

February
2026

BAY VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.bayhistorical.com

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Potluck & Program

Doug Gertz

Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Bay Lodge

6:00 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. program

Main dish will be provided by the historical society.
Bring your own place setting and beverage of choice.
Alcohol is permitted at the Bay Lodge. Entrée will be pork tenderloin.

Last names beginning with:

A-J: Bring a side dish for 10;

K-Z: Bring a dessert for 10.

There will be a \$10 charge for non-members at the door.

RSVP to Doug Gertz (drgbay@aol.com or 440-554-6355) by Friday, Feb. 13.

Program: Women in History's Molly Cornwell depicts Rebecca Nurse

Molly Cornwell of "Women in History" will portray Rebecca Nurse, accused and convicted of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. An accomplished actress and director, Cornwell has appeared in productions at the Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama Theater, The Hanna Theater, Beck Center for the Arts, Eldred Theater, and Cleveland State University.



Representation of Rebecca Nurse's 1692 trial
from *The Witch of Salem, or Credulity Run
Mad* by [John R. Musick](#)

Donor Members

Cahoon Level (\$2,500 and up)

Bay Village Foundation

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Monica Thomas & Jim Otto

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Karen & Doug Gertz

Virginia Hamister

President's Message

Cynthia Eakin

In 2026, our nation is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone, America 250, is an opportunity to reflect on our country's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead to the future we want to create for the next generation.

Historical Society Director Cathy Flament is looking for individuals or organizations with knowledge or expertise about subjects, collections, or crafts related to that early period in our country's history. She hopes to have weekly, informal presentations about related subjects at Rose Hill Museum. The nearby Reuben Osborn Learning Center will be set up with historical displays including an Ohio quilt, Revolutionary War commemorative uniforms and the society's collection of arrowheads. Each of the historical society's four annual member meetings will feature speakers on topics related to that period.

A tour of Lakeside Cemetery and the graves of Revolutionary War and soldiers of the War of 1812 is being planned for this fall. Area boy and girl scouts are being recruited to assist with America 250 projects.

One scout is researching a project that includes a cemetery plaque with a QR Code that will provide information about some of the cemetery inhabitants. Another scout is researching information about the Native Americans who lived in Dover Township at the time of the American Revolution.

The Bay Village Historical Society's America 250 plans will be updated throughout the upcoming months at www.bayhistorical.com. If you have expertise that you would like to share on topics related to America 250, contact info@bayhistorical.com.



1960s Bay Village revolutionary re-enactors. Unknown photographer. From the collection of Bob & Marilyn Finicle. RP.07.02.06

Plans are already under way for Pioneer Days, slated for July 20-24 from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost will remain the same as last summer. Sign-up details will be added to the historical society website. If you have children, grandchildren or young friends who may be interested, please encourage them to attend.



The Bay Village Women's Club Antiques and Vintage Show is Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bay High School. Volunteers are needed in 2-2.5 hour shifts to man the historical society's table at the show. Please sign up for a volunteer shift here: bit.ly/4rspzdd

Contact info@bayhistorical.com if you have any questions.



Director's Updates

Cathy Flament

Patrons (cont'd)

Rev. Richard Lutz
Terri & Ben Miyares
Ann & Michael Nock
J. Marshall Osborn
Jean & Tim Pell
Linda & James Potter
Patricia & Michael Thomas
Judith & Donald Trask
Marianne Wagner
Mary & Barry Ward
Cynthia & Ralph
Woehrmann
Michele Yamamoto

*A sincere thank you
to all of our donors for
their continued
support!*

What a winter we are having. It brings back memories of childhood with all the snow piles!

A special thanks goes out to all of those who so generously volunteered this past year to help make all of our events, displays, and archiving a success. We would never be able to achieve the success we have without the help of these dedicated individuals.

Pat Cook recently joined our team as the new collections manager, and is making a difference already. He is willing to jump into any situation and has brought in some great ideas. He is hoping to attend the next meeting, so please welcome him and introduce yourself.

We are busy preparing for the opening of our America 250 exhibits in April. Pat has been compiling information regarding the Revolutionary War. Our initial focus has been on the veterans who relocated to Dover Township after the war. There were two in Bay Village and six in Westlake who we will be sharing information about. Hopefully you read Pat's [recent article](#) on David Foote. There will be more articles to come. The historical society was also included in an article in Currents Magazine and featured on Channel 19, so stay tuned for additional promotional content.

During the year, we will be featuring informal talks every Sunday, regarding various topics of the time period. Discussions will include the life of a soldier, Native Americans, music, even dental equipment used. If you, or someone you know, is knowledgeable about a related topic, please encourage them to get involved to make this an incredible experience. We will be publishing a list of topics approximately two months in advance. Children's activities will be included throughout the year. So, be sure to stop by multiple times during the season as the themes and displays change!

Saturday, June 27, we are sponsoring the Cleveland Art Museum's Outreach Program for a special family event. Stay tuned for more details.

Pioneer Days will be intertwined with the America 250 theme as a different twist this year. Start passing the word that it will be held from July 20-24 for children entering grades 3-6. Sign-ups will begin in mid-April. Don't let the kids you know miss out on the fun. Once again, we want to thank the Bay Village Foundation for helping to sponsor this event. Their contribution has made a significant difference in what we have been able to offer.

