



Delaware County Historian

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SPRING 2011

Nash House Upgrades Completed

By Roger Koch

Last fall and winter saw a number of improvements to the society's Nash House museum at the Cryder Historical Center on East William Street. Outwardly, the most visible of these is the repainting of the exterior wood trim on the 1878 Italianate style residence. The house was last painted in the 1990s, and had been showing early signs of paint failure for several years in the most weather-prone areas. In addition, the 1940s-era wooden storm windows were beginning to fall apart. After examination of the storm windows showed that repairing them would be impractical, the decision was made to restore the original historic appearance of the house by removing the exterior, non-historic storms, painting the original windows along with all the other trim, and improving the energy conservation of the house by installing interior glass storm windows. These storm windows will last essentially forever and are virtually invisible, leaving the appearance of the house much like it was 134 years ago.

Smaller improvements are the addition of sign plaques at the front and rear doors that identify the building as the "Nash House," a gift of Pauline Nash in



The newly repainted Nash House

(Photo by Matt Kear)

1954, to be used to provide an educational window to the community's past and to commemorate the fact that the Nash family had occupied the house since 1885. Another improvement, not so obvious, is the replacement and addition of window shades to lessen the harmful impact of the sun's ultraviolet light on the interior and furniture.

The Nash House remains a fascinating and authentic example of a typical middle-class Delaware home of the Victorian Period. Tours are available Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, or by special appointment.

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Brent Carson To Lead Tours of Oak Grove Cemetery

This spring Oak Grove Cemetery and Arboretum and the DCHS have organized a series of historic tours of the cemetery. The tours will take place on weekends from mid-April through the beginning of May. The fundraising proceeds will equally benefit Oak Grove and DCHS.

The tour guide for the ninety-minute tours will be Brent Carson. Brent is a member of the Board of Trustees of both Oak Grove Cemetery and DCHS. He is no newcomer in regards to leading tours. For forty years he has led groups of all ages on tours of the city, county, and Oak Grove Cemetery. When asked **about this spring's tours, Brent responded, "I'm often asked, 'When's your next tour of Oak Grove?', which doesn't surprise me. It is a beautiful, rolling sanctuary surrounded by city. The tour really encompasses the history of the city."**

Oak Grove Cemetery began in 1850 when the eighty-acre Kilbourne farm south of the city was purchased to start a cemetery. (The farm barn still

stands.) The first burial took place on July 23, 1851. **Most of the remains from Delaware's original cemetery were moved to Oak Grove.** Among the people interred at Oak Grove are city founder Moses Byxbe, the parents of President Rutherford B. Hayes, pioneer Pompey King, and veterans of virtually **every war in America's history.** The cost of a tour is \$10 for an adult, and \$6 for a youth aged 5-18.

The tour dates and times are:

Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 29, 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 5, 12 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m.

Each tour will be limited to thirty people. The tours will begin at the entrance to the ceme-



tery.

To purchase or reserve tickets, visit our website, e-mail us, or order by phone. As long as you have made a reservation, you may pay on the day of the tour. If you are paying by check, please make it out to DCHS.

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

OFFICERS

President	Brent Carson
Vice-President of Development	Jack Hilborn
Vice-President of Operations	Roger Koch
Recording Secretary	Gina Neer
Corresponding Secretary	T.K. Cellar
Treasurer	Jan Fleischmann

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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.

Gallant Farm Preserve Opening This Summer

By Sue Hagan

Bill Thurston of Oxford Township remembers when every farm in Delaware County was **“basically a small farm (and) the whole community was agriculture-oriented.”** But times have changed since he was a child in the 1930s and 40s. One has only to look around at the subdivisions creeping ever-northward to know that farm life

as Thurston remembers it is quickly fading in our fast-growing county.

Preservation Parks of Delaware County has stepped in to ensure that that era does not disappear altogether. Late this spring or early this summer, the Park District will open a representative 1930s-40s-era farmstead at Gallant Farm Preserve in Troy Township, just northwest of the city of Delaware.

“The farmstead will help preserve the rural heritage,” said Pres-



The replica farmstead house

(photos courtesy Preservation Parks)

ervation Parks Executive Director **Rita Au. “It will emphasize the importance of agriculture to Delaware County over these many years.”**

Visitors to the farmhouse will feel they have stepped back in time, to an era when rural communities were starting to get electricity but still retained many of the non-mechanized ways of doing things.

