New documentary featured Summit County residents’ involvement in World War I

The new local production LOST VOICES OF THE GREAT WAR: SUMMIT COUNTY IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR premiered on Western Reserve PBS on Monday, Nov. 12, at 9 PM.

A co-production of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and The University of Akron, the documentary recounts the story of Summit County residents’ experiences at home and overseas during the First World War. It uses dramatic reenactment footage, narration, interviews, period music and sound effects to bring to life local hidden collections of 100-year-old letters, film, photographs, images and documents.

A wide variety of voices tell the story, including:

- Mary Gladwin, an Akronite who volunteered to serve with the International Red Cross three years before the United States declared war in 1917.
- F. A. Seiberling, co-founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, which produced blimps, tires and gas masks for the war, and his son, Fred, who enlisted with the Ohio National Guard before going overseas to serve with “Battery B” of the First Ohio Field Artillery.
- Several “Goodyearites,” including Lester S. Himmelberger, who served in the “Balloon Division.”
- Akronite Charles C. Jackson, the only known decorated African American officer from Ohio, who was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.
- Grace Goulder, a Hudson resident, who quit her job as the first female reporter with the Cleveland Plain Dealer to serve in France with the YWCA.

LOST VOICES OF THE GREAT WAR was produced by Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens and The University of Akron as part of a larger partnership, Summit County and the Great War, formed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of American involvement in the First World War. More information on this collaboration and the film may be found at www.summitwwi.org.

The production was screened at Akron-Summit County’s Main Branch Library on Oct. 30 by an audience of more than 300 people. Stan Hywet staff and volunteers, as well as the Akron-Summit County Library, Summit County Historical Society, the University of Akron Archival Services, and the MAPS Air Museum, were all involved in the research and production of this unique look into the lives of Summit County residents during World War I.

The documentary was made possible, in part, by Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Locally Focused Short-Form Features Created

In the past Western Reserve Public Media has aired short features in between programs that highlight local people and places.

Thanks to the addition of personnel and equipment in our Production Department, we will be adding to this library. Watch for the features below and more, which will be broadcast at various times between programs on WNEO-WEAO and online.

Holiday Tradition Marches On in East Liverpool

Downtown East Liverpool celebrates a holiday tradition that has been going on for generations. This is a town that truly loves a parade, as witnessed by the fact that no one seems to recall a time when people did not flock downtown to ring in holiday cheer with floats, music, lights and, of course, Santa Claus.

Western Reserve PBS brings you the sights and sounds of this historic celebration, which is now expanded to include an all-day festival with crafts and donations for needy families.

Station sponsors visit by Daniel Tiger

Western Reserve PBS brought Daniel Tiger to the Big, Big, Really Big Toy Box event at Canton Cultural Center on Sept. 30. The station’s participation in the school readiness event was funded by a Be a Caring Neighbor Grant from PNC Bank and Fred Rogers Foundation. More than 600 parents and children attended.

DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD airs on Western Reserve PBS on Sundays at 7:30 AM and weekdays at 9:30 AM and 10 AM.

The Great American Read events

Western Reserve Public Media recently co-sponsored outreach events with Geauga County Public Library and Youngstown City Schools for the PBS series THE GREAT AMERICAN READ.

The library promoted THE GREAT AMERICAN READ at its branches through book displays, flyers and handouts. It also brought the community together to watch the series’ premiere and final episode.

The station also co-sponsored a literacy event in partnership with Native Sons, a literacy program for at-risk youth, and in conjunction with Taft Elementary of Youngstown City Schools. The literacy event was an after-school program attended by 150 children and community members.

Support for both endeavors was provided by a PBS grant.

Spotting Art in Downtown Canton

Downtown Canton is a haven for public art of all kinds, especially when it comes to football. The home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame welcomes its newest addition, a mural celebrating one of the nation’s oldest football rivalries between the Massillon Tigers and Canton Bulldogs. We get an up-close look at the artist’s fascinating technique to make history come alive.
Membership

Membership support increases

After successful August and September pledge campaigns that saw Western Reserve Public Media go over its original budgeted goal by nearly $9,000 and achieve more than 350 new members, the Membership Department looks to build on that success with strong November and December pledge campaigns.

Some of the new pledge shows that will be featured are RIC EDELMAN’S MIND OVER MONEY, SARAH BRIGHTMAN: HYMN and CELTIC WOMAN: ANCIENT LAND.

Staff News, Training & Conferences

Employee meets celebrities!

Debra Racey, corporate sponsorship account executive on our staff and self-proclaimed number-one fan of Henry Louis Gates Jr., was thrilled to meet him on Sept. 26 following his appearance at a Cleveland Book Week event. Adding to the excitement was the chance to meet Pulitzer Prize winner and former poet laureate Rita Dove, who was in the audience.

The event, presented by The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards and the Cleveland Foundation, was a discussion that included Gates and author Steven Pinker. Gates is host of the popular PBS series FINDING YOUR ROOTS.

Later that evening, Racey also saw actor Jerry Springer at a local restaurant, which added to the evening’s celebrity excitement!

Department outcomes quantified

Since the beginning of the school year our Educational Services staff has delivered 21 events to 2,927 educators, accounting for 788 contact hours. Print and online newsletters were delivered to 16,570 educators across the service region.

What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?

Director of Education Jeff Good is the West Central PA media advisor for the annual student video contest What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?

Held in Pennsylvania, this is the sixth year for the contest, whose purpose is to excite students to explore manufacturing careers and produce profiles of companies throughout Pennsylvania. This is the inaugural year for West Central PA’s participation in the contest.

Good will advise nine student teams as they develop informational videos about local manufacturers. The videos will also be part of educating students on the benefits of the field of manufacturing.

Maker camp for teachers held

Twenty-five educators participated in our Camp Maker for Teachers 3.0, held in August. The project was funded for the third year by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation and offered technology training in 3D printing, coding, Lego robotics, Cricut die cut machines and more.
Staff News, Training & Conferences (cont’d.)

Educational Services staff members’ activities

On Aug. 3, Director of Education Jeff Good and Coordinator of Educational Services Heather Smith participated in the SPARCC Education Technology Conference. Smith presented “Making It Happen” and “Get to Know Your Students through Thrively,” while Good staffed a booth representing our organization.

The Ohio Department of Education has introduced a new Future Ready Schools initiative that is designed to help district leaders plan and implement personalized, research-based digital learning strategies so all students can achieve their full potential. As a representative of the Ohio Educational Technology agencies, Heather Smith attended the Future Ready Schools Conference held in Mansfield in September.

Good and Smith participated in the Connect and Collaborate Conference held in September in Columbus, where Smith gave a presentation about Thrively and both employees staffed the Western Reserve Public Media booth. More than 400 tech directors and school administrators attended.

At the Ohio Educational Library Media Association conference held in Columbus in October, Heather Smith gave a presentation about media literacy and worked at the ITIP Ohio booth.

Jeff Good and Heather Smith also attended the Ohio School Boards Capital Conference held in Columbus in November, where Good presented “Tech Integration with Ohio’s EdTechs” and both employees staffed our organization’s booth.

Jeff Good’s son honored

Dan Good, son of Director of Education Jeff Good, was recently nominated into the South Range Athletic Hall of Fame. Dan was a standout football player for the Raiders from 2009-2012 and played for Walsh University on scholarship from 2012-2016. He is now a sales manager for Daktronics in Ohio.