



Delaware County Historian

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SPRING 2015

Community, Society Commemorate Civil War in April Program



John Cooper as Abraham Lincoln during the program

(Photo by Brad Cowan)

On April 28, 2015, the Delaware County Historical Society held a program called the “150th Commemoration of Delaware County in the Civil War” and it was a success. The eight hundred who attended the evening program at Ohio Wesleyan University’s Gray Chapel were entertained and educated with stories and music.

The central element of the program were dialogues led by the narrator, Brent Carson, and Abraham Lincoln re-enactor John Cooper. The dialogues of

Abraham Lincoln were described as “mesmerizing,” “riveting,” and “authentic.”

Between the dialogues were musical selections with connections to the Civil War. Performers ranged in age from four years old to older adults. The groups included the Rainbow Kids, the Ohio Heartland Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, members of the Ohio Wesleyan University music department, and
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News and Notes from the Nash House

Candidates Sought for Board of Trustees

The Delaware County Historical Society is looking for individuals with an interest in serving in the vital capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the day to day activities of the Society as well as the long-term financial goals and mission. Board Meetings are monthly with committee meetings as necessary. This is a "working" Board with an important and rewarding role in guiding the present activities and future success of the Society.

If you are interested, please contact Marian Vance, chair of the nominating committee, at marianjvance@yahoo.com for further information and a personal visit.

Upcoming Events

June 26-27	Powell Festival
August 15	Harlem Festival
August 19	"Walking Rutherford B. Hayes' Delaware" with Brent Carson
September 13	Powell-Liberty Historical Society's "Good Ole Days"
September 19-26	Delaware County Fair
November 12	Annual Meeting & Program on Discovery of Fort Morrow
December 12-13	Christmas Open House at the Nash House
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.

OFFICERS

President	Brent Carson
Vice-President of Development	Jack Hilborn
Vice-President of Operations	Roger Koch
Recording Secretary	Lynn Foreman
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Ann McGreevey
Treasurer	Jan Fleischmann

TRUSTEES

Charlton Amidon
Ralph Au
Ana Maria Babiasz
Karen Cowan
Sue Heston
Matt Kear
Donna Meyer
Benny Shoults
Donald Staas
Marian Vance

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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 Have Been Many Celebrity Visits to Delaware and Delaware County

By Brent Carson

The recent passing of Grand Ole Opry star Jimmy Dickens brought back memories of my meeting him in Delaware. For a number of years the Delaware County Mounted Deputies sponsored a country western show. The June event always took place on the stage of Willis School Auditorium. In 1994 the star was Jimmy Dickens.

From the days of stagecoach travel to the present, celebrities have traveled through our county. Many came to speak or perform, others were passing through. I once had the chance to visit with 1960s singing group, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. They asked me where I lived. When I said Delaware, Ohio, their response was they had been through Delaware numerous times. "You don't drive from Detroit to Columbus without passing through Delaware," said Ms. Reeves.

An incident I recall happened on a summer Sunday evening in the early 1970s. A friend and I made a late evening stop at Pizza Villa Restaurant, a popular eatery on South Sandusky Street. The early evening crowd was gone and we sat at the only booth cleared of its dishes. The only other people in the restaurant were seated in the next booth. One was an attractive, well-dressed woman, the other a young teenage girl. At one point I overheard the woman say that her movie career had affected her private life. I wondered who that person could be, and why was she in Delaware? As they prepared to leave I saw the woman conversing at the counter with restaurant manager, Rose Bucci. The restaurant manager did not know that she had been conversing with a celebrity.

The next day we learned that it was singer and dancer Ann Miller. She had been performing for a week with Kenley Players in Warren, Ohio. On her way to Columbus, Ms. Miller had turned off Interstate 71 and drove into our town looking for a place to eat.

