



Our newsletter for June 2025

Guest speaker to discuss the history of jazz in Toledo

The Board of the Toledo History Museum is inviting the public to a free presentation on the history of jazz in Toledo. The presentation by Doug Swiatecki will be Thursday, July 17, 7:00 p.m., at the Mott Branch Library. The Mott Branch is located at 1010 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio 43607. Mr. Swiatecki is a well-known local historian who in the process of publishing a book about the history of jazz in Toledo. *Toledo's Jazz Legacy* captures the Toledo's rise as a jazz hub, from its vaudeville roots to the birth of jazz in 1917. This book spotlights legends like Art Tatum and Jon Hendricks, along with many other local performers—some familiar, some long-forgotten. Please join us on the 17th for what promises to be an extremely interesting discussion.

New test backs up family's claim on the origin of dugout canoe

An intact wooden dugout canoe, acquired by the Toledo History Museum five years ago, may likely be one of the oldest pioneer artifacts in the Maumee Valley region. A new radio carbon dating test, funded by the Museum, has concluded that samples taken from the canoe are at least 240 years old and may be upwards of over 300 years of age or more. This new information lends strong credibility to the story that the canoe was given or sold to early Toledo pioneer, Luther Whitmore Sr., shortly after the family moved from Massachusetts to the Maumee Valley in 1820. The Whitmore family claimed to keep the canoe in the family with several generations of descendants until 1965. At that time the canoe was given the Toledo Zoo which put it on display in the zoo's natural history museum.

The canoe has a remarkable story to tell about the early families who arrived after the War of 1812 to find thousands of local Native Americans living along the Maumee River. Most were friendly and it became incumbent on the early settlers to constructively engage with them in order to learn their survival methods and woodcraft in this strange and harsh new world.

Toledo History Museum is temporarily closed

The Toledo History Museum, 425 North St. Clair, is closed while new exhibits are put in place. The target date for re-opening is mid-July.

Virtual exhibits will increase our ability to tell the Toledo story

We are expanding the website to include virtual exhibits. These virtual exhibits will increase the Toledo History Museum's ability to bring the Toledo story. Our first virtual presentation, "Made in Toledo," is targeted for mid-July. "Made in Toledo" will showcase items manufactured in Toledo highlighting the far-reaching industrial heritage of the Toledo area. More details in the newsletter next month.

We join the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor

Part of the mission of the Toledo History Museum is to link with other historical organizations in the greater Toledo area. We are now a member of the Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor. Their mission is to advocate for and protect the historical, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Maumee River Watershed while promoting their use and appreciation by current and future residents and visitors. For more information visit their website <https://maumeevalleyheritagecorridor.org>

Support the Museum

Your donation and membership will help the Toledo History Museum, a not-for-profit corporation, display the large and rich tapestry of the Toledo story. We are not only focused on the industrial history of Toledo but also are showcasing social, cultural, and ethnic parts of Toledo history. Donations can be sent to the Toledo History Museum, PO Box 485, Toledo, OH 43697-0485. Or, you may use your credit card and donate through PayPal [by clicking here](#).

Contact us

Please contact the Toledo History Museum through our website. Love to hear from you. [Click here](#).