



Delaware County History Courier

ISSUE 12 / JULY 2019

Upcoming Events

Boomerang History sponsored by Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan Delaware connection and demonstration, presented by Chet Snouffer Sunday, July 14 at 6 pm on the Meeker Homestead lawn, 2690 Stratford Rd

Adventures in Archaeology Summer Camp

July 29 - Aug 2, ages 8 - 14, \$140 register by July 19, call 740-369-3831

Tour of Stratford Mill Town

sponsored by Dave Kerr, Architect 10 stops, including the church purchase tickets at EventBrite.com adults - \$25, members - \$20, children up to age 12 - free Sunday, August 11 from 2 - 5 pm, starts at the Meeker Barn, 2690 Stratford Rd

Oak Grove Cemetery Walk

re-enactors will portray 10 - 11 individuals buried there Sunday, October 13 at 1 pm (if raining, will be held in the Meeker Barn)

Summer Events

2019 Archives Crawl

month of July - details inside, page 2

Thursday Evening Concert Series

FREE - bring a blanket or lawn chair 7 pm at Gallant Woods Park, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Rd - July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 15

Message from Stratford Resident - Jeannie Ball

When I first arrived in Stratford along the Olentangy River, I was curious about the row of stone cottages on the river side of Stratford Road. Why were they all small, made of beautiful rubble limestone, and all on one side of the road? After digging into several books and news articles, I found out that Stratford used to be a mill town. Wow! Who Knew!

In the early 1800's Forrest Meeker had a grist mill and a woolen mill on the Whetstone River, later renamed to Olentangy River.

That leads me to the stone houses. In the mid-1830s, Hosea Williams and Caleb Howard bought the land where the Meeker mills were located and a strip of land along the river to the North of the woolen mill, which would be converted into a paper mill. The paper mill made wrapping paper and writing paper for the State of Ohio. In 1850, Williams and his new partner, Hiram Andrews built houses along Stratford Road for the workers at the mill. Thus, the owners would have a work force close by.

We are currently working on one of the mill worker houses, which was donated to the Delaware County Historical Society last fall. We are bringing it back to its original appearance. We hope that when you visit the cottage, you will feel like you are stepping back in time into the life of an 1800's mill worker's family.

On Sunday August 11th, you will have the opportunity to tour several of the buildings in Stratford, including the Forrest Meeker home and the Old Stone Church at the intersection of U.S. 23 and S. R. 315. What a wonderful way to explore history! We will be sharing stories about the owners and workers who lived in Stratford. Please plan to join the Tour of Stratford.

????????? Carson's Quiz ??????????

How much do you know about Stratford?



- Which of these types of mills were located in Stratford during the 19th century? (hint: choose 4)
A. Coffee B. Grist/flour C. Paper D. Pepper E. Saw F. Steel G. Woolen
- Which of these was NOT ever the name of the paper mill?
A. Delaware Paper Mill B. Hills Paper Company C. Stratford Paper Company D. Williams & Andrews
- Which of these principals in the Stratford paper mill once worked at a paper company in Toronto, Canada?
A. Chauncy Hills B. Caleb Howard C. Hosea Williams D. Hiram Andrews E. Norman Dewey Perry
- Why was the mill town called Stratford?

BANQUET in the BARN

AN EVENING OF LIVING HISTORY

A "FUN" raiser to Celebrate the Grand Reopening of the Barn

On Friday evening, June 28, a "FUN" raiser was held at The Barn at Stratford, which included dinner, a historical reenactment of Forrest and Patience Meeker, a live auction, and a mini-

documentary film of the Barn's story. This event was planned to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the restoration project and to show off the amazing work that has already been accomplished by a team of skilled timber framers. It also provided an opportunity for sponsors (**Hilborn Insurance, Comfort Xpress, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Mail Pro 1, A Catered Event, Chesrown Chevrolet Buick GMC, Manos, Martin, Pergram Co., LPA, and Clarity Technology Solutions—thank you!!!**) and attendees to support the worthwhile cause of Phase 2 restoration, which will primarily involve the replacement of the roof. The event was sold out, and a truly wonderful evening was had by all.



