

# Delaware County Historian

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## William Street Campus Dedicated to Honor Cryders

By Margo Bartlett

More than 70 people were on hand March 26 to witness the dedication of the Delaware County Historical Society's East William Street campus as the Cryder Historical Center.

The name commemorates the innumerable contributions to the society of the late Marilyn and George Cryder, who turned their passion for local history into countless transcriptions and other resources that both define and detail Delaware's history.

Sandra Cryder, the daughter of Marilyn and George, spoke during the program. Sandra, an artist and an art teacher who lives in Baltimore, recently gave the society a gift that allowed it to upgrade its library's research capability. The gift was used to purchase computer-related equipment, including a high-quality scanner.

"The gift was in memory of both my parents," Cryder wrote in an e-mail before the ceremony. "They were committed to preserving the historical artifacts housed at the society, and I felt they would want to extend that preservation to include digital documentation to allow these things to be shared with the widest audience possible."

Doubtless her father would have approved of the gift.

"He did love technology and the latest technical equipment," DCHS treasurer Jan Fleischmann said.

George Cryder managed the media center at Ohio Wesleyan University's Beeghly Library.



Sandra Cryder and Brent Carson

(photo by Rex Welker)

"The big picture with George is photography," Fleischmann said.

Marilyn, on the other hand, reveled in detail. She transcribed an astonishing number of obituaries, death notices, diaries and other factual papers, work that was tedious at best.

"They put together a lot of dry books (and) reference materials," Fleischmann said. "Basically they were editors of historical materials for historians and genealogists."

DCHS president Brent Carson described the Cryders as his mentors.

"They were both very familiar with  
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## County Has Other Connections to Lincoln Assassination

By Brent Carson

The recent release of the movie *The Conspirator* involves the conspiracy surrounding the Lincoln assassination. Most of our members are familiar with the story of Charles Otis Little who attended Ford's Theater and witnessed the assassination. The cloth stained with President Lincoln's blood is on display at our historical society.

There were other Delaware connections to the evening of April 14, 1865, and the weeks that followed President Lincoln's death. Most of the events centered around Theodore F. Bailey. This Delaware man entered military service and was assigned as a bodyguard to President Lincoln. He soon was transferred to the regular corps and became an orderly on the staff of several officers.

On the night of the assassination, Bailey and two others were standing beside the home of Secretary of State William Seward when a man with a knife came running from the home. Seward's wounded son yelled from the window to stop that man as he had just stabbed Secretary of State Seward. The three gave chase but Lewis Powell, the would-be assassin, escaped on horseback. Bailey and the others entered the home and assisted in lifting the badly wounded Secre-

tary back to his bed. Bailey, then, reported to his General. General Alger sent him immediately with a written message to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. He was told to deliver the message only to Stanton himself.

Later that evening, Theodore Bailey was among a number of military assigned to search the hotel room of John Wilkes Booth. He later assisted in the arrest of Mrs. Surratt and two other accused members of the assassination conspiracy. Days later, after Booth was killed, he rode with an escort to

meet up with General Ulysses S. Grant. Bailey and the others arrived at a place where the body of John Wilkes Booth lay on the ground covered with a blanket. In Bailey's words, "I pulled off a blanket and looked at it. They say sometimes that Booth wasn't killed. I had seen him before, and I knew it was his body in those blankets that day."

After the Civil War, Theodore F. Bailey returned to Delaware County. Eventually he was employed as the truant officer for the Delaware City Schools. The 1897 City Directory showed his address as 210 West William Street. In 1909, the City Directory listed him as living at 56 West Central Avenue. He died in 1914 at the age of seventy. He is buried in the Marlboro Cemetery in northern Delaware County.

### CIVIL WAR CONNECTIONS

## DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

### OFFICERS

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1st Vice-President	Jack Hilborn
2nd Vice-President	Roger Koch
Recording Secretary	Janell Kuck
Corresponding Secretary	Sue Heston
Treasurer	Jan Fleischmann

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Doug Wilson



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Newsletter Editor: Matt Kear  
Contributions of original historical research concerning Delaware County, Ohio, are welcome.

