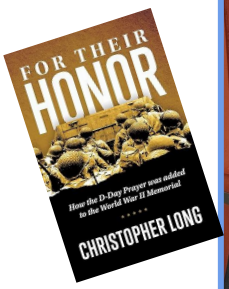
Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable
THE COURIER





Pastor Christopher Long

Chris Long is the President of Ohio Christian Alliance, a public policy, voter education organization representing Christian interests before the Ohio legislature and the U.S.Congress. OCA advocates pro-life, pro-family, religious liberty, First Amendment issues. Legislative successes include The Founding of America Documents Bill (S.B. 165) that requires the teaching of the Founding Documents in American Government and American History in the Ohio classroom from grades 8 - 12 in all of Ohio's 88 school districts. Chris was the initiator of the D-Day Prayer Project, the effort to add FDR'S D-Day Prayer to the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. The prayer addition monument was completed in December of 2022 and dedicated in June of 2023 as a permanent addition to the Mall in Washington. Chris is host of News in Focus, a weekly radio program heard on the Salem Radio Network. Chris is Director of LifeRead Volunteer Reading Tutoring Initiative, the effort to mobilize a network of volunteers helping Ohio read, tackling Ohio's literacy challenge for students and adults. Most recently, he is the initiator of Ohio Reads the Declaration of Independence Resolution, HCR 22, the effort to have Ohio school children read the Declaration of Independence this year in celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

GUEST PASTOR CHRISTOPHER LONG - THE D-DAY PRAYER
&
MEMBERS OF THE LAKE COUNTY 250 COMMITTEE
CELEBRATING AMERICA 250

Meeting 253

*** ***Evening Schedule*** ***

Social - 6:00 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Program - 7:30 p.m.

Member - $30.00 Non Member - $40.00

Guests Welcome

RSVP Required by Friday, June 5 , 2026

RSVP Contact - Event Coordinator, Franco
(440) 567-2414 or Email: francomichael2414@yahoo.com

Venue – Pine Ridge Country Club
30601 Pine Ridge Rd. Wickliffe, OH

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable

PRESIDENT DALE FELLOWS' JUNE MESSAGE



President Dale Fellows

Fellow NEOCWRT members,

I hope you all had a wonderful and meaningful Memorial Day weekend. We were represented at various ceremonies around the area and even in Virginia!

Our May meeting was educational and fun as former Charter Member Brian Kowell presented his program on 'The Horses of the Civil War'. It was very well done and well received.

Our June dinner meeting will be another special one with a presentation by Pastor Chris Long on the D-Day prayer and its inclusion at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., and we will have a presentation on America 250 by Lake County Commissioner John Plecnik, Debby Kocsis of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and a possible surprise guest. We will also swear in our new Officers for the upcoming year.

I do hope you can all join us for our last meeting of this NEOCWRT Year.

Presidents

1998 - Joe Tirpak (1) 1999 - Rob Bayless (2)
2000 - Norty London (3) 2001 - Bob Baucher (4)
2002- Bob Battisti (5) 2003 - Frank Yannucci (6)
2004- Ted Karle (7) 2005 - John Sandy (8)
2006 - Brent Morgan (9) 2007 - Mike Sears (10)
2008 - Bill Meissner (11) 2009 - Arlan Byrne (12)
2010 - Terry Reynolds (13) 2011 - Franco Sperrazzo (14)
2012 - Steve Abbey (15) 2013 - Tom Horvath (16)
2014 - Carl Dodaro (17) 2015 - Bernie Taub (18)
2016 - Bill Wilson (19) 2017 - Hudson Fowler (20)
2018 - David Lintern (21) 2019 - Kenny Godnavec (22)
2020 - Tom Horvath, Jr. (23)2021 - Scott Hagara (24)
2022 - Paul Siedel (25) 2023 - Tena Kegg (26)
2024 - Darrell Schneider (27) 2025 - Dale H. Fellows (28)

Executive Board 2025-2026

Founders - Joseph Tirpak, Norton London
President - Dale H. Fellows
Vice President - Cherie Godnavec
Secretary - Mike Driscoll
Treasurer - George Maier
Past Presidents -
Darrell Schneider, Tena Kegg, Scott Hagara
Event Coordinator - Franco Sperrazzo
Sergeant at Arms -
Mike Driscoll, John Kegg
Courier Editor, Publicity - Tena Kegg
Membership Chairman - Kenny Godnavec
Members at Large -
Dave Lintern, Bob Tribby

1998 Charters

Joe Abazzio, Dale Fellows, Ted Karle
Bill Meissner, John Sandy, Franco Sperrazzo



June Birthdays

June 4 - Ted Karle
June 9 - Pat Norris
June 19 - Dorothy Salem
June 22 - Bob Tribby

