



# Delaware County Historian

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN 2013



**Susan Button (left) and Sandor Gulyas analyze the content of two collections in the Society's archive in preparation to re-box in acid-neutral boxes.**

(photo by Susan Logan)

## Society Uses Grant To Identify, Preserve Archival Collections

By Susan Logan

Volunteers of the Delaware County Historical Society have been diligently working to better identify and protect the documents and items held in the Society's archives because of a grant received by the Society. In March 2013, the Society received a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB), one of eight made by that board, which the Society is required to use to make our archives more available to the general public. This project will make the archives more accessible to visitors to the Cry-

der Historical Center and to Internet users.

The grants are funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), an arm of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The funded projects include organizing and preserving historical records and cataloging and digitizing records for improved access.

Society volunteers are carefully combing through the records and re-boxing them in acid-free folders and boxes. Previously, the papers have **(Continued on Page 10)**

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## We Remember Louis Foster

The Delaware County Historical Society lost a dedicated friend with the recent passing of Louis Foster. Louis served for several years as a Trustee of the Society and was Trustee Emeritus, the first person so named, at the time of his death. He was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky, but his Delaware County roots run deep. Among his forebears were the Robinsons, who arrived in the county in 1834, the Smiths, in 1852, the Fosters, in 1859, and the McCarthys, in 1860.

A graduate of The Ohio State University, Louis spent most of his adult life in Columbus, where he served in the Columbus Police Department. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving for five years in Germany. He came to Delaware with his wife, Marion, after he retired from the police force in Columbus.

Louis was a familiar face to many who visited or volunteered at the Cryder Historical Center as he was a frequent volunteer. He was a



**Louis Foster in the Library**

diligent researcher, especially in the old newspapers, and was a wonderful source of information about early Delaware. On the Board of Trustees, he brought a strong perspective in favor of the Society's Library and the many visitors to our facilities. He also

brought a necessary sense of humor and good timing for when to make the "motion to adjourn."

Society members, volunteers, and visitors all will miss Louis and his dedication to the preservation of Delaware County history.

### DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

#### OFFICERS

President	Brent Carson
Vice-President of Development	Jack Hilborn
Vice-President of Operations	Roger Koch
Recording Secretary	Steve Shaw
Corresponding Secretary	T.K. Cellar
Treasurer	Jan Fleischmann

#### TRUSTEES

Charlton Amidon  
Lynn Foreman  
Bob Gerspacher  
Sue Heston  
Matt Kear  
Donna Meyer  
Bonnie Newland  
Bill Rietz  
Benny Shoults  
Doug Wilson  
Louis Foster (Emeritus)



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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.





(photo courtesy Bob Rietz)

### Trip to Spiegel Grove

Eight members of the Society traveled to Spiegel Grove in Fremont, Ohio, on Saturday, October 12. The group toured the home of Rutherford and Lucy Hayes in the morning. The guided tour of the beautifully refurbished home lasted nearly an hour and a half. After a leisurely lunch, they toured the Presidential Museum in the afternoon. The Hayes Presidential Center was the first presidential library and remains one of the finest in the country.

Those who made the trip were (front row, left to right) Janell Kuck, Elinor Loos, Nancy Rietz, Barb Tull, Roger Van Sickle, (back row, left to right) Cindy Skipworth, Brent Carson, and Joe Dwenger.

- Brent Carson

## Annual Meeting To Be Held November 14

The Delaware County Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held in the original church at the Liberty Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Olentangy River Road and Home Road, on Thursday, November 14, 2013, at 7 p.m.

T.K. Cellar will be presenting a program on the history of the Liberty Church.

The annual election of trustees will occur at the meeting. The following people have been nominated to serve three-year terms on the Board of Trustees: Sue Heston, Jack Hilborn, Matt Kear, Marian Vance, and Mary Ann McGreevey.

This is an evening you will not want to miss. The Board hopes to see each of you there!