So at Gallant Farm Preserve, visitors will see electric lights but also will watch food prepared on a wood-burning stove. **They’ll see jars of home-preserved fruits and vegetables alongside store-bought tins of cocoa and coffee.** And while the farmstead will include an indoor bathroom, a replica outhouse will be constructed to remind visitors that this was a time when many rural families still did not have indoor plumbing.

“I remember when electricity came into our house,”

said Thurston, who still works his farm in Oxford Township. **“And we did have a bathroom back then, but most people did not. ... It really was a time of transition and an era that should be preserved.”**

Au pointed out that the 1930s and 40s were interesting times for area farmers. During the 30s, they dealt with the Great Depression and had to make do with less, and during World War II in the 1940s, they had gas rationing coupons and held scrap drives, just like families all across the United States.

The Gallant Farm farmhouse and outbuildings are being constructed from scratch. The land was acquired in 2003 through a grant, and had no useable buildings. Moving an historic 1930s farmhouse from some other location, and then renovating it, proved too expensive, said Au, so the decision was made to build a replica farmhouse of the era that incorporates historic features.

(Continued on Page 9)



The replica wood stove is an example of the furnishings of the farmstead

Bygone Days, Before Freeways

The El Siesta – The Village Diner – The Campbell House

By Brent Carson

The beginning of a new year marked the end of a landmark in the city of Delaware. It was the demolition of the Lounge, a restaurant/bar and grill located on the south side of London Road and a short distance west of the Liberty Road intersection. The Lounge was its name from 1973 to 2002. In its last three years of operation, 2004-2006, it was **WB's Family Pizza and Pub**.

There are those who remember the structure in its earlier life. In the mid-sixties, it was the Del-Dakota and the Caravan Steak House. The restaurant business opened in 1941 when Levi Schlabach, Jr., decided to leave his father's service station. His father, also named Levi, operated Schlabach's Service Station located on the northwest corner of London Road and South Sandusky.

The restaurant opened under the name The Village Diner (phone#: 4268). The ground level was the restaurant, and the second floor was the living quarters for Levi's family. It carried the name **Schlabach's Restaurant from 1950 through 1972**.

During the 1940s through the early 1960s, the area of South Sandusky and London Road was set to accommodate travelers. Within a short proximity there were two service stations, a restaurant, and two motels. Before the time of the interstate highways and by-passes, Sandusky Street and London Road were heavily traveled. Route

23 linked Detroit to Columbus, and Route 42 linked Cleveland and Cincinnati.

The El Siesta Motel, located on the south side of London Road, opened in 1952. R.C. Teeter owned and operated the 16-unit motel in its early years.


E.B. Workman owned the El Siesta from 1958 to 1962. I had the opportunity to speak with Tom Workman, son of Eldon and Magdaline Workman. He reminisced about the place he called home. Tom said that his family lived at the El Siesta. Their living quarters were on the lower level, which you entered from behind. The driveway was at the west end of the building and joined up with a drive which connected to the Kroger store parking lot. (Though the El Siesta is gone, the Kroger store is today the location of Enterprise Rent-A-Car.)

Tom Workman, who today lives in New York City, had only pleasant memories of those years.

The year 1956 saw the start of the Campbell House Motel. The Campbell House Restaurant was added to the business in 1965. Today the restaurant is El Vaquero Restaurant.

By the early sixties the routes of travel changed. The service stations, motels, and restaurants continued on for a number of years under different names and owners. However, the end of extended travel on two-lane highways began the demise of these once well-remembered businesses.

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DELAWARE, O.

