



Delaware County Historian

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AUTUMN 2011

Society Unveils New Logo, Sign



The Society's Board members gather with Cindy Smith to witness the unveiling of the new sign at the Nash House.

Standing on ground, from left – Charlton Amidon, Bob Gerspacher, Doug Wilson, Donna Meyer, Roger Koch, Jack Hilborn, Matt Kear and Jan Fleischmann.

Standing on porch, from left – Brent Carson, Bill Reitz, logo graphic designer Cindy Smith, Sandy Wicker, Janell Kuck, and Sue Heston.

(Photo courtesy *Delaware Gazette*)

By Margo Bartlett

The Delaware County Historical Society has a new look.

Actually, it has more than that. The colorful sign that was unveiled on Tuesday, October 18, at 157 E. William St. represents a myriad of changes the Society has undergone recently.

The most public of those changes, at least so far, is probably the donation of

the historic Meeker homestead and Garth Oberlander barn by the Porter family to the DCHS.

These properties, owned for 30 years by Carolyn and the late Tom Porter, who operated **Garth's Auctions and Appraisers** until they turned over the business to Jeff and Amelia Jeffers, **continue to be occupied by Garth's until the auction company relocates to another** (Continued on Page 3)

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Delaware's Albright: Dakotas Pioneer, Civil War Veteran, Newspaper Editor, Texas Ranger?

By Brent Carson

Delaware's Oak Grove Cemetery is a resting place of nearly 23,000 of our county's citizens. Its rolling landscape and arboretum is a quiet sanctuary of nature surrounded by the traffic of the city.

Through the years I have led an occasional history tour of Oak Grove. A few days after a recent tour a friend asked if I was aware that an early member of the Texas Rangers was buried in the cemetery. I found the gravesite of an S.J. Albright but have not yet identified his involvement with the Texas Rangers. Nonetheless his life was filled with adventure.

The Delaware native left home as a young man and entered the Mexican War. He remained in the South following the war but eventually moved to Minnesota. In St. Paul he was one of the first editors of the Prairie Press, an early Minnesota newspaper.

The year 1858 found Albright in the Dakota Territory where he had a homestead and fort at what is today Sioux Falls, South Dakota. There he became editor of the first newspaper of the Dakota Territory. Returning to St. Paul he was elected Speaker of the House of

Representatives. Within a short time he was appointed as the first governor of the Dakota Territory. However, he turned down the appointment and within a year he had moved to St. Louis. He entered the Civil War serving under General Ulysses S. Grant. Following the war he moved to New York but eventually returned home to Delaware. He became editor of a local newspaper called the Weekly Herald.

Late in life he retired to the Soldier's Home in

Dayton, Ohio, and upon his death he was interred in Oak Grove Cemetery. The small tombstone only reads "S.J. Albright; 1829-1906." There is no mention of his notoriety or his life of adventure.

The next time I lead a tour of historic Oak Grove Cemetery, it will include the resting place of Samuel J. Albright.

Editor's Note: Beginning in the spring of 2012, Brent Carson will be scheduling a series of walking tours through Oak Grove Cemetery. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. All proceeds will be equally divided between the DCHS and Oak Grove Cemetery.

Civil War Connections

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

OFFICERS

President	Brent Carson
1st Vice-President	Jack Hilborn
2nd Vice-President	Roger Koch
Recording Secretary	Janell Kuck
Corresponding Secretary	Sue Heston
Treasurer	Jan Fleischmann

TRUSTEES

Charlton Amidon
T.K. Cellar
Louis Foster
Bob Gerspacher
Matt Kear
Donna Meyer
Bonnie Newland
Bill Rietz
Watson Walker
Sandy Wicker
Doug Wilson



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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.

New Logo Part of New Marketing Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

Delaware County area location. When that happens, the DCHS will occupy the property at Stratford Road and U.S. 23 and a second sign, identical to the one on East William Street in all respects but size, will be erected. (The second sign is larger, so that it can be seen by U.S. 23 traffic.) Plans are to open the Meeker Homestead as a museum and education facility, and the Oberlander barn as a meeting place and as a rentable event space.

The sign's design is a replica of the society's new logo. Created by local artist Cindy Smith of Quick-draw Graphic Designs, the design depicts the 200-year-old historic Garth Oberlander barn and is **currently in use on the society's website**, www.delawareohiohistory.org, as well as on DCHS letterhead, its newly designed organizational brochure and other DCHS items, including t-shirts and mugs which are offered for sale at the East William Street location.

These changes and others were laid out in the

society's new communication plan, which members drew up to provide guidelines for increased marketing and public relations efforts. Donna Meyer, a member of the DCHS board of trustees and chair of the newly formed communications committee, said the new marketing plan has addressed the need to establish, define and reinforce a strong, consistent and uniform branding system as well as to educate the community about activities at the Nash House Museum and Cryder Historical Center, and future plans for the Meeker House Museum, and the Garth Oberlander Barn.

