

*Connecting Readers and Ohio Writers*

**Media Alert For more information contact:**

**For Immediate Release** dweaver@ohioana.org/614.466.3831

**OHIO LITERARY TRAIL EXPANDS**

**New site added in Salem to honor Ohio literary**

Columbus, Ohio—September 14, 2022—The Ohio Literary Trail continued its evolution with a new addition to the digital trail in Northeast Ohio. The newest destination, the Burchfield Homestead Museum, was proposed by Sara Baer, President of the Burchfield Homestead Society, who said, “Charles E. Burchfield was a noted artist and lifelong journal keeper. His watercolor art is still sought after and his published journals give insight into his daily thoughts and inspirations.”

Although the museum and gardens celebrate the artist, his journal writing is the reason for his addition to the Ohio Literary Trail. In fact, according to Ohioana Library Association Executive Director David Weaver, whose organization oversees the Trail and its expansion, *Charles Burchfield’s Journals: The Poetry of Place*, edited by Benjamin J. Townsend, won a 1993 Ohioana Book Award. The journals, spanning the time frame from the summer of Burchfield’s junior year in high school to 9 months before his death in 1967 at the age of 73, provide a captivating and personal look inside the mind of one of the century's most celebrated watercolorists.

The digital Ohio Literary Trail map was launched in June 2020 with more than 70 sites that honor Ohio’s literary contributions and greats. It was updated in 2021 with seven additions. Criteria for inclusion on the Trail includes nonliving people or places that illustrate Ohio’s contributions to the literary landscape or literature nationally or internationally. The sites are physical places tourists can visit year-round and share information to educate a visitor, such as museums, permanent library displays, historical homes, and Ohio Historical Markers.

**ABOUT CHARLES BURCHFIELD AND THE MUSEUM**

Charles E. Burchfield (1893-1967) was born in Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio, but spent most of his boyhood and young adult years in Salem, Ohio, with his three brothers, two sisters, and mother. He graduated from Salem High School (1911) and the Cleveland Institute of Art (1916). Burchfield’s nearly daily journal entries filled 72-bound notebooks that are now in the collection of the Burchfield-Penney Art Center in Buffalo, N.Y. His 10,000 pages of handwritten notes chronicle his daily schedule, important events, thoughts on music and art, and observations of the natural world including the weather, clouds, wildlife, and his walking destinations*.* Most importantly, Burchfield’s journals provide insights into his creative process. They are the basis of *Charles E. Burchfield Journals: The Poetry of Place* and *Burchfield’s Dreams: Works* and *Writings by Charles E. Burchfield* and other scholarly books published since his death in 1967*.*

The [Burchfield Homestead Museum](https://www.burchfieldhomestead.com) is located at 867 East Fourth Street in Salem, and provides the opportunity to learn about the artist and to connect with the many paintings he created in this space as well as his memories of it. The Homestead’s print collection is arranged for visitors to compare Burchfield’s unique renderings of the views out the windows to the existing neighborhood, where most of the houses are unchanged since the early 1900s. Visitors get to see for themselves how an artist of great vision and talent transformed the ordinary into extraordinary works of art. Quotes from his journals are further connections to his thought process. Burchfield produced fantastic landscapes in which he attempted to show emotions and even the senses of sound and smell.

Burchfield and art historians consider his Golden Year of productivity to be 1917 in Salem. In 1956 *Time* magazine called him “the greatest living U.S. Watercolorist.” *Life,* *Fortune* and other mass circulation magazines carried feature articles about him.

Recently, the Burchfield Homestead Museum underwent a facelift thanks to an Ohio History Fund Grant from the Ohio History Connection. The project resulted in new paint and fresh window caulking to help preserve the house, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The “Burchfield Homestead Exterior Painting Project” is funded in part by the Ohio History Fund**,**a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. Your donations to the Ohio History Fund make this program possible. [www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund](http://www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund)

There is no better time to visit the Burchfield Homestead, which is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays from May through October, and by appointment. Please call 330-717-0092 at least three days in advance to schedule visits. Check the website for special holiday hours for the Trees and Trains event in November through December and the schedule of other special events.

**ABOUT OHIOANA LIBRARY**

The [Ohioana Library Association](http://www.ohioana.org/) works to promote, preserve, and increase awareness ofOhio literature worldwide. Ohio has long been one of America’s great literary centers, and the state continues to produce an impressive body of written works and authors. Whether it’s through Ohioana’s unique events (Ohioana Book Awards and Ohioana Book Festival) and programming, the extensive library collection, or its review publications, everything Ohioana does -- including The [Ohio Literary Trail](http://www.ohioana.org/resources/the-ohio-literary-trail/) -- is with the goal of connecting readers and Ohio writers.

# # #