

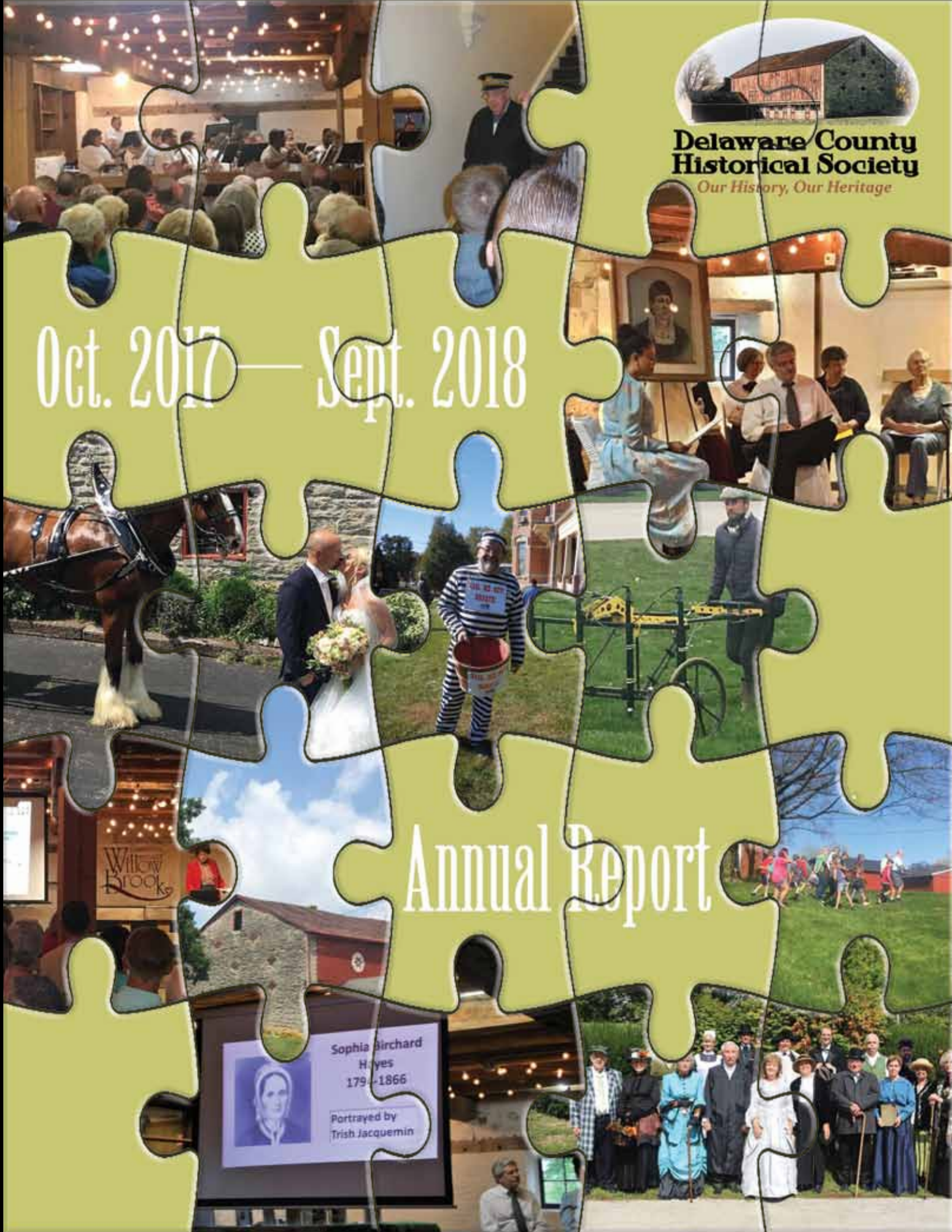


**Delaware County
Historical Society**
Our History, Our Heritage

Oct. 2017 — Sept. 2018

Annual Report


Sophia Birchard
Hayes
1791-1866
Portrayed by
Trish Jacquemin



Letter from the President

Friends:

It is with great pleasure and pride that I bring this short greeting to you on behalf of the Delaware County Historical Society. I can assure you that YOUR society is in very capable hands, so to speak—an excellent board and executive director, a wonderful venue manager for the Barn at Stratford with countless numbers of really fine volunteers. I want to thank all of them publicly now and thanks to you for your interest in the Delaware County Historical Society.

