

A LOOK BACK: THE HISTORY OF WRHS

1870: WRHS began its publication program with Tract No. 1 "Battle of Frenchtown, Michigan, January, 1813" by Rev. Thomas P. Dudley.

1881: After the funeral ceremonies on Public Square and in Lake View Cemetery, memorials, wreaths, and portraits of assassinated President James A. Garfield were given to WRHS.

1892: WRHS formally separated from the Cleveland Library Association and adopted a new state charter incorporating it as an independent not-for-profit organization. The campaign to raise money to purchase its building on Public Square was initiated by a \$10,000 gift from John D. Rockefeller and \$5,000 from Jephtha Homer Wade II.

1898: Moving to expanded facilities at 107th & Euclid permitted growth of library and museum collections and more frequent public lectures.

1911: William P. Palmer officially donated his extensive Civil War Collection, one of the largest in private hands at that time.

1912: The first classes of Cleveland schoolchildren were invited to tour the WRHS Museum and, by 1928, more than three hundred school classes visited the Museum each year.

1925: The WRHS costume collection began with the donation of the wedding dress worn by the wife of Cleveland's first mayor, John Willey.

1929: The Great Depression brought a halt to WRHS growth and only through the leadership and generosity of Laurence H. Norton did WRHS survive the 1930s.

1940: One of the original versions of the "Spirit of '76" painting by Archibald Willard was accessioned by the WRHS Museum.

1942: The Women's Advisory Council (now the Museum Advisory Council) was created.

1947: The Cleveland Board of Education assigned a fulltime teacher to WRHS to work with Cleveland Public School classes.

1953: WRHS celebrated the State of Ohio's Sesquicentennial with a year-long series of lectures, educational programs, and exhibits. The Bingham Doll House, built for Charles W. Bingham's daughters, was presented to WRHS by Mrs. Elizabeth Blossom and Mrs. Frances Payne Bolton.

1963: The TRW Auto-Aviation collection, formerly known at the Thompson Products Auto Album and Aviation Museum, was presented to WRHS.

1965: Robert Manry accomplished a solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in the Tinkerbelle, a 13.5 foot sloop that he formally presented to WRHS in 1967.

1970: The Black History Archives (now the African-American Archives) was established, one of the first centers

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1974: WRHS was selected to host the national conference celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Shakers in America because it possessed the Wallace H. Cathcart Shaker Collection, the finest in the world.

1976: The Bicentennial Conference on American Genealogy, the second national event ever held, was hosted by WRHS in Cleveland. The Cleveland Jewish Archives Program was formally established.

1978: The Concours d'Elegance, one of the first national exquisite collector car events, was hosted by WRHS at Hawken School.

1987: WRHS presented *Signatures for Liberty*, an exhibition showcasing one of the four surviving handwritten copies of the Magna Carta and other historic documents of freedom.

1991: The *Showplace of America* exhibit, accompanied by a well-researched book, told the story of famous old Euclid Avenue, Cleveland's Millionaires' Row, judged "one of the most beautiful streets in the world."

1996: WRHS partnered with Case Western Reserve University in the publication of the second edition of *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* and the publication of the *Dictionary of Cleveland Biography*.

2005: The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage opened, highlighted by an exhibition of local Jewish history based on collections and research provided by WRHS.

2007: WRHS hosted *Diana a Celebration*, a world touring exhibition, attended by more than 80,000 visitors in a four month span.

2008: WRHS hosted *Vatican Splendors* from Saint Peters Basilica and the Vatican Museums.

2010: Ground breaks for the construction of the Carousel Pavilion, built solely for the purpose of housing the restored Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel.

2011: The Jewish Federation of Cleveland successfully completed its campaign to raise a \$2,000,000 endowment to support the Jewish archives program at WRHS. In the same year, WRHS received a bequest of \$12,000,000 from the estate of Kay Crawford for support of the Crawford Auto Aviation Collection.

2013: The History Center undergoes a \$4.6 million dollar transformation renovation, re-opening its new spaces to the public in February.

2014: WRHS opens the restored Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel at the History Center in University Circle.