, built by Robert Harper in 1815, still stands today on Route 84 in Harpersfield, Ohio. It was given to the Western Reserve Historical Society in 1948 after the last Harper family member owning it died. It is closed to the public now except by appointment.



Joseph Badger was the first missionary on the Western Reserve and came to Austinburg to preach to the new settlers in 1801.

FIRST FRAME HOME

John Harper, eldest son of Alexander and Elizabeth Harper, became head of the first group of settlers to this area after the death of his father in 1798, two months after landing here by boat. He and his mother gave hope and support to the other settlers who made it through the first hard years. The youngest son, Robert Harper, would build the first wood frame home in the Western Reserve and name it Shandy Hall. Built in 1815, the year he married Polly Hendry, the 18-room "mansion" remains standing today on Route 84. The couple reared four daughters in the home and it remained in the Harper family until 1935 when the last living Harper family member died. It was donated by Harper cousins to the Western Reserve Historical Society. They took possession of the home in 1948 and restored it to its original state. For years this home was opened to the public for tours, even creating a large paved parking lot, but it is no longer open except by appointment.

FIRST MISSIONARY

The new settlers had been accustomed to worshipping with their neighbors in houses or buildings. In the new country of what would become Ashtabula County, the settlers desired someone to come and teach them the Word of God that they valued and wanted their children to know.

The Connecticut Missionary Society sent the Reverend Joseph Badger of Blanford, Massachusetts, to deliver the first sermon in Austinburg on Oct. 19, 1801. Badger brought his wife and children. He would write in his journal entry of Oct. 24, 1801, "ten males and six females" made up the first organized group of worshipers who formed a church in the Western Reserve.

SEE FIRSTS: 19

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FIRSTS

From Page 32

By 1804, a revival was held in Austinburg where 41 new members joined the organized church group and 62 folks took the Lord's Supper. The church was still without a pastor.

In 1809, Badger became a missionary to the Indians and moved to the Sandusky area to live among them. The Austinburg church needed a pastor. Reverend Badger preached as often as he was at home, but he travelled most of the time throughout this part of Ohio serving as a missionary to new settlers.

FIRST CHURCH

Although the Austinburg believers organized in 1801, it would take another 12 years before they could build a meeting house. Construction began in 1812, but it would be several years before it was completed. Funds came through efforts of the women by taking subscriptions.

THE FIRST PASTOR

The Austinburg church was still without a pastor. First settler Eliphalet Austin's wife Sibyl (Dudley) made a daring move when she chose to go back to Connecticut to bring back a pastor. The trip would have to be made on horseback and would take four weeks. This strong, determined and courageous woman returned to her father's home in Connecticut and talked her plan over with him.

She learned that the Reverend Giles H. Cowles, D.D. had purchased land in Farmington, Ohio. She went to talk the situation over with him and express the needs of the new settlers without a pastor.

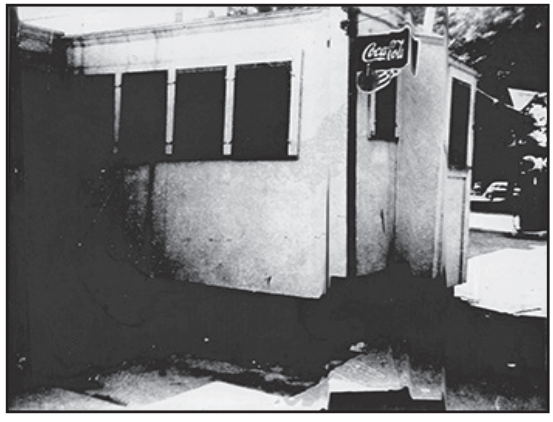
He was moved by her plea and the next year brought his family to Austinburg and was installed as pastor in Deacon Mills barn. The Cowles would raise a large family, all of whom would have a great life-changing impact on Ashtabula County.

The first organized church in the Western Reserve was held in Austinburg. The church is still functioning today as the Congregational Church of Austinburg. The brick structure was constructed in 1877.

Sybil Austin rode on horseback to Connecticut, taking four weeks, to find a pastor for the new Austinburg church. Giles Cowles answered her call. She and her husband, Eliphalet Austin, built a grand home in 1811 on today's Route 45.

DINER

From Page 17



SUBMITTED PHOTO **The Jefferson Diner, in its earliest days, was a rail car, described as small and having limited seating space.**

"People retire and they say, 'Can you do pie for us because they love your peanut butter pie,'" Licate continued. "When our local sports teams need assistance, they ask if we can help with breakfast or desserts. There's a pride that we have that our community wants to include us in those things. There's so many things that I can't even describe. We've had baby showers here, we've done food for services when someone passes away. There's the good and the bad and the sad, but we're here for each other."

And as important as the diner has been for the community, the community has been just as important to the Licate family and its staff.

"I've lived in the city my whole life, and then I moved out here, and this is something totally different. You can't even describe the love that the community has for the diner, for my staff, for us. Even during COVID, we were able to weather the storm. Unfortunately, a lot of businesses closed during COVID. Our community supported us and cared about us and made sure that my staff was still here when COVID was over. There's pride and accomplishment that the community has supported us through the rough times."

The Licates are thankful to have woven their thread into the fabric of Jefferson's history.

"We're very thankful, my husband and I and the Licate family," Licate said. "We are a family here, our staff and our customers. We are very grateful for the help along our way to be here, to let us do what we like to do, what we love to do, and what we want to do. We're very thankful that we have the people, the staff and the community that want us here and appreciate what we do."

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Ohioans have been at the center of American creativity for generations — and they continue to add richness to the American canvas.

"Discover Ohio's vibrant creativity on the Ohio Creativity Trail, featuring over 100 inspiring sites across the state. Explore sites that encompass one (or more) of six artistic genres or enjoy a 'mixed media' journey within a single region," shares America 250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations and commemorations relating to America's semiquincentennial in 2026.

From historic influences to modern artistry, this "drive your own adventure" experience will connect you with the stories, spaces, and energy of Ohio's creative community. Be inspired to explore art and unlock your own creativity along the way.

The Ohio Creativity Trail is part of an America 250-Ohio program celebrating Ohio's incredible stories through driving trails.

The Ohio Creativity Trail features six distinct artistic genres/themes: Literature, Music, Visual Arts, Glass & Pottery, Folk & Traditional Arts and Carousel Art.

A full list of trail sites with an interactive map that can be filtered by category can be found at https://america250-ohio.org/ohio-creativity-trail/.

There is also a Spotify playlist.

Ashtabula County is home to one site on the Ohio Creativity Trail:

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The classic restored 1957 Allen Herschell Carousel offers a nostalgic reminder of earlier times for those who rode it in their youth as well as a chance to share those memories with another generation.

Call 440-466-3555 for more information.

Open May through September.

Visit the Adventure Zone website at https://www.adventurezonefun.com/.

America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee collecting patriotic photos from community members for a special America 250 Commemorative Blanket

JEFFERSON - The America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee is inviting residents of all ages, schools, community groups and local creatives to participate in several exciting initiatives underway as the county prepares for its once-in-a-generation celebration on July 4, 2026.

Reenactors Preparing for July 4 Festivities

Committee member Kathy Milford provided an exciting update on reenactors already preparing for the 2026 celebration. Scheduled participants include historical portrayals of Abraham Lincoln and other notable figures, along with a full lineup of street and stage performances planned throughout the day.

These living history elements will bring America's past to life and offer residents and visitors a unique opportunity to engage with history in an authentic and memorable way.

Patriotic Photo Collection for Commemorative Blanket

The Committee is currently collecting patriotic photos from community members for a special America 250 Commemorative Blanket.

Residents are encouraged to submit images showcasing local veterans, community celebrations, flags, historic landmarks or other patriotic moments. The finished blanket will be unveiled later in 2026 as a keepsake representing Ashtabula County's pride and heritage.

America 250 Merchandise Available — Great for Christmas Gifts

Official America 250 – Ashtabula County merchandise is now available for purchase, including window clings, apparel and other commemorative items.

These items make meaningful holiday gifts and help support the events and activities planned through 2026.

Items may be viewed and purchased on the Facebook page @ Ashtabula County—America 250th.

Get Involved

The America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee welcomes volunteers, performers, producers, sponsors, and community partners.

Get Involved

Committee meetings are open to the public, and new members are encouraged to attend.

Purpose & Mission

The America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee was formed to organize and coordinate activities across all communities in honor of the United States' Semiquincentennial in 2026. Its mission is to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future by fostering community pride, recognizing local stories, and encouraging meaningful participation from all generations and backgrounds.

For updates, meeting details, volunteer opportunities and to purchase merchandise:
Mail: America 250 – Ashtabula County, P.O. Box 63, Jefferson, OH 44047
Email: ashtabulacounty250@gmail.com
Website: www.ashtabula250.org
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Bushnell Store was rebuilt in 1956
(as dated by a whiskey bottle found in one of the old walls!)

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ORWELL RESIDENT LEFT TO BECOME ARMY HERO

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Adna Chaffee, born in Orwell, was a lieutenant general in the United States Army. He participated in the Civil War and Indian Wars, played a key role in the Spanish-American War and fought in the Boxer Rebellion in China.

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

ORWELL – Growing up on a farm in southern Ashtabula County in the middle of the 19th century left Adna Chaffee with limited prospects for his future.

Escalating tensions between the northern and southern states and the need for men willing to fight was the perfect opportunity for Chaffee to make a life for himself beyond the borders of a farm.

Chaffee left the daily rituals of farm work behind for the disciplined life of a soldier as he enlisted in the U.S. 6th Cavalry Regiment in 1861.

Four decades later, the farm boy retired as a decorated leader in the Army.

Adna Romanza Chaffee was born to Grace and Truman Chaffee on April 14, 1842, in Orwell, a rural agricultural community where economic constraints and the demands of farm life limited access to advanced education.

Chaffee's early years were shaped by the difficulties of frontier farming in Northeast Ohio. Farm work involved manual labor in crop cultivation and livestock management that instilled habits of physical endurance and self-sufficiency from a young age.

Formal schooling was primitive, confined to basic instruction at a nearby public school, reflecting the sparse educational infrastructure available in the region mid-19th century.

With the Civil War on the horizon, Chaffee departed the family farm to enlist as a private in the 6th U.S. Cavalry Regiment on July 22, 1861, as formal officer training paths like West Point were inaccessible to those without elite connections or preparatory academies.

The enlistment underscored Chaffee's reliance on innate aptitude and field-honed skills rather than institutional pedigree.

Chaffee was promoted to sergeant in 1862 and took part in the Peninsula Campaign, the Battle of Antietam, the Battle of Fredericksburg and the Stoneman Raid. By September of that year, he was made first sergeant of Company K and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1863.

Chaffee and the ranks of the 6th Cavalry, on detached service from General John Buford's 1st Union Cavalry Division, instigated one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of the entire as it attacked a Confederate regiment in Fairfield, Pa., just outside of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. In the ensuing action, he was wounded and briefly held prisoner by the Confederates. Throughout 1864, he took part in Gen. Philip Sheridan's Virginia campaigns.

Chaffee stayed with the 6th Cavalry through the end of the war and was wounded twice.

In February 1865, he was promoted to first lieutenant and for his "gallant and meritorious" actions in the Battle of Dinwiddie Court House, was brevetted captain.

After the war, Chaffee became a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

With the 6th Cavalry's reorganization in the summer of 1865, Chaffee was transferred to Austin, Texas, where he was appointed depot quartermaster on Dec. 12, 1866. In March 1867, he resigned his commission with thoughts of going into business, but was persuaded to seek restoration to rank. Rather than return to the family farm in Orwell, Chaffee remained with the Army. He was posted to the western frontier and promoted to captain of Regulars in October 1867.

Just before his promotion to captain, in September, Chaffee married Kate Haynie Reynolds, a young widow, who died two-and-a-half years later.

Over the next three decades, Chaffee served in the Indian Wars, fighting the Central Plains and Southwestern tribes.

Chaffee was assigned to Fort Griffin in February 1868. On March 5, he successfully pursued a band of Quahadi Comanche warriors who had attacked a wagon train hauling lumber from the Mill Creek sawmill. Chaffee and his men found the Quahadis taking refuge near Paint Creek, encircled the camp, charged, and defeated them. He was brevetted major for his actions.

SEE CHAFFEE: 23

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CHAFFEE

From Page 22

A transfer to Fort Riley, Kan., came to Chaffee in March 1871 and he spent most of 1872 on detached duty at Oxford, Miss. After returning to Kansas, he was stationed briefly at Fort Harker and in April 1873 moved to Camp Supply, Indian Territory, in response to increased tension caused by hide hunters entering the southern plains.

When the Red River War broke out in 1874, Chaffee was attached to Col. Nelson A. Miles's column, and on Aug. 30 in Palo Duro Canyon, his command was among the 6th Cavalry forces on the front lines.

With his famous exhortation, "Forward; if any man is killed I will make him a corporal!" Chaffee led his troops in a charge against a superior number of Cheyenne warriors, whom the cavalry then chased as far west as what is now Randall County.

Chaffee was subsequently brevetted a lieutenant colonel.

On Oct. 14, he led a force against a hostile Indian camp located between Gageby and Sweetwater creeks.

In the following years, he engaged the Native Americans many times, most notably at Red River, Texas, in 1874, and Big Dry Wash, Arizona Territory, in 1882, for which he was brevetted lieutenant colonel.

In 1875, Chaffee married Annie Frances Rockwell and had three daughters and a son, Adna R. Chaffee Jr., who also became a general and was one of the fathers of the U.S. Army's armored forces, having a light tank, the M24 Chaffee, named in his honor.

For a decade beginning in 1875, Chaffee and his command responded to troubles with the Apaches at Fort Verde, Ariz. He commanded the garrison in 1878, served as agent at the San Carlos Reservation in 1879–80, and participated in Gen. George Crook's expedition in 1883. He was transferred to New Mexico in 1884 and was at Fort Wingate when Geronimo and his Chiricahua Apache followers broke out of their reservation in 1885.

