

## FYI Emeriti - Notes for January 2020

### Lunch reservations for January 16, 2020

Reservations must be received before noon on Friday, January 10 but don't wait. Contact [Tom Franz](mailto:tom.franz@ohio.edu) <[franz@ohio.edu](mailto:tom.franz@ohio.edu)> The price of the luncheon will be \$17. An “always attending” list is also available with payment of \$85 for January to May (no refunds). Checks made payable to the OU Emeriti Association will avoid the problem of having to bring exact change payment for the luncheon.

### The menu for the January Luncheon is

- Fresh Garden Salad
- Cucumber and Tomato Salad with Balsamic Drizzle
- Salisbury steak with onion gravy
- Tomato Braised chicken
- Oven Roasted Vegetables
- Buttermilk whipped potatoes
- Assorted Cookies & Brownies

Vice President Scott Moody reports that the Emeriti Association program for January 16, 2020 will be by **Ann Fidler, “Finding Manasseh Cutler”**

From: <https://www.ohio.edu/library/about/news-events/celebrating-50-years-alden-library-ohio-s-founding-father-manasseh-cutler>.

**Abstract:** An ordained minister, Yale graduate, and father of eight children, Manasseh Cutler (1742-1823) was instrumental in the formation of the Ohio Company of Associates, whose purpose was not only the purchase of land in the old Northwest Territory, but the acquisition of a land grant from Congress to establish a university. Although surveyed in 1799, it was not until 1804 that Ohio University was established.

Fidler became intrigued with Cutler’s personality, accomplishments and his association with OHIO after encountering a copy of the “[Life, Journals and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler](#)” while working in her Cutler Hall office several years ago.

“One of my jobs in the provost’s office was to do speech writing, and as a historian working at a University that had an intriguing history, I was always trying to incorporate historical events, ideas and people into my speeches,” Fidler explains. “So, it was very natural for me to see those books on the shelf, pull them down and start looking through them.”

Fidler is currently working on a biographical account of Cutler, which is still a work in progress, but she finds what she has learned, so far, to be quite compelling.

“To date, Manasseh’s life has been rendered selectively by proud descendants or glancingly by historians using broad strokes. What is missing is a full and frank account of a man who was by turns brilliant, anxious, curious, vain, mischievous, downhearted and driven, sometimes to unfortunate ends, by his sense of duty and honor,” Fidler said.

Fidler hopes the audience, who may know Cutler only as the sedate person gazing out of his portrait in the University, will walk away from her talk with a better appreciation of the unique man behind the establishment of OHIO.

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**Debra Rentz, Alexandra Bruno** and **Daniel Mullins** presented a delightful December program of joyful Christmas music including favorites such as *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *Silver Bells*, *I Wonder as I Wander*, *Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire*, *Oh Holy Night*, and *Jingle Bells*. The audience joined in for *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.



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Report from Scott Malcom, Membership Chair:

At the December 19 Emeriti Board meeting Mary Abel was nominated by Steve Grimes and Florence McGeoch to become a Friend of the Emeriti Association. During her time as a state legislator Mary helped sponsor legislation that led to the transfer to Ohio University what is now known as The Ridges. She also worked with the Osteopathic College to obtain funding for their first mobile health clinic. Mary's nomination was unanimously approved by the Board.

The "[Friends of the Emeriti](#)" section of the [Emeriti Association Constitution](#) can be found at [this link](#) under Article III.

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## **One hundred years ago**

Christmas 1919 with the Newton Baker family

**Answers to the Quiz for historians** in December's Emeriti Notes

Who was Newton Baker? - Secretary of War under President Woodrow Wilson and former mayor of Cleveland

Identify son Jack's Christmas present. - A crystal radio

What was the make and model of Jack's present? - An A.C. Gilbert model #4007 costing \$25 including the cat's whisker detector, a completely-enclosed loose coupler (tuner), headphones, antenna wire and insulators.

What could Jack listen to in December 1919? - The very powerful Navy station NAA in nearby Arlington had begun sending code practice transmissions in late October 1919 as an effort to train radio-skilled recruits of the future.

The Navy actually had a monopoly on all of radio beginning with the US entry in WWI. Even a simple crystal radio for receiving or having a wire antenna such as Jack would have needed was illegal not only during WWI but until April 15, 1919 even though the war ended on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. Transmitters for civilians were still illegal until October 1919 when the Navy finally relented to political pressure. Frank Conrad who would eventually be part of KDKA started his twice weekly phonograph music over the air as an amateur radio hobbyist on October 17, 1919, but Jack in Washington, DC would have been too far from Pittsburgh to receive that on a crystal set.

(Rich Post - who's hobby is the history, technology, and restoration of radios of the past century)