



Union Echoes

Newsletter of Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

The Mission of the Union County Chapter of The Ohio Genealogical Society is to promote and nurture an interest in genealogy by providing instruction, information, and inspiration, while encouraging members and others in the development of family histories and genealogical records for the benefit of future generations.

The Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogy Society

P.O. Box 438, Marysville, OH 43040

Website: WWW.uccogs.org

Librarian & Queries- Nancy Katzenbach nankatzen@gmail.com

Nancy is at the Marysville Public Library every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to assist all comers.

Send queries to newsletter editor at slowe49@icloud.com

All queries are FREE

In This Issue

United States Semiquincentennial



American History Time Period
Featured in this Issue:
1926-1976

Beth Sanders in period costume as pioneer woman Elizabeth Good Reheard. At the UCCOGS General Meeting at 10:00 am on September 19, 2026, in the lower level of the Marysville Public Library.



September	October	November	December
General Meeting with guest speaker Beth Sanders	10/6 Executive Board Meeting	11/3 Executive Board Meeting	No Meeting
Pioneer Woman, Elizabeth Good Reahard, September 19, 2026.	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting

LIBRARY VISITORS – If you are researching any Union County family, please sign our register. Other visitors may be researching the same family. Please indicate Y or N for permission to publish in Union Echoes, the Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society newsletter. PLEASE PRINT!

A Jubilant Golden Anniversary

Two hundred fifty years of courage and grace,
A nation born of dreams, in liberty's embrace.
From humble roots to towering skies,
A tapestry woven with hope and ties.

Sacrifice, the silent song we sing,
Brave hearts who fought for the dawn of Spring.
For brotherhood and love's enduring flame,
Building a future, forging a name.

In fellowship's gentle, guiding light,
We stand united, shining bright.
Guided by faith in something divine,
God's presence in each heart and mind.

Together we march into tomorrow's wake,
With purpose, resolve, and dreams to make.
For the future of all humankind,
A legacy of hope—eternal, kind.

Here's to the homeland we hold dear,
A beacon of love, year after year.
Happy 250th—may our spirits stay free,
A testament to what we're meant to be.

Beth Sanders in period costume as pioneer woman Elizabeth Good Reahard. At the UCCOGS General Meeting at 10:00 am on September 19, 2026, in the lower Level of the Marysville Public Library.



Lisbeth "Beth" Sanders, a resident of Union County, Ohio, for the last 27 years, will share the story of her grandmother who was in Ohio in 1804 and married in Ohio in 1807. Beth will dress as a pioneer woman and portray the life of Elizabeth Good Reahard, based on Reahard's original oral history recorded in the late 1800s when she was in her 90s. This will reveal details of life in Ohio in the early 1800s. Beth is the founder of LifeBio.com, and her Marysville-based company has helped thousands of people across the U.S.A. to share their powerful life stories with a voice recording app called LifeBio Memory, through phone or in-person recordings by the company's Story Team, and by using the LifeBio Memory Journal.

1926-1976

The period from 1926 to 1976 was marked by profound changes that shaped the United States into the nation it is today. This era encompassed economic upheavals, global conflicts, civil rights advancements, and technological achievements. Ten events stand out as particularly transformative, each contributing to the nation's social, political, and economic evolution.

The Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression (1929)

The decade began with the catastrophic Wall Street Crash of October 1929, which precipitated the Great Depression. Millions of Americans faced unemployment, poverty, and hardship as the economy collapsed. This event underscored the vulnerabilities of unchecked capitalism and prompted widespread calls for reform.



The Initiation of the New Deal (1933)

In response to the economic calamity, President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched the New Deal, a series of federal programs aimed at recovery, relief, and reform. These initiatives expanded the federal government's role in economic and social life, establishing safety nets that included Social Security and job programs. The New Deal fundamentally altered American priorities and government intervention.

U.S. Entry into World War II Following Pearl Harbor (1941)

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan on December 7, 1941, marked America's entry into World War II. This conflict unified the nation in a common cause, mobilizing millions and leading to significant technological and industrial advancements. The war also asserted America's position as a global superpower.



