

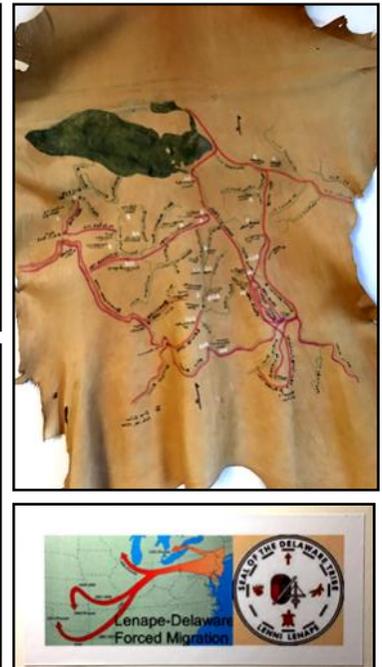
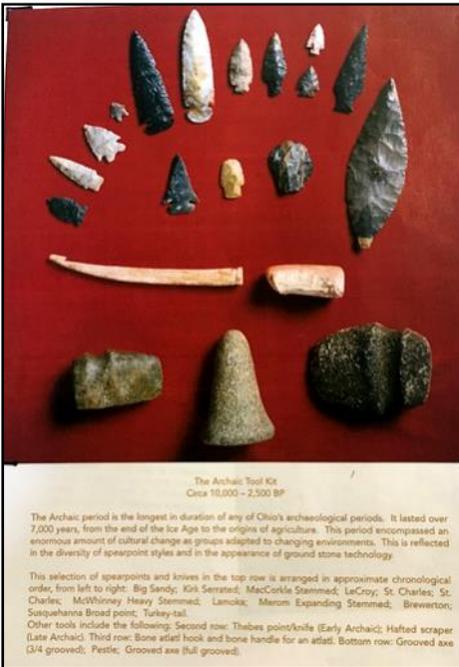


Delaware County Historian

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2018

New Exhibit Open in Society's Meeker Homestead Museum



Many artifacts are included in the new exhibit.

(DCHS Archives)

By Lynn Foreman and Benny Shoults

With the opening of the 2018 season, the Society has dedicated a gallery in the Meeker Homestead Museum that will become a permanent home for the American Indian history of Delaware County. We expect that the contents of the exhibit will evolve as we learn more about the complicated history of these first settlers in the area. Currently the exhibit focuses on a collection of relics donated by Frances (Grove) Arehard in the 1970s. It includes a variety of found relics from Delaware County and other places in Ohio and beyond. Nearly all of the artifacts on display have never been

previously viewed by the public.

The Society thanks the Ohio History Connection and all the other contributors of information and artifacts. The history of those who occupied this land, before the early pioneers of European descent, deserve the respect of our knowledge of their history. This is the goal of the American Indian Gallery at the Meeker Homestead Museum.

This exhibit tells the story of Delaware County's first residents. Prior to the arrival of settlers from the east, Ohio was inhabited by a variety of American Indian cultures dating back thousands of years.

(Continued on Page 8)

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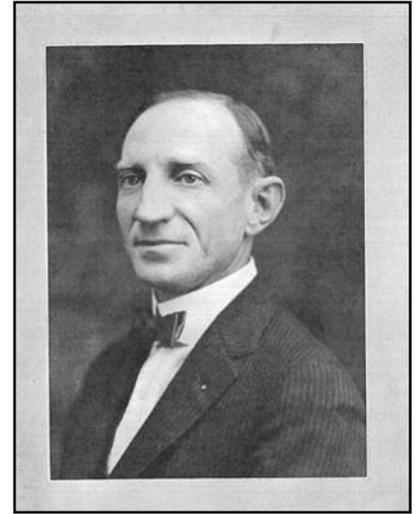
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School Funding Questions Not New

By Steve Shaw

Elections today often seem to have a new school issue put before voters that asks for an increase in property tax rates. There must be a better way. Ah, the good old days when things were simpler—or were they? Consider what then-County Superintendent of Schools Paul Lybarger had to say 93 years ago, in the 1925 County Schools Yearbook. Mr. Lybarger was the leader for the schools of Delaware County after a round of consolidations and new building in the early 1900s. Here is Mr. Lybarger's commentary on funding school in the 1920s: *"With the ever increasing demands on a complex civilization we can no longer hope to make the property tax the only source of revenue for the support of the public schools."*

The Delcoan was a yearbook for the county school systems and provides interesting glimpses to schools in most local communities. Here are a few of the 13 districts featured in the publication: Ashley, Berlin, Brown, Hyatts, Galena, Radnor, and Powell. Copies of the 1924 and 1925 Delcoan can be found in the Society's Cryder Research Library.



