



Delaware County Historian

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The Lasting Legacy of Harriett Calista Clark McCabe

By Becky S. Cornett

A large wood desk, currently displayed at the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence in Delaware, helps us to imagine the creation of one of the most influential organizations in the world for decades, and to remember the legacy of one of its first leader, Harriett Calista Clark McCabe (1827-1919). Harriett used the desk in April 1874, to write the Constitution for the Ohio Christian Temperance Union. That document became adopted by the national Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) at its organizing convention in Cleveland, Ohio in 1874. The WCTU which was the first union dedicated to prohibition of liquor that was organized after the Women's Crusade in late 1873. The Preamble of the Constitution set the tone for the Temperance movement for the next 5 decades. In part it said: "We the women of the nation, conscious of the increasing evils and appalled at the tendencies and dangers of intemperance, believe it has become our duty, under the providence of God, to unite our efforts for its extinction." McCabe accepted leadership and presided at the WCTU national gathering.

McCabe, a native of New York State, was educated primarily at private schools and by tutors. She became fluent in French at the age of 10. She proved to be a leader. In 1851, she became head of the school at Dickinson Seminary in Pennsylvania, at the age of 24.

McCabe moved to Delaware, Ohio in 1857, after her marriage to the Rev. Lorenzo Dow McCabe, a professor of mathematics and chair of the philosophy department at Ohio Wesleyan University. He was an Ohio native who had been a minister prior to his appointment at Ohio Wesleyan where he served for over 50 years. Both Harriett and Lorenzo continued their family traditions as devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church –

Harriet McCabe with a portrait of her husband Lorenzo, The desk referenced in the article is on the right side of the photo and is on display at the Historic Jail and Sheriff's residence which is owned by the DCHS and is open every First Friday for tours from 6 - 8 pm.



with its requisite commitment to temperance and other social reform movements.

Today, many of us seem to downplay the importance of the temperance movement, chuckling at the efforts of the women (and some men), despite the almost dire social situation at the time. Women and children were often the victims of physical and emotional abuse and poverty due to excessive alcohol consumption by husbands and fathers. Employers called for change due to lost productivity and workplace accidents caused by alcohol abuse. Even today, alcohol use disorder is on the rise again, including among seniors. In addition to its focus on alcohol (and tobacco), the WCTU raised awareness of the need for prison reform, labor laws,

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public health, sanitation, and voting rights for women. It was one of the largest and most influential women's groups in the world.

After Harriett McCabe's service to the WCTU, she devoted considerable time and effort to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC). She was editor of *Woman's Home Missions* publication for 18 years (Lucy Hayes was president of the WHMS from 1880-1889, the year of her death). The instrumentality of the MEC focused on "improving home environments, home education, home industries, and home influences" among emancipated Black persons, Indians, Mormons, Chinese, and Spanish Americans. McCabe also served as secretary of the Indian Bureau of the WHMS.

McCabe was honored on her 92nd birthday in January 1919, with a gathering at her home, attended by former Governor Frank B. Willis. Willis had been both Governor of the State of Ohio and a United State Senator. Harriett McCabe died later that year and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

The Ohio Crusade Quilt

In 1875, Harriett McCabe, while president of the Ohio WCTU, initiated a fundraising campaign to support the work of the temperance movement. The Ohio "Crusade Quilt" – displayed today at the headquarters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in Evanston, IL – represents the efforts of Ohio's members. Each local



The Ohio "Crusade Quilt," a fundraising campaign supporting the work of the temperance movement, was initiated by Harriett McCabe, right.

union group was asked to contribute a block for a quilt that on the back would include the names of all the members who gave at least a dime to the



temperance cause. The result was eighty quilt blocks, including the names of over three thousand contributors.

The quilt was presented to "Mother" Thompson at the 1877 national WCTU meeting. Eliza Trimble Thompson had led over 200 women in the Hillsboro, Ohio march on saloons and liquor-selling drugstores in Dec. 1873. She was the daughter of Ohio Governor Trimble, wife of a judge – who called the march "tomfoolery" – and the mother of a clergyman who died of alcoholism.

