



# Delaware County Historian

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 2

FALL 2019

## Packard's Architecture Left Mark On Delaware

By Don Foster

Many wonderful examples of late 19th century architecture in Delaware can be attributed to an architect that was a Delaware native, Frank Packard, who went on to earn a statewide and national reputation. Frank Packard was one of two children born to Alvaro Packard and Miranda (Black) Packard. Frank completed his high school years in the Delaware Schools. His family moved to Columbus and Frank left home to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1887. Frank returned to Columbus and began what was a very significant career in architecture. His partnership with Joseph Yost produced hundreds of residential homes, public buildings and remodeling of older buildings.

Frank Packard's career spanned approximately 34 years and ended when he passed away unexpectedly. Numerous accounts of his life mention that he was involved in over 3400 designs, many of which were public buildings such as courthouses, hospitals, libraries, schools and university buildings. He also designed churches and residences of various design including the Craftsman style of which he was particularly fond. Packard house designs are in a number of Ohio cities. Examples may be found nearby in the Marble Cliff area of Columbus, the old Ohio Governor's Mansion on E Broad St (now occupied by The Columbus Foundation), and the front porch addition to the Warren Harding home in Marion, now under restoration. Unfortunately, there is no complete list of what Packard designed after he and Yost ended their partnership in 1900.

*(Continued on page 2)*



Photo by Don Foster

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The following designs are all listed in the Y&P Architectural Realities publication and thus built prior to 1900. Owner names were matched to city directories archived at the downtown Delaware County District Library and at the Cryder Research Library. Several are considered by the National Register of Historic Places as “contributing” structures in the Historic Northwest District. It’s a good bet that Frank Packard continued to design in Delaware between 1900 and 1923, but confirmation would most likely be a blueprint or some other documentation handed down by the original building owner.

Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church. Built 1890. Contributing HND.

Chapel addition to St Peter’s Episcopal Church. Contributing HND.

Steeves Block, 57 N Sandusky St. Built around 1900 by Dr Moses Steeves who was a dentist and lived at 150 W Winter St. Wood and Shoemaker Grocers on first floor and offices on upper.

Edwards Gymnasium at OWU. Built 1905. Designed by Yost. Assisted by Packard.

Sanborn Hall at OWU. Designed by D’Oench & Yost per the OWU library archives. Architect of this structure is listed as unknown in the National Register of Historic Places.

University Hall and Gray Chapel at OWU. Built 1893.

134 W Lincoln residence. Built for George W. Carpenter

251 N Franklin Ave residence. Built for Mrs. Van Dyke Stayman. Van Dyke was an American Express agent with office located at 61 N Sandusky St. Contributing HND.

118 W Central Ave residence. Built for Mrs. Francis Sheldon. Unable to find information on the Sheldons. Contributing HND.

200 W Central Ave residence. Built for Guy Jones who was a tax inquisitor. Contributing HND.

114 Griswold St residence. Built for Frederick W. Platt who was an optician.

136 Griswold St residence. Built for Mrs. William A. Wilson. William was with The Standard Clothing Company located at 41 N Sandusky St.

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## 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.

Donna Meyer, Executive Director

Sara Lorz, Sales and Marketing Manager

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Historical Society**  
*Our History, Our Heritage*

Newsletter Editor: Steve Shaw  
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.

## 2019 New Beginnings

### From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As the year is quickly coming to a close and our board begins the planning for 2020, I reflect on all we accomplished this year. It is not a short list, I assure you.

Our largest achievement this year was receiving state funding from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to replace damaged 171 year old beams and posts in the barn. This effort was supported by State Senator Andrew Brenner and others in the community. We hired a team of historic Timber Frame experts from Northeast Ohio to take on this project. This process lasted nearly 12 weeks from January to March and resulted in bringing the barn back to how it would have been originally constructed and providing a more attractive, secure, and useful community space. We will soon be submitting another request to the OFCC for funding to replace the roof as well as damaged purlins and trusses. Hopefully we will receive enough funding to replace Portland Cement-type material on the beautiful stone end of the barn with historically accurate hydraulic lime based bedding material, which is how it was originally constructed. We will also be determining if we need to straighten the curve at the peak of the wall, though it has had that curve for at least 83 years (identified by 1936 photos).

