

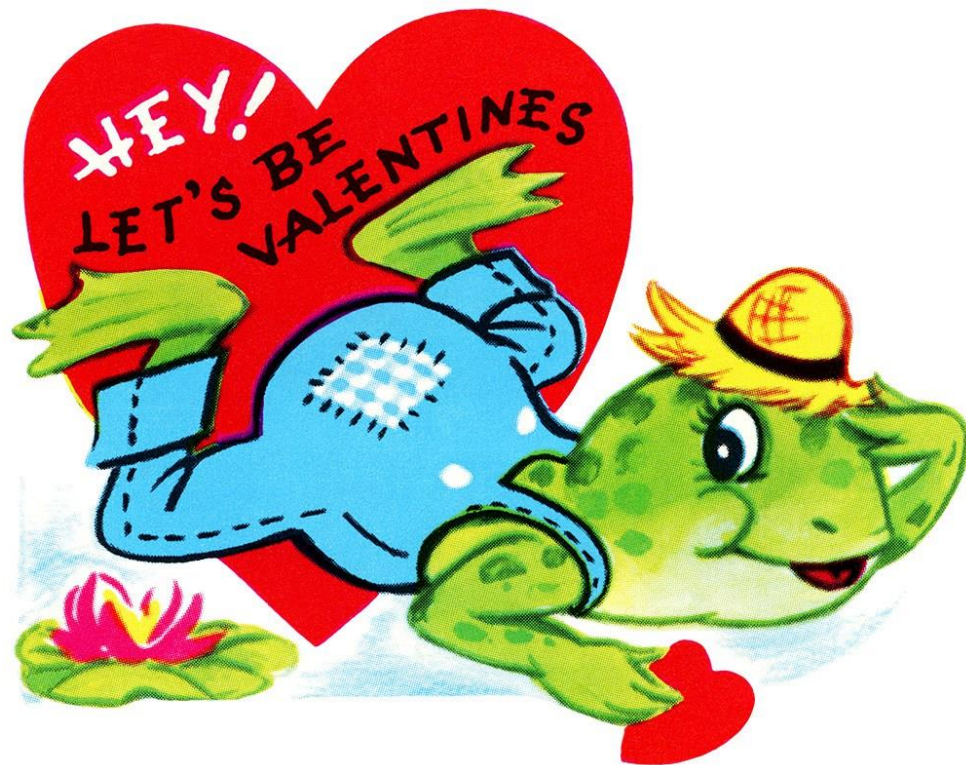


COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ReCollections

Volume 12 / Issue 1

Winter 2020



A "Frogsville Valentine"

ReCollections is the Official Publication of the Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society
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President's Message

By: Mary Louise Jesek Daley

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a good Holiday Season. As we enter not only a new year but a new decade, let us look forward to new adventures.

Last year was a year full of anniversaries and celebrations. A time to make new friends and celebrate with seasoned ones. We look forward to the same this year along with some great new opportunities. As an organization we look as much to the future as we do the past.

CNHS has decided to go back to having regular monthly meetings and will meet the 1st Monday of the month, unless a holiday. When we cannot meet then we will plan an alternate meeting or some sort of fun activity. We will be meeting at the Collinwood Recreation Center located at 16300 Lakeshore Boulevard beginning at 6:00 PM. Anyone interested in attending is most welcome. We look forward to seeing new people and making new friends. Any suggestions for meeting topics, speakers or field trips is most welcome.

Along with going back to holding more open meetings we now find that we can expand our Board. Currently there are executive officers and a few staunch supporters. As we move to our next phase, we are defining new roles within the society to ensure that all our efforts of the past bear fruit. The back of the newsletter always lists these executive officers and others who have a duty within the Society. At the Annual Meeting we will redefine these and officially install these new Board members. Really though, everyone has a role to play; being a Member is important to us in forwarding our message.

We thank those who are on our email list and always welcome additions. This is our way of keeping everyone informed of meetings, special events, our adventures or any outside sponsored historical related lecture or event we believe you might be interested in.

Our annual meeting will be held on February 28, 2020 at Muldoon's Saloon located at 1020 East 185th Street beginning at 6:00 PM with a short meeting. Dinner is on your own. We will launch our newest endeavor at this meeting as well.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a calendar of events. Please join us at these events. We would love to have you. Some are community events, some are meetings, and some are outside interests having to do with history. Either way we represent CNHS and our mission to share the history of the Collinwood and Nottingham Village communities.