Frances Willard, the legendary temperance leader, remarked in her memoirs: "within its folds are hidden all our hearts. The day will come when, beside the death sentence of a woman who was burned as a witch in Massachusetts, beside the block from which a woman was sold as a slave in South Carolina, and beside the liquor license that was issued by the State of Illinois to ruin its young men, there will hang this beautiful quilt, to which young men and women will point with pride, and say 'there is the name of my great-grandmother, who took part in Ohio's great crusade. *Editor's note – no one was burned at the Salem witch trials. They were condemned to hang.*

Harriett and Lorenzo's Accomplished Daughter: Calista McCabe Manly Courtenay

Calista ("Kitty") McCabe Manly Courtenay (1868-1936) was one of three children of Lorenzo and Harriett McCabe, and their only daughter. Courtenay was an important author of biographies for youth about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Christopher Columbus that were published in 1917 by M.A. Donohue & Company as part of the "Makers of American History" Series. That same year, she also wrote *Tales from Dickens* as part of the "Children's Classics" series. These books have been reprinted and recorded many times and are available for purchase from several sites. The DCHS recently acquired all four books for display.

Courtenay was first married to Dr. Charles S. Manly, a physician and graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University. He died in 1895 at age 28 of tuberculosis in Denver, Colorado. They had one child. Calista married Austin Matlack Courtenay, DD a Methodist minister, in 1902. He was a widower and father of five children. Both spouses are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Prohibition Provided Unique Challenges For Local Law Enforcement

By Steve Shaw

On January 16, 1920, the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, went into effect. Also called the Volsted Act, it was the basis for the Prohibition of the sale, transportation, importation and exportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States. What is often described by President Hoover as “the great social and economic experiment” was about to take place.

The people of the United States now had a law that had little or no guidance on how to govern or enforce it. The federal government had new laws to enforce with little time to prepare. State and local governments were to get new legal and regulatory responsibilities overnight, but

In the very first year of Prohibition, 900,000 cases of liquor went from Canadian distilleries to the Windsor, Ontario area. Sacramental wine for religious purposes was legal. In a two year period, the amount of wine produced increased by 800,000 gallons. Alcohol could be prescribed legally for medicinal purposes. Nationally, 15,000 physicians obtained licenses to write prescriptions. Even seemingly simple processes provide strange loopholes to be exploited. Laws and regulations had to be developed for products such as apple cider, sauerkraut and the still legal home beer brewing industry. One entrepreneurial Canadian

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DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Melissa Stroupe, Sales and Event Manager

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To be a trusted resource to connect the diverse stories and fabric of the past to the people of today and tomorrow through preservation, education, and engagement.

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Contributions of original historical research concerning Delaware County, Ohio, are welcome!
Please send contributions to the attention of the Newsletter Editor at the above address.

Prohibition Provided Unique Challenges

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company purchased a Louisville, Kentucky distillery, dismantled the equipment and shipped it to be reassembled in Canada.

Enforcement of the law soon proved to be problematic all across the country. Ohio is bordered by Lake Erie which was to become one of many active areas for bootlegging illicit alcoholic products into the United States. Proximity made Ohio a well trafficked area for distribution to the large population centers in Ohio as well for other points South and West of Ohio. One commentator at the time described the efforts to stop the outside flow of liquor into the country as "trying to stop liquor from flowing through a dotted line." Being just a few hours drive from the Windsor Ontario area, automobile access to central Ohio was just a few hours. Many of the headline making stories about prohibition in the Delaware papers involved organized crime activities to bootleg liquor to other markets. Automobiles and trucks were continually getting more reliable. Delaware County had some of the major roads going north and south from Detroit and the Lake Erie area. Trips that would take days, just 25 years earlier could sometimes be completed in a few hours. Bootlegging operations along those roads made for some of the interesting stories of the era.

Delaware County was a rural lightly populated county at the time. The population in the 1930 U.S. Census was just over 30,000. Local law enforcement and the court system now had complicated new responsibilities with comparable staff and funding. Passage of the 18th Amendment put state lawmakers on the spot for law making and funding for enforcement of the Act. Central to Ohio's enforcement efforts was the Crabbe Amendment to the Ohio Constitution. The law that was passed in 1921 and set a tone for how prohibition was enforced. In part, the Act compensated mayors, justices of the peace, various judges, and other law enforcement officials with additional money beyond their normal pay whenever they arrested, convicted, and fined violators of the Eighteenth Amendment. One interesting aspect of the Crabbe Act was displayed by a series of 6 legal notices in the *Daily Journal Herald* in 1926. It provided

notice of 6 cars to be sold for auction, the week of September 11, 1926. The vehicles which had been seized, were loaded with liquor. The legal notice was posted by Sheriff Fred D. Harter. Although the Crabbe Act was received enthusiastically initially, enforcement was trickier. By 1927 the Crabbe act was ruled unconstitutional, by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Straight From the Headlines

140 Quarts Of Liquor Taken by Sheriff: Two men from Cleveland were placed in the Delaware County Jail by Sheriff Fred Harter and Deputy Connor Lambert. Their car broke down on a run from Cleveland to Columbus continued on page 13 and they spent most of their day at the Troy garage. The men said they were hauling candy but the garage owner became suspicious. Their large Cadillac was impounded, and the men were held in the Delaware County Jail to wait trial.