Chaffee remained in southern Arizona and New Mexico until the chief surrendered in September 1886.

A promotion to major and a transfer to the 9th Cavalry came for Chaffee in 1888.

Chaffee served as an instructor of tactics at the Army's Infantry and Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth in Texas from 1894-96. In June 1897, he was promoted to colonel and transferred to the 3rd Cavalry, where he served as commandant of the Cavalry School at Fort Riley in Kansas until 1898.

The Spanish-American War began in 1898 and Chaffee was assigned a brigade and promoted to brigadier general of volunteers in May of that year. A promotion to major general of volunteers came in July following a victory at El Caney, to major general of volunteers.

Chaffee served as the chief of staff to the military governor of Cuba, Leonard Wood, from late 1898 until May 1900. He was promoted to colonel of regulars in May 1899 and was a member of the Society of the Army of Santiago, a military society for officers who had served in Cuba.

The Boxer Rebellion broke out in June 1900 and Chaffee was sent to China in July as

See CHAFFEE: 24

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CHAFFEE

From Page 23

the commander of the U.S. Army's China Relief Expedition. The Expedition was a part of the international force sent to rescue western and Japanese citizens and put down the rebellion.

The USAT Grant arrived in Taku Bay on July 29, 1900, with Chaffee on board to take command. He participated in the Gaselee Expedition and, subsequently, the Battle of Peking. American forces were included in the Allied occupation of Peking (later known as Beijing) in 1900-01 and as the American commander, Chaffee began public health, relief and police operations in cooperation with Chinese officials.

Chaffee was one of the founders of the Military Order of the Dragon, a military society for officers who had served in China during the Boxer Rebellion. He served as the society's president from its founding in 1900 until his death.

A promotion to major general in the regular army came to Chaffee in February 1901 and from July until October 1902, he served as commander of American forces in the Philippines following the dissolution of the American military government under General Arthur MacArthur Jr. and the institution of civilian rule under governor-general William Howard Taft.

Chaffee commanded U.S. troops during the final months of the primary phase of the Philippine–American War. In December 1901, he assigned General Jacob H. Smith to deal with anti-American resistance in the province of Samar, resulting in an ill-fated campaign that led to the deaths of up to 2,000 Filipino civilians.

Chaffee became a member of the Military Order of the Carabao for Philippine veterans, and also served as Paramount Carabao for a time.

In October 1902, Chaffee became commander of the Department of the East, a position he held for the next year and, in January 1904, he was promoted to lieutenant general. He served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from Jan. 9, 1904, until Jan. 14, 1906. Chaffee was retired on Feb. 1, 1906, at his own request.

Chaffee was invested with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor by the president of France. In 1905, he became an honorary member of the New York Society of the Cincinnati, and had a town, Chaffee, Mo., named after him when it was founded. He served as grand marshal for President Theodore Roosevelt's inaugural parade on March 4, 1905, in which former Indian adversaries like Geronimo and Quanah Parker also participated.

In his retirement, he moved to Los Angeles where he was appointed president of the Board of Public Works for the city of Los Angeles.

After his death from typhoid pneumonia on Nov. 1, 1914, Chaffee was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 9, 1914, following a funeral service at St. John's Episcopal Church. After her death more than six years later, his second wife, Annie, was laid to rest beside him.

Information for this story was pulled from https://armyhistory.org/lieutenant-general-adna-romanza-chaffee/; https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/chaffee-adna-romanza; and https://grokipedia.com/page/Adna_Chaffee.

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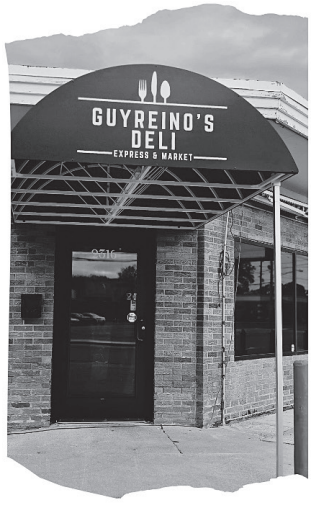


Mentor's own wins prestigious Medal of Honor

BY ANGELO VELOTTA

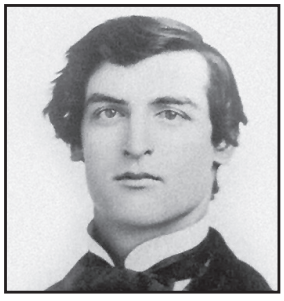
Gazette Newspapers

MENTOR – The son of a clergyman, Mentor native Albert Adams Clapp was awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor on April 24, 1865, in Washington, D.C. by then Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

Clapp received these honors for his valiance on April 6 of the same year, during the Battle of Sailor's Creek in Virginia. Clapp was able to emerge from the battle not only alive, but with the 8th Florida Regiment's battle flag.

Clapp enlisted in the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Calvary, formed during the summer of 1861, and fought in 17 battles. He was promoted to 2nd lieutenant shortly after his heroic feat and later retired to Mentor and worked in farming. He married Cynthia Bissell in 1867, and together they had five children.

Old Council Hall is the building that used to be the church where Albert Clapp's father Matthew Clapp preached. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A photograph of then 19-year-old Albert Adams Clapp, Mentor's only recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Eventually, Clapp would head west to California, where he lived the rest of his life. Clapp was born on May 1, 1841, in New York, and died on May 8, 1911, in California, but truly made his mark in northeast Ohio.

To this day, Clapp is the only Mentor native to earn this honor. Some 332 Ohioans in total have won the Medal of Honor.

Clapp's father, Matthew Clapp, was a preacher at church in Mentor, the building that is now Old Council Hall on Jackson Street. Albert Clapp's grandfather, Orris, was a judge. In 1825, Corbly Martin, who served for Ohio's militia in the War of 1812, and also was a pastor, stayed with Judge Clapp, who was heavily involved with the local Baptist church.

A few years would pass, and the local Baptist church would join a new denomination, the Disciples of Christ, with Matthew Clapp becoming the first to lead this congregation.

'Ohio Goes to the Movies' reveals statewide calendar of events

More than 250 free film screening events in all 88 counties starting Feb. 11, 2026

COLUMBUS - Ohio Goes to the Movies, an America 250-Ohio Signature Event, has released its calendar of 2026 film screenings.

The calendar of events is now available at OhioGoesToTheMovies.org and will continue to be updated throughout the celebration.

Ohio Goes to the Movies is a statewide cinematic celebration that kicked off on Feb. 11, 2026, delivering more than 250 free movie events hosted by local venues in all 88 counties through October as part of Ohio's official commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

This first-ever initiative showcases Ohio's long-standing influence on American film, its nationally recognized actors and directors and the iconic movies filmed across the state.

Ohio has produced some of the most distinguished talent in Hollywood history, including Halle Berry of Cleveland, Paul Newman of Shaker Heights, Doris Day of Cincinnati, John Lithgow of Akron, Clark Gable of Cadiz, the Russo Brothers of Cleveland and Sarah Jessica Parker of Nelsonville. Their contributions have shaped American cinema for decades and underscore the creative strength rooted in Ohio communities.

The 2026 series also recognizes many of the most popular films made in Ohio. Screenings across the state will feature films such as "The Shawshank Redemption" filmed in Mansfield and Upper Sandusky, "A Christmas Story" filmed in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, "The Avengers" shot in downtown Cleveland and "Rain Man" filmed throughout Cincinnati. These films and others serve as anchor titles for the statewide series, drawing audiences who want to experience Ohio's storytelling legacy on the big screen.

"Ohio has played a significant role in the history of American film and continues to attract talent, productions and storytelling that resonate around the world," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "Ohio Goes to the Movies ensures that residents in every community can participate in the America 250 celebration and rediscover the films that connect us."

Molly Kreuzman, program director for Ohio Goes to the Movies, said the initiative reflects the state's creative depth and community pride.

"This celebration honors Ohio's filmmakers, in front of

SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Inherit the Wind" will screen March 13, 2026, at Pymatuning Valley VMPAC.

SEE MOVIES: 27

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MOVIES

From Page 26

and behind the camera, and the towns and cities that brought some of America's most beloved stories to life. By offering more than 250 free events across all 88 counties, we are making the America 250 celebration accessible and meaningful for every Ohioan," Kreuzman said.

The regional schedule includes:

Ashtabula County

- March 13 - Pymatuning Valley VMPAC - "**Inherit the Wind**"
- March 27 - Pymatuning Valley VMPAC - "**Engineering Tragedy: Ashtabula Train Disaster**"

Geauga County

- June 11 - Mayfield Road Drive-In Theatre - "**A Christmas Story**"

Lake County

- March 11 - Regal Willoughby Commons - "**White Boy Rick**"
- April 8 - Atlas Cinemas Great Lakes Stadium - "**Superman**"
- July 7 - Atlas Cinemas Diamond Center - "**Air Force One**"

Trumbull County

- March 7 - Regal Boulevard Centre - "**A Beautiful Mind**"
- July 10 - Robins Theatre - "**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**"
- Aug. 10 - Elm Road Triple Drive-In Theatre - "**E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**"

4th Grade History Pass allows fourth-grade students to visit museums, historic sites free of charge

The America 250-Ohio Commission and history-related museums and sites recently introduced the new 4th-grade History Pass – a special program that allows Ohio 4th grade students with the chance to attend participating history museums and historic sites free of charge, with a paid adult.

The Cleveland History Center and Western Reserve Historical Society are among the participating sites.

Learn more, along with a full list of participating sites, at https://america250-ohio.org/fourth-grade-pass

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Native removal paved the way for Lake County's settlement

BY GABRIEL McVEY

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY – What is now Lake County was first surveyed by Moses Cleaveland, then settled by Gen. Edward Paine, beginning in 1796. But this happened within a context and in the aftermath of one of the new nation's first major campaigns against the indigenous peoples living in what would become Ohio.

The Treaty of Paris officially ended the Revolutionary War in 1783 and ceded what is now Ohio, and Lake County, to the United States.

However, the indigenous tribes living in the Great Lakes area – under the leadership of Mohawk chief Joseph Brant – had fought alongside the British and felt abandoned and betrayed. They banded together later that year and formed the Northwest Confederacy to stop white settlement of the area.

At this time, there was little or no native settlement in what would come to be Lake County.

Under the Articles of Confederation, the U.S. Army had been demobilized and it was left to local militia to protect people trying to settle Ohio. There was a good deal of skirmishing in south and southwest Ohio between settlers, militia and indigenous tribes in the Northwest Confederacy.

Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, which – on paper – opened the Ohio territory to white settlement, but the back-and-forth raiding between whites and the Northwest Confederacy hampered settlement through Nov. 4, 1791, when the Battle of the Wabash saw the U.S. Army, under Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair, suffer a shattering defeat.

The American casualty rate was a stunning 97 percent. Out of roughly 1,000 soldiers, 632 were killed and 264 were wounded. Only 24 men escaped completely unharmed.

This catastrophe led to several historical firsts for the new nation: its first Congressional investigation, the first use of executive privilege by President George Washington and the formation of a full-time, professional standing Army.

The following year, the President appointed Gen. Anthony Wayne to rebuild the U.S. Army, reorganizing it into the Legion of the United States in 1792 and spending a year training and supplying it. Congress also passed bills into law authorizing the President to call out the militia, which had been under the control of the states.

In 1794, the Legion broke the Northwest Confederacy's back at the Battles of Ft. Recovery and Fallen Timbers. The following year, the Treaty of Greenville saw nearly all indigenous tribes leave Ohio for the newly-organized Indiana Territory.

It was only after the Treaty of Greenville that Moses Cleaveland and, later, Paine, felt it was safe enough to survey the Western Reserve and begin bringing settlers to the region. Warren was founded in 1798 by Ephraim Quinby and Painesville in 1800 by Paine.

Later, settlers celebrated Ohio's acceptance as the 17th state to join the Union in 1803.

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NEW 'LAKE ERIE TO OHIO RIVER TRAIL' LAUNCHED AT GENEVA STATE PARK MARINA

Trail is part of America 250-Ohio's 'Trails & Tales' program

BY STEFANIE WESSELL

Gazette Newspapers

GENEVA-ON-THE-LAKE - "Ohio's waterways didn't just move boats - they moved a nation."

That was the message heard this past summer at the launch of the new Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail, a "drive your own adventure" experience that connects people to the stories and places where they can explore the state's maritime stories and places.

America 250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations and commemorations relating to America's semiquincentennial in 2026, launched the Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail, an experiential driving trail of more than 150 sites across Ohio that celebrates the crucial role that water has played in moving people, goods and ideas across the state, on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025.

America 250-Ohio launched the new trail at Geneva State Park Marina.

The Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail is the third of six planned experiential trails for America 250-Ohio's signature Trails & Tales program created in partnership with the Ohio Travel Association.

The Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail features sites in seven categories: Boat Rides & Ferryboats, Lake Erie Lighthouses, Lake Erie Museums & Historic Sites, Ohio Canal Museums, Locks, & Natural Areas; Ohio River Museums & Historic Sites; Natural Areas & Overlooks, Aquatic Science & Research Sites.

A full list of trail sites with an interactive map that can be filtered by category can be found at https://america250-ohio.org/lake-erie-to-ohio-river/. There is also a Spotify playlist.

