



# Delaware County Historian

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## Ostrander Shaped by Agriculture and Railroads

By Harla Lawson

What can we learn about the history of a place? What can we learn about the people involved? What questions can and should we ask? I love history and genealogy. Many of us have heard that research in these two areas is like putting together a giant puzzle and that is so incredibly true! It is also incredibly challenging and yes ...fun.

So let's take a look at the Village of Ostrander, Ohio and explore a couple of mysteries in its history. How did Ostrander come to be? Who founded the town? Why was this particular location chosen and by whom? Some of these questions are easy to answer and others not so much. According to historical sources such as the *History of Delaware County and Ohio 1880* we know that in the early 1850's plans were being made to build a railroad line through Delaware County . Two small communities in the area - Fairview (Edinburgh) and Millville (Warrensburg) strongly desired to have the railroad come through their town. However, it was not meant to be and to their great disappointment the decision was made in 1852 to establish the Ostrander Depot

just about one-mile south of Fairview on land owned by James Liggett and his brother-in-law Solomon Carr. Soon lots were surveyed and platted by I.C. Buck, a surveyor from Delaware, Ohio and a new railroad town was born.

Who made that pivotal decision and why? Who were the local players in the process? And why name the place Ostrander? These are great questions and lead to some great research. The Ostrander area is fortunate in that there have been several dedicated local historians who spent a great deal of time searching for answers to these very questions.

In 1993 research done by local historians Marie Bouic and Wendell Calhoun indicated that the village was most likely named after Shelemiah R. Ostrander, an engineer who was involved with the construction of this particular railroad line which would connect Springfield to Delaware and Mount Vernon. Prior to this discovery, the village was thought to have

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View of Main Street in Ostrander—photo taken around 1910

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## Two New and Two Familiar Faces are Elected to our Board

The Delaware County Historical Society is delighted to announce the election of two new board members and the reelection of two incumbents as a result of the voting process at our Annual Meeting which was held on November 18. The following individuals will serve a three-year term beginning in January 2021.

- Incumbent Ralph Au joined the DCHS board in 2015 and has served as Co-Chair of our IT Committee since 2015 and was elected as Treasurer in 2017. He also serves on the Library, Facilities, Finance, Disaster Planning, and Resource Creation committees.
- Incumbent Karen Cowan began volunteering with the Delaware County Historical Society after she retired and currently serves as Membership Committee Chair and Co-Volunteer Coordinator. In 2015, Karen was elected to the Board of Trustees and serves as Chair of the Board Development and Nominating Committees and is currently Vice President of Board Operations.
- New board member, David Kerr is an architect and owner of DK Architects. His background is in historic architecture and he has a personal interest in historic preservation. He serves on the Society's Historic Preservation Committee and has been a member of the Historical Society since 2017.
- New board member, Margaret Duber Snyder was born and raised in Delaware. Her background is in research science administration, and in the non-profit field in various aspects of Development/fund-raising administration. She said that she would "like to give back to this community/county in gratitude for all that I have been given."

We say goodbye to two board members – Mike Huber who has served on the board since 2018, chairing the Facilities Committee and Jan Fleischmann, who joined the board in 2006 and served as treasurer for many years as well as a library researcher. She has also served as a fund raiser, as the Docent Manager, and as a tour guide at the Meeker Homestead Museum and the Old Jail. We appreciate their many years of dedicated service.

### 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.

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Melissa Stroupe, Sales and Event Manager

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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 the above address.

## Oral History - Unwritten Stories of Us

Oral history is both the oldest type of historical recordkeeping, predating the written word, and one of the most modern, using 21st-century digital technologies. Oral history is defined as a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting past events using the voices and memories of people, communities, and families.

Used as a teaching tool, this way of communication among clans, tribes, cultures and groups has been around as long as oral language has been around and probably existed when language was nonverbal, millions of years ago. How did we record history before we understood writing? In most cultures, the only way we remembered the past was through passing on stories word-of-mouth from one generation to another. These stories teach us lessons, give us history, remember our ancestors, and help us understand where our traditions come from.

