



America's Field Trip, Finding Lake County's Past

In just a few days, the current year fades away into the annals of history and 2026 will usher in a full calendar year focusing in on celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The upcoming July 4, 2026 will be a milestone in the making throughout our land. To help Lake County communities in this celebration and grassroots movement, you will find below some extraordinary experiences for you at some iconic Lake County, Ohio historical landmarks.

- Visit the James A. Garfield Presidential Site, the Painesville Railroad Depot - site of two Abraham Lincoln events, Mormon migration history in Kirtland or the Women's Suffrage Markers Walkway on the campus of Lake Erie College



- Discover the names of Lake County's 88 Patriots from the Revolutionary War who called our communities home. The marker may be found in downtown Painesville on the square. Walk through local cemeteries identify these men and women and some like Riverside Cemetery or Concord Township's cemetery on Concord-Hambden Road even have guided walks online. Remnants of the Girdled Road still exist in Concord Township (DAR marker) and in Leroy.



- Exclusive curator-led tours can be found at local historical societies, our three former one-room schoolhouses and the Lake County History Center on Riverside Drive in Painesville.

- Trails and Tales may be explored on the Buckeye Trail, Underground Railroad stops and at Holden Arboretum or the many Lake Metropark's properties
- Lake Erie-where connected waters moved a nation offer histories of shipwrecks, pioneer arrivals, locks, lighthouses, local industries and legends.
- Additional county stories highlight local aviatrixes, nursery era history, Elga Pomeroy, Dr. Rucker and his wife Mildred, the Crile Family, Cora Gaines, Casement, Dr. Amy Kaukonen and many others.



Francis Jennings-

Call to Action - While visiting one of the many sites mentioned above, it is a good start to actively engage in America's semiquincentennial events. Listed below are a few key needs for you to assist in finding *Lake County's Past...*



- **Old Lake County, Ohio Postcards circa 1930-60s** are being sought for an America250 / Lake County history framed collage. Mentor, Willoughby, Leroy, Madison, Concord Tw2qqp, Grand River are needed. Donate them or leave them for scanning at the Concord Community Center, 7671 Auburn Road, Concord Township. The project completion date is set for May.
- Letters, documents, past event programs, old photographs are welcomed at all Lake County historical societies. Help the volunteers fill in past, complete, add or record lost history accordingly.
- Visit the Patriot Marker in downtown Painesville, visit Patriot Cemeteries via online generated walks through history, visit online America250 websites locally and become informed of planned events.
- Visit your local libraries and consult the library staff about their 2026 collections of America 250 books and programs available for all.
- Encourage your local community elected leaders to become an official America250 Community and join them in planning hometown events for this milestone in American history.



- Attend as many America250 Events as possible. Consult online or via social media such as the Lake County History Center or the New Connecticut Chapter of the Daughters of the America Revolution for more detailed explanations, 2026 calendars and future celebration possibilities.

- Make plans to attend the July 4, 2026 America250 Celebration at Captains Stadium in Eastlake. Check local websites for more details this spring.
- Take and post your picture with the America250/Lake County bell at an event near you in 2026.



Submitted by. Dan Maxson - Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - The News-Herald, Community Media Lab - Volunteer Docent , Curator - FHHS / Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum - Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township