

Ashland County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Meeting
August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time
Freer Home, 1260 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio

Attendance was 21 people in-person, plus the speaker, and 12 people participating virtually for a total of 34. Online attenders were: Debbie Brugman, Michael McBride, Norman Welch, Ruth Hostetter, Robin Oberli, Linda Collins, Kathleen Webb, Dan Bowles, Kathy Marine, Tracie Eglin, Linda Sloan Vanek, Teddie Hill.

The speaker was Cheryl Brown Abernathy presenting, “Underutilized Court Records”. She talked about Guardianship, Civil, and Criminal Court records and where they can be found. Some are indexed but many require going on-site and looking through records page by page. The “Black Sheep” in families who were always in trouble can leave extensive court records and newspaper articles if it was a high-profile case. Look for the names of the people involved and how they are related.

BUSINESS MEETING

Treasurer’s Report – Linda Fulk was on vacation, but she provided a written report to Tammy Pelton. Tammy gave a synopsis of the report saying that there was not much activity other than a few book purchases and expenses for the annual picnic last month. A full report will be given when Linda returns.

Secretary’s Report – We still do not have a secretary. The June Meeting Minutes were emailed to the membership and put on the website. Barb Hart moved to accept the June Meeting Minutes. Barb Renneker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Newsletter Editor’s Report – Terry Haun said that Barb Queer and Jane Roland have been the Mailing Team for the newsletter, but they will no longer be doing it at the end of this year. Volunteers are needed if the newsletter is going to continue to be printed and mailed to the membership. The Mailing Team gets the newsletters from the printer, folds them, puts on address labels and postage before taking to the post office to be mailed. It takes 2-3 hours once every 3 months, so the time commitment is minimal. We are going to need two volunteers before January. Please contact Terry Haun to volunteer. The next newsletter will go out early on October 1st because it will contain information about the Lineage Banquet. Going digital has been discussed. For those who want a digital copy, they are all available in the Members Only section of the website and can be downloaded to your computers or printed at home. Tammy said that going digital with the newsletter will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. It costs about \$1,300 per year for postage and printing. However, if we go digital, what does that look like? Who sends them out? How will that be managed? Send your input to President Tammy Pelton before the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Recording Secretary Report – Barb Hart said there have been no queries submitted.

Tech Committee Report – Teddie Hill reported that BlueJeans/Verizon, the app we use for our virtual meetings, has ceased offering their free and trial subscriptions with only a few days’ notice to subscribers. We need to be prepared to quickly go with another provider. Suggested options were ZoomPro or Microsoft Teams with Teddie recommending ZoomPro because it is easier for end users and speakers are more familiar with presenting using ZoomPro. Right now, ZoomPro for one user costs \$149 plus tax per year. After some discussion, Marleen Applegate moved that, when we switch, to go with ZoomPro. Barb Hart seconded. The motion carried. Tammy will check with BlueJeans/Verizon and see if we can cancel our subscription that had just renewed. Teddie went on to list the improvements that were made to the website since the last meeting. She is working with Ishu Sakthivel, our Ashland High School volunteer to add a Contact Form to the Get in Touch with Us page and begin adding the 2024 speaker information that

President Tammy Pelton has compiled, to the Events section of the website. Teddie has begun adding the Obituary Index to the website. It is going to take a long time to complete. The year 2006 with 790 names is now live and on the website. Teddie shared portions of an email from a mother working with her son on a genealogy badge for Boy Scouts thanking us for how helpful our website was to their research and how excited they both are to learn more about their family history.

Lineage Societies Chairperson Report – Marleen Applegate said that she has not received any applications this year but there is still time to get them in before August 30th. It has not been decided where the November Lineage Banquet will be held but she has Der Dutchman out of Bellville lined up to do the catering. The chapter needs to decide on a location soon.