The society will always have challenges facing us, but we all do our very best and our shared love of local history always seems to carry us through.

As a friend and/or volunteer, you are indeed very special to us. Please consider formally joining the society if you are not yet a member. If you are already a member, my special thanks to you. And finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention that our Sustainability financial campaign is currently going on—as a small non-profit entity, we rely heavily on the financial support of our friends/members/volunteers. PLEASE consider a donation to the Delaware County Historical Society.

Please also read about the society's many accomplishments this past year in our annual report. And, thank you, again, for your interest in the Delaware County Historical Society.

Jack Hilborn
President



Board of Trustees

Jack Hilborn, *President*

Matt Kear, *Executive Vice President*

Jan Fleischmann, *Development Vice President*

Karen Cowan, *Vice President of Operations*

Ralph Au, *Treasurer*

Lynn Foreman, *Recording Secretary*

Mary Ann McGreevey, *Assistant Treasurer*

Brent Carson, *President Emeritus*

Ana Babiasz

Roger Koch

Sherry Carmichael

Mike Huber

Alice Frazier

Chris Shaw

Susan Garrett

Benny Shoults

Staff

Donna Meyer,

Executive Director

Connie Hoffman,

Venue Manager

Kelly Barry,

Event/Sales Assistant

Allie Zarley,

Event Assistant



Our Mission

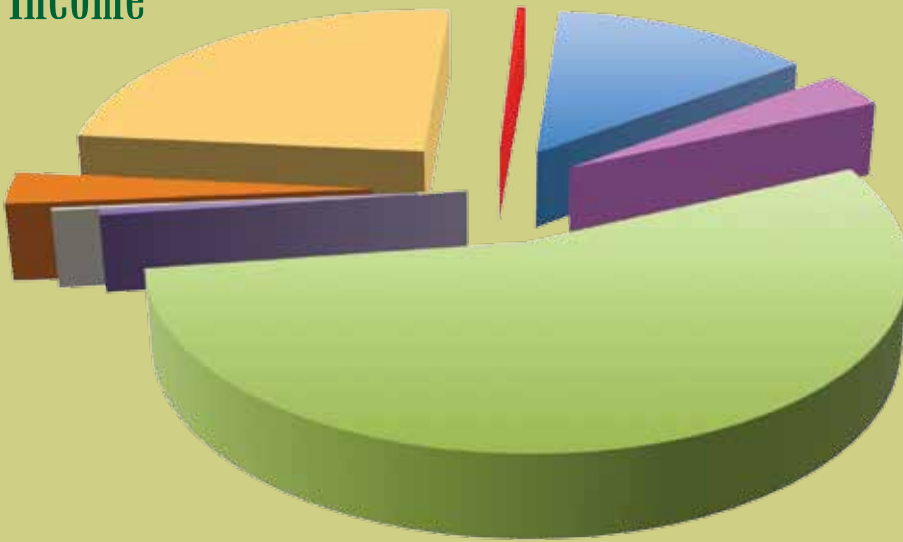
To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio, through historic preservation and education.

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 through community engagement, education and historic preservation.

