



# Delaware County History Courier

## Message from the Venue Manager - Connie Hoffman

I was hired by the DCHS Board to serve as Venue Manager in November, 2015. The Delaware County Historical Society held its first open house in February 2016. Our first wedding was held on May 21, 2016, and since then, we have held 65 weddings in the barn and on the Meeker Homestead, plus more than 35 other events, such as corporate retreats, retirement, graduation, Christmas and birthday parties. I handle bridal appointments as well as other duties that include: janitorial, gardener, decorating, building, painting and other jobs that a 170 year old building and 6 acres require. Bridal season runs May through October - the busy season has required us to add part-time assistants, Kelly Barry and Allie Zarley.

There have been many challenges, but when one works out of an old barn, nothing surprises me. Broken pipes, frozen furnaces, bats and birds, overflowing urinals etc. And recently the neighborhood peacocks squawking during last weekend's wedding, which brought the Delaware police department on a 911 call to the barn because a neighbor thought someone was screaming for help! If you haven't heard a peacock's mating call, stop by sometime.

We have made many improvements to the barn and grounds. In May, 2016, the gazebo was relocated from a donor in Upper Arlington and a paved walkway with landscaping was installed, so now there is a beautiful, intimate area for outdoor weddings. Last summer we installed a high efficient heating and cooling system for the venue space. Most recently, the bridal dressing room in the Meeker House was upgraded with new floor and water closet. This month we will be installing a new floor to the kitchen in the barn.

There is much more to do, both to preserve this historic building and to make it more usable for events. Last month, the upper floor was cleaned and stripped of all electrical wiring, and temporary lighting has been installed in preparation for the removal of walls, ceilings and modern additions that were made to the barn during its time occupied by Garth's Auctions. Dan Troth, a local barn expert, will serve as general contractor overseeing a long list of tasks, including structural improvements that will help to preserve the Barn at Stratford for another 170 years.

If you have not yet had the chance to see the inside of the barn, please consider attending an upcoming DCHS program—or stop by, I love showing off our jewel on Stratford road.

## ???????? Carson's Quiz ????????

Society President Emeritus and resident historian Brent Carson challenges your knowledge of Delaware area history

1. What year was the Meeker barn built? (bonus question - how do we know that information?)
2. What type of construction is the Meeker barn?
3. Why are most barns red?



## Upcoming Events

### Antique Roadshow

Saturday, May 5, 1-3 pm, Harlem Firehouse Community Room, 3883 S St Rt 605

\$5 per item valued by Garth's

### Mother-Daughter Tea

Saturday, May 12, 2 pm, Myers Inn Museum, Sunbury

Reservations required by May 5 (call Sue at 614-403-4565)

### Mothers Day at Meeker

Sunday, May 13, 2-5 pm, Meeker Homestead, 2690 Stratford Rd, Delaware

Cookies and punch; bring a picture of your mom to be displayed in the "Notable Women" exhibit

### Lemonade Lucy - Deb Schatzer

Monday, May 14, 7 pm, Martin Perry Homestead, 103 E. Olentangy St, Powell

First Lady Lucy Ware Webb Hayes, wife of our 19th president

### Notable Women from Delaware County

Wednesday, May 16, 7 pm, The Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Rd

Program celebrating 6 renowned local women; tours of the exhibit

### Tractor Show

Saturday, June 2, 10 am-4 pm, Gallant Farm, 2150 Buttermilk Hill Rd

Family activities

### Civil War Fire Arms

Monday, June 11, 7 pm, Martin Perry Homestead, 103 E. Olentangy St, Powell

Henry Shaw, Civil War re-enactor

### Athletic Venues of Delaware County - Brent Carson

Tuesday, July 12, 7:30 pm, Myers Inn Museum, Sunbury

### Railroads in Delaware County - Jack Hilborn

Wednesday, June 13, 7 pm, The Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Rd

### Floods in Delaware County - Brent Carson

Wednesday, July 11, 7 pm, The Barn at Stratford, 2690 Stratford Rd



The Delaware County Historical Society is joining a national campaign by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, called “This Place Matters”, that encourages people to think about preservation efforts in their community. During the month of May – National Preservation Month – we are asking everyone to think about what places matter to them. Then share what places matter to you by posting a photo of the place with a “This Place Matters” sign.

