

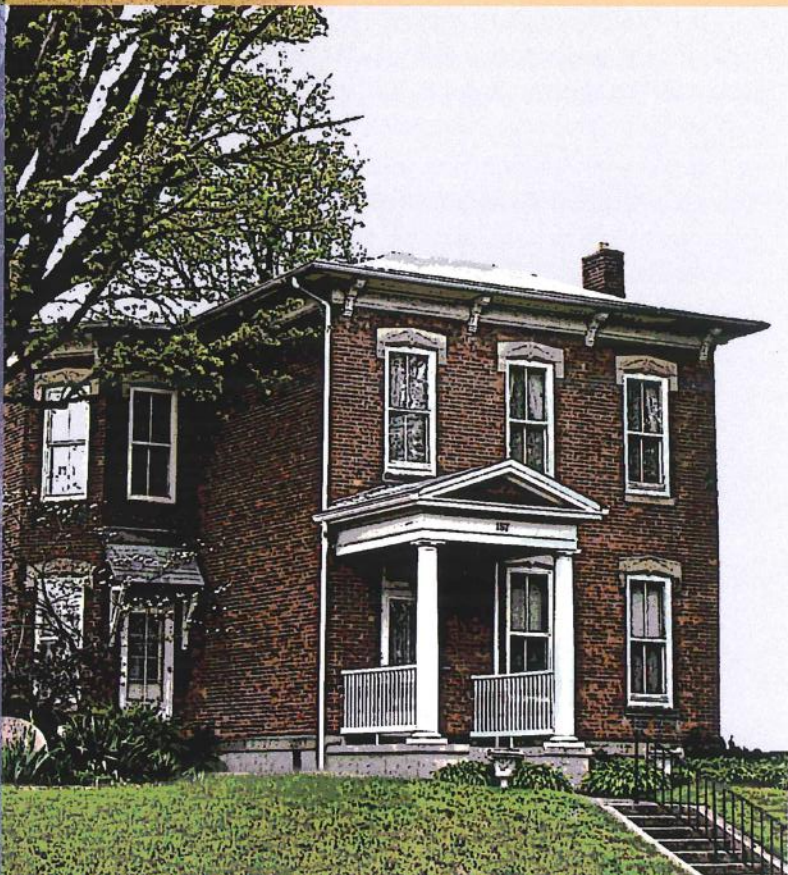
October 2016 – September 2017  
**Annual Report**



**Delaware County  
Historical Society**  
*Our History, Our Heritage*



*Celebrating  
70 Years:  
1947 – 2017*







## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

A year of challenges, changes, programs, social gatherings, committee work, research and exhibits – all with the purpose of promoting and preserving the history of Delaware County.

Our base of devoted volunteers has increased which has allowed us to expand our outreach to the community. The opening of the Meeker Homestead has brought us new opportunities and challenges. There we now have an event venue and Meeker Homestead museum.

From Center Village to Ostrander, and from Shawnee Hills to Kilbourne, we have joined in community events.

The Education Curriculum Support Committee has continued its outreach to the schools of Delaware County. This year saw the successful launch of its Underground Railroad Program and will soon launch its American Indian Program.

As I complete my 11th year as board president of the Delaware County Historical Society, I will be stepping down from that position next year but will remain nearly as active as before.

Thank you to Donna Meyer, our Executive Director, and Connie Hoffman, our Venue Manager, and to all our volunteers. It has been an eventful 2017.

*Brent*

## Board of Trustees

Brent Carson, *President*  
Jack Hilborn, *Vice President of Development*  
Jan Fleischmann, *Vice President of Operations*  
Ralph Au, *Treasurer*  
Mary Ann McGreevey, *Assistant Treasurer,*  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
Lynn Foreman, *Recording Secretary*

Ralph Au	Susan Garrett
Ana Babiasz	Matt Kear
Sherry Carmichael	George Needham
Karen Cowan	Benny Shoults
Alice Frazier	