ASHTABULA COUNTY AND LAKE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- FAIRPORT HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE & MARINE MUSEUM
- FAIRPORT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE
- ASHTABULA HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE
- CONNEAUT HARBOR WEST BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE
- FAIRPORT HARBOR MARINE MUSEUM AND LIGHTHOUSE
- ASHTABULA MARITIME & SURFACE TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
- JAMES A. GARFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN MENTOR
- HEADLANDS BEACH STATE PARK
- HEADLANDS DUNES STATE NATURE PRESERVE
- FAIRPORT HARBOR LAKEFRONT PARK
- GENEVA STATE PARK
- CONNEAUT TOWNSHIP PARK

"Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and the canals were highways of hope," said Melinda Huntley, executive director of the Ohio Travel Association, America 250-Ohio commissioner, and co-project leader for the Trails & Tales program. "They built towns, attracted inventors, created jobs and brought people together. Today, their legacy flows through every scenic overlook, preserved towpath and community that still thrives along their shores. The Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail will help all Ohioans explore and connect with the waters that moved a nation."

Ohioans can use the interactive map on the America 250-Ohio website to create custom itineraries of drivable routes to see multiple sites on the trail. A printable version is also available.

With over 150 sites, guests will be able to get a true picture of these waterways either by theme or geographic region.

Speaking at the launch was Doug Preisse, co-chair of the America 250-Ohio Commission.

"This trail will highlight locations along the beautiful Lake Erie shore, the Miami and Erie Canal and the Ohio and Erie Canal," Preisse said.

Preisse introduced Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Mary Mertz to speak.

"No matter where you are, there's something for you to see, explore or learn about Ohio's great outdoors," Mertz said. "From the spectacular views right here on Lake Erie to the rolling hills of Appalachia and the stately Ohio River, there is so much beauty and history in our state, and we are so proud to be part of this Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail."

She said ODNR was excited to be part of the creation of the trail, which will encourage people from Ohio and beyond to get outside, explore new places, learn new skills and become advocates for protecting and preserving the history and the natural resources of their communities.

Huntley said Lake Erie opened the midwest to the world.

"The Ohio River carried dreams westward and served as a route to freedom on the Underground Railroad," Huntley said.

The trail isn't just about the past, but also serves as tourism, a powerful economic engine, today, she said.

"Travelers today are seeking authentic, meaningful experiences. They want to slow down, connect, learn. And they're willing to spend money as they do it," Huntley said.

She said travelers are following their passions and interests, finding something they're interested in and pursuing it.

"This is what this trail enables folks to do," Huntley said. "This curated driving route is a celebration of Ohio's waterways and a blueprint for revitalization."

It involves rural and urban economies, lifts up local attractions, encourages conservation and brings people closer physically and emotionally to the places that matter and to places that define the state, she said.

"Visit a lighthouse, board a ferry, walk a towpath. And along the way, feel the ripples of Ohio's story," Huntley said.

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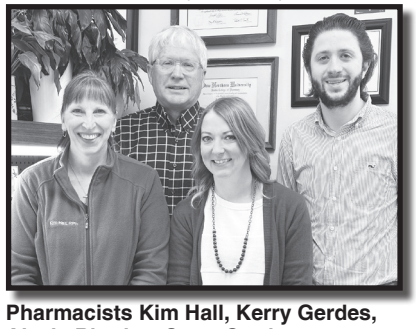
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Be part of this county-wide reading celebration!

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Plus, everyone who participates will have a chance to win the Grand Prize: a $150 Visa gift card.

• "**Woods Runner**" by Gary Paulsen was presented 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, by Jim McClure from Geneva Public Library

• "**A Girl Called Samson**" by Amy Harmon, was presented 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Andover Public Library

• "**The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington**" by Brad Meltzer, will be presented 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, by Susan Sullivan from Ashtabula Public Library.

• "**Seeds of America**" trilogy by Laurie Halse Anderson, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, Conneaut Public Library

• "**Washington's Crossing**" by David Hackett Fisher, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, Henderson Memorial Public Library

• "**My Dear Hamilton**" by Stephanie Dray will be presented 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, by Susan Sullivan from Ashtabula Public Library.

• "**Valiant Ambition**: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution" by Nathaniel Philbrick will be presented 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, by Carrie Wimer from Ashtabula Public Library.

• "**Founding Mothers**: **The Women Who Raised Our Nation**," by Cokie Roberts, 1 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at Kingsville Public Library

• "**Give Me A Fast Ship - The Continental Navy and America's Revolution at Sea**" by Tim McGrath will be presented 6-7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, by Austin Griffith from Ashtabula Public Library

• "**Rebellion 1776**" by Laurie Halse Anderson will be presented 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, by Lyn Glover from Ashtabula Public Library.

• "**Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone**" by Diana Gabaldon, 1 p.m. Friday, May 8, Henderson Memorial Public Library

• "**1776**" by David McCullough will be presented 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, by Ric Consiglio from Ashtabula Public Library

• "**Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation**" by Cokie Roberts, 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, Rock Creek Public Library

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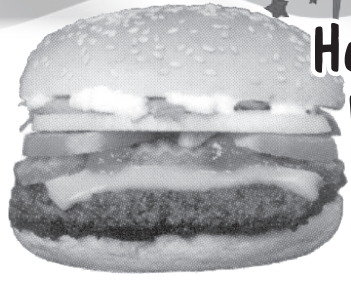

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Ashtabula Harbor has long history dating back to 1800s

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

ASHTABULA - Today, Ashtabula Harbor is considered an important port on Lake Erie.

According to the ohio.gov website, the port plays "a vital role in Ohio's maritime transportation system, handling a diverse range of commodities."

The Harbor's preeminence can be traced back to the railroad.

"Once the Ashtabula railroad was finished in 1873, the Historic Ashtabula harbor became a direct route to ship iron ore to the booming steel mills of Youngstown and Pittsburgh, even surpassing Cleveland as one of the busiest ore receiving ports on the Great Lakes," the Historic Ashtabula Harbor website states. "Dubbed 'one of the toughest ports in the world' alongside Shanghai and Calcutta, the use of machines in the early 1900s drastically accelerated the dock unloading process, and by the late 20th century, ships docked in the harbor essentially unloaded themselves."

Much comes to the port.

According to the ohio.gov website, the port's primary cargo includes bulk materials such as iron ore, sand, gravel, sulfur, and fertilizers, among other goods.

Accessibility is key.

"Ashtabula Harbor is easily accessed by highway and rail with I-90 located 5 miles from the harbor," ohio.gov notes. "SR 11 and 531 also give the port easy access to north/south roadways. The harbor has access to two class I railways: CSX and NS. NS is directly connected to one of the harbor's docks handling coal, sand, and stone."

Steps have been taken to ensure the Harbor's history is not forgotten.

The Ashtabula Harbor Commercial District, known as the Historic Ashtabula Harbor, was designated in 1975 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It includes buildings constructed largely in the late nineteenth century (between 1865 and 1878), and covers both sides of West 5th Street from the 1200 block to the Ashtabula River in Ashtabula, Ohio, according to the history listed on the Historic Ashtabula Harbor website.

"Building designs include examples of the Italianate, Queen Anne, and Neoclassical styles, while the construction materials are primarily brick with occasional frame structures due to a series of fires that claimed many of the wood-framed buildings throughout the area in the late 1800s," the information states. "In 2010, the district's boundaries extended from the river bridge to Lake Avenue, and from Morton Drive along the river, to Walnut Beach Park on the lake."

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THE OLD TAVERN IN UNIONVILLE MARKS OVER TWO CENTURIES OF HISTORY

BY GABRIEL McVEY

Gazette Newspapers

MADISON TOWNSHIP, Ohio – The Old Tavern is a well-known landmark on County Line Road, but its history stretches back to the beginning of the settlement in what would come to be called Lake County, in the late 18th Century.

Beginning as a single-room log cabin in 1798, the Old Tavern was a stopover point for people moving westward in the early days of settlement in the Western Reserve. Over the years, rooms were added on as the Tavern became a stopping-over point for travelers headed westward, it quickly expanded as more people came to the area.

In 1803, the tavern was located on the Cleveland-Buffalo Road, the mail route from Warren to Cleveland a distance of some 150 miles, a distance negotiated at that time by foot. By 1815, stage coaches had appeared and with them passengers to rest overnight in Unionville.

The location was a good one. As business increased, another cabin, identical to the first and directly beside it, was erected. The present living room lounge was once one of those cabins.

An increase in traffic led to the conversion of the two cabins into a single, two-storied saltbox with rooms arranged as they are today. During this period of growth, the tavern's name evolved through Webster House, New England House and, finally, to the Old Tavern.

The building was the scene of numerous Civil War parties and dances that took place in the still-extant ballroom. Like almost every pre-Civil War building in northeast Ohio, the Tavern is said to have been a station for the Underground Railroad.

The Old Tavern in Unionville served as a popular restaurant and bar during most of the 20th Century, as shown in this 1973 photo from the National Archives. SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the basement, part of the original log construction of the first tavern still remains.

The Old Tavern was a functioning inn until the early 20th Century. After being shuttered for 10 years, the tavern was restored and reopened in 1926.

Sixty years later, a pub was added and the tavern functioned as a restaurant and bar. In 1973, the Old Tavern was added to the National Register of Historical Places.

In 2003, the tavern was auctioned off and, in 2006, was closed to the public. The Tavern stood empty between 2006 and 2014, when the Unionville Tavern Preservation Society began work restoring it. As volunteers toured the building and as work progressed, it became clear the water damage from a leaky roof had badly deteriorated exterior walls as well as load-bearing structures in the tavern's basement.

In 2011, after years of disrepair, the Madison Historical Society began a "Save the Tavern Campaign" to protect and preserve the historic building. The campaign evolved into the Unionville Tavern Preservation Society, which now cares for the former inn and keeps its history alive.

The basement was of particular concern, not only because of the damaged structural integrity, but because it had served as a hiding place for enslaved people fleeing the antebellum South on the Underground Railroad.

Supports were installed as part of restoration work. Walls were reconstructed with 12-inch block and then faced with the original brick and fieldstone. Some badly-decayed timber supports were replaced with white oak logs that will ages to look like the original pieces.

In the upstairs ballroom, workers discovered the west wall had become badly bowed and a steel cable had to be put in, lashing an exterior support to one in the inner wall.

Workers applied a coat of striking yellow paint to the Old Tavern in 2021. The decision to swap the familiar white for yellow was taken after it was found the Tavern was painted yellow in 1914, according to an analysis undertaken by the Unionville Tavern Preservation Society.

'The Mousetrap' in Willoughby was a secret chemical weapons factory

BY GABRIEL McVEY

Gazette Newspapers

WILLOUGHBY – Just off State Route 2 is DeMilta Iron and Metal in Willoughby. It's a fairly unassuming recycling center that processes scrap metal. But a little over 100 years ago, the site was home to a factory that local historians have likened to The Manhattan Project of World War I.

In 1917, the U.S. joined the Allies in the War to End All Wars, to make the world safe for democracy, as President Woodrow Wilson put it. In Willoughby, democracy was made safe by producing a top-secret chemical agent called Lewisite.

This colorless liquid is an arsenic-based compound that, when sprayed as an aerosol, smells like geraniums. If you encounter it, it will probably be the last thing you'll ever smell.

This powerful blister agent causes intense pain almost immediately on contact. It is an anhydrous chemical that seeks out and reacts with water, so it immediately affects the mucous membranes: the mouth and eyes, the sinuses and the throat, raising blisters which, in the lungs, burst and begin to fill them with fluid.

Lewisite was developed as a preferable alternative to mustard gas, which lingers in the area where it's deployed for months or even years. Lewisite, on the other hand, dissipates in a matter of hours.

According to a 1959 article from Advances in Chemistry, a publication of the American Chemical Society, Lewisite was so potent, so debilitating and so lethal, the U.S. Army's own chemical warfare laboratories stated "no one has ever found any use for the compound."

The plan at the time was to load this poison into artillery shells and shower German soldiers with a fine mist of Lewisite to – hopefully – end the war in the spring of 1919. In 1918, the Willoughby facility was a central hub of U.S. chemical weapons manufacturing, called "the Mousetrap."

During the summer of 1918, the War Department took over a former automobile factory in Willoughby to mass produce Lewisite. By November, 1918, the Mousetrap was producing 10 tons of Lewisite…a day.

Word War I ended before the American Expeditionary Force could use Lewisite, fortunately for the 2 million German soldiers on the Western Front at war's end. There are no records of what was done with this deadly chemical weapon once the U.S. Army Chemical Corps demobilized following the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

The only time Lewisite ever was used in war was by the Imperial Japanese Army in Manchuria and China during the 1930s and '40s. It was often mixed with mustard gas – another powerful blister agent – to deny areas it was deployed to the enemy.

Abandoned stockpiles of Lewisite manufactured at Okunoshima are still being uncovered by Chinese excavation crews and causing serious injuries to this day, according to the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

After the war, the site was taken over by the Ohio Rubber Co. in 1919 and is now run by DeMilta Iron and Metal.

TIME LINE

From Page 7

The French and Indian War

The American colonists' long list of grievances with British rule did not begin in 1754 with the onset of the French and Indian War, but it was the spark that lit the fire that caused an explosion.

The conflict, fought between the British and French from 1754 to 1763, decided who controlled the Ohio River Valley and eventual westward expansion.

The British eventually declared victory gaining control of Canada and all lands east of the Mississippi River, but it came at a high cost that led to overwhelming debt.

British Parliament sought to recover its losses through the taxation of the Americans and the seeds of a revolution were sown.

Stamp Act

The acquisition of American lands east of the Mississippi doubled Britain's national debt and having 10,000 troops stationed in the colonies to maintain the hard-fought victory added to the burden.

The Stamp Act, passed by British Parliament in 1765, taxed all printed materials in the colonies, including newspapers, legal documents and playing cards.

At the time, paper was expensive, and the new tax affected a large portion of the population.

Parliament believed the colonies should help pay for the troops that had defended them. The colonists, accustomed to being taxed only by their elected assemblies, saw this as a violation of their rights because they had no representation in British Parliament.

The American response was protests, boycotts and riots.

Parliament repealed the act the following year because of the backlash, but tensions has risen and the conflict revealed deeper divisions between the colonists and English rule.