Paul M. Lybarger

(DCHS Archives)

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

Our Mission: To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio, through historic preservation and education.

Our Vision: To be a continuing, self-sustaining source of and a repository for historical information and artifacts which fosters lifelong interest in Delaware County history through community engagement, education and historic preservation.

Donna Meyer, Executive Director

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**Delaware County
Historical Society**
Our History, Our Heritage

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.

Searching For Your Roots

To truly know who we are, we must first know who we were. Whether your roots are here in Delaware, Ohio, or you are a recent transplant, to understand our history is a basic pursuit for many people.

For some folks, learning our history is also learning about our ancestors. The beginning for many people's quest into their family tree probably began with the 1977 miniseries *Roots*. Not only did the show inspire African Americans to search for their ancestry, but people with ancestors from many countries also became curious about where their forefathers came from and how and why they came to America. Current TV shows like *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Finding Your Roots* capture the attention of millions while delving into the ancestors of well-known personalities. More often than not, they find ancestors who are less-than-admirable, including criminals, deserters, and slave owners. And as my mother told me once, "In every family tree, there is at least one minister and one horse thief."

I like to think that our history makes us who we are. We are all special and unique – unlike anyone else on earth. Indeed, my sister's DNA and mine do not exactly match and wouldn't unless we were identical twins. Though we are mostly of Great Britain stock, I am more German than her and she is more Irish than I am. (Interesting to note, we have a smidgen of Scandinavian blood due to our Viking ancestors). My forefathers came to America beginning in the 1700s and settled in Pennsylvania, gradually moving to Virginia and the Ohio River Valley. The story of why they came here is still waiting to be discovered but I am guessing it was because of opportunities, religion, or because a relative had already immigrated here. After all, one might say that YOU are the reason your ancestors existed at all.

Learning about history when I was at Willis Junior High School was basically restricted to Ohio (thanks, Mrs. Cornell!) but no local history was taught. As part of our mission statement, the Delaware County Historical Society is dedicated to educating the community about OUR history. Last year, we touched the lives of over 4,400 children and adults as we told stories, dressed in costume, displayed artifacts, and gave presentations to so many in our community. Following visits to elementary schools, teachers encouraged students to write thank-you letters about our visits. In recent letters from

students at Tyler Run in Powell, one child wrote about enjoying seeing our "donut baker thingy" as well as our antique mouse trap. Another was very impressed with the old iron we brought - "it's heavy" was written on her letter. (Though used only as a doorstop, my mother always called them "sad irons" because you would certainly be sad to use the weighty things.) Our wonderful Curriculum Committee truly brings history to life by exhibiting historic items children can not only see but also can touch. These are experiences they may remember for the rest of their

lives and ones they can't get by looking at a computer screen. Learning about our history gives us a sense of belonging. Whether you are from Delaware, or you are from another community and have been "adopted" by us, history is what binds us all together and tells our story. There are several Facebook groups, including our own, with an historic interest. Posts and photos of long-gone buildings, people, and memories evoke hundreds if not thousands of comments, likes, and shares. Our monthly historical programs tell the story of our past. Whether it is the Blizzard of 1978, gas stations and grocery stores, or restaurants, many people want to share their own memories of Delaware.

This year, we will have programs on Historic Sports Venues, Railroads in Delaware County, Floods, and the Spanish Flu Epidemic. We will be bringing back the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk in October with new reenactors who will be portraying notable residents who were buried there. Be sure to check out our website for additional information about our programs.

Learning about local history matters because it tells the story of our ancestors and who they were. It tells the story of our community and the events and people who shaped us. It helps build a sense of pride and creates a bond, regardless of how long your family has been here. Come join us and learn about our story and your story. And maybe, just maybe, we will let you play with our antique mouse trap!