TWO KILLED IN BOOTLEGGERS WAR

Officer, Alleged Rum Runner
Die in Battle at
Delaware, O.

(By the Associated Press.)

DELAWARE, O., July 3.—War on rum runners in Delaware county today and tonight resulted in death of two men and the probable fatal wounding of a third.

Rea Horlocker, 40, of Sunbury, this county, traffic officer, died in a hospital late today after being crowded off a road into a ditch and run over while attempting to stop an alleged rum runner he was pursuing south of here. His assailant escaped.

A man giving his name as Clayton Dale, Newport, Mich., was seriously shot and his companion, who he says was his nephew, named Stardart was instantly killed when Patrolman Elmer Haley after he had been attacked by the pair. Acting on information to watch for runners enroute from Detroit to Columbus, Haley jumped on the running board of a machine near the postoffice. He was struck over the head with a hammer by one of the men.

When the car started away, Haley fired two shots. Seven five-gallon cans of liquor were found in the automobile.

Eighty Gallons of Liquor Seized Here Saturday: George Swanke of Detroit was seized in his Hudson Touring Car with eighty gallons of whiskey. It was seized by Delaware City Police chief Spaulding and officer Plickebaum. Mr. Swanke was placed in the city jail and his children that were with him were put temporarily in the County Children's Home.

Delaware County has had one law officer killed in the line of duty in its long history.

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Local Historian Unlocks 1912 Tornado Story Using Online Archive

By Emma Neeper

More than a century after its debut, an early 20th century newspaper is available in digital form. In 2016, the Delaware County Historical Society began efforts to digitize archives of the *Delaware Daily Journal-Herald*. This historic newspaper is now available online through Ohio Memory, a free digital library containing over 1 million historical resources from across the state.

The *Delaware Daily Journal-Herald*, formed in 1902 by the merger of two local papers, served as a report of Delaware County life for over a quarter-century. This online archive, spanning from March 21, 1902 to March 30, 1929, offers researchers, genealogists, and history buffs a window into Delaware's past.

The archive is already proving its worth to researchers. In the wake of last month's storms, local historian, Susan Logan, is sharing two intriguing photographs depicting the destruction of another devastating tornado that struck Delaware in 1912. Thanks to Ohio Memory, she was able to locate a digitized copy of a *Delaware County Journal-Herald* article reporting on the aftermath.



A photo featuring tornado damage to the rear of the Mart Miller building on North Sandusky Street. Circa 1912.

On June 17, 1912, the *Journal-Herald's* front page featured the headline, "Cyclone Strikes Delaware In Swing Through Central Ohio." It reported multiple tornado sightings, including two funnel clouds traveling along the Delaware Run. The article documents severe damage to the Mart Miller building, present-day 17-19 North



Photograph of South Henry Street showing roof and window damage to St. Mary Catholic School after a 1912 tornado.

Sandusky Street. Logan found an unidentified photo of the damaged building in the Delaware County Historical Society's collection. Using the article, she was able to catalog the photo alongside others that evidenced the historic storm. The upper rear of the brick building was blown northeast and crashed through the rooms below. The storm wreaked havoc throughout Delaware County, causing structural damage to several other local landmarks. The St. Mary Catholic parochial school lost a portion of its roof and multiple windowpanes. The roof of the Zion African Methodist church was torn from the building completely. In total, estimated damages reached \$75,000—equivalent to more than \$2 million today.

The Delaware County Historical Society encourages everyone to explore the *Delaware Daily Journal-Herald* archive and more at ohiomemory.org. This digital resource offers a unique opportunity to learn about the people, places, and events that have shaped Delaware County. Additional online collections are available at delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com. The Delaware County Historical Society is committed to preserving and digitizing more local historical resources. Learn more at delawareohiohistory.org. Learn more about this devastating tornado here – <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll56/id/50187/rec/12>.

Changes are happening at the Cryder Historical Center

By Margo Bartlett

The display cases at the Cryder Historical Center's Research Library were a jumble of artifacts last fall. Interesting artifacts, yes, but on display with "no explanation, rhyme or reason" to them, Cindy Kerr said.

"They didn't tell our county's story well," Kerr said.