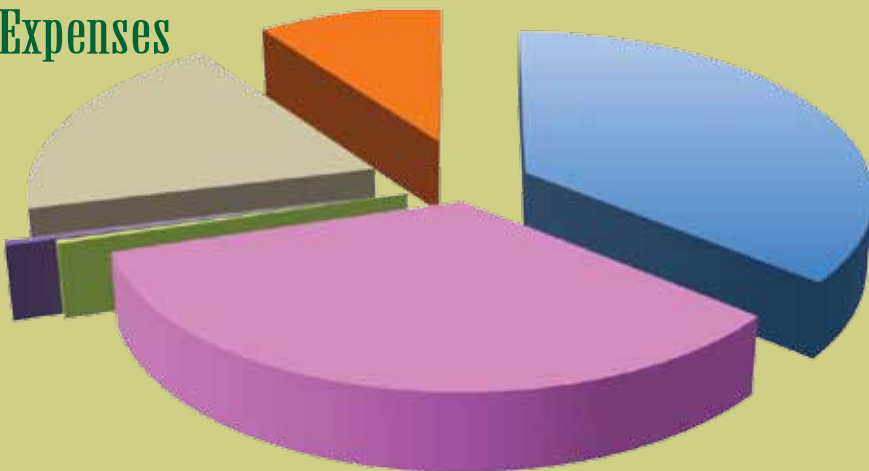
FINANCIALS

Income



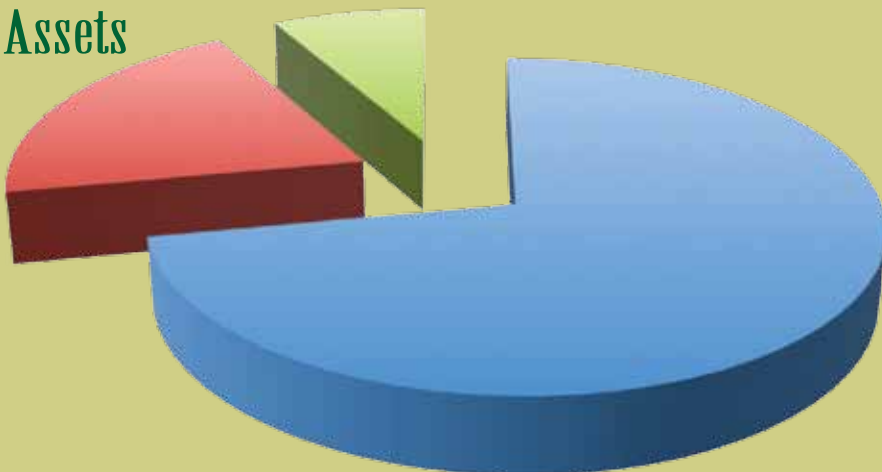
Grants	\$35,097
Memberships.....	\$8,782
Venue & Barn Rental...	\$142,937
Museum	\$1,588
Library Research	\$690
Programs.....	\$7,900
Donations & Capital/ Sustainability Campaign.	\$63,615
Product Sales	\$1,129
Total Income	\$261,858

Expenses



Administrative.....	\$104,059
Venue Expenses.....	\$99,059
Collections	\$994
Programs/Exhibits.....	\$1,505
Property.....	\$54,820
Utilities/IT	\$28,831
Total Expense	\$289,268

Assets



Fixed Assets/Property .	\$1,280,691
Investments	\$358,196
Bank Accounts	\$142,538
Total.....	\$1,781,425

We collect and preserve

In April 2010, volunteers began a project to scan and catalog the pictures which are owned by the Society. We have cataloged a total of 14,573 items, which includes photos, documents, artifacts, maps, family histories and bibles. Many are available online and can be accessed at <https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com/>

Our Volunteers

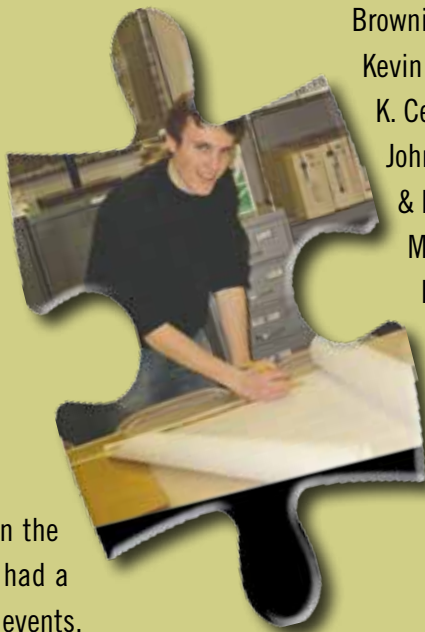
We have 71 active volunteers who contributed 12,100 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this service is nearly \$300,000!

