

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Volume 51 Issue 2

Fall 2023

Inspiration through Heritage since 1875

Opens Saturday, November 18

Sponsored by



15th

MEMORIES
OF

Christmas

PAST

Arms Family Museum

Annual Report Issue

For the fiscal year
ending June 30, 2023

Plus

- Recognizing Members
- 150 Years of Ursuline Sisters
- Finding Missing Veterans



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MEMORIES OF Christmas PAST

Arms Family Museum



MVHS is pleased to announce that the 15th **Memories of Christmas Past** exhibit at Arms Family Museum, 648 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, OH will open on Saturday, **November 18, 2023**, and run through New Year's Eve, Sunday, **December 31, 2023**. We will also host a members-only preview party on **Friday, November 17**.

This beloved exhibit features seven classically decorated rooms full of lights and sights that are sure to spark visitors' fondest memories of the holiday season. Regular hours will be Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. See the calendar below for all open and closed dates and times.

Admissions and additional gift shop space for *Memories of Christmas Past* will be in the Stewart Media Archives Center, directly behind Arms Family Museum, just steps away from the entrance.

Admission fees for this season will be \$10 for Adults, \$9 for seniors (60+) and college students (with I.D.), and \$8 for children (3-18). Admission is **FREE** for toddlers (under 3), MVHS members, active military and veterans (with I.D.)

Additionally, MVHS will provide \$1 off coupons in many of its holiday advertisements. As is our tradition, both new and vintage merchandise will be for sale. The Hands-On-History Room will again be transformed into a Christmas-themed experience for visitors of all ages.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15TH MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS PAST CALENDAR					NOV 17 Invitation-only Preview Party Session #1 - 3-4:30pm Session #2 - 5:30-7:30pm	18 OPENING DAY Noon-4pm
19 OPEN Noon-4pm	20 CLOSED	21 OPEN Noon-4pm	22 OPEN Noon-4pm	23 Thanksgiving CLOSED	24 OPEN Noon-4pm	25 OPEN Noon-4pm
26 OPEN Noon-4pm	27 CLOSED	28 OPEN Noon-4pm	29 OPEN Noon-4pm	30 Twilight Thursday Noon-7pm	Dec 1 OPEN Noon-4pm	2 OPEN Noon-4pm
3 OPEN Noon-4pm	4 CLOSED	5 OPEN Noon-4pm	6 OPEN Noon-4pm	7 Twilight Thursday Noon-7pm	8 OPEN Noon-4pm	9 OPEN Noon-4pm
10 OPEN Noon-4pm	11 CLOSED	12 OPEN Noon-4pm	13 OPEN Noon-4pm	14 Twilight Thursday Noon-7pm	15 OPEN Noon-4pm	16 OPEN Noon-4pm
17 OPEN Noon-4pm	18 CLOSED	19 OPEN Noon-4pm	20 OPEN Noon-4pm	21 Twilight Thursday Noon-7pm	22 OPEN Noon-4pm	23 OPEN Noon-4pm
24 Christmas Eve CLOSED	25 Christmas Day CLOSED	26 OPEN Noon-4pm	27 OPEN Noon-4pm	28 Twilight Thursday Noon-7pm	29 OPEN Noon-4pm	30 OPEN Noon-4pm
31 New Years Eve FINAL DAY OPEN Noon-4pm	Jan 1, 2024 New Years Day CLOSED	ARMS FAMILY MUSEUM reopens to the public on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 with regular hours/admissions.				

Get into the Christmas spirit by visiting the Memories of Christmas Past exhibits at the Arms Family Museum! For large groups, schedule a tour by calling Curatorial Assistant, Brooke Bobovnyik, at 330-743-2589 at ext. 123 or email at armsmuseum@mahoninghistory.org

Something to Crow About!

After several rounds of heated bidding, it was over in a flash – and MVHS was the winner of one of the Canfield Fair roosters! The rooster was one of many created by local artists, and auctioned off recently as a fundraiser for the Fair's capital campaign.

A generous donation from Roberta Marsteller Hannay allowed us to add this beautiful rooster, designed by artist Felicia Moss, to our collection. A small reception was held to thank our donor, recognize the artist, and celebrate One Hot Cookie, the

rooster's initial sponsor. On the menu? Cookies, of course, provided by One Hot Cookie, and Noel Jenkins, Felicia's grandmother, owner of Grandma's Cookie Jar, her baking business!