As co-chair of the Museums and Exhibits committee, Kerr set out to organize the display, targeting students and teachers, the people most likely to tour the center. She also requested feedback from members of the DCHS Curriculum Support Committee member as well as other volunteers, and Museum and Exhibit Committee members who visit Cryder.

"Hundreds of school children come through," Kerr said.

Her first move was to open up the space by giving several wooden display cases to another nearby historical society. Much of what had been in that case and in the case that remained had never been catalogued, she said, so volunteers did that. All donated items are either on display or catalogued and stored, Kerr said.



Before: Cryder Historical Center's Research Library



After: Cryder Historical Center's Research Library

Then Kerr studied the empty case, which featured ten windows and pegboard backing.

"All I could see were dots," she said.

DCHS volunteer Mike Hoffman credited his son Scott and nephew Nathan with removing the dots before Kerr's eyes and replacing the pegboard with plywood, which Kerr painted around Thanksgiving 2023. Then it was time to fill the cases.

Kerr, who also serves on the historical society's Curriculum Support committee, said she was guided by second-through-fourth-grade Ohio Department of Education Learning standards when planning the cases.

An art and arts integration teacher who has taught at Smith Elementary School, the Arts Castle and at Ohio Wesleyan University, Kerr said second graders study state history and their own county. Historical Society's artifacts and information can enhance that study by displaying tools, artifacts, photographs and other items from the past.

Students' first stop is the Touch Center, a cabinet with labeled drawers containing fossils, arrowheads and other items visitors may handle. Also available are project buckets. Children may take home handouts and colored pencils to complete the projects, Kerr said. She's also posted information and stories on QR codes because,

she said, she noticed that teachers use them.

Kerr organized the glass cases by time periods and areas of interest. The arrowheads, spear points and the DCHS collection and a few were contributed by Steve Schenck, an expert, Kerr said, at identifying the age, material and purpose of such artifacts.

Sections for Early Europeans (1750s-1850s), the Underground Railroad and the Civil War and the Late Victorian era and the 20th century follow, along with Famous Delaware City County Residents, Businesses and Industry and well-known people who have visited Delaware.

Business and Industry artifacts include Delaware's Fitchhorn song flute, designed and made by music teacher Elver Joseph Fitchhorn, whose daughter and son-in-law also were well-known Delaware residents Dorothy and Jack Florance. (Fitchhorn also invented the vertical whistle flute he called the saxette.)

Nectar Candyland items are displayed, along with World Wide Games pieces donated by the late business owners Mary Lea and Warren Bailey; a red and white *Delaware Gazette* delivery bag, bookends by Liberty Castings ("Heavy!" Kerr said); and the jacket and helmet worn by Little Brown Jug harness race driver T. Wayne "Curly" Smart.

The displays are incomplete, Kerr said, because museum labels still need to be added.

"But I think we're starting to tell the county's story," she said.

Speaking of donations, DCHS Librarian, Susan Logan said they're always welcome.

"We're looking for an outhouse," Logan said. She noted that any donated outhouse must be clean and empty and would be placed behind the Stratford Road Millworker's Cottage owned by the historical society.

Logan added that Delaware Chair Company catalogs also would be welcome.

Kerr said she's worked nearly every day for six months on the display case project. Many volunteers have helped with monetary and artifact donations in addition to suggestions of important county dates, and facts.

"To me it's not a job; it's something I enjoy doing," she said.

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and exhibits*

Swimming in Delaware County

Presented by Steve Schmitt and Bill Rietz, Society Volunteers

Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 PM
The Barn at Stratford

The History of the Girls' Industrial Home – From the 19th to the 21st Century

Presented by Beverly Larson, Society Volunteer

Wednesday, July 24 at 7:00 PM
The Barn at Stratford

First Women of Delaware County

*Panel Discussion moderated
by Karen Cowan*

**Sponsored by Manos, Martin
and Pergram Co. LPA**

Thursday, August 22 at 7:00 PM
The Barn at Stratford



How the Delaware County Historical Society Celebrated the Solar Eclipse

By Melissa Stroupe, Barn at Stratford – Sales and Event Manager

On April 8th, 2024, we celebrated the path of totality with a special event, Eclipse Tradition, at the Barn at Stratford.

Eclipse Traditions began as a concept rooted in the idea of offering a Land Acknowledgement to the Indigenous and Tribal people who were the first stewards of this property we cherish.

The Smithsonian Institute states:

“ Making a land acknowledgment should be motivated by genuine respect and support for Native Peoples. Speaking and hearing words of recognition is an important step in creating collaborative, accountable, continuous, and respectful relationships with Indigenous nations and communities.”

