

Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Speaker's Bureau

H. William (Bill) Lawson

Executive Director

Bill Lawson has been employed by MVHS in a variety of capacities since 1987. Lawson holds B. A. and M. A. Degrees in History from Youngstown State University. He served as a Trustee of the Ohio Museums Association from 1993 to 1995. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums from 1997 to 2005, and was President of this Association from 2002-2003.

Mahoning Memories

Hear anecdotes and historical interpretations of the images from the Historical Society's archives included in the book *Mahoning Memories*. Published in 1995 in advance of the bicentennial of Youngstown and sesquicentennial of Mahoning County, this book explores the Valley's history using images left to us by the people who made this region what it was and is today.

Iron and Steel in the Mahoning Valley

Many breathtaking images from the MVHS collections tell the story of why this industry took hold in the Valley. What were the socio-economic effects of iron and steelmaking on the community, and why it collapsed around 1980?

History of Downtown Youngstown Development

Explore the architecture and history of Youngstown's Central Square in a slideshow presentation and photographs used to show historical perspective.

An Arts & Crafts Connection: Youngstown and Pasadena, California

What do two Mahoning Valley sisters, a famous Southern California architectural firm and the widow and son of a late U.S. President have in common? The Arts & Crafts movement of the early 20th century! Learn through historical and current day images about how this cast of characters worked directly and indirectly to bring Arts & Crafts philosophies and designs to life in three magnificent homes: one in Youngstown and two in Pasadena

Jessica Trickett

Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager

As Collections Manager, Jessica oversees the collections department and develops museum exhibits and public programs. She has also presented lectures to several local civic organizations, exploring themes in local history including ethnic traditions, social and gender roles, and local material culture. She holds a M.A. in History and a certificate in Historic Preservation from Youngstown State University.

Form and Function: The Beauty of Glass

Vessels of glass have been used for everyday containers as well as beautiful works of art for at

least 3,500 years. This presentation explores ancient and modern glass, glass making techniques and examples of glassware as works of art. It features practical tips for cleaning and maintaining pieces of glassware. (slides and objects for view)

**Who is the Fairest of Them All:
Evolving Images of Beauty**

Throughout history, men and women have attempted to achieve the ideal image, a concept that is constantly changing. This presentation explores some of the ways that men and women have attempted to transform themselves into the contemporary ideal form. It is a journey through a changing image of ideal beauty and the tools used to achieve that ideal. (slides and objects for view)

Lea Mollman
Registrar

Lea Mollman has been at the Historical Society since 1992 as a Guide, Curatorial Assistant, Education Assistant, Curator of Education and now Registrar. She holds B. A. and M. A. Degrees in History from Youngstown State University, and was the recipient of the Marion G. Blum Graduate Essay Prize.

Greystone... Through the Years

This 30-45 minute presentation with slides shows how the building that now houses the Arms Family Museum of Local History has evolved over the last century. From original drawings, photographs of the house over many decades and images of the historic house museum it is today, viewers will learn about the family that built Greystone in the Arts and Crafts architectural style, stories and quotes from the former owners, Olive F.A. Arms and Wilford P. Arms.

**Are you smarter than a local Historian?
“Mahoning Valley Experience Quiz Show”**

A 12-minute video presentation of Mahoning Valley History followed by questions for two or three teams. Includes bonus points and prizes for all! This is a ½ hour program that is fun, informative and works especially well with audiences of mixed ages and interests.

Tea & Polite Society, 1900-1920

This presentation covers high society manners as late Victorian strictures relaxed into Edwardian propriety. With pictures, graphics, and original artifacts, learn about the niceties of dress, calling cards and afternoon tea for the elite. Do you know the difference between a formal tea and high tea, what to serve at a tea dance, or how to invite your friends to meet a visiting dignitary? This talk will answer all the questions!

Pamela Speis
Archivist

Pam has held the position of MVHS Archivist since July 1993. She is a native of western Pennsylvania, earning a Master's Degree in History from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in

1991. Pam has been a genealogist for over thirty years and is a charter member of First Families of Western Pennsylvania.

Exploring your Roots at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society

This presentation is an introduction to the Mahoning Valley Historical Society's archives. It is meant as a general overview of the types of records and resources we have available, including some of the more unusual resources, e.g. coverlets, portraits, daybooks.

Keeping your Family's Past

This presentation provides discussion and advice on the proper care and preservation of photographic formats, manuscripts and ephemera that make up a family's history. Talk covers how to listen to a family heirloom or item, what the item can tell you and how to care for the item for future generations.

Organizing a Small Archives Library

Geared toward organizations that have a need for their own archives, this presentation provides practical information and economic solutions to re-housing issues. Organization and establishment of an archive including archival theory and practice are discussed. Hands on activities are also possible with this presentation.