We were very pleased to show off the restoration at the Banquet in the Barn held at the end of June. This successful fundraiser was a great event with 175 of our friends who turned out to enjoy great food and lots of fun. This will be a yearly event, held on the last Friday in June each year. Please go to our website to see the amazing video we had created for the event.

Our Tour of Stratford, held on August 11 was well attended with many rave reviews. People were excited to walk inside homes built in the 1850s and learning about the rich history of the Village of Stratford. By popular demand, we may repeat the tour in 2021.

We have had nine programs this year and several more to go, including our ever-popular Oak Grove Cemetery Walk which will be held on Sunday, October 13th.

We also plan on holding a tour of the old Jail and Sheriff residence on Saturday, October 26th. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13th and we will end the year with the Nash House Open House on Saturday, December 7th and Sunday, December 8th, following the Holiday

Parade. Our beautiful Victorian house is amazing, especially decorated for Christmas. More information on these and other events can be found on our website – [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org). or feel free to email me at [director@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:director@delawareohiohistory.org).

This summer we held our first-ever camps for children. The History Camp was in June and the Archaeology Camp was held in August. We had a total of 18 kids participating in these fun learning experiences. Next year, we are planning on

hosting Pioneer Days for school children, at the barn.

Last year, we received a gift of the Millworker Cottage, located on Stratford Road, at the end of Meeker Way. We have staged the 1850's house to represent the humble lifestyle of the families who worked in the Stratford papermill. At this point, it is a "look through the window" museum but hopefully will be open one Sunday a month soon.

We reluctantly allowed our Venue Manager, Connie Hoffman to retire in June. She has been replaced by a Sales and Marketing Manager, Sara Lorz.

We saw increased media outreach including a half dozen front page photos, numerous other newspaper articles and TV News coverage, and had beautiful signs installed on US Route 23 and Stratford Road.

Thanks to the county commissioner grant, we installed HVAC in the second floor west wing of the Meeker Museum, opening this space up for additional exhibits.

Our accomplishments this year have been greatly supported by our board president, Jack Hilborn. As our longest serving board member, Jack has done a tremendous job and successfully made it through a year of meetings, paperwork and countless emails. His support and encouragement has been invaluable to me and to our organization and we are very fortunate to have him onboard in this position. Jack will be stepping down as board president at our first board meeting in 2020 and he will leave some very large shoes to fill.

If you would like to participate in these exciting new ventures, please let us know. We are always in need of volunteers, donations, members, and supporters. Come along for the ride. It will be a fun one!

I promise.

*Donna*



Director's  
Column  
By  
Donna Meyer



(Continued from page 2)

162 Griswold St residence. Built for William C. Denison who was with The Delaware Clay Manufacturing Company.

24 Montrose Ave residence. Built for Frank L. Campbell who was in the stone business.

393 E Central Ave residence. Built for Clyde Jones who was a chairmaker.

39 W Winter St residence (remodel of "Andrews House"). Built in 1843. Purchased in 1888 by Samuel Lybrand. Yost did a remodel for Lybrand. Contributing HND.

Residence of unknown address. Built for Mrs. C.M. Smith. Per 1900 census, there was a CM Smith in Berlin Township. Hoping someone can locate this house and that it still stands.

In addition to being born and raised in Delaware, Frank Packard had another Delaware County connection. On September 27, 1892, he married Eva Lena Elliott of Sunbury at Kingston Presbyterian "Old Blue" Church located at the corner Rt 521 and Blue Church Road. It's been demolished, but the bell from the church is mounted on a blue brick base there. Eva grew up in the house of her grandparents, and this beautiful residence still stands at 2711 Blayne Road in Berkshire Township. The Packards had one child, J Alden, who died in infancy. Sadly, Frank Packard died of a cerebral hemorrhage on October 26, 1923, at the age of 57. His residence in 1923 was at 1739 Franklin Park South which abuts the Franklin Park Conservatory on E Broad St in Columbus. I have been unable to determine if he designed this house for the original owner. Eva's sister Carrie Bell Elliott lived with the Packards in adulthood. Ralph Snyder, an architect working with Packard, took over the practice and the firm became Snyder, Babbitt & Mathews. It closed in 1929. At least two projects were in the works at Packard's passing: the Granville Public Library and the Hocking County Courthouse. Packard, his wife, his infant son, his sister-in-law and his parents are buried in the Packard Mausoleum that he designed at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus. A byline on TouringOhio.com reads "The man who designed his own tomb."

