



# *Delaware County* **Historian**

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SPRING 2016

## Society Welcomes Community to the Meeker Homestead

By Rick Fisher

With the Grand Opening of Meeker Homestead on February 18, 20, and 21, 2016, the Society welcomed over 1,350 visitors from all over Central Ohio to the historic Garth Oberlander Barn, also known as The Barn at Stratford, and the Meeker Home. They joined the Society in celebrating the opening of this gateway historic property, consisting of six acres at the southern entrance to the City of Delaware. The festivities included an invitation-only preview party and two days of community open houses where the Society showcased both The Barn at Stratford and the Meeker Home.

The Preview Party, held on the evening of February 18, was the culmination of years of work to bring Tom and Carolyn Porter's gift of this wonderful property to the public. The Porters lived on the property and operated Garth's Auctions at this location for many years. Their gift ensures that their home will benefit Delaware and Central Ohio for all time. Amelia Jeffers, the current president of Garth's Auctions, joined the celebration.

The evening featured a silent and live auction, and the items to be auctioned were featured on the raised stage area. In addition, the stage presented tables decorated to show guest illustrations of style in event décor. Music for the evening was provided by the charming duo Museica, who are Bob Claymier and Pam Beery. Guests



**The Scene at the Preview Party**

(Photo by Matt Kear)

had a wide selection of food and beverages at caterers' tables surrounding the gallery with beautiful displays and great-tasting food.

The Preview Party opened with a welcome from Society President Brent Carson. Jack Hilborn, the Society's Vice President for Development, announced the start of the Society's Capital Campaign. The Campaign seeks to raise funds to equip the society's historic properties to fulfill their role as ambassadors of Delaware County history. (For more on the Capital Campaign, see page 11.)

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## Upcoming Events

May 7	Minnelli's <i>Meet Me in St. Louis</i> Strand Theatre, 11:30 am	July TBA	A Walk with President Hayes and Brent Carson, Downtown Delaware (admission to be charged, reservations required)
May 14	Minnelli's <i>Gigi</i> Strand Theatre, 11:30 am	Sept. 17-24	Delaware County Fair Exhibit: Early Gas Stations
May 14-15	Delaware Arts Festival, Downtown Delaware	Oct. 20	Delaware County Fairgrounds Early Gas Stations, a talk by Brent Carson
May 19	Volunteer Fair Barn at Stratford, 7 pm	Nov. 8	Barn at Stratford, 7 pm
May 21	Minnelli's <i>An American in Paris</i> Strand Theatre, 11:30 am		Annual Meeting
May 28	Minnelli's <i>Madame Bovary</i> Strand Theatre, 11:30 am		Barn at Stratford, 7 pm
June 24-25	Powell Festival Booth Old Powell		And many more to come!

Check our website for more information as it becomes available

## 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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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.



## There's So Much to Do!

I have been on the job for 3 months now and it has been a whirlwind of activity, meetings, and more meetings—not that meetings are new to me. In my previous job, I had as many as 4 each day and often joked that if it weren't for meetings, I would actually have to work. Meetings are a great way to get things done, assign tasks and basically be on the same page. (As a warning – don't ever miss a meeting as you will find yourself assigned new responsibilities or even as a committee chair).

And as I meet with each committee and better understand their role as part of the Society, I am continually amazed by how hardworking, dedicated and passionate our board and committee members are, often devoting many hours per week to the organization. They are the real nuts and bolts, holding us all together, coming up with better ways of doing things, and getting those things done. And as a former board member, I too devoted many hours as the Communications Committee chair, and I didn't have too many to spare. How lucky am I that I get paid for working with such committed people, devoted to the success of our organization.

We have a kind of tongue-in-cheek saying that usually comes up at every board meeting. In fact, some board members comment on how long it takes for that phrase to be uttered by someone at the meeting. When "Well, we've never done that before!" is spoken, we all smile and nod our head. A few chuckle. The meaning is not lost on any of us and shows that we are trying new things, accomplishing new tasks and searching out new ideas to better serve our organization.

I am also very lucky to work in a 193-year-old

house. If only walls could talk, what would they say? They might tell tales of families who worked and farmed, and lived and loved. They would tell of children who lived here, laughing as they scampered up and down the stairs or ran through the yard and fields. The original farm was just over 624 acres and spread north and west. What a huge operation without any of the modern equipment! I would like to go back in time just to learn how it was done. Maybe I would be able to incorporate ideas into my own farm.