It’s easy to participate in This Place Matters! First, get a This Place Matters sign. Pick up a “This Place Matters” sign at DCHS locations during open hours:

- ◆ Meeker Homestead Museum at 2690 Stratford Rd on Sunday afternoons 2 – 5 p.m.
- ◆ Cryder Research Library at 157 E. William St on Wednesdays 10 a.m. to noon or 1 – 5 p.m.
- ◆ The Society Office at 2690 Stratford Rd., Mon. – Fri. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ The DCHS Table at the May First Friday in downtown Delaware
- ◆ The DCHS Booth at the Delaware Arts Festival, May 19 – 20, 2018
- ◆ Download a printable version from our website (<http://www.delawareohiohistory.org/?p=3708>)

Then go to your favorite historic landmark and snap a photo of you (and friends!) holding the This Place Matters sign in front of it. Share the photo online, with a story about the place or a comment explaining why it is personally meaningful.

- ◆ Post on our Facebook page ( <https://www.facebook.com/Delaware-County-Historical-Society-154135447959654/>)
- ◆ Post on our Twitter feed ([https://twitter.com/DelawareCo\\_HS](https://twitter.com/DelawareCo_HS))
- ◆ Post on our Instagram page ([https://www.instagram.com/delawareco\\_hs](https://www.instagram.com/delawareco_hs)), using the hashtag #ThisPlaceMattersDelco
- ◆ Send by Email to Donna Meyer ([director@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:director@delawareohiohistory.org))

Please, pass the sign along to someone else who might be able to use it, or return it to a DCHS location. For more information, email or call Executive Director Donna Meyer (740-369-3831 x3).

---

## Enroll or Renew your Kroger Community Rewards

Just by shopping at Kroger you can send fundraising dollars to the Delaware County Historical Society. It’s easy, but it requires that you enroll and then renew during each year. So unless you saw the reminder in the April Announcement email last month and followed the instructions then, you probably need to renew.



Go to the Kroger website ([www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)) and click on Kroger Community Rewards. Choose “Delaware Co. Historical Soc, Inc.” with the organization number 84793. If you keep your enrollment up-to-date the Society will be the lucky recipient of your shopping bonus – at no extra cost to you. We have been receiving hundreds of dollars per year from the Rewards program, but if everyone on our mailing listing signed up, we would earn thousands!

---

### Carson’s Quiz Answers (from front page)

1. By taking core samples of the beams in the barn, it was determined that they were from trees cut in the winter of 1847, and very likely used in the construction of the barn around 1848. (This dating process is known as dendrochronology.)
2. Bank barns are built into a hillside to permit access on two levels. Wagons could be pulled up to the second floor level using the slope of the hill as an access ramp. The first floor of the bank barn is used for animal pens with access doors to permit the animals to go out to pasture. (<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/features/barn-construction.html>)
3. According to the Farmers Almanac: farmers would seal their barns with linseed oil, which is an orange-colored oil derived from the seeds of the flax plant. To this oil, they would add a variety of things, most often milk and lime, but also ferrous oxide, or rust. Rust was plentiful on farms and because it killed fungi and mosses that might grow on barns, and it was very effective as a sealant. It turned the mixture red in color.

## We are looking for your stories of the year 1968.

The Delaware County Historical Society is planning a special exhibit in conjunction with the “Newspapers of Delaware County” exhibit that will be coming this summer. This special exhibit will feature the year 1968, considered to be one of the most turbulent and pivotal years in U.S. history.



There was a lot going on internationally and nationally, but the story we want to exhibit is what Delaware County residents were doing and thinking in 1968 including memories of how those major national and international events affected your lives and the lives of your family members. 1968 events included the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and its marches, violent and non-violent anti-war protests, the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King, and many more headline stories. Life was changing in big ways here and everywhere. We are interested in life in Delaware County 50 years ago through local stories.

