

Upcoming events



January 29, February 5 & 12: Fireside Chats, 7 p.m. @ the Marion Campus's Guthery Room (Maynard Hall). January 29: *The Family Doctor: Charles Sawyer and the Hardings*. February 5: *Stories of the Sawyer Sanitarium*. February 12: *What If?* \$10 at the door or \$25 for all three (available only at the first Chat), \$8 at the door for Friends of Harding Home and Ohio History Connection members.

March 15 – *Beyond the Ropes*, 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. sessions at the Harding Home. This program gives you an indepth look at various objects in the massive Harding Collections. We're not telling you in advance what objects we're featuring! **Reservations required due to limited seating.** \$10 per person; free for Friends and OHC members.

April 26 – *President Harding Golf Outing*, Marion Country Club. Rain date April 27. Details TBA.

May 2 – *Harding Home Kickoff Breakfast*, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Tri-Rivers Career Center, 2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road, Marion. Try Florence Harding's waffles! \$6 per person.

May 2 – *Presidential Gardeners Plant Sale* at Harding Home, 12-3 p.m.

June 18 – *Silent Movie Night*, 7 p.m., at the Harding Home. Freewill donation.

July 17-18 – *Sixth Annual Warren G. Harding Symposium* at the Marion Campus, focusing on *The Modern First Ladies: Portraits in Contrast*.

July 17 – *Annual Presidential Wreathlaying*, Harding Memorial. No charge.

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2015 Harding Symposium centers on modern First Ladies

The 2015 Warren G. Harding Symposium will revolve around the theme, "The Modern First Ladies: Portraits in Contrast."

The sixth annual Symposium, scheduled for July 17-18, also brings a knowledgeable partner into the mix with Ohio State University Marion, and the Harding Home – the National First Ladies Library in Canton, Ohio.

"We're excited to be in partnership with such a wonderful organization such as the First Ladies Library," said Symposium chairman C. Gary Iams. "We've been talking about focusing on the First Ladies for several years. There is

considerable interest in the public about the First Ladies, and of course, one of the most compelling is Florence Harding."

The Symposium kicks off on the evening of Friday, July 17 with a reception, which is different in tone each year.

"The reception will be something people really will enjoy," Harding Home Site Manager Sherry Hall said. "It's very different and will be lots of fun. I can't wait until we can tell the public more about it."

On Saturday morning, the
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Capricia Marshall headlines event

Capricia Marshall, ambassador-in-residence for the Adrienne Arsht Latin American Center in Washington, will be the keynote speaker for the 2015 Harding Symposium gala dinner.

Ms. Marshall, as chief of protocol of the United States from 2009-2013, was America's lead representative in setting the

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Architect Ben Ross of Ratio Architects of Indianapolis, investigates the recently dismantled china cabinet in the Hardings' dining room.

Questions mount quickly in Harding Home study

On one November day, Ohio History Connection Restoration Project Coordinator Chris Buchanan and Architect Ben Ross of Ratio Architects puzzled over the temporarily removed dining room mantle in the Harding Home. The style, they said, seemed more like 1904 than 1891. And the wood choice – oak – did not match anything else in the room. Had the Hardings updated their fireplace mantle?

And what about the kitchen wall? Had it been removed when the Hardings enlarged the kitchen in 1920 – or had they just relocated the window? These are just a couple of the complicated questions experts are wrestling with as they literally expose a new story of the Harding Home – the story the house itself tells.

Buchanan and expert consultants are letting the evidence lead them to answers. They look at old nail holes, specks

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stage for successful diplomatic engagement with other nations at the highest levels.

Charged with forging and managing relationships with countries around the world, Ms. Marshall's hand was the first extended to welcome presidents, prime ministers, ruling monarchs, and other foreign dignitaries to the United States on behalf of the president and secretary of state. From arrival to departure during six state and official visits, and countless working visits, she managed the details of diplomacy and ensured that the treatment and care of foreign delegations supported the foreign policy objectives of the administration.

Ms. Marshall carried out similar responsibilities for international summits hosted by President Obama. For the G20, Nuclear Security, APEC, G8, NATO, and Sunnylands Summits, she worked with counterparts from nearly 200 countries, designing and executing a welcoming, inviting environment that was respectful of each delegation's cultural customs and preferences and emphasizing the message and goals of the United States.

From 1993 to 1997, Ms. Marshall served as special assistant to the First Lady of the United States. In 1997, Ms. Marshall was appointed deputy assistant to the President and White House social secretary. At 32, she was the youngest person to hold the position in modern times.

A native of Cleveland, Ms. Marshall holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Purdue University and a juris doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

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annual Presidential Wreathlaying will take place. The event pays tribute to President Harding's service to the nation.

In the afternoon, a trio of workshop sessions will examine the role of the First Lady. Speakers include Harding Home Site Manager Sherry Hall, writer and historian Cyndy Bittinger, and author Annette Dunlap, as well as National First Ladies Library Executive Director Patricia Crider. Several others also will be involved as the Symposium committee continues its work.

Harding Home extends wishes for joy and cheer

As a holiday gift to you, we took a random step back in time and landed in December 1909, to see what *Marion Daily Star* Editor Warren Harding had to say as Christmas approached.

Marion's merchants were wrestling with the fact that Christmas that year fell on a Saturday – the busiest commerce day of the week – and many wanted to stay open that day. Harding denounced the idea in the pages of his newspaper:

“It is not worth while. It is not worth the cost. It is out of harmony with the spirit of the holiday.”

In the end, most Marion merchants stayed open until 11 p.m. on



Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas. Oh, except the barbers -- they were open until noon on Christmas.