Folklore was such a significant part of early oral history. One such example surrounds the Klamath people of Oregon who tell of a time when there was no Crater Lake, only a giant volcano towering over the landscape where the lake is today. As the story goes, the volcano god grew angry at the Klamath people which caused his mountain home to collapse in on him and fill with water. For the next approximately 7,600 years, the Klamath taught each new generation the importance of avoiding Crater Lake lest they disturb the evil god within. With remarkable precision, geologists have determined that this is the time of the terminal eruption of the former volcano, Mount Mazama, and the creation of the landscape that exists today.

The Delaware County Historical Society depends on oral history to pass along stories of our community's beginnings, including notable events such as floods, blizzards, train wrecks and wagon trains. Recorded programs from our skilled storytellers are available on a variety of subjects such as early settlers, notable people buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, Delaware County restaurants, covered bridges and much more. One of our dedicated volunteers, Richard Leavy, created a vast Oral History project on the Little Brown Jug Harness race, a Delaware County Fair tradition for 75 years. He spent

countless hours interviewing people who had an association with the race, from grooms and track announcers, to trainers and drivers as well as owners and people who had witnessed many years of the race. It has been compiled into videos, of which excerpts can be found on our website. It was to be officially unveiled at our booth in the Merchants Building at this year's fair. However, with the pandemic, that was not to be. We are hoping to celebrate the 75th + 1 anniversary of the race at our booth next year.

It has been said that every time an old person dies, a book is burned. This is such a true statement especially for me, personally. My mother-in-Law, Suzanne Penry Meyer passed away in early August. She lived with my husband and I for nearly 2 years and we were so blessed to have her with us. She was born in 1926 and raised in Radnor, Ohio, where she lived all her life. She came from pioneer Penry stock; her ancestors came from Wales in the early 1800s and settled in Radnor which was named for their homeland. Her husband, Dick Meyer was a coaching legend both at Buckeye Valley and later, at OWU. So many untold stories from both of them.

She was a living history book and she knew so much about the history of the Radnor community that she loved so much. We used to have lively conversations during dinner, about all the experiences she had growing up in the 1930s. There was still so much for her to tell us, that we never got around to asking her about.

So the lesson here is to record stories from your family elders. Get them on video or by recording their voice so you can learn about all the history they have seen. This can be a socially distanced family project. Don't wait until it is too late. These precious memories will not be around forever. I hear from people who are researching their ancestors and uncover amazing stories. They exclaim "Why didn't anyone ever tell me about this?" Here is a chance to learn about and retell those stories to pass along to your children and grandchildren so they don't have to wonder why they never knew about a family story. What a great gift idea!



Director's  
Column  
by  
Donna  
Meyer



*Donna*

*(Continued from page 1)*

been named for a local man, Jacob Ostrander. This Ostrander was buried in the nearby Fairview Cemetery and his gravesite was well marked by a very ornate tree stump type monument. The new information uncovered by Bouic and Calhoun shed a different light on the true namesake of the village.

So who were Shelemiah Ostrander and Jacob Ostrander? Very little is known about either one and why and how their lives intersected with the Village of Ostrander continues to be a mystery just waiting to be unraveled.

Another interesting bit of Ostrander lore that is reported in many histories written by local historians is that of Jack Shoppert, who is said to have platted out a small community (part of Ostrander) just south and east of the Ostrander Depot before the Village of Ostrander was fully developed. Who was Shoppert and what happened to his town which came to be known as Jacktown or Jack Town? Its presence is also evidenced by the name of Jacktown Road which even now is located just southeast of Ostrander. Speculation abounds bringing about even more questions seeking answers.

Regardless of who named the village, Ostrander grew quickly and was officially incorporated as a village on May 18, 1875. It soon became the largest community in Scioto Township and by 1900 was a thriving business center in the western part of Delaware County. It boasted many different industries and businesses over the years including sawmills, a creamery, livery stables, a hotel, bank, Masonic Hall, grocery stores, stock yards, restaurants and even an Opera House which could seat 300 + people. Huston Street which faced the railroad depot was the first business section for the village with the intersection of Main and North Streets also becoming a hub for businesses of all varieties. Ostrander was said to be third in the state for the shipping of livestock at its peak. When the Farmer's Exchange grain elevator was built, it became the place for farmers throughout the area to bring their produce and market animals. The influence of the railroad definitely put Ostrander on the map and brought much prosperity to the area.

