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Thank you for attending this historic event.

For information about the Ohio National Road Association, including our upcoming interpretive sign unveilings, please visit our website at www.ohionationalroad.org or contact Louis Agresta (937) 521-2134.

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Unveiling of the Ohio National Road Kirkersville Interpretive Sign



180 East Main Street (U.S. Rt. 40)
Kirkersville, Ohio

Sunday, July 11, 2010 at 12:00 pm



A Brief History of Kirkersville, Ohio

The town of Kirkersville came to be after 1815, when Thomas Kirker, Ohio's Governor in 1807 and 1808, purchased the site of the town for his son, William Kirker. The town plat was officially recorded in 1832, and the name became Kirkersville in honor of the family. Kirkersville, or "Kirk" as locals call it, was originally and continues to be a part of Harrison Township. Kirkersville remained unincorporated until 1911, when it became an official incorporated village of the State of Ohio in Licking County.

The National Road reached Licking County in 1831, and passed through Kirkersville in 1832. National Road milestone # 236 still stands just east of the Kirkersville United Methodist Church, dutifully marking the distance to and from the Road's place of origin in Cumberland, Maryland. The town began to grow after the arrival of the Road, as did Ohio, and by the 1840 census, the Buckeye State was the fourth largest in America, thanks in large part to the westward migration from points east. Kirkersville continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace, after the railroad bypassed the town about two miles north of here, going through what was called Kirkersville Station, and later, Outville. The arrival of the Interurban brought with it another growth spurt, as the town became more accessible. With the arrival of Interstate 70 south of town, Kirkersville has lost a bit of the bustle of its heyday, when first the wagons and stagecoaches rolled through town, and later the Interurban and then automobiles. Now mostly local traffic travels through Kirkersville, unless there is an event at National Trail Raceway or if Interstate 70 is shut down because of an accident. Then the town becomes a busy place again—if only for a few hours.

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Sunday, July 11, 2010—12:00 pm

Speakers:

- **Doug Smith (during church service)**
Licking Co. Commissioner/National Road Nut
- **Richard Rothemich**
Kirkersville United Methodist Church Pastor
- **Cyndie Gerken**
Ohio National Road Association President
- **Terry Ashcraft**
Kirkersville Mayor



A special thanks to the following:

Ohio National Road Association Board, Members, & Staff
Kirkersville United Methodist Church
Kirkersville Mayor Terry Ashcraft
Rosa Lee Newkirk
Bill and Barb Magley
Dave Olson