One other project we are still working on is finishing the listings of our veterans of the community so we can showcase these come November. We have lagged behind on this project, but really wish to finish it to a point where we can share it. Thank you to all those who have shared their veteran's stories and we continue to look for more.

One of the most recent pieces of information we learned about by attending a lecture at Mentor Library, is that we have a shipwreck about two miles out in Lake Erie from Wildwood Marina. It has been identified as the USS Brig Sultan and lays in 45' of water ready for exploration. See a separate article on this.

Speaking of new endeavors. Several years ago, we were approached by Mr. James Jessen Badal, an author, to write a new book on the Collinwood School Fire. Of course, we jumped at the opportunity. We have been working now since before the 100th anniversary of the school fire in 2008, to honor those families and the children by making sure we had done everything in our powers to correct any misconceptions or omissions in the story including correcting any names that had been misrepresented in the past. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we announce that the new book has been published and available. This Annual meeting is our official book launch within the Collinwood community, and we are proud to be able to showcase it. Please see the enclosed book flyer. The book is available for sale. Our many thanks to Jim Badal for taking on this task and adding a new dimension to the story of the Collinwood School Fire story.

Mary Louise Jesek Daley

CNHS CALENDAR 2020

- February 3**
6:00 PM **Monthly Meeting**
Collinwood Recreation Center
16300 Lakeshore Boulevard
- February 26**
5:00 PM **Music Box Supper Club**
Cleveland Flats
Book Launch
7:00 PM Dinner
Author's Spotlight with James Badal and the CSF Book
- February 28**
6:00 PM **Annual Meeting & Book Launch**
Muldoon's Saloon at 1020 East 185th Street
- March 4**
8:30 AM **Memorial School**
410 East 152 Street
Collinwood School Fire Memorial
Program with Memorial School Children, along with
Command Staff and Engine Company 30, Cleveland Fire Department
- 4:30 PM** **Dinner at Chin's Pagoda Restaurant**
30708 Lakeshore Blvd., Northshore Mall
Willowick
- 7:00 PM** **Talk with Ed Kern, Author**
Collinwood School Fire Talk
Willowick Public Library
263 East 305th Street
- APRIL 1** **CENSUS DAY 2020**
- April 6** **CNHS Meeting**
Collinwood Recreation Center



*Collinwood Nottingham
Historical Society*

JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL MEETING & BOOK LAUNCH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020
6:00 PM

MULDOON'S SALOON
1020 EAST 185TH
STREET



THIS IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND BOOK LAUNCH
JOIN US FOR FRIENDSHIP, FOOD AND
AN UPDATE ON ALL ACTIVITIES COMING UP

(HOW CAN YOU GO WRONG?)
(ORDER OFF THE MENU AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE)
RSVP TO THE CONTACTS BELOW.
BY FEBRUARY 24TH. THANKS!!

*LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!
EVERYONE'S WELCOME!*

*FOR MORE INFO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT:*

COLLINWOOD NOTTINGHAM HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

PHONE: 216 - 406-3036 OR
EMAIL: COLLNOTTHISTORY@AOL.COM

The Collinwood Tragedy

The Story of the Worst School Fire in American History

James Jessen Badal

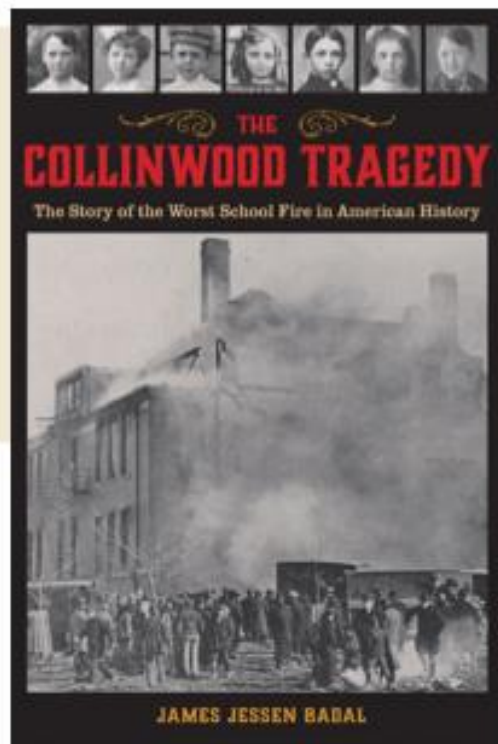
"*The Collinwood Tragedy* is a meticulously researched, clearly rendered narrative of a horrific event that will appeal to not only historical researchers and history buffs but to general readers as well."