Send your contributions to the attention of the Newsletter Editor at any of the above addresses.

# Pre-Civil War Secessionist Quitman an Early Area Teacher

By Brent Carson

*Editor's Note: To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, we are planning to publish stories of Delaware County's connections to the war in each issue through 2015. If you have an idea for a story or want to write a story, please contact us at [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org).*

April marked the beginnings of the Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration. In the next four years the DCHS will be highlighting Delaware County's connections to that time period. This pre-Civil War story takes us back to 1819, more than forty years before the war.

John A. Quitman arrived in Delaware as a young man from the state of New York and became a clerk in the U.S. Land Office. Pratt Bush was his employer as well as his landlord. He began to tutor Bush's sons and other youths, teaching them in the home where he stayed. However, because Pratt Bush was eccentric and strict, Quitman, at every opportunity, would take his young teens to an area nearby where he would teach them advanced classes in a natural setting. Protected from the wind by the hillside, the students would seat themselves on the trunks of fallen trees. For exercise he would then line them up behind him and they all would march like ducklings down the dusty road.

Quitman was well liked by his students, and his classes were perhaps the first high school-type classes in the community. The area where he taught took on the name "Quitman's Grove." Today it is an area behind Ohio Wesleyan's University Hall.

John Quitman did not remain in Delaware for long. By 1821, he had moved south. He purchased land near Natchez, Mississippi, and began a large plantation called Monmouth. He studied law, became a judge, and entered into politics. Quitman was elected to the state legislature, became president of the state senate, and served twice as governor of Mississippi.

Quitman served during the Mexican War, rising to the rank of Major General. At the conclusion of the war he was appointed acting military governor of Mexico City during the U.S. occupation of Mexico.

Quitman was eventually elected to the United

States Congress. There he became an outspoken advocate for states' rights, an advocate for slavery, and one of the earliest to promote secession from the Union.

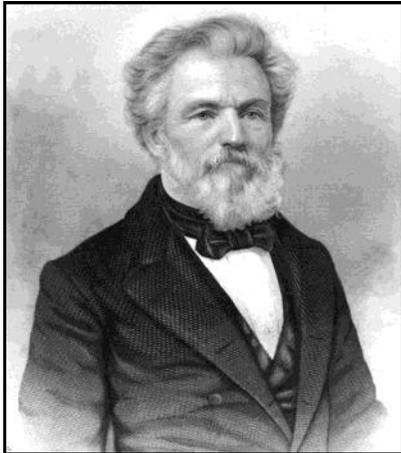
In 1856, he was appointed Chairman of the Inaugural Activities following the election of President James Buchanan. While staying in Washington making those plans, he contracted what was known as the Hotel Disease, today called Legionnaire's Disease. He returned to Mississippi and died

within a short time.

The distinction he acquired in the South is well recorded by the places named in his honor. There is a Lake Quitman, a Quitman Canyon, the Quitman Mountains, and Fort Quitman. Schools and hospitals carry his name. The following eleven states have counties or towns named after him: South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Louisiana.

Long before his military and political notoriety caused so many places to carry his name, there was a small, secluded patch of ground bearing the name "Quitman's Grove." The name had nothing to do with his "accomplishments" in the military or politics. It referred, instead, to a young teacher who had touched the lives of a group of students in the frontier town of Delaware.

