



## The Columbus Historical Society March Newsletter



### Bus Tour for Certified Tourism Ambassadors

The Columbus Historical Society's 2016 Columbus City Tour Series is a popular program of bus tours that take place the fourth Saturday of the month, May through October. This 2.5-hour tour takes guests around the Columbus area to locations such as Downtown, the new Columbus Commons, the Short North Arts District, German Village, the Arena District, Olde Towne East, the Discovery District, Franklin Park and more. The Saturday tours are open to individuals and small groups with registration and payment required in advance. Special tours can also be arranged for larger groups. Our bus tours are very popular and often sell out, so visit our [website](#) to learn about pricing, ticket purchasing and reservations.

On Friday, March 18 the Columbus Historical Society will be giving a private bus tour for Certified Tourism Ambassadors (CTA) of Columbus as part of the 2016 Columbus City Tour Series. The tour will showcase over 200 years of Columbus history and the CTAs will learn about landmarks, cultural venues and local lore, which help bring the capital city's past to life. The Columbus Historical Society has been providing tours for Certified

Tourism Ambassadors for the past two years.

The Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) Program is an opportunity for individuals to improve their knowledge about the Central Ohio region and city of Columbus to make a positive difference in how visitors experience our city. There are over 2,000 Columbus CTAs including restaurant and hotel staff and other professions that interact with the public frequently. This opportunity is offered through Experience ColumbUS (formerly the Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau). Information about the Certified Tour Ambassador program can be found at <http://www.joinuscolumbus.com/cta/>

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## CHS Board Member writes for *Senior Times*

"Postcard From Columbus" is Richard Barrett's monthly column in the *Senior Times*. Richard is a board member of the Columbus Historical Society and provides unique insight on historical Columbus. The current issue features the 150th anniversary of the Huntington Bank. Read this excerpt from his column below and click on the link to read the full story.

The Huntington Bank, celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, was founded in 1866 as P.W. Huntington & Co. on the northwest corner of Broad and High Streets. It

moved into a five-story skyscraper on the southwest corner of Broad and High Streets in 1878. The bank was granted a charter as a national bank in 1905 and became the Huntington National Bank.

By 1915 the Huntington National Bank had outgrown its 1 South High Street building. It purchased the Harrison Building at 17 South High Street in that year and relocated its offices there in 1916. The Harrison building had opened in 1903 as Columbus' first skyscraper on South High Street.

To read the full column, visit page four of the Senior Times [website](#)

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## Artifacts Added to the CHS Collection

The Columbus Historical Society was honored to receive several collections from former Mayor of Columbus Michael Coleman in December and January. Coleman, the first African American mayor, was also the longest serving mayor in Columbus history, having held the post for 16 years. The collection holds a variety of items from his years in office. Pictured here are a pan folded by WWE star Mark Henry on a visit to Columbus, a bowling pin signed by professional bowling greats Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Chris Barnes, a Kerry/Edwards campaign button and a signed and framed version of the 2006 "Amber Alert" stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service. The collection is fairly new to us, so we are still investigating the background of the items as we catalogue them, but we are excited to have the opportunity to preserve these pieces of Columbus history.

If you are interested in donating items to The Columbus Historical Society, please email us at [info@columbushistory.org](mailto:info@columbushistory.org)

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## Franklin County's Missing Sheriff

Wheeler J. Young (07/21/1855 – 05/26/1928) was serving as Franklin County Deputy Sheriff when he was elected Franklin County Sheriff in 1886. He disappeared on his last day in office, 12/31/1899. Some months before he disappeared, he had been sued for breach of promise to marry by Florence Burgett. Upon his disappearance, it was discovered that he had made an assignment for benefit of creditors to Columbus attorney Henry J. Booth. Bondsmen, including former Columbus Mayor George Karb and former Franklin County Sheriff James Ross reportedly put up \$17,000 to pay off Young's debts. Young was seen in Fayetteville, Arkansas and the bondsmen searched for him there, but failed to find him. After a seven-year absence, Young was declared dead in probate court so that his brother Ed could inherit his estate. Subsequently, Young married Amanda Victoria Pate (nee Meeks) and resided in Howard County, Arkansas where he died in 1928.

This story comes to us from the Columbus Metropolitan Library. For more information of the mystery of Sheriff Wheeler, visit the Library's [website](#)

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## March Volunteer Spotlight

The Columbus Historical Society is happy to announce two new interns! Kaitlyn Edwards and Avriel Ralys will be volunteering as Communication Interns, helping the Columbus Historical Society with the monthly newsletters. Avriel and Kaitlyn have also been writing content for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter posts and working to ensure regular postings on these platforms. They are both Strategic Communication majors at The Ohio State University.

- Kaitlyn is a third-year student, interested in public relations and marketing from Dayton, Ohio. She is an Office Assistant in Morrill Tower and is also involved in Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity on campus.
- Avriel is a fourth-year student from Chesterland, Ohio. She is graduating in May 2016 and is interested in branding, social media and public relations. She is a Resident Advisor in Morrill Tower and also works at Hot Chicken Takeover in Columbus's North Market.

From Kaitlyn and Avriel:

Hello readers! We're very excited to be working with the Columbus Historical Society as Communication Interns. So far, we've been able to come up with a set schedule of 'themed' days for CHS's social media postings. We have 'Moment in History Monday', 'Trivia Tuesday', 'What's up Wednesday', 'Throwback Thursday' and Friday we will post

the trivia answer from Tuesday. Through this experience, we're hoping to learn what kinds of content and topics you, as a supporter of the CHS, would like to see and work to provide that. Be sure to check the Columbus Historical Society's social media to see some of our work!

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