Director's Column By Donna Meyer



Donna

“This Place Matters” Campaign Launches

By Donna Meyer

Is there a special place that matters to you? Maybe it's the house you grew up in or a downtown business that you love. It could be the school you attended or a beautiful historic building that you want to see preserved. The Delaware County Historical Society is joining a national special awareness campaign to encourage people to celebrate the places that are meaningful to them and to our communities.

May is National Historic Preservation Month, and we are ready to celebrate! Everyone has places that are important to them. Places they care about. Places that matter.

Now in its 11th year, “This Place Matters” is a national campaign by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that encourages people to think about preservation efforts in their community, such as recognizing historic buildings and sites, honoring businesses or residences that have adaptively reused historic buildings, or celebrating our heritage through local historic preservation efforts.

Playing a key part in this special campaign is the Society's Historic Preservation Committee. This committee was formed late last year, and its purpose is to list endangered historic structures, create both educational programs and a reference library on historic properties, and provide related links on our website. This committee also plans to hold activities that would encourage the preservation of the built environment.

You, too, can join the celebration. During the month of May, pick up a “This Place Matters” sign at the Cryder Research Library (open Wednesdays from 10-12 am and 1-5 pm and on Sundays from 2-5 pm), the Meeker Museum (open Sundays from 2-5pm) or at our table at the May First Friday in Downtown Delaware. You can also pick up a sign at the Society office, 2690 Stratford Road in Delaware (located on the south side of the Meeker House – lower level) from Monday – Friday from 9 am to 5pm. Take a



Donna Meyer kicks off the campaign at the Meeker Homestead

(DCHS photo)

photo of you (or anyone else) holding the sign in front of your favorite historic site to share on our Facebook page, our Twitter feed (https://twitter.com/DelawareCo_HS) or our Instagram page (https://www.instagram.com/delawareco_hs/). Be sure to use the hashtag #ThisPlaceMattersDelco.

We will also be compiling a short video made from clips of participants telling why that place is important to them.

And the best part — there are zero rules. These can be places that are large or small, historically significant or personally priceless. Places that you want to preserve for future generations. They just have to mean something to you. National Preservation Month is the perfect time to share it with the world.

This campaign isn't just about photography, after all. It's about telling the stories of the places we can't live without. Through “This Place Matters,” we hope to encourage and inspire an ongoing dialogue about the importance of place and preservation in all of our lives that lasts far beyond the month of May. For more information on how you can participate in this month-long promotion, call Donna Meyer, executive director at 740-369-3831 or email info@delawareohiohistory.org.

Society Celebrates 70th at Annual Meeting

The Society held its 2017 annual meeting in the historic Garth Oberlander Barn, part of the Meeker Homestead, on Wednesday, November 8. Nearly 100 members and friends attended.

The business portion of the agenda included reports from the Society's leadership and the election of Board trustees.

Mark Shipps, grandson of Professor Henry Hubbart, who is one of the Society's founding members, presented a first-edition copy of Professor Hubbart's book, *Ohio Wesleyan's First*

Hundred Years, to the Society. Following the business meeting, Steve Shaw presented a program on Delaware County and World War I, paying special tribute to Delaware native sons Ralph Van Deman and Benson Hough, and also the 42nd Rainbow Division and the Medical Corps.

During the business meeting, it was announced that Brent Carson, the Society's longtime President, would be retiring from that position at the end of 2017. All members joined in thanking Brent for his dedicated service. Brent is continuing as a trustee of the Society, and he was named to the new position of President Emeritus in recognition for his continuing influence on the educational outreach of the Society. The Society also recognized outgoing board members Charlton Amidon and George Needham. Current trustees Ralph Au, Karen Cowan, Jan Fleischmann, and Benny Shoults were each re-elected to 3-year terms, and Mike Huber was elected to a new 3-year term. The membership also voted to approve changes in the Society's Constitution.

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees in 2018, the Board elected the following officers of the Society: Jack Hilborn, President; Matt Kear, Executive Vice President; Jan Fleischmann, Development Vice President; Karen Cowan, Vice President of Board Operations; Ralph Au, Treasurer; and Lynn Foreman, Secretary.