"Grandma's Cookie Jar" the rooster is perched on the third floor of Tyler History Center. Stop in to see this beautiful piece of history.



Save the Date for the 12th Annual Cookie Table & Cocktails

Cookie Table and Cocktails will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Mary's Assumption Social Center on South Belle Vista Avenue in Youngstown. As always, the cookies will be the stars of the show, along with a Youngstown-style wedding buffet, a silent auction, and basket raffle. Musical entertainment will be by the one and only Del Sinchak.

Invitations will be mailed in January 2024. Sponsorships are available to support this great event, and items for the basket and silent auctions are also needed. Call 330-743-2589 and ask for Linda for details.



Making Memories

Give a gift to our community this holiday season by supporting the 15th annual Memories of Christmas Past, our most popular and well-attended exhibit. Sponsorships range from the \$100 Elf to the \$2,500 Event Sponsor levels. We think there is one that will fit into your corporate or individual philanthropic philosophy. Higher levels of sponsorship can be tailored to your needs.

For 15 years, tens of thousands of guests have visited "Olive's home" – Olive being Mrs. Olive F. A. Arms, who donated her magnificent residence and its contents to MVHS in 1960. As visitors enjoy the traditional and whimsical holiday decorations, they will observe the support of our sponsors through recognition in signage, advertising, and on social media. Memories of Christmas Past is on display for six weeks, so the return on your investment will be significant. Visit our website at www.mahoninghistory.org/mcp for the details and sponsorship benefits, or call Linda at 330.743.2589, ext. 125.

Opportunity Parking



MVHS recently acquired the parking lot at 335 West Federal Street next to Tyler History Center in downtown Youngstown. We are thankful beyond measure for the perpetual support of our late great benefactor, Jeanne Deibel Tyler, whose generous bequest to MVHS provided the funding for this purchase.

Owning this lot provides parking for MVHS staff and visitors to Tyler History Center, and a site for future expansion of Tyler if and

when it becomes necessary.

We are now working on plans for improvements in the nearer term to better connect the lot to Tyler History Center. We also want to take this opportunity to inform pedestrians and visitors to our site about the history of the west end of downtown through outdoor exhibit panels, and to remember a historic place next to the lot that no longer exists: Spring Common; downtown's other public square.

Celebrating 150 Years of Ursuline Sisters



Mother Lawrence came to Youngstown from Toledo in 1878. She served as Superior for 25 years.

Ursuline Sisters are a community of firsts. They were the first Catholic Sisters in North America (1639), in the future United States (1727), in Ohio (1850), and the first in Youngstown (1874). Why is that? Because when there's a need, Ursulines answer the call.

Bustling steel mills drew immigrants hungry for jobs, but Youngstown lacked teachers for their children. A parish priest at St. Columba wrote for help to his sibling – an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland. Her group's arrival, and soon after another from Toledo, initiated 150 years of Ursuline ministry in the Mahoning Valley.

Thousands benefitted from Ursuline Sisters' care and expertise as educators. The Sisters founded Ursuline High School (1905), Ursuline Preschool & Kindergarten (1963), and Youngstown Community School (1998). They taught at colleges, parish schools,

and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) programs. Some do still. Recognizing how vital knowledge is to succeeding, their ministries provide critical educational opportunities.

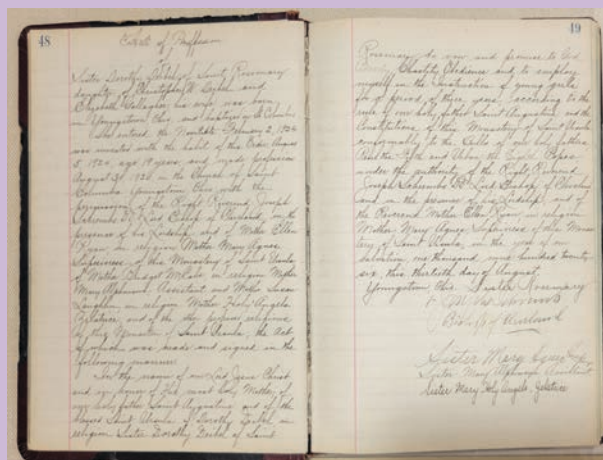
Ursulines minister in education, health and human services, parishes, and prayer. They serve people of all ages and situations in life, but especially women, children, and the poor. To ensure their vibrant and vital programs continue for generations, the Sisters created Ursuline Sisters Mission (2017). With radical compassion and respect for the dignity of every person, the Sisters and their nonprofit offer hospitality and inspire hope.