Here’s how you can help: **submit your stories to [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)**. Please try to limit the words to 400 or less. Include with your submission a sentence granting permission to use your story for both the exhibit and their retention in the Delaware County Historical Society archives, along with your name and a way to contact you. You can also submit your stories the way you would have in 1968, by the US postal service (now referred to as “snail mail”), addressed to: DCHS/Stories, 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, OH 43015.

### Meeker Homestead Museum—2018 Exhibit Schedule

The “Notable Women from Delaware County” exhibit has been extended until June 24. On Mothers Day (May 13) we invite you to bring your mother (or other notable woman in your life), to view the exhibit and enjoy punch and cookies. Bring a photo and we will add it to its own special exhibit.

The “Newspapers of Delaware County” exhibit will open on July 15.

The Meeker Homestead Museum is open Sunday afternoons, from 2 to 5 pm. Admission is free, although donations are appreciated and help defray our operating costs.

---

## Oral History Project Partner Received Award for Service-Learning

Dr. Nancy Pine was recently awarded the David Hoch Memorial Award for Excellence in Service, in recognition for her outstanding work with the Delaware County Historical Society’s Oral History Project. She joined the faculty at Columbus State Community College in 2010 where she incorporates service learning in all of the writing and composition courses that she teaches. Most recently she began partnering with the Society to have her students record the oral histories of Delaware County residents.

The project has been offered to students for 3 terms: it was piloted in Autumn 2016; in Spring 2017, students interviewed members of the Lucy Depp community, an African-American settlement in Delaware County; in Autumn 2018 they interviewed World War II veterans and those who served on the home front. At the end of each term, a celebration event is held at which each student presents a copy of their paper to the person they interviewed and wrote about.



Dr. Nancy Pine, Assistant Professor,  
Columbus State Community College,  
Delaware Campus

---

## Historical Cemetery Preservation Workshop at Stratford Cemetery on May 5 and 12

Stratford Ecological Center has partnered with preservationists at Custom Gravesite Care of Central Ohio, to have a 2-day workshop on Saturday May 5 and Saturday May 12 from 9 am to 5 pm with a 45 minute lunch break. Bring your own lunch, water will be provided. This will be a hands-on workshop where we will actually reset and repair gravestones - come ready to work. They will teach us "best practices" to restore a pioneer cemetery. \$50 fee—register at: <https://fs12.formsite.com/StratfordEcological/form37/index.html>

Delaware County  
Historical Society

2690 Stratford Road  
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740-369-3831  
Email: [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)  
[www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org)

*Our History,  
Our Heritage*

Find us on  
Facebook!



Adopt-a-Garden-Bed  
Program

We are proud of the flowerbeds around our historic buildings at the Cryder Historical Center at 157 East William Street and the Meeker Homestead at 2690 Stratford Road. Our properties are highly visible to the public, provide pleasure for visitors and passersby alike, and convey an impression of care and importance to our historic sites. Now you too can play a part in helping us show off our gardens all summer long.

If you like flowers and playing in the dirt, you are qualified to make your own place in history! We provide knowledgeable and experienced gardeners to assist in design and plant selection and get you started in your chosen favorite planting bed, and once you are comfortable, you check up on your adopted bed regularly, on your own time schedule, and keep it beautiful and weed-free. It's a wonderfully satisfying way to express your skill and love of beautiful flowers, while helping to keep our historic buildings attractive and compelling.

Call: 740-369-3831 extension 3, or e-mail: [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org).

DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one:   
New or Renewal

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

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

Membership Type

Adult Membership	\$25.00 _____	Adult Household	\$50.00 _____
Senior Membership (60 + over)	\$20.00 _____	Senior Household	\$40.00 _____
Life Membership (Single)	\$300.00 _____	Life Membership (Joint)	\$500.00 _____
Student Membership (under 18)	\$5.00 _____	Business/Organization	\$50.00 _____

Newsletter preference (circle): Printed E-mail Both

For Student Membership, name of your school: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to your membership noted above, please consider an additional gift to the Society:

\$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Make check payable to Delaware County Historical Society and mail to 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware OH 43015 or use on-line form and pay with PayPal at [http://www.delawareohiohistory.org/?page\\_id=2](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org/?page_id=2)