## CIVIL WAR CONNECTIONS



**John A. Quitman**  
(from Wikipedia)

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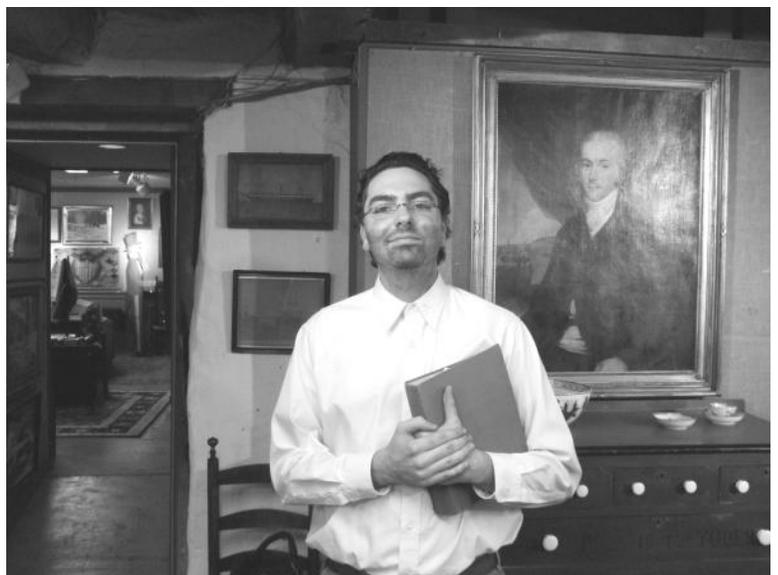


## 2010 Annual Meeting

The Delaware County Historical Society held its 2010 annual meeting in the historic Meeker Barn, the home of Garth's Auctions, Inc., 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio, on Thursday, November 18, 2010.

The business portion of the meeting included the election of officers and trustees. The officers were re-elected to their respective posts. Bill Rietz and T.K. Cellar were elected to the Board of Trustees as new trustees. Matt Kear was elected to serve a second term on the board. John Robinson retired from the Board after many years of dedicated service to the Society. Pictured above is Brent Carson, left, presenting John with a plaque in honor of his service.

Following the elections, Kyle Rayburn, a local actor and performer, presented a dramatic production titled "Memories of Our Meeker Homestead." Kyle, pictured on the right, portrayed Benjamin Meeker, the son of Forrest Meeker, telling stories of the early settlement in Stratford.



## Society Completes Acquisition of Meeker Homestead

By Roger Koch

The Delaware County Historical Society is the new owner of the 1812 Colonel Forrest Meeker Homestead at 2690 Stratford Road, long the location of Garth's Auctions, overlooking US 23 and the historic Olentangy river valley at the southern gateway to Delaware. The deed transfer to the Society in late December, 2010, was the culmination of a two-year-long process involving the property owners, the developers, the City of Delaware, the Stratford Village community, Garth's Auctions and the DCHS. The gift was made possible by the generosity of Tom and Carolyn Porter, long-time DCHS members, who were the owners and operators of Garth's Auctions for over thirty years.

The eight-acre hillside site acquired by the DCHS includes all of the historic buildings of the homestead which have looked over the river valley for nearly two hundred years. When driving by, it is easy to forget how early in our history this hillside cluster of buildings began life. The earliest portion of the Meeker House was built in 1812 when the recently-independent United States was being invaded by England, the most powerful nation in the world. The White House was burned by the British during the War of 1812, as President James Madison and Dolley escaped into the night with what they could carry. In Ohio the white population was less than a quarter of a million, mostly settled along the Ohio River. Colonel Meeker served in the war as a light cavalry officer and witnessed Admiral Perry defeat the British navy in Lake Erie.

The large stone-end barn just north of the house was constructed in 1820 during a period of national peace and prosperity following the defeat of England. President James Monroe was in the newly rebuilt White House, declaring with the "Monroe Doctrine"

that the Americas were fully independent and would no longer be subject to the colonial claims of the European nations. The population of Ohio nearly tripled that decade, as citizens pushed westward for the opportunity that the frontier of our rapidly growing nation promised. Col. Meeker apparently saw the opportunity in accommodating their needs.

The rear portion of the Meeker house was added on in 1830 when the family required more space, and President Andrew Jackson was in the White House, presiding over the beginning of the conquering of the

West. The population of Ohio had doubled again, and no one had yet heard of the coming industrial revolution. Agriculture was king, and subduing the wilderness was the preoccupation of the day. Still a long buggy ride south of Delaware, Stratford Village was being built up and down the Olentangy River from the Meeker homestead as a mill town surrounding the farming and milling operations owned by Col. Meeker and, later, George Bieber.