Above: Trustees and Key Volunteers with Birthday Cake.

Middle: Donna Meyer presents Brent Carson with a print of the Meeker Homestead painting by Mary Morrison in appreciation for his service to the Society.

Bottom: Brent Carson presents outgoing trustee George Needham with a recognition plaque.

(photos by Brad Cowan)



Olson Assists Society With New Exhibits, Curriculum

By Karen Hildebrand and Susan Logan

Eric C. Olson has made two visits to the Society's Cryder Research Center to identify and assist in cataloging the American Indian artifacts in our collection and display cases. Eric came to Delaware by way of an internship at the Ohio History Connection's Ohio Historic Preservation Office and the AmeriCorps-OHIO History Connection Archaeology Department where he serves as an archaeological consultant. Eric received his M.A. in Anthropology from Ball State University where his thesis focused on a specific prehistoric architectural design known as the paired-post circle.

Eric started our discussion with items in the display case and found our collection to be, for the most part, correctly identified and labeled. He then moved into the backroom and worked on items that had been donated over the years to help the Society in the identification of the items and to assist with the cataloging language for the items. Society volunteers had tried to catalog the items so that they could be retrieved for use in future exhibits and research, but they determined that we did not have enough information about American Indian artifacts to complete the cataloging process.

Eric next met with the Education Curriculum Committee and Benny Shoults, Chair of the Museum & Exhibits Committee, to present background information on the items in our collection. He described the background for the different archaeological and prehistoric periods of the American Indians in Ohio. These periods include the PaleoIndian (14,000-9,500 BC), the Archaic (9,500-500 BC), Woodland (800 BC-AD 1200; Early, Mid, Late), Late Prehistoric (AD 1000-1540) and Protohistoric (AD 1540-1795). He explained uses and descriptions for some of the items that we have in our collection including arrowheads, flints, cutting tools, and various stone implements. Ohio's earliest recorded Indian artifacts date to 1630-1650. He emphasized the daunting effects of climate on the early cultures and the artifacts left behind. As the rivers lowered and travel became possible, more extensive trading among different tribes started to take place so artifacts that we recognize today can be found in many areas across the state, especially along river routes. Trade networks became massive, connecting Ohio with areas as far away as the western parts of the United States. Portions of this trade exchange came to be known in Ohio as the Hopewell Interaction Sphere.

Olson also gave commentary on the effects of the Beaver Wars in Ohio and lands further east, including on the tribes of the Iroquois Nation. Many of the American Indians passing through Ohio were refugees not making permanent homes here, as is the



Eric Olson with American Indian artifacts

(photo by Karen Hildebrand)

case of the Mingo and Pluggy's Town, now the site of Mingo Park. The Mingo were part of the larger American Indian group, the Algonquin. The Delaware, more accurately named the Lenni Lenape, and the Wyandot were also part of this refugee movement.

As we examined different flints, Eric pointed out how to examine a flint to determine its possible use. If it still maintained sharp edges, it may have been a ceremonial item since the edges did not appear to have been used much if at all. These flints were sometimes used as an offering and never really meant for a working purpose. Impact fractures or broken tips often represented arrowheads that had seen use as tools or weapons.

Eric then introduced the committee members to a few of the online resources that the Ohio History Connection and other organizations have made available through their memberships to assist with archaeological research. One online tool that we examined was called the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office Online Mapping System.

Eric explained that the map represented recorded archaeological sites throughout Ohio. The map

acts much like Google Earth, and he used it to zoom in on Ohio and look at an aerial photograph of a raised mound on the Dill family farm north of Delaware. Brent Carson, the Society's President Emeritus, immediately voiced, "That was my grandfather's farm." Brent said that he spent many hours there as a young lad and actually started his collection of Indian artifacts and arrowheads at that very spot.

Committee members walked away with many new words in our vocabularies: chert, flint knapping, Erielohonan, Ma-yaimi, Beaver Wars, debitage, projectile point. They also learned that Delaware County has over 5,000 archaeological sites – more than any other county in Ohio. As the fastest growing county in the state, our county also has a great deal of activity at the Ohio History Connection Office of Archeology as new roads, housing developments, future school sites, mall development, or shopping areas are evaluated by archaeologists of record for ground breaking in our county.