However, as history shows events can happen that change the course of any community and Ostrander was no exception. First was a devastating fire which took place the morning of July 13, 1925. How it started is unknown but once begun it quickly destroyed and it altered Ostrander forever.

At the same time gradual changes were taking place in the railroad industry that also affected Ostrander. Modes of transportation were changing across the nation. More roads were being built and cars were becoming the new way of travel. Use of the smaller railroad lines such as the one running through the village began to decline and slowly over the years' passenger service slowed to the point and in 1961, it was discontinued. Freight rail service carried on, but it too was finally stopped when the last train went through Ostrander on February 10, 1971 ending 117 years of railroad service. It was truly the end of an era for the village.

Researchers of history: Be encouraged! You are needed and your work can make an impact in every community! Ask the questions. Seek out the answers. Make a difference.

"Learn how to learn, that we might know how to live" is a quote from Mr. T. F. Maloney, Superintendent of Ostrander High School—1918, as recalled by Flossie Gabriel Bussey in 1920.

Sources used in writing this article include local histories written by Marie Bouic, Wendell Calhoun, David Cooper, and Loren Moseley as well as the History of Delaware County and Ohio 1880. All are available for public viewing at the Ostrander Branch of the Delaware County District Library.



BIG FOUR Depot, Ostrander, Ohio.

## 1920 Election Pivotal for Harding and Willis

By Steve Shaw



U.S. Senator Frank B Willis, left, and President Warren G Harding

The 1920 Federal elections were an historic benchmark since women were granted full suffrage to vote in presidential elections that year. Two central Ohio politicians had their own political fortunes change. Marion Ohio native Warren G. Harding and Delaware's Frank B. Willis. Harding was Ohio's incumbent Senator but would resign after becoming the Republican Party Presidential nominee. Harding was elected to the Senate by popular vote in 1914. He was the first Senator from Ohio elected by popular vote after the passage of the 17th Amendment of the United State Constitution. Before the 17th Amendment, Senators were elected by State Legislators. Harding's political career had taken him from State Senator to Lieutenant Governor to United States Senator.

The 1920 Republican convention was held in Chicago, during the month of June. Harding had known presidential ambitions but was considered a longshot in a crowded field of 12 candidates.

Willis had his own successful political career as a state representative, then as Ohio's Governor. He was a delegate from Ohio to the 1920 convention. Ironically, Willis had defeated the Democratic Presidential candidate

James M. Cox to become Governor of Ohio in 1915. Cox was to defeat Willis to win back the Governorship two years later. Willis was selected to nominate Harding as Ohio's favorite son, partially due to his strong commanding speaking voice. 1920 was the first election where women had a franchise to vote and Willis provided a nod to that right when he said "Come on now boys and girls let us elect Warren G, Harding the next President".

In 1920 the Republican's met with no clear front runner for the Presidential nomination. Harding gained ground due to some appeal to both progressive and conservative wings of the party. He finally clinched the nomination on the 10th ballot at two in the morning June 10, 1920.

With Harding running for the Presidency, Frank B. Willis became the nominee for Harding's Senate seat that was up for election. He was appointed to Harding's Senate seat and then won the seat outright in the November 1920 election.

Harding was elected President in 1920 and ended with a mixed legacy as president. His presidency was marred by scandal that became more memorable than a strong agenda on budget reform and civil rights. Harding was to die in office during a presidential west coast trip in 1923.

Willis was to serve as Ohio's senator from 1921 until March 30, 1928. He died shortly after declaring himself as a candidate for President of the United States at Gray Chapel, on the Ohio Wesleyan University campus. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Delaware City Schools honored Willis by naming their new high school after him in 1932.

