

# Reily Township Historical Society

www.reilytownshiphistoricalsociety.org



Newsletter—Fall 2023

## ~ Letter from the RTHS President ~



**Dear Members and Friends of the Reily Township Historical Society,**

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. It is hard to believe September will soon be arriving and we will be joined back together on the first Tuesday to step into history together. As we continue our journey to preserve and celebrate the rich history of our community, we are excited to invite you all to join hands with us in spreading the word about Reily Township Historical Society.

Over the years, our society has thrived thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of individuals like you. We have made great strides in preserving the legacy of Reily Township history and fostering an appreciation for our past among current and future generations. As we look forward to the Fall of 2023, I invite you to reach out to members of our community, inspiring them to become a part of our

mission.

We believe that sharing our passion for history is not just an opportunity but a responsibility we all share. By spreading the word about the Reily Township Historical Society, we can ignite curiosity, foster a sense of belonging, and promote community engagement in preserving our heritage. Here are two simple yet impactful ways you can help:

1. Word of Mouth: Tell your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues about our historical society and the valuable work we do. Share your experiences and why being a part of Reily Township Historical Society matters to you.
2. Social Media: Use your social media platforms to post about our events, programs, and initiatives. Like, share, and comment on our posts to increase visibility and engagement.

By taking these simple actions, we can collectively expand the reach and impact of the Reily Township Historical Society. Let us work together to ensure that our history is not forgotten, and that the legacy of our community continues to inspire future generations.

Thank you for being a part of the Reily Township Historical Society and for your commitment to preserving the treasures of our past. Together, we can make a significant difference in fostering a strong sense of historical pride within our community.

With warm regards,

Danielle Foulk  
Reily Township Historical Society, President  
513-756-0135 [reilyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:reilyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)





**Wreaths Across America**  
**December 16, 2023**

Remember our fallen U. S. Veterans by honoring those who served. Teach your children about the value of freedom. RTHS & the community will be assisting the Oxford Caroline Scott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution lay wreaths on our veterans graves . Learn more at:  
[Wreathscrossamerica.org](http://Wreathscrossamerica.org)



6207 Main Street (Reily)  
 Oxford, Ohio 45056

**MUSEUM OPEN ON THE  
 FOLLOWING  
 DATE S FROM  
 1:00 PM TO 3:00PM**

- Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 3**, 2023
- Sunday, **OCTOBER 8**, 2023
- Sunday, **NOVEMBER 5**, 2023
- Sunday, **DECEMBER 3**, 2023

Open by appointment  
 by calling  
 513-756-0135

*This newsletter graciously sponsored by*

**GRAMCO**  
*The Bird Watcher's  
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 245 Millville Ave, Hamilton, Ohio 45013  
 513-892-2541



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: We do not share personal information.*

I prefer to receive my newsletter by email.

*Mail to:*  
**Reily Township Historical Society**  
**Attention: Roger Koch, Treasurer**  
**189 Sample Rd.**  
**Oxford, Ohio 45056**

### Membership Categories:

Annual (Individual) \$20

Annual (Family) \$25

**Donation: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Donation in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to remain anonymous?

501c3 Non-Profit

*Support our Mission to Preserve Reily Township's History*

# FALL 2023 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**PUBLIC MEETINGS** are the first Tuesday of each month  
(unless otherwise stated) at the

**Reily Township Community Center**  
**6093 Reily Millville Rd., Oxford, Ohio 45056**

The organization business meeting starts at 7PM and is followed by the pre-scheduled speaker or displays.

**Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - Valerie Elliott** co-author “Homes of Old Oxford: An Album of Photographs by Frank R. Snyder and Others,” will share historical information and photographs of Oxford’s most iconic homes in the early 20th century. “**Homes of Oxford**” features 75 houses and highlights the town’s history and people. Prior to our presenter, author **Daniel D. Schneider** will offer a brief insight into his latest work, “**Haunted Butler County, Ohio.**” Following the session, you’ll have the chance to acquire his book, which will be on sale after the meeting.