We opened the morning by reading a detailed land acknowledgment followed by an incredibly inspiring presentation by Dr. Brad Lepper, the director of Ohio History Connection archaeology and anthropology. Dr Lepper introduced the Ohio World Heritage earthwork sites by explaining the evidence we have and precise geometrical alignment to lunar cycles, which could have predicted an eclipse.



Dr. Brad Lepper, director of Ohio History Connection archaeology and anthropology

Next, we heard stories from Omope Cater-Daboiku, a nationally award-winning storyteller. Omope shared stories that have been handed down through Appalachian families which described celestial events in a way everyday people can relate. We learned the Sun represents the male & the moon is female, stars being their children. Omope stayed with us throughout the entire day continuing conversations with guests as they had lunch, and took breaks.



The 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Following her stories we all ventured to the backyard where the eclipse had already begun.

Each guest was given a pair of safety glasses to observe the progression of totality.

The weather for the day was truly a remarkable gift of warmth and clear skies. The sun set all around us, the wind picked up, the air chilled and the birds flew back to their nests. We sat in totality for 2:35 minutes at 3:11pm. A collective gasp of wonder and emotion was part of our celebration in that moment. For 2 minutes, it felt as if the world stopped while over 100 people on the lawn behind the barn shared this incredible experience.

We began the day understanding how precise solar and lunar events were calculated by the Moundbuilders and how the stories of the solar system were carried through generations.

Following the Eclipse experience, we gathered around one final speaker inside the barn. Dr. John Low, the director of the Newark Earthworks and professor at The Ohio State University brought his experience and perspective as an enrolled citizen of the Pokagon band of the Potawatomi Indians. He shared the stories of the last Ohio total solar eclipse which occurred on June 16, 1806. At that time in Ohio, Tecumseh's influence to the Indigenous people called for a rejection of European pioneer influence.

Tecumseh's brother, Tenskwatawa was known as the Shawnee Prophet. Future President William Henry

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Harrison was the Indiana Governor at the time when he challenged Tecumseh and his brother's legitimacy as a prophet and leader by saying: "If he (Tenskwatawa) is really a prophet, ask him to cause the Sun to stand still or the Moon to alter its course, the rivers to cease to flow or the dead to rise from their graves."

Tenskwatawa responded by saying the Great Spirit was angry and he predicted the eclipse as a sign by saying. "Fifty days from this day there will be no cloud in the sky. Yet, when the Sun has reached its highest point, at that moment will the Great Spirit take it into her hand and hide it from us. The darkness of night will thereupon cover us and the stars will shine round about us. The birds will roost and the night creatures will awaken and stir."

In the days since Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh, Ohio has always held the strongest connection to the skies above. The Wright brothers built their bicycles on the lands of the Miami tribe. They dreamed of flight so that not much farther north, a boy, Neil Armstrong, in Shawnee land of Wapakoneta could be the first man to walk on the moon.

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/land-acknowledgment>

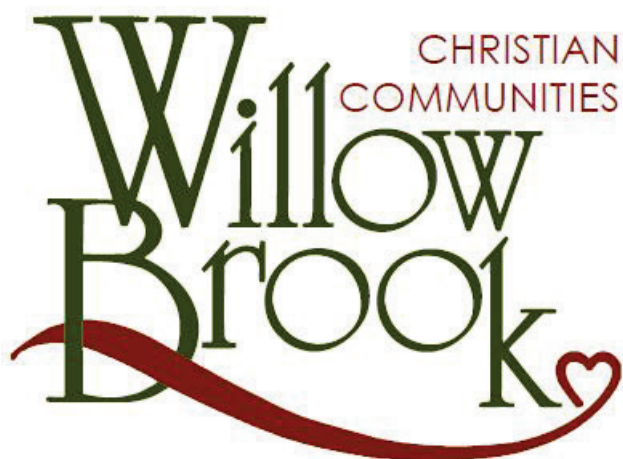
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse_of_June_16,_1806

Eclipse Traditions would not have been possible if not for the support of our sponsors:

Modern Woodmen – Amanda & Brian Denney, Performance Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Art New Co & Imprescient, DK Architects, Heartland Bank, Crossroads Chiropractic, Cummins Facility Services, Nancy Reger, Mary Ann McGreevey, Dan Coutcher & Jane Hawes.

Special additional thanks to Cindy Kerr for her invaluable skill and effort to collaborate while planning this event.