Packard was an involved citizen in Columbus, and The Ohio State Journal obituary reflected on that in the following way: "For all the crowding insistence of his private engagements, for all the demands of his unselfish labors for the Civic Center and with the City Planning Commission, Mr. Packard found time to talk with people, to be friendly with everybody he knew or met. He was geniality itself, the embodiment of kindly good fellowship. Thus, he became universally esteemed and widely popular. Even to meet him in the street and perhaps have a word with him was a delight. It is sad to know that he will pass this way no more." Perhaps Delaware can identify a permanent public way to honor its native son. Included in my continuing Frank Packard research is placing Otterbein's former Packard-designed Carnegie Library in the National Register of Historic Places, an effort already underway.

*Thank you 2019 program sponsors!*

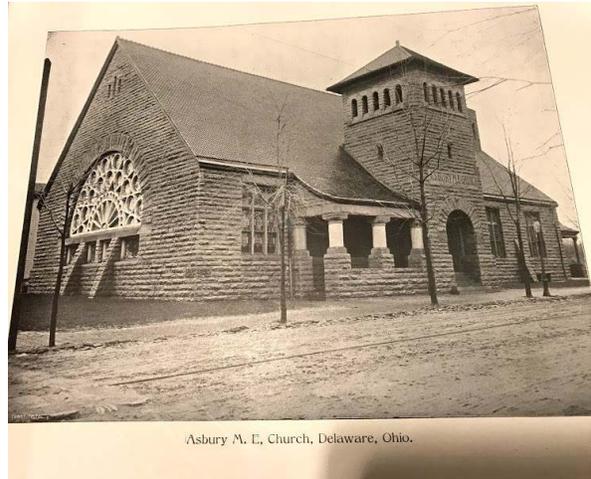
**All-Win Stables and All-Win Electric, LLC**

*To become a program sponsor, please contact Executive Director Donna Meyer*



114 Griswold Street, Delaware

Photo by Don Foster



Asbury M. E. Church, Delaware, Ohio.



162 Griswold Street, Delaware

Photo by Don Foster



Edward's Gymnasium, OWU Campus



Steeves Block, 57 N. Sandusky

Photo by Don Foster



200 W. Central Avenue

Photo by Don Foster

## Greenwood Lake Was a Destination Spot in the 1800s

By Donna Meyer

Summer time means planning trips for the family to the zoo, museums and amusement parks. But how did people find ways to entertain their families in the 1800s? If they were lucky enough to live in or near central Ohio, then a trip to Greenwood Lake would have been the perfect solution.

In 1834, John George (Jean Georges) Vergon, immigrated to America from France. He had been a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte and was with Napoleon in his march over the Alps. He spoke little English and brought few worldly goods with him. He and his family came to this area by way of river and canal and settled in Delaware County as the first French family in the county. He purchased 115 acres, building a double log cabin and small barn and named it Greenwood Farm located on what is now across from the Salvation Army property on Lake Street in the city of Delaware.

His son, Frederick P. Vergon became one of the best horticulturists in Ohio and was a grower of the Delaware Grape. He also had more than 50 acres of apple orchards, yielding 20,000 bushels per year and perfected the idea of a cold storage building where he could store fruit and ship them year round. Vergon was also one of the few breeders of shorthorn cattle in Ohio.

