



"On the Road" Chats

BRINGING HISTORY OUT OF THE MUSEUM AND INTO THE COMMUNITY!
Through "On the Road" *Chats*, historians share their research and knowledge of local historical events and interests.

The \$50 requested donation 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, interpreting, and promoting the history of our local area.

To reserve a speaker, please contact Centerville-Washington History at 937-291-2223 or email carriecwh@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 1920s 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 Reynolds & Reynolds. The estate has long since been divided up, but the mansion on West Alex Bell Road is now home to Normandy United Methodist Church.



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

Speaker: Hylde 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.



Medicinal Plants, Folk Remedies and Patient Care in Local History

Speaker: Melissa Wagner

This presentation discusses the changes in medical care from Ohio's early years to the end of the 19th century. Plants used by Indigenous Peoples to aid health, common American folk remedies, the practice of Thomsonian holistic treatments, and the allure of traveling medicine shows will be discussed.

Amazing Ohio Women Who Influenced Our Lives and Changed our World

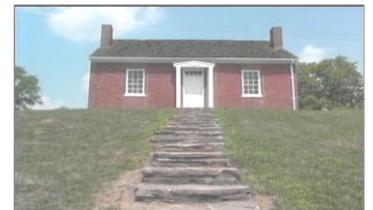
Speaker: Hylde Strange

From suffragettes to social reformers, this *Chat* will investigate women who were mothers, daughters, sisters and wives and explore how they paved the way for the women of today. Annie Oakley, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Charity Adams are just a few of the women highlighted in this *Chat*.

3 Heroes of the Ohio Underground Railroad

Speaker: Hylde Strange

Ohio heroes include Harriet 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.



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.

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.



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, and Ohio’s Early Days.

Discovering the Industrial Town of Woodbourne

Speaker: Don Aukerman

In the early 1800s, Woodbourne rivaled Dayton’s early industrial development. As quickly as the town’s industry exploded and prospered, it faded away about 1860, leaving few footprints. This *Chat* attempts to reconstruct the lost community. Take a simulated walk down the streets of Woodbourne to look at businesses, homes and the artifacts left behind.

Journey Back in Time, Historic Places

Speaker: Ed Ross

The 1700s 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 and why they were important to the development of Centerville-Washington Township.



A Sense of Strength: Incredible Local Ladies from History

Speaker: Joellen Ulliman

Experience over 200 years of local history through the eyes of some of the women who shaped our community. This *Chat* starts in the 1790s with one of the first settlers in Washington Township and takes you to the millennium and the first female mayor of Centerville. Immerse yourself in their lives, hear the impact they made in our community, and be inspired!



Crosley’s: Two Brothers from Cincinnati

Speaker: Hylida Strange

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

Aaron Nutt: The Humble Man behind the Legend

Speaker: Joellen Ulliman

Learn the inspiring story of one of Centerville’s co-founders. From his meager, Quaker upbringing in New Jersey and serving in the American Revolution to surveying the Northwest Territory, this *Chat* explores how Aaron Nutt helped build what we now know as Centerville. He was very skilled and resilient, finding opportunities to build a legacy throughout his lifetime.

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.



Legacy of Stone Houses in Centerville -Washington Township

Speaker: Don Aukerman

Early settlers coming to the Northwest Territory found a rich deposit of limestone to build their community. This *Chat* will examine the evolution and construction of Centerville-Washington Township. A visual presentation visits twenty-three surviving limestone homes and the social development of the residents living within.

Exploring Artifacts from the Past

Speaker: Carrie Burns

Touchable artifacts will be on display and discussed in the context of everyday work and play. Audience members are encouraged to help identify items and share their own memories and experiences.



Uniquely Centerville & Washington Township

Speaker: Karen King

Many small farm towns from the 1800s have transformed into suburban communities. Discover the people (like Bill & Dottie Yeck), buildings (like the Monkey House), and stories (bears and snakes, oh my!) from the local area that are unique to Centerville & Washington Township.

19th Century Decorative Arts from the Miami Valley

Speaker: Don Aukerman

This presentation covers the private collection of local antique treasures assembled over a lifetime by a Centerville-Washington History member. Explore the collection via a digital presentation and hear stories related to the objects and uncover their significance to our community and society. The unique, wonderful objects made by the pioneer artisans will leave a legacy for future generations. Some of the art has been exhibited in the Cincinnati and Lancaster Art Museums.

Name That Street

Speaker: Joellen Ulliman

Come on down! You're all the next contestants on the exciting new game show: "Name. That. Street". Learn about the earliest roads in Centerville and Washington Township. Discover the history of how they came into existence as you enjoy this game-show style presentation. In addition, the names of ten familiar streets and roads will be fully explained. Come expand your knowledge and have a good time!

Memoirs of a Marauder Man – Part A

Speaker: Tom Girz

Technical Sergeant Joe Girz, a first-generation American, flew 57 combat missions during World War II as a Radio Operator-Waist Gunner aboard B-26 Martin Marauder bombers. Since TSgt Girz passed in 2012, his son, Tom Girz has compiled his 3 ½ hour interview with his father flipping through his personal log along with additional research yielding crew lists, mission orders, bombing accuracy photos, and more, to place his father's personal story within the greater war effort.



Memoirs of a Marauder Man – Part B

Speaker: Tom Girz

In this *Chat*, Tom Girz is back to share more of his interview with his father to explore in depth his father's most memorable missions along with his father's personal experiences of what life was like as a young man in and around the airfield, his exploring of Paris during the war, and the missions that made the news.

Meet the Centerville-Washington History Speakers

Don Aukerman is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. A retired CPA who once lived in an early stone house, Don has been a board member with Centerville-Washington History, Dayton Antique Study Club, Centerville Landmark Foundation, and The Ohio Historical Decorative Arts Society.

Carrie Burns is the Education Coordinator for Centerville-Washington History. She loves researching artifacts and sharing the history of the local area.

Karen King is the Communications Manager for Centerville-Washington History. An Air Force transplant to the area, she enjoys learning and sharing the stories of this community which she now calls home.

Tom Girz grew up on the shores of Lake Erie and has lived locally for the last 18 years. He has been researching his family history for over 25 years and has written his parents' life stories, both life-long Ohioans.

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.

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

Joellen Ulliman, retired curator for Centerville-Washington History, has a passion for our past and enjoys discovering connections between local history and national/world events. Prior to her years with CWH, she taught language arts.

Melissa Wagner is a volunteer and former Education Coordinator for Centerville-Washington History. She enjoys working on historical themed collaborations with local groups and family genealogy.

CWH GENERAL OPERATING HOURS: Tues-Fri. 12 – 4 PM (or by appointment)

Walton House Museum
89 W. Franklin St.; Centerville, OH 45459
937-433-0123

Asahel Wright House
26 N. Main St.; Centerville, OH 45459
937-291-2223

Nutt Cottage Research Center
78 N. Main St.; Centerville, OH 45459
937-312-0040

For further information please contact Carrie Burns:
937-291-2223 carriecwh@sbcglobal.net

www.centervillewashingtonhistory.org