



Reily Township Historical Society

www.reilytownshiphistoricalsociety.org



REILY TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter—Spring 2025

~ *A Letter from the President* ~



Dear Members and Friends of the Reily Township Historical Society,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your participation and support throughout last year. Your dedication to preserving and celebrating the rich history of our beloved community has been nothing short of inspiring.

This year marks 218 years since Reily Township was founded on December 7, 1807, by Butler County Commissioners James Blackburn, Matthew Richardson, and James Smith. Our township was named in honor of John Reily—a Revolutionary War veteran, devout patriot, and member of the 1802 Ohio Constitutional Convention. His journey to settle in what became the great state of Ohio in 1803 reminds us of the determination and spirit that has shaped our community from its earliest days.

In those early years, Reily Township was a bustling hub with blacksmiths, a doctor, an undertaker, a general store, and even an inn that welcomed travelers transporting livestock between Ohio and Indiana. The vibrancy of our township's past serves as a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of those who came before us.

As we step into this new year, I am thrilled about the programming we have in store for you. Together, we will continue to honor our township's history, celebrate its legacy, and ensure its stories are carried forward for generations to come. Your involvement plays a vital role in keeping the spirit of Reily Township alive, and I encourage you to stay engaged, share your ideas, and invite others to join us in this meaningful work.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Roger Koch of Koch Tree Farm for providing a beautiful tree for the community tree lighting. We are so grateful for your continued support of this community event. Army veteran Sp4 Donald Shupp, and his wife Kathy for being our honorary Tree Lighter this year! We thank you for your brave service.

Thank you for being a part of the Reily Township Historical Society. Here's to a year filled with discovery, reflection, and community!

Warm regards,

Danielle

Danielle Foulk

President, Reily Township Historical Society



Donations in Memory of:

Ralph & Florence Bittner

Charles Deneler

Richard & Jean Eich

Maxine Howard

Stanley Iniewicz

Raymond & Fern Hinkel

Jeanette Mahlerwein

Randall McVey

Nathan & Maxine Miller

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Steve Miller

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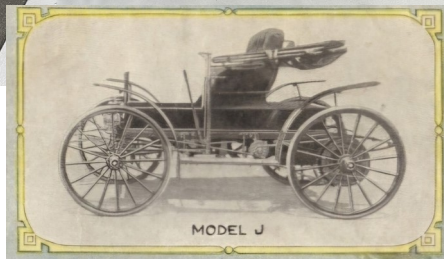
MEMBERS SURPRISED AT SALTY DOG MUSEUM

Our speakers for the evening B. J. Miller and Mark Radtke of the Salty Dog Museum, in Shandon, surprised everyone on the tour by giving us our first look at a Reily car they acquired. A 1910 Sears Motor Buggy from Reily, Ohio obtained through the sale of the home on Main Street and Peoria Reily Road. Previous to ownership in Reily, Mark and B. J. thought it could be from Morgan Township. The vehicle was stored in the block garage north of the Reily Presbyterian Church. Coyt Rains was the seller as the car did not go with the real estate sale.

B. J. thought from a picture on Facebook that it was last used in the 1950 Bicentennial Parade in Harrison labeled as a 1902 friction drive.

Sears ordered the buggy from a company in Chicago and the engine from another company called "Lincoln." Sears would box up the different parts with a tool box and shipped them by railroad. You would order your auto from the catalog and pick it up at the railroad. You hauled your own gasoline to the railroad, where you opened the box and made the assembly. Once together you drove your 1910 Sears Motor Buggy home (with your horse tied to the back.) B. J. and Mark said the vehicle was in authentic condition. They are in the process of restoring the buggy. They waited two years for a custom made drive chain to arrive from company named Diamond.

We asked if the car ran and B. J. picked up the crank and with a few cranks he had it running. If you push the pedal it goes with an infinite speed variation. It is steered with a tiller. Originally, the buggy could be purchased from the Sears Catalog for \$495.



6207 Main Street (Reily)
Oxford, Ohio 45056

MUSEUM OPEN ON THE
FOLLOWING
DATES FROM
1:00 PM TO 3:00PM

Sunday, JANUARY 5, 2025

Sunday, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Sunday, MARCH 2, 2025

Sunday, APRIL 6, 2025

Sunday, MAY 4, 2025

Sunday, JUNE 1, 2025

July and August we will be
open by appointment by calling
513-756-0135

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

NOTE: We do not share personal information.

☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

Mail to:

Reily Township Historical Society
Attention: Roger Koch, Treasurer
189 Sample Rd.
Oxford, Ohio 45056

Membership Categories:

☐ Annual (Individual) \$20

☐ Annual (Family) \$25

Donation: \$ _____

☐ Donation in Memory of _____

Do you wish to remain anonymous? ☐

501c3 Non-Profit

Support our Mission to Preserve Reily Township's History

Spring/Summer 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

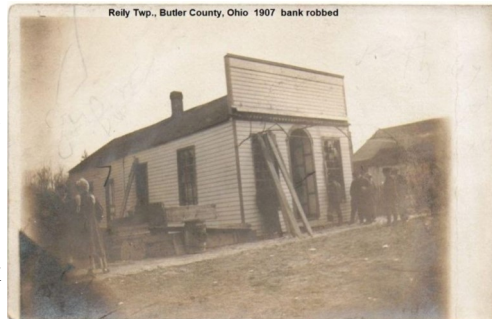
PUBLIC MEETINGS are the first Tuesday of each month
(unless otherwise stated) at the

Reily Township Community Center
6093 Reily Millville Rd., Oxford, Ohio 45056

The organization business meeting starts at 7PM and is followed
by the pre-scheduled speaker or displays.

Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025 “The 1907 Bank Robbery in Reily, Ohio—The Tramp, the Teacher and the Total Disappearance” David Burk, an award winning local writer, storyteller and educator, has given talks at the Reading Historical Society and the Morgan Township Historical Society. He is finishing work on a True Crime book, *Braggy Walk: Southwest Ohio Bank Robberies 1875-1930*.

The deep nighttime Reily robbery in December of 1907 featured nitroglycerin explosions, snarled threats and violent gunfire, and thundering hooves. But the background of the safecracker and the “rest of the story” of the robbery victims is where the real drama takes place. Though some of the mysteries surrounding the robbery will be solved, one tantalizing mystery will remain, probably forever. The slide presentation offers an up-close look back to the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries.



Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025 “Fortified Hill – A 2000-Year-Old Indigenous Ceremonial Earthworks Site” presented by Ms. Emily Cox, Education and Communities Liaison, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum, Hamilton, Ohio. Fortified Hill is within the traditional Homelands of the Miami and Shawnee Peoples. It stands as a testament of time that Indigenous People have lived in and stewarded the Ohio Valley landscape. Ms. Cox will discuss the culture of the indigenous peoples, how they lived, why they chose Fortified Hill to settle, and the reason they eventually left the area.

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, “Ghost Towns, Signposts and Crossroads, Part 1” Brian Smith Butler County Historical Society Executive Director”

The presentation covers over 20 towns from the western portion of the county that have faded in importance or altogether disappeared over the years. Brad explains why many of the communities vanished. “Some of the lost areas lived and died by the Miami Erie Canal or railroads that ceased to be used or needed,” he said. “Others relied on mills and other industries that faded away with time. Still others were absorbed over the years by larger communities.” He also tells some of the tales from the past such as the odd animal Samuel Augspurger used to power his early grist mill, the disaster at Ball’s Ferry, an illegal bare knuckle prizefight that lasted thirty-four rounds in 1897, and how Auburn came to be known as Gandertown, Bunker Hill as Dog Town and Miltonville as Skim Milk.

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 “Show & Tell” Bring something to show and tell the members about. This is always a fun event.

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, “Prequel to Prohibition” Brad Spurlock, Smith Library and Cummins Room Manager

Join Brad for a talk about Hamilton’s brewing, Little Chicago Series, Prequel to Distilleries, Malt Houses, & Ice Ponds distilling, malt, ice, tavern, and hotel industries prior to the enactment of Prohibition. Topics will include Prohibition histories of h distilling, malt, ice, tavern, and hotel industries prior to the enactment of Prohibition. Topics will include Prohibition histories of the Hamilton Distillery, Cincinnati Brewing Company, Sohngen Malt House, and the city’s Series histories of the Hamilton Distillery, Cincinnati Brewing Company, Sohngen Malt House, and the city’s taverns and hotels.

This newsletter graciously sponsored by

GRAMCO

The Bird Watcher’s General Store

245 Millville Ave, Hamilton, Ohio 45013

513-892-2541



Thank you to our 2024 MEMBERS for their Dedicated Commitment to our Reily Township History!

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One final thank you to all of our generous 2024 Donors:

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Clarence Blevins & Family
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&
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