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I had the pleasure of speaking with Neil, an attorney from this office who generously offered helpful legal advice. His professionalism, kindness, and willingness to assist truly stood out. It's rare to find someone who takes the time to listen and guide you without expecting anything in return. I'm extremely grateful and highly recommend this firm to anyone in need of legal help. Thank you again!
Melissa H.

I have spoken with Neil with HV Legal,?who was kind enough to call me back when he said he would. Most attorneys will not bother to call you back with small problems, but Neil cared enough to help me. I am 73 yrs old and really appreciate his help with my legal problem. I would highly recommend Neil at HV Legal with any legal issues. Not only does he have a smart, legal mind, but he is a caring and compassionate person.
Diane Q.

I have worked several times with Neil. He is the kind of attorney that gives me faith in attorneys again. He has helped me with two personal legal needs, and he took the time to understand what I was looking for.
Kim H.

With the advice of HV Legal, I was able to put into practical terms a request for a refund my vendor was reluctant to provide to me. However, in clear and simple terms, HV Legal negotiated for me without any trouble. Taking the stress out of a stressful situation requires tact and persistence. They have both qualities!
Pat A.

Neil and Luca do a fantastic job and are responsive to their clients needs. They have great knowledge of the law and work quickly to resolve client issues.
Jeff B.

Neil is a knowledgeable attorney who takes great care with his recommendations. He gets great accolades in the business he provides because he is a caring individual.
Brandi

My experience was wonderful. Everything moved at a quick speed and my attorney was helpful as well as supportive through a difficult situation.
Kelly S.

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The Boston Massacre

As tensions grew between the Americans and British soldiers, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, which included duties on lead, glass, paper, paint and tea imported by the colonists

The residents of Boston, a hub of commercial activity, urged boycotts of British products. The Sons of Liberty, a group founded to protest the Stamp Act, identified shops that sold British products with the label "importer."

The 14th and 29th regiments of the British army landed in the colonies in October 1768, escalating tensions once more.

Christopher Seider, an 11-year-old boy in a crowd of protestors, was shot and killed by a colonist who doubled as a British informer on Feb. 22, 1770.

Rumors of the British cutting down the Liberty Tree, where effigies of the men who favored the Stamp Act were hung, began circulating on the morning of March 5. That night, a skirmish that began with taunting ended in British soldiers killing five patriots.

Crispus Attucks, a sailor of mixed African and Native American descent, was among the dead.

Paul Revere's depiction of the event fanned the flames of animosity between the patriots and soldiers.

Boston Tea Party

Parliament passed the Tea Act on May 10, 1773, in an effort to salvage the struggling East India Company while increasing revenue King George III back in England.

Through the Act, Parliament permitted the company to sell their tea directly to colonists and bypass American merchants, while still maintaining the taxes imposed on the colonies by the Townsend Acts.

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TIME LINE

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The Sons of Liberty encouraged colonists to resist the latest show of British force that threatened American merchants.

Using the rally cry "No Taxation without Representation," colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea, worth more than $1.7 million in today's dollars, into Boston Harbor on Dec. 16, 1773.

Resistance to tyrannical rule of an absent king and the exertion of more control caused revolutionaries to rise.

Intolerable Acts

Coupled with the debt created by the French and Indian War and an ongoing conflict with Spain, Parliament decided to tax the American colonies, telling leadership the taxes were necessary to ensure protection from Native American attacks. Colonists, however, did not view Native Americans as a continued threat and were outraged by the latest form of taxation without representation.

As punishment, Parliament passed four punitive laws in 1774.

The Boston Port Act shut down Boston Harbor until the destroyed tea was repaid, crippling the local economy. The Massachusetts Government Act nullified the colony's charter and limited town meetings. The Administration of Justice Act allowed British officials accused of crimes in the colonies to be returned home for trial in Britain, which the colonists viewed as a license for British officials to commit crimes without facing consequences. Lastly, the Quartering Act expanded the government's power to house soldiers in private homes — a clear violation of property rights granted to all other British citizens.

The Intolerable Acts angered colonists and united them against British rule, leading to the convening of the First Continental Congress.

First Continental Congress

The First Continental Congress convened on Sept. 5, 1774, at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia allowing colonists to voice their opposition to British tyranny and establish principles common to all the colonies, including life, liberty and property.

Delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies were in attendance to reconcile competing interests and coordinate resistance to British oppression.

The Articles of Association were adopted on Oct. 20, committing the colonies to a total boycott of British goods if they did not repeal the Intolerable Acts by Dec. 1, as well as an embargo on exports if they did not repeal them before Sept. 10, 1775.

The Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress were approved on Oct. 14, 1774, outlining the colonies' objections to oppression and asserted their rights as British subjects. The document also discussed sending a formal petition directly to King George III.

With measures taken to promote peace, the Congress began preparing for war in case the British monarchy refused to accept the demands.

Prominent Founding Fathers like George Washington, Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry used the congress to exchange ideas and information that laid the groundwork for armed resistance.

The First Continental Congress galvanized public opinion and generated support for resistance playing a crucial role in advancing cooperation between the colonies.

After adjourning on Oct. 26, the Congress agreed to gather on May 10, 1775, for the Second Continental Congress.

Liberty or Death

The Second Virginia Convention assembled in 1775 to deliberate the future of the American colonies and discuss the potential for war.

Patrick Henry arrived at the convention with the intent to galvanize militiamen into securing "our inestimable rights and liberties, from those further violations with which they are threatened."

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TIME LINE

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Some in attendance were wary of such decisive action, instead insisting that a peaceful resolution was possible. Growing impatient, Henry rose and delivered a powerful call to action to his fellow Virginians: "If we wish to be free…we must fight!"

Standing at the pulpit in St. John's Church on March 23, 1775, Henry delivered one of the most famous addresses in American history.

Henry closed his address in a manner that inspires Americans 250 years later.

"It is in vain, sir, to extenuate the matter," Henry said. "Gentlemen may cry, peace, peace — but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

"Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!," Henry continued.

At a moment when courageous action was needed, Henry's address was delivered before more than 100 delegates, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and many of the statesmen who would go on to sign the Declaration of Independence.

By a narrow margin, the Convention passed the resolution to begin plans for defending the colonies — the first critical step to independence.

Henry's famous words spoken at the pulpit of St. John's Church — "Give me liberty, or give me death!" — remain instilled in the hearts and minds of American citizens.

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Paul Revere's Ride

On the night of April 18, 1775, Dr. Joseph Warren learned that British troops planned to march to Concord, Mass., to disrupt American colonists' plans and destroy their supplies. Paul Revere sprang into action to warn his fellow Patriots of the impending British action.

Revere created a simple signal system using lanterns in the steeple of Boston's Old North Church to warn local Patriots – one lantern if the British came by land, two if by sea. That night, two lanterns were hung.

Revere's famous ride covered more than twelve miles. Along the way, he alerted a network of riders and key Patriots, ensuring the militia was ready the next day at Lexington and Concord. Though Revere was briefly captured by British troops near the end of his famous ride, he was released after being questioned. He had already accomplished his mission to warn colonists that "the British are coming" prior to being detained.

Revere's ride became a symbol of American resistance and helped spark the first battles of the Revolutionary War.

First Battles

With Revere's warnings that the British were marching to Concord to seize American arms, local Minutemen – the armed militias formed in small towns to defend colonists' lives and properties – prepared to defend homes and ammunition stocks.

The British arrived at Lexington, Mass., on April 19, 1775, and encountered approximately 77 American Minutemen led by Captain John Parker. The first shot was from a British weapon. To this day, no one knows who pulled the trigger.

It became known as the "shot heard 'round the world." The British fired a volley, mortally wounding eight Americans, the first to lay down their lives in pursuit of freedom.

Later that morning, British soldiers, also known as Redcoats, arrived at Concord to destroy American military supplies.

At the sight of smoke, 400 colonists descended from Punkatasset Hill, near the North Bridge, to confront the British troops, where the Redcoats opened fire, killing 49. American soldiers then relentlessly ambushed the British, forcing them to retreat 12 miles back to Boston.

The battles of Lexington and Concord included approximately 1,700 British regulars and more than 4,000 colonists and were fought over 16 miles along the Bay Road from Boston to Concord.

Information for this story was pulled from https://www.whitehouse.gov/america250/founders-museum/major-events/timeline/; https://www.owleyes.org/text/speech-to-the-second-virginia-convention/read/text-of-henrys-speech#root-22; and https://www.heritage.org/conservatism/report/the-story-the-declaration-independence.

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Fourth of July Festival for 250th packed with activities

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON - Choosing Jefferson Village as the site for the America 250th celebration in Ashtabula County had special significance for the America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee.

The countywide celebration will be anchored by a full-day Fourth of July Festival on July 4 in Jefferson.

"It has been a long time since Jefferson has hosted a celebration of this magnitude," Tina Fuller with the America 250 – Ashtabula County Committee said. "As the county seat of Ashtabula County, and with historical records noting this area as an early intended center of the village, returning the America 250 celebration to this location felt like a full-circle moment, honoring the past while creating new shared memories."

Fuller noted that the celebration will begin with the Grand Parade of History, which will step off at noon and proceed toward the Giddings Park area.

"An opening ceremony is planned for approximately 1:30 p.m., after which activities will continue throughout the day across multiple locations, including the Liberty Picnic Grounds, Jefferson Depot Village, and surrounding event areas, culminating with evening fireworks," she said.

Fuller noted that the committee members are grateful for the support they are receiving from many local businesses, organizations, and community partners.

"This celebration represents a meaningful opportunity for the county to come together and mark a once-in-a-lifetime milestone," she said.

The committee is encouraging community participation at every level.

"Parade applications, vendor information, and other participation materials are available on our Facebook page," Fuller said. "We are also seeking volunteers for a wide range of roles, including an individual or group to help coordinate volunteer efforts. Volunteer sign-up information, along with opportunities to get involved in ongoing planning, can be found online."

Here's a breakdown of all the activities planned for the celebration:

• **Grand Parade of History**: A community-led parade featuring local organizations, historical societies, businesses, and civic groups celebrating Ashtabula County's heritage. The goal is to include up to 250 parade units, reflecting the significance of the anniversary.

• **Community Parade Voting**: Parade viewers vote for their favorite float, while parade participants vote for the most patriotic home or display along the route.

• **Liberty Picnic Grounds** (Main Stage): The festival's central gathering space, featuring Americana music, singers, bands, speeches, theatrical performances, and live entertainment throughout the day; an All County High School Band performance is being explored as planning continues; and, a troupe of Historical Reenactors of famous Americans greeting guests "in character" throughout the grounds.

• **Family Americana Arcade** (Second Stage): An old-school family fun area featuring classic games, contests, and ongoing entertainment on a secondary stage, with a special appearance by Jungle Terry.

• **The Walk of Time**: A self-guided, walkable historical timeline featuring displays created by community organizations and historical societies highlighting key moments in American and Ashtabula County history.

• **Early America Live**: A special Fourth of July presentation of the Jefferson Depot Village's annual living-history program, featuring demonstrations and historical interpretation.

• **Wagon Rides by Whispery Pines**: Scenic wagon rides traveling through the Jefferson Depot Village throughout the day.

• **Exhibition Game of Rounders:** A historic bat-and-ball game, considered a forerunner to modern baseball, played using traditional rules and equipment.

• **Artisan & Crafters Market**: A curated market featuring approximately 50 artisans and crafters offering handmade and specialty goods.

• **Food & Beverage Vendors**: Food trucks, drink vendors, and a planned wine tasting tent serving festival guests.

• **Historic Site Tours** (Planned): The Jefferson Mill is hoped to be open for tours as part of the day's historical offerings.

• **Evening Fireworks**: A fireworks display concluding the celebration — marking one of the first fireworks events in Jefferson in many years.

Fuller said those interested in participating in planning meetings are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates, times, and locations are posted on the Facebook page, and inquiries about the event may be directed to ashtabulacounty250@gmail.com.

She added that additional activities and programming may be refined as planning continues.

The most up-to-date event details and announcements will be shared at www.ashtabula250.org and on Facebook at Ashtabula County – America 250th.

JOURNALISM A LONG TRADITION IN ASHTABULA

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

Journalism has deep roots in Ashtabula.

The topic fills up a section in the 1878 book, "History of Ashtabula County, Ohio," by William W. Williams, taking readers up through the history of journalism in the city through 1877.

The book was made available online after having been digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Boston Public Library, according to the website where the online version of the book is located.

"In the spring of 1823, Asa W. W. Hickox and John A. Hickox commenced the publication of the Ashtabula Recorder, the first newspaper published in this county," the author wrote. "It was printed in the second story of a small brown building which stood near where Weiblen's saloon now is, a little north of T. N. Booth's brick store, on Main street."

According to the author, the Hickoxes published it "until November 8, 1823, when John S. Hickox retired, and Ozias Bowen, a practical printer, took his place in the firm, and the publication was continued by the new firm of Hickox & Bowen until September 8. 1824, when Bowen withdrew. From that time to the close of the second volume, the paper was published by Asa W. W. Hickox & A. S. Park, when the establishment appears to have passed into the hands of Hugh Lowry, who published it to the close of the third volume, — in the summer of 1826, — when its publication was discontinued."

At the time the books was written, a tiny amount of copies could still be found – though not many, apparently.

"Only a few scattered numbers of it are now in existence, and, like its projectors and most of its patrons, it appears already almost to have passed into oblivion," the author wrote.

According to the author, the publication was a small folio sheet with pages measuring 12 x 18 inches.

"It was not a sensational paper," the author wrote. "It had no special local editor or reporter, and contained, so far at least as I have had an opportunity to examine it, but little that would be of present interest."

The author provided extracts of the newspaper that he said "give an account of the dedication of 'the first 'meeting-house' in the village, the wounded feelings of the editors at being obliged to suspend the publication of their paper for twenty-one days to make some repairs of their press, which now could be done in as many hours, and an advertisement which is illustrative of the humor of one of the leading citizens of that day..."