As the Curriculum and Exhibits committees move forward with plans to create school programs



Olson meets with education volunteers

(photo by Karen Hildebrand)

and public exhibits, everyone involved in the research and information-gathering behind these projects owes a debt of gratitude to the Ohio History Connection and especially to Stacey Halfmoon and Eric C. Olson for providing their expertise to ensure that the Society's programs are developed with accurate information for the students and residents in Delaware County.

The main exhibit is now open in the Meeker Homestead Museum. The museum is open on Sundays from 2 – 5 pm except holidays.

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 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
740-610-0091 or www.dccmc.com

**Help Preserve Our
Historical Legacy**

Gifts and bequests have played an important role in the preservation of Delaware County history. The Delaware County Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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.

New Museum Exhibit Opens

(Continued from Page 1)

It is known that there were indigenous people in this region up to 15,000 years ago. In the 1700s, a migration of many tribes that were displaced by the Europeans began. The tribes that moved into the Delaware County area included Shawnee, Miami, Wyandot, Ottawa, Seneca, Lenni Lenape (Delaware), Chipewas, Pottawatomie, Mohawk, and other tribes from the Iroquois nation. These tribes retreated to the Ohio country and resided here for over 100 years. The primary Indian tribes who settled in the area now called Delaware County were Wyandot, Seneca-Cayuga (previously called the "Mingo") and Lenni Lenape (Delaware).

The Wyandot people originally lived in southern Ontario. They were also called Hurons, but they called themselves "Wendat" which in time became "Wyandot" or "Wyandotte." The Wyandot were related to the Iroquois, but in the years before European settlement, the Iroquois Confederacy attacked them and drove them from their homeland along the Georgian Bay. Some came to live in northern Ohio. They built their main villages in Wyandot, Marion, and Crawford counties, but they lived across northern Ohio and as far south as Ross County. Like the Algonquians, the Wendat were a confederacy of multiple peoples who spoke Wyandot languages, which were related to the Iroquois language. They had a matriarchal structure made up of clans named after animals. Each clan had four women councilors chosen by the heads of the families. The Wyandot lived in longhouse villages surrounded by stockades, and they practiced agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering to sustain their people. An interesting note is that hair styles for men changed with what was happening, and there were different hairstyles for war, work, and so forth. After 1815 the Wyandots signed treaties that gave them reservation lands in Ohio and Michigan, but by 1832 all of the Wyandot of Ohio were at the Upper Sandusky reservation. In 1842 the Wyandot signed the treaty that would begin their removal to the west, which occurred in 1843.

The history of the Mingo people, now called the Seneca-Cayuga people, is not clear. Sometimes Mingo are identified with Seneca in old records but they were possibly remnants of the Erie and Conestoga people. However, today some believe they were Iroquois. They were here as early as 1749 and inhabited

Mingo Town, presently known as Steubenville, Ohio (in Jefferson County). They also lived in what is presently Columbus at the confluence of the Olentangy and Scioto rivers. The Mingo were matrilineal which means the family line came from the mother and would be carried on by sisters and daughters. Logan was a famous chief who was born on the Yellow Creek, near present Wellsville, Ohio. He advocated peace until a raiding party of white settlers murdered six Mingo people including his mother and sister. The Mingo people moved into northern and western Ohio until their removal to the west around 1831-32.

Delaware is not a Native American name. It comes from the Governor of Virginia, Lord Thomas West, whose royal title was Lord de la Warr, which became Delaware. They were of the Algonquian nation. Of the tribes in Ohio, they had the longest contact with the European people, beginning in 1524, because they originally lived along the Delaware River and into southern New York state. In 1633, smallpox struck the Delaware and half of the population was lost. The Tuscarawas and Muskingum river valleys were their main area of early settlement within the boundaries of Ohio. Delaware people were then forced north and west. Delaware, Chillicothe and Carey, Ohio, are cities near where Delaware people lived. They were farmers and hunters who lived in fairly permanent villages in the summer and separated from their



families to hunt in the winter. In early years, they used three types of wigwags: round with a domed roof, oblong with an arched roof, or oblong with a center pole. In later years, they built log cabins.