## Local African American History Brought to Life by Hands on Learning Project

**By Karen Hildebrand, Chair DCHS Curriculum Support Committee**

On the drive to her job as a teacher at Woodward Elementary School in Delaware, Breanne Reamsnider had noticed several historical markers, namely the Sharp Family Home on Africa Road, the African American Settlement marker at Alum Creek Dam, the Camp Delaware sign near Oak Grove Cemetery, and closer to Woodward School — the Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church marker. As she thought about these markers and the history they represent, and as this past school year approached, she decided to contact the Delaware County Historical Society and pursue the history of African Americans in Delaware County. Breanne asked if the Historical Society could work with her on a project to bring Black History into the classrooms at Woodward.

Watson Walker, a member of the DCHS Curriculum Support Committee, was the perfect volunteer to chair this work with Breanne on the project. Watson is also the president of the Delaware County Genealogical Society and an author of local Underground Railroad stories. He started a personal project collecting the names and stories of African Americans in the area and had been compiling a research notebook on many pieces of Black History in Delaware County. Watson met with a few of the retired teachers on the Curriculum Committee to ask for suggestions on project ideas and format and then met with Breanne to begin the project with February's Black History Month as the kick-off to the multi-layered project. Everyone involved wanted to make sure the project was grounded by the Ohio Learning Standards for the Social Studies.

The planning meetings came to fruition during the month of February at Woodward Elementary. Starting on February 3rd and continuing Feb. 12 and 13, dressed as local Delaware businessman, Benjamin Franklin Thomas, Watson presented his program to all the 4th grade students explaining the history of fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad and how they settled the community of Africa. He went on to talk about several Black community members in the area, the history of Camp Delaware, and he concluded with the history of Woodward School named after the first principal, Laura Woodward.



The original South School, which was built in 1869 at 200 South Washington Street. It was demolished and rebuilt in 1950 as the Laura Woodward Elementary School. This photo was taken around 1910.

The Scavenger Hunt was the next phase of this Black History project. Mrs. Reamsnider worked with Woodward librarian, Robyn Kress, to create a fun and factual search in the library with book clues leading to information about some of the research people and their names, lives, occupations or other interesting facts. Several volunteers from the Curriculum Committee assisted Watson and Mrs. Reamsnider during this library activity. Students discovered such topics as the first black policeman, grocery store owner, barber, teacher, Ohio Wesleyan graduate, pastor and church, mechanic, doctor, blacksmith and more.

Over the next few weeks, students did the research about different Black residents and relevant places in the community. Watson served as a “human library” and students could meet and consult with Watson about people and moments in the Black history of our community. Watson had compiled a 5-inch thick notebook which included birth and death certificates, property documents, cemetery information and locations, Black soldiers and war veterans from various wars and related Oak Grove Cemetery information, newspaper articles, and photographs. The students read the information from the notebook to select their person to research, create a timeline of that person's life, and use the archival photographs when available.

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Curriculum Support Committee member Watson Walker teaching 4th graders about the history of fugitive slaves on the Underground Railroad and how they settled the community of Africa.

Students sometimes used related photos to depict the work of nurses, barbers, blacksmith, store assistants, and more, from the appropriate time.

These 4th grade students then shared their timelines with the 3rd graders by going into their classrooms and taking turns rotating through the people they researched and sharing the timelines explaining who these people were and any interesting facts they had discovered during the project.

Parent Teacher Conferences were held during this time so the library featured these student timelines, a PowerPoint slide show and the photographs for students to share with their parents.

The notebook created by Watson will become a key research component for Black history at the Cryder Research Library for the collection of items and materials at the Delaware County Historical Society for any community member to use at the location.

The next activity to be included in this Black History project is a Walking Tour of the Second Ward. This was scheduled for early May but is on hold right now as we wait to reschedule due to the COVID-19 situation. The walking tour is being developed in two parts. The first will begin at the AME Church at 140 S. Washington St., just outside the Woodward playground. The walk is planned around the area that will include the street sign for the newly dedicated Curry Way. (Read more about this dedication at the DCHS website: <https://delawareohiohistory.org/curry-street-sign/>).