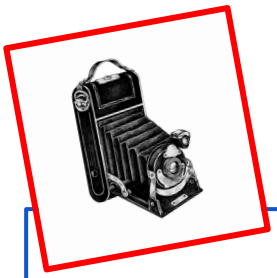
Welcome New Members

C. Ellen Connally
Bruce Gemmell
David Schroeder
John Ursem



Taking us "Back to Childhood"
Michelle Day
Rice Krispie Treats
Thank you

NEOCWRT - Keeping you informed



June 2026 Speaker Schedule
President, Dale H. Fellows

Attend - Enjoy

June 9, 2026
final dinner program of 2025-2026

Members of the Lake County 250 Committee
&
Pastor Christopher Long - Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer

Tuesday June 9, 2026

Do you have a NEOCWRT Logo'd shirt, baseball cap or tote bag??
If you would like.....
join in the fun wearing your apparel, carrying your tote bag to our Evening Celebration

Hello.... I foresee a photo op session!!!

2026 - 2027 Rack Card Release June 9, 2026

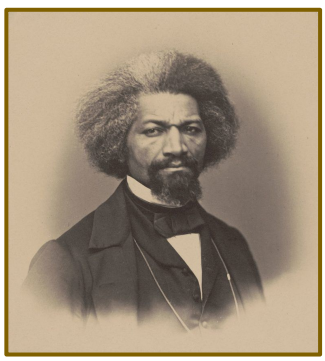


30th NEOCWRT Anniversary will be upcoming in 2027 Stay Tuned

June 1, 2026

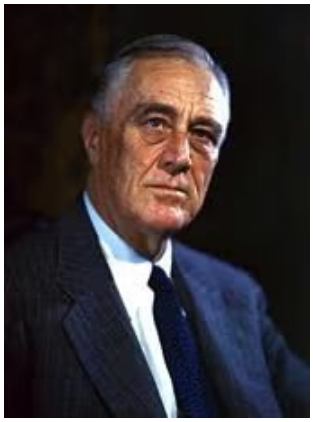
Executive Board

1. An Ad Hoc 9 member Protocol Committee has been formed to develop guidelines for our Roundtable. The Committee is also being tasked to review the 2024 Constitution
2. If you would like to purchase a LOGO'd NEOCWRT shirt, baseball cap, or tote bag contact Franco Sperrazzo. Louise Watson Mills is the contact for any of the ladies who would like to purchase a shirt or zippered light jacket
3. Please note - Dinner Costs Effective September 8, 2026
   Member - $35.00
   Non Member - $40.00



"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."
Frederick Douglass
LOC photo

Courier Editor, Tena Kegg
June 2026



Prayer on D-Day

given June 6, 1944 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt

June 06, 1944
My fellow Americans: Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest-until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home - fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas - whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them - help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too - strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister Nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen.

May 12, 2026



Treasurer George & Sonia Maier thank you for all you do



Presidents





Special thank you to photographer Terri Sandy

Executive Board

Memorial Day

May 25, 2026

Honoring Fallen Civil War Soldiers at our Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable Legacy Monument - Willoughby Sharpe Cemetery



President #27 Darrell Schneider
Vice President Cherie Godnavec



John & Terri Sandy,
Franco & Cyndy Sperrazzo,
Darrell Schneider, Cherie Godnavec





Dedication of Paul Siedel's Monument
Woodland Cemetery

Declaration of Independence

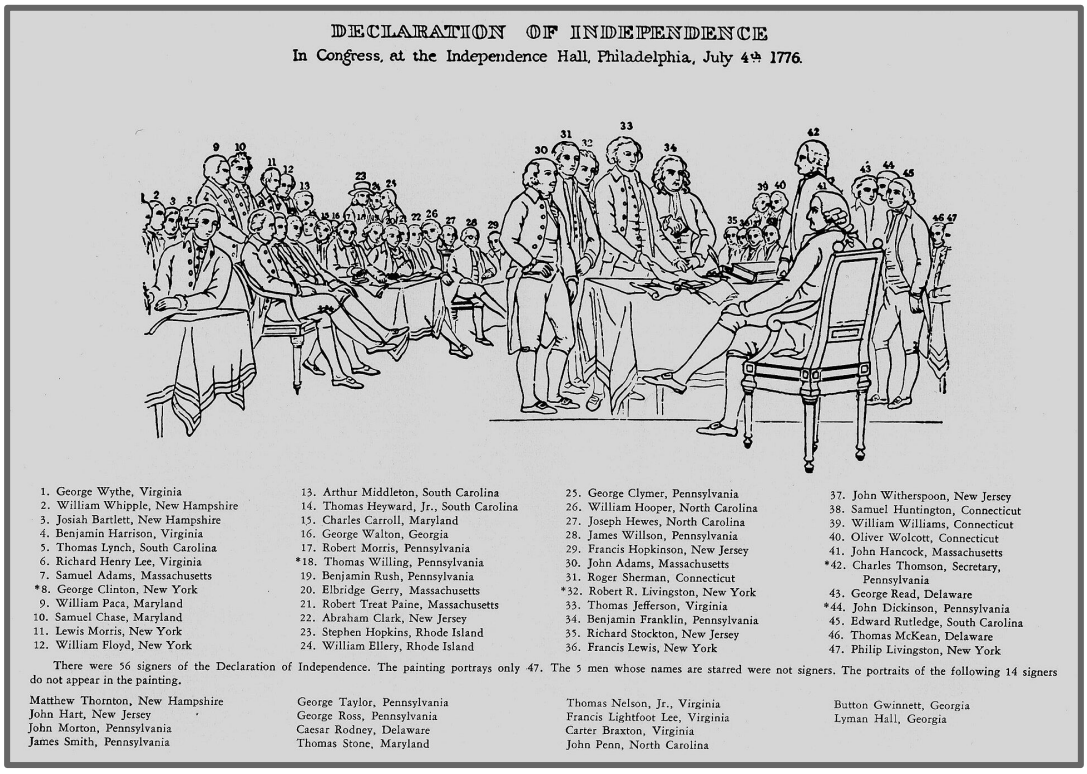
artist - John Trumbull
1817 - oil on canvas commissioned
1819 - purchased
1826 - placed in the US Capitol Rotunda
42 of the 56 signers





