

MIDDLEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Spring/Summer 2025

Village of Middlefield Restores Caboose

The MHS Board of Trustees extends our heartfelt gratitude to Mayor Ben Garlich, the City Council, and Village employees for their support in restoring our early 1900s B&O Railroad caboose.

We'd like to give special recognition to Chief of Police/Service Director Joe Tucholski for spearheading the project and coordinating the restoration efforts. The service crew deserves commendation as well: Jaro Mares for his exceptional work on the windows and Lexi Smith for scraping, priming, and painting. Mayor Garlich noted that they truly deserve the credit for this transformation.



If you haven't yet seen the newly-restored caboose, stop by for a visit and grab some ice cream! Thank you to everyone who made this restoration possible!



The Depot Opening!

Open June 1 - August 31

We're excited to announce that The Depot, our beloved ice cream shop located inside the historic railroad depot in downtown Middlefield, will reopen on June 1st for the 2025 season. This marks the 27th season of serving up delicious treats, all while preserving the charm of an authentic early 1900s soda fountain.

The Depot is 100% volunteer-run, and all proceeds benefit the Middlefield Historical Society. Stop by for a cone and a taste of history!

Volunteers Needed!

*Contact Evelyn for more
information at 440-382-8372.*

☎ 440-632-0400

🌐 www.MiddlefieldHistoricalSociety.org

📧 Info@MiddlefieldHistoricalSociety.org

Middlefield Historical Society
14979 South State Avenue
P.O. Box 1100
Middlefield, OH 44062

TRINKETS & TREASURES

SALE

(formerly known as the Garage Sale)



June 5 and 6

9 AM – 4 PM

June 7

9 AM – 1 PM

(HALF OFF DAY!)

Located at Middlefield Historical Society Century Inn – Underloft

Mark your calendars for our first-ever **Trinkets and Treasures Sale!**

Sale Hours:

Thursday & Friday: 9 AM – 4 PM

Saturday: 9 AM – 1 PM

(HALF OFF DAY!)

Donation Drop-Off:

Friday, May 30

9 AM – 12 PM at the Underloft.

What We're Looking For:

Small Appliances

Books & Linens

Jewelry & Pictures

Small Furniture & Rugs

Holiday Decorations

(Christmas, Halloween, etc.)

Pots, Pans, Dishes, and more!

If you're spring cleaning, keep us in mind!



We're also looking for

plants!! — cuttings,

divided perennials

(hostas, irises, black-

eyed Susans), and

houseplants.



Help Us Spread the Word:

Feel free to share the event on your social media or tell friends and neighbors. If you know someone having a sale, we'd gladly take their leftovers! The more, the merrier!

For any questions, or to arrange a donation pickup, please call Barb at 440-503-6444. We also accept donations from businesses.

Let's make this year's sale a huge success!

Postcards from a Small Town

"The place is a little slow." That sounds like a typical complaint from a young girl. It's nothing new. Back in the summer of 1913, that is exactly what one visiting girl wrote to her friend about Middlefield, in a set of postcards that was recently donated to our historical society. The cards were postmarked in Middlefield and sent to Cleveland. Most show scenes of the village, but one features an unidentified group of people. The recipient of the cards was Florence Evans, born in Cleveland in 1893.

Her father had been born in Wales and was a Civil War veteran. Florence attended the High School of Commerce, where she appeared in its 1910 yearbook. Her great-niece shared with us that Florence started her own candy-making business from her home on Scranton Ave. She never married and



Postcards from a Small Town... Continued

worked as the office manager at a lumber yard.

Later in life, she moved to what had once been her summer cottage in North Royalton, where she lived with her sister and her family. Florence passed away in 1989 and is buried in North Royalton. Her house remains in the family.



The writer of the postcards was Clara Pfister. While there were Pfisters in Geauga County at the time Clara wrote the cards, it's not clear whether she was visiting them. Clara later mentioned enjoying Chardon, suggesting that she may have had ties to the area.

Clara was born in Cleveland in 1891. Like Florence, she attended the High School of Commerce and appeared in the same yearbook. She was also the Assistant Editor of the 1911 yearbook, a role that foreshadowed her future career as a writer.

After graduating from the former Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University, Clara took a business course and worked in an office before attending Ohio State University, where she studied radio writing and acting. She began her career in little theater in Columbus and later became an apprentice at the Cleveland Play House, where she won an acting award.

In 1971, Cleveland State University published a book of Clara's poems, followed by an expanded edition. In 1972, she created Dial-a-Poem, where she answered calls with poems she memorized, as she was losing her sight.

Clara also became interested in handwriting analysis and created a puppet named "Big Mouth." She performed with the sassy puppet, giving handwriting analyses at the Gypsy Cellar (an old Hungarian restaurant on Buckeye Road) and at private parties.

Clara passed away in May 1986, and The Plain Dealer ran an admiring obituary celebrating her many accomplishments. So, how did Clara end up in Middlefield? While we can't say for sure, the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History tells us that the Eastern Ohio Traction Co. (later reorganized as the Cleveland & Eastern Traction Co.) operated an interurban line that ran between Cleveland and Chardon, extending southeast to Middlefield. This may have been how Clara traveled to our town.



Please let us know if you have any information about the people in this postcard Clara sent to Florence!

Article by Cynthia Spikell

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the recent loss of Jane Eaton, a long time member of Middlefield Historical Society. We want to recognize Jane's generous support over the years. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

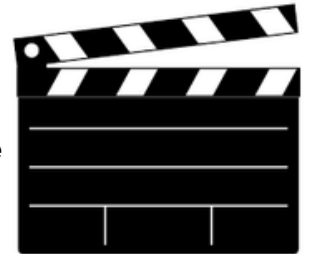
MHS Board of Trustees

President: Corey Wright
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Coming Soon: Middlefield Oral Histories

We're excited to announce the upcoming release of a special collection of oral histories recorded in the early 1990s! Over the course of several months, members of the Middlefield Historical Society interviewed lifelong residents of our town, capturing their stories and the rich history of Middlefield. These interviews, originally recorded on VHS tapes, offer a unique and personal glimpse into our community's past.

Currently, we're in the process of digitizing these tapes, and we plan to share the finished videos on our new website later this summer. Stay tuned for this exciting new release, and get ready to hear firsthand accounts of Middlefield's history from those who lived it!



Join the MHS Board of Trustees

Are you passionate about history? Consider joining the Middlefield Historical Society's Board of Directors! We have several open positions we are looking to fill.

If you're interested in learning more about MHS, please contact us at Info@MiddlefieldHistoricalSociety.org



Why Join?

- Help preserve Middlefield's history.
- Collaborate with our community.
- Gain experience in nonprofit governance and event planning.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Consider us in Estate Planning

The Middlefield Historical Society relies on the generosity of our supporters to continue **our mission of preservation, restoration, and education.**

If you are planning your estate, please consider leaving a gift to MHS to help ensure our work for future generations. Every donation, large or small, makes a lasting impact.

For more information, please contact us at Info@MiddlefieldHistoricalSociety.org.

Introducing Our New Website!



We are excited to announce the launch of the Middlefield Historical Society website!

Visit us at www.MiddlefieldHistoricalSociety.org to learn more about our history, upcoming events, or to make a donation to support our mission.