## Staff

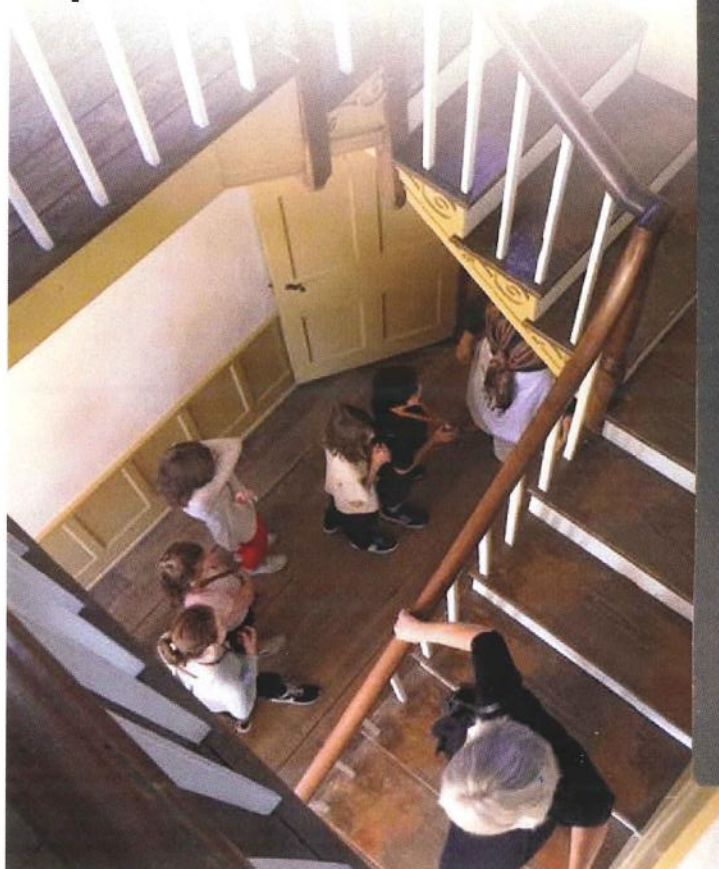
Donna Meyer, *Executive Director*  
Connie Hoffman, *Venue Manager*  
Kelly Barry, *Part-time Event/Sales Assistant*  
Allie Zarley, *Part-time Event Assistant*

## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

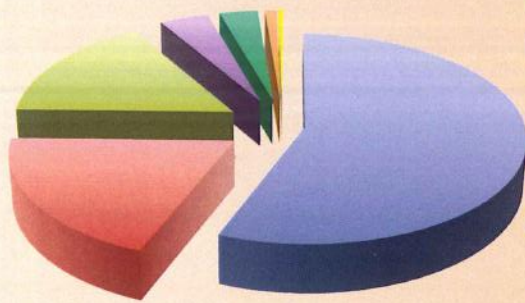
To be a continuing, self-sustaining source of and a repository for historical information and artifacts which fosters lifelong interest in Delaware County through community engagement, education and historic preservation.





## 2016-2017 Financial Report

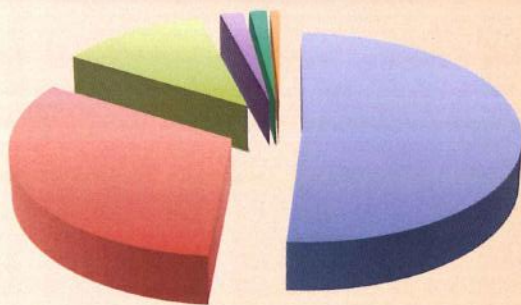
### Income



- Venue – \$131,227
- Donations – \$45,214
- Grants – \$38,317
- Memberships – \$9,687
- Programs – \$7,575
- Museum Income – \$2,353
- Product Sales – \$747

**Total – \$235,120**

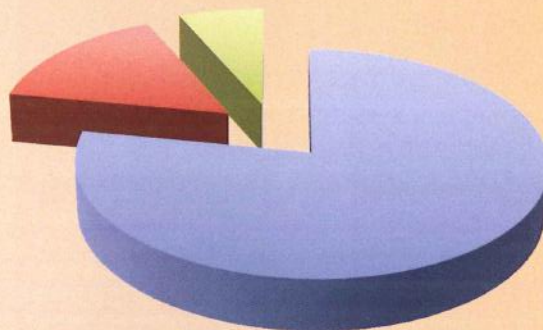
### Expenses



- Administration – \$150,671
- Property – \$95,110
- IT & Utilities – \$36,357
- Programs/Exhibits – \$5,823
- Venue Expenses – \$4,267
- Collection Preservation – \$2,390

