



The Guernsey County Story

No age of technology or speed of travel can overshadow the simplicity and natural beauty of Guernsey County. The county's early frontiersmen and Native Americans must have marveled at the natural scenic beauty the land afforded them—just as it continues to do for visitors and residents today.

There is far more to Guernsey County than what you may see at first glance. The county's history and heritage is an intriguing combination of natives, immigrants, settlers and entrepreneurs who threw themselves into the business of the day and helped shape a nation.

The crown jewel of the county is the abundance of recreational opportunities. Hunting, fishing and camping continue to be centerpieces for the region. Ohio's largest state park, **Salt Fork**, and the state's third largest lake, **Seneca Lake**, are found within Guernsey County. The gear used may have changed over the years, but the sense of the frontier and adventure remain.

An integral part of Guernsey County includes its connection to the nation's expansion east to west. The Delaware, Shawnee, Wyandotte, Miami, Chippewa, and Mingo tribes, who once lived here, established the original wilderness trails that connected Ohio to Kentucky. However, it was the early settlers of the Northwest Territory that helped expand those trails into a stable and marked route westward from Cambridge, Maryland toward St. Louis, Missouri in the early 1800s.

The **Guernsey County Historic Museum**, located at 218 North Eighth Street in downtown Cambridge, welcomes visitors to discover the role the region played as a crossroads for America with the construction of the first federally funded national

road. Today, the National Road (Route 40) spans nearly 700 miles through six states, with numerous points of interest that makes for a tranquil drive.

The Guernsey County Historic Museum also features a large collection of local pottery and glass, various furniture that is representative of periods past, early kitchen and household items, a general store room of items from the pre-supermarket days, and a military room. Additional special items of interest include President William McKinley's chair from the Ohio State Legislature; relics from the old double covered bridge; items from the wreck of the Shenandoah Airship; personal items of John Glenn and more.

Guernsey County's most notable entity is none other than former astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn. From hometown boy to space cowboy, Glenn is the region's most recognizable former citizen. A trip to the **John & Annie Glenn Historic Site** in New Concord, Ohio tells the tale of the couple's childhood roots.

Personal effects, family photos, journals and more grace the home. The Glenn's sweetheart romance through the Great Depression and WW II relates the story of 20th century America through their lives.

Educated in the local school system and graduates of Muskingum University, the couple firmly believes that "If one starts here, one can go anywhere." Visitors to the site learn of the Glenn's extraordinary devotion to one another, family, and their country.

The 20th century also brought notoriety to the county as Cambridge became synonymous with quality glassmaking. Though production of Cambridge Glass ceased many years ago, collectors have the opportunity to visit **Mosser Glass, Boyd's Crystal Art Glass, Degenhart Paperweight & Glass Museum, and the National Museum of Cambridge Glass.**

A local boy who gained national recognition, William Boyd made quite a name for himself as the famed cowboy star Hopalong Cassidy, first on the big screen in the 1930s and 40s, and then on the television in the 1950s. A special **Hopalong Cassidy Museum**, located in the Tenth Street Antique Mall, offers an extensive collection of products endorsed by William Boyd.



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When You Have More Time...

Byesville Scenic Railway – All-aboard for a trip back in history as passengers are transported back to the days when coal mining was king in Guernsey County. Listen to the stories of the local miners, sing along to "I Owe My Soul to the Company Store," and be sure to sit back and relax on this 1 ½ hour trip.

Guernsey County Genealogical Society Library – Located in Historic Downtown Cambridge, researchers can find genealogical records for Guernsey County at the library including marriage, birth, and death records, administration dockets, newspaper obituary files, civil court records, and much more.

Before You Go...

Contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau for a complete listing of events, updates and other points of interest.

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