Other spots of interest on the walk will be the home on Eaton Street of Mary Alston, last fugitive slave to arrive in Delaware County. David Street was the home and residence of E.W.B. Curry and the Curry School, also the street where Curry's Kitchen Shed School was located. High Street brings the story of the White Sulphur Lodge No. 10 and the Banks Grocery Store. South Liberty Street will tell the story of the Highwarden Grocery Store, the Macklin Grocery, Banks Confectionery/Restaurant and Grocery, the Elks Club (colored, 1939), Wilson & Banks Grill and Restaurant, Trinity M.E. Church, and the Second Ward Community Center, along with stories of the people who lived on Liberty, Bernard/Railroad Street, Park Avenue, Ross Street and Washington Avenue who had residents with stories to tell. Students will give their researched reports at the address of the person or business or church that they learned about from this project.

Though the project has been put on hold until we see a safe road ahead after the COVID-19 crisis has abated, this Black History project was proving to be very successful as well as enjoyable for all concerned. Everyone involved learned many things and we all look forward to being able to complete this learning experience at a future date.

End note: Watson is also working on an adult version of this tour, "Walking in a Community Called Ward 2", which will be organized by the Delaware County Historical Society with the date to be announced. The adult tour is planned as a 2-hour narrated walk in this historic neighborhood.

The following have made financial donations to the Delaware County Historical Society between 6/1/20 and 9/30/20. Their gifts help us create programs and exhibits, preserve our historic buildings, and pass along our rich heritage to future generations. **As you consider your year end donations and to learn about how you can help us make a difference in a most meaningful way by creating a legacy gift, visit [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org).**



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## Delaware's Newest Addition to the National Historic Register

The address of one of Delaware County's most recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places has been at the center of life in Delaware for over 170 years. It is located across the street from Ohio Wesleyan University's main campus and serves as OWU'S Richard Ross Art Museum.

This was the site of Anthoni and Sons Brewery from the middle of the 19th Century until it was razed to become a United States Post Office in 1911. The description of the architectural qualities that provides its standing as historically significant is impressive. It was designed as an example of neo-classicism with a symmetrical façade, round arched windows, and Doric pilasters. Many of its features derive from classic Roman architecture.

The design was a popular one the government used for building post offices in smaller cities in the early 1900's. It served the community well as the Delaware Post Office until 1969. The building was then adapted to art classrooms and studio space for Ohio Wesleyan's Humphreys Art Hall. In 2002, it became the Richard M. Ross Museum. It now serves the public as a museum and exhibit space.

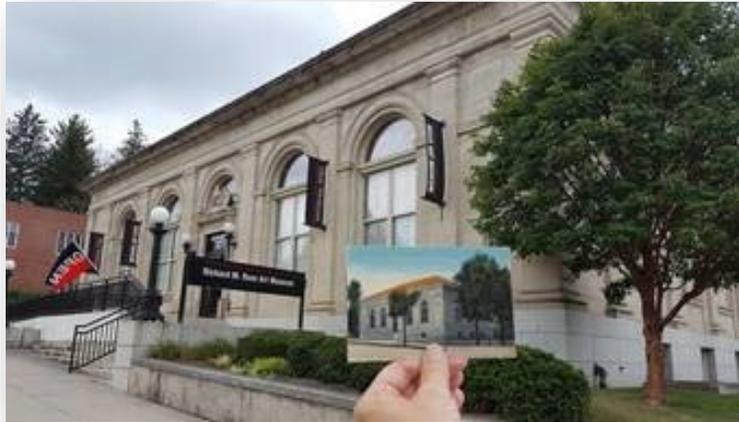


Photo showing the building as a Post Office, taken by Tammy Wallace, OWU '02, Assistant Director, OWU Ross Art Museum



The original business at the corner of S. Sandusky and Spring Streets (54-56 S. Sandusky) was Anthoni & Sons Brewery, located on the site of the old Post Office, now Ohio Wesleyan University's Ross Art Museum. The Anthoni family came to Delaware from the Lorraine area of France in 1831 and started the brewery in 1834. The patriarch of the family was Frederic Anthoni, Sr. According to the General Business Review of Delaware County Ohio for 1889 -- "This old established institution...was founded by F. Anthoni now deceased. Since his death, the brewery has been run by the heirs as F. Anthoni's Sons.