Harding arranged for his newspaper carriers to have a special treat on

Christmas night. The boys received coupons good for balcony seats at the Grand Opera House to watch the wholesome, family-oriented play, “Quincy Adams Sawyer.” True to his character, Warren wrote a story about the carrier boys' gift, giving credit to the management of the opera house. He apparently “forgot” that he had paid for the seats.

The boys, like the rest of the *Star* staff, had a day off from work. We'll let him tell you his Christmas Eve sentiments of 105 years ago:

“The *Star* will not issue tomorrow. It is never printed on Christmas, the one holiday when *Star* employees are not expected to think of work. Ordinarily, the *Star* approximates holiday observance with an early issue, but Christmas will not admit of this partial spoiling of the day. The working forces are to have it all, to enjoy at home, with the family, and in such celebration as their inclinations suggest. We wish this arrangement might be universal.

“...The *Star* wishes all its readers a truly happy Christmas, and trusts, too, there will be none who does not know the joy of being remembered and the greater joy of remembering others. We are not concerned about gifts of extravagance. They are not amiss where purses admit, but they are not essential. Remembrance is the main thing. We could willingly hark back to the days when a home-knit pair of wristlets conveyed a mother's loving thoughts, or were the expression of tribute of a young sweetheart, clever with needle and yarn. The world may go money-mad, but money can never monopolize the pleasing sentiment of the world. The spirit of remembrance is the main thing. The *Star* hopes its great family of readers may know it in satisfying fullness tomorrow.”

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of paint and wallpaper, flaked plaster, photographs, receipts and site records to help pull the answers to the surface.

“It is fascinating to see parts of the Home that I've never seen before,” Site Manager Sherry Hall said. “Our visitors are also finding these rare peeks into the house's history very interesting.”

The experts' conclusions – all based on scientific and historical evidence – will go into the Historic Structure Report. The report then will be used as a guide for the restoration of the Harding Home to its 1920 appearance. The restoration of the house and grounds will be completed by 2020, the 100-year anniversary of Warren Harding's front porch campaign and subsequent election to the presidency.

Unraveling the house's story is tough. “Even in the case of a comparatively well-documented

building, like the Harding Home, evidence is often fragmentary or subject to interpretation,” Buchanan said. “It's great to find a ‘smoking gun’ piece of evidence, like a dated photograph. More often than not, however, you don't have that.”

The experts often are left to find the answers through indirect routes. “The challenge then is to develop a theory that is supported by each of the fragmentary or less conclusive pieces you have,” he explained. “Combing little bits of physical evidence, personal recollections, newspaper articles and ads, and pieces of information from many other sources, and cross-checking them, can provide a way to back into a conclusion where there initially seems to be no answer.”

He added that last spring's archaeological dig on the east side of the kitchen reaped a bounty of information that will soon be shared with the site and its supporters.

Tracking origins of Italian statuary offers insights about Hardings' tastes

Every year, the Harding Home is visited by many thousands of people from across the nation and the world who have come to learn more about the lives of the 29th President of the U.S., Warren Harding, and his wife, Florence. Our visitors are always amazed by the high percentage of original items that the home contains, a fact that makes it one of the most originally furnished presidential homes in the country. Among many of the historical treasures that can be seen, one of the most popular types is the marble statuary that is on exhibit throughout the home.

Prior to his presidency, Mr. Harding made three trips to Europe with his wife. Just like many people today, they were interested in traveling to other countries and seeing the sights and treasures of the Old World. One of their favorite countries to visit was Italy. Both Warren and Florence were intensely interested in history, and as any traveler will tell you,

Shannon
Morris
Harding
Home Staff



Italy is one of the premier destinations for anyone with an interest in the culture of the past.

While traveling in Italy, one of the things that piqued the Hardings' interest was the beautiful art work and sculptures that filled the museums and art galleries in cities such as Rome, Florence, and Pisa. Like most tourists, the Hardings often purchased souvenirs of their travels. While in Pisa, they purchased marble sculpture from an art gallery located in the shadow of the Leaning Tower called The Galleria Andreoni, which featured the works of the Italian sculptor Giuseppe Andreoni. At the cost of \$2,100 in 1909—which by some estimates would equal around \$53,000 in

21st century terms — they purchased 11 statues and five marble pedestals. The shipping cost was \$476.80. Interestingly, the ship which brought the statuary from Europe was the *S.S. Italia*, which was later used by the French Navy in World War I and was torpedoed in 1917 by an Austrian submarine.

The marble from which these statues are made is Carrara, generally considered to be some of the finest in the world, having been used to build temples and basilicas throughout Europe for centuries.

The quarry from which the marble is mined is located in the Tuscany region of Italy, about 40 miles from Pisa. The quarry was founded in the 1500's and is still in operation today. Early on, the quarry had another famous client: a man by the name of Michaelangelo, who purchased the Carrara marble to sculpt his famous statue of David. The Hardings certainly knew quality!

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August 13 – *The Real Boardwalk Empire*, 7 p.m. in the Harding Home tent. What's the truth about shady characters Harry Daugherty, Jess Smith and Gaston Means? \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance. \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance for Friends and OHC members.

October 11, 84th Annual *Harding Scout Pilgrimage*, 3 p.m. at Harding Memorial. The boy and girl scouts have been honoring the memories of President and Mrs. Warren Harding yearly since 1931 in an event celebrating the country's youth. Free admission.

October 15, *The Klan in Ohio*, 7 p.m. Location TBA. We'll examine the reasons behind the membership climb and explore the role of the Klan in Ohio -- including its presence in the president's hometown. \$10 at the door, \$8 for Friends and OHC members.

November 15, *Beyond the Ropes*, 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. sessions at the Harding Home. We'll surprise you with an in-depth look at something in our collections! **Reservations required due to limited seating.** \$10 per person; free for Friends and OHC members.