In addition to the exhibit, the Education Curriculum Committee is preparing a program for schools on American Indians in Delaware County. The exhibit at the Meeker Homestead Museum is incorporated as part of the program, which also includes a timeline of American Indians, a reenactment history of Pluggy's Town and Mingo Park, a hands-on artifact activity, and stories of the early settlers and interactions with the local native people. Check our website for details (go to www.delawareohiohistory.org, click "Program & Events," then click "School Programs.")

The Meeker Homestead Museum is open Sundays 2 – 5 pm except holidays. Special tours can be arranged by contacting Executive Director Donna Meyer (email director@delawareohiohistory.org or call 740-369-3831 ext. 3).

Grandmother, Granddaughter Volunteer Together at Nash House Museum

By Karen Cowan

Maggie Webb, curator of the Nash House Museum, and her granddaughter, Lucy Webb, a student at Olentangy High School, spent the summer of 2017 volunteering together at the Nash House Museum and Cryder Research Library.

Maggie said that they began volunteering together many years ago when she took Lucy and her brother Henry with her to get Christmas greens to decorate the Nash House. "In addition to buying the greens, I bought a Christmas ornament for each of them, we had lunch and then decorated the Nash House," Maggie said. Lucy and Maggie are carrying on that tradition of volunteering together. During the summer they worked on preserving and cataloging clothes in the Society's collection.

Lucy explained that she enjoys volunteering at the Society. "Every since I was a young child, my grandmother has been talking to me about the history of Delaware County and why historic places should be preserved, so volunteering at the Historical Society seems very natural to me," Lucy said. "Volunteering is fun. In addition to having this time with my grandmother, I learn something almost every time I come to the Historical Society."

Maggie marveled at how fast Lucy learned how to get things done, so much so that she felt she had become Lucy's assistant. "She absorbs everything I tell her and is able to do things really fast," Maggie said. "She is so quick to learn and quick to do things, that I have a hard time keeping up with her."

Karen Cowan, one of the Society's volunteer coordinators, said, "It is great to have multi-generational volunteers. We need the energy and skills of young people. Mix that with the wisdom and knowledge of an older generation and great things happen."



Maggie Webb assists her granddaughter, Lucy, in a preservation project.

(photo by Brad Cowan)

Newsletter Articles Are Wanted!

We want to publish articles written about Delaware County history in this newsletter. Send your submission or your questions to mkear@delawareohiohistory.org

Donor Recognition

The following individuals and groups donated at least \$100 to the Society between January 1 and December 31, 2017:

Richard Arndt	Barbara Martin
Ralph Au	Margaret Matthews
Lawrence and Elizabeth Barrett	John and Judy McDavid
Susan Bauer	Mary Ann McGreevey
Brett Bender	Donna Meyer
Jeffrey and Barbara Benton	Rozella Miller
Susan Boylan	George Needham
Gene Buckingham	Joan Obusek
Brent Carson	Olentangy Title Agency
Robert and Darlene Caulkins	Arlene Palenshus
Columbus Foundation	Roger Plummer
Joan Cornell	David and Regie Powell
Virginia Corwin	Tom and Judy Price
Edmund and Diane Cox	Barbara Reed
Scott Cubberly	Richwood Bank
Delaware County Commissioners	Bill and Kay Rietz
Delaware County Community Market	Bob and Nancy Rietz
John and Yvonne Dewey	John L. and Diana P. Roach
Donald S. Ewell, Jr.	Peter and Jeannine Ruffing
Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan	Lauren Schaefer
Richard Fisher	Adrienne Selsor
Jan Fleischmann	Michael and Margaret Shade
Nancy Fleming	James Steven Shaw
John and Lynn Foreman	Charles and Betty Sheets
Alice Frazier	Dennis and Linda Sheets
Bob and Holly Gerspacher	Benny Shoults
Glen Oak Elementary PTO	Ann and Jim Simons
David Gormley	Sally Smith
Maribeth Graham	Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc.
Grove Parks Hegarty Advisors	Carol Ann Snyder
Nora Hiland	Snyder Funeral Homes, Inc.
Hilborn Insurance	R. Vladimir Steffel
Jack and Mary Hilborn	Lynne Sutton
Ralph and Diane Hodges	Bill and Becky Swoager
Connie and Mike Hoffman	Robert Tannehill
George Hoffman	Barbara Tull
R. Thomas and Mary Homan	John Tetz
Matt Kear	John Tombarge
Thomas King	Roger and Shirley Van Sickle
David Klein	Marian and Larry Vance
Roger Koch	Ezra Vogel
Jennifer Kohler	Teresa Watkins
Randall and Ironda Long	Rex Welker
Mail Pro 1 LLC	Phillis Williams
Manos, Martin, Pergram Co. LPA	Donald and Kathleen Wolf