The excerpts were as follows:

"On Thursday last [August 12, 1S20], the Baptist meeting-house, recently erected in the village, was dedicated to Almighty God as a place of religious worship. The day being pleasant, a large and respectable concourse of people gave their attendance. The dedication sermon was preached by Elder Elisha Tucker, from Psalms xxv. 8: 'Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thy house dwelleth.'"

"The meeting-house, which is very respectable for size and appearance, has been erected solely at the expense of one individual. It was commenced the last season, and is now entirely completed."

"Circumstances render it very necessary that we should procure a new stone for our press, and make some other repairs, in order that we may be enabled to do our work more satisfactorily to our own feelings, as also to render it more intelligible to our readers; we shall therefore, however at variance with our feelings, be under the necessity of suspending the publication of the Recorder until the twenty-fifth instant, which we trust will afford us sufficient time to accomplish the desired object." — (February 4, 1825.)

"WHAT DRUNKARD HAS LOST HIS JUG?

"A jug containing whisky, and lying exposed in the middle of the road called the North ridge, leading west from this village, was picked up by the subscriber. The owner is desired to prove property, and take it from the printing-office at Ashtabula, where it is lodged for safe keeping.

"Matt Hubbard.

"Ashtabula, September 16, 1824."

The author wrote that the successor to the Recorder was the Western Journal, which began in August, 1826, by R. W. Griswold. He published it about 15 months, and it then "passed into the hands" of Park & Terril on Nov. 8, 1827, who continued to publish it until Nov. 8, 1838, when the "establishment" was sold to Hugh Lowry, according to the author.

"Though a great improvement upon the Recorder, it was a small affair compared with the village papers at the present time," the author wrote. "It was published in a building now composing a part of the dwelling of Mrs. Sawtell, which then stood back of the brown dwelling-house now owned by 0. H. Fitch, near the Baptist church, and fronting eastward on the public square."

The author described the printing technology of time as it evolved.

"Great changes and improvements have been made since that time," he wrote. "The little Ramage press used by Lowry was made chiefly of wood, and the pressure upon the type was

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JOURNALISM

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made by an iron screw, and it required a strong pull to make the necessary impression upon each page of the paper. It was substantially the same kind of press as was used by Franklin when working as a journeyman printer in Philadelphia. The iron presses now in use, with their complex machinery of cylinders and levers, were then unknown, and instead of the composition rollers in use, the ink was distributed upon the types by beating them with large leather balls stuffed with wool."

The author noted that in the Journal's Nov. 15, 1828 edition, the newspaper announced that it would support "what was then termed the 'American System,' — the encouragement of domestic manufactures and internal improvements, and the measures of Mr. Adams' administration."

In addition, the author noted the results of the presidential election in the paper, presumably the race of President John Quincy Adams against Andrew Jackson.

"In a statement of votes given at the presidential election that year, it appears that this county gave for Adams 1961, and for Jackson 183, and that the vote of this township, then comprising Plymouth, was for Adams 235, and for Jackson 18," the author wrote.

As the years went by, there were changes on the journalism front.

"On the 13th of June, 1829, the Journal was enlarged and printed on white paper; its appearance was much improved, and its name was changed to the Ashtabula Journal," the author wrote. "In the winter or early spring of 1831 its printing-office was removed to the second story of a building on the north side of Church square, and in a few months afterwards, on account of the poor health of Lowry, its publication was discontinued, and the press and printing materials sold to a party in Conneaut (then Salem), and was used in printing the Salem Advertiser, the first newspaper published in that town."

Then, on Jan. 1, 1853, "the paper was sold to W. C. Howells & J. L. Oliver, and removed to Jefferson," according to the book.

Other papers, the author wrote, included The Democratic Free Press, which was started in Ashtabula, January, 1834, by C. L. Clark & Company, publishers.

"After one year it ceased to exist," the author wrote. "The Ashtabula Republican was published in Ashtabula six months from June 22, 1833; Lewis B. Edwards, the editor. The Ashtabula Sentinel traces its birth back to January 21, 1832. Its founders were Matthew Hubbard, Wm. W. and Jas. L. Reed, Henry Hubbard, Amos C. Hubbard, Stephen II. Farrington, Epeneteres W. Lockwood, Clark & Lee, Philo Booth, H. J. Rees, Wm. A. Field, and 0. H. Fitch."

In addition, the author noted that The Ashtabula Telegraph started in the fall of 1852, and The Ashtabula Jeffersonian began Oct. 8, 1870.

"The Conneaut Citizen, C. G. Griffey, editor and proprietor, was started at Conneaut, in June of 1871, continued to be published at that place for about two years, and was then removed to Ashtabula, Jan. 1, 1873," the author wrote. "After an issue of twenty-six numbers the office was sold to Mr. A. F. Sperry. This was an eight-column folio. In June of 1873, Mr. Sperry began the publication of the Ashtabula News."

He noted that another paper, The Democratic Standard, "under the able management of Sherman, Rote & Fardon, with Henry Apthorp as associate editor," started publication in Ashtabula Nov. 14, 1877.

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Early influential educator who impacted the Western Reserve - Professor H.U. Johnson (1830-1901)

BY BARBARA J. HAMILTON

Gazette Newspapers

In the infant stages of the educational system of Ashtabula County, an innovative and self-educated man, H. U. Johnson, created methods of learning that impacted young lives and their parents for many years.

Born in Braceville, Ohio, in 1830, Johnson would come to Cortland, Ohio, and teach at the young academy.

There are no records of Johnson's formal education, but we do know that he was smart enough to also teach at West Farmington, the Kingsville Academy, and the Lake Shore Seminary in North East, Pennsylvania. He left teaching to fight in the Civil War (1861-1865).

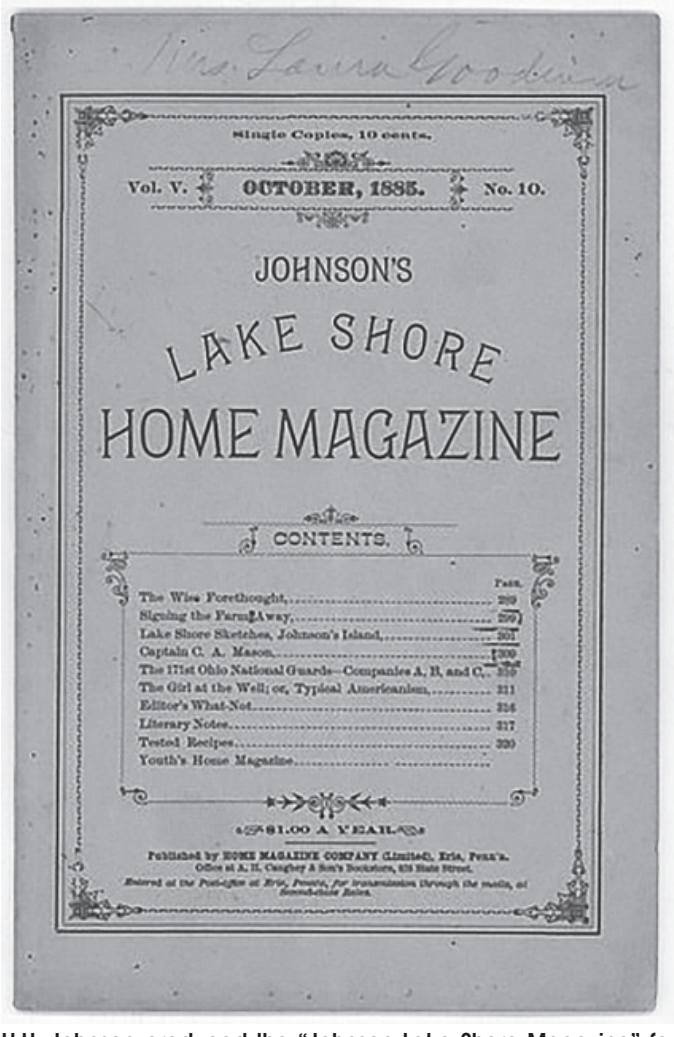
Returning home, Johnson took over the head role at the Orwell Normal Institute, 1865-1870. The school had been built in 1850 by educator Jacob Juckerman, but it was floundering fifteen years later when Johnson took over. Under his leadership, the school would change its name to Orwell Academy and the enrollment would grow to 150 students. The curriculum was so advanced that it was considered second only to Oberlin College.

Johnson did not remain in the classroom. He felt getting "into the field" where the students and parents lived and grew was crucial to understanding the history of the area. He was an avid historian and spent his days going from community to community interviewing those involved in the Underground Railroad. He talked and recorded the memories of conductors, some former slaves and former slave owners.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

H.U. Johnson (1830-1901) was an innovative educator, writer, publisher, Civil War veteran and magazine producer.

He compiled their stories into a book, "From Dixie to Canada, Romances and Realities of the Underground Railroad." Even today, this book is considered the "Bible" as the most accurate and thorough compilation of the stories of those who lived through the era of slavery. The stories he obtained could never be told as accurately as what he uncovered. The book can still be found on eBay and rare book sites.



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JOHNSON'S

LAKE SHORE

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H.U. Johnson produced the "Johnson Lake Shore Magazine" for many years, sharing first-hand stories of former slaves, slave holders, Civil War battles and the history of our nation.

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HENDERSON MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

There is a written record dated August 2, 1817 of the first library in Jefferson. This library was known as "The Jefferson Public Library." Later the books of this library were turned over to the Citizen's Library. The Citizen's Library of Jefferson was established in 1883 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

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JOHNSON

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But Johnson never forgot his time spent as a soldier in the Civil War. His compassion toward widows of Civil War soldiers was so great, he helped organize the Home for Civil War Widows in Madison, lake County, Ohio. In 1891, the Ohio Women's Relief Corps purchased the former Madison Seminary and renamed it the Madison Home. Civil War nurses, widows and children found a place to live. The buildings are still standing on 6769 Middle Ridge Road but the beautiful brick buildings are abandoned. The Madison Home has had many lives since the days of H.U. Johnson.

But Johnson's distinctive claim to the furthering of the early education of Ashtabula County school children lies in his innovative method of teaching. He felt a person learns just as well beyond the classroom setting, traveled by horse and wagon to every community within a three-state area in an effort to reach those who could not attend his lectures. With his powerful speaking ability and the use of creative visual aids prepared by himself, he gave dramatic presentations of people, places and events.

His circuit tour was simple but effective. Driving into a schoolyard, usually at lunchtime, word of his arrival would pass quickly among the neighbors. Soon, a crowd would gather and pack the schoolhouse. He was widely respected not only by the common folks, but also by well-known influential men in very community.

Using slides, many of them hand-colored by Johnson, he would project them on the wall using what Johnson called a "magic lantern." It was a new phenomenon in photography and a forerunner of today's slide projector.

With an amazing ability to memorize, Johnson told them stories with flourish and excitement making learning a thrill for his listeners. Today, we know that students learn in four dominant ways listed as visual, auditory, read/write and kinesthetic. Johnson was advanced in understanding this process.

To attend a lecture, adults would have to pay 10-15 cents and five cents for children in the fourth and fifth grades and upper. The lectures covered science, the Bible, Civil War battles, the Great Johnstown Flood, the Underground Railroad and human-interest stories. His audiences were spell bound as he shared first-hand stories he had uncovered of slaves escaping to freedom and their flight to the North.

One of his most popular lectures which he also recorded on paper was "The Pioneers and Their Grandchildren." It included first-hand accounts from the families of the early settlers of our county taken from diaries, letters and first-hand accounts.

Johnson expanded his book market by writing "The Singing Geography" which taught the cities and countries in rhyme by using popular Civil War tunes. His many poems were compiled into a book called the "Western Reserve Centennial Souvenir."

Johnson also produced a monthly magazine for children with subscriptions called the H.U. Johnson Magazine, published in Ashtabula County, Ohio, beginning in 1886. Copies of this magazine are still found in antique shops and at auctions. It is a tangible reminder of the great ability of one of our county's most profound educators.

PAINESVILLE

From Page 14

According to the 1964 book "Here is Lake County Ohio," it was a great dream of the time to not only found new land, but have it named after you.

Champion wanted the public square to "to be used as a park forever."

The town's name officially was changed to Painesville in honor of Gen. Edward Paine's very early interest in this new uncharted territory.

Paine is also acknowledged as one of the first educational teachers in the area, and alongside both David Abbott and Samuel Huntington, played a significant role in getting Ohio to become the 17th state officially on March 1, 1803, with the election for its first governor taking place on Jan. 11, 1803, naming Edward Tiffin to the position.

Samuel Huntington would be named the third-ever governor of Ohio years later and presidents Rutherford B. Hayes, whom served two terms, and William McKinley, both served as a few of the 70 governors to lead Ohio.

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Sons of the American Revolution honors the past

BY GABRIEL McVEY

Gazette Newspapers

LAKE, GEAUGA AND ASHTABULA COUNTIES – The Northeastern Ohio Chapter 12 Sons of the American Revolution is hard at work planning for the America 250 celebration this year.

Troy Bailey, the registrar for the local chapter (SAR #12), said the organization has 133 members currently and is looking for anyone from Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga counties who can document descent from someone who supported the Revolution.

The SAR is a nonprofit, nonpartisan lineage society for men who can prove direct descent from a patriot who served in or supported the American Revolution.

Sons of the American Revolution was founded in 1889, and the organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and providing educational opportunities for future generations.

It is the largest male-lineage organization in the U.S., with over 37,000 members across more than 550 chapters in all 50 states and several international societies, including France, Spain and Germany.

To join the SAR, an applicant must be a male at least 18 years old and provide documented proof of lineal bloodline descent from a "patriot" who supported the cause between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783.

There is also a junior membership for boys under 18.

Qualifying service, according to Bailey, includes military service in the Continental Army or Navy, as well as state militia during the conflict, but is not limited to men and boys who took up arms.