Richard Stockton, Francis Lewis, and John Witherspoon in the background of John Trumbull's painting *Declaration of Independence*

(1819)



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In Congress, at the Independence Hall, Philadelphia, July 4th 1776.

1. George Wythe, Virginia
2. William Whipple, New Hampshire
3. Josiah Bartlett, New Hampshire
4. Benjamin Harrison, Virginia
5. Thomas Lynch, South Carolina
6. Richard Henry Lee, Virginia
7. Samuel Adams, Massachusetts
*8. George Clinton, New York
9. William Paca, Maryland
10. Samuel Chase, Maryland
11. Lewis Morris, New York
12. William Floyd, New York
13. Arthur Middleton, South Carolina
14. Thomas Heyward, Jr., South Carolina
15. Charles Carroll, Maryland
16. George Walton, Georgia
17. Robert Morris, Pennsylvania
*18. Thomas Willing, Pennsylvania
19. Benjamin Rush, Pennsylvania
20. Elbridge Gerry, Massachusetts
21. Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts
22. Abraham Clark, New Jersey
23. Stephen Hopkins, Rhode Island
24. William Ellery, Rhode Island
25. George Clymer, Pennsylvania
26. William Hooper, North Carolina
27. Joseph Hewes, North Carolina
28. James Willson, Pennsylvania
29. Francis Hopkinson, New Jersey
30. John Adams, Massachusetts
31. Roger Sherman, Connecticut
*32. Robert R. Livingston, New York
33. Thomas Jefferson, Virginia
34. Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania
35. Richard Stockton, New Jersey
36. Francis Lewis, New York
37. John Witherspoon, New Jersey
38. Samuel Huntington, Connecticut
39. William Williams, Connecticut
40. Oliver Wolcott, Connecticut
41. John Hancock, Massachusetts
*42. Charles Thomson, Secretary, Pennsylvania
43. George Read, Delaware
*44. John Dickinson, Pennsylvania
45. Edward Rutledge, South Carolina
46. Thomas McKean, Delaware
47. Philip Livingston, New York

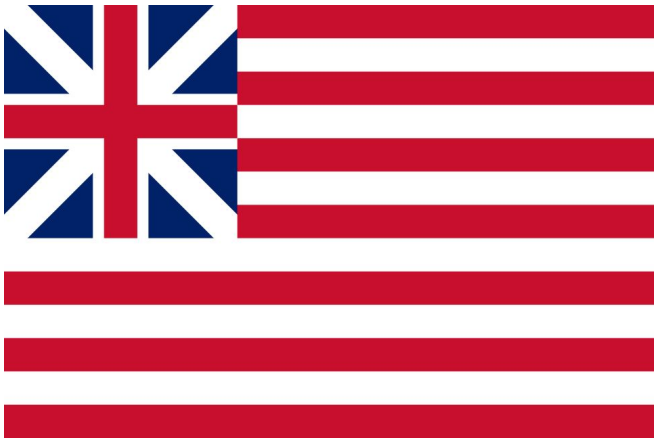
There were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The painting portrays only 47. The 5 men whose names are starred were not signers. The portraits of the following 14 signers do not appear in the painting.

