



# *Delaware County* **Historian**

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## **Society, Olentangy Schools Collaborate for Pioneer Days**

By Karen Hildebrand

The Delaware County Historical Society Curriculum Support Subcommittee was invited to present an exhibit of artifacts at the Olentangy Schools' annual Pioneer Days held at the Liberty Presbyterian Church on May 18, 2015. Committee members Brent Carson, Joe Dwenger, Laurie Schaefer, Susan Hough, Bill Reitz, and Karen Hildebrand volunteered their day to present the artifacts table.

Prior to Pioneer Days, T.K. Cellar visits most of the Olentangy third-grade classes and tells students about the history and settlement of the Cellar family in early Delaware County. As over 200 students from Glen Oak and Freedom Trail Elementary schools came together for Pioneer Days, they had Cellar's introduction behind them and were ready to actually see and touch real items from early Delaware history. The Olentangy third-grade teachers organized our exhibit under the theme of "Chores." We set up three tables and brought artifacts collected from the Nash House, the Society library and some personal artifacts belonging to Carson, Schaefer and Dwenger. Students got to see items such as a lard oil lamp, a mousetrap, a three-legged milking stool, a beaver hat, a hair receiver, a candle mold, a butter mold, a woman's hat form and hatpin, a bed warmer, and ice skates,



**Children eagerly interacting with artifacts and volunteers**

(Photo by Karen Hildebrand)

among many other items. Carson personally demonstrated how a cattle yoke was used and how to prevent cows from kicking the milker. A very popular item was the stereoscope, complete with 2 cards to view: one in black and white and one in color. We explained to students this was how people entertained themselves before electricity and television. The corn grinder, or seed grinder, was also a  
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## News and Notes from the Nash House

### **Newsletter Articles Are Wanted!**

We want to publish articles written about Delaware County history in this newsletter.

Send your submission or your questions to [info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)

#### **Available for Sale at the Library!**

*Delaware and Delaware County*  
 Logo T-Shirts (newly reengineered!), Tote Bags,  
 and Mugs  
 Books and DVDs about Delaware History  
 Old Photographs of Delaware County  
 And Many More Items!

### **Upcoming Events**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 12    | <b>Annual Meeting</b><br>Featuring the program<br>"The Search for Lost Fort Morrow"<br>by Reg Langford<br>7 pm<br>Oberlander Barn at the<br>Meeker Homestead<br>Home of "Garth's Auctions"<br>2690 Stratford Road, Delaware |
| December 12-13 | Christmas Open House at the<br>Nash House<br>And many more to come!<br>Check our website for more information as it becomes available   |

## **DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Established 1947

**Our Mission:** To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio, through historic preservation and education.

**Our Vision:** To be a continuing, self-sustaining source of and a repository for historical information and artifacts which fosters lifelong interest in Delaware County history through community engagement, education and historic preservation.

#### OFFICERS

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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.



## What Was There Before City Hall

**By Samantha Brooks**

Originally built in 1882 and reconstructed in 1937, Delaware's City Hall has long stood tall amongst the smaller businesses that dot the busy streets. To the residents of Delaware, City Hall has been a constant in their lives. It might be hard to believe, but City Hall was not always located in lot 80 on the corner of William and Sandusky streets. As early as September 1828, part of lot 80 was in the possession of the Shoub family.

Martin Shoub was born in Switzerland in 1791. He and his wife, Catherine, had at least four sons – Henry, John, Samuel, and William. Together with his sons, Martin built the Shoub House on this lot. Two of Martin's sons, Henry and Samuel, served in Company I during the Civil War. Henry was a sergeant and Samuel was the fourth regiment's second lieutenant. Both men were part of the infantry and died during the war. Another of Martin's sons, John, married a young woman named Celia. Together they resided at 167 N. Union Street. In 1891, John

passed away, leaving Celia and their son, John F. Shoub, alone. John F. Shoub went on to work for the Delaware Gas Company and became the Vice President and General Manager of the Delaware Gas Company in 1946.

The Shoub house was renovated in 1856 and was advertised as a boarding house in the *Delaware Gazette* on December 18, 1856. The advertisement remained in the paper until May 7, 1857. The advertisement read:

"This House is now thoroughly repaired and extensive additions have been made to it during the past season, which enables the Proprietor to accommodate the traveling public, and Boarders by the day and week in a style unsurpassed by any hotel in central Ohio."

