



Society Marks 85 Years

Founded in June 1939, group continues mission of preserving local history

At 4:45 p.m. on June 29, 1939, a group of citizens interested in preserving the history of Alliance gathered together in Haggart Hall of the Alliance YWCA to start an historical society.

The founding members at that first meeting were Mabel Hartzell, Mrs. George Cribbs, Dillon Crist, Dorothy Donaldson, N.C. Fetters, Mrs. Melvin Van Winkle, and Elsie Whittingham.

With direction from the State Historical Association, the group set about the task of gathering letters, writings, books and papers about the history of our city.

The charter of the Society states: The general purpose shall be the promotion of historical studies and investigation pertaining to the city of Alliance ... through the discovery, collection, preservation, organization, and, if practical, the publication of historical facts. This society proposes to cooperate with local schools and librarians in the collection of local historical data, in the establishment of history museums, and in the marking of historical places of interest in this area.

An early publication from the group was a scrapbook of material that had been published in *The Alliance Review*. These included short articles on the founding of the towns that made up Alliance, early businesses, notable people and events. These live on today as postings on the Society's Facebook page.

See **85 YEARS** Inside



ABOVE: In June 1953, The Alliance Historical Society erected a marker in tribute to early settlers at Williamsport Cemetery. Looking at the monument are Alliance Mayor Harley R. Ewing, Mrs. Fred Donaldson, Mrs. Melvin Van Winkle, and Congressman Frank T. Bow. **LEFT:** Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce Women's Division members Catherine Smith, Laura Yeagley, and Mrs. John Evans stand by a directional sign purchased by the Division for the Mabel Hartzell Historical Museum in this 1968 photo.

Trivia Night has New Venue

Sixth Semiannual Event set for March 25



Alliance Historical Society's biannual Trivia Night competition, which started in October 2022, will be held for the first time in March at Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Grill on West State Street.

The popular fundraiser, previously held at A-Town Burgers & Brews, which recently closed, will be held Tuesday, March 25, beginning at 6 p.m.

As in the past, it will be another fun night of good food, fellowship, challenging questions and friendly competition.

See **TRIVIA NIGHT** Inside

NEED A SPEAKER?

Looking for a speaker? Our group of experienced presenters would love to come and share Alliance's history with you at your next gathering. From small gatherings in your home to large spaces in libraries and churches, we present on a large number of topics. Is there something you'd like to know more about but don't see it listed here? We are willing to take suggestions as well.

Available Topics

- Mabel Hartzell: The Person and the Place
- Matthew and Mary Earley
- Mabel Hartzell and the Hartzell Family
- The Great Olive Poisoning of 1919
- Alliance's Boom Years: the 1910s
- Only Murders in Alliance: The Nine Lives of Joe Butera
- Only Murders in Alliance: The Unsolved Murder of Dr. O. C. Walker
- Only Murders in Alliance: The Life and Mystery of Mattie Hayes
- Five Extraordinary Alliance People, But You May Have Never Heard of Them
- Five Little Known Stories of Alliance
- Morgan Engineering
- Community Industrialists of 19th and 20th Century Alliance
- Big Guns of Alliance
- Alliance Fire Department
- Levi Lamborn

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WINNER OF 3 FAMILIES LOYALTY PROMOTION ENJOYS CATERED DINNER AT MABEL'S

Winner of the 3 Families Museum Loyalty promotion in 2024 for Mabel's was Karen MacLachlan. Courtesy of a grant from the Greater Alliance Foundation, MacLachlan, at far left, and her five guests, which included, from left, Christine Ashby, Janet McLean, Sandy MacLachlan, Kay England, and Dorothy Wegman, enjoyed a private dinner at Mabel's for visiting all three historic homes in Alliance between Memorial Day and Labor Day.