In the early 1970s historical society member Sue Heston was about to leave the Delaware Bible Church office on Belle Avenue. A gentleman walked in asking for directions to a church daycare center in Delaware, looking for his daughter who worked there. Sue said that she was going in the direction of the place he was seeking and that he could follow her in his car. The car he was driving was a white Cadillac adorned with cow horns as a hood ornament. He was dressed in country western style clothing. Sue led the way to Delaware Christian Church Daycare Center on West William Street. On arriving he thanked Sue for her kindness. He said to



Jimmy Dickens in the Willis School Cafeteria

(photo courtesy Brent Carson)

Sue, "My name's Marty Robbins." Sue smiled and responded, "My name's Sue Heston," and she pulled on out of the parking lot. On describing the incident to her husband, Jerry, she learned that Marty Robbins was a country western star.

Among others who were said to have come to visit friends or relatives were singer Gordon Lightfoot, Roy Rogers, labor leader John L. Lewis, Johnny Appleseed, actor Ray Bolger, Samuel Colt, and Jessie James. If you have information regarding other celebrity visits to our county, please contact us at the Historical Society.

Civil War Program Features Lincoln

(Continued from Page 1)

a chorus of 5th and 6th grade students from elementary and middle schools in Delaware County. In total there were over 150 participants on stage.

John Cooper has been professionally re-enacting the role of Abraham Lincoln for seven years. As a guest of the Society he spent the day in Delaware. Early in the afternoon he spoke at three elementary schools – Conger, Schultz, and Carlisle. During the late afternoon he attended a reception at the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center at Ohio Wesleyan. The reception was for members of the community, the University, and the Society.

Dr. Barbara Terzian, who chairs the Department of History at Ohio Wesleyan University, spoke in reference to the evening event at Gray Chapel, “It was a wonderful program and so professionally done.” The program lasted almost two hours with a fifteen minute intermission. Numerous attendees spoke of how well-paced it was. “It certainly didn’t seem like I was there for two hours,” said a parent of one of the performers from Powell.

In addition to the program, the entire length of the lobby at Gray Chapel was filled with Civil War memorabilia, much of which was related to Delaware County in the Civil War.

In summing up the evening Jack Hilborn said, “I have been attending programs in this community my whole life and this was one of the finest I ever remember.”



Right: John Cooper as Abraham Lincoln

Below: “Abraham Lincoln” talks with students at Carlisle Elementary School

(photos by Brad Cowan)





The printed program for the event at Ohio Wesleyan University's Gray Chapel is more than a listing of the evening's activities. It is a twenty-four page book filled with photographs and stories of Delaware County in the Civil War. The book is available at the Delaware County Historical Society for a donation of \$5.00.

Above: The Rainbow Kids were among the many performers at the program.

Below: Civil War items on display outside of Gray Chapel.

(Above photo by Brad Cowan; below photo by Matt Kear)





Above: The crowd gathers in Gray Chapel.

Below: “Abraham Lincoln” speaks to the crowd as the Rainbow Kids look on.

(Photos by Matt Kear)





Above and below: Abraham Lincoln mingles with Society guests at the reception before the event

(Above photo by Matt Kear; below photo by Brad Cowan)





“Abraham Lincoln” mingles with guests at the reception (above and right) and speaks with Trustee Matt Kear and other guests (below)

(Above and right photos by Matt Kear; below photo by Brad Cowan)



Civil War Program Is Highlight of 2014 Annual Meeting

The Society held its 2014 annual meeting in the historic Garth Oberlander Barn, the home of Garth's Auctions, Inc., 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio, on Thursday, November 20, 2014.

Local Civil War re-enactors Rick Helwig and Henry Shaw presented a program on Delaware County and the Civil War, Civil War re-enactment in general, and the many different organizations dedicated to Civil War history.

The business portion of the meeting included the election of trustees. Bob Gerspacher, Doug Wilson, and Steve Shaw chose not to seek new terms as trustees, and they were recognized for their dedicated service to the Society. Incumbent trustees Jan Fleischmann and Benny Shoults were elected to new three-year terms. Ralph Au, Karen Cowan, and Don Staas were elected to three-year terms.