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023 - Dick Oertel** “**The Name Sample Keeps Popping Up**” is a retired P&G chemist, amateur local historian and Butler County resident for 54 years. This presentation will report on several areas of local historical research covering the period from about 1820 to 1930. Although the work involves a number of well-known families, one name alone—Sample—repeatedly appears. Included will be some delightful recollections of life in Reily village around 1900 from a longtime Sample Road resident, and some findings regarding an intriguing set of 1908 camp photos that were donated recently to Reily’s Hammond House Museum by a Sample family descendant.

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023 - Alex Zomchek**

Alex is a lifelong beekeeper and honey bee researcher. He has several latitudinal bee labs ranging from Canada down to Florida to extend his yearly “bee-time”. His presentation is, “**Honey Bee Retrospective – 50+ Years in the Hive**”. This will include a brief 200 million years history, some local history, the state of the state – the goods/bads, plus a little science future/fiction. He will end with things that you can do in your own back yards to promote bee health. Bring your curiosity and questions!



**Sunday, December 3, 2023** “**Tree Lighting and Santa Claus visit the Reily Township Historical Society**” Reily Township Historical Society and Reily Township Good Neighbors brings you a visit from Santa Claus who will be waiting to hear your children’s holiday wishes. Take a picture with Santa and pick up a candy cane. There will be refreshments on the front porch of the museum. We will have a special guest light up the tree.

*This newsletter graciously sponsored by*

**Reily Township Good Neighbors**



## Summer Donors 2023

Donald & Betty Hann	Bec Howard	Virgil & Trish Otto	Heidi McKee
Rebecca Evans	Thomas Miller	Clare Iniewicz	Jane Arno
Carolyn Mullen	Andy & Judy Zinsmeister	Barb Wilson	Ben Thompson
Linda Amspauagh	Suzanne Newcomb	Steve Sadler	Sandra Lee Campbell
Holly Wissing	Ed & Brenda Fahner	Robert Mainuous	Kathy Bergen Settle
Jim & Sandy Miller	Rebecca Howard	Tim Gillespie	Debbie Gross
Dan Finrock	Don & Laura Cooley	Bill Young	
Danielle (Hart) Foulk	Bill Young	Larry & Debbie Garver	
Mark Cox	Michael & Nancy Schwab	Don & Tari Tharp	

## *Donations in Memory of:*

<i>Ellen Skaggs</i>	<i>Neal &amp; Helen Miller</i>	<i>Jimmy &amp; Esther Schwab</i>	<i>Herb Wilson</i>
<i>Tom Wissing</i>	<i>Maxine Howard</i>	<i>Virgil &amp; Leota Otto</i>	
<i>Nathan &amp; Maxine Miller</i>	<i>Ralph &amp; Florence Bittner</i>	<i>Stanley Iniewicz</i>	



In Memory of

### **Gordon Lee Rardon**

1934– 2023

**Gordon was scheduled to speak at our September meeting. It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Gordon. He took pleasure sharing his knowledge of Reily Township with us in the form of wonderfully prepared presentations.**



Gordon Lee Rardon, age 88 of Centerville, passed away Thursday, August 10, 2023. He was born December 12, 1934 in Reily Township, Ohio, the son of the late Smith and Viola Rardon. Gordon served his country in the United States Army. He attended Wilmington and Earlham College and was a member of the Sigma Zeta Fraternity. Gordon had a long Career as a Mechanical Engineer and worked for Lau Industries for over 40 years. After retirement he went back to work for Hillrom Corp. He served his community in a number of ways by volunteering for Junior Achievement at his work, being an active member of the Lions Club for years, and Volunteering at the Air Force Museum. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Kettering and served as an usher for years. Gordon was a woodworker and would build things he thought up in his head. He had green thumb and loved working in his flower garden and he enjoyed feeding the birds, especially hummingbirds. He had a Lifelong fascination with Aviation. Gordon was a story teller and if you talked to him you would hear a good story. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 66 years, Janet Rardon; Son, Todd M (Kim) Rardon; Daughter, Shelley A Rardon; Granddaughters, Megan D. (Steven) Simmons, and Katie R. Rardon; Great-Granddaughter, Eleanor D.M. Simmons; Sister, Ilene Walker; and by numerous other family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his Parents, Viola E and Smith C Rardon, Granddaughter, Courtney R. Rardon and Brother, Gerald Rardon.