In 1873, Vergon got rid of his cattle to pursue bigger dreams. He built a dam on Sugar Run Creek (a tributary to the Olentangy River) and created Greenwood Lake, across from his farm. It was a 47-acre park, known as a "pleasure ground". Included in this amusement park were a dance pavilion, a bowling alley, picnic grounds and plenty of boats on the lake. He planted all types of trees and flowers in the park and built an ice house - which was big business, where he supplied Delaware and vicinity with ice, made from the lake. Greenwood Lake became a world-famous resort, visited and promoted all around the globe. The lake was stocked with prize bass and one well told tale relates Vergon's son catching a 4 1/2 lb. bass and presenting it to the visiting President Rutherford B. Hayes for his breakfast. All the railroad lines coming into Delaware had special excursions to Greenwood Lake and it was said that there were as many as 10,000 people in the park on Sunday afternoons.

Vergon planted an elm tree in the front yard of his homestead, and became so fond of his "pet elm tree" that he had a copy made of it in stone. This monument measures 10 feet long, 8 feet high and 2 feet thick at the base and was to be placed on his family plot in Oak Grove Cemetery on South Sandusky street to serve as the family monument. He had this completed long before his death in 1919 so he could see it himself. The unique memorial has perched among its leafy branches, an owl, several birds and nests full of eggs. Two tree toads

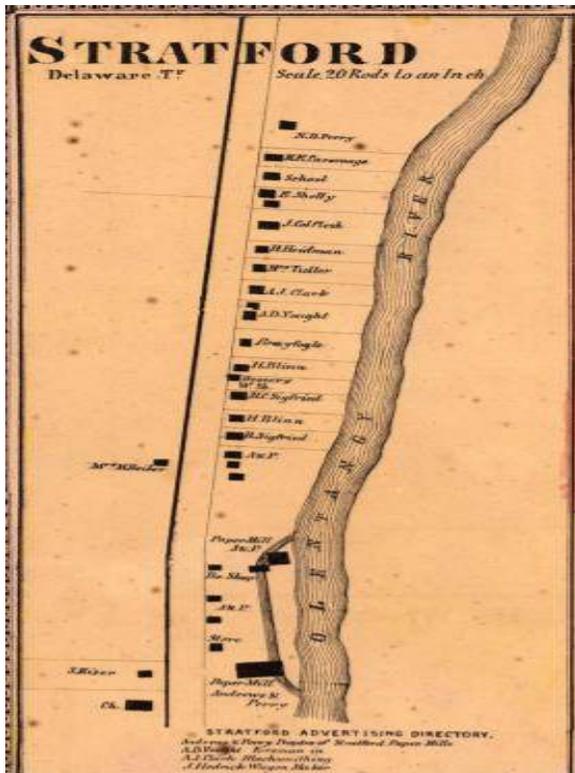
scamper up the trunk and other animals hide in the leaves. By the way, the tree survived the Dutch Elm disease but not progress as it was cut down where it had stood for 125 years to create the Route 23 bypass in 1965. So imagine yourself at Greenwood Lake this summer, boating on the lake, picnicking on the grounds or enjoying bowling with your family. It would have been much more relaxing than Cedar Point (and much less expensive). And if you are interested in learning more about this amazing horticulturist and entrepreneur, the Delaware County Historical Society's annual cemetery walk will be held on Sunday, October 13th at Oak Grove Cemetery and Vergon will be reenacted as part of the tour. Check out our website for more information – [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org).



Grave of Frederic Peter Vergon in Oak Grove Cemetery  
Mr. Vergon will be participating in the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk on  
October 13 (re-enacted by Steve Berry).

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Stratford Community Tour



## Based on research by Benny Shoults

The Meeker Homestead was the center of a thriving mill community in the late 1800's. In August the public got to see the village up close. There is a significant number of original buildings in very good shape. The tour provided a living history lesson of a 19th century village. Its roots as a working class community were apparent.

Stratford was a community dependent on mill-related resources along the Olenyong River within Liberty and Delaware Townships in Delaware, Ohio from 1804-1896.

Water powered mills from 1804-1840, operated by farmers, provided the means to cut lumber for houses and barns, process grains for food, many things necessary to begin an early settlement.

Steam powered mills from 1840 - 1896 were an early technological development that allowed for larger mills and larger outputs of lumber and grains, along with textile manufacturing and paper mills.

The Steam Power period saw the formation of mill "villages", which consisted of housing, a church, and a general store built and operated by the mill owners for the benefit of the mill workers.

