

# Delaware County Historian

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 2

FALL 2009



## DCHS May Acquire Historic Meeker House, Barn

By Roger Koch and Brent Carson

The Delaware County Historical Society is poised to receive the largest, most significant donation in our history. As an indirect result of Delaware's rapid growth, we have the opportunity to play an instrumental role in preserving the area's most historic homestead, the Colonel Forrest Meeker Home and Farm. The property, which for many years has been occupied by Garth's Auctions just south of Delaware on busy US 23, is under development pressure. The site is currently zoned for an office park or retail strip shopping center, and the historic buildings on the property are not protected by any historic district regulations or federal restrictions. They could legally be bulldozed for redevelopment with no additional permissions.

Fortunately an alternate development solution has been proposed by the owner, the developer who has the property under contract, and the DCHS. If a change in zoning can be granted by the City of Delaware, a smaller project (a gas station and a one-bay carwash) can be built on just a small portion of the site at the intersection, and the remaining five and a half acres of the site, including the 1812 house and stone end barn, can be donated to the DCHS by the owners, long time members Tom and Carolyn Porter, for our future use as a museum and educational facility. The city hearings over the rezoning will be taking place over the next several months. Your support for this proposal could help assure its success. Call your Delaware city council representative, or better yet, attend the upcoming Delaware City

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*If you have any articles or article ideas you'd like to submit for the next issue, please send them to Matt Kear at [mkear@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mkear@columbus.rr.com)*

## Meeker House, Barn Date To 1810s, 1820s

### (Continued from Page 1)

Planning Commission meetings and express your support for saving this historic property for future generations. A meeting when we will be on the Planning Commission agenda will likely be on December 2 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Details of the gas station and car wash being proposed for the two acre south corner of the site call for the development to look like a cluster of nineteenth-century farm outbuildings, with limestone end walls, natural cedar vertical siding, and standing seam tin roofs. The architect has designed the buildings to reflect the style of the 1820 barn on the site. The only building to be demolished under our alternate proposal will be the 1970s era metal pole building currently on the corner.

Forrest Meeker (1769-1849) was born in Rutland, Vermont, and immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1797. Seven years later he moved to Chillicothe, Ohio. From there, he and his wife relo-



**Meeker House, the current location of Garth's Auctions**

cated to Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1807. Patience Meeker, however, could not accept the institution of slavery and persuaded her husband to return to Ohio. In 1811, Meeker purchased 625 acres of farmland in Delaware Township from John Beard, including a wooden grist mill on the Olentangy River.

Meeker served in the War of 1812 with a state militia light horse company raiding party and, between assignments, still found time to build the first portion of his house and enlarge the grist mill,

which provided wheat to the army. Eventually he was appointed to General William Henry Harrison's staff, and placed in charge of transportation for the northwestern army. He witnessed Admiral Perry's naval battle off Put-In-Bay island, and achieved the rank of colonel by the end of hostilities.

In 1838 Meeker sold the grist mill to Hosea Williams and Caleb Howard who converted it into a paper mill. In 1845 he sold a portion of his farm to George Bieber, a neighboring farmer and builder of a stone mill slightly farther south on the Olentangy. He also provided land for the construction of mill worker's houses and a Methodist Episcopal Church in the immediate area.

The Meeker farmhouse, the first portion of which was built in 1812, is a Federal style, two-story, brick, center-hall residence known as an I-House form. It is in a remarkably original state of preservation, and shows the results of many generations of careful stewardship. The chestnut floors, cherry interior woodwork, built-in cabinetry and center stairway are marvelously original, and help foster the impression that you have just



**Proposed Turkey Hill gas station, convenience store, and car wash**

**(Continued on Page 6)**

## Annual Meeting To Be Held November 19 At Garth's

The Delaware County Historical Society will hold its annual meeting on November 19, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the stone-end barn at Garth's Auctions, Inc., 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio. At the annual meeting, the society will hear reports from the officers regarding the operations of the society. Representatives of the company handling the development of the Meeker property will make a presentation regarding their plans.

