

GREAT STONE VIADUCT HISTORICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, INC.  
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## Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society, Inc. announces the 6th Annual Winter Lecture Series for 2018... “On the Road”

**January 12, 2018 (Bellaire, OH)** – The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society partnered with the Bellaire Public Library in 2013 to present the 1st Winter Lecture Series providing the public with presentations of local historical topics. The popularity of the Lecture Series over the past 5 years has grown into an annual tradition, and many individuals look forward to these Wednesday night attractions held at the Community Room in the Bellaire Public Library. Now in its 6th year, the Series has been expanded to 8 speakers over an 8 week period in February and March.

Kicking off the 6th Winter Lecture season, the Great Stone Viaduct Society has decided to take the Winter Lecture Series “**On the Road**” to other venues that will allow others to learn more about this Free Lecture Series that promotes public awareness and education relating to our local history. While the Bellaire Public Library, with its excellent public community room, will continue to be the main site of the Winter Lecture Series, 2 of the 8 presentations will now appear “**On the Road**” in St. Clairsville.

The first “**On the Road**” presentation will feature a lecture relating to “**Historic Belmont County Court Cases**”, and will be presented by Judge Frank A. Fregiato and Attorney Daniel L. Frizzi, Jr.. Judge Fregiato will speak about the famous murder trial and hanging of the infamous love-struck killer Thomas Carr. Carr brutally murdered his young friend Louisa Fox after she was forbidden by her parents to marry him, and he was convicted and hung in St. Clairsville as punishment for his crime. Attorney Frizzi will speak about the famous court case that made its way to the Ohio Supreme Court after a dispute arose over the title and ownership of what is today the Bellaire City Park. This case involved some of the most prominent citizens of Belmont County, Ohio, who claimed ownership of the land, including John H. Sullivan (former President of the Central Ohio Railroad), and John H. Heaton (former editor of the St. Clairsville Gazette). Also included were prominent Bellaire business leaders William G. Barnard and Benjamin Rush Cowen, all of whom were pitted against the Village of Bellaire City which also claimed ownership. This “**On the Road**” presentation of “**Historic Belmont County Court Cases**” will kick off the Winter Lecture Series on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 6:00 o’clock p.m., at Marion Hall of the St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 212 West Main Street, in St. Clairsville, Ohio

The second “**On the Road**” presentation will take place in the Theater Auditorium at Shannon Hall, Ohio University Eastern, 45425 National Road West, St. Clairsville, Ohio on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 6:00 o’clock p.m., and will feature Professor Michael McTeague. McTeague, who is has been at the local campus of Ohio University almost since its formation, will speak about the 60 year history of “**Ohio University in Belmont County, Ohio**”, and its impact upon the region during those 60 years. His unique style of lecturing, developed over many years in the classroom, is sure to be informative and entertaining as he relates how the presence of

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Ohio University in Belmont County has positively impacted so many local high school graduates, and benefited the Belmont County schools and businesses.

All other Wednesday night presentations will take place in the Community Room at the Bellaire Public Library at 6:00 o'clock p.m., and will include the following:

February 14, 2018— **Robert “Bubba” Kapral**, Managing Sports Editor of the Times-Leader Newspaper whose presentation will be entitled: **“St. John’s Football: Celebrating 90 years of Irish Tradition”**

February 21, 2018— **David Simmons**, Senior Editor of Timeline, the scholarly magazine of the Ohio History Connection, whose topic will be: **“Bringing Canals to Ohio”**

February 28, 2018— **Larry Parker**, Master Engraver from Belmont, Ohio, whose topic will be: **“A Firearms History: Engraving with Hammer and Chisel”**

March 14, 2018— **Jeanne Finstein and Judi Hendrickson**, local historians, who will present a topic about wealthy families of upstate New York and Newport, Rhode Island, entitled: **“How the Other Half Lived”**

March 21, 2018— **Ed Yelochan**, a preservationist and railroad enthusiast with a passion for his topic on **“Roseby’s Rock: Where Tidewater Met the Ohio River”**

March 28, 2018— **George T. Sidiropolis**, a long time resident of Wheeling, who will discuss **“Murder Never Dies: Crime and Corruption in the Friendly City”**

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society was the recipient of an **Award for Education and Public Awareness** in 2017 from the **Ohio History Connection** because of its sponsorship of the GSV Winter Lecture Series. Each of presentation of the Great Stone Viaduct Winter Lecture Series is free to the public, and light refreshments are served at the conclusion of each lecture. The public is invited to attend to learn more about our local history from these informative presentations.

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**About the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society, Inc. :**

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society is an Ohio non-profit corporation chartered in 2012 as qualified tax exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The goal of the Society is to promote the rich local history of the Village of Bellaire and surrounding area, and to provide educational opportunities for others to learn and experience that history through a variety of activities sponsored by the Society. The Society has chosen the "Great Stone Viaduct" for its name since this iconic stone arcade bridge structure is associated with Bellaire, Ohio, and the rich railroad history of the community.

The Society is governed by a board of trustees consisting of professionals all having in common a deep appreciation of history, and desire to see our built environment protected and preserved for future generations. Believing that one's appreciation of history and desire to protect and preserve comes only from education, the goal of the Society is to design events, projects, and activities that facilitate educational opportunities to learn about that heritage and history. The Winter Lecture Series co-sponsored with the Bellaire Public Library during February and March is just one example of this educational outreach.

The board of trustees consists of 15 members who have combined their talents and expertise to forge a solid commitment to meet the challenges, yet accomplish the educational and preservation goals of the Society. The trustees bring to the board their professional talents as well as a desire to serve. Each board member has strong ties to community, and a genuine desire to learn more about the places where they live and work, believing that such knowledge will make any community a better place to live and build a business.