

## 2023 Biennial Seminar – “History in the Hills”

The 2023 Biennial Seminar was held on June 8 through June 10 in the beautiful rolling hills of Gallia and Jackson Counties in Southern Ohio.

OSO members gathered at the Quality Inn in Gallipolis on Thursday evening for the opening comments and dinner served by the hotel staff. Jeanne Jindra, the Director of the Welsh Studies Center at the University of Rio Grande, spoke about the history of the Welsh settlers in Gallia and Jackson Counties. Afterwards, members enjoyed fellowship and card games.

The Fun Bus arrived at 8 AM Friday morning to take the attendees to the various spots of interest: the John Gee Black Historical Center, the French Art Colony, Our House Tavern, lunch at Courtside Restaurant, Bob Evans Farm, Michael’s Ice Cream, the Lillian Jones Museum, and a tour of Jackson Lake and Oak Hill. Unfortunately, the Welsh American Heritage Museum was closed for roof and HVAC repairs.

Dinner was served back at the hotel followed by entertainment by Musical Memories. Memories were definitely made as members danced and sang to their requests. Some were even brave enough for karaoke!

After breakfast on Saturday morning, everyone checked out, loaded up in their own cars and drove to the Railroad Freight Station Museum then on to the University of Rio Grande’s Archives with our host, Jake Bapst, who spoke about the origins of the University and some of its famous attendees.

Thank you to ADSOEF Directors Sandy Royer, Dr. Lois Harkins, and Dr. Norma Kirby for your patience and due diligence. Also, thanks to Director Sue Loader for the suggestion of the bus company – our driver was great! Thank you to Beta Alpha members Donna DeWitt, Mary Deel, Helenlu Morgan, and Jane Ann Slagle for your help in setting up the stops in Gallia County. And a shout out to Betsy Foreman for the encouragement and being my karaoke partner.

Debby Canter  
Immediate Past State President