# History of Delaware County Historical Society

Compiled by Steve Shaw

The following is an edited summary of a historical portion of the founding of the Delaware County Historical Society. The publication was titled "Public Opening and Second Annual Pilgrimage Delaware County Historical Museum," and is dated Sunday, May 22, 1955. It was a portion of the pamphlet printed for the Dedication of the Delaware County Historical Museum, which we now know as the Nash House.

"The first mention we have found of an historical society in Delaware County is an article written by D.W.C. Lugenbeel in the *Delaware Gazette* for August 31, 1909. . . . The Colonization Society was organized in 1832 with Mr. Hosea Williams as president no mention was made of activities or programs of the society.

"Going forward in the article it is written that 'On February 8, 1906 some citizens of the county met at the office of Mr. H.E. Buck and formed the Delaware County Historical and Archeological Society. The following Trustees were elected: Henry Buck, Frank L. Grove, D.L. Ziegler, Joseph Gross, J.L. Smith, J. B. Taggart. . . . Meetings were held every Monday and the last entry of the minutes was made April 26, 1910. The book is now (1955) in the custody of the Delaware County District Library.'"

"Urged by Mrs. Walter S. Cole, a number of persons interested in the history of Delaware County, past and present, met in the old Marlborough Church

on October 12, 1947. . . . The constitution was written and the society incorporated in November. On November 17, 1947 the first officers were elected . . . Wilber J. Main, president, Mrs. Walter S. Cole, secretary, . . . Mrs. Edgar Nichols, Treasurer. The organization grew slowly, with much interest in the telling of past history but with no financial backing or foundation with which to acquire a home for the society and/or a place to house the gifts of relics and records it was hoped would come to the society for preservation. A number of papers, records and books were promised to various members for the society at such time as permanent housing would be available.

"In the summer of 1954 Miss Pauline Nash offered her home at 157 E. William Street to the Delaware County Historical Society as a museum. After a number of meetings by the officers and trustees in August 1954 this offer was accepted on an annuity basis. This was made possible by an annual allotment of funds from the County Commissioners, as stated in Ohio law. Work of getting the house in order for a museum was slow, but the enthusiasm of the members never lagged. Now with the opening of a museum nearly eight years after the organization, is the real beginning. The Society has a place to house and display tangible evidences of Delaware County's past. The present must be forgotten- It is tomorrow's past."

Contributors noted were Thomas Graham, Anna Pabst, and Mrs. William Hahnert.

## Newsletter Articles Are Wanted!

We want to publish articles of any length written about Delaware County history in this newsletter.

For our Winter 2014 issue, articles will be due on December 15. For our Spring 2014 issue, articles will be due on March 1.

Send your submission or your questions to  
[info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)

## SHOP & DONATE!

When you shop at the Delaware County Community Market, 20% of your purchase goes to the charity of your choice. Why not select us? Then, every time you shop, you will automatically be supporting our mission. Simply stop by the store at 222 E. William St. and register (it's free) and choose us as your charity of choice. The Market features many products that are made by local vendors.

The  
Delaware County  
Community Market



*The Market carries:  
produce, baked goods, soups,  
sandwiches, breads, ribs, pies,  
jams, jellies, sauces, honey,  
eggs, soaps, lotions, candles,  
framed artwork, cards, jewelry,  
bird food, socks, wreaths, knit  
goods & more!  
The Market can cater, too!*

The Delaware County Community Market  
222 E. William St., Delaware (near the liquor drive thru)  
740-610-0091 or [www.dccmc.com](http://www.dccmc.com)

