

# Annual Report

October 2019 –  
September 2020



# from our President

## Historical Society Members:

It has certainly been an interesting year to serve as president of the board of this remarkable organization. Like most non-profit organizations, nearly every aspect of the Society's operations has been impacted by the pandemic. And yet, our remarkable staff and volunteers have adjusted, adapted, and improvised and we are positioned to come through this historic experience stronger than ever.

When our museum operations and barn events raised health issues, a safety committee immediately formed and over the course of just a few weeks drafted strict, but workable guidelines for the safe operation of our facilities. When heavy rains flooded not only downtown Delaware, but also the back barn of the Meeker property, volunteers sprang into action to save items stored there and to develop a plan to prevent future flooding.

When planned events and speakers looked like they might be a pandemic casualty, our Executive Director and committee chairs adapted and found ways to bring those presentations to you safely and remotely. And when it became apparent that the pandemic was, itself, a part of our history, our board and volunteers began a project to document that history in real time — preserving our experiences as memories to be shared with future generations.

Through this all, the fundamental work of the Society continues unabated. A Brown Jug oral history project became a focal point for the televised races this year. Grant applications continue to be submitted. Work is ongoing to improve and maintain our historic properties. Cataloguing of artifacts and historic photographs is constantly happening, and our library and electronic archives remain accessible for research. We continue to work to improve electronic access to our holdings, and to improve our social media presence.

None of this would be possible without our amazing staff, tireless volunteers, or you – our members – and your continued support of the Society. This is a difficult time for nonprofits across the country, but with your support, we look forward to a bright future for the Delaware County Historical Society.

Dave Hejmanowski, *President*

## Board of Trustees

Dave Hejmanowski, *President*  
Jack Hilborn, *Executive Vice President*  
Alice Frazier, *Development Vice President*  
Karen Cowan, *Vice President of Operations*  
Ralph Au, *Treasurer*  
Jan Fleischmann, *Secretary*

Brent Carson, *President Emeritus*  
Ceena Baker  
Michael Butler  
Sherry Carmichael  
Susan Garrett  
Mike Huber  
Roger Koch  
Mary Ann McGreevey

## Staff

Donna Meyer, *Executive Director*  
Melissa Stroupe, *Sales and Event Coordinator*

## 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.

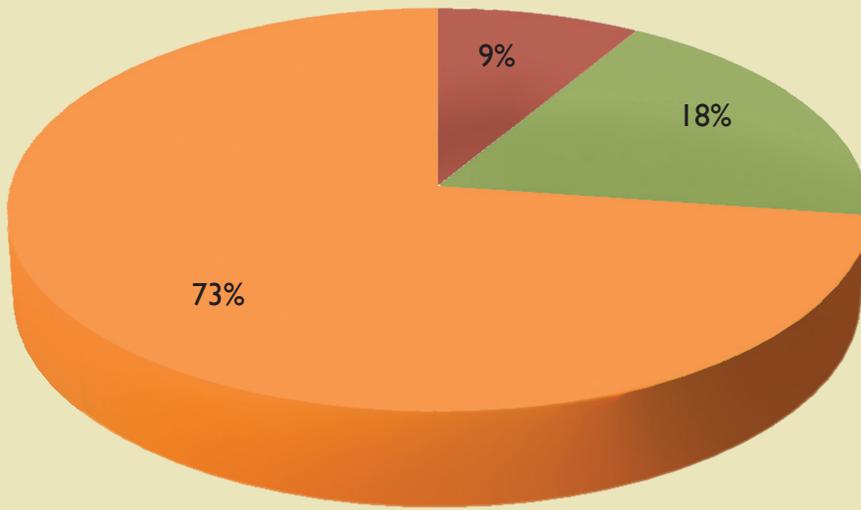
**Meeker Homestead Museum | The Barn at Stratford**  
2690 Stratford Road, Delaware, OH 43015