Commenting about the choice for the barn as the **new logo**, Meyer said, **"The 200-year-old barn is an iconic local structure, and committee members felt its image was of utmost importance to use as a branding tool for the organization."**

Editor's Note: The communication plan is a part of the new strategic plan for the Society. For more on the strategic plan, see story on page 10.

Society's Book Committee Completes Work on Arcadia Book; To Be Available in Early 2012

By Bob Gerspacher

The book *Delaware and Delaware County* will be published by Arcadia Publishing during the week of February 6, 2012. This book is co-authored by Jeff Darbee and the Society. A 17-member DCHS Book committee has worked on this project for 22 months, and the final edits were recently sent to the publisher.

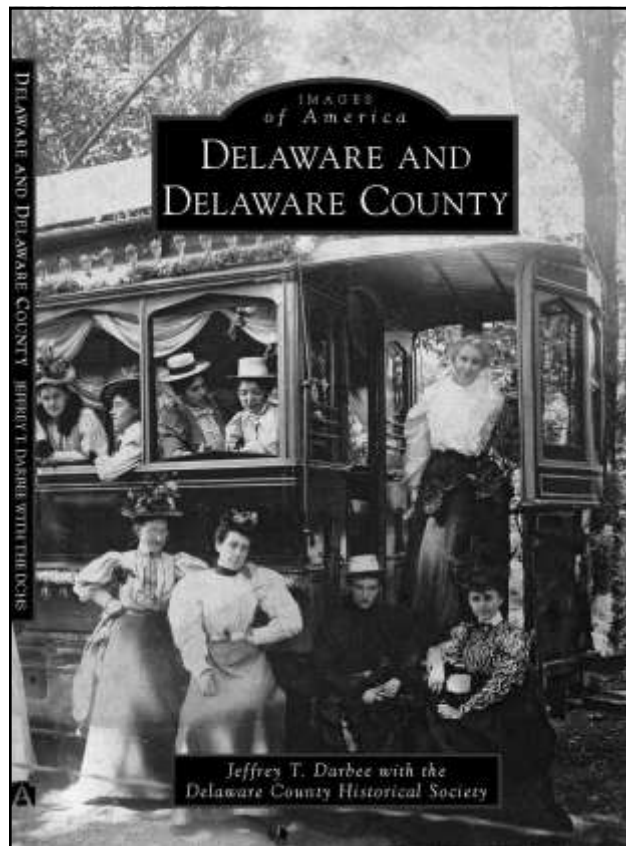
The book features photographs from throughout Delaware County, many of which are **from the Society's archives.**

The book is like the other titles in Arcadia's series of local histories. It will be available for sale from the Society and through local and large booksellers.

We are offering a presale thru the DCHS Website.

We are collecting names for a e-mail notice that the book is ready for purchase. Send an e-mail that you are interested to products@delawareohiohistory.org.

The committee hopes the public will enjoy it.



Society Receives Large Donation from *Delaware Gazette* Archives



Fred Wicker, Sean Gulyas, Brent Carson, Roger Koch, and Members of the Delaware Hayes High School basketball and swim teams in the Library.

In late September the *Delaware Gazette* invited the DCHS to visit the vacated offices of the newspaper to see if there might be items of historical significance remaining. What we found was a treasure trove of Delaware County history including hundreds of bound volumes of issues of the *Delaware Gazette* dating from 1830 to 2003. Equally important were the files of photographic negatives which date back to the early 1960s. How many negatives? An early estimate might be in excess of 500,000.

The dilemma was that the materials had to be moved by Thursday, September 29. In an eleventh hour attempt to save the records, Society president **Brent Carson contacted Delaware Hayes high school's sports teams for assistance. "I spoke with the coaches**

Monday afternoon and was promised immediate support," said Carson. The next day Hayes wrestling coach Josh Heffernon brought his team to begin the process. The *Gazette* donation included large sections of metal shelving and filing cabinets. The coach directed the team as they maneuvered the heavy items down the narrow, twisting starwells.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Hayes basketball team with support from the lacrosse, swim, and baseball teams continued the move. A week later a work group of students from Delaware Christian School assisted in rearranging the acquired donation.

Thanks to Roger Koch, Sandy Wicker, Fred Wicker, Sean Gulyas, Brent Carson, and Matt Bauer for their work on this project.



Above and Right: Students from Delaware Christian School move bound volumes of the *Delaware Gazette* into the Library at the Cryder Historical Center.



Left: Bound volumes ready to be removed from the former offices of the *Delaware Gazette*.