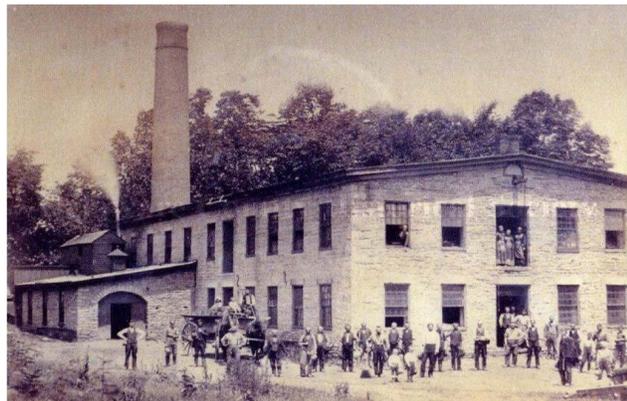
By 1896, the milling industry ended in Liberty and Delaware Townships due to a combination of financial losses through speculation and economic trends.



Andrew Perry house. Mr. Perry was the mill foreman.

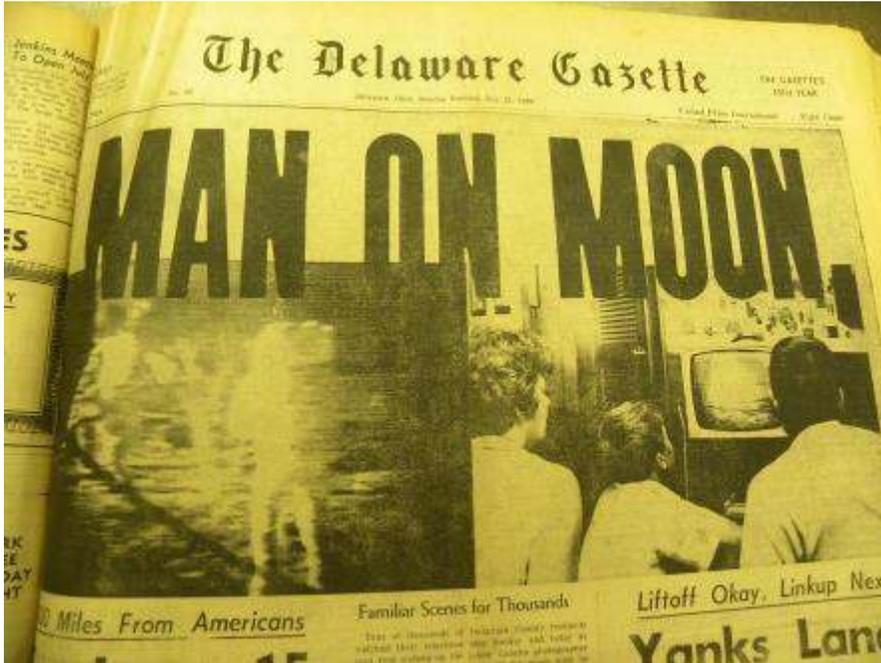


Bieber Barn on Stratford Road



Stratford Mill, late 19th century

## MOON LANDING CAPTIVATED DELAWARE IN 1969



By Steve Shaw

The headline of the Delaware Gazette said on July 21, 1969. “MAN ON MOON” highlighting a journey that caught the imagination of people of the United States and around the world. Alongside a picture of Neil Armstrong’s first step on the Moon was a picture of a family, sharing the event on their own television in their own living room. The ability to complete the space mission and the technology to make it available to all would have been unimaginable just a decade earlier.

Apollo 11 left Cape

Kennedy on July 16, 1969 with three astronauts: Neill Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin. They achieved Lunar orbit on July 19, 1969. The next day Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin entered the Lunar excursion module leaving Michael Collins in the Apollo spacecraft. The actual landing had happened on July 20. Neil Armstrong was destined to be the first human to walk on the Moon. The Gazette article shared some thoughts of some local citizens about the feat. The Reverend Louis Campbell stated “...I was impressed with the fact that man has enlarged his scope of movement in the universe...”, Ohio Wesleyan Mathematics professor Robert Wilson stated “...man has been able to take what he knows and put it together in a marvelous fashion with complete success...”, Ohio Wesleyan University President, Dr. Thomas Wenzlau, noted that it was an almost unbelievable combination of accomplishments that permitted the landings and made it possible for all to see. An interesting finding is that the surface of the moon is a good deal more solid than they thought it would be ...”

