



# Delaware County Historian

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The Forrest Meeker Homestead

(photo by Matt Kear)

## Construction Dates of House, Barn Revealed During July Program

By Susan Logan

During the Society's July 12th program on Ohio Barns: Icons of Our Agrarian Past, Dan Troth, speaker, announced the build dates of the Meeker House and Oberlander Barn. The dates were determined by sampling the wood from the beams in the two buildings, the house and barn.

These samples were submitted to the Wooster Tree Ring Lab at the College of Wooster, where they were compared with tree-ring chronologies previously created from samples of both living trees and old wood. The tree-rings extracted from old wood can be calendar-dated and thus the staff at the Lab could determine the calendar dates when the trees that were used in the construction of the buildings at the Meeker Homestead were cut.

The trees used in building the Meeker House were felled in the winter of 1822, and the house was built ca. 1823, when Forrest Meeker was the owner of the property.

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## House and Barn Dated

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The beams in the Oberlander Barn were from trees cut in the winter of 1847 and used in the construction of the barn ca. 1848. George Bieber, who purchased the property from Forrest Meeker in 1845, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio, which would explain the use of the Pennsylvania German barn structure.

Dan Troth, Vice President of Friends of Ohio Barns and a member of the Timber Framers Guild, included numerous photographs of historic barns in his presentation.



**Dan Troth presents a program in July at the Oberlander Barn.**

(photo by Matt Kear)

## DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

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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.



## End of an Era: Former Healing Waters Cathedral Demolished

**Editor's Note:** The former Healing Waters Cathedral was demolished in May 2014. Healing Waters was where televangelist Rev. Leroy Jenkins practiced faith healing and sold miracle water for 33 years. In 2003 Jenkins sold the unique property, located at 470 S. Sandusky St. in Delaware, to the Yogi Devine Society.

The Society volunteers maintain a file of properties, so we clipped the articles discussing the demolition to add to our files. We found an article from the early 1950s in the file which tells the history of the property, and this article is being reprinted here.

### *Doric Columns Create Imposing Front* **Dr. Jenkins Restores Historic Residence on S. Sandusky St.**

One of the oldest houses in Delaware has been remodeled on the exterior, restoring it to the imposing dignity and beauty of pre-Civil War days.

It is the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Edward C. Jenkins, 470 W. Sandusky St. Dr. Jenkins maintains his offices in part of the building.

The original land grant for 4,000 acres was executed March 18, 1800, to Nicholas Gilman, a Revolutionary War soldier. The Jenkins property now comprises six acres. It is believed that the house was built between 1850 and 1853, although it may have started in 1847. These suppositions are based on an extensive analysis of the property prepared from court records by John Linn, 340 N. Franklin St.

#### Sees Valuation Clue

Tax duplicates show that in 1846 the land was valued at \$1,867. The acreage had shrunk to about 210 after a number of parcels had been sold from the original grant.

In 1847, the valuation is listed at \$4,309, and in 1854, \$9,272. Linn believes that the rise in tax valuation denotes the period during which the house was built.

There have been two bad fires at the property. One of them occurred in 1900 when the house was owned by Mayor R. J. Pumphrey. The walls were destroyed to within 8 feet of the ground. The residence was completely rebuilt in 1910 to its present size. It contains more than 20 rooms.

The names of many people famous in Delaware's early history are listed as owners of the Jenkins property. Among them are Solomon Smith, the first sheriff of Delaware County, and Moses Byxbe Jr., founder in 1808 of the city and county of Delaware. Smith also served as county

auditor from 1820 to 1830.

There are records of a number of court cases through the years, involving bankruptcy of an owner, failure to pay a mortgage note, or disputes over property lines.