We generate community interest in history

In addition to the window displays we had in the Hair Studio in downtown Delaware, we have had a table at Main Street Delaware's First Friday events, and partnering with Main Street, we created a ghost sign brochure of many of the faded advertising signs located on downtown Delaware buildings.



We brought awareness to special and endangered properties by organizing a local "This Place Matters" campaign. We also installed panels on various historic topics in the Delaware County Records facility.



We led history bus tours for groups of older adults as well as downtown Delaware History

Our Members

In addition to the nearly 500 total members, we would like to recognize our Life and Business Members.

Life Members

Alice Baker, John & Debra Blakeslee, Marianna Pollock Bowman, Michele Brockett, Richard & Linda Browning, Judith Brozek, John Buchan, Kosby & Kevin Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles Caudy, T. K. Cellar, Edmund & Diane Cox, Sandra Cryder, John & Yvonne Dewey, Dorothy Florance, John & Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Max Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Jeff Hamilton, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Mark & Carrie Hickman, Jack & Mary Hilborn, Ralph & Diane Hodges, George Hoffman, Chris Hon, Karl Jentgen, Steve & Joy Kaser, William & Virginia Kavage, Mary Ellen Kelly, Thomas King, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, Paul Monks, John & Carol O'Brien, David Parker, Mary Ann & David Pemberton, Sr., Carolyn Porter, David & Regie Powell, Kris Prengaman, Tom Price, Susan & Larry Ratcliffe, Barbara Reed, Juliet Heston Richey, Bill & Kay Rietz, Bob & Nancy Rietz, John & Diana Roach, John Robinson, James Steven Shaw, Henry & Sharon Shaw, Vickie R. Sheets, Charles & Betty Sheets, Sharlene & Lloyd (Buck) Shoaf, Joyce Siegley, Carolyn & Gary Skinner, Sally Smith, Marjorie Snook, Clay Snyder, Vladimir & Margaret Steffel, Christine Stelloh-Garner, Tamara Tangen, John Tetz, Barbara Hall Thatcher-Williams, Kris Thomas, John Tombarge, Ezra Vogel, Renee Voorhis, Jeff & Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Dorinda Wills, Thomas Workman, John Yelavich.

Business/Organization Members

American Legion Post 115 • Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan • Hardware Exchange • Hilborn Insurance • David Kerr Architect, LLC • Main Street Delaware • MailPro 1 LLC • Manos, Martin, & Pergram Co., LPA • Northwest Neighborhood Association • Ottawa Bota Farm - Tim & Renee Calvin • Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc. • Solar Saloon • Willow Brook Christian Communities

Sustainability Campaign — Your Gift Sustains Us!

We launched a sustainability campaign this year as a continuation of our earlier capital campaign. Our emphasis was raising funds for capital improvement projects such as restoring our 170 year old barn, ensuring that it will still be standing in the 22nd century and longer. Thanks to our donors, we raised \$63,615 in donations in the past twelve months and are expected to receive state funding for barn renovation. We are making good progress and are continuing structural projects, but now we are raising money for programs and operations, in order to meet our dual missions of education and historic preservation. We serve the public in many ways, providing educational programs tied in with the curriculum requirements of our public schools, programs for the public, exhibits at our museums, and more. We depend on members and donors



for our funding, augmented by grants that require matching funds. Without your help, we cannot continue our programs and preserving our buildings to ensure their continued existence for our children and grandchildren. When these structures are gone, they are gone. Can you help? For more information, go to our website: https://www.delawareohiohistory.org/?page_id=24 or call Donna Meyer, 740-369-3831 x3.