The DCHS is now the fortunate owner of this marvel-

ous local surviving piece of our nation's history. The property is now protected from development pressures not only by City of Delaware zoning regulations and by legal deed restrictions, but also by our dedication and passion. The DCHS has leased the property to Garth's Auctions to continue their nationally-renowned antiques auction business for this year as they ready their new, larger auction facilities. In the meantime, we have organized several committees to diligently prepare for the additional responsibilities of stewardship of this historic property. There is much to do and many opportunities to contribute to our efforts. Why not contact one of your officers or trustees to see how your skills and talents can help the DCHS preserve, maintain and show the Meeker Homestead to future generations?



**The Stone-End Barn at the Meeker Homestead**

(Photo by Matt Kear)

## Report of Members and Donors

### New Life Members

Edmund and Diane Cox  
Louis Foster  
Janell Kuck  
Tom Price, Price Farms Organic  
John Robinson, Robinson Funeral Home  
Carolyn Skinner  
Vladimir and Peggy Steffel  
Willow Brook at Delaware Run

### New Members

Ralph Au  
Robert Bauer  
Dave Bauerle  
Bernard Cellar  
Dean Bollinger  
Jesse Carter  
Nancy Colley  
Randy DeVault  
Dave Efland  
Anna Fullerton  
Carolyn Gibby  
Chris and Jennifer Gorz  
Margi Gundelfinger  
William Hanning  
Darrin Klinger  
Andy McCalla  
Kevin and Jan McCalla  
Doug Meeker  
David Parker  
Kyle Rayburn  
Peter Ruffing  
Darlene and J. David Schaub  
Carolyn Skinner  
Brian Smith, Smith-Feike-Minton  
Marian Vance and Larry Vance  
Sally Williams  
Grant Yoakum

### Sponsor - \$100-\$249

John L Barnhard, Jr.

Garth Brokaw  
Mike Clark, Delaware Electrical Contractors  
Delaware County Bank and Trust  
In Memory of Dorothy Cunningham McLeod  
Sammi Porter Flynn  
Bob and Holly Gerspacher  
Delaware Animal Clinic, Steven and Joy Kaser  
Manos, Martin, Pergram & Dietz  
Matt Kear  
Lyman Leathers  
June and Reginald Moncur  
Loren W. Moseley  
Gina Neer  
Janet and Bill Oberfield  
John and Libuse Reed  
Denise and G. Micheal Riley  
Mike and Margie Shade  
Dennis and Linda Sheets  
Martha and William Stroud  
John Thomas  
Barbara Tull  
Kathleen and Donald Wolf

### Silver Sponsor - \$250-\$499

American Legion, Post 115  
Clay Snyder, Devore-Snyder Funeral Home

### Gold Sponsor - \$500 - \$999

Harry Hume

### Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000 and up

Sandy Cryder

### Donors - Undesignated gifts

Gerald Cornell  
Larry Davis  
Delaware County Community

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Charlotte Gallant  
Hayes Class of 1975  
Kroger  
Evelyn Lee  
Olentangy Orange Middle School Eighth Grade  
Nancy and Bob Rietz  
Richard Smith  
Christine Stelloh-Gardner

### Donors - In Kind

Ron Armstrong  
ELK Productions  
Jordan Home Maintenance  
Price Farms Organics

### Marilyn Moseley Cryder

#### Memorial Fund

Linnea Anderson  
Sandy Cryder  
Daughters of the American Revolution – Delaware City Chapter  
Marlene Ehrlich  
James and Judith Freed  
Jack Hilborn  
Loren W. Moseley  
New Town High School  
John and Libuse Reed  
Anna Slesinski  
Patricia and David Staley  
Delores Tiberi  
John and Arlys Tombarge

