

Through “On The Road” *Chats*, historians share their research and knowledge of local historical events and interests.

The \$50 fee for each “On the Road” *Chat* is payable to CWH and supports the mission of Centerville-Washington History to connect the community to its heritage by collecting, preserving and promoting the history of our local area.

To reserve a speaker, please contact
Centerville-Washington History

937-291-2223

or email cherylcwths@sbcglobal.net.

Chat Topics:

“Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Normandy Farms”



Speaker: Jerry Strange

This presentation chronicles the life of Richard H. Grant Sr. and the 700 acre estate called Normandy Farms he built in the 1920's in Washington Township. Grant was quite a salesman whose career started in 1904 as a clerk with NCR and ended in 1955 as Chairman of the Board of Reynold's & Reynold's.

The estate has long since been divided up, but the mansion on West Alex Bell Road is now home to Normandy United Methodist Church.

John Hole; The Revolutionary Pioneer Doctor of Montgomery County

Speaker: Joellen Ulliman

Experience the incredible story of Washington Township's first settler and Montgomery County's first medical doctor. After serving in the American Revolution, John Hole ventured into the Northwest Territory with his family in tow. He eventually built a cabin along Silver Creek. Ever enterprising, he constructed two sawmills along the creek. Travel back in time to learn about Dr. Hole's amazing life.

“3 Heroes of the Ohio Underground Railroad”

Speaker: Hylda Strange

Ohio heroes include Harriot Beecher Stowe, Rev. John Rankin, and John Parker. John Parker was a freed slave who established his own foundry in Ripley and held patents on farm machinery. This *Chat* will give new insight into the Underground Railroad and some of the people involved.



“Crosley's: Two Brothers from Cincinnati”

Speaker: Hylda Strange

This *Chat* will explore the story of two brothers whose empire included everything from the Crosley car, radios, broadcasting via WLW & Voice of American, WWII detonator, household appliances manufacturing, and the Cincinnati Red's ball team.

“Col. Charles Young: From Slavery to West Point & Beyond”

Speaker: Hylda Strange

Col. Charles Young was an African-American born in slavery in Kentucky and raised in Ripley, Ohio. He was the third African-American to graduate from West Point and became the highest ranking black officer in the US military. Charles became an attaché to Haiti and Liberia after his military career and he taught at Wilberforce where his home is a National Historic site.

“Historical Sugar Creek Cemetery”

Speaker: Ed Ross



Known as the “The Old Centerville Cemetery”, this walk-thru *Chat* will visit the monuments of city founders and other notables of 19th century Centerville. Aaron Nutt, Benjamin Robbins, and Dr. John Hole are just a few names that will be featured. See this old cemetery come alive with history.

“Journey Back in Time, Historic Places”

Speaker: Ed Ross



The 1700's were a time of exploration and the beginning of development in the area we call Centerville-Washington Township. One of CWH's historians, using humor and a little bit of storytelling, will share the significance of several historical sites in Centerville-Washington Township. Why they were important to the development of the local community will be examined during this *Chat*.

“Railway: The Forgotten Road”

Speaker: Steve Feverston

This *Chat* and artifact display will focus on the early railroad built through Centerville and its importance to the community and region. This presentation brings a *forgotten roadway*, that few people remember, back to life.

“WWI: A Sense of Local Sacrifice”

Speaker: Joellen Ulliman

World War I was particularly brutal. Some of our Washington Township boys played an important part in this “war to end all wars.” From the gentle, rolling farms in the Centerville area to the rugged, cruel fighting grounds in Europe, these brave men were willing to sacrifice for world peace. It was an experience that changed their lives forever.

“Ida Weller: A Woman Ahead of Her Time”

Speaker: Ed Ross

Farmer, Educator, Activist, and Artist, Ida Weller was one of the most influential women in 20th century Centerville. This *Chat* will take a look at her life, legacy and will include a digital tour of her estate.