As a community of Roman Catholic nuns, the Sisters live the Gospel by modeling Jesus. Each Ursuline Sister is a nurturing presence who enriches the life of everyone she meets. In addition to encouraging by example, the Sisters offer faith leadership in many ways. These include daily prayer, spiritual direction and retreats, a labyrinth, pastoral and bereavement counseling, and Prayer Shawl, Prison, and online ministries.

The Ursuline Sisters will celebrate their 150th anniversary with a new exhibit in Tyler History Center's Youngstown Foundation Community History Gallery. The exhibit, *Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown: 150 Years of Gospel Service* opened Friday, September 22 and will run through April 21, 2024.



The Quilt Project was created at the request of the local HIV/Aids community. Soon, family and friends joined to create panels for their loved ones.



This ledger records the Acts of Profession of Sisters from the 1920s. This one is for Sister Dorothy Deibel of Saint Rosemary.

Annual Report of Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Virtual Connections to MVHS Members, Supporters, and the General Public

Social Media



Over 8,000 followers
on Facebook



Nearly 2,000 followers
on Instagram



Over 820 subscribers
on YouTube

Customized Emails

3,477 contacts
to our email lists.

59 different emails
communicated artifact features, program and event videos, and members-only information.

17,102 pairs of eyes
saw messages from MVHS!

Website



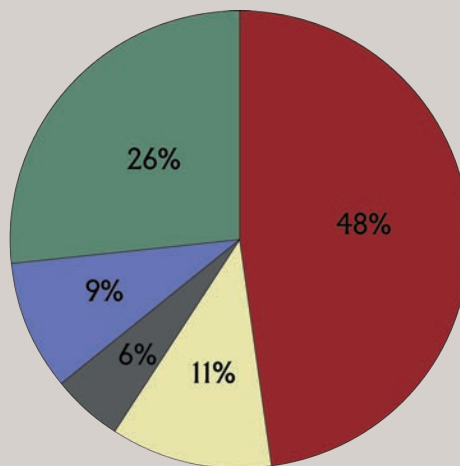
There was a lot happening with Mahoning Valley Historical Society through its sites and a broad array of programs during 2022-2023. MVHS once again co-sponsored and hosted the Juneteenth Sankofa Ball at Tyler History Center on Saturday, June 10.

MVHS staff continue to work with local news media partners on local history content with "Throwback Thursday" on WFMJ TV-21, "This Week in History" in The Vindicator, and The Business Journal's "Daily Buzz-Flashback" series.

A notable new acquisitions for the MVHS collections included a gift from Sweeney Auto Group, featuring documents and artifacts from dealerships run by five generations of the same family since 1921. Artist Jim Pernotto contributed a large collection of steel mill artifacts that he gathered from the closed Brier Hill Works in the late-1970's.

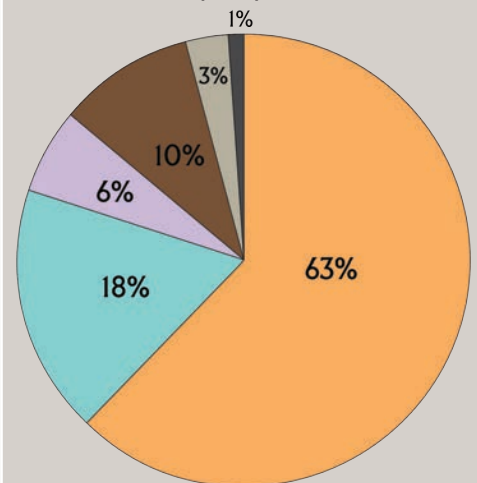
The MVHS Board and staff already have their sights set on an important upcoming anniversary: the Sesquicentennial (150 year) celebration of our Historical Society in 2025!!!

