

H. William (Bill) Lawson

Executive Director

Bill Lawson is the Director of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society in Youngstown, Ohio, serving in that position since 1991. He has been employed by MVHS in a variety of capacities since 1987.

Lawson holds B. A. and M. A. Degrees in History from Youngstown State University. He served as a Trustee of the Ohio Museums Association from 1993 to 1995. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums from 1997 to 2005, and was President of this Association from 2002-2003.

Lawson is a graduate of the Leadership Mahoning Valley community leadership program. His community service also includes the Board of Trustees for First Night Youngstown, and annual alcohol-free, family oriented New Year's Eve event in downtown, the Board of Trustees of Wick Neighbors, Inc., a non-profit development corporation spearheading new development initiatives in the Wick Avenue cultural district and Smoky Hollow neighborhood, working as a volunteer youth minister at his parish, St. Patrick Church of Youngstown, and involvement in the Alliance for Congregational Transformation Influencing Our Neighborhoods (ACTION), a faith-based community organizing initiative. He has two children and lives in Youngstown.

Mahoning Memories

The director of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society will share anecdotes and historical interpretations of the images from the Historical Society's archives included in the book *Mahoning Memories*. Published in 1995 in advance of the bicentennial of Youngstown and sesquicentennial of Mahoning County, this book explores the Valley's history using images left to us by the people who made this region what it was and is today. (slideshow)

Downtown Youngstown Walking Tour

Explore the architecture and history of Youngstown's Central Square on this informative walking tour. Photographs used during the tour to show historical perspective. *Offered May-October only.*

History of Downtown Youngstown Development

Explore the architecture and history of Youngstown's Central Square in a slideshow presentation and photographs used to show historical perspective.

An Arts & Crafts Connection:

Youngstown and Pasadena, California

What do two Mahoning Valley sisters, a famous Southern California architectural firm and the widow and son of a late U.S. President have in common? The Arts & Crafts movement of the early 20th century! Learn through historical and current day images about how this cast of characters worked directly and indirectly to bring Arts & Crafts philosophies and designs to life in three magnificent homes: one in Youngstown and two in Pasadena.

Iron and Steel in the Mahoning Valley

Many breathtaking images from the MVHS collections tell the story of why this industry took hold in the Valley. What were the socio-economic effects of iron and steelmaking on the community, and why it collapsed around 1980?

Jessica Trickett,

Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager

As Collections Manager, Jessica oversees the collections department and develops museum exhibits and public programs. She has lectured on museum careers to museum studies students and regularly presents collections-based programs to university students of multiple disciplines. She has also presented lectures to several local civic organizations, exploring themes in local history including ethnic traditions, social and gender roles, and local material culture. She holds an M.A. in History and a certificate in Historic Preservation from Youngstown State University.

Form and Function: The Beauty of Glass

Vessels of glass have been used for everyday containers as well as beautiful works of art for at least 3,500 years. This presentation explores ancient and modern glass, glass making techniques and examples of glassware as works of art. It features practical tips for cleaning and maintaining pieces of glassware. (slides and objects for view)

Who is the Fairest of Them All:

Evolving Images of Beauty

Throughout history, men and women have attempted to achieve the ideal image, a concept that is constantly changing. This presentation explores some of the ways that men and women have attempted to transform themselves into the contemporary ideal form. It is a journey through a changing image of ideal beauty and the tools used to achieve that ideal. (slides and objects for view)

Lea Mollman

Registrar

Lea Mollman has been at the Historical Society since 1992 as a Guide, Curatorial Assistant, Education Assistant, Curator of Education and now Registrar. She holds B. A. and M. A. Degrees in History from Youngstown State University, and was the recipient of the Marion G. Blum Graduate Essay Prize. Lea enjoys telling stories about the past that enable people to relate the past to the present

Are you smarter than a local Historian? “Mahoning Valley Experience Quiz Show”

A 12-minute video presentation of Mahoning Valley History followed by questions for two or three teams. Includes bonus points and prizes for all! This is a ½ hour program that is fun, informative and works especially well with audiences of mixed ages and interests.

Tea & Polite Society, 1900-1920

This presentation covers high society manners as late Victorian strictures relaxed into Edwardian propriety. With pictures, graphics, and original artifacts, learn about the niceties of dress, calling cards and afternoon tea for the elite. Do you know the difference between a formal tea and high tea, what to serve at a tea dance, or how to invite your friends to meet a visiting dignitary? This talk will answer all the questions!

Greystone Through the Years

This 30-45 minute presentation with slides shows how the building that now houses the Arms Family Museum of Local History has evolved over the last century. From original drawings, photographs of the house over many decades and images of the historic house museum it is today, viewers will learn about the family that built *Greystone* in the Arts and Crafts architectural style, stories and quotes from the former owners, Olive F.A. Arms and Wilford P. Arms.

Pamela Speis

Archivist

Pamela Speis received her Master's Degree in History from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and has been Archivist at the Historical Society since 1989.

Exploring your Roots at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

This presentation is an introduction to the Mahoning Valley Historical Society's archives. It is meant as a general overview of the types of records and resources we have available, including some of the more unusual resources, e.g. coverlets, portraits, daybooks.

Keeping your Family's Past

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

This presentation provides discussion and advice on the proper care and preservation of photographic formats, manuscripts and ephemera that make up a family's history. Talk covers how to listen to a family heirloom or item, what the item can tell you and how to care for the item for future generations.

Organizing a Small Archives/Library

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

Geared toward organizations that have a need for their own archives, this presentation provides practical information and economic solutions to re-housing issues. Organization and establishment of an archive including archival theory and practice are discussed. Hands on activities are also possible with this presentation.

German-Americans in the Mahoning Valley

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

This program, presented at MVHS, illustrates the German-American history through photographs, slides, manuscripts and other related artifacts from the collection, which help to relate the story of the German-Americans in the Mahoning Valley on display. Social, Religious, Economic, Political and Cultural elements discussed.

Care of Photographic Materials

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

This is an introduction and in-depth discussion of the types of photographic formats and the proper housing for each. The talk is tailored to the general public with economic and museum quality solutions recommended.

Care of Manuscripts and Rare Books

Pamela L. Speis, Archivist

This is an introduction and in-depth discussion of manuscript formats and the proper housing for each. Rare books are also covered. Economic as well as museum quality solutions will be recommended.

Traci Manning Curator of Education

Pioneers of the Valley

Explore the lives of the earliest settlers to the Mahoning Valley through original and replicated hands-on artifacts, maps, historical information and stories. This 45-minute presentation examines what pioneer life was like for settlers living in the Valley between 1796 and 1830. Artifacts include lighting equipment, household tools, kitchen “appliances” and toys.

Native Americans of the Valley

Explore the culture, life and lore of the Eastern Woodland Indians, the earliest occupants of the Mahoning Valley. Using original and replicated hands-on artifacts, this 45-minute presentation will examine the daily activities, philosophy and legacy of the Valley’s earliest residents. Artifacts include stone tools and hunting implements, beaded clothing, jewelry, food and utensils, plant specimens and games.