The Board elected the Officers of the Society at its first meeting of 2015. Brent Carson was re-elected to serve as President, Jack Hilborn was re-elected as Vice President of Development, Roger Koch was re-elected as Vice President of Operations and Jan Fleischmann was re-elected as treasurer. Mary Ann McGreevey was elected to be Corresponding Secretary and Lynn Foreman was elected to be Recording Secretary. Benny Shoults and Matt Kear were elected to serve as Trustees-at-Large on the Executive Committee.



Above: Civil War re-enactors Rick Helwig and Henry Shaw.
Below: Retiring Board Members Steve Shaw and Bob Gerspacher.
 (photos by Matt Kear)



Carson's Del-Run Miniature Golf Course Opened 50 Years Ago

**By Brent
Carson**

Fifty years ago this June marked the opening of Carson's Del-Run Miniature Golf Course. The course was located on West William Street, 1.8 miles west of the center of downtown Delaware. Today there is no remnant standing. The area has been returned to nature as a part of Willow Brook at Delaware Run Christian Village. For more than a generation of Delaware countians, the course brings back the nostalgia of a simpler time. When it opened in 1965, it was touted as one of the finest and most difficult miniature golf courses in all of Ohio. In its early years crowds would line up outside waiting for a chance to play. There were evenings when you may have to wait in line for an hour to begin. We initially purchased one hundred and twenty-five clubs and all of them were being used.

The inspiration for the course came from my brother, Bill Carson. In the early 1960s he and his high school friends spent many a summer evening playing at Columbus's Graceland Shopping Center where there were two challenging courses. Our parents, Bob and Dora May Carson, were both enthusiastic followers of sports and youth activities. My brother convinced them that Delaware needed a miniature golf course and that we ought to build one in our farm's cow pasture. There was some apprehension because, since the



Looking Northwest at the Miniature Golf Course in August 1965

(photo courtesy Brent Carson)

1920s, there had been three miniature golf courses in the community, none of which lasted over five years.

Next came the challenge of designing the course. My father and brother drove to courses around Ohio to come up with ideas. Because we had the available land, we chose not to include the usual mechanical gadgets such as windmills. Instead we decided to make the putting greens larger and the runways longer. Bill Carson drew up the design. In the early spring of '65 we mowed the pasture grass and with sticks and strings Bill laid the design. With all local help, the course was completed in late June. One neighbor built the clubhouse, another neighbor put in the electric. The building of the course holes was completed by a local contractor – his one and only miniature golf course.

The course opened on June 28, 1965, at cost of 50 cents per game. The cost remained the same for thirteen years. By that time Columbus courses had increased to \$1.75 per game. Our first increase in cost was to 60 cents per game. In so doing the large sign at the entrance could be easily repainted. With a little red paint we could change the "5" to a "6" without having to paint the whole sign. When the course closed in 1996, the cost had risen to \$1.20 per game. Even the snacks were inexpensive. In the early years young people would bring their dates for an evening at the golf course for \$2.60. That would include three games of golf (unwritten rule was the third game of golf was always free), four glasses of pop and two bags of chips.

As to the course's challenges, the par was set at 44. Yet rarely could even the regular customers shoot under par. One of those reg-



Looking South at the course and the clubhouse in August 1965

(photo courtesy Brent Carson)

ulars was Dean Nicol. Dean was quoted as saying, "If the curves didn't get you, the cob rocks would!" He was referring to the sandstone walls around the holes. The stones were not glued down so a golfer couldn't rely on a clear bank shot off the wall. Another regulars was Craig Creasy, who took his talents at miniature golf on to become the National Amateur Putt-Putt Champion. In the thirty-one years of operation only a handful of scores reached as low as the thirties. Mark Cicolenno held the course record with a ten-under 34.