Photos by Brad Cowan



Mike and Connie Hoffman

The timing of this celebration was intentionally scheduled to coincide with the retirement of Connie Hoffman. Connie was hired by the Board in November 2013 as Project Manager when DCHS was in the initial stage of turning the Barn into an event venue which would provide income to help sustain the mission of the Society. Then, once the venue operation was officially launched, Connie was hired as its first Venue Manager. For the past three years, Connie has worked incredibly hard, putting all her efforts and enthusiasm into making The Barn at Stratford a success. To show appreciation for all she has done, Connie was recognized at the banquet. The buffer that separates the Meeker property from US 23 has been officially named "Hoffman Hill", and a



plaque to honor her will be installed on a boulder of her choice there soon. While accepting the honor, Connie thanked her husband Mike Hoffman and sister Allie Zarley for all they have done to assist her at The Barn.



Sara Lorz

In anticipation of Connie's retirement, the Board realized that it would not be possible to find one person to step into her shoes, so two new positions have been created. In May, Sara Lorz was hired to the position of Sales and Marketing Manager, which has given her a chance to learn the operation of the Barn at Stratford under Connie's guidance. Currently interviews are being conducted to hire an Event Coordinator who will report to Sara. This will allow Sara to devote time and energy to promoting the venue for weddings as well as corporate and other events.

If you were not able to attend the banquet, but would like to provide your support for Phase 2 of the Barn restoration, you can do so at:

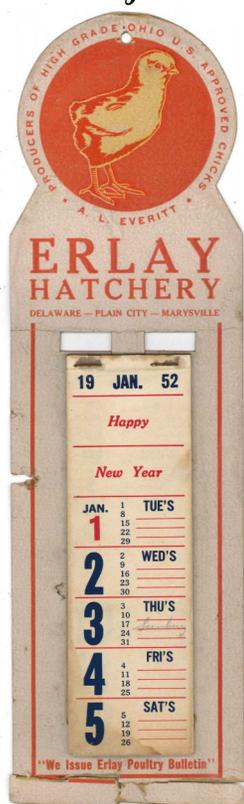
<https://delawareohistory.org/financial-donation/>



The Delaware County Records Center is sponsoring the second annual **Archives Crawl** in order to help area residents learn about local history in a fun and interactive way. During the month of July, you can obtain a passport which you then take to as many of the repositories as you can to have it stamped to mark your visit. Participating repositories include the Delaware County Historical Society (both the Cryder Historical Center / Research Library and the Meeker Homestead Museum), other local

historical societies such as Big Walnut Area Historical Society (Myers Inn Museum) and Powell Liberty Historical Society (Martin Perry Homestead), many local library branches and genealogical societies, plus other fun and interesting locations such as the Delaware County Model Railroad Group, Gallant Farms (one of the Preservation Parks), The Ohio Fallen Heroes Memorial, and Stratford Ecological Center. To be eligible for gift bags, your passport must be turned in to one of the participating repositories by **noon on July 31, 2019**. Stop by the DCHS table near Whit's at the July 5th First Friday to pick up a passport or go to <https://recordscenter.co.delaware.oh.us/archives-crawl/> to find instructions for printing one. Call Chris Shaw, Delaware County Records Center Coordinator, at (740) 833-2141 with any questions.

Our Mission: To promote and sustain interest in the history of Delaware County, Ohio through historic preservation and education. Some examples of what we have been doing:



Agriculture has been a vital part of Delaware County since its founding in 1808. The Collections of the Delaware County Historical Society contain a variety of hand-operated farm equipment and tools, and hand-written records. Two recent donations illustrate 20th century farming, the businesses that supported it and the organizations that promoted it.

Delaware had a chick hatchery close to Downtown for over 3 decades. The Erlay Hatchery owned by Arlie and Wilma Everitt was first located in the 1930's on East Winter St. From 1938 to the mid-1960's the chick raising business was at 27 Spring St. (now the NAPA store). They had their own delivery trucks and published a newsletter named "The Erlay Poultry Bulletin". The donation included photos, equipment catalogs, plus Pete's embroidered work coat and an advertising calendar, both shown here.

