



CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Newsletter

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025



Cridersville's Dedicated Public Servant

Arthur Katterheinrich was born near New Knoxville, Ohio on October 10, 1902. He graduated from Blume High School in Wapakoneta in 1921. He married June Arthur of Cridersville and he moved to the village. He was elected to the Village Council and served as Mayor in the 1930s.

In 1940 he decided to run for Auglaize County Treasurer. He won and was twice reelected. He served as Treasurer from 1941 to 1953. In 1954 he was elected to represent Auglaize County in the Ohio House of Representatives—a position he held until 1966.

Art is the only person from Cridersville to hold state-level office. We have a large number of photographs of Art & June and their life in Auglaize County and Columbus. We hope to create an exhibit about them in the museum expansion. (more on PG 4)



Art & June Katterheinrich with the Cridersville Senior Class of 1959 at the State Capitol.

UPDATE ON OUR EXPANSION PLANS

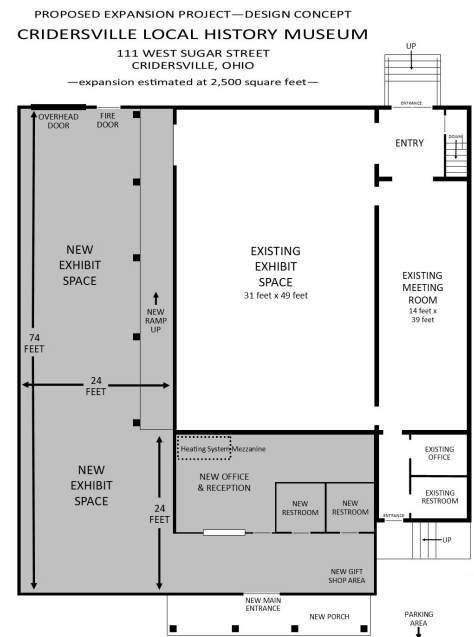
The Cridersville Historical Society has been discussing our space challenges for several years. This year we began a conversation with John Rausch, a retired local architect. He has helped us to develop a preliminary expansion plan. In order to expand we had to acquire more property. We were able to purchase the house on the west side of the museum at auction. We began discussions with Apollo Career Center about demolition of the house. They were glad to help. Our cost would be only their equipment fuel and container costs for debris removal. They did a great job!

With the house gone, we began conversations with the Ohio Local History Alliance about our plan—would it help us achieve best museum practices? They have been very helpful. We recently held a meeting with the department that reviews and approves building plans for construction projects in Auglaize County. They saw no problems with our plans.

Our goal in 2026 is to finalizing construction documents, solicit project bids, and then begin our fund raising initiatives. This is a big project and will need the help of many people. We hope you will want to become involved.



The Museum Expansion Project will be our local AMERICA 250 Commemorative Project.



Apollo students working on the demolition of the house adjacent to the museum.

Preserving Our Past For Future Generations

HALLOWEEN AT THE MUSEUM



A Halloween visitor peers into the Haunted House at the museum.

The museum hosted its annual *Halloween at the Museum* open house during the weekend of October 25-27. Our volunteers created a spooktacular, family-friendly experience throughout the museum.

There were ghosts and goblins everywhere with a life-size ogre, spooky oil field worker and a gypsy telling fortunes.

The amazing Halloween Village and Model Railroad Display was set up in the meeting room. It is a favorite of children of all ages.

Our goal is to create a memorable experience that shows people history can be fun. Nearly 100 people participated in our 2025 Halloween open house weekend. It was a great success!



A young visitor enjoys the Halloween Village and Railroad Display at the museum.



YOUNG HISTORIANS CLUB



HAVING FUN WITH HISTORY

A collaborative project of the
Cridersville Historical Society and
Cridersville Elementary School

On Friday, September 19, 2025, the Young Historians Club made a field trip to Sun Watch Indian Village and Archeological Park in Dayton, Ohio.

Sun Watch Village is a pre-historic site and visitor's center that preserves the remains of a 12th-century Fort Ancient culture settlement. It includes reconstructed houses and a museum filled with artifacts from the site.



Excavations began in the 1960s, revealing evidence of a complex, planned community with dwellings and a central plaza. The site's

layout, including its circular design and alignment with celestial events, highlights their understanding of astronomy and seasonal cycles.