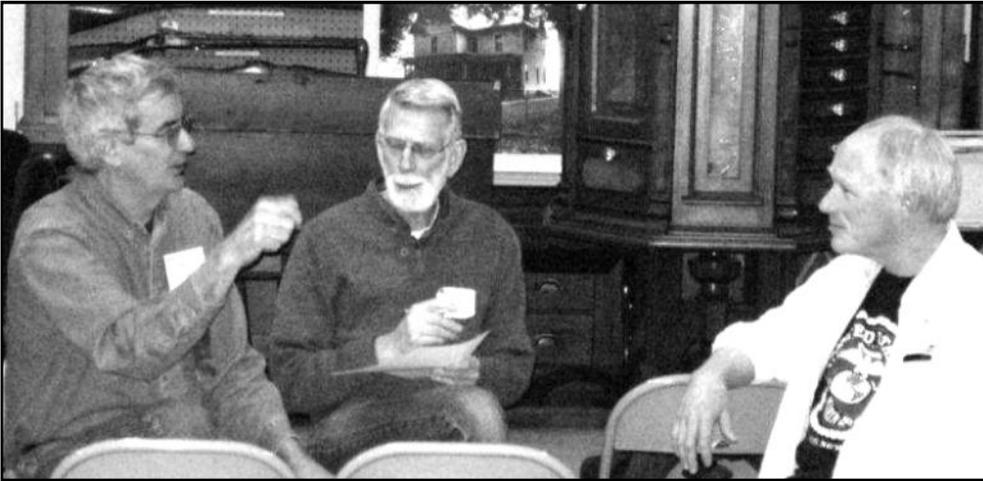
### Meeker Homestead Fund

James and Judith Freed

### Nash House

Red Hat Society  
Willis School

Thank You Members, Donors & Supporters!



**Roger Koch (left), Jim Simons (middle), and Pete Ruffing discuss building maintenance at the Volunteer Fair**

(photo courtesy Susan Logan)

## Society Hosts First Volunteer Fair

**By Susan Logan**

On March 5, 2011, thirty-six members and friends of the Delaware County Historical Society gathered at 157 E. William Street to participate in the Society's first Volunteer Fair. The purpose of the Fair was to share information about available volunteer opportunities with the Society. The day's program was divided into 3 segments. The initial session of about an hour included an orientation to the day by Volunteer Coordinator Susan Logan, and a welcome by President Brent Carson, followed by the discussion of thirty volunteer projects by Roger Koch, Sandy Wicker, Brent Carson and Jan Fleischmann.

The second hour was the actual fair, with balloons and a light lunch, which was to be somewhat like an art exhibit opening or a cocktail party. Descriptions of the projects were posted on display boards, and the project managers – Brent, Sandy, Roger, Jan, Matt Kear, and Sue Heston, substituting for Maggie Webb – were available to discuss the projects.

A partial list of the project titles includes: Museum Inventory; Nash House Docent; Nash House Duster; News Pages in History; Sesquicentennial Civil War Celebration; Business Memorabilia Committee; Meeker Exhibits; Cataloging with PastPerfect; Scanning Photographs; Historical Artifacts Photography; Research Assistant; Sorting and Indexing; Historical Research and Writing; Volunteer and Membership Associate; Supplies Manager; and Building Maintenance and Gardening.

The third segment of the program provided the opportunity for three project managers to provide up to one and one-half hours of training. Roger Koch led the Buildings and Gardens discussion. Sandy Wicker offered training on the Library. Brent Carson & Joe

Dwenger, who substituted for Maggie Webb, provided a tour and discussion of the Nash House.

Each of the participants received a program, a Volunteer Information form, and an Evaluation form. The evaluations were quite positive and provided some valuable ideas for future activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Logan, Volunteer Coordinator via e-mail to [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org) or by leaving a message on the DCHS telephone, 740-369-3831.



**Fred Wicker guards the refreshments**

(photo courtesy Susan Logan)

## Cryders Honored in Dedication



The Cryder Historical Center includes the Nash House, left, and the library/annex building

### (Continued from page 1)

Delaware County history, and they were sticklers on facts," he said.

During the ceremony, a sign reading "Cryder Historical Center" was unveiled to smiles and applause.

Fleischmann emphasized that the Delaware County Historical Society has not changed its name, and the Nash House will continue to be known as the Nash House. The Cryder Historical Center comprises all of the society's properties at 157-159 East William Street.

Carson said both Cryders, who met in 1949 when they were employed by Delaware's Star Theatre, also were fervent about collecting items of local significance.

"If they knew people had things, they were so influential in getting people to donate," he said. "They were constantly giving programs on history."