The individual members are, C. Anthoni, H. Anthoni, L.A. Anthoni and Mrs. E. Shoop. A general lager beer brewery and bottling business is carried on under the management of Mr. C. Anthoni. The buildings cover a ground space of 120 x 300 feet.

The daily capacity of the brewery is eighty



barrels, and seven men are employed about the institution. They have agencies and depots established at Fostoria, Akron, Galion and Findley [sic]. All orders for pure malt and hop beers or bottled goods for family or export use, will receive prompt attention, and goods are delivered to any part of the city or state."

# President James Monroe Visits Frontier Village of Delaware

By Steve Shaw

On August 23, 1817 the small frontier village of Delaware Ohio was just nine years old. The few hundred residents of the village saw a sight they had not been expecting. The President of the United States, James Monroe, was riding a horse into town from the north. A few weeks after his inauguration, Monroe had begun a journey through the New England states and then to the far west exploring the Northwest Territory. His trip had two purposes. First to foster national unity since a few years earlier, many residents in New England wanted to secede from the Union because they were vehemently opposed the War of 1812. And second, to inspect military installations since the War of 1812 showed unsatisfactory level of defenses. Monroe said that he intended “to secure defense against external foes and to seek the promotion of internal harmony.” Monroe’s journey began on May 31, 1817 and after an extended tour through New England, he was ready to go into the frontier of the Northwest territory. He was the first sitting President to be in the “West”.

On August 13, 1817 Monroe arrived at Fort Detroit in the Michigan Territory, after a two-day schooner journey across Lake Erie from Buffalo, New York. Monroe was able to assure military readiness at this important frontier outpost. By August 19, Monroe was at Sandusky Bay in Ohio. It was a hard three days journey to get to Delaware. There was an undeveloped military road through the Black Swamp, forests and two Indian reservations. On Saturday, August 23rd, Monroe’s party passed by the abandoned Fort Morrow in (then) northern Delaware County. Even by standards of the time, Monroe certainly did not travel in high style. One account described his party as follows. “They traveled on horseback ... They rode fast, generally in a canter. Mr. Monroe wore the old fashioned three-cornered cocked hat -- his dress otherwise was in plain, citizen style. His face was effectually sunburned from exposure.”

Monroe then arrived at the small frontier village of Delaware. One account of how this Presidential party appeared stated with a bit of a flourish that “Monroe and his entourage emerged from the distant thickets like a ghostly apparition”. There is no record of remarks made by the President in Delaware. Monroe’s papers do preserve remarks given by a city official, “of the relationship we confide in his virtues and talents .....we are his friends”. Monroe and his party stayed at the Dunbar House, located at the southeast corner of Sandusky and Winter. Sunday morning found Monroe attending the First Presbyterian Church which met in the Court House at the time. The pastor was the Reverend Joseph E. Hughs, who had served as the first Grandmaster of the Masonic Lodge in Ohio, had preached to General William Henry Harrison’s troops during the War of 1812, and accompanied General William Hull during the War of 1812, as a Chaplin. He started three Presbyterian congregations - the First Presbyterian Church, Liberty Presbyterian Church, and Radnor Presbyterian which was to become Old Stone Presbyterian. Hughs was the first Clerk of Court in Delaware County and was co-founder of the *Delaware Gazette*, then called the *Delaware Gazette and Religious Informer*. After his remarks President Monroe sent Hughs a complimentary message before leaving to complete his tour.

Upon leaving Delaware, Monroe’s travels took him to Worthington and Ohio’s new capital - Columbus. He then traveled to Chillicothe to meet with the Ohio Governor, Thomas Worthington. Monroe’s party left Ohio on September 1, 1817. He returned to Washington D.C. on September 17. He was re-elected in 1820 and his time as President gained the label as “The Era of Good Feelings”.

Hughs’ life was tragically taken during the fever epidemic of 1823. Hughs was just 33 years old at the time of his death, and was laid to rest in the Old Burial Grounds and then re-interred to Oak Grove Cemetery by his grandson.



Depiction of James Monroe visiting Worthington.  
Courtesy of the Worthington Public Library

## Many Hands Make Light Work



This fall, twenty nine Hayes High School members of the National Honor Society raked 99 bags of leaves from the grounds of the Delaware County Historical Society's Cryder Research Center on East William Street, for City yard waste pickup. NHS students have performed this service for the DCHS for many years.