**Cryder Historical Center | Research Library  
Nash House Museum**  
157 East William Street, Delaware, OH 43015

**Millworker Cottage**  
2571 Stratford Road, Delaware, OH 43015

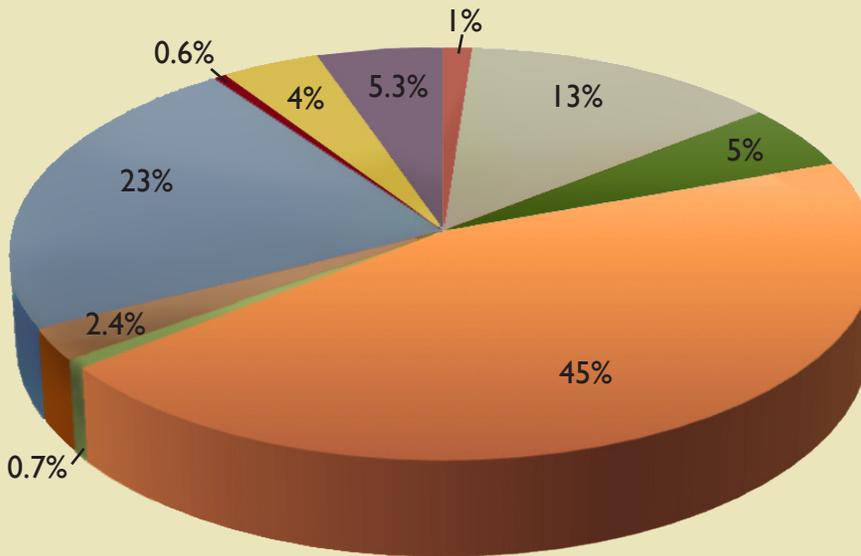
**DelawareOhioHistory.org | 740.369.3831**  
[info@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:info@delawareohiohistory.org)

# Financial Report Oct. 2019 – Sept. 2020



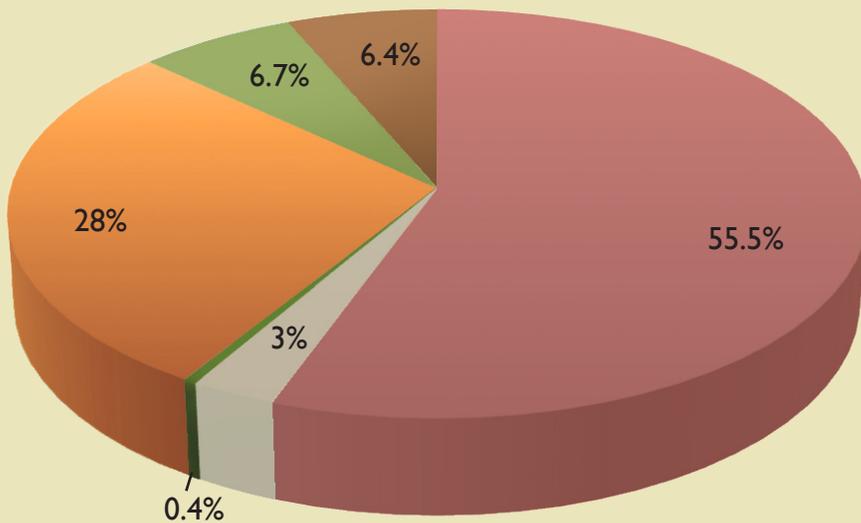
## Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 154,298	9%
Investments	\$ 337,273	18%
Fixed Assets/Property	\$ 1,308,751	73%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,800,322</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Income

Sponsorships	\$ 3,125	1%
Grants	\$ 34,000	13%
Memberships	\$ 13,269	5%
Venue and Barn Rental	\$ 116,191	45%
Museum/Library Research	\$ 1,932	0.7%
Programs/Exhibits	\$ 6,325	2.4%
Donations	\$ 58,717	23%
Item Sales	\$ 1,450	0.6%
Endowment Withdraw	\$ 10,393	4%
Interest and Dividends	\$ 13,722	5.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 259,124</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Expenses

Administrative	\$ 136,269	55.5%
Venue	\$ 7,010	3%
Programs/Exhibits/Education	\$ 1,108	0.4%
Property	\$ 68,810	28%
Utilities	\$ 16,427	6.7%
IT	\$ 15,696	6.4%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 245,320</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Community visibility

## We collect and preserve

In April 2010, volunteers began a project to scan & catalog the pictures which are owned by the Society. We have cataloged a total of 18,366 items, which include photos, documents, artifacts, family histories, and maps. Many are available online & can be accessed online at <https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com/>. We have also contributed numerous digital files to Ohio Memory, which can be accessed at <http://www.ohiomemory.org/>



## Our Volunteers

We have 71 active volunteers who contributed 10,087 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this service, according to IndependentSector.org, is nearly \$275,000!