Our donors include:

Richard Arndt, Ralph Au, Ana Babiasz, Jake & Jean Ball, Lawrence & Elizabeth Barrett, Susan Bauer, Brett Bender, Jeff Benton, Susan Boylan, Peter & Joni Brown, Gene Buckingham, Larry & Susan Button, Carlisle Elementary School PTO, Sherry Carmichael, Thomas (Jack) and Marjorie Carpenter, Brent Carson, Robert & Darlene Caulkins, T. K. and Susan Cellar, Alice Chapan, Columbus Foundation, Laurie M. & Terrence Connor, Consolidated Electric, Joan Cornell, Virginia Corwin, Brad & Karen Cowan, Edmund & Diane Cox, Scott Cubberly, Tracey Cultic, Ann Davis,

Delaware County Commissioners, Delaware County Community Market, Delaware County Foundation, John & Yvonne Dewey, Stella Dickman, Larry & Emma Dixon, Donald S. Ewell Jr, Fahey Bank, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Richard Fisher, John & Lynn Foreman, Alice Frazier, Steven & Kerry Frazier, Jan Fleischmann, Fraternal Order of Eagles #376, Freedom Trail Elementary PTO, Larry & Susan Garrett, Bob & Holly Gerspacher, Glen Oak Elementary PTO, David Gormley, Clyde Gosnell & Louise Warner, Maribeth Graham, Grove Parks Hegarty Advisors, Ellen Hardymon, Nora Hiland, Hilborn Insurance, Jack & Mary Hilborn, Hiram Masonic Lodge #18 F. & A.M., Ralph & Diane Hodges, George Hoffman, Mike & Connie Hoffman, Tom & Mary Homan, Dusty & Jessie Hostutler, Pat & Tom Hubbell, Johnnycake Corners Elementary PTO, Cynthia & Corey Johnson, James R. Johnston, Joy & Steve Kaser, William & Virginia Kavage, Matt Kear, Thomas King, David Klein, James Klepcyk, Roger Koch, Jennifer Kohler, Joan Lawrence, Barbara Lewis, Randall & Ironda Long, Ross Long, Mail Pro 1 LLC, Manos, Martin & Pergram Co., LPA, Barbara Martin, Mary Ann McGreevey, Donna Meyer, Rozella & George Miller, Monday Club of Delaware, Ray Myers, National Lime and Stone Company, George Needham, Charles Nitschke, Oak Creek Elementary PTO, Janet & Bill Oberfield, Joan Obusek, Ohio Humanities, Ohio Local History Alliance, Olentangy Title Agency, Arlene Palenshus, Tom Parker, Mark and Maria Pizzi, Roger Plummer, Tom & Judy Price, Kristina Prengaman, Bruce Ramsey, Barbara Reed, Richwood Bank, Bill & Kay Rietz, Bob & Nancy Rietz, John L. & Diana Roach, Peter & Jeannine Ruffing, Dena Haller Russell, Ron Sabatino Family Fund of the Delaware County Foundation, Swarna Saha, Scioto Ridge Parent Teacher Organization, Adrienne Selsor, Michael & Margaret Shade, Steven Shaw, Charles & Betty Sheets, Dennis & Linda Sheets, Mark & Virginia Shipps, Lloyd (Buck) & Charlene Shoaf, Benny & Joan Shoults, Jim & Ann Simons, Carolyn & Gary Skinner, Brian Smith, Sally Smith, Clay Snyder, SourcePoint, R. Vladimir Steffel, Christine Stelloh-Garner, Lynne Sutton, Rebecca Swoager, John Tetz, John Tombarge, Barbara Tull & Robert Tannehill, Lori Trego, Tyler Run PTO, United Way of Delaware County Inc. Women's Leadership Network, Marian & Larry Vance, Roger & Shirley Van Sickle, Ezra Vogel, Teresa Watkins, Rex & Diane Welker, Donald & Kathleen Wolf, Wyandot Run PTO, Michael J. Yohe.