As we strive to be good stewards of the Meeker House and The Barn at Stratford, we know it will take a lot of planning, hard work, and money to accomplish our goals of preserving the homestead and create a great learning opportunity for students and adults alike. Our county is steeped in rich history and we owe it to future generations to keep that history alive. If you share in our vision, we encourage you

to get involved. We need new members on our committees and have a number of them to choose from.

If you only have a few hours a month to spare, we will welcome you. Our Volunteer Open House will be in May, so come learn how you can help make a difference. We also need your financial support to ensure the lasting legacy of the Meeker Museum will thrive for generations to come. We have embarked on a Capital Campaign and welcome your tax-deductible donations of any amount. Look for additional information on our website, [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org). Call me with your ideas (740-369-3831 Ext. 3). We want you input, thoughts and suggestions on how you would like to see the museum take shape. Because, after all, it will be your museum.



**Director's Column**  
By  
**Donna Meyer**



### *We Remember Jerry Heston and Gordon Keenan*

The Society lost two dedicated friends recently with the passing of Jerry Heston and Gordon Keenan.

Jerry's contributions to the Society are deep and long-lasting. Jerry served as a key committee member on the Society's Finance Committee for many years. His attention to detail and his knowledge on how to organize financial records was vital to continuing the strong financial position of the Society. His loving support of his wife Sue, a Society Trustee, was also a demonstration of his appreciation and love for the Society and its work.

Gordon's contributions to the Society are perhaps more hidden, but are nonetheless vital. He first volunteered to help take photographs of objects as part of the Society's cataloging project, but his knowledge and experience in computer networking proved to lead to his greatest work on behalf of the Society.

Society members and volunteers all will miss Jerry and Gordon and their dedication to the preservation of Delaware County history.

## Celebration Opens Meeker Homestead

**(Continued from page 1)**

The evening's program proceeded to a live auction held by Dan Boysel where lively bidding helped elevate prices. The program ended with the awarding of the silent auction items to the winning bidders.

Following the amazing Preview Party, the Society held an Open House at the Meeker Homestead on Saturday, February 20, and Sunday, February 21. The weekend was blessed with clear warm weather, which encouraged Delawareans and visitors from all over Central Ohio to come visit. A feature article in Sunday's *Columbus Dispatch* reminded many to get in their cars and join the celebration.

Guests found the stage lined with information about Society programs, projects, and events. Volunteers and Society board members mingled with the visitors, answered questions, and discussed the historic house and



**Many items were available at the silent and live auctions**

(photo by Matt Kear)

barn. Everyone was treated to fine foods and beverages provided by Weiland Markets, Pasterice, L.A. Catering, and City Barbecue.

Guests were invited to take a self-guided tour of the Meeker Home, one of Delaware County's

oldest, where they learned about the Society's plan for future exhibits.

Through the generosity of our guests, the Society raised over \$5,000 toward bringing Delaware County's past to life in our historic buildings during the weekend.



**Right: Guests view and bid on silent auction items**

(photo by Brad Cowan)

## Preview Party Featured Auction, Music



**Above and left: Dan Boysel brings in the bids during the live auction. Below: Museica plays wonderful background music at the Preview Party**

(above and left photos by Brad Cowan; below photo by Matt Kear)



## House and Barn Were Open to Public



Above: Trustee Benny Shoultz standing in the Meeker house among sample exhibits he developed; below left: Society President Brent Carson inspects the decorations; below right: Trustee Charlton Amidon (left) and former Trustee Bob Gerspacher

(above photo by Matt Kear; below photos by Brad Cowan)





### Special Presentation

Society President Brent Carson and Executive Director Donna Meyer presented Amelia Jeffers (left) of Garth's Auctions with a print of the Meeker Homestead painting by Mary Morrison. The Society commissioned the painting and ordered a limited number of prints. This print was given to Jeff and Amelia Jeffers to show appreciation for their work in preserving the homestead. The numbered prints are available for purchase from the Society.