Operating Support and Revenues: \$1,165,077



- Private Foundation Support: \$533, 115
- Endowment and Other Earned Income: \$305, 504
- Annual Appeal/ Other Contributions: \$131, 251
- Operating Revenues: \$106, 048
- Memberships: \$69, 159

Operating Expenses: \$1,121,063



- Human Resources: \$700, 905
- Facilities Operation and Maintenance: \$198, 289
- Administration and Management: \$110, 235
- Materials and Supplies: \$74, 806
- Communications and Fundraising: \$31, 974
- Other Expenses: \$4, 854

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* Deceased 2022-2023

This list is compiled from our membership database, and every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. If a discrepancy is detected, please call Linda Kostka CFRE, at 330-743-2589, ext. 125.

2022-2023 Corporate Membership of MVHS

PLATINUM PARTNER

Boak and Sons Roofing
 Compco Industries

GOLD PARTNER

BSHM Architects
 Farmers Trust Company
 Fibus/ Hendricks Family
 Foundation
 PNC
 Tri County Asphalt Co.
 WKBN TV / Nexstar Media
 York Mahoning Mechanical
 Contractors Inc.

SILVER PARTNER

Adolph Johnson & Son, Inc.
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 Community Corrections
 Association
 First National Bank
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 Mahoning County CVB
 ms consultants, inc.
 Packer Thomas
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 White House Fruit Farm

PARTNER

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 CR Electric
 Fox Funeral Home, Inc.
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 Livi Steel, Inc.
 Manchester, Newman and Bennett
 Martino Motorsports
 Modern Office Supply
 Penguin City Brewing Co.
 Sherman Creative Promotions, Inc.
 V & D Painting Company LLC
 Wild Ones Youngstown
 YNDC

Annual Report of Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Audience by the Numbers

7,085

people visited Arms Family Museum since July 1, 2022

1,000

people visited Tyler History Center since July 1, 2022

2,073

participants in on-site and outreach educational programs

6,463

visited Memories of Christmas Past

400

attended Cookie Table & Cocktails

200

attended National Ice Cream Day open house

5,000

students educated by our suitcase programs

823

attended Bites & Bits of History Lunchtime Programs

459

attended Culture & Cuisine events

Signature Events

Our *History-To-Go* Series was a huge success, holding three programs: The Amazing History Race, Founder's Day Historic Wick Avenue and YSU Campus Walking Tours, and Oak Hill Cemetery Tours.



Partnering with Mahoning Valley Cultural Alliance, we were able to restart the *Culture and Cuisine* series this past spring with dinners, cultural enrichment and presentations on Romania and Ukraine.



The 11th *Cookie Table & Cocktails* was held on Saturday, February 24 and attendees enjoyed over 11,000 cookies. The event had a net profit of over \$20,000 to aid in the support of MVHS programs and facilities.



New Faces

Gavin Esposito was this year's Mahoning Valley Cultural Alliance intern, who helped with planning the 2023 Culture & Cuisine series, and helped to develop a small exhibit based on the International Institute Archives.

During her internship, Darcy McTigue digitized catalog records into the PastPerfect database of the MVHS prehistoric indigenous tools and projectile point collections.

Lindsay Samblanet joined the staff as Communications Manager in May.

Claude Trickett and Steve Daniels joined the staff as event assistants at Tyler History Center.

2022-2023 Exhibits

Arms Family Museum

January 31, 2022: *Youngstown Illustrated: City of Progress*

February 28, 2022: *Tailor Made: Local Clothing and Accessories*

August to December: *a retrospective on local news photographer Paul Schell's work*

Tyler History Center Youngstown Foundation Community History Gallery

November, 2022- April, 2023: *Brier Hill Works: Art and Artifacts from Jim Pernotto*

May 19, 2023: *Wick Avenue: Millionaires Row 1890* by Maple Turner III



**Sunday,
February 4, 2024.**

**Hyatt Sarasota
1000 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, FL 34236**

**11:00 am- Social Hour
Noon- Lunch & Presentations
Youngstown Day is the largest
Youngstown reunion outside
of the state of Ohio**

Presented by:

Youngstown State University
Youngstown CityScape

Mahoning Valley Historical Society

For more information and to receive an invitation, please call 330-743-2589, or email to mvhs@mahoninghistory.org

**BITES AND BITS OF
HISTORY**
LUNCHTIME PROGRAM

Join us for *Bites and Bits of History* this Fall

Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown-150 Years of Gospel Service

Sister Mary McCormick, General Supervisor of the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown



Honoring the Whole Human Story: Indigenous Land Acknowledgement in the Mahoning Valley

Bill Lawson,
MHVS Executive Director



Why in the World is that on a Christmas Tree?