The course was unique in other ways. There was a sign which said "Lost balls 50 cents," yet in all those years I don't recall any of our family ever charging anyone for losing their ball. Often times a customer would become frustrated and drive the ball into the cow pasture. We would always give them another one. Kids from town would come out and ask if they could climb the fence into the cow pasture to look for the lost balls. If they found some we'd give them a free game.

Another unique aspect of the course was that it was in many ways a part of the dairy farm which surrounded it. The cows were always close by. When the course was built it was an obvious interruption along the cows' path to the nearby creek. They soon adapted to a new path which wound along the golf course fence. Often times they would line up to watch the golfers. At other times the golfers would line up to watch the cows. It wasn't entirely unusual to see an occasional cow inside the course in search of the grass which always seemed greener on the other side of the fence.

As on all farms, summer was a busy time. Sometimes the course had to take second place to the more important business of running the farm. I don't know how we could have existed without a very important sign which often rested on the counter. The sign read "Go ahead and start. Be right back." On a summer afternoon or early evening there might be hay to bale, oats to combine, or cows to milk. Sometimes the entire family would be involved and customers would have to be trusted to leave

their money on the counter or pay on their next visit. Sometimes a course regular who had come to play would see that the Carsons were busy and would therefore take over running the course until one of the family members returned. During the early evening milking time, a regular customer would sometimes walk the couple hundred yards to the barn and pay us in the cow stable.

A final unique aspect was that, though we had a set opening time, we had no set closing time. My parents considered it rude to indicate to a customer that we were getting ready to close. The balls and clubs were to be left on the counter until the last customer had left the course. The lights to the course were to be left on until the last customer's car had left the parking lot. Even if it was 1:00 a.m. and a last customer was in the car leaving the parking lot, the lights to the course were kept on. And what happened if, as that car was leaving, another car pulled into the lot? The Carson family's rule still applied, the course was still open.

Society Recognizes Volunteers, Highlights Opportunities at Volunteer Fair



Hall of Fame Volunteers (from left) Jack Hilborn, Susan Logan, Jan Fleischmann, Roger Koch, Brent Carson, and Maggie Webb

(photo by Brad Cowan)

“Volunteer and Get Smart” was the theme of the Delaware County Historical Society’s 5th annual Volunteer Fair. Over 40 current and prospective volunteers visited the Garth Oberlander Barn to celebrate volunteering at DCHS.

After Brent Carson welcomed everyone to the event, Jack Hilborn introduced the new DCHS volunteer brochure and spoke about the importance of volunteers to DCHS.

Current DCHS volunteers were then recognized for their outstanding service as follows.

“Willing to tackle tough job and stick to it”

Jim Simon, Ann Simon and Shirley Newell.

“Flexible – Do anything asked”

Susan Button and Joe Dwenger.

“Does things without direction”

Robin James, Joan Obusek, Samantha Brooks.

“Has a fun time while working”

Curriculum Committee: Karen Hildebrand, Ray Myers, Bill Reitz, Laurie Shaeffer, Susie Hough, TK Cellar.

“Enthusiastic”

Brad Cowan, Rick Fisher.

Jackson Hotaling was recognized because of his willingness to let DCHS use his picture on the cover of the new volunteer brochure.

“The ‘DCHS Brilliant Volunteer’ is an award that goes to a volunteer who displays all of the characteristics that we want in our volunteers, and who epitomizes our ‘volunteer and get smart’ theme,” explained Karen Cowan, Membership Committee Chair. That award went to Maggie Webb. “Maggie definitely has all of the characteristics that we want in volunteers,”



Break Time at the Volunteer Fair

(photo by Brad Cowan)

said Karen. “She is a self starter, enthusiastic, and fun loving. In addition, she was the originator of our ‘volunteer and get smart’ theme.”

A DCHS Volunteer Hall of Fame was then announced by Karen Cowan. Brent Carson, Jack Hilborn, Roger Koch, Jan Fleischmann, Susan Logan and Maggie Webb were the first inductees. “They all have worked above and beyond the call of duty to make DCHS a success, and they deserve to be recognized for their efforts,” Karen explained.