Top row from left to right: Grace Martin, Chloe Kannally, Avery Howey, Taylor Brown, Kristen Smith, DCHS Board Member Roger Koch, McKenzie Hayes, Kylie Haag, Megan Reid, Julianna Lardizabal, Lucas Nogueira Balaniuc, Marissa Bledsoe, Liam Waselko, Abigail Richardson, Kaitlynn Prenger, Liza Ida

2nd row: Eliza Riggs, Faith Eden, Laney Hackbarth, Lauren English, Rachel White, Lauren Matz, Taylor McMillin, Ainsley Tatman, and Madison Rose Bricker.

## Delaware County Historical Society Receives Heirloom Wagon From the Sheets Family

Built on or before 1900, this farm wagon was used by Charles Homer Sheets (1867-1925) and possibly his father Silas Sheets (1841-1902). On August 10, 1925, Charles Homer was returning from threshing wheat and the team bolted. He fell in front of the wagon and it ran over him. He died three days later at the age of 58. The wagon bed was partially burned in a fire in the early 1930s. The current wagon bed was built in 1936 by Charles's son, Harold and his son, Charles Henry Sheets. The wagon is 19 feet long including the tongue, 7 feet wide and 4 feet high. It was used on the family farm on Hogback Road in Delaware County.



Margie Sheets Saul by her family's heirloom wagon

It was donated earlier this year by Margie Sheets Saul, as it had been in her family and owned by her parents Charles Henry and Betty Sheets. She says it was dear to her late father as a family heirloom. On special occasions, the Delaware County Historical Society will bring it out of the barn loft where it is being safely stored, to display it to the public or even as part of a wedding setting.

## Donors to the Delaware County Historical Society Collection

A big thank you to the recent donors to our collection. Your generous gifts of artifacts and photos help make the past tangible by adding to our displays and research. We are forever grateful.

DCHC Collection Donors May 2020 – September 2020

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C. Whitman  
MJ Wyant

### CURATOR'S CORNER

by **Benny Shoults, Meeker Homestead  
Museum Curator**

Sometimes great treasures just appear. Let's take for instance, one of our latest donations, a 1840's Rosewood Square Grand Piano. Nancy Ferguson, contacted us to ask if we would be interested in a mid 19th century square grand piano that she had owned in since 1984. She was downsizing and just didn't have the room for it. She had purchased it from an antique dealer in Columbus who acquired it locally. Little is known about the original ownership of the piano.

I began to imagine placing the piano in the Meeker House Drawing room. The one criteria the piano did not fill was that it really had no provenance in Delaware County, something much of our furniture and objects have in common. However, other criteria made it appropriate there. Nancy Ferguson accompanied the piano movers to Meeker to present it to us. It's worth noting that the Historical Society does own another Square Grand Piano which is in the Music Room at the Nash House Museum.

Since acquiring this beautiful piano, we have learned that Square Grand Pianos were popular in the mid 1800's, mainly in parlors. Another interesting fact is that they were sometimes called "Coffin Pianos" because when the piano was closed, it had the appearance of a fine finished wood coffin. Our piano was made in Boston between the years of 1847 and 1850, by the Hallett and Allen Co.

We had a piano technician, historian, and restorer inspect the piano and make his recommendations. It seems the piano can be put back to use in a limited fashion. We will need to select the most special of occasions to play the instrument giving it the respect of the original intent of its musical limitations. In other words, you cannot play this piano as you would a modern piano. It is a parlor piano, one that would have been right at home in a house of the mid 1800's.



Donor Nancy Ferguson with the Grand Square Piano in the Meeker House Drawing Room

## *Adopt a Memory*

We are excited to announce a brand new program – “Adopt a Memory” which allows our supporters the opportunity to contribute funds which will assist with the preservation and curation of historical objects to ensure future generations will enjoy our precious and irreplaceable items. A variety of items are available including Revolutionary War Uniform Breeches (with a 21” waist!) and an intricately hand-carved black walnut cabinet/desk which was created in 1885 by Miss Dorothea Graham, head of Ohio Wesleyan University’s Art Department.