George Johnson,
Christmas Historian



October 19, 2023

Learn about the Ursuline Sisters, their history and legacy of 150 years of dedicated community and gospel service.

November 16, 2023

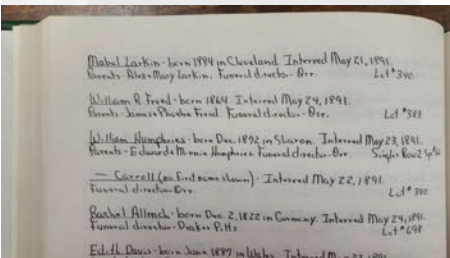
The Mahoning Valley has more than 13,000 years of human history. Learn about Land Acknowledgments and discover both the prehistoric and historic peoples who called this area home with a focus on those during the 17th and 18th centuries.

December 21, 2023

Discover the symbolism and traditions of classic Christmas ornaments.

Peering into the Vault: Crafting the Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

By Traci Manning, MVHS Curator of Education



stories to light as possible. What does that process look like? How do we fill in that dash between someone's birth and death year? Some of the stories are easier to write than others; the famous names, the influential families, and the recognizable figures who have left huge legacies in the Mahoning Valley and beyond. But what about the others? How do we document the headstones with names of people we might not know?

The research process typically begins with historic newspapers. As staff members come across stories of untimely deaths, obituaries, or more nefarious cases, their eyes immediately dart to the end of the article to see where the person was to be interred. From there, we review the burial records to learn where they are located in the cemetery. If they happen to be in a somewhat convenient location, the next step is drafting their story. Staff members comb through city

directories, business records, club histories, and other newspaper articles for any leads that the original story or obituary might provide. The process continues with our own strolls through the cemetery, noting interesting headstones or dates that might connect with larger events.

Even with all of the resources MVHS staff have at our disposal, sometimes there just isn't enough information to make a compelling story. When there is enough information, the narrative comes together with images and an attempt to condense a person's life and legacy into a few short paragraphs. Speaking for those who can no longer speak for themselves is an important responsibility, one that we do not take lightly when crafting this or any of our walking tours.

Every October more than 240 people gather at Oak Hill Cemetery for the popular History-To-Go Walking Tour. Over the years, thousands of guests have explored the rolling landscape to learn about the symbolism of the cemetery's architecture and the stories of those interred there. With more than 25,000 people calling Oak Hill Cemetery their eternal resting place, determining which stories to tell can be a challenge. If each person received only one minute of storytelling time, the tour would be nearly 18 days long with no stopping. Even the most hardcore historian would struggle with that!

Each year, the tour is updated with new information to bring as many



Roving America with Stu Wilson

MVHS preserves the work of a local film artist

Recently, MVHS obtained film from former WKBN journalist, Stuart "Stu" Wilson. Wilson joined the WKBN broadcasting team in 1942, where he contributed 20 years of film, and story telling. He also served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. Wilson was one of the best known broadcast personalities of his time in the Youngstown area, especially for his farm reports on WKBN Radio.

In 1958, he began a segment titled, "Roving Camera," which aired every Thursday from 7:00 to 7:30 pm on WKBN. The segment featured different places that Wilson traveled to and filmed. The stories were mostly about the outdoors, but also included many points of interest in the area he was exploring. The show lasted three years. Wilson continued his art throughout the remainder of his life. He passed away in 1991 at the age of 70.

Stewart Media Archives possesses 60 reels of Wilson's work, and volunteers are currently viewing and adding them to our database. One of Wilson's many films, a visit to the Seneca Indian Nation in Salamanca, New York that aired on WKBN on February 5, 1959, can be found on our YouTube page. We will continue to add more films as we process them. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube @ mahoninghistory.