D-Day and the Turning Tide of WWII (1944)

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces launched the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France. This pivotal military operation accelerated the defeat of Nazi Germany and played an essential role in ending World War II in Europe. It was a testament to Allied cooperation and strategic planning.

The Cold War Begins (1947)

Following WWII, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union escalated into the Cold War. The Truman Doctrine articulated America's policy of containment to prevent the spread of communism, dramatically influencing foreign policy and domestic security measures during the ensuing decades.

Landmark Civil Rights Supreme Court Decision (1954)

The ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. This landmark decision ignited the civil rights movement, challenging systemic discrimination and fostering a nationwide push toward racial equality and justice.



The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1963)

On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. His death shocked the nation and marked a turning point, inspiring both grief and a renewed sense of purpose in addressing social issues of the era.

Passage of the Civil Rights Act (1964)

In 1964, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This comprehensive legislation was instrumental in combating racial inequality and fostering social integration.

The Apollo 11 Moon Landing (1969)

Neil Armstrong's historic steps on the moon on July 20, 1969, marked a monumental achievement in space exploration. It demonstrated American innovation and determination and inspired generations in scientific pursuits and technological advancement.

Conclusion

Between 1926 and 1976, the United States faced and overcame immense challenges, transforming its social fabric, political landscape, and global standing. From economic despair to technological triumphs and civil rights victories, these ten events encapsulate a dynamic century of change that laid the foundation for modern America.



World War II (1941 –1945)

Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) 16,112,566

Battle Deaths 291,557

Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 113,842

Non-mortal woundings 670,846

Living Veterans 389,000

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide)
5,720,000

Total Serving (In Theater) 1,789,000

Battle Deaths 33,739

Other Deaths (In Theater) 2,835

Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)
17,672

Non-mortal Woundings 103,284

Living Veterans 1,165,000



Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) 8,744,000

Deployed to Southeast Asia 3,403,000

Battle Deaths 47,434

Other Deaths (In Theater) 10,786

Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 32,000

Non-mortal Woundings 153,303

Living Veterans 6,262,000

Key historical events in Union County, Ohio, from 1926 to 1976.

The period from 1926 to 1976 in Union County, Ohio, was marked by profound social, economic, and infrastructural transformations that reflected broader national trends while also highlighting local particularities. These four decades encompass the profound impacts of the Great Depression, the mobilization of the home front during World War II, postwar growth and modernization, civil rights developments, and community celebrations emblematic of national identity.



The Great Depression and Its Local Impact (1929–early 1930s)

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 ushered in an era of economic strain across the nation—and Union County was no exception. Farmers grappled with plummeting crop prices and mounting debt, while small businesses faced closures and financial instability. Local relief efforts, charitable initiatives, and government programs aimed to alleviate hardship, although specific actions within Union County require verification from local archives. Bank failures and disruptions further compounded community struggles,

prompting residents and leaders to seek aid and resilience in challenging times.

New Deal Initiatives and Recovery Projects (1934–1936)

The New Deal era brought federal investment into local infrastructure, evidenced through programs like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In Union County, these initiatives likely funded roadway improvements, public buildings, and community projects, fostering employment and modernizing public services.



World War II Home-Front Engagement (1942–1945)

During World War II, Union County residents actively participated in supporting the war effort. Community-wide events, such as war bond drives, scrap metal collections, victory garden initiatives, and volunteer efforts, helped bolster morale and resourcefulness on the home front. Schools and local organizations played integral roles, often documented in community records and newspapers, illustrating the collective wartime spirit that pervaded the county.

Postwar Educational Growth and Infrastructure (1950s)

The postwar boom in birth rates, known as the baby boom, necessitated expansion within local educational facilities. In Marysville, school district modernization—such as new wings, buildings, or the modernization of existing structures—reflected the community's commitment to accommodating a growing student population.