To become a guardian, you contribute funds needed to catalogue, curate, care and preserve an object, a collection or even a room at the Historical Society for one calendar year. Guardians can be individuals, families, schools, civic and social groups or companies. And of course, the adoption makes the perfect gift for someone who is a history buff or who has everything and does not want to accumulate more possessions. Needless to say, the object remains at the Historical Society under the expert care of our curators.

For more information. Visit our website at <https://delawareohiohistory.org/adopt-a-memory/>

### **In appreciation of an adoption you or your gift recipient will receive:**

- ◇ A thank you letter and fact sheet from the staff
- ◇ An adoption certificate and a picture of your artifact
- ◇ A Charitable Tax receipt
- ◇ An object label or plaque with your name will be present when the object is on display
- ◇ Your name or the recipient’s name will be listed in the Historical Society’s Annual Report (unless you wish to remain anonymous)
- ◇ An invitation to exclusive events offered for our Guardians, including an evening reception.
- ◇ With advance notice you may request to see your object if it is not currently on display
- ◇ Advance notice if your object will be going on display
- ◇ A copy of the Historical Society’s newsletter and notice of upcoming events

Here are some of the many artifacts available for adoption (as of 11/15/2020)



Nash House Dining Room is especially beautiful at the holidays



1860 Seven Room Doll House with nearly all original furniture, at Nash House



What were the headlines were on the day you were born? Select the date of a birth, marriage, or other special occasion. The picture provided will be of the headlines for the date.



Revolutionary War Breeches

## *Upcoming Events*

What to expect next year – while the uncertainty of the pandemic remains, we will continue to have our programs broadcast as virtual events until it is safe to, once again, hold them in person. Our Meeker Homestead and Nash House Museums, which reopened in July, will remain open by appointment.

As we move into 2021 and not knowing what precautions we will need to continue due to the pandemic, we plan to keep the current “Connecting Threads” exhibit up and beginning in June and continuing through the end of 2021, we will have a photographic exhibit from our own photo collection. A future exhibit subject includes the original settlers of Delaware County and what life was like once they arrived.

*January* - panel discussion on Rutherford B. Hayes and the Compromise of 1877, as a virtual program

*February* - virtual program on the history of the Lucy Depp Settlement

*March* - Cultural Communities: Early Delaware County Settlers and American Indians, 1770-1850

*April* - the History of the Columbus Zoo

*May* - Walking Tour of Delaware’s South End, Stories of a Community

*August* – “That’s Entertainment, Opera Houses in the City of Delaware”

*October* – Walking tour - Young and Old Rutherford B. Hayes

*November* - Delaware County Historical Society Annual Meeting—Frank Packard Homes in Delaware

*December* – Holiday Open House

The walking tours will be ticketed events with limited space available. Programs are subject to change.

Check our website for more information as it becomes available.

*Thank you to our 2020 program, event and exhibit sponsors!*



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## More Ways To Help The Society

### Volunteers Needed!

The Society has a critical need for volunteers! Our opportunities provide social distancing, sanitization, and facemask safety.

There are dozens of ways that you can help our Society grow. For more information, contact the Society at [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@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!

We need volunteers to help us maintain and plan our **garden** spaces at the Cryder Historical Center and the Meeker Homestead.

There are opportunities to help the **Communications Committee**—writing blogs and newsletter articles and more!

### 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 for FREE 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

#### AmazonSmile

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://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. We are listed as “Delaware CO Historical Society”. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

#### We want your COVID-19 stories

During this unprecedented time, we are making history that will be studied for years to come. Since our mission is to preserve and educate about our history, we want to preserve the stories of the pandemic and how it affects our life. If you would like to share your experience, go to our website at [www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org) for more details.

Delaware County  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership Type**

Adult Membership (Individual) \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Membership (Household) \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Membership (60+ yrs) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Membership (Household) \$40 \_\_\_\_\_

Life Membership (Individual) \$300 \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership (Household) \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Corporation \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Delaware County Historical Society and mail to 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware OH 43015