After the volunteer recognition, Karen Hildebrand, Curriculum Committee Chair, then talked about the activities of the Curriculum Committee and their importance to the DCHS mission. Maggie Webb, Nash House Curator, discussed the Nash

House museum and how she decides on displays and themes for the Nash House exhibits. Next, Benny Shoults, Exhibits Committee Chair, discussed his inspiration for the exhibits that he creates at the Hair Studio in Downtown Delaware and at the various festivals and fairs where DCHS has a display booth. The program concluded with project managers presenting their volunteer needs and signing up volunteers for new projects.

Each attendee received a “thank you goodie bag” and a drawing was held for gift cards from merchants including Staas Brewing Company, Buehler Food Markets, Inc., MailPro 1, all located in Delaware, and Ma and Pa Dollar Plus located in Powell.

Maggie Webb Named Brilliant Volunteer for 2015

“Brilliant Volunteer of 2015” was the award given to Maggie Webb at the Volunteer Fair. According to Karen Cowan, the “brilliant volunteer” award is given to the volunteer who exhibits all of the qualities that we are looking for in a volunteer, and Maggie definitely does that. She is a treasure.

Born in western Michigan, Maggie has always been interested in history. Even in her childhood she would see or find “old” things and know that something important had happened to it. She has carried that reverence for “old” things and their stories throughout her life.

From Michigan, Maggie moved to Powell where she and her husband, Charlie, raised three children and are now enjoying their 3 grandchildren.

She began volunteering at the Society in 1997, cataloging 400 books from an estate. She then became a docent helping with 3rd grade class tours. She learned Delaware County history from George and Marilyn Cryder, Crystal Kohler, Linda Harris, Bud and Charlene Alward, and Sharlene Shoaf, and is grateful for their tutelage. Her interest in the Nash House and its residents was fostered by longtime volunteer Dee Tiberi.

The more time she spent at the Nash House, the more she came to treasure it. When the decision was made to have volunteers decorate the Nash House for Christmas using items from the Society’s collection instead of relying on local florists, Maggie stepped in and has become the Nash House’s chief decorator and curator. Now she thinks of the Nash House as her big “doll house.” She can move furniture around, add accessories, and change displays, then go home to her house in Powell and leave things the way they are.

Conducting tours of the Nash House created a curiosity about its residents, so she is constantly on the lookout for glimpses into their lives. As she explores the house for exhibit ideas, she finds postcards, pictures and letters that give her insights into the lives of the residents. She uses this in-



Maggie Webb

(photo by Brad Cowan)

formation to give current visitors an idea of what life was like in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Maggie is looking forward to the opening of the Meeker House on the Garth Oberlander property. She thinks that the Meeker pioneer house will nicely complement the Victorian Nash House and will bring a new dimension to Delaware County history.

Newsletter Articles Are Wanted!

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

Send your submission or your questions to info@delawareohiohistory.org

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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.

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The Delaware County Community Market
222 E. William St., Delaware (near the liquor drive thru)
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More Ways To Help The Society

Sign Up or Renew Your Kroger Community Rewards

By Marian Vance

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

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

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Volunteers and Committee Members Are Needed

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

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

Committees for 2015 and their chairs are as follows:

Buildings and Grounds	Roger Koch
Education	Susan Logan
Library Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Museums & Exhibits Subcommittee	
Maggie Webb and Benny Shoultz	
Programs Subcommittee	Donald Staas
Collections Subcommittee	Susan Logan
Curriculum Support Subcommittee	
Karen Hildebrand	
Communications Committee	Donna Meyer
Information Technology Committee	
Ralph Au and Rick Fisher	
Membership Committee	Karen Cowan
Finance and Budget Committee	Jan Fleischmann
Resource Creation Committee	Marian Vance
Nominating Committee	Marian Vance

**Delaware County
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