—Ron Rozelle, author of *My Boys and Girls Are in There: The 1937 New London School Explosion*

"*The Collinwood Tragedy* is a quintessential 'good read.' Compellingly written, it is almost impossible to put down."

—John J. Grabowski, author of *Cleveland A to Z: An Essential Compendium for Visitors and Residents Alike*

The worst school fire in the nation's history occurred on March 4, 1908, in Collinwood, Ohio—a village east of Cleveland. The staggering death toll shocked the entire nation and sparked impassioned official inquiries about the fire's cause. Changes in the structure of school buildings and the materials used in school construction were implemented as a result. To this day, the Collinwood School Fire ranks as one of Cleveland's greatest disasters and still survives in the city as a powerful urban legend. As with all urban legends, however, much misinformation has accrued around the story of the fire and aftermath during the last century. James Jessen Badal clears up many of these erroneous assumptions with this vivid, in-depth account, also memorializing both the children and teachers who perished inside the school.



\$24.95 Paper

6 x 9 inches

ISBN 978-1-60635-391-2

Available February 2020

James Jessen Badal is an award-winning author and assistant professor of English and journalism at the Eastern Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. He has served on the board of trustees of the Cleveland Police Historical Society since 2001. His previous books include *In the Wake of the Butcher: Cleveland's Torso Murders*, *Twilight of Innocence: The Disappearance of Beverly Potts*, *Though Murder Has No Tongue: The Last Victim of Cleveland's Mad Butcher*, and *Hell's Wasteland: The Pennsylvania Torso Murders*.



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"The Collinwood Tragedy is a meticulously researched, clearly rendered narrative of a horrific event that will appeal to not only historical researchers and history buffs but to general readers as well. Mr. Badal is a gifted writer who focuses on the many moving events with clear-eyed, straightforward description, rather than resorting to a heavy-handed over-emotional treatment." —**RON ROZELLE**, author of *My Boys and Girls Are in There: The 1937 New London School Explosion*

March 4, 1908, seemed an ordinary morning at Lakeview Elementary School in Collinwood, Ohio, when fifth grader Emma Neilbert noticed wisps of smoke. Her discovery soon led to a panicked stampede inside the school—the chaos of nine teachers trying to control and then save pupils in overcrowded classrooms. Outside, desperate parents and would-be rescuers fought to save as many children as possible, while Collinwood's inadequate volunteer fire department—joined by members of the Cleveland fire department—fought a losing battle with the rapidly spreading blaze.



While some inside jumped from the building to safety, most were trapped. Ultimately, 172 children, two teachers, and one rescue worker were killed, and the Collinwood community was irrevocably changed.

The fire's staggering death toll shocked the country and resulted in impassioned official inquiries about the fire's cause, the building's structure, and overall safety considerations. Regionally, and eventually nationwide, changes were implemented in school structures and construction materials.

James Jessen Badal describes both the events of that day and the lingering effects. His extensive research reveals how the citizens of Collinwood were desperate to find someone to blame. Rumor and suspicion splintered the grieving community. And yet they also rose to the challenge of healing: officials reached out to immigrant families unsure of their rights; city charities, churches, and relief agencies responded with medical help, comfort for the bereaved, and financial support; and fund-raising efforts to assist families totaled over \$50,000—more than \$1 million today.

JAMES JESSEN BADAL is an award-winning author and assistant professor of English and Journalism at the Eastern Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. He has served on the board of trustees of the Cleveland Police Historical Society since 2001. His most recent books include *In the Wake of the Butcher: Cleveland's Torso Murders and Hell's Wasteland: The Pennsylvania Torso Murders*.

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Cover images from Marshall Everett's *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster and How Such Horrors Can Be Prevented*. Author photo by Tamara London. Courtesy of Cuyahoga Community College.