A portion of funds raised during this program were donated to the World Heritage Foundation & the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio's Land Back campaign.



Stop by and see us!

Visit our booth during Delaware First Fridays

Tour the Historic Jail & Sheriff's Residence

20 East Central Avenue, Delaware *First Fridays* from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

And, explore our other historic properties to check out featured exhibits and learn more about our shared history here in Delaware, Ohio!

Nash House Museum

157 East William Street, Delaware

- *Wednesdays from 10:00AM - 12:00 PM*
- *Wednesdays from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM*
- *Sundays from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

Meeker Homestead Museum

2690 Stratford Road, Delaware

Open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The Williams Block in Downtown Delaware

By April Nelson

A geode is a stone, usually spherical, that contains deposits of agate or minerals inside. The outside of a geode is plain in appearance, yet the inside of the geode often reveals a crystalline center of rich color.

Restored old buildings are not unlike geodes. Often plain and unassuming on the outside, the interiors can glow with careful rehabilitation and attention. 44 North Sandusky Street is one such architectural geode.

44 North Sandusky Street is one bay, or building, of a five bay block originally known as the Williams Block. It begins with 42 North Sandusky at the northeast corner of Winter and Sandusky Streets, and proceeds north on Sandusky up to and including 50 North Sandusky Street. The combined frontage of the five bays is approximately 105 feet, making it the longest continuous building face in downtown Delaware. Until recently, all five bays were connected by a series of doorways, hallways, and balconies on the second and third floors.

The Williams Block is a limestone and brick structure dating from 1854 and will celebrate a 170th anniversary this year. The *Olentangy Gazette*, an early local newspaper, reported in its December 1, 1854, issue that



Judge Hosea Williams
1792 – 1876

Photo of Judge Hosea Williams, considered one of the founders of Historic Stratford. Portrait painted in 1856 by William Walcutt, an American painter and sculptor.

the Williams Block had “attained its altitude” and predicted that the building would be a “lasting monument” in Delaware. Williams is still a prominent part of the downtown streetscape. Just below the cornice in the center bay at 46 North Sandusky Street, the name “Williams Block” can still be seen on the face of the façade, despite clumsy attempts in years past to obliterate it.

Williams Block is named after the man who caused it to be built – Hosea



The Williams Block circa 1900

Williams. Williams was referred to locally as Judge Williams and served as an associate judge of the Delaware Court of Common Pleas. In the early years of the nineteenth century, judges of a Common Pleas Court could make administrative appointments, and Hosea Williams, although not a lawyer, was the recipient of one such appointment. Williams owned a half acre of property at the corner of Winter and Sandusky Streets, and in the 1850s built the Williams Block on Sandusky in conjunction with Nathan Williams and Joseph Latimer. The building itself was designed by Cadwallater, a local architect.

Studying the tenant’s records of the block show how adapting the uses of the building through changing economies has allowed the downtown area to still be vibrant. Although records are difficult to establish for the first forty years, among the establishments that were located in the Williams Block, although not necessarily at 44 North Sandusky, were Williams and Company, which was a grocery, dry goods, and housewares store, the *Delaware Gazette* offices, located on the third floor of 42 North Sandusky Street, and the medical offices of T. Williams, who was no relation to Hosea Williams. Williams Block originally contained five storefronts, all of which received different treatment over the years. The fronts of 42 North Sandusky Street, currently the site of Hilborn Insurance, and 50 North Sandusky Street, currently the law office of Manos, Martin, Pergram, and Dietz, may provide the closest images of what the original street level storefronts of Williams Block must have looked like. Those two rebuilt storefronts incorporate the existing masonry and exposed limestone piers that

fronted all five bays originally and are modern renditions of mid-nineteenth century storefronts. The bay at 44 North Sandusky Street had its original storefront removed and replaced with a clear span storefront. It lacks the limestone piers that some of the other bays still retain, as the piers would have been removed to put into place the steel beam used in the clear span construction. The storefront there now probably dates back to the middle of the twentieth century. Inside, the first floor is basically an open room extending back, with a suspended ceiling and little indication of how the original interior would have looked.

In the 1890 city business directory, 44 North Sandusky was shown as the home of Thirkfield & Neff, a carpet dealer. At the close of the decade, the address housed Mark & Company, which carried ladies clothing. The Racket Club was installed in 44 North Sandusky by the early years of the twentieth century, and carried china, glassware, queensware, and crockery. The Racket Club remained a fixture at 44 North Sandusky Street for a number of years. By the 1920s, 44 North Sandusky Street had become a grocery, and housed VanDeman's Grocery. The grocery uses would continue on to the end of the 1930s, with the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company occupying the storefront throughout the 1930s. The A & P would eventually move farther north on Sandusky Street to 72-76 North Sandusky before moving out to East William Street. By 1946, the first floor was occupied by City Loan and Savings.