Care of Photographic Materials

This is an introduction and in-depth discussion of the types of photographic formats and the proper housing for each. The talk is tailored to the general public with economic and museum quality solutions recommended.

German-Americans in the Mahoning Valley

This program illustrates the German-American history through photographs, slides, manuscripts and other related artifacts from the collection, which help to relate the story of the German-Americans in the Mahoning Valley. Social, Religious, Economic, Political and Cultural elements discussed.

Traci Manning

Curator of Education

Traci holds a B.A. in Religion and Civil War Era Studies from Gettysburg College, a M.A. in Applied History from Shippensburg University, and studied secondary social studies education at Wilson College. She spent six years working for the National Park Service in various parks as an education park ranger before coming to MVHS.

Native Americans of the Valley

Explore the culture, life and lore of the Eastern Woodland Indians, the earliest occupants of the Mahoning Valley. Using original and replicated hands-on artifacts, this 45-minute presentation will examine the daily activities, philosophy and legacy of the Valley's earliest residents. Artifacts include stone tools and hunting implements, beaded clothing, jewelry, food and utensils, plant specimens and games.

Pioneers of the Valley

Explore the lives of the earliest settlers to the Mahoning Valley through original and replicated hands-on artifacts, maps, historical information and stories. This 45-minute presentation examines what pioneer life was like for settlers living in the Valley between 1796 and 1830. Artifacts include lighting equipment, household tools, kitchen appliances, and toys.

The World Came to Our Backyard: Immigration History of the Mahoning Valley

An overview of our Valley's local immigration history is examined in a 45-minute power point presentation using the questions "Who, What, When, Where, Why and How" to answer interesting questions about our diverse community: Why did people immigrate to the Mahoning Valley? When did immigration start? What countries were they from? What were the largest immigrant groups to settle here? Where did they work? How did our local population grow? Included are interesting pictures, charts, statistics and a map of ethnic neighborhoods to help us appreciate our diverse ethnic heritage.

Founding Mothers: Great Women in Mahoning Valley History

Catherine Dougherty Hillman, Margaret Van Horn Dwight, Dora Schwebel, and Mary Ann Campana... The lives of these women are woven into the history of the Mahoning Valley. Learn about the women who lived, worked, and learned here – and how their stories and struggles helped to shape and change the Mahoning Valley.

The Civil War in the Valley: Explore the impact of the Civil War on Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

How did the region respond to the outbreak of war? What was the political atmosphere like as the country split apart? How were communities affected by the conflict? These questions, and many more, will be answered in a presentation that includes primary sources, photographs, and artifacts for an introductory look at this tumultuous time period in local, regional, and national history.

David Tod and the Civil War

David Tod was the Governor of Ohio during the Civil War. Learn about the man who helped to raise troops from the Mahoning Valley and lead Ohio through this country's most difficult years. His early life, Valley roots, and political influence are set against the background of national disunion and war.

UnCaged – Extraordinary Women of the American Civil War

This presentation highlights the courageous and bold women who shattered social norms and busted traditional gender spheres during this nation's darkest hours. Case studies will highlight such women as Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Elizabeth Keckley, and Laura Keene. These women felt compelled to transform their lives for the betterment of both themselves and their nation. Their lives centered on The Cult of Domesticity, or True Womanhood, and was defined by four pillars – purity, piety, submissiveness, and domesticity. Women were seemingly bound by these laws, but the political turmoil of the era began to open doors previously locked.

The War Within: Mary Todd Lincoln's Triumph and Tragedy as First Lady

Mad? Miserable? Misunderstood? Mary Todd Lincoln was a remarkable woman who faced unspeakable tragedy, learn about her life and impact as First Lady.

April 1865

The Civil War nears its end, the Confederate Capital of Richmond falls, the Army of Northern Virginia surrenders, President Lincoln is killed. Learn why April 1865 was one of the most important months in American history.

Lincoln Assassination

A single gunshot changed the face of the Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln was dead in a conspiracy to overthrow the United States Government. Discover the people involved, their legacy, and how the event forever changed the nation.

Oh, That Can't Be Comfortable! A Look at the History of Fashion of the Mid-19th Century

Ever think about lacing yourself into a corset? Or slipping into a set of wide circular hoops? This presentation takes a look at how women dressed, highlighting both the fashion and function of every piece worn. More than just pretty frills, we seek to learn why women dressed the way they did. Was there a deeper meaning behind those yards of fabric? What was she telling the world when we stepped out each morning? Original garments, reproductions pieces, accessories, and more give colorful insight to a time when the unmentionables were just that – unmentionable!

The Pivotal Right – A History of the Women's Suffrage Movement

Learn about the brave and outspoken women who fought to gain voting rights in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Their struggle, persecution, and prosecution are set against the backdrop of national history and the greater Civil Rights movement. Women of note include Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, and Carrie Chapman Catt.