In addition, the society will consider a slate of officers to be announced by the DCHS Nominating Committee. Bob Gerspacher served as the Chair of the committee, and Dave Hejmanowski and Bob Grant served as committee members. The committee will announce the slate of officers soon on the society's website.

The current officers of the society are as follows:

President: Brent Carson  
 1st Vice-President: Jack Hilborn

2nd Vice-President: Roger Koch  
 Recording Secretary: Janell Kuck  
 Corresponding Secretary: Sue Heston  
 Treasurer: Jan Fleischmann

The current trustees, along with the expiration date of their terms, are as follows:

Joe Diamond	2009
Louis Foster	2011
Bob Gerspacher	2011
Mike Hoffman	2009
Matt Kear	2010
Bonnie Newland	2009
John Robinson	2010
Watson Walker	2011
Sandy Wicker	TBD
Doug Wilson	2010

The Board hopes to see lots of members at the Annual Meeting!

## OWU, DCHS Cooperate To Digitize Documents, Photographs

By Sandy Wicker

Ohio Wesleyan University and The Delaware County Historical Society have recently completed a collaborative project, "Our Shared History," to digitize more than 1200 rare documents and photographs from both organizations that trace the history of the university, the Delaware community, and their connection to the Methodist faith. The project was funded by a grant to Ohio Wesleyan from the State Library of Ohio.

The project committee consisted of Ohio Wesleyan librarians Emily Haddaway and Carol Holliger, and Historical Society members Maggie Webb, Brent Carson, Rex Welker, Joe Diamond and Sandy Wicker.

From January until July 2009, a librarian from Ohio Wesleyan would come to the DCHS Library weekly and choose photographs and documents,

collect information from the Genealogical Society researchers and Historical Society volunteers, and take it back to the Beeghly Library to be scanned. Then Historical Society volunteers, Maggie and Sandy, would receive a CD with a list of the scanned items and would provide the descriptions for them to be entered into a metadata base.

It was a learning experience for everyone involved and all areas of expertise, especially Brent's and Rex's knowledge of downtown history, were utilized and appreciated. It has provided a unique opportunity to have an educational partnership with Ohio Wesleyan.

"Our Shared History" will be accessible through the Ohio Wesleyan website and through the OHIOLINK repository. It is directly available through the following website: <http://drc.owu.edu/handle/123456789/3>. The website is available now.

## President's Report

By Brent Carson

With the coming of fall, a host of projects have kept us busy. Besides the fair, the historical society has been asked to participate in a number of community events. By the end of October we will have participated with displays and volunteers at the Northwest Neighborhood's Ghost Walk Program, the Willis All-School Reunion, the Preservation Parks Pioneer Days at Gallant Woods, and Ohio Wesleyan's annual Heritage Day.

It is, also, the time of year when schools begin their tours of our facility or they ask us to do programs at their schools. By the end of October we will have involved eight school groups, four school districts, and 1,000 students.

In addition, we will also fulfill requests for smaller tours or programs on history by adult groups.

We are an active society that continues to reach out to an entire county.

## Bridal Gowns Brighten Nash House During June Event

By Maggie Webb

While working on the clothing collection at the Historical Society in 2008, Bonnie Newland, Sandy Wicker, Carol D'Eredita, and Maggie Webb talked about how neat it would be to have a fashion show to show off our collection of wonderful early 20th and late 19th century clothing.

We realized we had several dresses in our collection that had been bridal gowns. One in particular was the wonderful silk wedding gown of Mary Ann Smith who married George Buckingham Carpenter in October 1830. To add to the interest of this particular gown, it had belonged to the grandmother of one of our long time volunteers, Florobel Lacher, who grew up in Delaware and now lives in Lewis Center. It had also been modeled by Mrs. Stockdale during Delaware County's sesquicentennial in 1958. As word got around about what we were planning, people volunteered to loan family wedding gowns for our show.

Susan Bauer and her mother, Sara Eliot, loaned us their grandmother's and mother's 1925 wedding gown, which had been sewn by the bride's mother. We also displayed Sara's gown, which she wore in

1948 when she and her husband Don were married. Her mother had made her gown as well. Also, Susan Erwin lent us her grandmother's ca. 1900 gown, her mother's 1940s gown and her 1968 gown. So we had multi-generational displays!