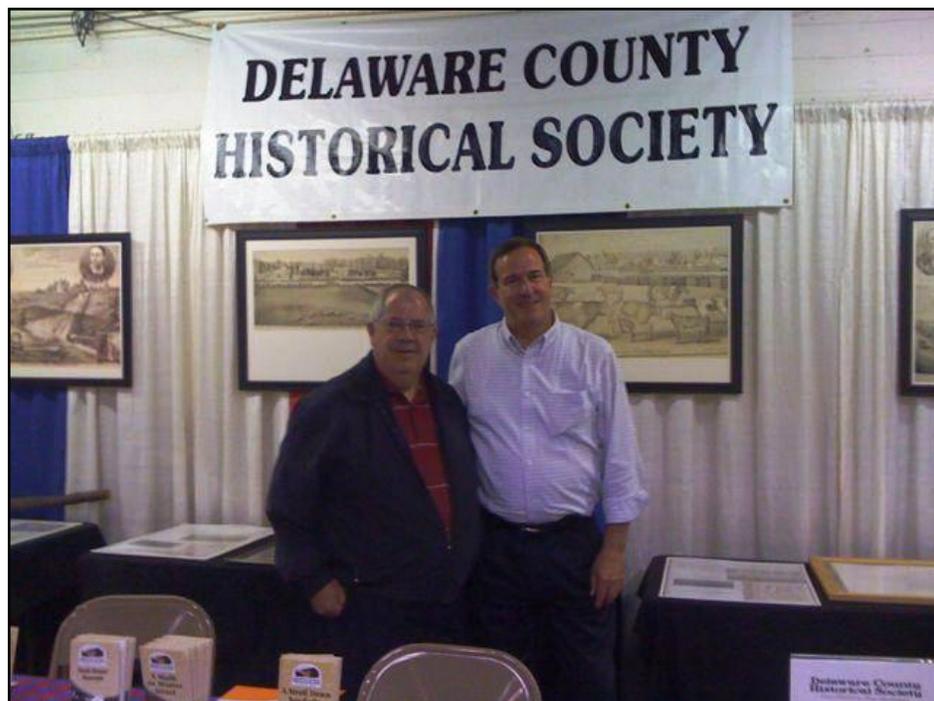
# Society Brings Farm History To The Fair



**This year at the Delaware County Fair, the Society featured historic farmsteads. Our display booth, once again located in the Coliseum, included photos and art from farms throughout the County.**

(above, below, and opposite above photos by Matt Kear)





**Above: Brent Carson (left) and Bob Gerspacher at the Fair**

(photo courtesy Bob Gerspacher)

## Committee Reports

### Museum and Exhibits Subcommittee

The Museum and Exhibits Subcommittee has been busy sharing Delaware County's history in a Downtown shop window. Steve Cianelli, owner of the Hair Studio, 33 N. Sandusky St., has graciously made available one entire front window showcase for the Society since the Spring of 2013. The first display was themed on the Great Flood of 1913. Next, we promoted Hayes High School's production of *Hello Dolly* using period items from our collection. Around the time of the "Blast from the Past" car show, we did an auto-related theme, and then we showcased a mixed collection of items and celebrated the Delaware County Fair and the Little Brown Jug. Most recently, in October, the President Hayes items were placed to commemorate the 197th Birthday of President Hayes. We are trying to present a different theme each month to promote the Society and it seems to be working. Brent Carson, Maggie Webb and Benny Shoults are the team members making sure to keep up on changing the window displays each month, usually for Downtown Delaware's First Friday. This is a great outreach program that puts the Society in the public eye in a way that promotes the Society and the Hair Studio. If you walk by be sure to take a look and take a minute to tell someone in the Hair Studio "thank you."

- Benny Shoults, Chair



**Above and Left: The Display Window at the Hair Studio in Downtown Delaware**

(photos by Susan Logan)

## Committee Reports

### Membership Committee

Thank you for your membership in the Delaware County Historical Society!

**Please renew your membership for 2014** when you receive your letter as part of the Society's annual membership drive! Letters will be sent to current members, past members, and other interested parties. We are working to expand our membership base in the entire county, and we're interested in reaching those who have never been members.

Student \$5.00

Senior (60+) \$15.00

Adult \$20.00

**Think about becoming a Life Member:** \$300.00 for individuals or \$500.00 for a Joint Life Membership. A payment plan is available.

Thank you to our current Life Members!

The Society had 408 members on October 7,

2013.

Thanks to all those who stopped by the Society's booth at the Delaware County Fair!

Please share your Society experiences with family, friends and neighbors and encourage their support of the Society through the purchase of a membership. You may also purchase a gift membership for family or friends.

