

WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS

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New Crawford Curator and Library Manager Join Western Reserve Historical Society Staff

*Crawford Curator to oversee renowned Auto Aviation Collection
Library Manager to enhance public access to WRHS Library Collections*

CLEVELAND, OH -- Two new museum/library professionals with high levels of expertise are joining Western Reserve Historical Society to head up integral areas of the institution: the Crawford Auto Aviation Collection and the WRHS Library Collections.

Derek Moore assumes the position of Crawford Curator of Transportation on August 31, after working as a conservation specialist with The Henry Ford transportation collection in Dearborn, MI, preceded by a vehicle restoration position at the Alfred P. Sloan Museum in Flint, MI. He holds a degree in history and is working toward his graduate degree in technology studies.

"Derek brings the perfect mix of historian and restoration specialist to this new position for the Crawford Collection," says WRHS President & CEO Dr. Gainor Davis. "The Curator of Transportation must be someone who knows transportation history, but can also properly maintain our collection and turn a wrench. In Derek, we have found both qualities."

As Crawford Curator of Transportation, Mr. Moore will oversee the WRHS Crawford Collection of about 140 cars, 10 airplanes, numerous bicycles, carriages and other transportation-related artifacts. He will work closely with the corps of Crawford volunteers, directing their repair and maintenance work on the vehicles. He will also assist in designing public exhibits and programs featuring the Crawford Collection, and recommend additions to the collection.

“The Crawford Collection is an outstanding example of early transportation and aviation,” Mr. Moore said in reference to his new position. “It is exciting for me to work with such a significant collection, and I look forward to bringing it back into the national spotlight as it rightly deserves.”

Paul Heyde recently began his position as the WRHS Library/Archives Collection Manager with the main responsibility of ensuring public access to the vast library holdings. This includes the detailed task of cataloging library and archival materials to enable document searches, active participation in inter-library services, and keeping an eye out for those items that should be added to the collection to maintain its integrity and value.

“Managing a library collection the size and depth of the WRHS Library/Archives requires an eye for detail along with an ability to see the big picture of the collection and what it needs in order to grow and be accessible,” says Dr. John Grabowski, WRHS Historian and Vice President of Collections. “Paul brings the right talents plus expertise in using social media to increase public interest in WRHS.”

Mr. Heyde came to WRHS from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in Buffalo, NY, where he served as Technical Services Librarian. He also worked as the Archivist for the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University where he earned his master’s degree in Library Science. He holds a second master’s degree in American History from the State University of New York.

With history and books as his two passions, Mr. Heyde said he considers working with the outstanding WRHS library and archival collections a perfect fit. “I hope to continue building the library collections,” he said, “while also making them more accessible and ensuring that the public knows about all the unique resources at the WRHS Library/Archives.”

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society is one of the largest privately-supported nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. WRHS preserves and uses its collections, historic sites and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of Northeast Ohio and place that regional experience within the larger context of state, national and global history.

WRHS receives public support with local tax dollars from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, to preserve and enrich our region’s artistic and cultural heritage.

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