Delaware shared the excitement of this momentous piece of history. The moon landing was an event that almost everyone alive at the time has a recollection of the event. The Apollo program was to have six more missions with five making landings on the moon. The last moon landing was during December of 1972. The Apollo program gave way to the space shuttle as the United States programs for space exploration by humans.

The Apollo program created both large and small innovations. The “Crawler” that safely delivered the Saturn rocket for launch was designed and manufactured by Marion Power Shovel.



Photo courtesy of history.nasa.gov

## Cryder's New Look

When walking into the Cryder Research Library the new shelving and a new look will be apparent. The shelving helps the library organizationally and aesthetically.

At the heart of the Cryder Research Library is the society's collection of Delaware County History research papers, reference works, and books. Many of these resources are the work of society volunteers combing newspapers and government records to make information accessible. They pull together cemetery and burial records, family histories, school yearbooks, obituary clippings, city and rural directories dating a century past.

The aged pressboard shelving could not sustain the weight of the volumes. To lighten the load, some materials had to be moved to open spaces, some were stacked on the floor. Library grade shelving was needed but that required funds.

The Ohio History Connection's History Fund accepts grant applications each year in a competitive process. A society team was organized to prepare an application for funds to purchase new library shelving. The Society's application was one of ten selected in a statewide competition.

The grant was made possible in part by a grant from the Ohio History Connection's History Fund. The History Fund is supported by voluntary donations of Ohio Income Tax refunds, sales of Ohio History "mastodon" license plates and designated gifts to the Ohio History Connection.



*Thank You Volunteers,  
Members, and Donors for your  
continued support of the  
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Society!*

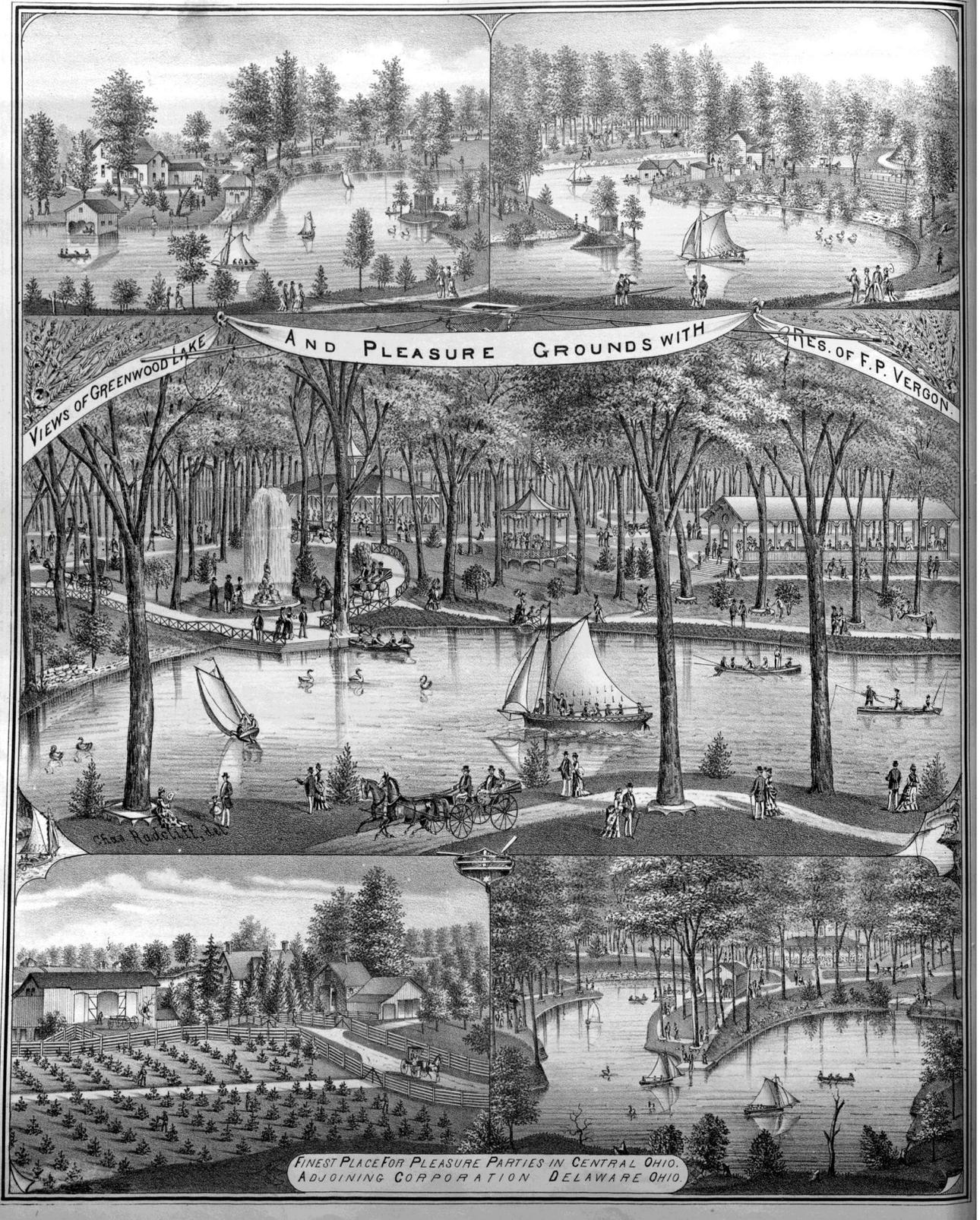
### **Help Preserve Our Historical Legacy**

