

FULTON COUNTY PIONEER



8848 State Highway 108, P.O. Box 104, Wauseon, Ohio 43567

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Winter 2025

Happy Birthday Fulton County!

Our county is 175 years old this year and we are going to celebrate all year long! We have events already scheduled. There will be birthday cake and punch on April 1st at the museum. You may also see tree plantings in every town, church bells ringing, a photo contest, visits with centenarians, and first baby contest.

Watch our newsletters for special events that will mark this time of celebration. Our new exhibit in July will celebrate the first 25 years of our county.



Annual Valentine History Manor Tea: An Immigrant Love Story

February 15th

*Seatings at 11 A.M.
Noon & 1 P.M*

*Reservations
required*

\$25.00 per guest

10% member discount
if a phone-in
reservation



We the People OF FULTON COUNTY, OHIO

The current exhibit in the main gallery will remain through December 2025. It honors all of the brave immigrants that faced the trials and tribulations of moving to a new country. The exhibit highlights the stories, clothing and recipes from these unique citizens of Fulton County. A companion cookbook is available in the Legacy Shop.

Murder On The New York Central

Our interactive murder mystery this year will take place on an imaginary, but historic train excursion traveling through Fulton County. Participants will be attendees of a reunion of county-wide high school alumni. Anyone may dress in their school's colors to play along.

March 23, 2025

*4 P.M. or 7 P.M.
at the Museum*

*Reservations
required*

\$30.00 per guest

10% member discount



 MuseumofFultonCounty.org

Learn about our Fulton County Genealogical Group's 2025 first of four Lecture Series Events in this Newsletter.

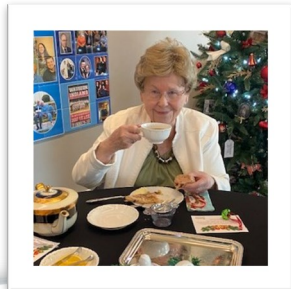
OUR EVENT TICKETS SELL FAST



We are now able to process tickets to any or all events for the entire year. You can make your reservations early so you don't miss out on any of the great events that will be coming your way in 2025.

Seven events are

listed below. Purchase tickets on line at our website, museumoffultoncounty.org or call 419-337-7922. Member discount apply even on tickets purchased as a gift.



2025 Event Schedule:

Valentine Tea	Saturday	February 15
Mother's Day Tea	Saturday	May 10
Christmas Tea	Saturday	November 29

Murder on the New York Central
4 P.M. or 7 P.M. Saturday March 22

Dining in the Orient Express
Noon or 5 P.M. Saturday April 26

Founder's Day at Lauber Hill
Sunday August 17

Haunting History Tours in Lyons, OH
Friday October 24 or 25

Another Train Story

Trains were the primary means of travel in the 1950s and early 1960s. It was an effort to pack your bags and get all dressed up to travel on the train. Although glamorous, those big shiny black engines could be deadly. Only at major crossings could you find a manned gatekeeper. As a result, there were many train accidents. It use to be great sport to race the train to the crossing and needless to say, the train was the winner on many occasions. Cars in that era were not always reliable and could stall while crossing the tracks.



Probably the worst accident of all in Fulton County was on January 6, 1948. Ten children were killed and two were seriously injured when a bobsled pulled by a tractor, was hit by a train while crossing the tracks just east of Archbold. Extenuating circumstances that led to the tragedy- such as 4 sets of tracks to cross and blowing snow that impaired visibility. The tractor waited for a freight train to pass before crossing, but did not see another train was upon them. This accident was one of the worse in the history of the nation at that time.

History tells us that out of horrible events like this one that good can evolve. Electrified crossing gates and warning lights at major crossings were first but eventually at all crossings. We take these safety devices for granted now, but there is almost always a story behind the improvement. Maybe you will stop and ponder the next time you cross a railroad that "necessity is the mother of invention."

Genealogy 101: Back to Basics Workshop Lecture

Monday, March 10, 2025 7 P.M. at the Museum

Come and find out where to start, how to set goals, and how to keep accurate records when beginning genealogy research. Learn how to evaluate various sources so that you don't duplicate efforts. What a fun and informative way to spend a cold winter evening! The genealogy group looks forward to meeting you and helping you get started on your search for long lost relatives.

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, please be assured it is not a mistake on our part. The Board of Trustees recently approved sending our quarterly newsletter to all our members and to anyone who makes a financial donation to the Historical Society. The Fulton County Pioneer and our social media platforms are our primary methods for sharing news regarding our exhibits, programs, events, and other organizational related information. Our goal is to provide pertinent, high quality and timely information to our members and the public regarding the Historical Society, the Fulton County Heritage Alliance, the Fulton County Genealogy Group, and the Friends of the Lauber Hill Community. This issue also includes a brochure listing the exhibits and events we will be offering in 2025. I encourage you to make your plans as soon as possible and get your reservations in early since many of these events sell out quickly.