Ohio Genealogy Society Updates – Marleen Applegate filled in for Becky Plank to announce the following events. Go to <https://www.ogs.org/events/> to register:

- “The ‘Other’ Censuses: An Intersection of Genealogy and History” Webinar with Robert Keener August 24 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT. Virtual Event.
- “Researching House Histories from the Comfort of Home” by OGS Executive Director Noel Poirier August 26 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT. This is a free, in-person event at the OGS Samuel D. Isaly Library in Bellville, Ohio.
- Get out your poodle skirts and saddle shoes as the 2024 Ohio Genealogical Society Conference theme takes us back to the 1950’s. This in-person annual conference, “Rockin Around Your Family Tree”, Wednesday April 10th-Friday April 12th, 2024 will again be held at Kalahari Hotel and Resorts, Sandusky, Ohio. Popular speakers such as Sunny Morton will be presenting. There will be Five Free Sessions on “Chapter Management” for Chapter officers. Tammy Pelton asked if people who are considering volunteering for an officer position would be allowed to attend. Marleen was not sure yet.

OGS Booklets will be mailed mid-November.

President’s Report – Tammy Pelton reminded us how nice it was to be an OGS Conference Exhibitor and, the two tables we had, allowed her to promote our publications and chapter activities. She said it was loads of fun! Tammy manned the tables all three days, but she cannot make that commitment for the 2024 conference as she is going to be a grandma around that time. Volunteers are needed. It can be as little as a couple of hours or a day or more. A list of volunteers will be needed by the September chapter meeting when we will vote on being a Conference Exhibitor again. We need to decide on the Speaker Sponsorship for the conference. Tom Neel and Michael Lacopo will be speaking. Marleen Applegate made a motion that we split the \$150 fee between Tom Neel and Michael Lacopo. Charlotte Elson seconded. The motion carried.

Tammy said that she will be having an Executive Committee meeting soon. It has been a busy summer. There is much to discuss such as, how we handle queries that come in, a policy for those who pay membership dues throughout the year, and possibly going digital with the newsletter.

Tammy asked Librarian Ginny Feiber to report on the many boxes of materials received from the family of Linda Sue Miller after her passing. Ginny and Linda Fulk have been working hard to get the information organized and recorded properly. This collection includes Swineford family information, too. There are many books that were donated. Tammy Pelton suggested that those that are duplicates might be made available to the chapter members for a reduced price. Or, others suggested that they could be sold at the OGS Conference as a “Book Sale” in April. Ginny said that they need people to make scrapbooks of the information donated and asked for volunteers to help. Cheryl Allending sent a book about the History of Ashland County to the library that she no longer needed that could also be put in the Book Sale. Tammy Pelton said she would consult Tom Neel to determine the value of the books.

Publications Report – Tammy Pelton filled in for Becky Plank who is on vacation to report that the Montgomery Township Research Aid is progressing.

Announcements by President Tammy Pelton:

The September 19th chapter meeting will be all virtual because the Ashland County Fair is going on [from September 17th-23rd]. Volunteers are needed to sit at the booth we have at the fair. The booth is located under the Grandstand so volunteers will be able to view the activities going on. Please contact Tammy Pelton to volunteer. Tammy ordered a shower curtain that has a family tree on it to use as a table covering. Tammy will be speaking about ACCOGS and genealogy two times at the fair and must have volunteers at the booth while she must be away from it.

There was a new chapter member that asked us about the Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren recently. She is speaking August 26th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Sunflower Festival at the church and doing a cemetery walk telling the story of the pioneers who are buried in the church cemetery.

The Ashland Historical Society is having a Cemetery Walk in the Ashland Cemetery on Sunday, September 24th from 1-3 p.m.

The October chapter meeting will be important as we discuss the Chapter Officers who will serve in 2024. We need a Secretary and Vice-President. Please volunteer!

Make sure your volunteer hours are submitted at the end of each month.

If you have not turned in an Image Release Form, please do so as soon as possible. We are not able to post pictures from the picnic or other events until all those involved have turned in their Image Release Form.

When the ACCOGS celebrated our 50th anniversary, the Mayor of Ashland and the City Commissioner made a Proclamation with nice certificates that Tammy Pelton will give to the genealogy room at the Ashland County Public Library for display.

Anne Budd, one of our charter members, has now moved into Belmont Tower and is trying to adjust to her new surroundings. Tammy Pelton will send a card from the chapter. It would be nice if others would send cards or letters to her, also.

Cheryl Van Horn's father passed away. Tammy Pelton will send a card from the chapter.

Selva Kolanda will be at the October chapter meeting and will bring some Ashland University students with her to help with the virtual presentation. We are so grateful for Selva's help these past few months!

Respectfully submitted,



Teddie Hill, temporary secretary