The visit gave our Young Historians valuable information about the lives, traditions, and innovations of the Fort Ancient



people who lived in our region more than 1,000 years before the arrival of European explorers.

After a packed-lunch and a discussion about what we learned, we boarded the bus and headed back to school. It was another great opportunity to learn history and have fun doing it!



Young Historians participating in their own archaeological dig at Sun Watch.

**There is a lot to
discover from our local history!**

**Our Young Historians Club enables our student
members to enjoy the fun of history.**

Her Passion for Local History

REMEMBERING LORI BELLMAN



Lori loved history.

She was an active member of our local historical society for nearly 20 years and served as a member of the Board of Trustees. She was at every event and dedicated her time and talent to help preserve and share our local history. Lori unexpectedly died on August 25, 2025.



Lori always had a project.

She suggested and organized the Society's annual Quarter Auction. It has grown to become our largest fund raising event.

She organized the very successful Veteran's Banner Project. Her most recent project was the museum's Veterans Honor Wall with the names and service of our local veterans. Lori was a great planner and hard worker. Her efforts will have a lasting impact on the Cridersville community.



Lori enjoyed working with children.

She was always ready to help with tours at the museum, events at the Bowsher Log House, and activities with the Young Historians Club. She knew the importance of helping them learn their local history and have fun doing it—and she loved doing it with them.



With all of this in mind, her family has asked that memorial gifts in remembrance of Lori be given to the Cridersville Historical Society to assist in its upcoming museum expansion project.

The Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Memorial gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. If you would like to make a gift in memory of Lori, please make checks payable to: Cridersville Historical Society, PO Box 2444, Cridersville, Ohio 45806. Please note it for the Lori Bellman Memorial Fund.

More photos from the Art & June Katterheinrich Collection

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Art and June at a banquet in Columbus



A campaign poster for State Representative



Art with a group from Auglaize County

OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Greg Myers, President

Lisa Lowry, Treasurer

Melanie Klouchek, Secretary

Board of Trustees:

Jerry Dicus Frank Valenti

Luann Everett Beverly Wood

MUSEUM HOURS

Second and Fourth Sunday

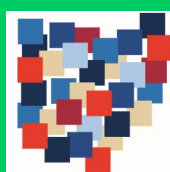
April through October

1:00 PM—4:00 PM

Special tours can be arranged throughout the year by calling 419-733-0568



Learn more on our Facebook page



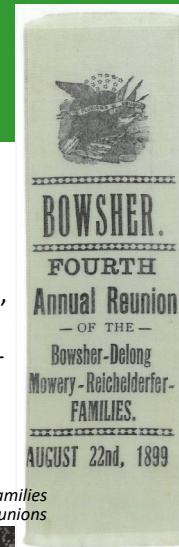
MEMBER
**OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE**
Inspire. Connect. Educate.

New to the Museum Collection

The museum recently received a copy of a 5-foot wide photograph taken at 17th annual Big Four Reunion in Cridersville in 1912. The reunions were organized by the founding families of the area—the Bowshers, Delongs, Reichelderfers, and Mowerys—in 1895. They were held in Ezra Delong's Grove—now the site of Onalee, Marcella, and Lavina Drives. The grove included a horse racing track, pond, and band stand. The reunions grew to include more than 1,000 people attending—and most of them were related to one another.

Below is a small portion of the photograph. It includes Catherine Bowsher Shaffer, one of the first children born in the area after the first pioneer families arrived in 1836.

A ribbon worn by families attending the Reunions



Catherine Bowsher Shaffer was one of the oldest residents attending the 1912 Big Four Reunion. Catherine was born in 1839. She was the youngest child of Daniel and Catherine Bowsher. She was born in their family's new log house built in 1836. It is now a museum on East Main Street in Cridersville.

Now Is Membership Renewal Time

—BECOMING A MEMBER—

Our mission is to save our local heritage for future generations. We do this through exhibits at our museums, our special public education programs, and our activities with local students.

**It is important work and it is fun.
We invite you to join us in the fun.**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual — \$10 Student — \$5

Dual Membership — \$20 per couple

Patron Levels — \$50, \$100, or \$250

Corporate Levels — \$100 or \$250

Please make membership payments to:

Cridersville Historical Society, P.O. Box 2444, Cridersville, Ohio 45806

CRIDERSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111 W. Sugar Street

P.O. Box 2444

Cridersville, Ohio 45806

Preserving Our Past For Future Generations