The Shoub House remained in business until January 14, 1868, when the proprietors of the Shoub House were accused of selling whiskey to their patrons. Mrs. Lavina Eastman sued the Shoub heirs for selling whiskey, and the case was dismissed at the Shoub's cost. They had to agree to not sell any more whiskey. Even though

the issue was settled, there were rumors that the case may be renewed. The pressure from the lawsuit drove Martin and his wife Catherine to sell the lot to Delos Hains on September 22, 1868. Between the years of 1874 to 1879, one by one Martin Shoub's descendants signed away their rights to the lot. Shortly before the first City Hall was built, young Catherine Shoub's guardian, Nicholas Naggoner, signed the rights to the lot over to the City of Delaware on June 23, 1879. On August 6, 1891, the last heir to Henry A. Shoub, Henry Shoub, gave lot 80 over to the City of Delaware in a quit claim deed. By doing so, he terminated his and his descendants' rights to the property forever.

Several years ago furniture from the Shoub Tavern was donated to the Society and a sideboard is currently on display in the dining room of the Nash House.

*Editor's Note: Samantha Brooks was an Ohio Wesleyan University student and an intern at the Cryder Center during Fall Semester 2014. She continued to volunteer for the Society until she graduated in May of this year.*

## Pioneer Days

**(Continued from Page One)**

popular spot for students.

The Ohio State Curriculum Standards state that students should be directed to think about Ohio Then and Now. The artifacts we described, explained and exhibited were selected with those curriculum standards in mind. For example, a student slate was on exhibit and we explained that each student in early classrooms would be given a slate to respond to teachers' questions – the forerunner of today's iPads.

Lunch was provided in the basement of the church before the afternoon groups from Freedom Trail Elementary arrived to finish the afternoon.

Though a few sprinkles had us rushing to gather artifacts before the rains came, we managed to regroup in the church and set up the tables with no dif-

ficulties.

It proved to be a very rewarding day. The students asked good questions and showed a sincere and respectful interest in the many items we presented. We were invited to come back next year as well as hold a few more school visits. Committee members agreed we learned a great deal about many of the artifacts right along with the students as we manipulated and managed some of the working parts of various tools, especially the nutmeg grinder, the curtain crimping iron and the darning egg for socks. Thanks to Bill Reitz for capturing this on video for our Society records.

*Editor's Note: More photos of Pioneer Days are scattered throughout this issue!*

## Letter Recalls Early Thanksgiving Feast

John Ferson (b. 1797) was a successful farmer living on Alum Creek. His farm was adjacent to land of two of his brothers, Samuel and Paul. In 1846 he wrote a Thanksgiving letter to his older brother James in Columbus. He begins his letter with news of a visit to his son James who was teaching school in Columbus and about his return trip to Orange. Many names familiar to our county are mentioned in the letter. (The Ferson properties were taken by the Alum Creek Reservoir in the 1970s. The Fersons are buried at Alum Creek Cemetery at Berlin Presbyterian Church on Old State Road. The original cemetery was also taken by the reservoir and relocated to its current location.) – Maggie Webb

Orange Nov 28th 1846

Dear Brother,

With the greatest possible exertion and hurry, I left the City about dark and got to Mrs. Parks between 7& 8—was kindly treated—Jas [James] was boarding at the Wm. Schrocks. He [Schrock] married Christia Griswold & lives south of all the \_\_\_\_\_ so I did not see Jas till morning. He is getting along well, has 23 scholars, expects to have 25 to 40—Mr. Park & family say he has done well & has gained the good will of all the children. Jas. is attending a writing school in his school house 12 evenings for \$1. He came home Wed. eve on horseback to spend Thanksgiving with us. I left the Parks at 8 and got home at 12—did not suffer with the cold —did not stop to warm. After I got home, I secured all my Apples from freezing—Thursday we went to meeting [church service] on the Sleigh. There were but 19 \_\_\_\_\_, the house was cold—Mr. Thompson tried to preach a sermon prepared for the occasion but did not go thru on account of the cold. He will take it up again. Then we

all came to Paul's to the feast. The Ferson connections were all there, Old & Young, except YOU, Wm [William] and John. C. Waters went with us, Solomon with Saml [Samuel], J. Anderson, Lydia Roloson, Eliza Eaton came there & Rev Mr. Thompson—also our teacher, Albert Nettleton. We old folks took the small room and spent the time in pleasant conversation. The women occupied the kitchen in preparing the dinner & the youth occupied the west room and spent the time in conversation and singing of hymns and tunes. We did only engage with them in the singing a part of the time. A happier and more pleased and pleasant group I never saw. And although I say it myself, they were as respectable, bright, healthy, good looking collection of youth as I ever saw together. There was not a cry from any of the smaller class nor a loud laugh from anyone. Now for the Feast: Mr. Thompson and the heads of the families filled the 1st table, the youth the 2nd, the children the 3rd. We had fresh meat, chicken pie, tea, bread & butter, then Biscuit pudding with raisins in it and mince, apple and pumpkin pies with apple sauce and cheese etc. etc. and so on. All from the grey head to the prattling babe seemed to enjoy the feast first rate. Every countenance showed it. This is our first attempt to celebrate the old fashioned Thanksgiving in this western land of plenty and I hope it will be kept up.