Thank You Volunteers, Members, and Donors for your continued support of the Delaware County Historical Society!

Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association Celebrates 130 Years

On January 18, 1887, the Fidelity Building and Loan Company, now known as Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association, was organized. Historically speaking, Grover Cleveland was the 22nd President of the United States and Joseph B. Foraker was Governor of Ohio. Delaware County had a population of 27,189 and Henri E. Buck was Mayor of Delaware, with a city population of 8,000.

Fidelity Federal's first office was located on the second floor of the Lamb's Block Building at the northwest corner of West Winter and North Sandusky Street, above M.E. Wolf's Beehive store, later the Boston Store.

Incorporators were H.J. McCullough, H.A. Welch, W.T. Gessner, J. D. VanDeman, and B.W. Brown. Members were assessed 25 cents for their passbooks and office rent was \$32.50 per quarter.

In 1911, Fidelity purchased the building at 46 North Sandusky Street where it remained for the next 65 years. Loans were made at 6% and interest on savings accounts was 4% - 5%.

After operating under a state charter for 50 years, the Association was granted a federal charter in December 1935. The Association underwent a name change becoming Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association in February 1936. Assets at the beginning of the first year (1936) under the federal charter totaled \$742,875.

The 1950s saw a decided increase in building, lending, and saving activity. During most of the 1950s there were but two full-time employees. By the end of 1959, assets were listed at nearly two million dollars.

As Fidelity continued to grow and expand its



Above and below left: Fidelity Federal through the years.

Below right: Fidelity Federal's main office today.

(photos courtesy Fidelity Federal)

services and product offerings, it moved to 60 North Sandusky where it currently operates today. In the 1970s Fidelity opened a branch office in the Georgetown Shopping Center at the corner of West Central Avenue and Troy Road. After many years Fidelity moved its branch office to its present location at 1940 State Route 37 W in the Westfield Shopping Center.

Today, Fidelity lists assets of \$104 million and is Delaware's only remaining local financial institution.

Editor's Note: This story was provided by Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan.



Community Outreach Highlights from 2017



Above and right: The 2017 Fair Booth featured restaurants of Delaware County. Brent Carson was among those who volunteered at the booth throughout Fair Week.

Below: Nancy Fleming and Donna Meyer on the Society's float in the Delaware Christmas parade.

Below right: Ralph Au passes out flyers during the parade.

(photos by Matt Kear)



Wide Range of Programs Held by Society



Above left: Eric Ebersole discusses the life of Rutherford B. Hayes at a program in October 2017.

Above right: Bill Rietz talks about the Underground Railroad in Delaware County during a February 2018 program.



Left: Steve Bemiller examines a piece during the January 2018 program on "Famous Firsts."

Below left: Maggie Webb shares a moment with a visitor during the December 2017 open house at the Nash House Museum.