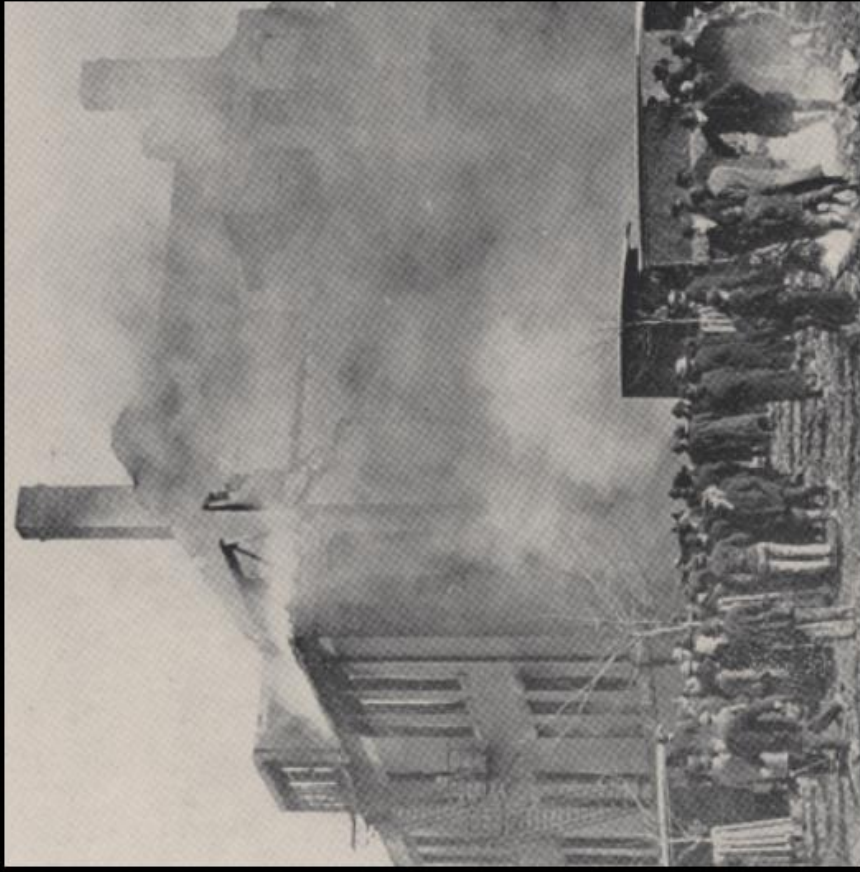
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THE COLLINWOOD TRAGEDY

The Story of the Worst School Fire in American History



JAMES JESSEN BADAL

BADAL

THE COLLINWOOD TRAGEDY





DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five in participating communities within the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.

In 1995, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, to benefit the children of her home county in East Tennessee, USA. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among her county's preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. "When I was growing up in the hills of East Tennessee, I knew my dreams would

come true. I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world."

Just recently, thanks to the efforts of the First Lady of Ohio, Mrs. _____ DeWine, our children, too, in the Collinwood and Nottingham communities can take advantage of this program. Go to imaginationlibrary.com and sign your children up for this program. HAPPY READING.



Letter from Dolly

"Hi everybody. This is Dolly.

"Before he passed away, my Daddy told me the Imagination Library was probably the most important thing I had ever done. I can't tell you how much that meant to me because I created the Imagination Library as a tribute to my Daddy. He was the smartest man I have ever known but I know in my heart his inability to read probably kept him from fulfilling all of his dreams.

"Inspiring kids to love to read became my mission. In the beginning, my hope was simply to inspire the children in my home county but here we are today with a worldwide program that gives a book a month to well over 1 million children.

"Of course, I have not done this alone. The real heroes of our story are the thousands of local organizations who have embraced my dream and made it their own. They raise millions of dollars each year and wake up every day with a passion to make sure their kids have every opportunity to succeed.

"It's been quite a journey but we have so much more left to do. I would love for your community to join our family so please take the time to explore our website. Let's share this dream that all children should grow up in a home full of books.

"The first step is always the hardest, but you'll never know unless you

try..."





Ohio First Lady Launches Ohio Governor's Imagination Library Program in Cuyahoga County

January 13, 2020



(CLEVELAND, Ohio)—Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine announced the opening of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library (OGIL) today in Cuyahoga County.

Any child from birth to age five can enroll to receive a free, new book from the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library every month.

"I'm delighted that Cuyahoga County's 75,000 children -- from birth to age five -- can now take advantage of the benefits of the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library," said Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine. "Cuyahoga County is our 55th Ohio county to offer the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library Program countywide, no matter where a child lives within that county. When we started this journey to create a statewide program to improve early childhood literacy, the Imagination Library was only available in pockets of Ohio and only countywide in 24 counties. We won't stop our work to expand until kids in all 88 counties of Ohio have the same opportunity."