Mrs. Joy Newhouse from Ostrander donated a beautiful bronze colored wedding suit complete with feathered hat. Kathy McNamara Thomas lent us her mother's stunning gold velveteen 1930s wedding gown and wedding shoes. Genealogical Society volunteer Karen Gay had donated her mother's 1940s bridal gown which made a dramatic display with its long train on the staircase.

Our collection of clothing has so many outstanding items, from ladies' corsets to men's beaver top hats that we decided to display some of them as well.

We also solicited love stories from Delaware County residents. So many people were so kind to share their stories with us. In particular, it was fun to read about how the Robinsons and the Strouds met. The seventies photos were priceless!

The Nash House Museum with its wonderful Victorian décor was a perfect venue for the show.



**Above, Left, Opposite: Photos of the Bridal Show**

**Courtesy Maggie Webb**

## Society Purchases PastPerfect Cataloging Software

By **Sandy Wicker**

After much consideration and research with other organizations that are already using it, both large (such as Kent State and Ohio State universities) and small (such as the Chagrin Falls Historical Society), the Delaware County Historical Society has purchased the PastPerfect Software package for museums. The purpose of the software is so that the historical society can begin

to catalog its holdings. The software was purchased at a discount because of the Society's membership in the American Association for State and Local History organization.

PastPerfect can catalog up to one million records including archives, art, archaeology, geology, historical objects, library materials, music collections, natural history, oral histories and photographs. To explore its total capa-

bilities, go online to: [www.museumsoftware.com](http://www.museumsoftware.com) and download a trial version.

The recent "Our Shared History" project emphasized the fact that the Society needs to catalog everything in the Library and Nash House Museum so that the Society knows what items are held in its collections, to allow better access to the items in the collections, and also for insurance purposes. With volunteer help the cataloging process will take several years, but if it does not begin, it will never get done.

The software will be installed on a dedicated "staff" library computer so it will not interfere with the current four research computers. Training will be provided for any volunteer from either the Historical Society or the Genealogical Society who is interested in helping catalog. The project should begin by the end of November.

Maggie Webb and Sandy Wicker will begin with the photographs that have already been scanned for the Ohio Wesleyan project.



### Special Thanks

We wish to give thanks to the following individuals and groups for their generous donations and help in making this year a success!

- Growing Friends Garden Club for generously caring for our gardens.
- All of our wonderful volunteers for their help at the Library Annex.

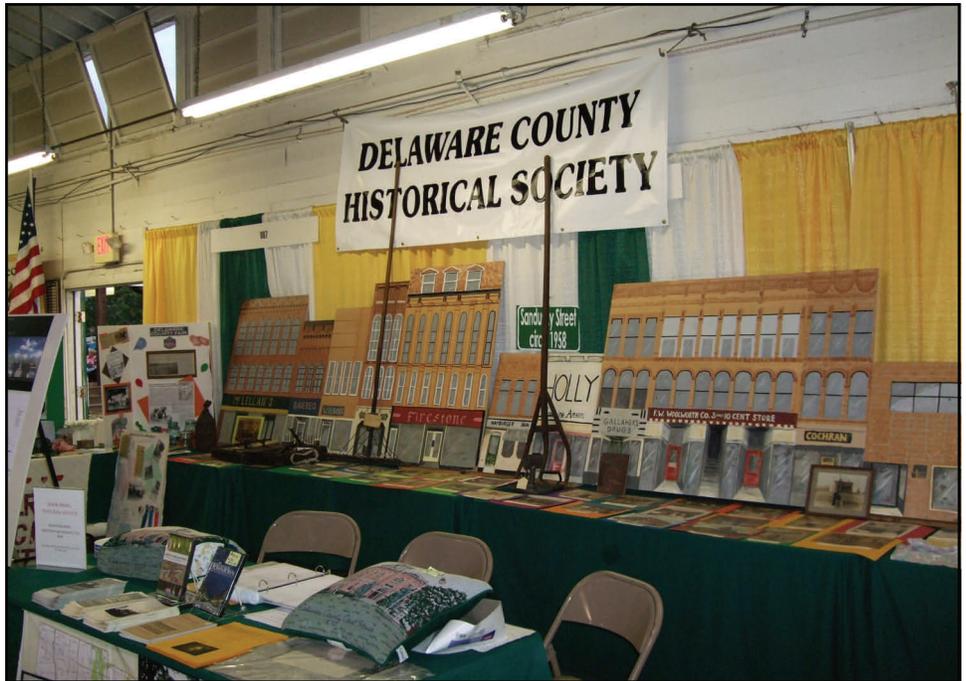
# Society Again Brings History To Delaware County Fair