(Photos courtesy Sandy Wicker)

Report of New Members

New Life Members

Kevin and Kosby Carrico
Diane Hodges

Sheri Feasel
Adam Fleischer
Betsy Flint
Margi Gundelfinger

Ted Spellmine
Noelle Van Pulis
Roger VanSickle
Chad VanSickle
Erica VanSickle
Chris Walker
Nancy Walker
Pearl Welsh
Dick Welsh
Bronwyn Workman
Chuck Workman

New and Renewed Members

Celia Baker
Robert Bauer
Joseph Campbell
Kim Cellar
Karen Cellar
Bob Claymier
Tim Cook
Bob Darst
Ed Evans
Larry Evans

April Hoy
Ed Lentz
David Parker
Dwayne Petko
Al Roop
Bayli Ruark
Diane Russell
Bill Russell
Amy Salyer
Allen Smith
Cindy Smith

Editor's Note: Members listed are those who joined or renewed between our spring issue and October 27, 2011.

New Membership Rates, Benefits for 2012

By T.K. Cellar

The DCHS Membership Committee is busy with many new initiatives! We have slightly restructured membership rates for 2012, while not raising most prices. A decision was made to drop the Patron level and encourage donations beyond the membership dues and to raise the fee at the Life Member level. We also established single and joint Life Member rates.

Also, members will now receive a 10% discount on items purchased from the DCHS. When you make a purchase, simply remind the volunteer you are a member to receive your discount.

The future will see us offering the choice of paying

dues via PayPal, issuing membership cards with a membership number, recognizing our volunteers and Life Members and implementing a number of other **goals through our committee's strategic plan.**

We value our members and thank you for your partnership- you are the nucleus of this great organization!

Your Membership Committee is T.K. Cellar, Brent Carson, Jack Hilborn, Susan Logan, Louis Foster, Sue Heston and Janell Kuck.

Editor's Note: The membership strategic plan is a part of the new strategic plan for the Society. For more on the overall strategic plan, see story on page 10.

Society Annual Meeting Nov. 17

The Delaware County Historical Society's annual meeting will be held in the historic **Garth Oberlander Barn, the home of Garth's Auctions, Inc.**, 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio, on Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 7 p.m. The annual election of trustees will occur at the meeting. The slate of trustees will be announced at the meeting, and may be **made available on the society's website in advance.**

This is an evening you will not want to miss. The Board hopes to see each of you there!

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 Delaware County Community Market

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 (near the liquor drive thru)
740-610-0091 or www.dccmc.com

Construction of Turkey Hill Convenience Store Nears Completion

By Roger Koch

As summer turns to fall, the large construction project just south of our newly acquired 1812 Meeker **Homestead property, currently occupied by Garth's Auctions**, is progressing at a rapid pace. The architect on the project, Carter Bean, of Ford and Associates in Columbus, designed the new Turkey Hill convenience store, gas station and carwash to have the appearance of a grouping of nineteenth-century farm buildings. The exterior materials are limestone-end walls and chimneys with vertical cedar siding side walls and shingle and standing seam metal roofs, and these materials were selected to be reminiscent of the 1820 Garth Oberlander Barn nearby. Even the gas pump island is constructed of limestone piers with a cedar canopy.

The general contractor, Petco Construction, and their job superintendent, Todd Williams, have been

very cooperative with the DCHS in coordinating and accommodating the interface issues between the oldest buildings in the county and the newest. The **details of the architect's original concept have been** carefully followed, and give the project a remarkable compatibility with the historic homestead as well as the surrounding Stratford architecture. By any measure, they are a dramatic improvement over the 1970s red metal buildings previously on the site.

The building exteriors are largely finished at this point, and there is interior construction and landscaping that must be completed before the business can open. The project has been a noteworthy and beneficial collaboration between the donors, Tom and Carolyn Porter, the developer, Skilken Properties, the City of Delaware, the DCHS, and Turkey Hill Minit Markets. Drive by and check it out.

Editor's Note: The store is now open. Society President Brent Carson was the first customer.



Turkey Hill store as it appeared in late October 2011.

(Photo by Matt Kear)

Society Visits Fairs, Festivals Throughout the County



Above: The Society once again had a booth in the Coliseum at the Fairgrounds during the Delaware County Fair, featuring many photographs and interesting items from **Delaware County's past.**



Below: Daniel Hardin and Kyle Sullivan demonstrate the bird feed mill.

(Photos by Matt Kear)



Above: Fred Linn was the winner of the raffle held at the fair. The prize was a shadow box that contains a creosote log paver formerly used to pave West Winter Street in the early 1880s.

(Photo Courtesy Sandy Wicker)



Left: Fred Wicker and Brent Carson at Harlem Days.

(Photo Courtesy Sandy Wicker)

Right: T.K. Cellar, Brent Carson, and Sue Bauer at the Delaware County Fair.

(Photo Courtesy Bob Gerspacher)



Left: Donna Meyer and Traci Cromwell at the Delaware Arts Festival.