** Please note that these donations are over the last 12 months.*

Education is our Heartbeat; Historic Preservation is our Responsibility.

Programs throughout the year

This year, we “thought outside the box” bringing diverse community programs and events requested by you – our supporters. Please reach out to us and let us know what you would like to see in the future.

We started the year in **January** with a program on **Famous Firsts in History**, presented by antiques expert Steve Bemiller, who educated the audience on early inventions such as the vending machine and typewriter.

A great crowd attended our **February** program given on **Delaware Homes on the Underground Railroad** which were active Underground Railroad “stations,” and still exist today.

Our **March** program, sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, featured speaker Dr. Brad Lepper, Curator of Archaeology for the Ohio History Connection. His program, **Earthworks & American Indians in Central Ohio**, was on the early inhabitants of our area, as well as various earthworks they built which are located in Central Ohio.

Leading county historian and Historical Society President Emeritus, Brent Carson gave a lively program in **April** on the **History of Sports Venues** in Delaware County including where they were located and when they began. Audience participation added to the event as attendees spoke up with memories about the sports venues of their youth.

In conjunction with the opening of the Notable Women exhibit in the Meeker Museum, the **May** program was also on **Notable Women from Delaware County**. Sponsored by Manos, Martin & Pergram Co., LPA, the presentation celebrated the accomplishments and lives of six renowned, local women through storytelling, reenactments, and reminiscences.

The **June** program, given by railroad enthusiast and expert Jack Hilborn, who is also the Delaware County Historical Society board president and longest serving board member, was on the **History of Railroads in Delaware County**. This entertaining and informative program, sponsored by Hilborn Insurance and Willow Brook Christian Communities, was on one of our most popular topics and covered the five major railroads that came to Delaware County; the Columbus, Delaware & Marion Interurban system, and the City of Delaware Streetcar System. It was a very well attended and fun “ride” through history.



We gave two programs in **July**. Partnering with Arena Fair Theater, attendees enjoyed a **Mark Twain reenactor** as well as the famous sleight-of-hand magician, “**Nate the Great**.” Also in July, Brent Carson, the Society’s President Emeritus, presented **Floods in Delaware County**. Sponsored by Fidelity

Federal Savings and Loan, the program reviewed the floods which occurred in Delaware County between 1898 and 1959.

Three programs and events were held in **August**. The first one, titled **The Power of Place** was presented by Barbara Powers, the administrator of the National Register of Historic Places program in Ohio. And the second August program was **A Walk Down East Winter Street**, given by Brent Carson and board member and local history expert, Benny Shoults. A good crowd enjoyed learning about the history



and architecture of iconic downtown Delaware buildings. Also in August we held the **“Band at the Barn”** featuring The Delaware Community Concert Band. Due to expected inclement weather, the band performed inside the Barn and was enjoyed by adults and children alike.

The Society’s **railway exhibit** at the Delaware County Fair in **September** featured artifacts and rare photographs of trains, CD&M cars, disaster photos, maps of routes and the people of the railroad. Our display included a real bell used on an engine, which could be rung by the public, for a donation.

What is becoming our “Signature Event” was given in **October**. This year’s **Oak Grove Cemetery Walk** featured 18 costumed interpreters who shared their stories at tombstones throughout the cemetery to a sold-out crowd.

Also in October, **The Spanish Flu Epidemic and Early 20th Century Medicine in Delaware** explored the devastation of the Spanish Flu, and its connection to World War I. Presented by historical society board member and retired physician

Dr. Alice Frazier and DCHS volunteer and educator Steve Shaw, this interesting look at one of the deadliest epidemics in history was sponsored by Willow Brook Christian Communities and Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan.

Over 300 people came to the guided tours of the historic **Delaware County Sheriff’s Residence and Jail** in **October**. Historical Society volunteers Jan Fleischmann and Dave Hejmanowski led visitors throughout the iconic 1878 structure.