Matthew Thornton, New Hampshire
John Hart, New Jersey
John Morton, Pennsylvania
James Smith, Pennsylvania
George Taylor, Pennsylvania
George Ross, Pennsylvania
Caesar Rodney, Delaware
Thomas Stone, Maryland
Thomas Nelson, Jr., Virginia
Francis Lightfoot Lee, Virginia
Carter Braxton, Virginia
John Penn, North Carolina
Button Gwinnett, Georgia
Lyman Hall, Georgia

U.S. government's key to the painting

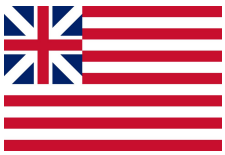
Continental Union Flag

adopted - December 3, 1775
relinquished - June 14, 1777



various names known as
The Continental Colours, American Flag,
Flag of the United Colonies

first hoisted on Lt John Paul Jones'
warship "Alfred"
December 3, 1775
Delaware River Philadelphia, PA



in the 19th Century known as the
Cambridge Flag, Grand Union Flag

Founding Fathers

Benjamin Franklin,
Thomas Jefferson,
John Adams



We are familiar with the three men pictured as they declared their independence from Great Britain to create a new nation. A total of 53 signers of the Declaration of Independence sacrificed by putting their lives and their families at risk. Following pages feature 4 of these men.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton



Charles Carroll of Carrollton

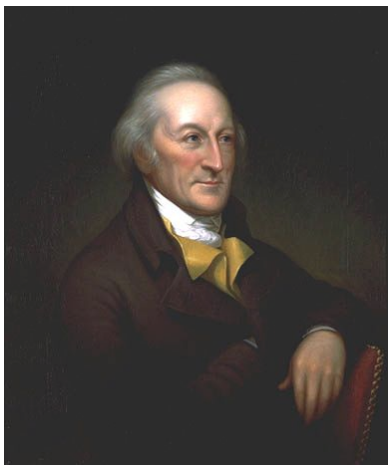
age 38 when signed the Declaration of Independence

September 19, 1737 - November 14, 1832
artist Michael Laty
ca 1846 - painted posthumously
Wikipedia



Mary (Molly) Darnall Carroll
(Charles' distant cousin)
(1749–1782)
portrait by Charles Willson Peale
the Carrolls had 7 children
3 survived to adulthood

- **born in Annapolis, Maryland**
- **he became a voice for independence in 1773 writing a series of letters in the "Maryland Gazette" under the pseudonym "First Citizen"**
- **August 2, 1776 in Philadelphia - he was the only Catholic joining the 2nd Continental Congress putting their signatures on the Declaration**
- **November 1774 - first elected office was with the 2nd Maryland Convention - seeming to null and void Maryland's 1704 Catholic ban**
- **fluent in French - he was the most formally educated, under the Jesuits in both America and France**
- **1776 - sent to Quebec with Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Chase and cousin John Carroll (first American Catholic Bishop) seeking aid from the French Canadians - it failed**
- **instrumental in the formation of Maryland's state government helping to write their 1st State Constitution and Declaration of Rights**
- **a member of the 1st Maryland Senate**
- **1783 - President of the Maryland Senate**
- **1776-1800 - continuously served in the Maryland Senate**
- **1777 - appointed to Congress as a Maryland delegate**
- **his Maryland estate Carrollton - 10,000 acres - considered largest slave holder w/a reported 400-500 slaves - in 2025 his wealth would be approx. 375 million**
- **provided funds for the creation of Georgetown University**
- **helped to establish the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad serving on its 1st Board of Directors - laying the cornerstone at age 90 on July 4, 1828**
- **last surviving signer of the Declaration**
- **died at age 95, 56 years after adding his signature to the Declaration of Independence**



George Clymer
March 16, 1739 - January 23, 1813



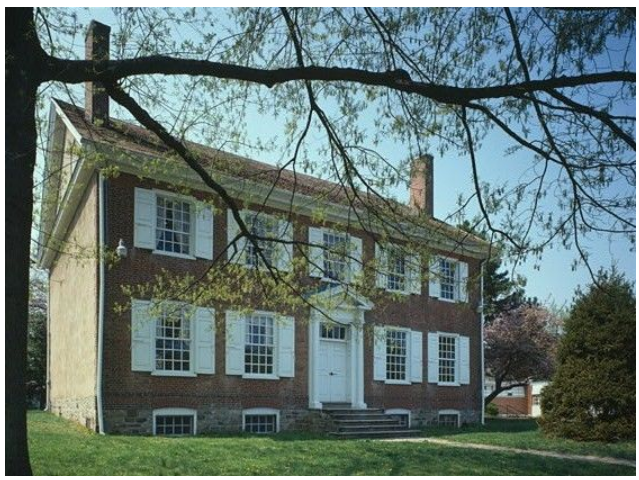
George Clymer

age 37 when signed the Declaration of Independence

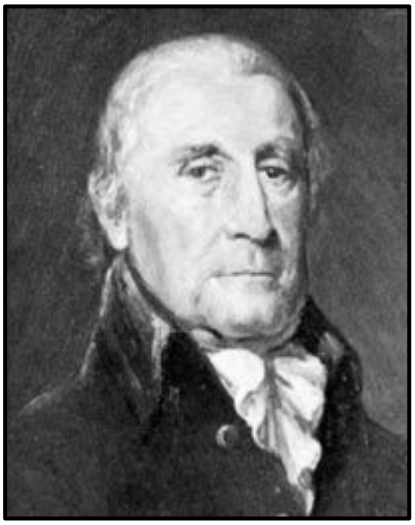


Elizabeth Meredith Clymer
March 16, 1739 - January 25, 1813
married George Clymer - March 22, 1765
The Clymers were parents to a large family
five children survived to adulthood
WikiTree