Research shows that book ownership can be a predictor of future academic success. In fact, studies have found that children with just 25 books in their home were more likely to complete an additional two years of education. Inspired by Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine's passion for early childhood literacy, the Ohio Governor's Imagination Library is a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to ensure children enter the classroom ready to succeed.

"We are very pleased that every child can experience the joy and excitement of receiving their own brand new book in the mail every month," said Robert Paponetti, President & CEO of The Literacy Cooperative of Greater Cleveland. "For the past several years, this wonderful program has been available in select communities in Cuyahoga County. Currently more than 10,000 children in Cuyahoga County are receiving books monthly. With this announcement, enrollment will increase exponentially as there are approximately 75,000 children under the age of five living in Cuyahoga County."

The Ohio Governor's Imagination Library Program is working to ensure children in all 88 of Ohio's counties can enroll in Ohio Governor's Imagination Library in 2020 by providing a dollar for dollar funding match with each county that opens the OGIL to its residents. The Ohio General Assembly committed \$5 million to the OGIL Program in the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget.

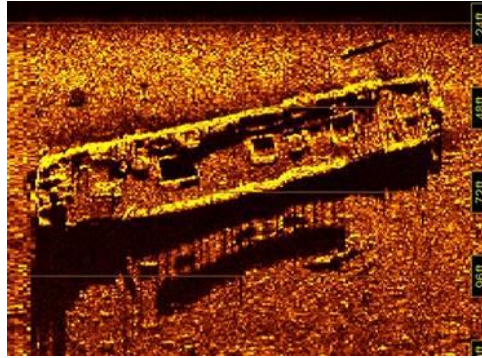
To enroll and learn more, visit www.OhioImaginationLibrary.org.

REPRINTED from Governor DeWine's Website

BRIG SULTAN



Niagara is a brig by definition. The *Sultan* was as well even though not built for war.

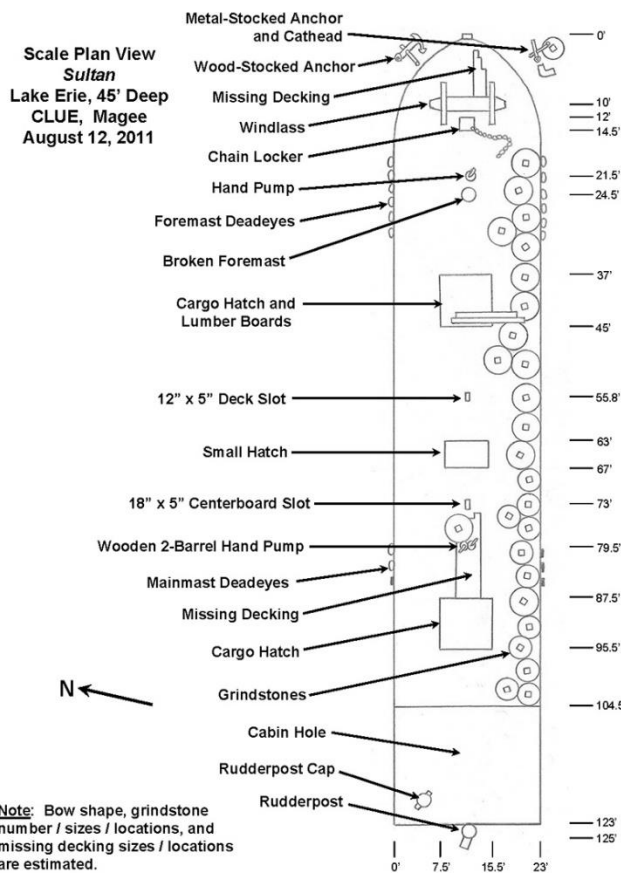


As members of the CNHS, I attended a lecture along with Elva Brodnick and Steve Bona, of the Maritime Archaeological Survey Team at the Mentor Library author series. The topic was about the Civil War period sinking of the Brig the *Sultan* which shipwrecked, per their report, off the coast in Euclid, Ohio. The fact that it sunk during the period of the Civil War, 1864 to be exact, and so close by, is what sparked the interest. Just to mention, we ran into several others we knew as well, including other CNHS members Robert and Debbie Gibbons.