**Total – \$294,618**

### Assets



- Fixed Assets & Property – \$1,473,118
- Investments – \$293,864
- Bank Account – \$126,641

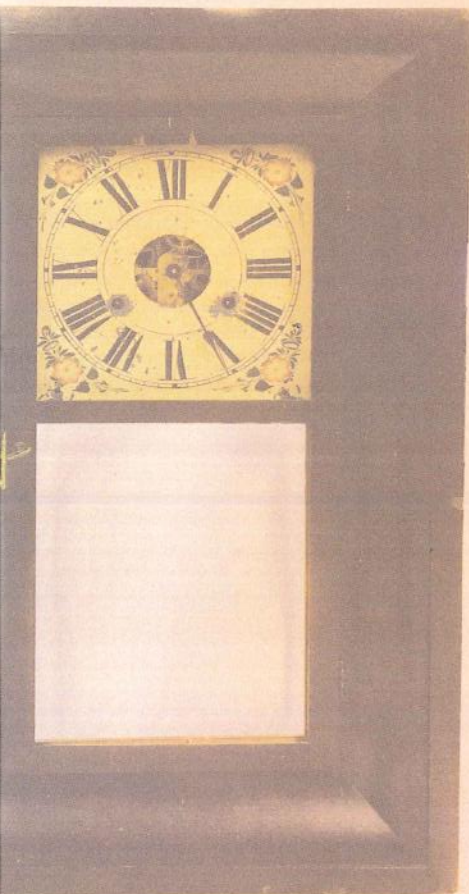
**Total – \$1,893,623**

## Capital Campaign

Delaware County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Ohio. With such rapid growth, preserving our history has never been so important! Last year, we embarked upon a \$300,000 sustainability campaign to provide the capital support needed to perform vital repairs and improvements critical to maintain and preserve our historic buildings which we rely on to provide earned income streams. This will ensure the long-term viability of our properties and organization. Our plans include vital restoration efforts on our 170-year-old barn as well as adding HVAC to the rear rooms on upper floor of the Meeker Homestead Museum, which will allow us to expand our displays and educate more people about our history. No donation is too small to make a difference.

### Our donors to the Capital Campaign include:

Ralph Au, Ana Babiasz, Lawrence & Elizabeth Barrett, Susan Bauer, Brent Carson, Pat Cashman, Alice Chapan, Doug & Virginia Clark, Sherry Clark, Karen & Brad Cowan, Edmund & Diane Cox, Del-Co Water, Stella Dickman, Karen Faircloth, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Richard Fisher, Jed & Cindy Flahive, Jan Fleischmann, John & Lynn Foreman, Alice Frazier, Friends of the Delaware County Library, Susan & Larry Garrett, David Gormley, Habitec Security, Jack & Mary Hilborn, Connie & Mike Hoffman, Tom & Mary Homan, Matt Kear, Roger Koch, Rick & Susan Lasley, Ironda & Randall Long, Bill & Sandy Lowe, Kelly McFarland, Mary Ann McGreevey, Debbie & Steve Martin, Donna Meyer, Rozella & George Miller, George Needham, Carol O'Brien & Bill Owen, Arlene Palenshus, David Pemberton Sr., David Pemberton Jr., Tom Price, John & Sue Robinson, Jean Sealey, Adrienne Selsor, Henry & Sharon Shaw, Steve Shaw, Benny Shoults, Jim & Ann Simons, Carolyn & Gary Skinner, John Tombarge, Marian & Larry Vance, Roger & Shirley Van Sickle, Ezra Vogel, Tom & Jan Wasson, Steve Wells.







### We collect and preserve

In April 2010, volunteers began a project to scan and catalog pictures which are owned by the Society. We have catalogued nearly 13,000 items; many are available online at <http://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com>.



### Our Volunteers

We have 70 active volunteers who contributed 10,309 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this volunteer service is nearly \$238,000!