Advertisements found in Delaware telephone books

(from DCHS archives)



Top: El Siesta postcard; Bottom: Photograph of El Siesta

(from DCHS archives)



Report of New Members

New Life Members

John Dewey
Joe DiGenova
Ralph Hodges
David Parker
Bill Rietz
Barbara Hall Thatcher Williams
John Yelavich

John Dewey
Yvonne Dewey
Rylie Foster
David Gormley
James Hanning
Larry Humes
Ann Jenkins
Bill Jones
Drew Lloyd
Barbara Martin
Steve Martin
Kathy Nunn
Tom O'Brien
Mark Rucklos
Rylee Rucklos

Margie Saull
Lorene Owen Scott
Pam Smith
Gary Tagg
Don Temple
Catherine Wadja
Jeff Waltz
Allison Williams
John Yelavich

New Members

Diana Browning
Chester Chaney
William Cole
Karen Curtiss
Donna Donnelly

Editor's Note: Members listed are those who joined between October 27, 2011 and February 29, 2012.

Report of Donors

(November 1, 2011- February 29, 2012):

Arthur Case Memorial Fund –
In honor of Arthur Case, a long
time member of the Society
who recently died.

William Beacom
Tamra Burkhardt, Burkhardt Farm
Center, Inc.
Brent Carson
Gerald Cornell
Linda and Francis Forster, Jr.
Frederic and Sharon Hill
Dan and Tonya Main
James and Pamela Price
Margaret Prince
Wilda Jane Ratliff
Penny Ward, Ohio Gro, Inc.
Heidi Westover
Christine Dannhausen, United
Producers, Inc.

Meeker Homestead:

Christopher Davenport
Jan Fleischmann
Louis Foster
Carolyn Porter

Daniel Schwartz
Dennis Sheets

Name Tags for Volunteers:

T. K. Cellar
Brent Carson
Louis Foster
Janell Kuck
Jack Hilborn

Library Service:
Bill Jones

Undesignated Gifts:

Roxanne Amidon
John E. Benedict
Jeff Benton
Janet Burgoon
Mary Ann Sperry Castagna
Joan Cornell
Larry Davis
Sharon Davis
Charlotte Gallant
Bob and Holly Gerspacher
Pat Hubbell
Virginia and William Kavage
Matt Kear
Carole Kern

Carrie Lou Kiefer
Kenneth and Linda J.B. Lewis
Barbara Martin
Steve Martin
June Moncur
Ray Myers
Janet Oberfield
William Parker
G. Micheal Riley
John Robinson, Robinson Funeral
Home
William Elmer Schanck
Mike Shade
Kathryn Schwartz
Jim and Pam Smith
Richard Smith
Clay Snyder, DeVore-Snyder
Funeral Homes
Barbara Tull
Kathleen Wolf
Kathryn Yoakum
Delaware County Community
Market (Member share)
Golden Marathon Hiking Group,
Preservation Parks (Old Jail
Tour)
Northwest Neighborhood
Association (Ghost Walk 2011)

Thank you Members and Donors!

A Monster Parade: Delaware Rallies for Great War



Red Cross Parade on South Sandusky Street, 1918.

(from DCCHS Archives)

By Celia Baker

The role of the historian is akin to the detective—the historical society member, faced with an unidentified artifact, is tasked with piecing together the evidence.

So I felt during my first volunteer hour at the Delaware County Historical Society in August of 2011. In my hands was a black and white parade photograph. Women in white dresses marched along Sandusky Street, banners and flags held aloft. The leafy trees indicated a summer setting.

A quick Google image search confirmed a nascent suspicion—these women matched the costume of the Red Cross nurse of World War I. The large sheets they carried, emblazoned with the Red Cross insignia, were a popular donation collection method employed in 1918. Onlookers would throw money into the sheets.

I turned next to the *Delaware Gazette*. Flipping the fragile, brittle pages, I scanned the summer of 1918 for the Red Cross. It was not hard to find. In

1918, the Red Cross called for a Second War Fund (the first had taken place in June of 1917), challenging the nation to raise \$100,000,000 during one week—May 20 through May 27. The quota for the City of Delaware, according to the *Gazette*, was set at \$21,500. In the ensuing fundraising frenzy, which included a series of benefit concerts at Gray Chapel, Delaware received pledges totaling \$24,128.45.

I had discovered the Red Cross, but I was still missing my parade. A few pages later, on May 31, I found it: the “**Biggest Parade Ever Seen On Streets Of Delaware.**”

The Memorial Day celebration featured several Red Cross organizations, including the Delaware Red Cross; Miss Mildred Van Deman and the surgical dressing corps; the Wesleyan Red Cross, which included the female students of Monnett Hall; and even the Junior Red Cross, comprised of Delaware school children. The Morrison ambulance ended the Red Cross procession.

