EVE Notes

A Letter From The Artistic Director

Fall, 2026

In case you're wondering why there hasn't been a newsletter all year, it's because we've been so busy celebrating! I trust you managed to make it to at least one of our 35 (!) programs. We celebrated America 250 with everything from Cleveland Res-taurants to Ohio ghosts, from Broadway to the Appalachian Trail, from inventors to builders, from slavery to the Civil War, from Victoria Woodhull on the campaign trail to Alta Weiss on the baseball field. We looked at history from more sides than a polyhedron (OK ... well, *almost* more than that!).

Anyway, we were out and about all year and I want to take this time to thank all of our presenters and everyone who came to our shows. I wish I could list all our hosts in this newsletter, but we've never done this many shows in one year before! Know that all of you who joined our America 250 party are appreciated.**

This year of celebrating our past has made us especially proud of our efforts to bring history to life over the years. All of our Board Members, presenters, staff, and artists have worked hard to preserve our heritage and we are happy to have our audiences be a part of it. Thanks to all who joined in the party!

Always,

Bette Lou Higgins
Artistic Director

*****If you DO want to see a list of all our presenters, you'll find them on our website!***

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This year we've entertained and informed about 1,000 people at 35 programs!

A special "Thank You" to all our donors! We appreciate your help.

You can find information about how to donate and celebrate 2027 two special anniversaries on page 4.

You can find a full list of all our donors on our website.

Thanks A Bunch!

Eden Valley is 50!?!

We're not done with the celebrating! Next year will be Eden Valley's 50th Anniversary! It's hard to believe but we opened our first show, Johnnycake Village, in June, 1977 at the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (now called the Cuyahoga Valley National Park). Since then we've been bringing history to life all over Ohio and to cities in Indiana and Tennessee; we've had screenings of our documentaries in Ohio and beyond as both events and for those who've purchased or rented the films. We've produced more than 40 programs and two documentaries (TRAIL MAGIC: THE GRANDMA GATEWOOD STORY went on to get an Emmy nomination). We've introduced our audiences to often-overlooked events and people from the past.

To everyone who joined us in any way during these years-- we thank you for making this historical trip with us and hope you will stay with us for our next 50(?!) years!

Besides our 50th, it is the 120th Anniversary of one of our favorite phenomenal females — Alta Weiss. We first introduced audiences to her for the Ohio Bicentennial in 2003 and since then, she's been an audience favorite. Weiss put herself through medical school playing baseball on a men's team starting in 1907. We'll be celebrating her all year starting with a performance of YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL IN A SKIRT! with Ann McEvoy as Alta. The performance is being presented by the Baseball Heritage Museum and the Cleveland Public Library Hough Branch on Saturday, March 16, 2027 at 1:00 p.m. at 6530 Lexington Ave. in Cleveland. For more information, contact the museum at 216-789-1083.

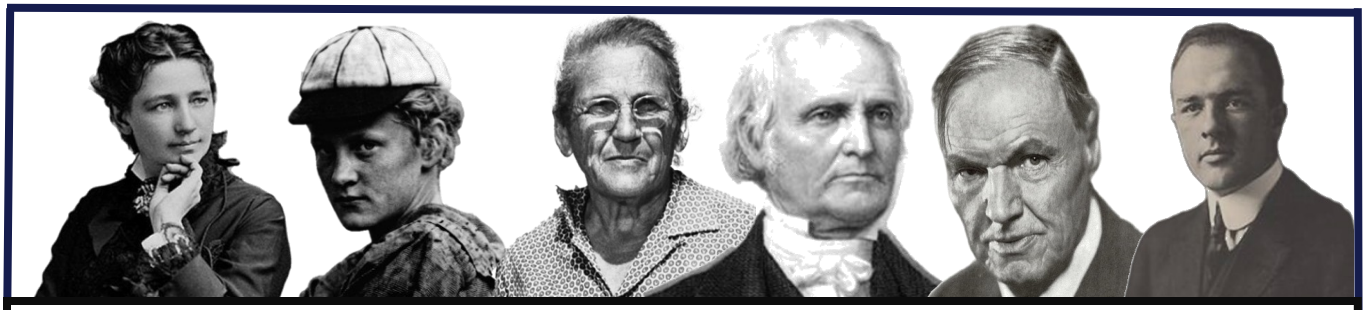
We're looking forward to celebrating our 50th with you!