- born in Philadelphia, PA
- an orphan, raised by his maternal uncle merchant Judge William Coleman, who left George most of his wealth
- Philadelphia merchant, politician, abolitionist
- one of six to sign the Declaration of Independence AND the Constitution
- 1st President of the Philadelphia Bank
- 1stPresident of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
- July 29, 1775 - Co Treasurer with Michael Hillegas of the Continental Congress
- when Philadelphia was threatened by Sir Henry Clinton, he remained behind with George Walton & Robert Morris when Congress fled to Baltimore
- local Tories led the British to the Clymers' country home - the house was vandalized, furniture destroyed, wine cellars raided, anything portable carried away - Elizabeth Clymer and the children hid in the woods
- 1789 - elected to 1st U.S. Congress
- June 29, 1796, Coleraine, GA - member of the commission negotiated a treaty with the Cherokee and Creek Indians - his last public service
- 1797 - trustee of University of Pennsylvania, he along with other trustees took out personal loans to prevent school from closing



Summerseat - Morrisville PA
built 1765
owned by Thomas Barclay when George Washington used it as his headquarters
after War bought by Robert Morris
then in 1806 bought by George Clymer
Only known home owned by (2) signers of the Declaration of Independence
George Clymer, Robert Morris



Francis Lewis
March 21, 1713 - 12/30/1802

Francis Lewis

age 63 when signed Declaration of Independence

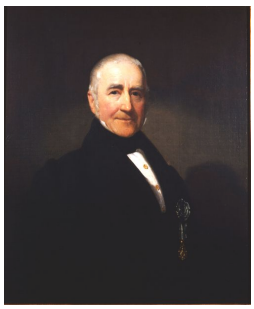


Elizabeth Annesley Lewis
August 22, 1715 - November 1, 1778
married - 1745
7 children - 3 living to adulthood

- born Llandaff, Wales - raised by relatives after death of parents
- worked in a counting house in London
- 1738 - came to America - living in New York City - became wealthy merchant
- 1745 - married his partner's sister
- thought to be the 1st businessman to visit Russia
- Fort Oswego, NY - French Indian War - British Commander's military aide
- 1756 - Ft Oswego attacked by the French, Lewis captured, given to their Indian allies, Indians spared his life because he was fluent in Welsh
- imprisoned in France, released in 1763
- 1775 - elected to the Continental Congress
- autumn 1776 - British Capt. Birch sent to destroy the Lewis home which was also fired upon by a British warship during the attack - Elizabeth Lewis, age 61, remained calm as a shot from the ship hit the board she was standing on. A soldier thinking the buckles on her shoes were gold tore them from her shoes. Elizabeth's comment "All is not gold that glitters." Pillaging the home, destroying valuable library books, pictures, furniture, and papers, they burned it to the ground. They took Elizabeth captive imprisoning her in the horrid and harsh conditions onboard a prison ship
- General George Washington ordered the arrest of two prominent British women who would endure the same treatment as Elizabeth unless an exchange was made. After her exchange, Elizabeth's health was in ruins. She contracted a fever, which turned into consumption, dying 2 years after her release
- 1779 - Francis asked for a leave of absence from Congress to care for Elizabeth
- 1781 - retired from Congress
- by war's end Lewis was almost penniless spending his life's savings helping to supply the American Army

Francis Lewis Descendants

- son Morgan served in the Continental Army, elected Governor of New York, Major General - War of 1812
- Great-grandson Manny Livingston killed at Gettysburg
- distant descendant, William A. Wellman,, served in WWI as a pilot. A Hollywood director in 1927, he won the 1st Academy Award for Best Picture "Wings"



Morgan Lewis
son
3rd Governor of New York
July 1, 1804 - June 30, 1807

1st Lieut Manning Livingston
great-grandson
February 16, 1843 - July 2, 1863
killed in action at Gettysburg

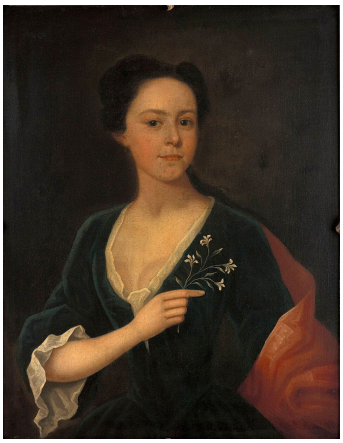




Richard Stockton
October 1, 730 - February 28, 1781
artist - John Wollaston
Wikipedia

Richard Stockton

age 45 when signed the Declaration of Independence



Annis Boudinot Stockton
July 1, 1736 - February 6, 1801
The Stocktons had 6 children
Annis was one of the first females in the Thirteen Colonies to be a published poet