### **We generate community interest in history**

Since 2013, the Delaware County Historical Society has had a very visible presence in downtown Delaware. Thanks to the generosity of Steve Cianelli of the Hair Studio at 33 North Sandusky Street, we have had several displays in the window of his salon during 2017. These included a display on Delaware County Agriculture, 175th Anniversary of OWU, Quilts and Quilting, The Little Brown Jug and Delaware County Fair, and thank you letters from school children who visited the Nash House Museum.

This year we collaborated with the Arts Castle to provide hundreds of artifacts for their "All the Rage" program. We also partnered with Columbus State Community College on an oral history project with the theme of World War II. We provided images for OWU's Richard Ross Art Museum for their projection exhibit titled "The Shadows We Cast." We have had a table at Main Street Delaware's First Friday events during the year. We also hosted groups throughout the year including Leadership Delaware and the Delaware City's entrepreneurial group, Delaware Does.

### **Our members**

In addition to the nearly 500 total members, we would like to recognize our Life and Business Members.

**Life Members:** Alice Baker, John & Debra Blakeslee, Marianna Pollock Bowman, Michele Brockett, Richard & Linda Browning, Judith Brozek, John Buchan, Kosby & Kevin Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles Caudy, T. K. Cellar, Edmund & Diane Cox, Sandra Cryder, John & Yvonne Dewey, Dorothy Florance, John & Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Max Griffith, Jeff Hamilton, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Juliet Heston Richey, Mark & Carrie Hickman, Jack Hilborn, Ralph & Diane Hodges, George Hoffman, Chris Hon, Karl Jentgen, Margaret Jones, Steve & Joy Kaser, William & Virginia Kavage, Thomas King, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, Betty Meyer, Paul Monks, John & Carol O'Brien, David Parker, David & Mary Ann Pemberton, Sr., Carolyn Porter, David & Regie Powell, Tom Price, Susan & Larry Ratcliffe, Barbara Reed, Bill & Kay Rietz, Bob & Nancy Rietz, John & Diana Roach, John Robinson, James Steven Shaw, Henry & Sharon Shaw, Vickie R. Sheets, Charles & Betty Sheets, Sharlene & Lloyd (Buck) Shoaf, Joyce Siegley, Carolyn & Gary Skinner, Sally Smith, Marjorie Snook, Vladimir & Margaret Steffel, Christine Stelloh-Garner, Jenora Stilwell, Tamara Tangen, John Tetz, Barbara Hall Thatcher-Williams, Kris Thomas, John Tombarge, Ezra Vogel, Jeff & Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Weber, Thomas Workman, John Yelavich.

**Business/Organization members:** American Legion Post 115 • Clarity Tech. Solutions • David Kerr Architect LLC • Frame Artistry • Hardware Exchange • Mail Pro 1 LLC • Main Street Delaware • Manos, Martin & Pergram Co. LPA • Northwest Neighborhood Association • Ottawa Bota Farm • Smith-Feike-Minton, Inc. • Solar Saloon (Don Temple) • Snyder Funeral Homes • Willow Brook Christian Communities





## Programs throughout the year

In **January**, Brent Carson discussed Restaurants and Ice Cream Parlors in Delaware County. Attendees shared their stories and memories about establishments which are now history.

A record crowd attended the **February** debut of our Underground Railroad program. The program included two segments of the Society's award-winning Curriculum Support Committee's underground railroad program for fifth-grade students. Re-enactors portrayed area residents who were involved in guiding runaway slaves north to freedom in the early to mid-1800s and the history of the fugitive slave act was discussed. The 2-1/2 hour student program was first performed in February for several hundred youth.

The Blizzard of 1978 was the topic for **March**. Brent Carson and Rex Welker led the program which included photos from the *Delaware Gazette* files and reminiscences from attendees about personal experiences during the record-breaking snow storm.

In **April**, Abe Lincoln re-enactor, John Cooper, stayed in character as he discussed the Civil War, politics, including his cabinet, and life during the 1800s.

In **May**, Steve Bemiller, an antiques appraiser, and Karen Cowan, a Society volunteer, discussed the Delaware Chair Company, including the chairs, business history, and Delaware society from 1871 to 1930. Attendees were invited to bring items for Steve to discuss.

In **June**, we hosted a special program titled "Letters to the Editor – Letters from a WWII European theater soldier to the editor of a small town Ohio newspaper" which was presented by Tamsen Dalrymple, daughter of the soldier.