The upper floors of 44 North Sandusky Street were used for offices of various businesses, although the city directories do not note those businesses until the 1930s. From the 1930s until the 1950s, when use of the upper floors started to decline in downtown Delaware, the second floor at 44 North Sandusky served as insurance offices for the Roberts Insurance Company, McRoberts Insurance, and Wayne Hilborn. Towards the end of the 1940s and in the early years of the 1950s, the space was occupied by sign painters.

In 1950, the upper floors showed usage by the Delaware County Democratic Headquarters and at least 5 renters. After 1953, there is no further indication of upper story use at 44 North Sandusky Street, for a number of years. Like many downtown buildings, the upper stories of 44 North Sandusky sat empty for half a

century. As is starting to occur throughout the downtown, the upper floors were recently renovated and put back into service. In the case of this building, the new use of the second and third floor of 44 North Sandusky is a striking example of adaptive reuse of an old building.

In the course of previous renovations, indications of earlier tenants and earlier times surfaced. Papers had fallen behind baseboards and been preserved for over one hundred years. These included bank drafts for the Delaware Mutual Fire Insurance Company dating from the early 1880s, unused Ohio House of Representative envelopes for Harry Crist, and a sale ticket for damask Venetian carpet. The sale ticket is possibly a leftover from the days of Thirkfield & Neff. Crist was a Delaware attorney from the early years of the twentieth century who served one term in the Assembly. These paper trails tell the story of times past.

The current street level businesses includes an insurance firm, financial offices, a handmade cigar store, and a Japanese restaurant. A fine variety of businesses occupy open office and business areas. The stairwells and open areas have large windows to let in natural light. Prior and current owners have kept up with the changing business and personal amenities needed to stay viable. Over decades changes from gas lighting, to electric, to central heating, modern plumbing, and wi-fi and internet have made an 1850's building a 21st century treasure. Like a child who splits a geode open and marvels at the glowing crystals inside, we delight in the interior riches that the staid brick façade at 44 North Sandusky hid within.

Editors note: The article is abridged. It was from research and writing by April Nelson.



The Williams Block today



Director's Column

By Donna Meyer, DCHS Executive Director

Celebrating Preservation



What is it?

The month of May is designated as National Historic Preservation month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation established this event in 1973 and it is celebrated every year by cities, historical societies, preservation groups and various civic organizations throughout the country. Historic preservation is the practice of protecting and preserving buildings, structures, landscapes, and other artifacts of historical significance. This can involve restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of historic properties to ensure that they are preserved for future generations. Historic preservation helps to maintain the cultural and architectural heritage of a community, while also promoting a sense of identity and pride in the past. It is important to engage in historic preservation to safeguard our history and to maintain a connection to the past

This May, the Preservation Month theme is "People Saving Places" to shine the spotlight on everyone doing the work of saving places—in big ways and small. Historic place-savers pour their time, energy, resources (and sometimes a great deal of sweat and tears) into protecting places they care about. The work they do matters. Their efforts are vital in ensuring that all Delaware County residents, both natives and newcomers, connect with our shared history, weaving together the intricate tapestry of our county's story. By celebrating "People Saving Places," their work will inspire others to join the effort to preserve Delaware County's and America's historic places for generations to come.

What do we do to preserve our history and properties?

Among the many challenges we take on is advocacy to protect endangered buildings. One such structure, located on Africa Road in Delaware County, was to be part of a development. Built in the 1800s, it was one of the Sharp family homes located on Africa Rd and on N. State Street in Westerville. These homes mark an important route on the Underground Railroad. (The

family patriarch, Garrit Sharp, was an original settler of Sharp's Settlement, now Westerville.) It was slated to be removed or rotated, destroying the lower level of the home which provided sanctuary for individuals seeking freedom. Though it is listed on the National Historic Register, it is not protected from demolition (a popular misconception).



We made phone calls and wrote letters to the Westerville's Planning Department and were successful in saving the structure, explaining that we believe the history of this family home in its original location is too priceless to be lost.

Another similar occurrence concerned a pre-Civil War barn located at the corner of State Rt 315 and Jewett Road, near the Olentangy River. This intersection was slated



by ODOT to be improved which may have included the building of a roundabout, by removing the historic barn. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its importance in the history of the Underground Railroad in Ohio. Working with nearby residents, numerous phone calls, letter writing, and public meetings resulted in the preservation of this barn.