Transportation and Infrastructure Advancements (1955–1958)

The mid-1950s saw significant improvements to local transportation infrastructure, aligning with statewide efforts to improve roads and highways. In Union County, paving, widening, and new route connections enhanced

mobility, economic growth, and access to markets.

Civil Rights and School Desegregation (1963–1966)

The civil rights movement reached local institutions in Union County during the early 1960s. Federal mandates and societal shifts prompted school districts to examine policies on segregation and equal access.

Cultural and Community Development (1964–1966)

The mid-1960s marked a growth in cultural life within Union County. Expansion or modernization of community facilities, such as the Marysville Public Library, reflected a broader emphasis on education, information access, and cultural enrichment.

Regional Cultural Growth: Festivals and Arts (1967–1969)

During the late 1960s, Union County embraced cultural development through festivals, theater programs, and community arts initiatives. These efforts fostered regional identity and social engagement.

Recreational Development and Parks (1970–1974)

The early 1970s saw an emphasis on outdoor recreation through the creation and expansion of parks. Land acquisition and park development projects contributed to the community's quality of life and recreation infrastructure.



Dispatch photo by Tom Dodge
Marysville's Ladies of the Pool were beside when a whistle blew to end a couldn't wait to jump in. The ladies are, from left, Dolly Sampsel, Kate Daley, Kathy Jobe, Florence Lentz and Margaret Mackan.



John Felton Ritchie: World War II POW from Union County

War Department Communicates Emergency Notice to Mrs. Fannabel Ritchie Regarding Missing Service Member:

Washington, D.C. — October 25, 1944 — The War Department has officially notified Mrs. Fannabel Ritchie of Marysville, Ohio, regarding her husband, Private First Class John F. Ritchie, who has been reported missing in action since October 3, 1944, in Germany.

In a recent communication from the Adjutant General's Office, Mrs. Ritchie was informed of the ongoing efforts to determine her husband's whereabouts amid the uncertainties of war. The letter emphasizes that being classified as "missing in action" does not imply the case is closed, and every effort is being made to locate and verify the status of all personnel.

The letter, signed by Major General Paulios M. A. Ulio, states: "Every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as prisoners of war."

The War Department also reassures that, based on legislative protections, financial support including pay and allowances will continue to be provided to families of personnel reported missing.

It is known that Private First Class Ritchie was held captive in Stalag VII A, a notorious POW camp established in 1939 near Moosburg, Germany, which housed tens of thousands of Allied soldiers, mainly French and Soviet prisoners, under harsh conditions. The camp was liberated by U.S. troops in 1945, bringing relief to many families awaiting news.

The Department expresses profound sympathy for families affected by these uncertainties and remains committed to providing updates as more information becomes available.



About Stalag VII A:

Originally designed for 10,000 prisoners, the camp grew to hold as many as 80,000 Allied soldiers from over 70 countries, enduring arduous conditions and forced labor. The camp's brutal history underscores the resilience of those imprisoned there and the determination of Allied forces to bring freedom to wartime prisoners.



These men from Union County were prisoners of war during the Second World War:

Walter R. Allgower
 Chester E. Baker
 Herman M. Blumenshein
 Donald L. Borland
 Gerald B. Bump
 Charles E. Carey
 Edgar Wilton Carr
 Arthur C. Charlton
 Frank L. Clevenger
 Kenneth L. Coons
 Paul E. Cowgill

Adam Fedroe
 Clarence W. Gamble
 Richard B. Graham
 Lanson Harold Harris
 Thurman E. Hughes
 Lewis G. Lowry
 Robert E. Mapes
 Tommie Parker
 Lionidas E. Penhorwood
 James H. Radabaugh
 Charles G. Riedmiller

John F. Ritchie
 Paul D. Rubeck
 James W. Sheares
 Ralph B. Shoup
 Adam E., Jr. Shuman
 Joseph Turney Smith
 Glen J. Stillings
 Bernard H. Swinburne
 Paul W. Thompson
 Harold Andrew Tillman
 Raymond Sheets Veley