The speaker at this month's potluck, who I recently heard, is amazing. You don't want to miss her performance – she is one for the memory books! Hope to see you there.



Winter portrait, circa the 1880s, 1999.P.04.011.



Pvt. David Foote (1760-1851) was a Revolutionary War veteran who settled in Dover Township in 1815 with his wife, Betsy. Read more about his life and service in the latest [Glimpse of the Past](#) post.

**Contact Information:
BVHS Officers**



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Staff Spotlight: Patrick Cook

The Bay Village Historical Society is thrilled to welcome Patrick Cook to the team as our new collections manager. Pat has kindly shared a few words on his unique background and all of the exciting work that lies ahead:



Hello! My name is Patrick Cook. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with the Bay Village Historical Society as the collections manager and to help tell the stories of Bay Village and the Western Reserve.

My expertise lies in American history, especially the history of flight and the 19th and 20th centuries. We hope you are as excited as we are to experience history this summer and celebrate America 250. We're already working hard to create fun, engaging activities for everyone to enjoy.

Although I am not a native of Bay Village, I grew up in a very similar community in Dayton, Ohio. Being in Bay Village makes me feel right at home again. Growing up in Dayton, I developed a passion for aviation and history. At age 15, I decided to follow my passion for flying and enrolled in flying lessons. By age 18, I earned my pilot's license.

I went on to earn my bachelor's degree in history from Bowling Green State University (BGSU), where I served as president of the campus history society. Most recently, I completed a master's degree in history with a focus on public history and museum studies from BGSU. I also held a leadership position in the campus Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society.

Since graduating in December of 2025, I have relocated to Cleveland and accepted a position with the Bay Village Historical Society. I am excited to apply what I've learned at BGSU and share it with Bay Village. As a self-motivated and adaptable person, I am eager and prepared to face any challenge.

Social Media Updates

This February, the historical society's Instagram posts (@bayvillagehistorical) will feature highlights from the Dunham papers, a 1935 account of local history that includes some lesser known anecdotes about some of our area's earliest families. Be sure to follow our account so you don't miss out!

Due to an administrative issue, we have discontinued the historical society's Facebook account, and will be launching a new Bay Village Historical Society Facebook page ahead of the spring season.

And of course we're looking forward to plenty of exciting social media engagement around our America 250 programming. Stay tuned!



Local Excerpts from the Lyceum Movement

In the mid-19th century adult educational institutions known as lyceums became popular in the United States, particularly in the Northeast and the Midwest.

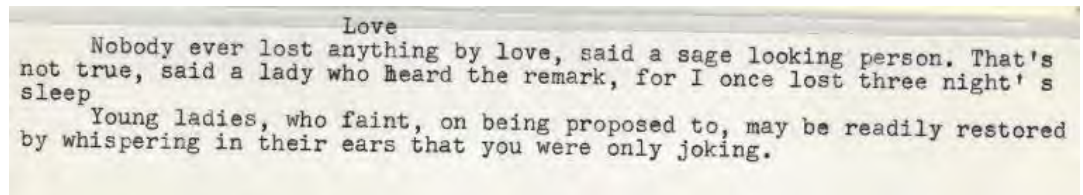
First founded by Josiah Holbrook in Millbury, Massachusetts, in 1826, lyceums sought to advance knowledge and promote self improvement through lectures, literature, civic engagement efforts, and community debate. By the 1830s there were over 3,000 local chapters operating in the U.S. and the movement had engaged well-known thought leaders like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain.

Northeast Ohio played its own role in the movement. In 1838 Holbrook moved to Berea to establish a lyceum village and model seminary, attempting to make Berea a western center for the movement. While residing in Berea Holbrook led the manufacturing of globes and other school supplies in an attempt to introduce more visual aids into the educational methodology of the era.

The Bay Village Historical Society recently entered into our collection an area newsletter from the Lyceum Movement. It contains articles and poems on a variety of topics. In honor of Valentine's Day, we are sharing an excerpt from the newsletter titled 'Love':

"Nobody ever lost anything by love, said a sage looking person. That's not true, said a lady who heard the remark, for I once lost three night's sleep

Young ladies, who faint, on being proposed to, may be readily restored by whispering in their ears that you were only joking."



Original excerpt 'Love' from the 19th century lyceum newsletter recently entered into the Historical Society's collection.

Estate Planning

We'd like to share with you some of the best reasons to create or update your will today, and perhaps remember the Bay Village Historical Society in it!

First and foremost, a will makes it easy for your loved ones to carry out your requests, and ensure your legacy.

A will also helps ensure the future of your family and the causes you love.

Please consider naming the Bay Village Historical Society in your will and, when you do, let us know so we can recognize and thank you.

Your legacy gift will help ensure the Bay Village Historical Society's beautiful, historic facilities remain viable and accessible to all who wish to be inspired by local history. It will help provide our community with valuable experiences and opportunities for learning. Your historical society builds connections and memories and brings joy to people of all ages. This is your chance to preserve your legacy and make a big difference!

As always, thank you for considering a bequest to the Bay Village Historical Society, no matter the amount!

