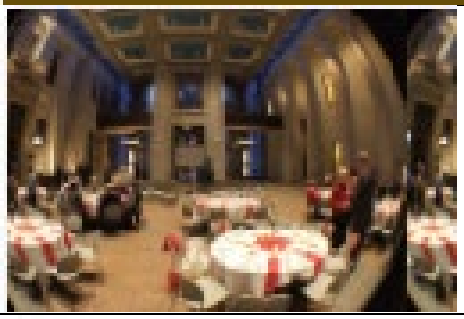
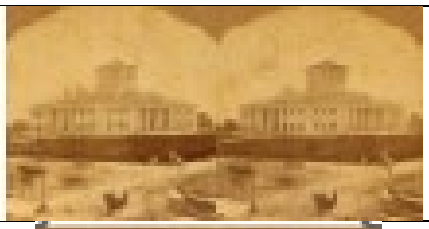
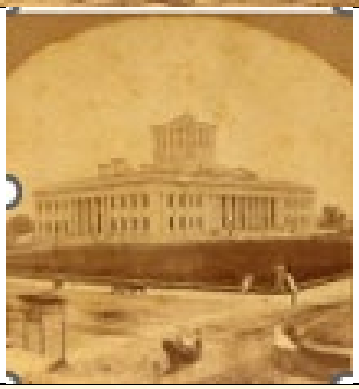
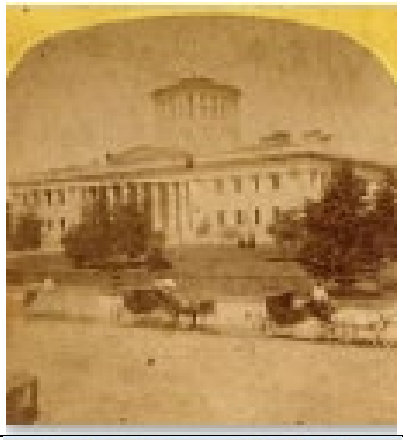
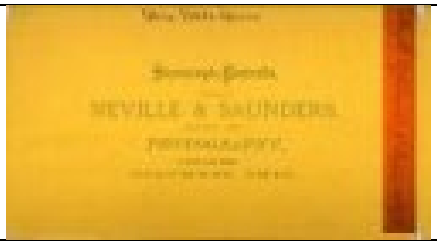
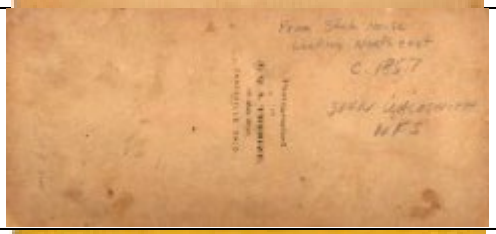
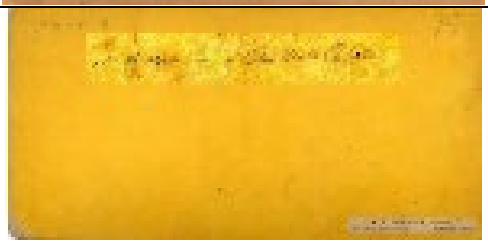
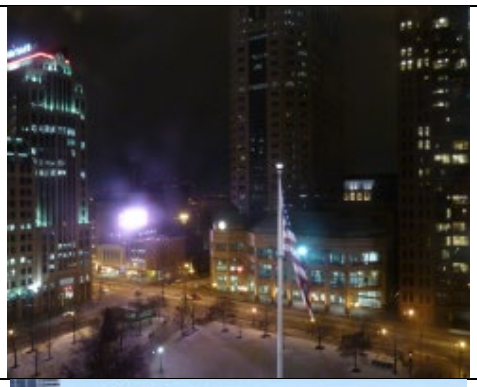
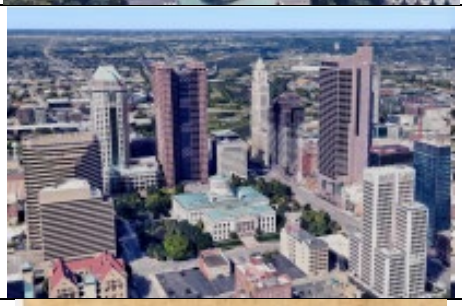
2026 John Waldsmith Memorial History Lecture "The Ohio Statehouse" By Jay Horowitz Delivered at OSPS Meeting Nov 3 2026	
On Nov 4, 2011, John Waldsmith was invited to give a dinner talk to the volunteer staff of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. George Themelis and I joined John, set up the projector and screen, and enjoyed a free meal. (Fisheye taken by George)	
John, who was not particularly tech-savvy, had given me about 20 stereoviews from his extensive collection to scan for his talk. However, stereoviews are designed for a stereoscope and can't be directly projected because of the borders on the sides. This totally messes up alignment.	
So each view had to be cropped…	
…and, in some cases, re-aligned to result in a projectable view. Also, in this view notice the blurred moving objects. Film sensitivities in the mid-nineteenth century required long shutter speeds.	
I also scanned all the backs of the stereoviews as they had interesting identifying information. Sometimes showing how much John paid for, or was selling the view.	