Gifts and bequests have played an important role in the preservation of Delaware County history. The Delaware County Historical Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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.

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Greenwood Lake was an idyllic family destination for entertainment in the 1890s

## More Ways To Help The Society

### Volunteers Needed!

The Society has a critical need for volunteers! There are dozens of ways that you can help our Society grow. If you can help, contact the Society at [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org)

Our Executive Director needs an **Office Assistant** to help her with many different projects. Hours can vary, with up to 8-10 hours per week. This person should have some proficiency with Microsoft Office applications and customer service. Contact Donna Meyer at [director@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:director@delawareohiohistory.org).

We have priority needs for **docents** at the Meeker Homestead Museum and for **cataloguers** at the library in the Cryder Historical Center. No experience is necessary—we will provide all the training. Just bring your enthusiasm!

There are opportunities to help the Communications committee—writing blogs and press releases, posting to social media and more! If you are interested, please contact Susan Logan at [slogan@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:slogan@delawareohiohistory.org).

### Committee Members Are Needed

The Society is growing rapidly and needs volunteers to serve on its many committees. Our active committees and subcommittees are as follows:

Buildings and Grounds  
Education  
Library Subcommittee  
Museums & Exhibits Subcommittee  
Programs Subcommittee  
Collections Subcommittee  
Curriculum Support Subcommittee  
Historic Preservation Subcommittee  
Communications  
Information Technology  
Membership  
Finance and Budget  
Resource Creation

To find out how you can serve, contact Susan Logan at [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org).

[www.barnatstratford.org](http://www.barnatstratford.org)  
*our event venue web site*

### Support the Society While You Shop

There are 2 ways:

#### Kroger

Kroger is committed to helping our organization grow and prosper by donating funds through Kroger Community Rewards. All you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! The only catch is you have to remember to re-enroll each year in May, but it is easy to do so:

1. Visit <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>
2. Click the View Details button under “I’m a Customer”
3. Login to your Kroger account (create a new account or reset your password if necessary)
4. Use code 84793 to select the Delaware County Historical Society as your rewards organization
5. Then shop at any Kroger store or Turkey Hill Mini Market



#### AmazonSmile

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Delaware County Historical Society for any product marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on the product detail page. You use your same Amazon account, and your shopping cart and other account settings are also the same.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select the Delaware County Historical Society as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.



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