To help us update our records and make sure mailings are received by our members, please let us know of address and e-mail address changes. Also, if you have a seasonal address, please give us that information so that mailings are not returned when away from your primary address.

The membership committee is: Sue Heston, Jack Hilborn, Susan Logan, Brent Carson and T.K. Cellar. If you'd like to be a part of this committee, please contact, T.K. Cellar at 740-816-2775 or via email at tcellar@aol.com

- T.K. Cellar, Chair

## Featured Item: C.F. Graff Trade Card

In each issue of the newsletter, we feature an item contained in the Society's collection. In this issue, we are featuring a trade card which was distributed by C.F. Graff, a manufacturer and dealer of boots and shoes in Delaware, Ohio. According to the 1900 census, Christopher Graff immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1853. The business appears in the Delaware City Directory in 1880 at 49 N. Sandusky St. and in 1890 at 51 N. Sandusky St. In 1901 and 1908-09, the business is listed as Graff Shoes and Graff Bros. at 51 N. Sandusky.

Trade cards became popular in London in the early 17th century. They were an early form of the modern business card that is known today, and they were used for advertising and also as maps which directed customers to their stores. With the development of color printing, some businesses began to make more intricate and aesthetically pleasing designs, such as

the design seen on the C.F. Graff card. As the designs became more attractive and colorful, collecting trade cards became a popular hobby in the late 19th century, since color images were not yet widely available.

- Anne Frissora



## Project To Make Archives More Accessible

### (Continued from Page 1)

been stored in brown accordion folders which are acidic and contribute to the deterioration of the papers stored in them. During this process, volunteers read through the collection to determine the extent in years of the specific collection, the individuals involved in creating the collection and/or mentioned in the collection, and the type and purpose of the papers. For example, the papers may be personal correspondence, business records, memorabilia, or personal diaries.

After analyzing the content of the collection and keeping it in order to the extent possible, the volunteers are replacing the metal paper clips with plastic clips, and removing staples and replacing them with plastic clips. Very acidic documents are placed in polyester envelopes. Each collection is then rehoused in acid-neutral boxes.

During this process, one item from each collection is being scanned to be stored electronically. At this time, the Society does not have enough resources to scan every item in these collections, but we are collecting metadata from each collection. The metadata and scanned examples will be available through the Society's webpage using our PastPerfect software and databases, possibly starting as early as late November.

The Delaware County materials that are being processed as part of this project include personal, business and organizational records, most of which are from the 19th and 20th Century. The work on this project is to be completed by December 31, 2013. Particularly interesting collections will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

Society volunteers began working on the project in April and have thus far organized and cataloged more than 20 archive collections. Examples of collections processed include the following:

- The papers of Marcus Curtiss (1780-1868), who was the innkeeper and early Postmaster of Genoa Township. The collection includes loose books, a box of newspapers of the day and box of documents which include correspondence, materials about his position of postmaster, a day book relating to the general store and articles about the Curtiss Inn.

- Delaware High School Memorabilia, including Commencement programs from 1890 through 1921, Alumni Association Dinner programs from 1894-1901 and the documentation of the class of 1908's 50th

class reunion in 1958.

- Receipts related to the Union Grocery, Balthausen Brothers, proprietors, from 1913. The receipts are primarily from local businesses and give a view of what was purchased to supply the store.

- Shur Archive of 15 daybooks recording the daily activity of the S.P. Shur Company in Delaware from 1854-1881, incomplete.

- The Tippet papers which consist primarily of the records regarding Mr. John Tippet's lawsuit against Universal Film Corporation in 1938, which requested the court to order Universal to permit Mr. Tippet to look at Universal Film Corporation's books. John Tippet owned the Trans-Atlantic Film Company, a British company, in 1917; Mr. Tippet retired to Delaware and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

- Records and ledgers of the Pierce Family of Galena, including records and ledgers of the South Berlin Presbyterian Church.

- E.J. Fitchhorn papers -- Mr. Fitchhorn was bandmaster in the Delaware City Schools from 1928 to 1938. On July 11, 1939, Fitchhorn received a design patent for "Design for a Musical Instrument of a Flute-Like Nature," which was called a song flute and was manufactured by Fitchhorn and later by Conn-Selmer.