Thanks to our 2023 *Memories of Christmas Past* Sponsors!*

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Searching for Our Veterans

Last year MVHS worked with the Mahoning County Veterans Service Commission to digitize and preserve photographs of the military personnel involved in the Vietnam Conflict who sadly did not make it home. The original presentation was in four display panels. Of the 95 individuals included in the panels with their name, rank, age, branch of service, and location and date of death, all but 16 included a photograph of the deceased. The originals were organized chronologically, with one exception. The sixteen who did not have photographs were represented either by an American Flag or by the Emblem of the Branch of Service they served with.

MVHS is looking for photographs of the following Vietnam Era Casualties:

Allen, Samuel R. [S. Sgt., USMC]
 Carpenter, Howard [Sgt., Army]
 Douglas, Thomas [Corporal, USMC]
 Ellis, Robert L. [PFC, USMC]
 Golden, Kenneth [Lieut., possibly USAF]
 Hiteshue, Frank R. [Spec 4, Army]
 Hunsbarger, Gerald [PFC, USMC]
 Mahone, William [Captain, USAF]
 Manton, Bruce [Hospital Corp. 2/c, USN]
 Oliver, Carl W. [Sgt., Army]
 Powell, Richard Lee [Hospital Corp., USN]
 Prince, Raymond L. [Corporal, USN]
 Russ, James L. Jr. [Spec. 4, Army?]
 Stewart, Michael [Private, Army]
 Svande, Kennard E. [Lieut., USAF]
 Webb, Donald F. [Sgt, USMC]

If you can help MVHS with these individuals, or have information and images of any veterans from any time period who made the Valley their home, please contact the Archives at archives@mahoninghistory.org or by calling 330-743-2589 ext. 127. Help us tell their stories.



Examples from the original Veterans Service Panels showing Captain Fred Cutrer, and S. Sgt. Vincent Tomalka showing their original labeling.



Join us for our last
**Culture & Cuisine of
 the year!**

Greek Culture & Cuisine
 Monday, November 13, 2023
 5:00pm – 7:30pm
 Archangel Michael Center
 401 12th St., Campbell, OH

**\$30 MVHS Members
 \$35 non-members**

Please visit mahoninghistory.org/events
 for details on upcoming events.



648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

is published quarterly and sent as a benefit of MVHS membership.

ARMS FAMILY MUSEUM

648 WICK AVENUE
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44502

Tuesday-Sunday
Noon to 4:00pm

Stewart Media Archives Center at ARMS FAMILY MUSEUM

Tuesday-Sunday • Noon to 4:00pm

Research and viewing of collection items are by appointment only and may be scheduled by calling **330-743-2589, ext. 105** or by emailing **business_media@mahoninghistory.org**

TYLER HISTORY CENTER

325 WEST FEDERAL STREET
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

Tuesday-Sunday
Noon to 4:00pm

Archives Research Center at TYLER HISTORY CENTER

Tuesday-Saturday • Noon to 4:00pm

Research projects can be scheduled by calling **330-743-2589, ext. 127** or emailing **archives@mahoninghistory.org**

Phone: **330-743-2589**

Fax: **330-743-7210**

Email: **mvhs@mahoninghistory.org**

Website: **www.mahoninghistory.org**

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The Generosity of a Friend



Former MVHS Board member and B.F. Wirt Trustee, Rick Shale, had many interests in his life; writing, film and local history, hiking, kayaking, and watercolor painting just to name a few. He was a generous contributor to many different organizations, and even after his passing in February 2022, his generosity continued.

MVHS was one of his many beneficiaries, and upon his passing, received over \$626,000 from his estate.

Rick, a prolific watercolorist and photographer and member of the Mahoning Valley Watercolor Society, also provided for that organization. Rick left his entire collection to the Watercolor Society, to be used to raise funds.

The Watercolor Society then partnered with MVHS for a "Friends of Rick Shale" art sale, and over the course of three days in the fall of 2022, sold many of his creations.



Many of his paintings and photographs were available for purchase at Tyler History Center gift shop. The Watercolor Society will collect the remaining pieces for preservation.



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