(photo by Brad Cowan)

**Right: Guests enjoyed food and beverages provided by local caterers and vendors.**

(photo by Brad Cowan)



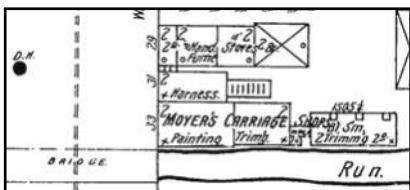
## The Story of OWU's Edgar Hall



By Susan Lamphere

The Edgar Hall building which currently houses part of Ohio Wesleyan University's Fine Arts department sits on the border of two historic districts in Delaware. As part of the Sandusky Street Historic District, it was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The Ohio Wesleyan buildings were put on the register in 1985. Edgar Hall was included with the downtown buildings because of its commercial origins as an underwear factory.

Although the building wasn't built until 1910, the Delaware Underwear Company got its start on the property in 1902. Early downtown maps from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company (below) show Fred Moyer's Carriage Shop there



in 1885 through 1901.

In a 1954 document in the Delaware County Library's local history room, Robert Powers recounted his memories of downtown Delaware:

"Frank Moyer, wagon maker, was located close to the Delaware Run. A small frame building was located just over the run & occupied by a Mr. Bradley with a feed and grinding business and again by C.J. Minnick who shipped poultry & eggs. In the summer time the college campus grass was cut once or twice during the season and the

professors divided the hay, for everyone had a horse in those days."

A feed mill, feed crusher and a corn buhr can be seen on early maps, built over the Delaware Run. In the late 1920s, the mill was dismantled.

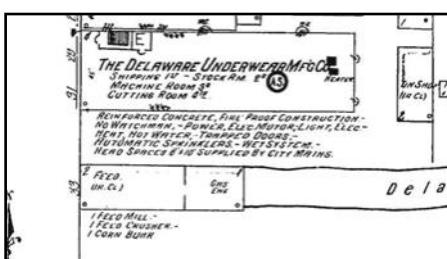
The postcard from the Greetings from Delaware website (left) depicts two buildings for the Delaware Underwear Company around 1912, so it is likely the company started in the smaller building on the left and as business grew expanded to the new structure.

Designed by W.E. Rubs of Akron, Ohio, the building was constructed by A. Bentley and Sons, a



revered construction and engineering firm out of Toledo, Ohio. Bentley family history claims their founder, Anderton Bentley, coined the term "skyscraper." The company was in business for over 100 years and left a huge legacy of buildings, bridges and power plants.

The 1911 Sanborn map (below) shows the new building for the first time. Shipping was on the first floor and the stock room was on the second. The third and fourth floors held the machine room and cutting room, respectively. The building was made of reinforced



concrete, fireproof construction, and had an automatic sprinkler system.

### **Company history**

According to James Lytle's 1908 book on the history of Delaware County, E. D. Egerton and William A. Morrison started the business in 1902 and incorporated the following year with capital stock of \$50,000. Early company officers included William A. Morrison, president; Frederick M. Bauereis, vice-president; John L. Anderson, secretary and treasurer; and John A. Shoemaker. Robert Sellers is also listed as the manager of the Galion factory.

In the early 1900s there were as many as 50 underwear factories throughout the United States and Britain. Underwear was beginning to be considered for fashion in addition to function, and advertisements began selling underwear as a necessity for health, attractiveness, and athleticism. The use of new fabrics with varying colors and design created new product lines. Corsets and union suits were still popular, but people began wanting more comfortable knickers and drawers.

In Delaware, the first company product was indicated as muslin underwear, but as early as 1905 ladies' skirts were produced at the Delaware location, which had up to 100 employees at the time. Records show that the Galion location was manufacturing flannelette underwear in 1905. The company employed five traveling salesmen.

Although the locals referred to the enterprise as "The Panty Factory," in a 1913 Department of Inspection annual report, the company is listed both as the Delaware Garment Company (ladies' dresses and skirts) and the Delaware Underwear Company (underwear). The Galion location is also referenced.

So although the company may have started with underwear, eventually it made and sold "wash dresses, skirts, and flannelette



gowns." Wash dresses were informal dresses that were more comfortable and practical for wearing on "wash" day or doing other chores and informal activities.

### The Flood of 1913

The 1913 flood was catastrophic throughout Ohio and Delaware did not escape the raging waters. Much of the downtown was flooded and 18 lives were lost. In this postcard below from CardCow.com you can see the water levels looking across the street from the underwear company.