Sandra Cryder, who brought her two daughters to the ceremony, said her gift was intended to reflect her parents' dedication.

"I wanted to do something to

commemorate their passion for local history, as well as the time and energy they devoted to the community, and this targeted gift was a perfect fit with my parents' interests and the needs of DCHS," she said.

The DCHS is seeking other targeted donations. Sponsors could support the society's library, its artifacts, the Nash House or other, more specific items or areas, according to their own interests.

## Collection of Delaware Business Memorabilia Continues

By Brent Carson

Last year a group of volunteers formed a committee to seek business memorabilia. The committee's success has been gratifying as items and photographs continue to arrive at the historical society.

Calendars, match books, yard sticks, mirrors,

cigar boxes, fans, rain gauges, and menus, all bearing the name of Delaware County businesses, are among the items received. One of the most recent items donated is a large doorstep milk box from Isaly's Dairy.

The quest for more business related items continues, and the historical society would welcome your donations.

## *News and Notes from the Nash House*

### **Delaware County Courts and Society Complete Historic Picture Project**

The Delaware County Juvenile and Probate Courts and the DCHS have partnered to decorate the new county courtrooms with photographs from Delaware County's past. When the two courts began to prepare to move into their new space in the Hayes County Services Building at 140 North Sandusky Street, court officials contacted DCHS with their idea. After eight months, numerous meetings, and hours of archival research, the project was completed in March.

Various suggested topics were proposed and dozens of pictures were presented. After months of planning, the pictures were reproduced, framed, and presented to the courts. Judge Kenneth Spicer, the magistrates, and members of the court staff all participated in the process.

In all, a total of 33 pictures are now hanging in the courts facilities. Eighteen of these photographs were formerly hanging in the Bob Evans restaurant on the south side of Delaware. After the restaurant's recent renovation, the historic Delaware photographs which were featured prominently there disappeared from public view. With the help of Maggie Webb and Brent Carson, the photographs were located. It took a few phone calls and a personal visit to Bob Evans corporate offices, but in the end the corporate office graciously agreed to donate the photographs to DCHS for use in the courts project.

The photo exhibit was featured during the public dedication of the new facility in March. The Historical Society was widely praised by the county court offices for their work on the photo project. The County gave the Historical Society a gift of an antique Victorian-era stand as a thank you for the project. The antique will be placed in the Nash House.

Special thanks to Benny Shoults, Maggie Webb, Sandy Wicker, and Brent Carson for their many hours spent on this project.

### **Library News**

**By Sandy Wicker, Librarian**

Exciting things are happening in our research library. Due to some very generous donations to the Cryder Memorial Fund, especially from Sandy Cryder and her family, we have been able to add a large scanner, a projector, and a new computer workstation to our technical area. In the near future we will have a new digital camera and another computer.

Why is all this equipment important? It will allow us to progress more rapidly with our cataloging goal of putting everything the Society owns into the PastPerfect database, which will eventually be online.

We are collaborating with the Ashley Wornstaff Library and the Sunbury Community Library to put digitized copies of our most important manuscripts and the Mendenhall Land Index into a website called "Delaware County History," which is similar to the current "Big Walnut History," only with a county-wide coverage. This is still in the planning stage.

Not all of the projects are high-tech. We are also doing old-fashioned inventories of our library holdings to determine which items need to be photocopied and the original put into the archives, and what needs indexing and/or digitizing. Conservation and preservation of our oldest items is our top priority. New volunteers are always welcome!

### **Help Preserve Our Historical Legacy**

Bequests have played an important role in the preservation of Delaware County history. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. Please consider the Delaware County Historical Society when making your estate plans.

### **Meijer Donates Historic Photographs**

If you have shopped in the Meijer store on U.S. Route 23 South near Powell Road, you may remember the large historic photographs of Delaware County. The photographs lined the wall near the checkout stations at the front of the store. For years the six-foot by four-foot pictures were featured on the wall. Recently the pictures were removed as the store is changing its décor. The pictures, some fifteen in number, have been donated to the Delaware County Historical Society. A big

**Delaware County  
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