As lecturer and marine archaeological diver, Kevin Magee, stated, “*the wreck of the Sultan was discovered by [Cleveland Underwater Explorers Inc. CLUE, member Rob Ruetschle some years previous, a dedicated effort to explore, photograph, identify, and preliminarily survey the wreck was not undertaken until the summer of 2011.]*” He further stated that “*CLUE was able to gather and evaluate a sufficient amount of historical and archaeological data to confidently identify the wreck as the remains of the brig Sultan, lost with a cargo of grindstones in heavy weather shortly after leaving Cleveland, Ohio, for Buffalo, New York, on 24 September 1864 (Van Zandt, 2009).*” You can read their full report with images at clueshipwrecks.org and look for the Sultan Final Report.

Our interest lies in the fact that the ship lies in 45’ of water, 2 miles off the Wildwood Marina! Not exactly Euclid, Ohio as we did try to explain to them that this off the coast of the Wildwood Marina in CLEVELAND, OHIO and more importantly, Nottingham Village or Nottingham, Ohio, as it was known in 1864.

The brigantine was originally built in Chicago in 1848. It measured approx. 127’ in length and 24’ in breadth, 9’ in depth, with two masts, one deck and square-rigged, thus the name, brig. It finds itself in Cleveland after some sorted history including being owned by Dibble & Co. who were eventually accused of selling U.S. government arms and good to the Confederates in 1862 and selling the ship to Thatcher, Burt & Co. who had the ship rebuilt for probably a third or fourth time.



The ship sailed from Cleveland Port on 24 September 1864 about 1:00 PM with a crew of eight including sailors from Fairport Harbor and Euclid, Ohio. It was carrying Berea Sandstone grindstones, lumber and staves to Buffalo, Ohio. They should have never sailed in the upcoming storm and as you can imagine, the ship “labored heavily” in the storm on Lake Erie who eventually won, killing all but one on board and taking the ship to its final resting place. It could be seen floundering from the shores in Nottingham and Euclid.

What was interesting is that descendants of Captain Webster were in attendance at the lecture, only known to the lecturer that evening and as always the history lessons after the talk were just as invaluable.

For more information on the Brig *Sultan* I referred you to the marine report on the wreck, its discovery and subsequent dives to discover more

about her. Of course, research in the off season has yielded surprising stories of which I have no room here to tell.

CNHS plans on exploring this more especially since the wreck happened off Wildwood and the sailors were from Euclid and Fairport Harbor. I want to explore the *Sultan's* 1862 voyage and connection to supplying the Confederates with arms since the *Sultan* would have then be seen as a blockade runner even if for only perhaps one voyage before returning to New York. **Stay tuned.**

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CENSUS

April 1st, 2020 is officially Census Day in America. This marks the twenty-fourth decennial Census. What does this really mean, though?

Our Founding Fathers believed a Census was such a critical tool in understanding our fledgling country that they included it in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2). So, every ten years, since 1790, we have undertaken this monumental task. Because it is in the Constitution, it is the Law.

Our Founding Fathers mapped out for the future generations a way to count every person living in the United States and its territories. By using population, not wealth or land, as the basis of the Census, they made a tool of government into a tool of empowerment for the governed. Thus, ensuring a representational government. This was a turning point, historically, for world government.

The Census counts the population but also has the ability to enumerate our assets and record our potentials as well as help to access the country's industrial and military potential. An individual's data is held secret, while the statistics give us a picture of population and trends along with the growth and/or decline of our cities.

From an historical point of view, the Census records hold a wealth of information pertaining to our ancestors and opens a window to the life they lived and who they were.

It is imperative, then, when you receive your invitation from the U.S. Census Bureau that you complete the simple questionnaire. For this Census, for the first time, you are able to fill out the forms online. Those who may feel a little more comfortable, may do so by phone or by mail. Remember, the personal information you share is confidential by law.

The overall statistics provided, though, are invaluable and will make a difference in our state, in our city and in our own community. This census data impacts our legislative representation on a Federal, State and Local level by how districts are redrawn. It also determines how more than \$675 billion is spent which supports programs and initiatives for housing, childcare, seniors, education, transportation, Veterans, safety and security and so much more.

Your response to the Census will make a difference.

Come April 1st – can we count on you?

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

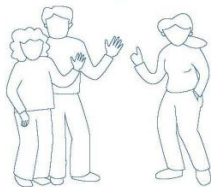
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



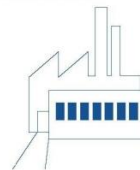
Census data are being used all around you.



Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



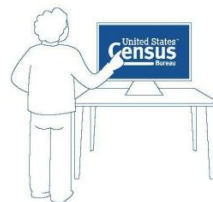
2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



Collinwood Nottingham Historical Society

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