By Brent Carson

The Delaware County Historical Society spent a successful week at the Delaware County Fair. Joining us were the historical societies from Radnor and Powell. Our area was the same as in 2008, along the south side of the coliseum. From setup to takedown, the week involved 35 volunteers. Thirteen of our volunteers were first time participants with the historical society.

Fairgoers had high praise for the display as evidenced by the numbers who spent time viewing the artifacts and photographs.

The Meeker property display boards drew the attention of hundreds of fairgoers. Thanks to all the efforts of our volunteers who described the possibilities of the Meeker property, the



Historical Society Booth at the 2009 Delaware County Fair

public's opinion of the project was greatly positive. Hundreds of brochures were handed out with the in-

vitations to join the historical society. As a result, new memberships have been arriving daily.

## Meeker Property Is Listed On National Register

(Continued from Page 2)

walked into a fine rural home in the early nineteenth century. It will, in time, make an exceptional house museum of the pioneer period in Central Ohio. There are several one-story additions on the rear and south end of the house added in the late twentieth century, providing modern necessities but not altering the basic form of the original house.

The large, two story stone end barn was built ca. 1820. The massive stone walls are laid of squared and coursed rubble limestone, and the long sidewalls are vertical board siding. There are two single story frame additions to the main barn, and the interior has been updated over the years with all of the modern amenities required to operate the finest antique auction house in the Midwest, including modern heating, rest rooms and kitchen. There is also a recently built storage barn and garage on the site.

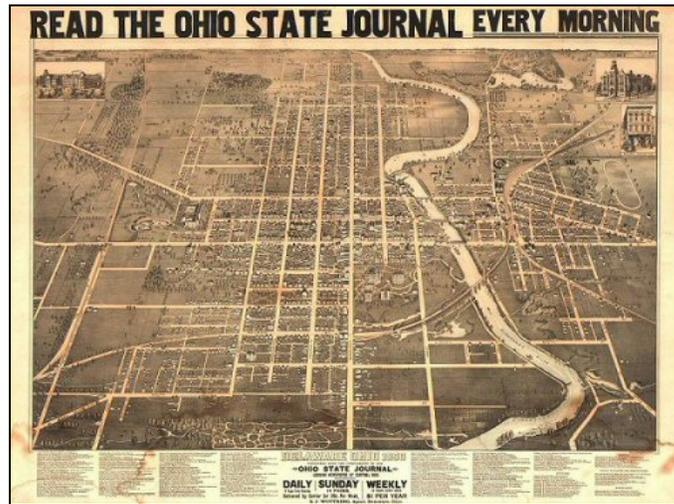


Concept Plan will be on display at Annual Meeting

*Make History part of your décor . . . .  
Delaware County Historical Society Publications and More for Sale!*



**Making History One Day at A Time**  
Is a professionally produced 40 minute program,  
available in VHS format - \$16.00



**1890 Map of Delaware . . . . Large 27 X 34 inch, \$99**



**Decorative Pillow or Tote**  
14 x 14 inch woven tapestry depicting Historic  
Delaware Court House with dark green back -  
\$20.00 (pillow) or \$21.00 (tote)