There are also many flood pictures in the Delaware County Historical Society online archives. Reports estimated water levels as high as 15 feet in this block. The



underwear company sustained heavy losses, with reported damages of \$10,000 which equates to almost \$240,000 today. Damages to the block between William Street and Spring Street alone noted in one account as \$100,000 or \$2.4 million in today's dollars.

The historic flood and the resultant damage to the garment company made the Disasters and Tragic Events encyclopedia. The photos captured a scene no one had ever envisioned.

To try to salvage goods and materials, 20,000 yards of wet fabric were laid back and forth across the front lawn of Ohio Wesleyan's

garments they tried to save.

Company president William

Morrison wrote in the *Delaware County Independent* newspaper about the generosity of businesses pitching in with goods and services "without thought or care as to whether they would ever obtain pay-

ment." He went on to describe the paralyzing situation and how selfless and responsive merchants and dealers were to the community. Flood sales were advertised for many businesses.

In a 1988 issue of the *Delaware Gazette*, flood survivors shared their experiences. Henrietta Van Meter, who was in second grade at the time, said that she remembers the sight on the OWU lawn and that inside the building other damp

Sandusky Street buildings. The white that you see in the below right photograph is all fabric – 20,000 yards, which converts to 11.3 miles. Also shown are 6,000 individual

garments were sold very cheaply. She especially remembered the smell of those wet garments. Despite the losses, the company survived and would operate for another decade or more.

### Changing hands

Eventually the company went out of business in the mid-1920s. Records show the Delaware Motor Sales company occupying the building for a few years until January 1927 when it relocated to East



Winter Street.

In October 1926, the *Transcript* shared the announcement that a corporation was formed to take over the building until the university could carry it. The University Development Company's sole purpose was "to make sure that the Garment Company... can eventually become a part of the university's main plant." R.S. May, the president of the Delaware Chair Company and a member of the university Board of Trustees, led the efforts to renovate the building.

Early in 1927, the *Transcript* reported remodeling underway and that "North Hall" was scheduled to be open for the June commencement ceremony. Renovations began on the third and fourth floors which were to become the new home for the chemistry department. The second floor would house the school of business administration and the entire first floor would be dedicated to the **(Continued on Page 10)**



## Edgar Hall

### (Continued from Page 9)

alumni association offices and club room. This would mark the first time the alumni had a place of their own and the club room would be used for reunions and other alumni functions.

Built at the end of the arts and crafts era, the building has unique brackets (shown below) supporting the cornice. The renovations included putting in a south entrance



with a pathway leading up to Gray Chapel. It is likely that the cornice and brackets on the front were replicated on the south side during this time. The feed mill was torn down and pieces were kept in the basement until the 1940s.

In June 1928, Edwin Edgar (class of 1894) and his wife, Elizabeth Campbell Edgar, were announced as donors. Their gift of \$143,500 allowed the university to purchase North Hall which it had been leasing from the University Development Company. Later in 1928, the building was dedicated as Edgar Hall.

### **Dishwater, Daffodil, Delaware Run**

The Delaware Run begins just south of Houk Road and meanders through and under downtown Delaware where it empties into the Olentangy River. It is not widely known, but for over a hundred years, OWU students had referred to the Delaware Run as "Dishwater Run".

A 1932 *Transcript* article sheds light on some of the history. In 1912, some of the women from Monnett Hall were determined to change "Dishwater" to "Daffodil"

and planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs along the banks of the creek near Edgar Hall. Despite all of their efforts, the building of a new bridge, and a dedication ceremony, the 1913 flood wiped out all of the bulbs before they had a chance to bloom. Like the daffodils, the new name never took hold.

OWU traditions throughout the years have included an annual tug-of-war between freshman and sophomores over Dishwater Run. The tradition began in the late 1880s and eventually faded out in the 1960s.

A 1945 *Transcript* article reported that "finals wreck general peace of mind" and so for luck, co-eds tossed pennies into Dishwater Run after an old Navy tradition. Today Ohio Wesleyan leads efforts for sustainability of the Delaware Run and has done comprehensive studies on the history and ecology of the run.

OWU had a very active Air Force ROTC program from 1949 to 1974. A 2009 *Columbus Dispatch* article details the vibrant Aerospace Studies program and the contributions made by hundreds of students. The basement in Edgar Hall was used as a rifle range, and AFROTC detachment 655 rifle teams competed at the state and national levels. OWU rifle teams held championship titles and even won the William Randolph Hearst AFROTC Trophy.