#### Bought It In 1950

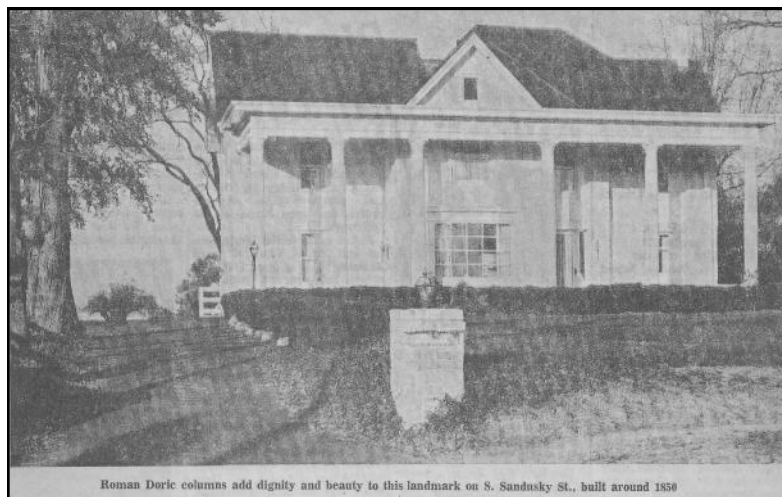
Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins acquired the property in 1950. For two years or more they have been discussing remodeling the front of the house. The idea was first proposed by Mrs. Rosa Babcock, art teacher at Hayes High School.

About a year ago, Donald Russell, manager of the Elephant Lumber Co., began research on the project to determine proper proportions of the porch and columns. Kenneth Hardin was the general contractor.

Two porches and a bay window were torn off and replaced with a roof-high porch extending across the entire front of the building. Supporting it are six 18ft. Roman Doric columns, plus two half columns. It took three months for a Pennsylvania firm to prepare the columns to specifications.

A box window replaced the bay window section. The contractor also revamped the wiring system and the heating plant. The entire exterior was repainted.

The floor of the porch is laid with multicolor random Vermont slate. Exposed ceiling beams duplicate the type of structure of the Doric period.



Roman Doric columns add dignity and beauty to this landmark on S. Sandusky St., built around 1850

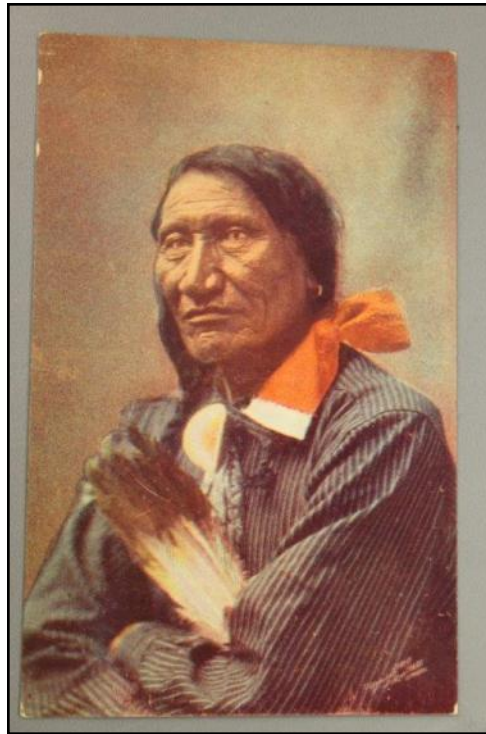
# The Fun of Examining Artifacts

By Ann Simons

The old leather-bound postcard album was crumbling into brown dust. I took it carefully out of the archival box it had been placed in a short while ago. Perhaps if it had been carefully wrapped at first, it might not have deteriorated so far, I thought. But such is the case with so many old and precious things. Turning the pages gingerly, I looked at the carefully placed postcards, each caught in the four slits in the black paper as was the design of such albums of that era. I put on white cotton gloves and eased some of the cards out of the acidic environment where they had lain for many years.

The Society had purchased archival postcard boxes and sleeves to house the many postcards that had been donated. I have always loved postcards, because their historic pictures and brilliant colors are fun to look at and enjoy.

This collection had belonged to George P. Williams, who had assembled the cards sent to him by family and friends. Some were from pre-1907, when the address had to be written across the whole back, leaving space to write only a short message around the picture on the front. Sometime in 1907, the postal service divided the back of cards, so that the address could be written on the right side of the back and a message written on the left. This left the pretty front undefiled. I saw that these cards had postmarks from 1900 to 1913. The colors were still bright and the corners were not worn. The writing was somewhat difficult to decipher,



Examples of Postcards

(photos from DCHS Collection)

but I made out most of it. Then I came across some brilliantly colored photographs of Native Americans, perhaps eight or more. They seemed out of place with the rest of the collection. I turned them over to see who had sent them to Mr. Williams.