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recognizes achievements in historic preservation by presenting awards in Public Education and Awareness and Preservation Merit. Last year, the Delaware County Historical Society and Midstate

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Prohibition Provided Unique Challenges

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Tragically, that story was a direct result of bootlegging activity. On July 2, 1924, Officer Rea Horlocker gave pursuit to a Dodge Roadster while patrolling on his motorcycle. He traded shots with the men in the Roadster. While pulling alongside the Roadster, the car swerved driving the motorcycle into a pole. Deputy Horlocker was pronounced dead from his injuries at Jane Case Hospital (at what is now Andrew's House). The driver of the car was from Jersey City, New Jersey, but was paid \$50.00 a week to smuggle liquor from Detroit. Delaware Sheriff Fred Harter escorted him personally to the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, after trial and conviction. 90 years later Delaware County Dispatcher Julie Bucu and Deputy Brian Mox made sure Deputy Horlocker

was appropriately honored by having his name added to the Ohio Peace Officers Wall in London, Ohio.

Flaws and inconsistencies of the law enforcement of the law by officials, doomed prohibition. There are many examples available for how leadership at the federal, state and local levels turned public sentiment against the laws. Looking just 25 miles to the south in Columbus are the type of examples that helped fuel cynicism, when the Federal Prohibition Director for Ohio was indicted for illegally obtaining permits to sell whiskey.

On December 5, 1933, the 21st amendment repealing Prohibition at the Federal. The great social experiment had ended.

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Contractors, Inc. received a coveted statewide Preservation Merit Award for rehabilitation of the 175 year old Barn at Stratford, which included replacement of failing beams and the rusted and leaking roof, by Midstate.

As the proud owner of six historic buildings, dating from 1823 to 1970 (not sure if that one is historic, but it is 50 years old), it is nearly a full time job to ensure they are being well maintained and preserved. We were recently informed that we will be receiving an Ohio History Fund grant to stabilize the 200 year old staircase in the Meeker Homestead Museum. This will allow us to continue to invite thousands of school children to tour the museum.

We have our very own Historic Preservation Committee, staffed by preservation-minded volunteers who are

charged to determine how best to promote and sustain interest in the built environment of Delaware County, Ohio, through preservation and education. Some of the activities include:

- *Identify endangered properties*
- *Hold events and/ or sponsor activities that would encourage the preservation of the built environment*
- *Plan programs about preservation of buildings*
- *Define what records of historic buildings should be available at the Cryder Research Library*
- *Identify reference materials that could be purchased*
- *Develop ways to document the current built environment*
- *Maintain properties through educational programs*

As large-scale development continues in our county, it is even more important to save our historic structures, because once they are gone – they are gone. We maintain a list of endangered properties and buildings located in the county. This list is reviewed at each meeting, and on happy occasions, they get removed as they are “saved”. We celebrate buildings which have been removed from the list. They include:

The chair factory on Flax Street which is now has been

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listed as being restored and will be part of a new development.

V.T. Hills House – located on Lincoln Avenue in Delaware, the former “Sunny Vee” is being restored as a single-family home. The nursing home addition has been removed and asbestos removal has occurred.



Kitty corner to the building above, on Franklin Street, this Gothic Revival house was constructed in 1871, and served as a residence for Martha Sanborn and her three children, and was then OWU’s Chi Phi Fraternity for nearly 100 years. Recently purchased, it has been lovingly restored. The former house mother’s suite is rented out.

How can you celebrate?

• Check out Clio – a mobile app and website that connects thousands of people to historic and cultural sites around the United States, including Delaware County, which has over 30 entries, including several of the buildings listed above. Developed by Marshall

University, you can find it here – <https://theclio.com/>. You can even make your own entries – a great summer family project.

- *Learn about volunteer opportunities with the Delaware County Historical Society. We always have openings for preservation-minded individuals on our Historic Preservation Committee, or other committees. Visit our website www.delawareohiohistory.org to learn about ways you can help.*
- *Check your attic, basement, garage, or other outbuildings. Do you have historical items, documents or photos that may contribute to our community’s history?*
- *Bring the family and visit our four museums and learn the history of our community.*
- *Explore the history of a single building. What businesses were there over the years? How has it transformed? How has it been preserved?*
- *Discover parts of your city you’ve never seen before! Get lost and study our architecture. Speak to the people in the neighborhood. Seek the untold stories.*

Donna

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Historical Society**
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