A 1962 *Transcript* article reported a fire in the rifle range area which caused the stored ammunition to later be moved off site. In the late 1960s, a national controversy began over whether or not military courses should be offered in liberal arts institutions. Eventually OWU phased it out just as many other universities had, but students today can still participate in AFROTC through Ohio State University.

### **Two more major renovations**

As the 1970s approached, OWU enrollment was stable but not growing. The university had to

make some decisions about Monnett and Merrick halls. A 1969 *Transcript* article recounted the discussion about whether or not the school should sell, tear down, or renovate Edgar Hall. Renovation won out and the building was upgraded in 1970.

Throughout the years Edgar Hall has housed academic departments such as chemistry, economics, art, dance, and business. It has also been home to alumni affairs and the student health center.

A \$4 million renovation in 2001 upgraded the facilities for the Fine Arts department, which also has other buildings across campus. The improvements to interior studio space and offices allowed the department to grow and attract more students. With this last renovation, the Werner Student Art Gallery was established. Operated by students, the gallery showcases their work throughout the year. Art majors have 24-hour access to the building to work in the studios.

The most noticeable change to the outside of building was the addition of black panels in the windows which created a striking new look. The building's history exemplifies the town-gown relationship between Delaware and Ohio Wesleyan quite literally. Today, Edgar Hall stands tall as a monument to industry, adversity, and academics.

**NOTE OF THANKS:** Many resources were used in researching this article. Special thanks to OWU's Emily Gattozzi, who taught me how to research over 100 years of *Transcripts*; Susan Logan, Brent Carson, and the good folks at the DCHS; and Jeanette Wingate and Sue Hoyt who work in Edgar Hall today.

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared on the DelawareO.com blog. All photos are from DCHS archives, the OWU Our Shared History Project, or were taken by the author.*

## Society Launches Capital Campaign

By Marian Vance

The Society has embarked on its first-ever major Capital Campaign. The Campaign was announced at the Preview Party on February 18. The response so far has been positive. The Barn at Stratford and the Meeker Home are being prepared for new uses as an event venue, museum and exhibit space, and office space for the Society. Monies are needed for restoration, improvement, and maintenance.

Donors will be kept apprised of the happenings at the site. Naming rights are available for certain listed donations. Gifts of \$500 or greater will be acknowledged on plaques. Our goal is to instill pride in what we are doing and in ownership of the property, and to ensure future use of the property. Since this property is such an important piece of Delaware County history, great care is being taken to preserve the historic and architectural details of the site. Our financial goal for this Campaign is \$200,000.

Please consider your gift to help the Society maintain this very historic property, which acts as the southern gateway to the Delaware community. Please contact Marian Vance at [marianjvance@yahoo.com](mailto:marianjvance@yahoo.com) or any of the Board of Trustees. Donations can be forwarded to the Society at P.O. Box 317, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Please mark "Meeker fund" on the check memo line.

The following is the list of opportunities that need to be funded:

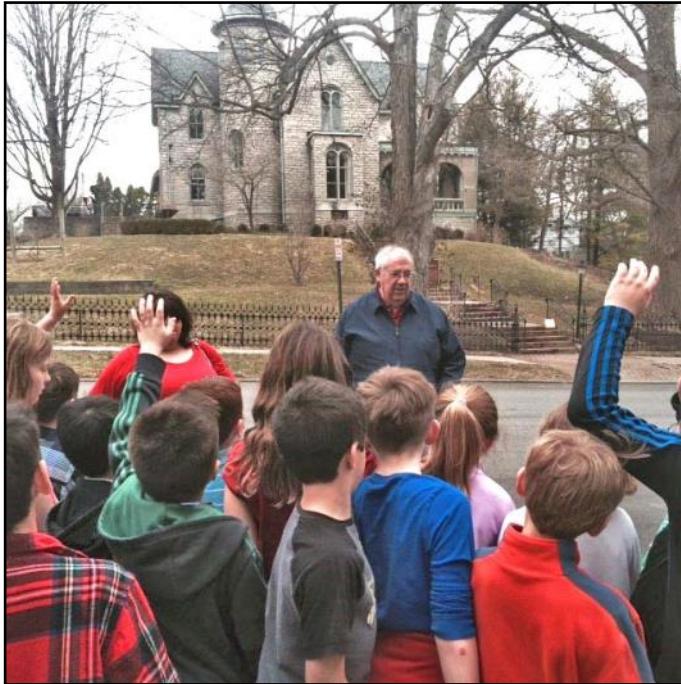
\$8,000	<b><i>The Barn</i></b>
\$6,000	roof coating
\$6,000	gazebo (concrete pad, moving costs, any restoration needed)
\$6,000	restrooms (expansion needed plus new fixtures)
\$3,000	kitchen redo (commercial grade renovations to make kitchen caterer-friendly)
\$6,000	kitchen equipment upgrade
\$1,000	future renovation of windows
\$600	bistro lighting
\$2,000	LED lighting
\$500	trees and other landscaping needs
\$30,000	<b><i>Loft renovations</i></b>
\$30,000	tear out
\$20,000	HVAC
\$10,000	finish work
\$5,000	barn stairway
	electrical
\$30,000	<b><i>Meeker House Museum for displays and room renovations</i></b>
\$18,000	Meeker House roof
\$10,000	Meeker House HVAC
\$1,000	Visual Digital Display for Exhibits
	Office furniture
\$10,000	Cryder Historical Center renovations