**DVDs by Brent Carson**

**Beside Our Springs and Streams**  
*Stories of Native American and Early  
Settlers of Delaware County*

**Friday Night in the Downtown**  
*Memories of Downtown Delaware from  
1925 to 1975*

----- each or two -----

**Set of three (3) pictures of Downtown Delaware in the 1800's, 11 x 14 inch, suitable for framing - \$10.00**

**Postcards of Delaware, assorted, black and white; as souvenirs (fragile) \$0.25 each or 5 for \$1.00**

*Please add tax and postage. Add Ohio Sales Tax at 6.75% to all orders for delivery in the State of Ohio. Add shipping of \$3.50 for the first item and \$2.00 for each additional item unless indicated above.*

*Make check payable to: Delaware County Historical Society, P.O. Box 317, Delaware, Ohio 43015*

## *Delaware County Historical Society Publications and More for Sale!*

Misc. Abstracts from Delaware Ohio Newspapers, 1821-1857. By M Reed, 230 pages 6500 + names	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1858 – 1874. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$25.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1875 – 1889. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$31.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1890 – 1894. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1894 – 1899. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$29.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1900 – 1904. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1905 – 1906. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1907 – 1908. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1909 – 1910. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
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Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1913 – 1914. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$27.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1915. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$22.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1916. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$22.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1917. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$22.95
Abstracts of Obituaries, Funeral and Death Notice from the Delaware Gazette, 1918. M. Cryder	Loose Leaf	\$22.95
A View From The Ranks ... The Civil War Diaries of Corporal Charles E. Smith, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Reg., O.V..I. (\$5.00 shipping)	Library Binding	\$54.95
Delaware County Ohio, Grantor – Grantee INDEX, 1800 – 1820, Baker-Harris	Loose Leaf	\$19.95
Delaware County Ohio, Grantor – Grantee INDEX, 1821 – 1830, Braumiller etc	Loose Leaf	\$24.95
Delaware County Ohio, Grantor – Grantee INDEX, 1831 – 1834, Heston etc	Loose Leaf	\$24.95
Delaware County Will Book #4 (1859 – 1869), M. Cryder, 80 p 1700+ names in every name index!	Loose Leaf	\$13.00
Male Inhabitants Over the Age of 21, Delaware County, Ohio in 1835. G. Cryder. Indexed	Loose Leaf	\$14.00
Guide to Cemeteries of Delaware County, OHIO, 1987. M. Cryder. 174 pages	Loose Leaf	\$23.95
American Revolutionary War Manuscript Records; Elias Boudinot and General Haldimand. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1969. 63 pages & index	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 1. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1955. 78 pages & index.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 2. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1958. 113 pages & index	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 3. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1957. 36 pages & index	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries. Frank Barlett Willis Meets the Press Volume 4. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1957. 33 pages & index.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 5. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1957. 28 pages & index.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 7. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1958. 105 pages & index.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Berlin Township & Delaware County, Ohio, History; Told by Contemporaries, Volume 8. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1972. 139 pages & index.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Birthplace of Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Delaware Ohio. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1972. 128 pages	Paperbound	\$10.00
Delaware City Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, 1909-1969. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1969. 128 pages & index!	Paperbound	\$5.00
Delaware County Historical Society; Public Opening and Second Annual Pilgrimage, Delaware County Historical Museum, Sunday, May 22, 1955. 31 pages	Paperbound	\$5.00
Freshwater Families Research and Genealogy. Clara Edelblute, Ralph Freshwater, and Harold Freshwater. MacDowell Publications, 1979. 330 pages, includes index.	Paperbound	\$10.00
Historical Atlas of Delaware County, Ohio. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1963. 128 pages.	Paperbound	\$10.00
John Richey Smith and Sarah B. Martin Smith Family History. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 1967. 177 pages & index	Paperbound	\$5.00
Revolutionary War Records: National and Local from Original Manuscripts. Anna Smith Pabst. 1966. 75 pages.	Paperbound	\$5.00
Some Records of Pioneers of Delaware County, Ohio; Volume 1. Anna C. Smith Pabst. 150 pages.	Paperbound	\$5.00

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## News and Notes From the Nash House

### DCHS Can Benefit From Kroger Community Rewards Grant Program

By Sandy Wicker

The Delaware County Historical Society has registered for the Kroger Community Rewards Grant Program. This program gives participating non-profit organizations a portion of the sales when a member uses their KrogerPlus card. The program will continue until April 30, 2010. The member must register their own card and non-profit organization—we are NPO 84793. If you do not already have a KrogerPlus card, you may get one at any Kroger store customer service center.

