



News Release

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For Immediate Release:

Historic barn painting project in Fremont features Rutherford B. Hayes

Officials dedicated the first Ohio history barn as part of the Turnpike's 60th anniversary

BEREA (Oct. 6, 2015) – The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission and the Ohio History Connection today commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Ohio Turnpike—as well as Ohio history—with a twist on a barn painting from the days of Ohio's 200th anniversary.

Scott Hagan, the barn artist who painted one barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties with the Ohio bicentennial logo brought Ohio history back to life once more with a historical barn painting in Sandusky County. Coincidentally, Sandusky County is also where the last of the 88 county Bicentennial Barns was painted by Hagan. The history barn, which is highly visible from the Ohio Turnpike near Exit 91, features Ohio's 19th president, Rutherford B. Hayes.

Ohio Turnpike Executive Director Randy Cole thanked landowner Peter Naderer of Fremont, for his willingness to provide the canvas for Hagan. "This barn is a classic in every sense of the word and it's perfectly positioned for travelers to see along the Ohio Turnpike. We invite other barn owners with highly visible barns to contact the Ohio Turnpike or the Ohio History Connection if they're interested in becoming a part of this history-preserving program," said Cole.

Rutherford B. Hayes was a Civil War general, Ohio congressman, the first three-time Ohio governor and 19th president of the United States. A native of Delaware, Ohio, who later settled in Fremont, he started a successful law practice in Cincinnati, where he met his wife, Lucy Webb Hayes. When the Civil War started, he enlisted and rose to the rank of major general.

"This mural celebrates Rutherford B. Hayes and his accomplishments in Ohio and our nation," said Glenda S. Greenwood, Ohio History Connection Board President. "While the barn represents our shared history, and our collective responsibility to keep history alive in the hearts and minds of all Ohioans."

While Hayes was governor, he helped found The Ohio State University. As president, he initiated civil service reform and was a defender of civil rights. He believed education and training in skilled trades would help all people secure better jobs and better lives.

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The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, the nation's very first presidential library, opened on May 30, 1916. The library contains the president's papers and books, a massive genealogy collection, local history records, photos and more.

The Center includes the library, museum, Hayes' home, tomb and one mile of paved walking trails. President Hayes' home, presidential library and burial site are in nearby Fremont and open to visitors. More information on that historic site is found at rbhayes.org.

The Sandusky County Convention and Visitors Bureau produced a digital time lapse video of Hagan in action painting the barn. It has already been viewed more than 14,000 times on Facebook since being posted this past weekend.

According to the Hayes Presidential Center, Hayes wrote the sentence that's quoted on the barn on December 16, 1861, when a plan to cross the New River was aborted due to a rapid rise that made it unpassable, therefore scuttling the plan.

"We believe this quote captures the very essence of the Ohio Turnpike," said Cole. "It truly is a bold and successful enterprise."

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