## Fair Exhibit to Feature Early Gas Stations

The Society's 2016 Delaware County Fair Exhibit will feature early gas stations of Delaware County. John O'Brien is chairing a committee of six interested individuals to research early gas stations. If you have information including photographs, names of employees, stories or memorabilia, please contact the Society by e-mail at [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org) or by phone at 740-369-3831.

## A Walk on Winter Street with Mr. Carson



**Mr. Carson and students at the Arts Castle**

**Story and Photos by Karen Hildebrand**

It was a beautiful spring day when Society members Brent Carson and Karen Hildebrand met the third-graders from Buckeye Valley West Elementary School on March 10 for a Walk on Winter Street. The busload of children from the classrooms of Ms. Barnett, Ms. Gregory, Ms. Kennedy, and Ms. Lawrence came to the Delaware Arts Castle for two activities that day. The students were divided into two groups. One half of the children toured the current exhibit at the Arts Castle, the paintings of Jim Krehbiel from Ohio Wesleyan, as they focus on prehistoric landscapes of the American West.

The other half of the group, led by Brent Carson, started their walking tour to learn about early Delaware history. Brent first took students around the corner to Central Avenue to see the wall surrounding one of the oldest homes in Delaware, the Van Deman home. Brent easily slipped into

storytelling mode as he related the tales of Ohio Wesleyan students hiding in the hard-to-see staircases in the stone walls below the building. As men and women students from OWU met clandestinely at this spot, it came to be known as the “hole-in-the-wall” and a favorite romantic rendezvous for college students.

Another fun fact Brent told the students is that the City of Delaware used to close Central Avenue on snowy winter days so that kids could run their sleds down the slippery hill without fear of traffic.

Walking back to Winter Street, Brent stepped up onto a carriage stepping-stone in front of The Winter Street Inn directly across from the Arts Castle, which was the original home of George W. Campbell, for whom Campbell Street is named. Campbell's wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Catherine, also have nearby streets named in their honor and after the Campbell family. Brent explained this family history in addition to the facts that horse-drawn carriages used to stop on this street and let people off, so the

stepping-stones were needed to assist people out of the carriage and onto solid ground. A few can still be seen around Delaware.

As Brent continued with the group on down the street, he explained how the street used to be made from wooden bricks. A display of those unusual bricks can be seen at the Society's Cryder Research Center.

The next stop dealt with the history of a man named John P. Clum. Clum was born in 1851 in New York and became an Indian Agent and later the mayor of Tombstone, Ariz. He returned to Delaware and married Mary Dennison Ware, the niece of Ohio Governor William Dennison, on November 8, 1876. The couple moved to Arizona and after a few years they moved to Florence, Ariz., and bought the newspaper, *The Arizona Citizen*. Two years later, in 1880, they sold the newspaper and moved on to Tombstone where he started *The Tombstone Epitaph* newspaper. He later became friends with the new sheriff, Wyatt Earp, and went on to be elected mayor. Clum lived through the in-



**Mr. Carson on the stepping stone**

famous OK Corral shootout in October of 1881. Clum's wife Mary died in 1880 and she is buried in Boothill outside of Tombstone. Clum eventually quit the area and moved around the west, working several years in Alaska, until he returned to California where he died in 1932.