Below right: Brad Lepper of Ohio History Connection discusses earthworks and American Indians in Central Ohio during a March 2018 program sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

(Left top, middle, bottom photos by Matt Kear;
Above right photo by Brad Cowan;
Below right photo by Donna Meyer)



Upcoming Events

May 16	<p>“Notable Women from Delaware County” Barn at Stratford, 7 pm <i>Program sponsored by Manos, Martin & Pergram Co. LPA</i></p>	October 7	<p>“Oak Grove Cemetery Walk” Presented by reenactors Preregistration and Tickets required (\$10 members/ \$15 non-member adults, \$5 kids 6-17) Oak Grove Cemetery, 2 p.m.</p>
June 13	<p>“Railroads in Delaware County” Presented by Jack Hilborn Barn at Stratford, 7 pm <i>Program sponsored by Hilborn Insurance and Willow Brook Christian Communities</i></p>	October 10	<p>“The Spanish Flu Epidemic and Early 20th Century Medicine in Delaware” Presented by Dr. Alice Frazier Barn at Stratford, 7 p.m. <i>Program sponsored by Willow Brook Christian Communities and Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan</i></p>
July 11	<p>“Floods in Delaware County” Presented by Brent Carson <i>Program sponsored by Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan</i></p>	November 13	<p>Annual Meeting Hayes Presidential Library and Museum Christie M. Weininger Barn at Stratford, 7 p.m.</p>
August 8	<p>“A Walk Down East Winter Street” Presented by Benny Shoults Preregistration and Tickets required (\$10 members/\$15 non-member adults, \$5 kids 6-17) Downtown Delaware, 7 pm</p>		

And many more to come!

Program tickets may be purchased at the Society’s office, 2690 Stratford Road, or at the Cryder Historical Center, 157 E. William Street, Delaware

Check our website for more information as it becomes available.

If you are planning to attend any of our free events, please consider preregistering on Eventbrite.com (search Delaware County Historical Society) to ensure adequate seating for the event.



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More Ways To Help The Society

Sign Up or Renew Your Kroger Community Rewards

By Marian Vance

Just by shopping at Kroger you can send fundraising dollars to the Delaware County Historical Society. It's easy – all you have to do is sign up. If you are already a Kroger participant, it's time to renew your participation. Signing up can be done at any time but reenrollment is needed every year in April.

Go to the Kroger website (www.Kroger.com) and sign in or register if this is your initial visit. Go to "my account" then scroll down the page and follow the guidelines for Community Rewards. The DCHS organizational number is 84793. You then click "Enroll" or "ReEnroll" to continue. Enter the organizational number in the box and click "search." You are almost done – fill in the circle beside the Society name and click "Enroll."

That should do it and the Society will be the lucky receiver of your shopping bonus – at no extra cost to you.

Committee Members Are Needed

The Society needs volunteers to serve on its many committees. Committees for 2018 and their chairs are as follows:

Buildings and Grounds	Roger Koch
Education	Susan Logan
Library Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Museums & Exhibits Subcommittee	Benny Shoults
Programs Subcommittee	Alice Frazier
Collections Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Curriculum Subcommittee	Karen Hildebrand
Communications	Lynn Foreman
Information Technology	Ralph Au and Rick Fisher
Membership	Karen Cowan
Finance and Budget	Ralph Au
Resource Creation	

Jan Fleischmann and Deb Martin

To find out how you can serve, contact Susan Logan at volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org.

Volunteers Needed!

The Society has a critical need for volunteers! There are dozens of ways that you can help our Society grow. If you can help, contact the Society at volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org

We have priority needs for docents at the Meeker Homestead Museum and for cataloguers at the library in the Cryder Historical Center. No experience is necessary—we will provide all the training. Just bring your enthusiasm!

Seeking Interested Candidates for Board of Trustees

This is an exciting time for Delaware County and the Society. We are now managing the Meeker Homestead as well as the Nash House Museum and our library. Would you like to help more with this process? The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the long-term financial goals and mission of the Society. Board Meetings are monthly with committee meetings as necessary. This is a "working" Board.

If you are interested, please contact Karen Cowan, co-chair of the Nominating Committee, at kcowan@delawareohiohistory.org for further information.

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City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type (2018 rates)

Adult Membership (Individual) \$25.00 _____	Adult Membership (Household) \$50.00 _____
Senior Membership (60+ yrs) \$20.00 _____	Senior Membership (Household) \$40.00 _____
Life Membership (Individual) \$300.00 _____	Life Membership (Joint) \$500.00 _____
Student Membership \$5.00 _____	Business/Corporation \$50.00 _____

Newsletter preference (circle): Printed E-mail Both

For Student Membership, name of your school: _____

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 _____

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Make check payable to Delaware County Historical Society and mail to 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware OH 43015