We are fortunate to have many dedicated members who have been strong supporters of the Society for many years. We also greatly appreciate our benefactors who may not be members but choose to support our efforts through their financial contributions. Since our creation in 1883 we have been a membership driven organization that differentiates between being a member and a donor. The gift of a donation to the Historical Society **DOES NOT** automatically make the donor a member of the Historical Society, and therefore, eligible for the benefits of membership. To **become a member** a person must complete an annual membership form, select a membership level, and make the appropriate payment for that level. We hope that anyone making a financial donation to the Historical Society would also consider the benefits of becoming a member as well. We also encourage members to consider a donation along with the renewal of their annual membership. If you have any questions about membership or making a financial donation, please contact our office at 419-337-7922 Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM or visit the Museum.

As we begin the New Year, I want to thank you all and ask for your continuing support as we work together to pursue our mission of telling the story of Fulton County. See you at the Museum,

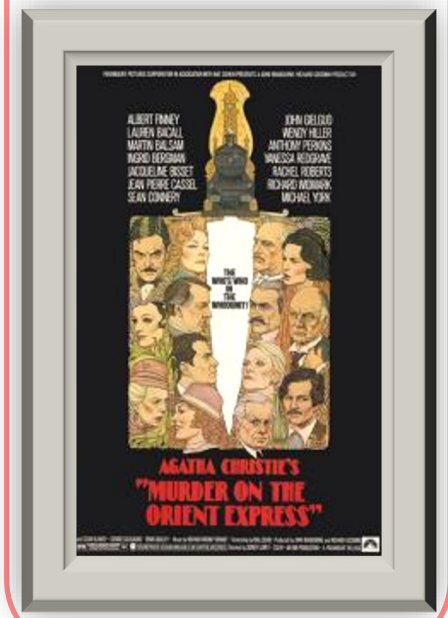


John Myles, President

SAVE THE DATE

Don't wait to purchase your tickets for our April 26 lunch or dinner event,
Dining on the Orient Express

Dress as your favorite character from this 1935 Agatha Christie novel as you watch the 1974 movie. The museum will be transformed into sites in many of the countries where Fulton County residents immigrated. Call or order on-line.



Happy Birthday America

2025 and 2026 are going to be years of celebration for our country our state and our local communities. It has been 250 years since we signed the Declaration of Independence, so a celebration is in Order.



Sheri Friesner of Sauder Village, Julie Brink of the Fulton County Visitor Bureau and Todd Kleismit of the Ohio America 250 Commission.

A flag and an emblem will be given to each community that participates in the celebration. Events are expected to start in 2025 and run through 2026. According to the Village Reporter, each month in 2026 will have a theme of heritage reflection, education and preservation with a focus on the past, present and future. Some of the themes are arts, culture, history and Ohio Originals.

Our museum and the Fulton County Heritage Alliance will participate in and host many events through out the year. The museum will be presenting a special exhibit for 2026 that explores the lives of the people living here in 1776.

You could encourage your local Chamber of Commerce, town council, or even your church or service organization to make a plan.

The web site is America250Ohio.org. You can also contact the Ohio History Connection or call Julie Brink at the Visitor's Bureau (419) 337-9669 for more information.

We will keep you informed of upcoming events in future newsletters.



NEW LEGACY SHOP ITEMS

We are pleased to offer new custom gifts featuring the amazing artwork of local artist Lindsee Piercefield. She used the original courthouse of Fulton County as her focal point of this painting. You can find her on Facebook under "Artfully Lindsee!"

We have coffee mugs, tea towels, Swedish dishcloths, coasters and tote bags.

These items can be purchased in the Legacy Shop or online at: museumoffultoncounty.org.



Merger Information

We are excited to have the Members of the FCCOGS joining the Historical Society and look forward to our collaborative activities to promote a better understanding of genealogy and local history in Fulton County.

Lifetime memberships in FCCOGS will be recognized by the Historical Society, and these members only need to complete a membership form if their contact information has changed recently. If you currently have a membership in the Historical Society, you **do not need** to complete a new membership form. You will be notified when your membership is due for renewal as in the past.

As new members of the Historical Society, we want to let you know that you are eligible to transfer your FCCOGS membership to the FCGG without interruption. You will be notified when your membership in the Historical Society is due for renewal.