Students are often infatuated with the story that Brent tells of the Lincoln blood, which is on a handkerchief in the display case at the Cryder Center. While we were on this section of Winter Street, Brent pointed out the brick house where the Little family lived. Charles Otis Little was a Civil War soldier just released from military service and was in the audience the night of Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theatre. He reached down and sopped up a drop of Abraham Lincoln's blood as his body was carried to the Peterson House across the street from the theater.

Moving on down Winter Street, we stopped in front of the original Delaware High School Building. Brent gave a brief history of the schools in the city of Delaware and pointed out that we were standing in front of his former classroom of many years – over his left shoulder. He went on to tell about the day when the City of Delaware began to repair and replace the sidewalk outside of this old building. Brent and his students rushed out to save a bit of the sidewalk that has the date 1914 etched into the concrete as well as the stamp and logo of the original company that made the sidewalk pieces. Brent is certainly a living example of how history is preserved – and sometimes just on the spur of the moment!

Next on our tour was a stop at Andrews House. Originally built by Hiram Griswold Andrews, a native of Worthington, Ohio, he came to Delaware in 1831 and partnered with Hosea Williams to start a paper mill in Stratford. Taking two years, he built this mansion home in 1844. Later, in 1888, the Delaware Chair Company owners, the Samuel Lyndbrand family, bought the house. Mrs. Lyndbrand died in



**Mr. Carson and students at the Clum House**

1901 and the house was transformed into Delaware's first hospital. Jane Morris Case, the widow of a doctor from Columbus, aided in the creation of the hospital. It was a hospital for 20 years at this location until it moved to the location at the present Grady Memorial Hospital. The building became an OWU fraternity house for a number of years before the St. Peter's Episcopal Church bought the building and created Andrews House to house a variety of community services for the people in Delaware.

Turning the corner onto North Franklin Street, Brent guided the third-graders to the next stop, the Murray School, a private school where Rutherford B. Hayes and his sister, Fanny, attended first and second grade. Later they attended the one-room stone school where Andrews House now sits. Brent's great-great grandmother, Eliza Thompson Carson, was a teacher at this public school and taught future President Hayes at that time. Brent pointed across the street to where the Williams Street United Methodist Church now stands and explained that the house that previously stood on this corner was where the Hayes family lived. Hayes was not born in that house, but he lived there most of

his childhood years before moving to Fremont, Ohio.

Turning the corner again, the group moved on to the steps of Willis Intermediate School. Willis has a long history and transformation. Starting as a high school and named after Frank B. Willis, a former senator and governor in Ohio and even a presidential candidate until his untimely death, Brent explained that this is the last year Willis will serve as a school with children. It will become offices and a part of Delaware City Schools in other capacities as it has a gym and auditorium. Brent pointed out the Sea Level marker from the U.S. Geological Survey on the front steps of the school.

On our return to the Arts Castle starting point, Brent took us down Catherine Street, which as mentioned earlier is named for the daughter of George Campbell. Being fortunate this day that the weather cooperated for a walking tour, students ate their packed lunches on the Arts Castle's patio deck. We switched groups and the morning group went inside for the art activity and the other group came outside for the walking tour. It was a beautiful day for history in Delaware and to share with children the importance of preservation and recording family histories.

## Strand Celebrates 100 Years; Society to Co-Sponsor Minnelli Movie Series

By Matt Kear

The Strand Theatre in downtown Delaware is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2016, and the Society is helping them celebrate. During the month of May, the Society is co-hosting a series of movies by Vincente Minnelli, who grew up in Delaware during the first part of the 20th century.

The movies will be held on Saturdays, and doors will open at 11 a.m. Brent Carson, Society president, will introduce each movie with a short talk starting around 11:15 a.m., and the movie will start at 11:30 a.m. The schedule is as follows: May 7: *Meet Me in St. Louis*; May 14: *Gigi*; May 21: *An American in Paris*; and May 28: *Madame Bovary*. Tickets are \$4.50, and there will be concession specials offered.