VOLUNTEERS FETED AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Alliance Historical Society thanked volunteers for all the work they did in 2024 during its annual Christmas party held at The Hidden Abbey in Homeworth. The Alliance Historical Society, which has 163 members, is a completely volunteer-driven organization. During 2024, a total of 42 volunteers offered 2,210 hours in a variety of tasks. Volunteers help maintain and beautify the Mabel Hartzell home with cleaning and yardwork each first Wednesday of the month. They also assist in administrative tasks, fundraising, act as tour guides, and help with archival work to keep historical items preserved and transact business on behalf of the Society. While volunteerism is at an all-time high within the Alliance Historical Society, more help is always needed and welcomed. To find out how you can get involved, send an email to alliancehistory@yahoo.com

THANK YOU, STEVE STONE

Steve Stone (seated, second from right) retired from the board of trustees at the conclusion of 2024. He served three terms as "temporary treasurer" after joining at a time of uncertainty for where the organization was headed and served well as the voice of reason. Under his careful guidance, the budget doubled from \$13,000 to \$26,000 per year and his experience as a lawyer helped the Society through legal paperwork and with annual tax filings. Michelle Baker Sams, retired controller at the University of Mount Union and a new member of the board, replaces Stone as treasurer. Also joining the board are Harry Paidas, a well-known figure in Alliance who was director of public information at Mount Union for many years, and Shirene Starn-Tapyrik, CEO and executive director at Alliance for Children and Families. Both Mark Locke and Gary Conny resigned in 2024 after serving on the board for nine and two years, respectively.

OHLA ACCOLADES

The Alliance Historical Society and Alliance Area Preservation Society were recipients of the OLHA (Ohio Local History Alliance) Outstanding Achievement Award for the creation of the Historic East Main Street Self-Guided Walking Tour. The award was given at the annual meeting of OLHA in Columbus. Pictured are Dalton Rininger Kline, president of the Alliance Area Preservation Society, and Karen Perone, president of the Alliance Historical Society.



85 Years

Continued from Front

Several other notable items from the first ten years include lectures on various histories of the area, antique shows, and field trips. Historical markers for the towns of Freedom, Williamsport, and Lexington were erected along with a commemorative marker for Lincoln's stop in Alliance.

Since those early years, the Alliance Historical Society has erected three state historical markers – one for being the home of the scarlet carnation at the Salvation Army, another at the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home, and one at The Crossing in a park area near the Alliance Amtrak station.

The Society continues to publish historical writing in the traditional form of books while expanding into 21st century technologies on the web, ebooks, and streaming videos with the “Marking Time” YouTube series now at 43 videos.

Volunteerism is at an all-time high with eight to ten people helping on the first Wednesday of each month to do maintenance on the grounds of the Mabel Hartzell home. New volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Meanwhile, the Society continues to expand its scope with the ultimate goal of establishing a true history center. To that end, the Society celebrated the opening of the Alliance History Mini Museum in 2016, housing large items in the collection such as the 1910 Alliance car, a sign from Turner's Drugstore, and several examples of McCaskey registers. A parcel of land adjoining the Mabel Hartzell property purchased in 2023 is being used for large item storage and mechanical items. It may be used for a future history center and railfanning station.

“The one area of the mission that has not yet been fully realized is that of a museum,” said Alliance Historical Society President Karen Perone. “The Mabel Hartzell Historical Home is just that – an historical home. It is a showplace for life in Alliance in the 1890s and early 1900s, but it is not a true museum. So until such time as we are able to secure land and build a museum, we will continue to share our materials through exhibits, presentations, and publications.”

With an active board, generous donors, and a growing group of dedicated volunteers, it is only a matter of time before the Society will realize that goal.

TRIVIA

Continued from Front

Teams of four people each will battle it out for fun and prizes, answering questions that include general knowledge, entertainment, sports, and a round of local history. Teams should register with a name, and the entry fee is \$120 per team which includes a taco bar (chicken, beef or vegetarian), soft drinks, chips & salsa, and a gratuity. A cash bar will be available.

The new venue will feature Pancho's newly

renovated party room which will allow for expansion and more teams.

Teams may register by going to alliancehistory.org/trivia-night.

Other fundraising activities will include a 50-50 drawing, table and round sponsorships, and basket raffles. Prizes will be given to the winning team.

Trivia Night and sponsorships help the Alliance Historical Society continue its work to preserve the history of Alliance and its maintenance of the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home and Alliance History Mini Museum.