(Continued on Page 9)



2011 Annual Meeting

The Delaware County Historical Society held its 2011 annual meeting in the historic **Garth Oberlander Barn, the home of Garth's Auctions, Inc.**, 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio, on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

The business portion of the meeting included the election of trustees. It was the first annual meeting under the new Constitution, so the returning officers were elected to terms as trustees. Bob Gerspacher, Doug Wilson, Sandy Wicker, Louis Foster, and Jan Fleischmann were elected to three-year terms. Sue Heston and Jack Hilborn were elected to two-year terms. Brent Carson and Roger Koch were elected to one-year terms. Janell Kuck retired from the Board after several years of dedicated service to the Society. Pictured on the right, Brent Carson presented Janell with a plaque in honor of her service.

At the start of the meeting, The Rainbow Kids from Willowbrook, pictured above, entertained the members with a rousing selection of patriotic songs.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board elected the Officers of the Society at their first meetings of 2012. Brent Carson was re-elected to serve as President for 2012. Jack Hilborn was elected to be Vice President of Development, and Roger Koch was elected to be Vice President of Operations. Jan Fleischmann was re-elected to be treasurer, and T.K. Cellar was elected as **Corresponding Secretary**. At the Board's February meeting, Gina Neer was appointed to a vacant trustee position and was elected to be Recording Secretary.



Gallant Farm To Open

(Continued from Page 3)

An advantage to using modern construction methods, she said, is that the proper electrical wiring and plumbing can be installed which will help **“protect the antiquities” that will be part of the furnishings and other décor.** Building new also makes it easier to comply with requirements set out in the Americans with Disabilities Act, making the farmhouse accessible to more members of the community.

Besides the house, the farmstead will include a granary (which will include public restrooms and a classroom/meeting space) and other outbuildings, various gardens and orchards, and demonstration crop fields.

Robin Mayes, Preservation Parks’ Farm Educator, will handle the day-to-day workings of the farmstead and is developing public programs that will reflect how farm families lived.

“Repair, reuse, make do and don’t throw anything away; that is the way they thought,” she said.

Programs will include those geared to schoolchildren, families, and anyone who wants to remember

the way things used to be, Mayes said.

“The time period really lends itself to special events like box socials and ice cream socials,” she said. As programming evolves, activities will likely include dances, quilting bees, canning and **“an evening at the farm.”** A day camp for children ages 8-10 is on the calendar this summer as well.

Preservation Parks is gathering authentic furniture, tools, toys, equipment and accessories – everything a 1930s-40s family would use to outfit a farmstead. Donations are being accepted; for a list of items, visit www.preservationparks.com, click on Parks & Facilities, then Parks, then Gallant Farm Preserve.

Preservation Parks also is seeking volunteers who can share oral histories from the era or help in other ways, such as serving as a host for the farmhouse. They, and anyone wishing to donate items to the farmstead, may call 740-524-8600, ext. 1.

Sue Hagan is marketing & communications manager for Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Monster Parade

(Continued from Page 7)

Although Red Cross participation in the parade was high, probably aided by the recent national fundraisers, the so-called **“monster parade”** featured almost every organization in the city. Twenty-five Spanish-American war veterans marched along with one hundred fifty college militarists.

The place of honor, however, was given to the mothers, wives, and relatives of the men currently fighting. These marchers carried service flags. Two women were given special honor— Mrs. J. H. Miller and Mrs. C. B. Austin alone carried three-star service flags. The Ohio Wesleyan service flag displayed over five hundred stars.

The detailed account of the parade published by the *Gazette* enabled me to identify each segment of the parade as it appeared in the photographs. Even some individuals were identifiable. Sometimes, the historian has just enough clues to solve the mystery.

Additional photographs of the parade are available in the archives of the Delaware County Historical Society.

Celia Baker is a senior history major at Ohio Wesleyan University. She is from Amherst, Ohio, and has volunteered at the Library since August 2011. She hopes to pursue a degree in Cold War history or Russian-American relations in the future.

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.