If the roads are good, I may come to Columbus next week, but will not set out in a bad time. James has written to Aunt Betsey and we are all well around the circle. . . . (Ed. Note: *The letter continues with discussion of the 5 cents postage required to let brother James know about the families' New England style Thanksgiving.*)

John Ferson



**Photos of Pioneer Days**

(photos by Karen Hildebrand)

## Society Taking “StEPS” Forward

The Delaware County Historical Society has been involved in a program to rate itself against best practices that are utilized by historical museums throughout the country.

The program is entitled StEPS, which stands for the Standard and Excellence Program for History Organizations. It is a program developed by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). StEPs is a self-guided program that advances best practices in the public history field. StEPs tackles six sections: Mission, Vision, and Governance; Audience; Interpretation; Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Management. Organizations enrolled in StEPs have the ability to achieve Bronze (Basic level), Silver (Good level), or Gold (Better level) certificates for each section.

The Society has received two certificates for completing the Basic levels of the Audience and Interpretation sections, and is applying for a Silver certificate in the Audience section.

Austin Poyar, an AmeriCorps Member who was stationed at the Ohio History Center, worked with the Society volunteers to help them assess and rate their practices against the best practices performance indicators. Together, Poyar and the volunteers targeted specific StEPs sections to work on, developed individual work responsibilities, compiled a list of resources for assistance, and assigned deadline due dates. A central part of the process is a steady diet of communication.



**Susan Logan, Austin Poyar, and Karen Cowan display the Society’s StEPS Certificates.**

(photo by Brad Cowan)

Susan Logan and Karen Cowan spearheaded the project from the Society side and brought in other volunteers as they covered different areas of the operation. Although Austin’s assignment is complete, the Society will continue with the StEPS program with another AmeriCorps member.

## Society Visits Area Festivals and Fairs

**By Karen Cowan**

The Delaware County Historical Society has been on the festival and fair circuit this summer.

Beginning with the Delaware Arts Festival in May, the Society has had displays and a presence at the Powell Festival, Harlem Township Days and ending the season with the Delaware County Fair. "These festivals are an excellent method to expand our identity outside of the city of Delaware," said Brent Carson, Society President. "Our major venues such as the Delaware Arts Festival and the Delaware County Fair give us a chance to display and educate the public about the unique history of Delaware County."

For the Delaware Arts Festival, Benny Shoults and Roger Koch, together with photographer Brad Cowan, assembled pictures of the different types of Delaware architecture. At Powell Days, the Society teamed with the Powell-Liberty Historical Society. A joint calendar was produced and membership information for both societies were distributed by members of both organizations.

Harlem Township Days festival began with a parade and a dedication of a monument to Harlem's one room school and Harlem's Consolidated School. Society members answered questions and gave out information about the organization. A raffle was held for one of our DVDs about Delaware County history.

The capstone of the festival and fair circuit is the Delaware County Fair. Over 1,300 people visited the Society's exhibit, "Old Delaware County Grocery Stores," at the 2015 Delaware County Fair.

"We chose 'Old Grocery Stores' because they were the epicenter of community activity," explained Carson. "Grocery stores were the gathering place where neighbors came together and memories were made."

Two large grocery store collages bordered the display with five large pictures of grocery stores anchoring the exhibit. In addition, there were several notebooks full of grocery store pictures categorized by township, with maps of the stores' locations. "In some instances we had a picture of the original store and the store as it looks today," Carson pointed out. "Some of the buildings look the same as they did when they were grocery stores, but many of them have undergone many changes as their use changed from grocery store to residences or office buildings."

What the Society didn't have were pictures of the interiors of these stores, so fair patrons were asked to sketch out the interior of the grocery store that they patronized. They were also asked to share the memories of that store. "We had people coming to our booth asking to draw their grocery store,"



**Side Panels at the Fair Booth**  
(photos by Brad Cowan)





### 2015 Delaware County Fair Booth

(photos by Brad Cowan)



Brent commented and smiled. "I think we brought back quite a few pleasant memories." These stories will be recorded so that they can be preserved for future generations.

With inspiration from Brent Carson, Benny Shoultz designed the exhibit, Brad Cowan photographed the grocery stores, and Cindy Smith designed the large collages.