Richard Stockton
marble statue by
Henry Kirke Brown
1888 - donated by State of New Jersey
2022 - in the U.S. Capitol crypt

- born near Princeton, NJ
- 1754 - admitted to the bar
- longtime friend of George Washington and a good friend of Rev. John Witherspoon
- 1st person from NJ in the 2nd Continental Congress to sign the Declaration
- oldest daughter Julia married to Dr. Benjamin Rush another signer of the Declaration of Independence
- British invasion of New Jersey - Richard hurried home moving his family about 30 miles from Princeton
- his Princeton estate, Morven, was General Lord Cornwallis's headquarters - the house was not completely destroyed or burned but was ransacked - burning his valuable library, taking or destroying belongings, furniture, crops, and livestock
- November 30, 1776 - captured by loyalists, at the home of his friend John Covenhoven in Monmouth County, NJ. Dragged from his bed during the night dressed only in a nightshirt and breeches, he was marched in freezing weather, presented to the British, jailed in Perth Amboy, then in New York. During the winter of 1776 - 1777, he was in the Provost New York prison, where he faced horrible conditions shackled in irons, starving, enduring the cold
- Mid January 1777 - paroled by General Howe a gravely ill, near death, Stockton returned home. He was falsely accused, without proof, that he swore allegiance to the King upon his release. According to General Howe "...at no time had a leading rebel sought pardon."
- 24 years served as a trustee of the College of New Jersey (Princeton College)
- almost 2 years trying to regain his health, he returned to law, but would later develop cancer, dying February 28, 1781 before seeing our country's independence won

Richard Stockton's descendent, Stockton Rush, CEO of OceanGate, was killed in the 2023 Titan implosion. His wife, Wendy Weil Rush, is the great-great-granddaughter of Titanic passengers Isidor and Ida Straus (Macy's) who perished in the 1912 sinking



Isador & Ida Straus
were lost in the sinking
of the Titanic
April 15, 1912

Sources for June Courier



Americana "Signers of the Declaration of Independence," Francis Lewis

Charles Carroll of Carrollton - The Signer

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence: "Discover Each Signer of the Declaration of Independence" George Clymer, Francis Lewis, Richard Stockton

Find a Grave: George Clymer, Elizabeth Annesley Lewis, Francis Lewis, 1st Lieut. Manning Livingston

History, "The Appalling Way the British Tried to Recruit Americans Away from Revolt," last updated May 28, 2025

History's Women: Elizabeth Meredith Clymer, Elizabeth Annesley Lewis

History of American Women: Elizabeth Meredith Clymer, Elizabeth Annesley Lewis

Kowell, Brian, "Who Were the Signers of the Declaration of Independence?" 06/19/2025

National Archives, Signers of the Declaration of Independence

The American Presidency Project, Franklin D. Roosevelt Prayer on D-Day, Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley

Phillipson, Daisy, "Where is Wendy Weil Rush now? Update on OceanGate CEO's wife," June 11, 2025

Wikipedia: Henry Kirke Brown, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, George Clymer, Continental Union Flag, Declaration of Independence (painting), Francis Lewis, Morgan Lewis (governor), Annis Boudinot Stockton, Richard Stockton (Continental Congressman), Summerseat

WikiTree: Elizabeth Meredith Clymer

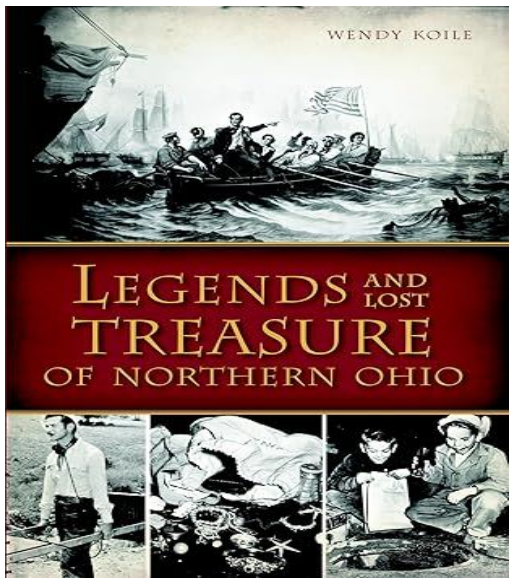
Area Events

Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio

Calling all true crime and history buffs to this engaging presentation on her book, Legends and Lost Treasure of Northern Ohio, by author Wendy Koile. She will weave true stories of treasure and murder from all over Northeast Ohio that involve bank robbers, counterfeiters and even ghosts. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Kirtland Public Library. Registration is required.