- The archives of the Delaware Business Girls Club, Shakespeare Club of Delaware, Fortnightly Club, Cosmopolitan Club, and Delaware Mental Health Association.

- The personal diaries dating between 1861-1891 of Aaron J. Lyon and his wife Olive. Reverend A.J. Lyon was a minister in the Methodist Church, treasurer of Ohio Wesleyan University, and President of the Delaware Electric Light Heat and Power Company.

### **Wanted: Volunteers**

We need your help. The Society is completely operated by volunteers, and there are always areas where we need help. There are more than two dozen ways you can help the Society by volunteering your time and talents. Many of our committees are also seeking members.

To find out how you can help, contact Susan Logan at [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org).

*Thank You Volunteers, Members and Donors!*

## News and Notes from the Nash House

### DCHS Can Benefit From Kroger Community Rewards

The Delaware County Historical Society has registered for the Kroger Community Rewards Grant Program. This program gives participating non-profit organizations a portion of the sales when a member uses their KrogerPlus card. The member must register their own card and non-profit organization—we are NPO 84793. If you do not already have a KrogerPlus card, you may get one at any Kroger store customer service center.

To participate, first go online to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

**FOR NEW CARD CUSTOMERS** or those who have a card, but have not registered it online:

Select OHIO, not Ohio Stores.

Scroll down to **Participant** and click on **“Enroll.”** You will get detailed instructions on how to proceed. If you would prefer to have the printable instructions to follow, just click on the “here” under **Enroll** and print them out before you start.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED YOUR KROGERPLUS CARD ONLINE:**

Go online to: [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)

Scroll to bottom of page and click on

**My Kroger!**

Sign in.

Go to the bottom of the “Sign-In Information” page and click on “Edit Community Rewards Program Information.”

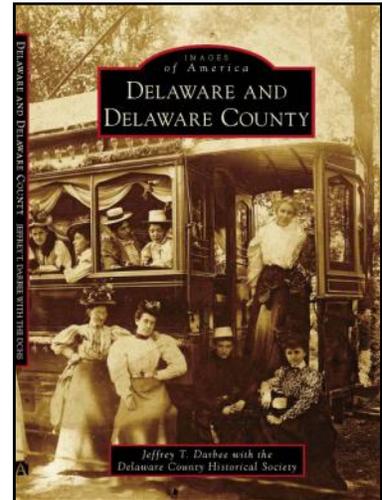
Enter your organization: The Delaware County Historical Society.

**DON'T FORGET TO CLICK “SAVE CHANGES”** or you won't be registered!

If you have already signed up with another non-profit organization, you may change it after six months. If you already signed up, you still need to re-register once a year, starting in April.

### On Sale Now!

*Delaware and Delaware County* Now Available For Sale at the Library, Beehive Books, and other area retailers!



Logo T-Shirts, Tote Bags, and Mugs Are Now Available!



### Our Newsletter is Now Available Electronically

The Delaware County Historical Society is proud to offer each issue of the *Delaware County Historian* in an electronic format to each of our members. The *Delaware County Historian* is in PDF format and requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to view it. The electronic format is sent out around the same time as the paper version. The only difference between the paper version and the electronic version is that the electronic version is in color. If you would like to receive the electronic version, please send a message to [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org).

Delaware County  
Historical Society

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**DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Memberships received between September and December (excluding Life Memberships) expire December 31 of the following year. All memberships are "per-person" amounts, including life memberships.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status (circle one): Renew New

**Membership Type**

Student Membership	\$5.00	_____	Life Membership (Single)	\$300.00	_____
Senior Membership (60+ yrs)	\$15.00	_____	Life Membership (Joint)	\$500.00	_____
Adult Membership	\$20.00	_____			

For Student Membership, name of your school: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter preference (circle): Printed E-mail Both

In addition to your membership noted above, please consider an additional gift to the Society:

\$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Special Gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For/In Honor or Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_