2025 BYLAWS REVISION

The bylaws of the Alliance Historical Society were last updated in 2014. The latest revision has changes based on our discussions with our SCORE mentor for best practices in nonprofit bylaws. The revisions to wording gives us flexibility to make changes as needed (committees, dues categories, number of board members).

Sections added:

- ◆ Removal of officers and attendance at meetings and events by all board members.
- ◆ Nondiscrimination Policy and Indemnification sections were added as recommended by an attorney. They help protect us.
- ◆ Additional meeting sections: updated for electronic participation and voting.
- ◆ Conflict of Interest: Appendix added to protect the organization.

Sections removed:

- ◆ All committees except Executive, Nominating, and Finance. This allows for flexibility in the formation and duties of committees as needed.

Members of the Historical Society who would like to review the proposed changes can do so online at <https://alliancehistory.org/bylaws-2025>.

How to interpret: Anything in red or blue that is underlined are additions to the existing bylaws. Anything that is crossed out is to be removed from the existing bylaws.

NOTICE

As specified in our current bylaws, notice is being given to the membership at least 10 days prior to the meeting of the board of directors where the vote will be held. If you are a member of the Society and have any questions or concerns about the changes, please send them to alliancehistory@yahoo.com. The vote will be held at the next board meeting on March 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home at 840 N. Park Ave. Members are welcome to attend.

Anyone who would like to become a sponsor or donate a gift card or raffle basket should email alliancehistory@yahoo.com.

Sponsors' names will be mentioned on the Historical Society's website and publicity for the event and sponsor's logo will be placed on the tables at the event. Gold sponsorships are \$500, Silver sponsorships are \$250, Table sponsorships \$100, and \$50 Question sponsors will have their name mentioned throughout the sponsored question round.

Don Pancho's Tex-Mex Grill is located at 2105 W. State St.

Alliance Historical Society

P. O. Box 2044
Alliance, Ohio 44601

Stronger Together

Three Main History Groups Join Forces

Alliance's Heritage Group, known as the 3 Families, has made strides since its establishment in 2023.

The 3 Families include Alliance's three main historical groups – Alliance Historical Society, Alliance Area Preservation Society, and Castle Crusaders – on a joint mission to preserve, maintain, promote and advocate for the structures, artifacts, and history of Alliance.

The group is known as the "3 Families" because all three maintain headquarters in structures that were known by the families who lived in them.

The family of Col. W.H. Morgan resided in Glamorgan Castle, which is maintained by Castle Crusaders. The Grant and Haines families built and lived in the Haines House, the headquarters of the Alliance Area Preservation Society. The Alliance Historical Society maintains The Mabel Hartzell Historical Home, named after a founding member whose adoptive parents, Matthew and Mary Earley, built the home

that was bequeathed by her to the Society.

The 3 Families has increased the visibility of those three historic homes, encouraging visitors at one to visit all three locations. The collaboration also serves as a support group for the organizations to share ideas for good stewardship of their respective funds and better manage their groups.

The 3 Families share in joint marketing of their facilities, coordination of open house dates and other tourism opportunities, and improved communications between the

three organizations.

Reservations for open house dates — the first Saturday (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Sunday (1 to 4 p.m.) of each month February through November — can be made online with discounts for multiple site bookings at Glamorgan Castle, Haines House, and Mabel Hartzell.

Members of the Historical Society can visit Mabel's for free and do not have to make reservations for open house dates.



2025 OPEN WEEKENDS MUSEUM HOURS

All 3 museums OPEN the first Saturday and Sunday of each month - February to November
Saturdays: 10am-1pm / Sundays: 1pm-4pm

February Saturday, February 1 Sunday, February 2	March Saturday, March 1 Sunday, March 2	April Saturday, April 5 Sunday, April 6	May Saturday, May 3 Sunday, May 4
June Saturday, June 7 Sunday, June 8	July Saturday, July 5 Sunday, July 6	August Saturday, August 2 Sunday, August 3	September Saturday, September 6 Sunday, September 7
October Saturday, October 4 Sunday, October 5		November Saturday, November 1 Sunday, November 2	