Meet the Centerville-Washington History Speakers



Steve Feverston is a long time resident of Centerville and enjoys studying local history. He worked for the City of Centerville as City Planner from 1996-2014. He is currently a pastor at Ohmer Park UMC. Steve served as president of Centerville-Washington History from 2015 - 2019.

Ed Ross is a retired businessman and is the current president of Centerville-Washington History. He has served as the Chairman of the Centerville Board of Architectural Review and is the current owner of the historic Ida Weller estate.

Hylda Strange is a native Daytonian. She was a teacher's aide in the Centerville Public Schools for 20 years. She volunteers at Normandy Church as a trustee and works with the Holiday Bazaar. She is also involved with the Centerville Women's Civic Club and Centerville-Washington History. Hylda's hobbies include reading, flower gardening, and antiques.

Jerry Strange was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1935. He taught mathematics at the University of Dayton for 40 years, from which he retired Professor Emeritus in 2000. He is an active member of Centerville-Washington History. Jerry and Hylda restored a historic home in Ripley, OH. They also restored the Aaron Nutt Jr. house in Centerville.

Joellen Ulliman, curator for Centerville-Washington History, has a passion for our past and particularly enjoys discovering connections between local history and national/world events. Prior to joining the CWH team, she taught language arts. She enjoys writing, reading, Zumba, hiking, arts and crafts, and spending time with family.

CENTERVILLE, OHIO

Surveyed in 1796, the Centerville and Washington Township area has spanned the eras of the pioneer, the farmer, the villager and the suburbanite, evolving and growing while preserving pieces of its unique past.



Walton House, Built 1838

The historic **Walton House Museum**, located at 89 W. Franklin St. is a house museum and headquarters for Centerville-Washington History. The museum features exhibits from the CWH depicting life in Centerville and Washington Township from the 1800's to the early 1900's.

GENERAL OPERATING HOURS: (Free Admission)

Walton House Museum

89 W. Franklin St.

Centerville, OH 45459

Tues.-Fri. 12 - 4 p.m. (or by appointment)

937-433-0123

Asahel Wright House

26 N. Main St.

Centerville, OH 45459

Tues.-Fri. 12 - 4 p.m. (or by appointment)

937-291-2223

Nutt Cottage Research Center

78 N. Main St.

Centerville, OH 45459

Tues.-Fri. 12 - 4 p.m. (or by appointment)

937-312-0040

**For further information
please contact Cheryl Meyer:**

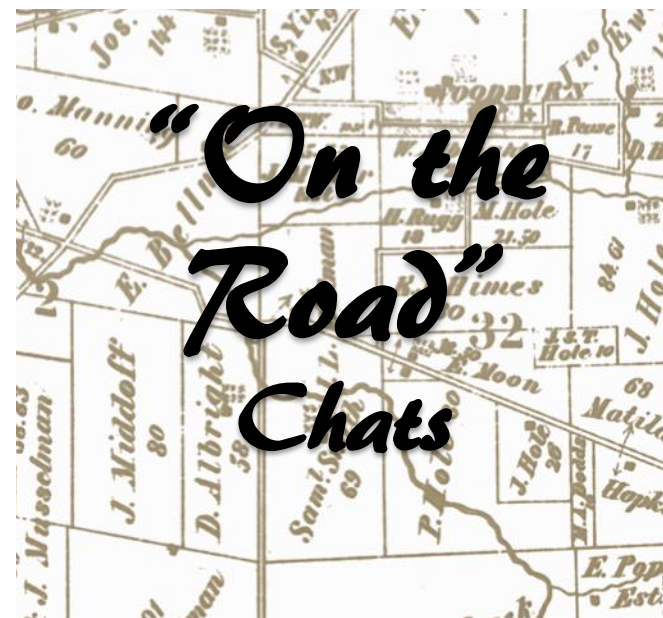
937-291-2223

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Centerville-Washington History



*Bringing history out
of the museum and
into the community!*