According to Brent Carson, "Our exhibit was great, the weather was great, and the fairgoers were great. All-in-all, it was a great time at the fair."

## Ana Babiasz Is Newest Society Trustee

Ana Babiasz, the newest DCHS Board Member, brings an interest in people and in history as she assumes a position on the Society board.

Ana is currently the president of Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Association and is a native of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area. Ana said that "living in Philadelphia, the center of American history, sparked my interest in history, so when Jack Hilborn approached me about becoming a Board Member, I thought, 'this is a great way to sustain my interest in history, especially on the local level, and also get much better acquainted with my new community.' It was a great opportunity for me."

Ana and her husband, Ted, moved to Ohio from Philadelphia around nine years ago for Ted's work. After they moved to Ohio, Ana took a job with Fidelity Federal in the compliance department. She has progressed through several departments including mortgage and lending before she was named to her current position as president. They first settled in Reynoldsburg, but her new responsibilities sparked the couple's move to Ostrander in the winter of 2014. They have two grown children, a son and a daughter, both of whom are getting married in 2016.

"Although I have held several positions throughout my career, my main interest has been in the people who are trying to do their best for our bank every day." Ana feels that her interest in people will be very valuable as she helps guide DCHS.

Currently, Ana is serving on the Office Planning Committee and is helping plan for the Society's expansion to the Meeker Homestead property. In addition to volunteering with Society, Ana is also a member of Delaware Rotary, serving on the Rotary Foundation and Newsletter committees. And, although she does not have much spare time, Ana does enjoy reading and exploring her new community.



**Ana Babiasz**



**Left and Opposite Page:  
More Photos of Pioneer  
Days**  
(photos by Karen Hildebrand)

## Joe Dwenger, Versatile Volunteer

Joe Dwenger has been a volunteer with DCHS for over 10 years, beginning shortly after his retirement as a 5th and 6th grade teacher specializing in Social Studies at North Union Schools.

Even though he taught general elementary and middle school subjects for most of his career, his first love was history. He says that he managed to bring history into almost everything that he taught. For example, to help make history more alive for his students, he organized a Renaissance Fair at North Union for the children, so that they would have a chance to see how life was in the Middle Ages.

His love of history began and was nurtured by his grandfather, who, in Joe's words, "always told stories." These stories sparked Joe's life-long love of history. Joe reminisced about his grandfather, who was a telegraph operator in Texas and Montana during the homesteading years. As a youngster, Joe listened intently as his grandfather told stories about hiding Pinkerton detectives who were investigating a robbery, and standing up to Pancho Villa's men when they tried to find the Pinkerton men. Another story his grandfather shared was going to an Indian reservation in Montana and being offered a meal where the main course was dog.

Joe is the "jack of all trades" at the Society, serving on the Curriculum Support Subcommittee, the Museum and Exhibits Subcommittee, and helping with projects like the Lincoln Event. Joe enjoys giving tours of the Nash House to the schoolchildren. He looks forward to working with them and sharing his love and knowledge of history with them.

In addition to his volunteering at DCHS, Joe also volunteers at Preservation Parks, hikes with the Golden Marathoners, and is a member of SourcePoint's Reminiscent Theater,



**Joe Dwenger**

(photo by Brad Cowan)

which is a group of about 8 people who write plays and then perform them at various community and central Ohio locations.

Joe and his wife Nancy have been married over 40 years. They have two daughters and 1 granddaughter.





### **Library Display**

The Delaware County District Library asked if we could come up with a display for the month of August, so the museum and exhibit team went to work. Benny Shoultz made the suggestion that we create a back to school exhibit, so he gathered some ca. 1900 photographs of schoolchildren. Maggie Webb and Brent Carson selected some objects from our collections and voila, display accomplished. The title of the exhibit was "Back to School a 100 Years Ago."

(photo courtesy Benny Shoultz)

## More Ways To Help The Society

### Sign Up or Renew Your Kroger Community Rewards

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.

### Volunteers and Committee Members Are Needed

We need your help. The Society is driven and energized by its 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 [voluteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:voluteer@delawareohiohistory.org).



### About AmazonSmile

#### What is AmazonSmile?

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### 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,  
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The Delaware County Community Market  
222 E. William St., Delaware (near the liquor drive thru)  
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## Delaware County Historical Society

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### DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

All memberships are "per-person" amounts, including life memberships.

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

Circle one:  
New or Renewal

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

#### Membership Type

Number

( ) Adult Membership	\$20.00	_____	Business/Corporation	\$ 50.00
( ) 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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