Civil service is also included, such as serving in government bodies, signing oaths of allegiance or being a member of committees of safety. Descendants of people who provided material support to the cause, such as providing arms, armament or training, supplies or funds to the American cause are also eligible to join.

And, finally, descendants of soldiers or sailors from allied nations, such as France or Spain, that supported American independence, are also eligible to join SAR.

SAR Chapter 12 provides a color guard twice a year – in July and November – for naturalization ceremonies held at Lawnfield, the residence for former President James A. Garfield, in Mentor. Bailey, who heads up the color guard for the local SAR, said these ceremonies typically see attendance of around 100, between new U.S. citizens taking their oaths and their families.

The SAR color guard also takes part in six or seven parades in Lake, Ashtabula and Geauga counties and occasionally sets up a booth as a public outreach and recruitment aid.

SAR Chapter 12 meets four times a year and has three main areas of focus: outreach, education and honoring Revolutionary War veterans.

Marking and honoring the gravesites of Revolutionary War veterans is one of the more labor-intensive projects.

SEE SAR: 60

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"Warm hearts for cold noses"

Ashtabula County was first county formed from the Western Reserve

BY ERIC HRIN

Gazette Newspapers

Ashtabula County has a long-standing and special place in the history of Ohio and the nation.

According to the Ashtabula County History Society, the county was the first county formed from the Western Reserve.

An 1878 book, "History of Ashtabula County, Ohio," by William W. Williams, details the county's illustrious history. The publication is available online after having been digitized by the Internet Archive in 2017 with funding from Boston Public Library, according to the website where the online version of the book is located.

"In 1807 the present limits of Ashtabula County were defined, and January 22, 1811, the county was organized," the book reads. "The township of Salem, now Conneaut, was the first to be carved out of this immense district. Richfield remained intact from 1800 till 1804, when numbers twelve, thirteen, and the gore, numbered fourteen, of the first range, were separated from it, and incorporated into a distinct township, and called Salem."

The book also provides some information about some of the first officers in the county.

"The county of Ashtabula began a separate and distinct existence on the 22d day of January, 1811, the following-named persons serving as first officers: Presiding Judge, Benjamin Ruggles; Associate Judges, Aaron Wheeler, Ebenezer Hewins, and Solomon Griswold; Treasurer, David Hendry; Recorder, James A. Harper; County Clerk, Timothy R. Hawley; Sheriff, Nathan Strong," the book reads.

According to the book, the first official act was the organization of the June term of the court of common pleas. The first grand jurors were: Noah Cowles, Peleg Sweet, Stephen Brown, Jesse D. Hawley, William Perrin, Walter Fobes, Ebenezer K. Lamson, Sterling Mills, Michael Webster, Gideon Leet, Joshua Rockwell, Eiiphalet Austin, James A. Harper, Moses Avright, and David Hendry. Eiiphalet Austin was appointed foreman.

After the jury was "duly empaneled and sworn, and were charged by the court," the first suit was the State of Ohio vs. Orison Cleveland, assault and battery, according to the book.

"The defendant was discharged by order of the court," the author wrote. "There was no petit jury. There was a case that came before the judges, and was for debt, the plaintiff receiving a judgment for seventy dollars. The late Peter Hitchcock was the first prosecuting attorney pro tern and Ezra Kellogg the first regular prosecuting attorney."

The book then provides a history of the other townships in the county.

"No other change was made until the year 1807, when Harpersfield, embracing what now is Geneva, Harpersfield, Trumbull, and Hartsgrove, was organized into a separate township," it reads. "In 1808 Ashtabula township, embracing what now is Kingsville, Sheffield, Ashtabula, and Plymouth, was carved out. About the same time Jefferson township began an existence, including the present townships Jefferson, Denmark, Pierpont, Lenox, Dorset, and Richmond. In 1810 Kingsville, embracing besides its present territory that of Sheffield, was detached from Ashtabula and organized."

The author wrote that "in April, 1811, Wayne township was organized, embracing the present townships of Williamsfield, Wayne, Colebrook, Andover, Cherry Valley, and New Lyme. In July of the same year Windsor township was organized, and included Leffingwell (now Orwell) in addition to its own territory."

According to the book, "the organization of the remaining townships was effected" as follows:

"Austinburg, including besides its present territory that of Saybrook, in 1812; Lebanon, including the present townships of New Lyme and Colebrook, in 1813 (in 1825 the name was changed from Lebanon to New Lyme); in 1813 Denmark was detached from Jefferson, and embraced the present townships of Denmark, Pierpont, Richmond, and Dorset; in 1816 Wrightsburg, changed in 1827 to Saybrook, was detached from Austinburg; in 1816 Geneva was taken from Harpersfield; in 1818 Pierpont was detached from Denmark, and included Richmond with its own territory; in 1818 Monroe was formed from Salem; in 1819 Andover, embracing in addition to its own territory that of Cherry Valley, was taken from Wayne; in the same year Morgan was taken from Richfield, and organized; in the same year Lenox was detached from Jefferson..."

The book continues:

"...in 1820 Sheffield was taken from Kingsville; in 1823 Leffingwell (afterwards Orwell) was attached to Richfield, and the two townships were known as Richfield until 1826, when Orwell was organized into a separate township. In 1825 Trumbull was detached from Harpersfield and made to embrace the present townships of Trumbull and Hartsgrove. In 1827 Cherry Valley was severed from Andover, and Richmond from Pierpont in 1828. The last vestige of the name of Richfield disappeared in 1828, when, upon the petition of Christopher Champlin and other inhabitants, the name was changed to Rome."

According to the book, "Hartsgrove became a separate organized township in 1830, and on the 4th day of July, 1838, the last township organization of the county was perfected, the greater part of number twelve, of the third range, being severed from Ashtabula on the 7th day of January preceding, and erected into a township at the date first named above, and called Plymouth. Thus did the single township of Richfield, together with the two southern tiers numbered eight and nine, yield the twenty-eight independent sovereignties into which the county is to-day divided."

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WADE FELL A VOTE SHORT OF PRESIDENCY

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

JEFFERSON – Benjamin Wade was a man of conviction during an era in American history in which that trait was divisive.

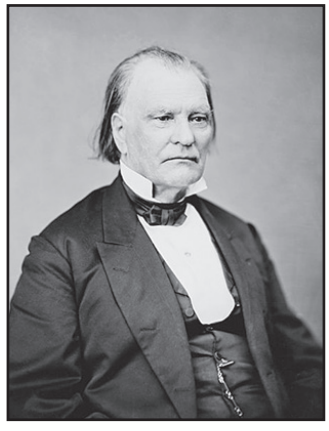
Those convictions and views considered to be radical in his own time put Wade at odds with two American presidents as well as the governor of his own state. They also positioned him on the precipice of the White House but falling a single vote shy of his goal.

Though he never reached the White House, Wade left a mark on politics during one of America's most tumultuous ages.

Those who supported Wade sang his praises.

"Maine Congressman James G. Blaine put the best face on Wade when he wrote: 'The fidelity, the courage, the ability of Mr. Wade gave him prominence in the North, and were a constant

Benjamin Wade, a former Ashtabula County prosecutor, served in the U.S. Senate for 18 years and fell a single vote shy of the presidency following the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson.



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After serving 18 years in the U.S. Senate, Benjamin Wade returned to Jefferson to practice law until his death in 1878.

surprise to the South. He brought to the Senate the radicalism which Mr. [Joshua] Giddings had so long upheld in the House, and was protected in his audacious freedom of speech by his steadiness of nerve and his known readiness to fight,'" an article on mrlincolnswhitehouse.org said.

The men in opposition of Wade saw those same traits in a much different light.

"Historian Allan G. Bogue reflected Wade's less attractive side: 'Wade was no orator, and his contributions to debate were usually short and, on occasion, intemperate: he once called [Edgar] Cowan a dog and attacked the President in open debate on more than one occasion. A correspondent once described him as stumping into the chamber 'grim as a bear in ill health'…'" the mrlincolnswhitehouse.org article reads.

A MAN OF THE LAW

Benjamin Wade was born in Feeding Hills, Mass., on Oct. 27, 1800, and moved to Andover with his parents in 1821.

"Benjamin Wade was, for the most part, a self-taught man," a biography from the Jefferson Historical Society reads. "As

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WADE

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with many of the first pioneers who came to Ashtabula County, the land required all one's efforts just to meek out a lowly existence with little time left to achieve an education."

Wade moved to Albany, N.Y., to study medicine and returned to Ohio to study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1828 and formed a law partnership with Joshua Giddings in Jefferson in 1831. He was elected Ashtabula County prosecutor from 1835-37.

Giddings retired in 1837 and the partnership dissolved. That same year, Wade was elected to the Ohio Senate. He served a pair of two-year terms (1837-38 and 1841-42).

"Although Wade was 'frank, abrupt and incisive,' qualities which offended some people, he was also honest and unpretentious," the Jefferson Historical Society Biography read. "These qualities got him elected to the Ohio Senate in 1837."

Upon leaving the state legislature, he served as a judge for the 3rd Judicial Court of Ohio from 1847-51.

Views on slavery

As Wade's political career began, he was quickly aligned with abolitionists.

"Throughout this period (1837-42), Wade was active in the Underground Railroad assisting escaping slaves whenever the occasion occurred," the Jefferson Historical Society biography reads.

It was through those connections Wade may have met his future wife.

"In May of 1841, he married Caroline Rosekrans of Ashtabula, a relative of William Hubbard, a station master on the Underground Railroad," the Jefferson Historical Society biography reads. "Caroline would prove to be an able partner. Two children were born to the couple, James F. and Henry P."

Wade took a strong stance in opposition to slavery.

"Wade was known to be outspoken and uncompromising in his convictions," a biography on battlefields.org reads. "He was an abolitionist and a strong supporter of equal rights for Blacks. While serving in the Ohio Senate, he sought to repeal the Black Codes that were in place."

"Wade originally identified as a Whig; however, when the Whig party collapsed, he was instrumental in forming the new Republican Party," the battlefields.org biography continued. "His unwavering opinions, combined with his support for women's suffrage and trade unions, amongst other controversial stances, established his reputation as a Radical Republican."

Wade goes to Washington

Wade was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1851.

"He was actually elected to fill a vacancy caused by the failure of the Ohio legislature to elect a Senator," John S. Cooper wrote in an article titled "Almost President." "The seat was declared vacant, and the legislature then proceeded to elect a substitute. He served all but two weeks of the six-year term."

Wade was re-elected as a Republican in 1856 and 1863. He served in the Senate from March 15, 1851, until the end of his term on March 3, 1869. His tenure ended when he was defeated for re-election in a close vote in the Ohio legislature after the Democrats won a narrow majority in state elections.

After the Civil War began, he became one of the leaders, along with Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens, of the radical faction of the Republican Party.

During his final four years in the Senate, Wade was the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, an elected position of leadership made more important by the absence of a vice president.

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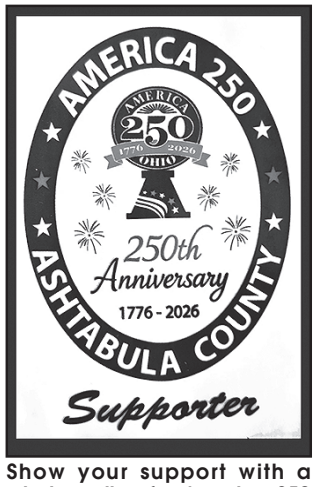

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WADE

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Wade vs. Lincoln

Benjamin Wade sometimes saw President Abraham Lincoln in a bad light.

"Wade thought the President a fool, but the President often got the best of repartee with the sarcastic Wade," the article on mrlicolnswhitehouse.org read. "Once, Wade told Lincoln that he could put 'anybody' in charge of Union troops. 'Wade, anybody will do for you, but not for me. I must have somebody — I must use the tools I have.'"

Wade led a charge to have Ulysses S. Grant removed from his position at the head of the Union army that was had the Mississippi River city of Vicksburg under siege.

"On another occasion, in June 1863, Wade was the head of a congressional delegation seeking another removal of Ulysses S. Grant as head of the Union army stalled in front of Vicksburg," the mrlincolnswhitehouse.org article read. "The President responded to their complaints with the beginning of a story. 'Bother your stories, Mr. President. That is the way it is with you, sir. It is all story — story. You are the father of every military blunder that has been made during the war. You are on the road to hell, sir, with this Government, and you are not a mile off this minute.'"

"'The President responded, "Wade, that is about the distance from here to the Capitol,'" the article on mrlincolnswhitehouse.org continued.

Despite his disagreements with Lincoln, Wade did reluctantly unite with his party to get the president re-elected in 1864.

"Wade's colleague Zachariah Chandler took the lead in uniting the Republican Party behind Abraham Lincoln in September 1864," the article on mrlincolnswhitehouse.org reads. "Wade reluctantly acquiesced in the effort, writing Chandler about Mr. Lincoln: 'I never had a doubt of our ability to elect him by an overwhelming majority. I only wish we could do as well for a better man. But to save the nation I am doing all for him that I possibly could do for a better man, were it not for the country there would be a poetical justice in his being beaten by that stupid ass (Gen. George) McClellan, who, he persisted in keeping in the service against all that you and I, and Andy Johnson could do to have removed and a live man [put] in his place. That stupid willfulness cost this nation more than a hundred thousand men, as you well know and when I think of those things, I wish the (devil) had Old Abe. But the issue is now made up and we have either got to take him, or Jeff Davis, for McClellan and all those who support him are meaner traitors than are to be found in the Confederacy.'"

Post-war posturing

As the Civil War reached its end, Lincoln outlined what he called his "10 Percent Plan," which called for the southern states to be reconstructed as soon as 10 percent of the citizens took an oath of loyalty to the Union.