Volunteer Dave Nungesser shared his knowledge of historical photos during the **July** program, "Family Photos Old and New," including tintypes, daguerreotypes, ferrotypes, etc. Adam Waisanen, gave a short presentation on "Handling and Storing Old Photos".

In **August**, the Society presented two programs: a "Stroll down Sandusky Street," a tour of the history and architecture of buildings on Sandusky Street and "Who owned my house?" which provided research information on area houses.



The Society's exhibit at the Delaware County Fair in **September** featured artifacts and information on Delaware County Restaurants and Ice Cream Parlors. The illuminated neon Nectar Candyland sign was a highlight in the exhibit. The Nectar was a restaurant before concentrating on making candy.

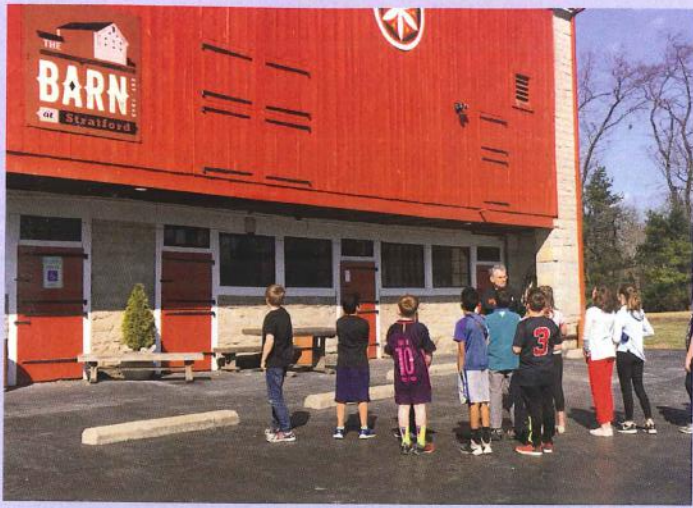
In **October**, author Eric Ebinger presented a program based on his book titled "100 Days in Rutherford B. Hayes Life." Also in October, we presented the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk featuring reenactors portraying prominent citizens who were buried there.

Still to come this year – the Nash House Holiday Open House on **December 2 and 3** from 2 – 5 p.m. Visit this lovely Victorian museum, located at 157 East William Street in Delaware, with furniture appropriate to the era, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Our 2017 programs were sponsored by Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan and Hilborn Insurance.







### Other educational programs

Pioneer Days for local elementary schools, Nash House and Meeker Museum tours, the Artifact Cart and Local History Tote Bags to county schools, monthly presentations at Willow Brook, among others. We also had a table display at the Delaware City Schools Vendor Fair, the Kilbourne Festival, Harlem Township Days, the Powell Festival, the Arts Festival and the Big Walnut Community Expo.