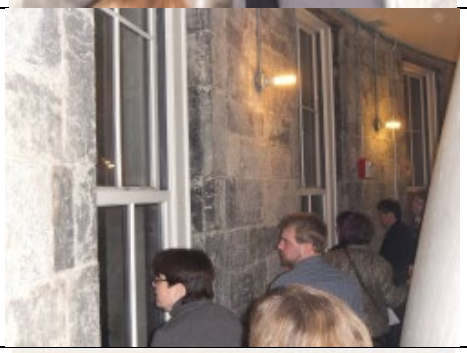
The Ohio Statehouse was actually the fourth building to house the state government. The first was in the original capitol of Chilocothe. Then a temporary one was build in Zanesville. In 1816 a small one was constructed in the newly created city of Columbus. The current statehouse was started in 1838 and was finally completed in 1861.	
The first occupant of Statehouse was Governor Salmon P. Chase who would become Lincon's Treasury Sectary and namesake of Chase bank, though he had nothing to do with the bank.	
Following completion, the Statehouse was a popular subject of stereoviews ...Here's a view with a few newly planted trees ...	
... this is a view of a different side showing more plantings	

…. And a view from a side with more mature trees	
This is the same side as the first view but all the trees have grown. Also the photograph is sharper and better printed. Clearly an improvement is stereography.	
The label on the back of this view says the Statehouse was built of local limestone and cost the state $1,500,00! That won't even buy a house in Gates Mills today. The popularity of stereo photography can be seen in the variety of local photographers publishing stereoviews. This one was published by Kelton & Gates, Columbus.	
Other views were published by Neville & Saunders in Columbus	

This one is from E.S. Walker in Columbus	
This one from J.Q. Tresize in Zanesville	
This one from B. F. Bowdish in Columbus. Though sometimes it's not clear if he took and published the stereoview, or just had the name on a card is the photographer or the shop that sold them. In this case, Bowdish was a NY photographer that worked in Columbus a while.	
And one from M. G. Starke in Zanesville. That place was crawling with stereographers!	
Candidate Abraham Lincoln gave a campaign speech at the Statehouse in 1859, and stopped there on his way to his inauguration in 1861. Four years later his body lay in State in the rotunda. The Statehouse was draped in black. The quote "With malice toward no one; with charity for all" from Lincoln's second Inaugural Address only 41 days before he was shot was already well known and displayed on the Statehouse roof.	

A huge crowd gathered in front of the Statehouse to pay their respects as his coffin was taken back to the train station to continue its journey to Springfield. It had stopped the day before in Cleveland.	
That wasn't the only time an assassinated President was honored at the Statehouse. Sixteen years later, in 1881 the Governor's Private Office was draped in black for President Garfield's funeral. His funeral train did not stop in Columbus but went directly to Cleveland. You can visit his monument at Lakeview Cemetery, and I encourage you to do so.	
A prominent feature of the Statehouse is the not-quite-a-dome dome. The two-story cylindrical addition with conical top is called a cupola. I think this modern view may have been taken by John himself.	
A spiral staircase rings the interior walls cupola with windows on all sides. It was once open to the public to get a unique view of their city. Several stereoviews show the view from the cupola. This one looks east on 3rd Street.	

Here's a more recent view from the Statehouse tower.	
But Google Earth shows the current neighborhood a little better.	
Interestingly, when it was built the Ohio Statehouse was the tallest building in Columbus. The current view from the top is less inspiring.	
Here's another view from one of John's Stereoviews. But most of these buildings have been torn down making comparison with today difficult.	
Even this church no longer appears on Google Earth.	

After the presentation, we were given a tour of the Capitol, including being allowed to go up the tower staircase, now closed to the general public.	
We admired the view …	
And added our graffiti to the wall. Now restricted to writing on an erase-board unlike the preserved graffiti on the brick walls.	
On the tour, I have pictures of who I thought was George taking pictures. But then I noticed the camera only had one lens.	

But this was definitely taken by George with a fish-eye lens	
George took pictures of me taking pictures ‘’’	
Of the Governor’s historical office	
It was preserved with original furniture	
And what were we taking pictures of inside the drawer?	

… The etched names of the past governors that sat there. We were tempted to etch the name of our favorite person to sit at the desk ….	
…. I'm sure if John gave this talk to would be twice as informative… and twice as long 😊 Thanks, John, we miss you!	