A number of Republicans believed the plan let the south off too lightly. They also feared that allowing the southern states back into the Union, and into Congress, would give the majority back to the Democratic Party. It was for those reasons a growing number of Republicans, including Wade, opposed Lincoln's plan.

Wade and Maryland Congressman Henry Winter Davis authored the Wade-Davis Bill that outlined the Radical Republican plan for the South. The bill called for a state to be allowed to return to home rule only after a majority of its citizens took an oath of loyalty that required them to certify that they had never taken up arms against the United States government.

Lincoln allowed the bill to die by use of the pocket veto.

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WADE

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The Radicals, led by Wade and Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, opposed every move Johnson attempted to make in attempting to see Lincoln's plan through after the assassination. The duo led the passage of the Reconstruction Acts and Civil Rights Acts over Johnson's veto. They then passed the Tenure of Office Act, which said that the president could not fire without Senate approval any official whose appointment had required Senate confirmation. The act, later declared unconstitutional, was aimed at Johnson.

After Johnson fired his disloyal and radical Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, Congress moved to impeach Johnson.

Nearly president

With Johnson's impeachment by the House of Representatives, the Senate was tasked with acting as the jury, considering whether or not to either acquit or convict the beleaguered president.

Each senator swore an oath to do impartial justice based on the evidence presented.

"That oath did not stop many from announcing their vote before the trial even started, including Wade," Cooper wrote. "As President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Wade was the acting presiding officer of the Senate during the Johnson administration (except for the actual impeachment trial which was presided over by the Chief Justice of the United States, Salmon Chase). He used his considerable influence to convince Senators to vote against Johnson."

Wade was operating under more than one motive, however.

"Wade had another reason to want Johnson convicted and removed from office," Cooper wrote. "As President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Wade was next in line to become President. According to the succession law in force at the time, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate came after the President and Vice President. As Johnson had been Vice President and moved up to the Presidency after Lincoln's death, there was no Vice President."

Wade had also seen the writing on the wall. His home state, Ohio, a closely divided state, had turned Democrat in the previous election,

"He very much loved being in the Senate, and wanted to stay. His plan called for Johnson to be removed, and for him to fill the last ten months of the Presidential term. The Republican Party was obviously going to nominate General Grant for President, but Wade hoped that by being President and smoothing the way for Grant, he might be named the Vice Presidential candidate. As Vice President, he would be President of the Senate, and get to remain in his beloved Senate," Cooper wrote.

Wade missed becoming president by a single vote.

"Thirty-five Senators voted for conviction and nineteen voted to acquit," Cooper wrote. "Unfortunately for Wade, the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority to convict and remove an impeached official."

Seven Republican senators voted against impeachment.

"The anti-Johnson forces were counting on a guilty vote on the 11th and last article of impeachment," The National Constitution Center wrote in an article titled "The man whose impeachment vote saved Andrew Johnson."

Senator Edmund Ross of Kansas, a Republican, cast the deciding vote. It was anticipated that he was going to vote against Johnson, up until the night before the final roll call.

Ross stunned the chamber when he said, "Not guilty."

The Radical Republicans asked for an adjournment and, 11 days later, votes on two more articles failed, and the trial ended.

The controversy, to this day, is why Ross changed his mind.

"There were two serious constitutional issues involved in the trial," The National Constitution Center wrote. "One was that some people didn't think the Tenure of Office Act was constitutional. The other was that the Constitution, at that point, didn't specify who became vice president when the president died or couldn't serve."

The fact that Wade was waiting in the wings to ascend to the presidency may have been what kept Johnson in the Oval Office.

"Wade had his own enemies within the Republican Party, including Ross (who foresaw Wade taking away his patronage powers in Kansas if Wade became president)," a National Constitution Center article read.

A theory was that Ross followed the money instead of his constitutional conscience.

"Ross may have been the beneficiary of a $150,000 slush fund set up by Johnson's supporters," the National Constitution Center article reads.

Since the vote, some have seen Ross as a hero while others have viewed him less favorably.

Having been defeated on the impeachment vote and losing his bid to re-election to the Senate, Wade returned to Jefferson and resumed practicing law in 1869. He was appointed a government director of the Union Pacific Railroad, and in 1871 was named a member of the Santo Domingo Commission.

Benjamin Wade died in Jefferson on March 2, 1878, and was buried near his former law partner, Joshua Giddings, in Oakdale Cemetery.

Information for this article was pulled from https://www.mrlincolnswhitehouse.org/residents-visitors/visitors-from-congress/visitors-congress-benjamin-f-wade-1800-1878/index.html; https://www.hopecharter.org/~johncooper@prodigy.net/john-cooper/almost-president-benjamin-wade; https://sites.google.com/site/jeffersonhistoricalsocietyohio/jefferson-people-of-prominence/benjamin-franklin-wade; https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/the-man-whose-impeachment-vote-saved-andrew-johnson; and https://www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/benjamin-wade.

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LEE RESOLUTION LED TO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

BY BOB ETTINGER

Gazette Newspapers

For two-and-a-half centuries, Thomas Jefferson and, to a lesser extent, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, have been credited as the author of what is considered to be one of the most important documents in human history.

It's true the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, was written by Jefferson with changes requested by Franklin and Adams included.

Jefferson, however, was not the first American colonist to declare the American colonists were free of British rule.

The honor of being the first to declare the colonies' independence belongs to Virginian Richard Henry Lee, who stood in front of the Second Continental Congress on June 7, 1776, and boldly declared the United Colonies to be free and independent states.

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved," Lee said to Congress. "That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

Lee's Resolution was the expression of a movement that had already begun throughout the colonies.

As the Second Continental Congress convened in 1776, it was still waiting King George III's response to a petition for redress of grievances that he was sent by the First Continental Congress in 1775.

The First Continental Congress gradually took on the responsibilities of a national government. It established the Continental Army in June 1775 as well as a continental currency. By the end of July, it created a post office for the "United Colonies."

A month later, King George declared that his American subjects were "engaged in open and avowed rebellion." Later that year, the British Parliament passed the American Prohibitory Act, which made all American vessels and cargoes forfeit to the Crown. The Congress learned in May 1776 that the king had negotiated treaties with German states to hire mercenaries to fight in America.

Many Americans were convinced these combined actions were evidence that the mother country was treating the colonies as a foreign entity.

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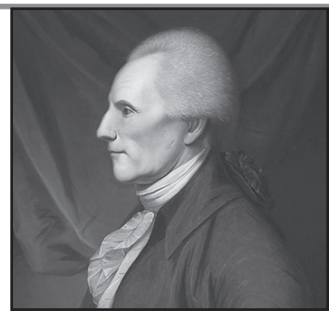

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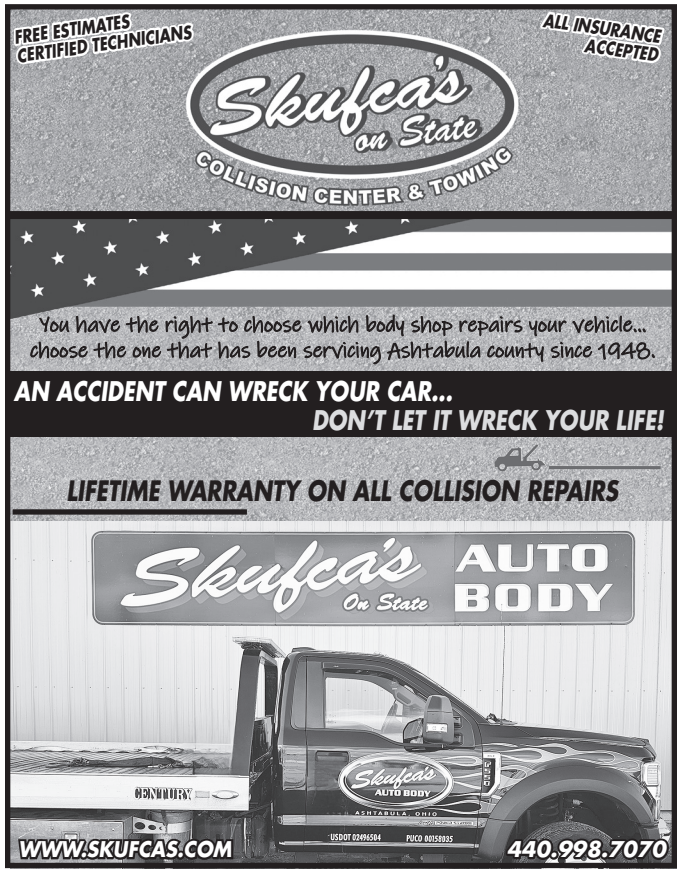
Richard Henry Lee stood in front of the Second Continental Congress on June 7, 1776, and presented a resolution declaring "these United Colonies are, and of right to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown." Consideration of the resolution was postponed on June 11, and Congress recessed for three weeks. Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence between June 11 and 28 with changes made by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The Lee Resolution was adopted on July 2 and, on the afternoon of July 4, the Declaration of Independence was adopted.



LEE

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The Continental Congress continued cutting ties to Britain.

The Privateering Resolution, passed in March 1776, allowed the colonists to arm vessels to cruise on the enemies of the colonies. On April 6, 1776, American ports were opened to commerce with other nations, an action that severed the economic ties fostered by the Navigation Acts.

Then, on May 10, 1776, a "Resolution for the Formation of Local Governments" was passed.

At the same time, more of the colonists themselves were becoming convinced of the inevitability of independence. Thomas Paine's Common Sense, published in January 1776, was sold by the thousands. By the middle of May 1776, eight colonies had decided that they would support independence. On May 15, 1776, the Virginia Convention passed a resolution that "the delegates appointed to represent this colony in General Congress be instructed to propose to that respectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent states."

Lee's resolution was made in the same spirit as the actions previously taken.

Some of the Continental Congress' delegates still wished to pursue the path of reconciliation with Britain.

Consideration of the Lee Resolution was postponed on June 11, 1776, by a vote of seven colonies to five, with New York abstaining. Congress recessed for three weeks.

The tone of the debate indicated that, at the end of the recess, the Lee Resolution would be adopted. It was with that thought in mind that, before Congress recessed, a Committee of Five was appointed to draft a statement presenting the colonies' case for independence to the world.

John Trumbull's painting, "Declaration of Independence," depicted the five-man committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence as it presented its work to the Second Continental Congress. The original hangs in the U.S. Capitol rotunda. It does not represent a real ceremony; the characters portrayed were never in the same room at the same time. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Committee of Five – consisting of Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman – tasked Jefferson with drafting the colonies' statement declaring independence.

Writing between June 11 and 28, Jefferson sent drafts to Adams and Franklin, who submitted changes in return.

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LEE

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The section of the Lee Resolution dealing with independence was adopted on July 2 and a draft of the declaration was presented that same day. The congressional revision process took all of July 3 and most of July 4.

Finally, on the afternoon of July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

The final draft included some of the most important lines ever written in American history.

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel

SEE LEE: 56

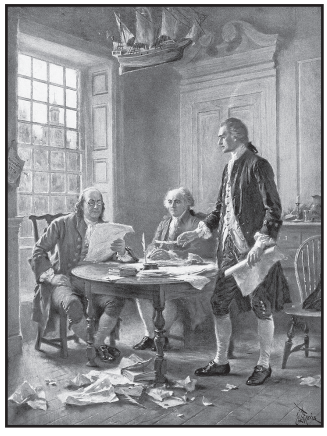

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED STATES LIBRARY OF CONGRESS'S PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

Thomas Jefferson (right), Benjamin Franklin (left) and John Adams (center) meet at Jefferson's lodgings, on the corner of Seventh and High (Market) streets in Philadelphia, to review a draft of the Declaration of Independence.

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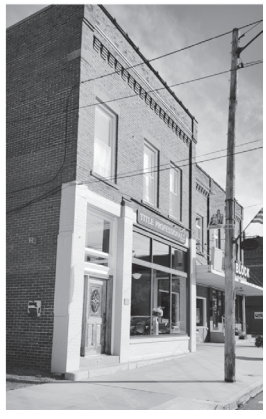

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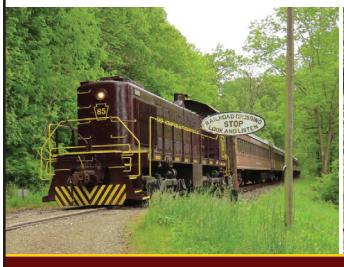

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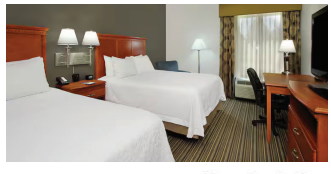

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The Jefferson Area Local School District

In the American tradition, public schools serve as the foundation of our democracy, and a fundamental pillar of our civic life. The history of the Jefferson Area Local School District (JALSD) is a testament to that democratic ideal. The Jefferson Area Local School District's history is deeply rooted in the settlement of the Western Reserve. From a log-cabin schoolhouse to our current modern consolidated district covering 130 square miles, the evolution of our school district follows the growth of Jefferson itself as a regional hub for education, law, healthcare, business and history.

Early Beginnings (1809–1850)

- 1809: The first recorded school session was held in the summer, taught by Betsey Hubbard. In these early years, schooling took place in vacant log cabins or private homes.
- 1824–1826: The Jefferson School Association was incorporated to build a formal academy. This two-story building served as a school on the lower level and a Masonic Hall on the upper level.
- 1841: The first dedicated public-school building was constructed on the lot of the Episcopal Church.

Jefferson High School 1888

Faculty 1929

The Age of Academies and Institutes (1850–1910)

As the population grew, Jefferson, like other communities in Ohio began to develop common high standards for the education of its children and young adults.

- 1852: Following new state laws, the district elected its first official Board of Officers and began raising taxes specifically to support a high school.
- 1870: The Jefferson Educational Institute (JEI) was erected at the corner of Jefferson and Chestnut streets. This two-story brick building cost $20,000 and served as the primary high school for our region.
- 1888: A new high school building was added to the campus to accommodate growth, while the 1870 building continued to house the lower grades.
- 1910: The Jefferson Educational Institute officially transitioned into Jefferson High School.