Amy Dennis donated the buggy that her parents bought for her in 1952 from another local farm. With her pony she drove it along the roads and farm lanes of Brown Township and participated in 4-H parades during the County Fair. The buggy was built between 1880 and the 1920's by Harrison & Brothers of Jersey.

If you have photos of Delaware County farm families and activities, the Historical Society is interested in making digital copies. We also need volunteers to process donations. Send an e-mail to info@delawareohiohistory.org.



Roger Koch washing the buggy before it was stored in the back barn at Meeker.



This article was contributed by Sue Bauer, Chair of the DCHS Collections Committee.



Benny Shoults presented the Curry School history at the Delaware Community Coalition 2nd Annual Juneteenth celebration on June 15 at Blue Limestone Park. Here are Benny's thoughts about the event:

"It was a rewarding day, a day that was truly a give and take or maybe better put, teach and taught. As I suspected, no one had any knowledge of Curry. My presentation was just 5 minutes, just enough to stir some interest. I had six or so people tell me that was the best thing they got out of the days festivities, WOW, that made my day! Because the Second Ward Councilwoman, Lisa Keller, Mayor Riggle and Tom Homan were there, my idea to have the memorial street sign (Curry Way) put up at London Road and South Sandusky and London Road and Liberty Street is much closer to becoming a reality. I had the major decision makers circled around after the presentation and they all agreed to make it an agenda item in Council. Several people want to come to Cryder and see if there's something about their family's history. Charleta B. Tavares (past member of the Ohio Senate, Columbus City Councilwomen and CEO of Health One) as the Keynote speaker, gave the perfect lead in to my presentation, encouraging the audience look into the history of their families and community." Update: Benny presented the street sign proposal at the City Council meeting on June 24th and it is currently under consideration.

Delaware County
Historical Society

2690 Stratford Road
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: 740-369-3831
Email: info@delawareohiohistory.org
Web: <https://delawareohiohistory.org>



*Our History,
Our Heritage*

Find us on
Facebook!



STRATFORD: A MILL TOWN

Sunday, August 11th 2:00 - 5:00

Parking at the Barn at Stratford
2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, Ohio

Van transportation provided by:
Coughlin Automotive
Performance JCDR.

Sponsored by:



Preregistration required:

\$20 / member
\$25 / non-member
Under 12 free

Registration limited.

Please visit DelawareOhioHistory.org
and follow the links to EventBrite.com
or call DCHS at 740-369-3831, ext. 3

Carson's Quiz Answers (from front page)

1. **B - Grist/flour, C - Paper, E - Saw and G - Woolen**
2. The paper mill had several names, including the other 3 listed, but never **C - Stratford Paper Company**
3. **E - Norman Dewey Perry**, who was acquainted with William Lyon McKenzie and wrote a memoir
4. According to Perry's memoir: "On the fourth of July, 1842, we gave the place a name; called it Stratford on the Olentangy, and the toast was: 'As Stratford on the Avon has become famous as the birthplace of the immortal Shakespeare, so may Stratford on the Whetstone (or Olentangy) be noted as the birthplace of some great genius!'"

DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Circle one:
New or Renewal

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Membership Type

Adult Membership	\$25.00 _____	Adult Household	\$50.00 _____
Senior Membership (over 60)	\$20.00 _____	Senior Household	\$40.00 _____
Life Membership (Single)	\$300.00 _____	Life Membership (Joint)	\$500.00 _____
Student Membership (under 18)	\$5.00 _____	Business/Organization	\$50.00 _____

Newsletter preference (circle): Printed E-mail Both

For Student Membership, name of your school: _____

In addition to your membership noted above, please consider an additional gift to the Society:

\$100.00 _____ \$250.00 _____ \$500.00 _____ \$1,000.00 _____ Other _____

Special Gift of \$ _____ For/In Honor or Memory of _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to Delaware County Historical Society and mail to 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware OH 43015
or use on-line form and pay with PayPal at <https://delawareohiohistory.org/join-us/>