

OHIO DEAF HISTORY MONTH

March 13 – April 15

Ohio libraries are encouraged to recognize Ohio Deaf History Month (March 13 - April 15) by displaying materials and offering programs to highlight the significance of the many outstanding contributions made by Deaf and hearing pioneers, particularly in the area of Deaf Education.



April 15, 1817

The American School for the Deaf (ASD), the oldest permanent school for the Deaf in the United States, was founded in Hartford, Connecticut, by Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.



April 8, 1864

Congress authorized the institution now known as Gallaudet University to confer college degrees and President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law.



March 13, 1988

The Deaf President Now (DPN) movement led to the appointment of Gallaudet University's first Deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan.



December 6, 2017

Ohio Governor John R. Kasich signed Senate Bill 27 designating the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as Ohio Deaf History Month. State Senator Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) was the primary sponsor of the bill.



January 21, 2021

State Library Board passed a resolution proclaiming the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15, 2021 as Ohio Deaf History Month and encouraged Ohio libraries to host Deaf awareness activities.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding books and other materials relevant to deaf history and culture, please contact Ann Watson, Associate State Librarian for Library Services, at awatson@library.ohio.gov or 614-728-4988.