Consolidation and Growth (1920–1962)

Throughout Ohio, the mid-20th century saw regions transition from small, township-based schools to larger and more efficient unified school districts. This was true here in Jefferson.

- 1930: A new High School opened at the corner of South Market and East Jefferson Streets. This building was the heart of the district for decades, receiving major additions in 1953 and 1957.
- 1960s Consolidation: In a major shift, several nearby township schools (including Rock Creek High School, which graduated its last class in 1962) consolidated to form the Jefferson Area Local School District. Other consolidation included Jefferson Village & Township, Morgan Township & Rock Creek, Lenox Township local rural schools, Dorset & Rome Townships.
- 1962: A new Jefferson Area High School was opened at the west end of the village to serve the newly consolidated student body.
- Out of the consolidations and redistricting, the current Jefferson Area Local School District is geographically large, covering roughly 130 square miles.

Class Officers 1962

2026 Jedi Robotics Team Members

Modern Era (2000–Present)

In the 21st century, the district underwent a massive infrastructure overhaul to modernize its facilities.

- 2008: The current Jefferson and Rock Creek Elementary Schools opened, replacing the older Jefferson and Rock Creek Elementary buildings.
- 2009: The new Jefferson Area Junior/Senior High School campus opened.
- Today: JALSD serves approximately 1,700 students across four main buildings: Jefferson Area High School, Jefferson Area Junior High, Jefferson Elementary, and Rock Creek Elementary.

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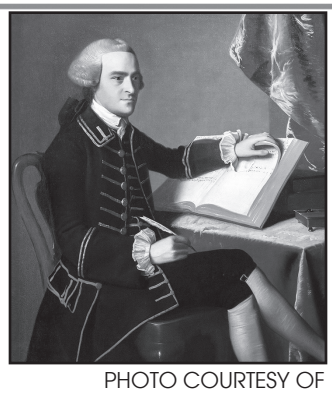
LEE

From Page 50

them to the separation," the Declaration of Independence opened.

The next lines became the very foundation of the United States of America.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," the Declaration of Independence reads. "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, – That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."



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John Hancock, oil on canvas by John Singleton Copley, hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. The copy of the Declaration of Independence printed on July 5, 1776, and attached to the "rough journal of the Continental Congress for July 4th" bore only the signatures of Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress and Charles Thomson, who was the secretary. Hancock signed the engrossed copy with his big, bold signature on Aug. 2.

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"Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed," the Declaration continued. "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

The Declaration of Independence then includes a long list of grievances the colonies had with King George III and the British Parliament.

The colonists closed the Declaration in stating they had given Britain every opportunity to rectify the situation and the only option remaining was to declare independence.

Under the supervision of the Committee of Five, the approved Declaration was printed on July 5 and a copy was attached to the "rough journal of the Continental Congress for July 4th."

The printed copies, bearing only the names of John Hancock, President, and Charles Thomson, Secretary, were distributed to state assemblies, conventions, committees of safety and commanding officers of the Continental troops.

Congress ordered that the Declaration of Independence be engrossed, the process of copying an official document in a large hand, on parchment with a new title, "the unanimous declaration of the thirteen united states of America," and "that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress."

The engrosser of the Declaration was most likely Timothy Matlack, an assistant to Charles Thomson, Secretary to the Congress.

John Hancock, the President of the Second Continental Congress, signed the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence with a bold signature on Aug. 2, 1776. The other delegates, following custom, signed beginning at the right with the signatures arranged by states from northernmost New Hampshire to southernmost Georgia.

Eventually, 56 delegates signed the document.

Late signers included Elbridge Gerry, Oliver Wolcott, Lewis Morris, Thomas McKean and Matthew Thornton, who was unable to place his signature with the other New Hampshire delegates because of a lack of space.

Some delegates, including Livingston, a member of the drafting committee, never signed the Declaration.

Information for this story was pulled from https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/declaration-of-independence; https://www.battlefields.org/learn/primary-sources/lee-resolution#:~:text=The%20Lee%20Resolution%2C%20also%20known,of%20the%20Declaration%20of%20Independence; and https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-history.

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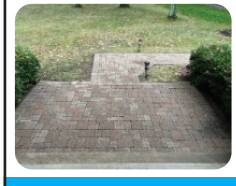
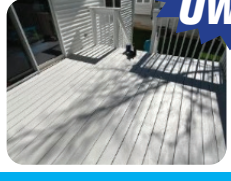

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LAKE COUNTY

From Page 11

• July 4: **America 250 Celebration at Lake County Captains Stadium** featuring a patriot-themed baseball game, color guards, fireworks, centenarians and more

• July 28: **Lake County Fair Parade**

• Aug. 1: **America 250 Day at the Lake County Fair**, featuring a special America250 bobblehead promotion (limited quantities available)

The Lake County America 250 event at Classic Auto Group Park on Independence Day the big event the county's committee is putting on, according to Stein.

The committee is still working through all the exact details, but it's going to include a "celebrity" softball game, with American Patriots versus the British, numerous celebrations and recognitions of veteran groups and a commemorative challenge coin giveaway celebrating Lake County's America 250.

The City of Willoughby is going to have a big America 250 theme for its Independence Day fireworks show that's going to include live, patriotic music before and during the fireworks, with a lot of the details still being ironed out, according to Stein.

At least one of the sand sculptures featured in the Lake Erie Sand Sculpture Tour, held July 11, will be America 250-themed.

"This was the new event we at Tour Lake County put on last year and will be expanding this year," Stein said.

Lake County is also proud to announce the return of the popular "Ohio Goes to the Movies" film series, celebrating America's 250th anniversary through history, music, culture and community engagement.

Throughout 2026, residents and visitors are invited to take part in concerts, commemorations, family-friendly celebrations and special appearances honoring America's past while bringing Lake County together in meaningful ways.

• March 11: "**White Boy Rick**," Regal Willoughby Commons

• April 8: "**Superman**," Atlas Cinemas Great Lakes Stadium

• July 7: "**Air Force One**," Atlas Cinemas Diamond Center

"These events are an incredible opportunity to honor our nation's history while bringing our community together in fun, educational, and memorable ways," said Commissioner John Plecnik, chair of the Lake County America 250 Committee. "I am both excited and deeply grateful to celebrate America 250 through music, history, film, and community traditions that reflect our shared pride and patriotism."

Additional details, times and updates for each event will be announced throughout the year. Residents are encouraged to follow America 250 communications (Facebook) for the latest information.

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LAKE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

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SAR

From Page 42

Bailey said there are about 180 known Patriots buried in Ashtabula County alone, with a further 30 to 35 still being verified.

From 1935 to 1943, the WPA (Works Progress/Projects Administration) visited every cemetery in Ohio and recorded the gravesite of Revolutionary War veterans, recording them in plot maps on file with the County Recorder's Office, according to Bailey.

However, there were churchyards and family plots that may have fallen into disuse and some veterans who may have moved west and tracking down and verifying all Patriot burials takes a lot of work, according to Bailey.

In education, SAR Chapter 12 has an essay contest for local schoolchildren, with essays written with a patriotic theme. There is also a poster contest for younger children, a brochure project and a new video essay contest where high schoolers compose a three-minute video essay, according to Bailey.

The SAR was instrumental in establishing official recognition for Constitution Day, Flag Day and Bill of Rights Day.

The society lobbied for the creation of the National Archives to protect Revolutionary-era documents.

Local chapters provide color guards for civic events, recognize veterans and award scholarships to Eagle Scouts, JROTC cadets and students through oratory and essay contests.

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The creation of Lake County, Ohio

BY TERESA ACKERMAN

Gazette Newspapers

MENTOR – Lake County is rich in history.

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The factories. The nurseries. The wineries. The beaches. Lake Erie.

Has it ever crossed your mind how and when Lake County came to be?

With the current record-breaking low temperatures, ice and snow we have been experiencing for the past few weeks it will not be a surprise that over 20,000 years ago Lake County was a massive piece of snow-covered ice.

This was before Lake County became Lake County.

When the ice and snow started melting the water from it became known as the Great Lakes.

Also in its trail was rich soil comprised of clay, sand and stones.

Lake County was formed on March 6, 1840.

Geauga and Cuyahoga counties originally comprised this area but eventually gave up this area which came to be Lake County.

In the 1700s the indigenous Erie people considered Lake County their home. Lake County was then purchased by the Connecticut Land Company in 1795. It had been part of the Connecticut Western Reserve after the American Revolutionary War.

Lake County got its name because of its bordering on Lake Erie. It is part of the Great Lakes region.

Historically speaking, this area was settled in the 1800s and was part of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Lake County is the smallest county in the State of Ohio – it spans 979 square miles. Broken down – 227 square miles is land, and 752 square miles is water.

Lake Erie's coastline stretches thirty-one miles. With beaches in Mentor (Mentor Headlands) and Fairport Harbor. These beaches were formed by the receding glaciers.

With a population of 232,360 (as of 2023). The city of Mentor is the largest city in Lake County.

What we now know as Painesville was originally settled by General Edward Paine and was considered to be the county seat. To this day, it is still considered the county seat.

Lake County is and was known for its vast agriculture and industry. It's especially known for its nurseries and wine production.

At one time Lake County was considered the "nation's largest nursery center" because of the rich soil, the climate and the natural water supply which was provided by Lake Erie.

Back in the day Lake County was known for its extravagant summer estates. Wealthy people from Cleveland built large estates in Mentor and Painesville.

One of those mansions, built in the late 1800s, was the Mooreland Mansion in Kirtland – it is located on the campus of Lakeland Community College.

It was a summer home for Edward Moore, who was a wealthy industrialist from Cleveland.

Painesville is also home to Rider's Inn, which had been built by Joseph Rider in 1803 while he lived in Fairport with his family. He then moved it to Painesville and turned it into a tavern, inn and stagecoach stop.

After he died in the 1840s, his son Lester took control of the tavern, and it had been used as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

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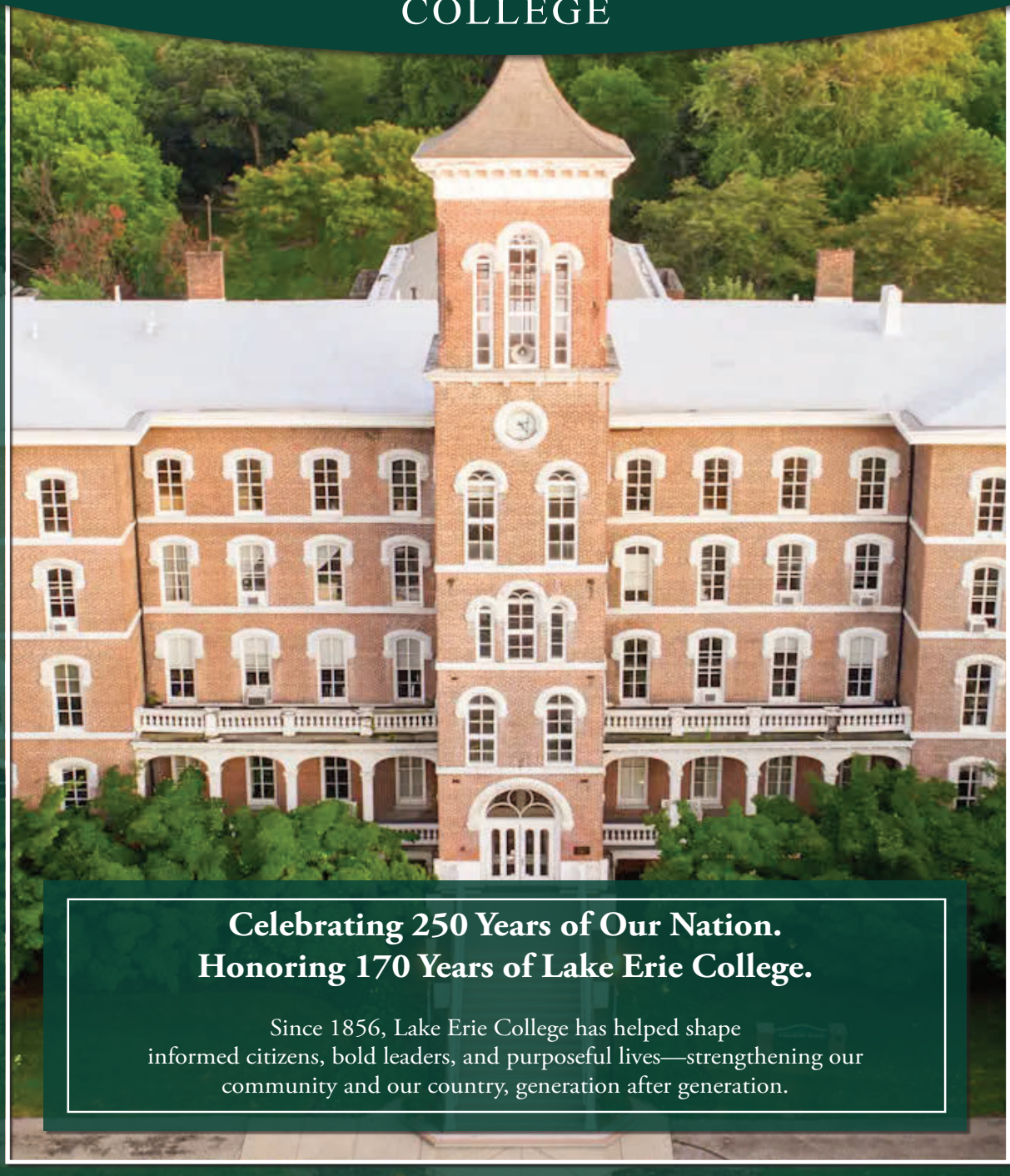

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