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:
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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

Committee Reports

Education Committee Report

When the new Society constitution was adopted in September, a restructured Education Committee for the Society was included. The Education Committee now has three subcommittees, which are Museums and Exhibits, chaired by Ann Simons; Programs and Outreach, chaired by Bill Rietz, and the Library, chaired by Susan Logan. Susan Logan also agreed to be interim chair of the Education Committee. The membership of the Education Committee includes the three subcommittee chairs, the President, and Vice President of Operations, the museum curator(s) and the librarian when appointed. We are currently inviting Society members to join the subcommittees.

The Education Committee has been charged to draft three strategies for the Society Board. Those strategies include (1) Develop an education and outreach delivery plan to support the mission and vision of the society; (2) Develop a collection policy, procedures and plan to cultivate potential donors of library and museum artifacts; and (3) Develop an education plan for the Meeker Homestead and Garth Oberlander Barn. The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for April 2.

-Susan Logan, Interim Chair

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. Many of our committees are also seeking members.

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

Library Report

The volunteers working in the Society Library are making good progress in digitizing and describing photographs owned by the Society. At the moment there are more than 1700 photos that have been digitized. We recently acquired the software that will support placing many of these photographs on the web. When the project has more than 50 photographs available, a link to the web page will be available from the Society's home page, www.delawareohiohistory.org. We hope that will be the case by the time you receive this issue of the *Historian*.

-Susan Logan, Subcommittee Chair

Membership Committee Report

Your membership committee hosted a Volunteer Recognition Event on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Volunteers were treated to a light lunch and brief presentations of accomplishments. Each volunteer received a magnetic name badge. Special thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Susan Logan for organizing this event!

Upcoming events:

2nd Annual Volunteer Fair, Saturday, March 31, 2012. This is a chance to view opportunities to volunteer.

A Life Member Recognition event will be held this summer- date T.B.A.

To help us update our records and make sure mailings are received by our members, please let us know of address and e-mail address changes. Also, if you have a seasonal address, please give us that information so that mailings are not returned when away from your primary address.

The DCHS had 398 members on December 31, 2011, a 75% increase from 2010.

Renewal memberships for 2012 are still arriving. If **you've lost your renewal form mailed in November, please use the form in the newsletter and renew now!**

Please share your experiences with family, friends and neighbors and encourage their support of the DCHS through the purchase of a membership.

-T.K. Cellar, Chair



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.

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.”

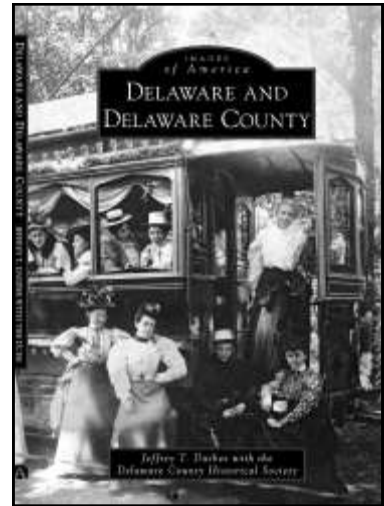
Enter your organization: The Delaware County Historical Society.

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.

On Sale Now!

Delaware and Delaware County Now Available For Sale at the Library, Beehive Books, and other area retailers!



Logo T-Shirts and Mugs Are Now Available!



Newsletter Articles Are Wanted!

Have you been researching some history about Delaware County? **Are you interested in Delaware County’s connections to the Civil War?** We want to publish articles of any length written about Delaware County history in this newsletter. We are especially interested in publishing Civil War stories throughout the Sesquicentennial remembrance of the Civil War.

We are working toward a quarterly publication schedule, and we have set some article submission deadlines. For our Summer 2012 issue, articles will be due on June 1. For our Fall 2012 issue, articles will be due on September 1. For our Winter 2013 issue, articles will be due on December 1.

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

Delaware County
Historical Society

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DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships received between September and December (excluding Life Memberships) expire December 31 of the following year. All memberships are "per-person" amounts, including life memberships.

Name: _____

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City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Membership Status (circle one): Renew New

Membership Type

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 _____ \$1,000.00 _____

Other _____

Special Gift of \$ _____

For/In Honor or Memory of _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____