This fall, we hosted Willow Brook residents on the beautiful grounds of the Meeker

property as they challenged the **Ohio History Connection’s Muffins** vintage baseball team. Not sure who won but a good time was had by all.

Due to restoration work expected to be done at the Barn at Stratford, our January, February and March programs next year will be held at the William Street Methodist Church in Delaware.



From the Executive Director

“We’ve never done that before!”

This is a sentiment that is expressed frequently during historical society meetings. It originated as a tongue-in-cheek statement from one of our board members (often given in mock horror). This always brings smiles and even chuckles, but the thought expressed with that comment is that we are doing so many things we would never have dreamed of a few years ago. We do not fit in the typical historical society mold anymore, which is a good thing. We continue to form committees, create projects and educate the community in new ways. Here are the highlights of some of the exciting new things we accomplished this year:

- The new **Sustainability Campaign**, launched this spring, exceeded expectations. Combined with the previous **Capital Campaign**, we received over \$63,400 in donations over the last 12-month period. These funds have been directed towards projects such as Barn renovation, repairs and maintenance, and operating expenses.
- We created a highly functioning **Facilities Committee**, which oversees all projects related to the 4 structures and properties owned by the DCHS.
- We received nearly **\$34,000 from the Delaware County Commissioners** which will be used to fund repairs, renovation and restoration to the Meeker House and Barn as well as supply the resources needed to install signage on the Meeker property.
- We were informed that we will be receiving **\$250,000 in state funds from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission** which will be used to support much needed renovations in the Barn. This process will begin in January and last for several months.
- We created a traveling **Bus History Tour** geared towards older adults.
- This year we experienced an **elevated presence in the community and increased media coverage** over previous years.
- A new **state-of-the-art AV system** was installed in the Barn, thanks to a generous donor.
- There are **2 new self-guided tours**, available on our website: Delaware County homes which were on the Underground Railroad and the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk.
- We created a **system of videos used for Meeker Museum visitors** who are not able to climb stairs to see the exhibits on the second floor.
- **Record crowds attended our programs** this year. Most of

these programs were free, offered as a service to the community. Many of these programs featured reenactors who brought history to life for students and adults.

- **26 weddings** were held at the Barn at Stratford. The thriving venue business greatly improves our sustainability.
- We expanded our **Oral History project** to “tell the important stories” of Delaware County by the residents who lived here.
- We met with people who used to live and work on the Meeker property. Many of them provided photographs and details which will be used for the creation of displays of the property and Stratford area.
- **Ground penetrating radar** was done on the 6-acre Meeker property. This process reveals anomalies in the soil to locate the remnants of long-gone structures.

What to expect next year:

- We will be forming a subcommittee of our education committee which will research the history of our county’s African American population.
- We are also in the process of organizing a children’s history day camp.
- We will be receiving a collection of artifacts which were found on the Coughlin Crossing development site and donated by Delaware Developers. This will be part of our Stratford history exhibit.
- We will be receiving a donation of the Stratford Millworker House from Coughlin Crossing developers which will allow us to create a special museum in that structure.
- We will continue to expand our oral history project and will be completing an oral history project on the Little Brown Jug Harness races, which will be unveiled in 2020, in time to celebrate the 75th year of the iconic event.
- We are planning a diverse and exciting program lineup.
- Next spring, we will hold a large antique show in the Barn – a first for the Historical Society.

If you would like to participate in these exciting new ventures, please let us know. We are always in need of volunteers, donations, members, and supporters. Come along for the ride. It will be a fun one! I promise.

– Donna Meyer

Delaware County Historical Society:

Cryder Historical Center and Research Library | Nash House Museum • 157 E. William Street | Delaware, Ohio 43015

Meeker Homestead Museum | The Barn at Stratford (*Business office and mailing address*) • 2690 Stratford Road | Delaware, Ohio 43015

740-369-3831 • www.delawareohiohistory.org • info@delawareohiohistory.org