Sometimes, into a rather dull day, something exciting pops up. I saw that most of these cards, with undivided backs, had never been sent or written on, but four were used to write a letter. As I began to read, the words "Wounded Knee" drew my attention. These four cards were written to George and mailed in an envelope in 1907. They apparently are from a woman who was his friend and who was a teacher on an Indian Reservation located very near to the Wounded Knee Battle Ground in 1890, when the fight occurred. She describes her experience of being warned to leave the school, go to the Agency

and live in a rented house in Rushville, Nebraska, for some six weeks until it was safe to leave. Then she, and the other teachers who were with her, trudged through the snow to return to the school. They had to cross the battle ground at night and when they arrived home, they found the building "torn to pieces." Bloody shirts were on the floor and the wall coverings were torn from the walls. She believed that "the Indians used the house for a shelter for the wounded." The letter is signed "Yours very sincerely, E.M. (Kint?)."

It was very exciting for me to read a first-person account of an important historical event, in the original handwriting of someone who could express, seventeen years later, what had been her experience. To me, this is what it means to work in the historical field. Surprises await at DCHS.

## What Is This Thing?



By Ralph Au

As a new volunteer at Delaware County Historical Society, I have had an opportunity to identify, research, and catalogue many interesting objects. Recently, Brad Cowan has been photographing the many objects in 169 E. William Street. It was my task to identify and catalogue them.

Unfortunately, during the cataloging process many of the items could not be easily identified and the question “what is this thing?” was frequently heard. It was finally decided to take photographs of 19 objects to the Delaware County Fair and engage the community to identify them.

One of the photographs was of a grey box, about 14 inches square, with a hole on one side, and a handle on another. (See photo above left.)

After the fair, we eagerly anticipated the results with the hope that all would be revealed. On the back of the photo of our grey box was written “cheese maker.” We did a little quick research and concluded that whatever this was, it certainly was not a cheese maker.

However, that led us down the path of concluding that it might have something to do with food processing and after much “Googling” concluded that our box

was a wooden box butter churn. We assumed that the handle on the side was attached to a paddle that stirred the raw milk. So, Brad and I trooped over to 169 E. William and brought it back to the library.

When we opened the cover on the hole, there were no paddles. But on the opposite side of the box was another projecting rod and it was quickly deduced that the box sat on a frame and the entire box rotated on a frame. Following some more “Googling” we identified this as a type of barrel butter churn.

But, where was the frame? We once again went through Brad’s photos and found an unidentified object that could have been the frame. (See photo above right.) The sentiment was pretty evenly split between great confidence that it was the frame and that it could not have been the frame (the photo’s perspective made it appear that the supports of the frame were of different length). So once again Brad and I went over to 169 E. William and found the item. We brought it back to the library, sat the butter churnbox on the frame supports and it was a perfect fit. We now were ready to not only catalogue the item but also were ready to make butter.

The end result was that although the community input did not perfectly identify the object, the insight pointed us down the correct research path, and with team work from the DCHS volunteers we were able to confidently identify the object. What had begun as two unidenti-



fied objects ended up as a single catalogue object that we were able to place in the context of its usage.

Now, if we could determine the age of the butter churn..... Maybe at next year’s fair we will ask the community to help us age objects.