Kirtland Public Library

Monday, June 8, 2026
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
9267 Chillicothe Rd.
Kirtland, Oh 44094







Alan Gephardt
NPS Ranger

"Mrs. Garfield's Neighborhood" Walk
Presented by Alan Gephardt
Sunday, June 28, 2026 ~ 5:30 p.m.
James A. Garfield National Historic Site
8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060
Please RSVP: www.garfieldtrail.org/event-list

President James A. Garfield

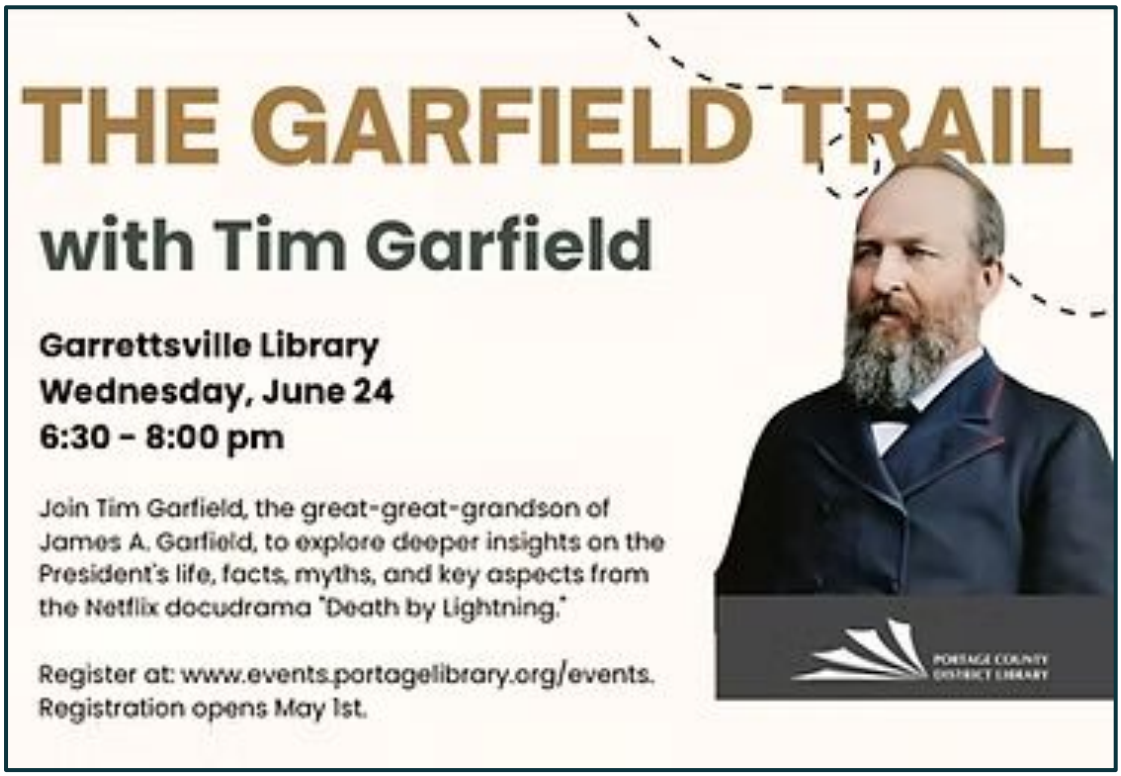
The Garfield Trail
From the Cradle to the Grave

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Barberton Public Library
602 W. Park Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203

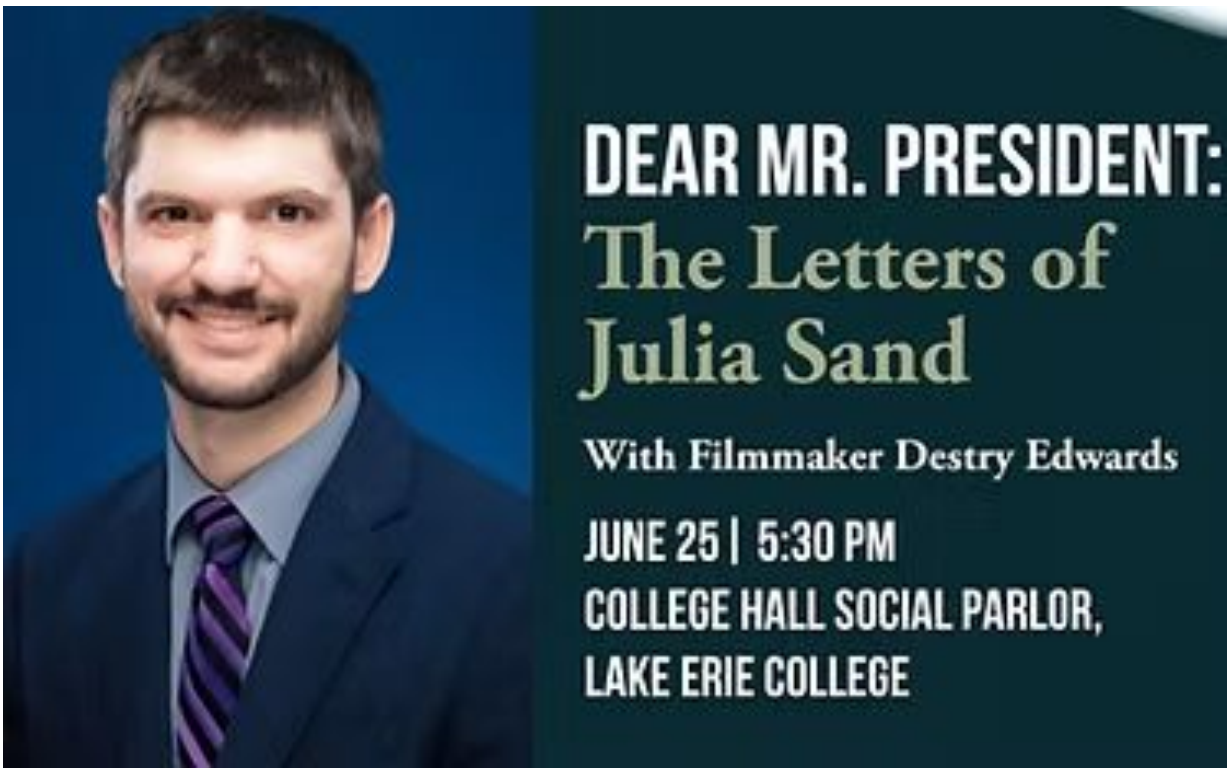
Our newest program presented by Tim Garfield, great-great-grandson of President Garfield, and President and Founder of the Garfield Trail. Join us to delve into the life of James A. Garfield, as recounted by a direct descendant of President Garfield