To participate, first go online to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

**FOR NEW CARD CUSTOMERS** or those who have a card, but have not registered it online:

Select OHIO, not Ohio Stores.

Scroll down to **Participant** and click on **“Enroll.”** You will get detailed instructions on how to proceed. If you would prefer to have the printable instructions to follow, just click on the “here” under **Enroll** and print them out before you start.

**IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED YOUR KROGERPLUS CARD ONLINE:**

Go online to: [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com)

Scroll to bottom of page and click on **My Kroger!**

Sign in.

Go to the bottom of the “Sign-In Information” page and click on “Edit Community Rewards Program Information.”

Enter your organization: The Delaware County Historical Society.

**DON'T FORGET TO CLICK “SAVE CHANGES”** or you won't be registered!

If you have already signed up with another non-profit organization, you may change it after six months.

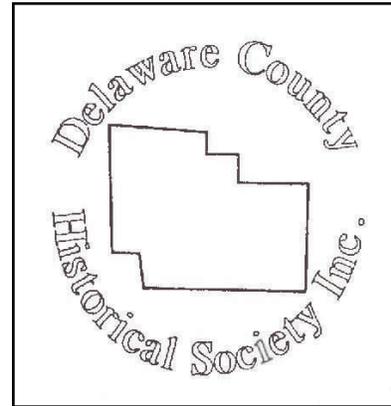
### Clean-Up Day Scheduled For November 16

You asked for it, we scheduled it. Clean-up Day for the Library/Annex, Museum, and breezeway is Monday, November 16, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come for an hour, or come for the day; in either case, your help is appreciated.

To sign up, contact either Sandy Wicker or Sue Heston through the society's e-mail address. Hope to see you there!

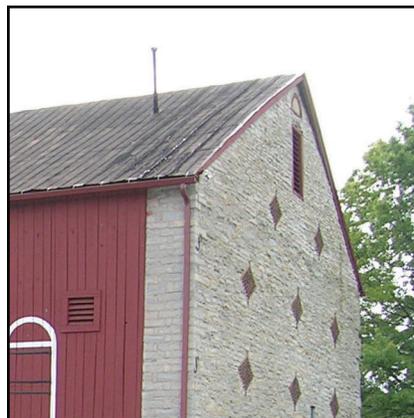
### Fall Membership Drive to Start Soon

The Society's annual fall membership drive will start soon. Your membership expiration date is located on the mailing label of this newsletter. A membership form is located on the back page of the newsletter. We hope that you renew your membership, and invite your friends and acquaintances to join as well.



### Wanted: Volunteers As We Grow

Do you have a special interest or expertise in any of these areas: membership development, volunteer coordination, fundraising, book sales, building restoration knowledge and skills, historic restoration skills, building maintenance skills, giving tours, museum collection development, or various computer projects? As we expand, we need your help. Find out more at the annual meeting on November 19 or contact Jan Fleischmann through the society e-mail address.



#### December Open Houses:

December 5: Women's City Club tour (tickets required; contact them for more information)

The annual DCHS open house will be December 13 from 2-4 p.m.

Delaware County Historical Society

157 E. William St.  
P.O. Box 317  
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740-369-3831  
Email: [dchshistory@verizon.net](mailto:dchshistory@verizon.net)  
[www.delawareohiohistory.com](http://www.delawareohiohistory.com)

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## DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

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

### Membership Levels

Single Membership	\$10.00	_____	Sponsor	\$100.00	_____
Household Membership	\$15.00	_____	Silver Sponsor	\$250.00	_____
Patron Membership	\$35.00	_____	Gold Sponsor	\$500.00	_____
Life Membership	\$250.00	_____	Platinum Sponsor	\$1000.00	_____

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For \_\_\_\_\_