The series of Minnelli movies in May is only a part of the year-long Century of Cinema celebration that the Strand is hosting. For the April First Friday event, the Theatre sponsored tours of downtown Delaware that focused on the many former theater sites throughout the downtown. On April 10, the anniversary of the opening of the Theatre, it hosted a showing of Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*. The Theatre will also continue its popular summer kids' movie series, with free showings on Tuesdays from June 7 to

August 9 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The centerpiece event for the Century of Cinema celebration will be the Black Tie Gala to be held on Saturday, June 25. The Gala will feature the debut of a documentary on the history of the Strand. On the next day, Sunday, June 26, the Strand will host Family Fun Day, which will feature street entertainment and vendors, and will be followed by a free family movie showing at 1:30 p.m.

The Strand is operated by the Strand Theatre and Cultural Arts Association, an independent non-profit organization. The Strand was opened on April 10, 1916, by Henry Bieberson, Jr., and has been showing movies continuously ever since. It is one of the 10 longest-operating U.S. movie theaters and one of only a few independent movie theaters that shows first-run feature films.

Today, the Strand stands as a true community theater. Tracey Peyton, Managing Director of the Strand Theatre and Cultural Arts Association, described it as a place where the staff knows its patrons by name. "It is like a family here, all the staff is part of a team," she said. "People love this place."

For more information, visit the Strand's website at [www.thestrandtheatre.net](http://www.thestrandtheatre.net). We hope to see you at the movies!

## Volunteer Fair to Be Held May 19

The Society will host its annual Volunteer Fair on Thursday, May 19, 2016, from 7 – 9 p.m. at The Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware.

There are many exciting endeavors underway at the Society, so volunteers are needed more than ever! No matter what your skills, interests or availability are, there is a place for you.

For example:

- Do you like to learn and share knowledge about Delaware history, but can't commit to a regular schedule? At various times, we need help at programs and events, and soon we will need docents for the new Meeker Homestead Museum.
- Would you like something interesting to occupy a few hours of your time, once a week or once a month? We have catalogers and researchers who work at our Research Library near downtown Delaware during its open hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

- Would you like a chance to interact with other community leaders who serve the Society? We have a number of committees, ranging from Resource Creation to Buildings and Grounds, which meet periodically and need fresh ideas and more helping hands.

Volunteering at the Society is a great way to learn more about the Delaware community, plus you may pick up new skills as we provide "on-the-job" training.

Volunteer coordinators, project managers, and committee chairs will be on hand at the Volunteer Fair to discuss these and other opportunities with you, so please drop by the Barn at Stratford anytime during the event.

If you can't make it to the fair, send an email to [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org) or call 740-369-3831 to let us know how you would like to get involved.

## 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](http://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 2016 and their chairs are as follows:

Buildings and Grounds	Roger Koch
Education	Susan Logan
Library Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Museums & Exhibits Subcommittee	Benny Shoultz
Programs Subcommittee	Volunteer needed
Collections Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Curriculum Support Subcommittee	Karen Hildebrand
Communications	Lynn Foreman
Information Technology	Ralph Au and Rick Fisher
Membership	Karen Cowan
Finance and Budget	Jan Fleischmann
Resource Creation	Marian Vance

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

*Thank You Volunteers,  
Members, and Donors for  
your continued support!*

### Seeking Interested Candidates for Board of Trustees

This is an exciting time for Delaware County and the Society. We are now in the process of moving into the Meeker property as well as managing our current house museum and 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 Marian Vance at [marianjvance@yahoo.com](mailto:marianjvance@yahoo.com) for further information and a personal visit.

#### Available for Sale at the Library!

*Delaware and Delaware County*  
Logo T-Shirts (newly reengineered!), Tote Bags,  
and Mugs  
Books and DVDs about Delaware History  
Old Photographs of Delaware County  
And Many More Items!

#### **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](mailto:mkear@delawareohiohistory.org)

#### **SHOP & DONATE!**

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



*The 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](http://www.dccmc.com)

## Delaware County Historical Society

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Email: info@delawareohiohistory.org  
www.delawareohiohistory.org

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### DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

All memberships are "per-person" amounts, including life memberships.

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

Circle one:  
New or Renewal

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

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

#### Membership Type

Number

( ) Adult Membership	\$20.00	_____	Business/Corporation	\$ 50.00
( ) Senior Membership (60+ yrs)	\$15.00	_____	Life Membership (Joint)	\$500.00
( ) Student Membership	\$5.00	_____	Life Membership (Single)	\$300.00

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Special Gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ For/In Honor or Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to Delaware County Historical Society and mail to P.O. Box 317, Delaware OH 43015