The discussion will emphasize four key stages of President Garfield's life: his formative years at the cabin in Moreland Hills, his education and early career at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College), his political endeavors at the Mentor Farm (JAGNHS), and his final resting place at Lake View Cemetery





Garfield Trail

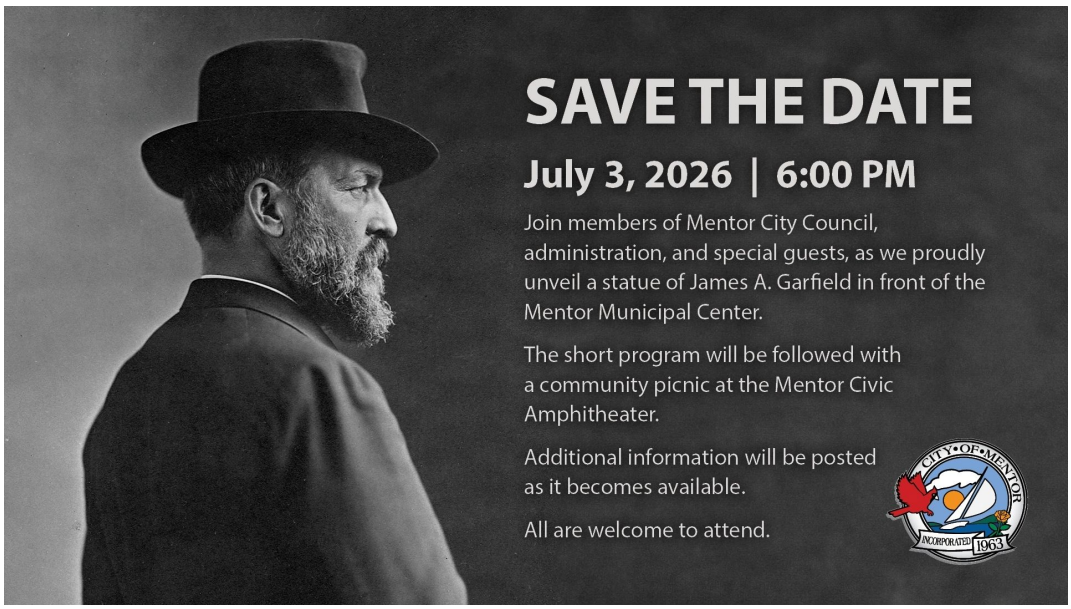


Friday, July 3, 2026
6:00 p.m

Garfield Statue Dedication
&
Community Picnic
to follow

Mentor Municipal Center
8500 Civic Center Blvd.
Mentor, Oh 44060

All are Welcome



Save the Date

Northeast Ohio Civil War Roundtable

All Invited - Members, Family, Friends



CAVOTTA'S GARDEN CENTER

19603 Nottingham Rd
Cleveland, OH 44110

Kindly Notice - 2026's summer time venue change

Friday - August 21, 2026
Time: 4:30pm - closing
It's a Friday...
arrive early for decent parking

Music

The Farm

So Much Fun

Garden Bar

Garden Center

Band 5:00-8:00 pm
$5 cover charge at door
food - beverages - to purchase
(no water bottles permitted)

Additional Parking - Now Available on the North Side of Redwood Ave. only a quick 2-minute walk across the street



Attend and see how your generosity is honoring those who have served our Country