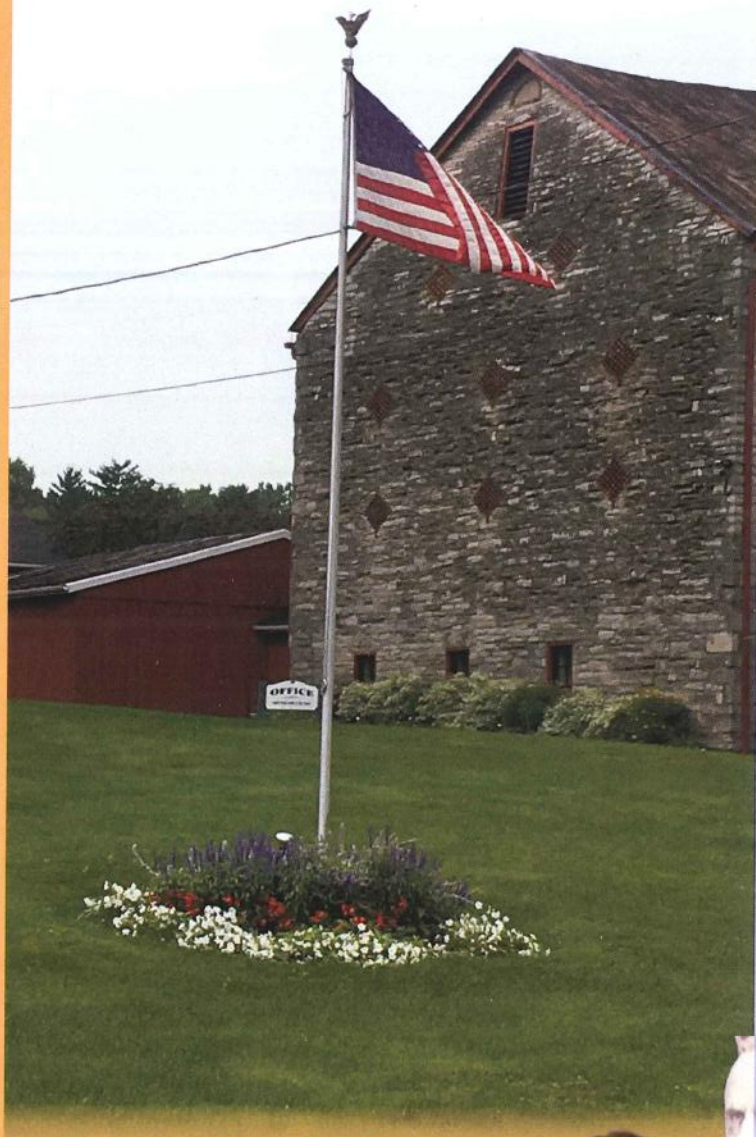
We continued to hold early Delaware programs with tours starting at the Sulphur Springs, continuing with the Nash House and the Cryder Scavenger Hunt. We also provided programs to scout troops, home schoolers, and the SACC summer school program for Delaware City. In all, we saw approximately 4,400 students which is an increase of over 1,200 students from the previous year. Part of this increase in student numbers can be attributed to the Arts Castle joint project, "All the Rage." Approximately 800 students attended that exhibit and our committee created the docent script and provided many hours giving presentations to those students.



**Looking ahead...** 2018 will be an exciting time for us as we further develop the Meeker Homestead Museum, make improvements to the Barn at Stratford and provide programs on a variety of topics including American Indians in Delaware County, the history of area railroads and medicine in the early 20th century.







## **Delaware County Historical Society:**

### **Cryder Historical Center and Research Library**

#### **Nash House Museum**

157 E. William Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

### **Meeker Homestead Museum**

#### **The Barn at Stratford**

*(Business office and mailing address)*

2690 Stratford Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

**740-369-3831**

**[www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org)  
[info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)**

## **From the Executive Director**

### **A Year of Milestones**

As I finish my second year as executive director of the Delaware County Historical Society, I reflect on the many milestones we accomplished this year.

Here are a few of the highlights:

- Opened the Meeker Museum and installed exhibits including a turn of the century dentist office, the C D & M railroad and American Indian history and artifacts
- Received nearly \$30,000 in grant funding from the county commissioners which was used for digitization and preservation
- Began our online and digital newsletter, the Courier
- Installed a gazebo on the property behind the Barn and obtained grant funding to install professional landscaping and concrete walkway
- Refinished the floor of the Barn
- Installed HVAC units in both the Barn and the front upstairs rooms of the Meeker House
- Received \$38,194 for our Capital Campaign in donations and pledges
- Installed a sign on the Meeker House noting it was on the National Historic Register
- Created a county-wide networking group for local historical societies and heritage foundations
- Created and adopted a comprehensive collections policy
- Presented twelve public programs, including reenactors for the first time
  - Improved our sustainability as we hosted 22 weddings and 17 other events in the Barn at Stratford
  - Celebrated our 70th anniversary

Our accomplishments this year could not have happened without our team of dedicated individuals who gave countless hours for the betterment of our Society. Though our volunteers work hard, they have a great deal of fun while doing so. At nearly every meeting they attend and every task they are given, joyful laughter is usually the rule of thumb. This comradery as well as a strong belief in our mission binds us all together as we work to preserve our history for future generations.

It has been a great privilege to serve under Board President, Brent Carson. He has been very generous of time and resources as he continues to educate our community about our amazing history. Thankfully Brent will continue on as our teacher and historian in his own unassuming way, as I could not imagine a Delaware County Historical Society without him beside us.

*Donna Meyer*