Were You Expecting Something?

We have been experiencing some difficulty with e-mails being bounced by a company called Cloudmark which is a company that checks for suspicious e-mails. If you are using this company, please be aware that you may be missing e-mails or other information from me because somewhere along the way they have blacklisted us — though they admit that this is an error. I have been in touch with them and we are trying to fix the situation; however, currently they claim the best thing to do is for anyone using their software is to clear our e-mail address on your end. If you can do this, please do. Otherwise, if you're having problems reaching me, please use our alternate e-mail of COMSTOCK1852@GMAIL.COM and send me an e-mail to let me know that you're having problems. I am creating a list of people who need to be contacted by the comstock1852 address until everything is worked out.

Of course, this also means that you could be missing e-mails from other people and companies that have been incorrectly tagged by Cloudmark. The computer company that hosts our website reports a number of their other clients are having the same problem and so far have been unsuccessful in clearing up the problem.

More information on page 4



They Changed Everything!

Who ARE These People?

- **Victoria Woodhull ran into history as the first woman to run for President in 1872—when women couldn't even vote!**
- **Dr. Alta Weiss played into history by putting herself through medical school playing professional baseball on a men's team in 1907—when no one thought women could play ball, much less be a doctor!**
- **Grandma Emma Gatewood walked into history as the first woman to solo thru-hike the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail in 1955 at the age of 67 — when no woman hiked the trail before.**
- **John Rankin moved into history by conducting enslaved people on the Underground Railroad—when many people tried to ignore the slave question.**
- **Clarence Darrow fought his way into history defending the underdogs—when no one would fight for them.**
- **Ned Jordan drove his way into history with his cars for women—when no one thought women could drive cars.**

These are just a few of the little-known people we have put a spotlight on during our 50 years of traveling in the past lane.

Keeping the "Past Lane" Open!

We want to continue to introduce you to these obscure historic heroes, but we need your help. Like every other organization, we are facing increasing operational costs for essential infrastructure like computer systems, supplies, cloud backup services, and digital streaming fees for our educational films.

Last year, we asked for your help to make Victoria Woodhull and Grandma Gatewood's stories available on DVD and streaming, and you stepped right up to the plate. Because of your generosity, those DVDs are officially available and the films are actively streaming!

Now, we hope you will continue to support us in our efforts to tell the stories that others forget with a crucial donation toward our ongoing operating costs.

Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary With Us!

Since 2027 marks our 50th Anniversary (and the 120th anniversary of the beginning of Alta Weiss' historic baseball career), we want to thank our supporters with special commemorative gifts:

Donations of $50 or more: Receive complimentary paperback copies of our two featured books: *VICTORIA WOODHULL: SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS* and *YOU CAN'T PLAY BALL IN A SKIRT!*

Donations of $20 – $49.99: Receive complimentary e-books of both featured books.

Donations of less than $20 can receive a complimentary copy of one of the e-books of their choice.

To make a donation and join us in securing the next chapter of historical preservation visit our website.

Thank you for your enduring support and for helping us continue to bring you forgotten stories from the past!

Were You Expecting Something? Continued from page 2

Additionally, if an email goes to a user's junk / spam mail folder and is left there, the e-mail server will consider it as a complaint. Keep in mind that free email services (such as Yahoo/Gmail/Hotmail) don't offer a lot of options. Complaints trigger spam companies to mark the sender as a Spammer.

What can YOU do to help? If your EVE mail is ending up in your spam folder, please move the e-mail to your inbox and also add our e-mail to your contact list to help make sure it goes to your inbox immediately. It is critical that you move it to your inbox before deleting it. Otherwise it is considered a complaint by your email service. Which, in the case of Cloudmark, blocks any further correspondence between us —even if YOU send an e-mail directly to us. We can NOT reply to it.

Please don't ever mark Eden Valley e-mail as spam. If at any point you don't want to be a subscriber, just let us know by unsubscribing yourself on our MailChimp mails or by e-mailing us directly with your request.

If you have any other information about how to help with these issues or how to solve any problems you may be having, please share it with me.

Thanks for helping!

Your donation can help us continue to tell the stories that others forget.
Thank you for helping!

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Friend ($10+) $_____ Other $ _____

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Eden Valley is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. All gifts are tax deductible.

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