(Photo Courtesy Bob Gerspacher)

Society Adopts Revised Constitution at Special Meeting As Part of New Strategic Plan

By Matt Kear

The Members of the Society approved amendments to the Society's Constitution at a Special Meeting of the Members that was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at the Delaware Township Hall.

The revised Constitution is one part of the new strategic plan that the Society is developing. The plan is being designed to carry out the mission statement of the Society, adopted in 2010: **"To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio, through historic preservation and education."** The Society also adopted a vision statement in early 2011: **"To be a continuing, self-sustaining source of, and repository for, Delaware County historical information that fosters life-long interest through community engagement, education, and historic preservation."**

There are six parts to the strategic plan, and three parts have already been developed and approved by the Board: the Membership plan, the Marketing plan, and the Organization plan. The revised Constitution is the major portion of the Organization plan.

To carry out the Organization plan, the Board created the Constitution Committee. Trustees Matt Kear and Bill Rietz volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the committee, and Trustees Bob Gerspacher, Jack Hilborn, Doug Wilson, and Members Rick Helwig and Roger Van Sickle served as committee members. The committee met through the late winter and spring and carefully reviewed the existing document as well as those of other historical societies.

The revisions were designed to maximize the flexibility of the Society so that it can meet the nu-

merous challenges ahead. Many of the amendments were technical in nature and are designed to clarify the existing Constitution, but there are also amendments affecting the general structure of the Society. The biggest change deals with how officers and trustees will be elected. Now, officers will be elected by the trustees from among the trustees, and all trustees will serve three-year terms. Under the old system, if an officer lost an election, they were no longer on the board of trustees.

The amendments also updated the committee structure of the Society to meet the challenges ahead. The Communications Committee and the Resource Creation Committee were created to improve the marketing and communications efforts of the Society and to identify grants and other sources of income for the Society, respectively. The Communications Committee is already in operation and has made many achievements already this fall.

The new Education Committee takes on many of the duties of the former Programs, Education, and Outreach Committee and Museum and Library committees. These committees were placed under the same umbrella to ensure a unified educational program for the Society and to eliminate duplication of efforts. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Finance and Budget Committee, and the Membership Committee will continue to serve their same functions under the revised Constitution.

The new committee structure also has opened many new volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact the Society at info@delawareohiohistory.org.

Continued Financial Support of Members Vital to Society's Health

By Jan Fleischmann

The Delaware County Historical Society is fortunate to have had good leadership and community support over the years, leaving us with a very solid financial position. Our books are in balance and we have no new debts. The recent opportunity to acquire the Meeker Homestead (currently occupied by **Garth's Auctions**) by donation from Tom and Carolyn Porter gives us the ability to greatly increase our outreach and visibility to the community and improve our financial position at the same time.

The Society has historically been funded by a small-but-vital annual grant from the Delaware County Commissioners, by membership dues and

donations, and by prudent management of a modest endowment portfolio.

Maintaining our facilities and expanding our outreach, though, means that our expenses will continue to rise. You, our members, can you help us continue in our success. Your renewed membership is very important. We also welcome donations of both monetary gifts and artifacts. All of these contributions help us fulfill our educational mission and pay the bills to operate and maintain our facilities. Donations are tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The DCHS is in good standing with the IRS and the state of Ohio. Our tax return can be viewed on our website.

News and Notes from the Nash House

DCHS Can Benefit From Kroger Community Rewards

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 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.

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

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. If you already signed up, you still need to re-register once a year, starting in April.

Wanted: Volunteers; Experience not Required

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, historical research and writing, or various computer projects? We need your help. There are over two dozen ways you can help the Society. Contact Susan Logan at info@delawareohiohistory.org.

Logo T-Shirts and Mugs Are Now Available For Sale at the Library!



Help Preserve Our Historical Legacy

Bequests have played an important role in the preservation of Delaware County history. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. Please consider the Delaware County Historical Society when making your estate plans.



The DCHS Quick Read (QR) Code

Scan this code with your Smartphone and you'll be taken directly to the Society's Website. We are working hard to keep up-to-date on the latest in technology and social media.

Delaware County
Historical Society

157 E. William St.
P.O. Box 317
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Phone: 740-369-3831
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DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships received between September and December (excluding Life Memberships) expire December 31 of the following year.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Membership Levels

Student Membership \$5.00 _____ Life Membership (Single) \$300.00 _____

Senior Membership (60+ yrs) \$15.00 _____ Life Membership (Joint) \$500.00 _____

Adult Membership \$20.00 _____

For Student Membership, name of your school: _____ Newsletter preference (circle): printed e-mail both

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

\$100.00 _____ \$250.00 _____ \$500.00 _____ \$1000.00 _____

Other _____

Special Gift of \$ _____

For/In Honor or Memory of _____