**Butter Churn**

(photos by Brad Cowan)

# Community Engagement During the Year

## Delaware County Fair

**This year the Society highlighted the stagecoach stops and taverns of the county at our fair booth. Thanks to the many volunteers who donated their time to help promote history in Delaware County, and thanks to everyone who stopped by!**

(all photos this page by Brad Cowan)



**Some of the stops shown at the fair. From left, Delhi Tavern, Detweiler Tavern, Gooding Tavern**

## Arts Festival



**Back in May, the Society again had a booth at the Arts Festival and put the spotlight on some local artists of the previous century.**

(photos by Bob Gerspacher)

## Hayes Memorial Clean-Up



**Donna Meyer, trustee and master gardener, led the effort this fall to beautify the President Hayes memorial located at his birthplace, 17 E. William Street, Delaware**

(photos by Bob Gerspacher)



## Celebrating Our Communities Heritage Tour

By Steve Shaw

On June 21, the Big Walnut Area Historical Society and the Powell Historical Society were hosts to a group from the Delaware County Historical Society. Nine DCHS members participated in tours in Sunbury and Powell. Collectively we learned about the origins of the communities and their respective society's efforts to maintain and tell their rich histories.

The home of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society is the Myers Inn and Museum. Originally a one-room home that dates to 1816, it became an inn. The well preserved museum is named for Lawrence Myers, an original founder of Sunbury. Major General William Rosecrans, a prominent Civil War General, was native to the area. A commemorative statue of General Rosecrans is across the street from the museum on the Sunbury Square. More information about the Big Walnut area and the historical society can be found at [www.bigwalnuthistory.org](http://www.bigwalnuthistory.org).

The Powell Liberty Historical Society is located in the Martin-Perry Homestead, which dates to 1889. Originally a community known as Middlebury, Powell took its name from the Powell Post Office that was established in 1857 with help from Judge Thomas Powell. The Powell Liberty Historical Society was established in 1986. Learn more about the Powell-Liberty Township area and the society at [www.powellhistory.org](http://www.powellhistory.org).

In early August, members traveled to Radnor's Historical Museum. After lunch at Gallant Farm Preserve, the group toured Preservation Parks' 1930s homestead located on Buttermilk Hill Road.

On August 23, the Society hosted tours of the Meeker House, Oberlander Barn and the Nash House for our guests from the Big Walnut, Powell-Liberty and Radnor historical societies.



The tour group in front of Myers Inn in Sunbury

(photo courtesy Steve Shaw)

## Hilborn Presents History of County's Railroads

By Donna Meyer

On March 31, Delaware County Historical Society member and longtime Delaware business owner Jack Hilborn gave a presentation on early railroads in Delaware County. Held at the Wayne Hilborn Room at Mingo Park in Delaware, the event featured over 60 historic photos of railroads, streetcars and interurbans which ran along many Delaware streets and connected Delaware with Columbus, Marion, Richwood and Magnetic Springs. The presentation attracted a record crowd of over 200 people who shared their memories of early transportation in Delaware.

Hilborn, a Delaware native

and a graduate of Hayes High School, graduated from Ohio University in Athens. He's now in his 40th year in the insurance industry, after a brief stint as director of public relations for a large Cincinnati company. An avid model railroader, collector of O-tinplate electric trains, and a student of railroad history, Hilborn twice served on the board of the Ohio Railway Museum in Worthington. He also is a former member of the board and committee chair of the National Railway Historical Society based in Philadelphia, and is a member of the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society and the C&O Railroad Historical Society.

There may be a repeat of this program in the near future.



# News and Notes from the Nash House

## Sign Up or Renew Your Kroger Community Rewards Registration

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](http://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."

That should do it and the Society will be the lucky receiver of your shopping bonus – at no extra cost to you.

## Annual Meeting To Be Held November 20

The Delaware County Historical Society's Annual Meeting will be held in the Oberlander Barn, part of the Meeker Homestead, and the home of Garth's Auctions, Inc., 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 7 p.m.

Local Civil War re-enactors Rick Helwig and Henry Shaw will be presenting a program on Delaware and the Civil War.

The annual election of trustees will occur at the meeting. This is an evening you will not want to miss. The Board hopes to see each of you there!



### 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](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)

### Wanted: Volunteers

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](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org).

### 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 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](http://www.dccmc.com)

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Number

- |                                 |               |                          |                |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|
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| ( ) Senior Membership (60+ yrs) | \$15.00 _____ | Life Membership (Joint)  | \$500.00 _____ |
| ( ) Student Membership          | \$5.00 _____  | Life Membership (Single) | \$300.00 _____ |

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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