## We generate interest in history

We had a display in the window of the Hair Studio in downtown Delaware, until the building was sold in August 2020. ■ We participated in Main Street First Fridays in downtown Delaware in the fall of 2019. ■ On Oct. 4, during First Friday celebrations, members and staff of the Delaware County Historical Society gathered in downtown Delaware, not only to celebrate the 197th birthday of Rutherford B. Hayes but to celebrate the unveiling of his statue, the culmination of years of work by the Hayes Comes Home committee. Many of our volunteers and board members helped with that endeavor. ■ We were also instrumental in the recognition of E.W.B. Curry, the first African American teacher in the city, which resulted in the installation of an honorary street sign in his name on London Road. ■ We provided panels of historic information and photos which were installed and are currently on display at the Delaware County Records Center on U.S. Route 23 north of Delaware.



## Our Members

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

**Life Members:** Alice Baker, Sharon Baxter, Steve and Genevieve Berry, John and Debra Blakeslee, Marianna Pollock Bowman, Richard and Linda Browning, Judy Brozek and Jeff Hamilton, John Buchan, Tim Calvin, Kosby and Kevin Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles and Kay Caudy, Robert & Darlene Caulkins, T. K. Cellar, Edmund and Diane Cox, Sandra Cryder, John and Yvonne Dewey, Beth Fisher, John and Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Bob and Holly Gerspacher, Max Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Cheryl Hagerty, Carrie Harris, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Juliet Heston Richey, Mark Hickman, Carrie Hickman, Jack and Mary Hilborn, Karen Hildebrand, Ralph and Diane Hodges, George Hoffman, Chris Hon, Louis Iverson, Karl Jentgen, Steve and Joy Kaser, William & Virginia Kavage, Mary Ellen Kelly, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, R. Blake Michael, Paul Monks, Rick Munday, John and Carol O'Brien, Arlene Palenshus, David Parker, David and Mary Ann Pemberton, Sr., Dwayne Petko, David and Regie Powell, Kristina Prengaman, Tom Price, Susan and Larry Ratcliffe, Barbara Reed, Bill and Kay Rietz, Bob and Nancy Rietz, John L. and Diana P. Roach, John Robinson, David and Leslie Shade, James Steven Shaw, Henry and Sharon Shaw, Vickie R. Sheets, Betty Sheets, Dennis and Linda Sheets, Sharlene Shoaf, Lloyd (Buck) Shoaf, Carolyn and Gary Skinner, Sally Smith, Jim Smith, Marjorie Snook, Norman Snook, C. Clay Snyder, Vladimir and Margaret Steffel, Christine Stelloh-Garner, Tamara Tangen, John Tetz, Barbara Hall Thatcher-Williams, John Tombarge, Ezra Vogel, Jeff and Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Steve Wells, Dorinda Wills, Thomas Workman, John Yelavich.

## Business/Organization Members:

Buns Restaurant • Delaware County District Library • Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan • Frame Artistry • Greif Inc. • Hardware Exchange • Hilborn Insurance • David Kerr Architect, LLC • Mail Pro I LLC • Manos, Martin & Pergram Co., LPA • Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc. • Triad Architects • Willow Brook Christian Communities.

# Thank you to our grantors, donors and sponsors

Thanks to our benefactors we have raised nearly \$92,000 in donations and sponsorships in the past 12 months. These gifts provide vital support of our programs and operations as we serve the public in many ways, including providing education programs tied in with the curriculum requirements of our schools, public programs which we presented virtually, exhibits at our museums, and more.

Donations were significantly reduced this year, but thanks to several grants we received, we were able to reopen our museums and provide remote learning programs to school children and teachers. We depend on members and donors for our funding as we continue our mission of education and preservation of our treasured past. We welcome conversations about Legacy Giving for those who want to ensure their memory lives on in a most meaningful way. For more information about how you can share our passion and be a part of our mission, go to our website: <https://delawareohiohistory.org/financial-donation/> or call Donna Meyer, 740-369-3831 x3.

## Grantors, Donors and Sponsors

We are so very grateful to our grantors, donors and sponsors who make it possible for us to create and present programs, improve our facilities, provide funding for safety equipment, and preserve our history for generations to come. These include:

Barbara Adams, Amazon Smile Foundation, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, Richard Arndt, Frances D. and Gregory G. G. Arnett, Ralph Au, Joel and Emily Baer, Ceena Baker, Virginia Barber, Lawrence and Elizabeth Barrett, Margo Bartlett, Susan Bauer, David Baxter, Nancy Baxter, Patricia and Richard Belch, Jeff and Barb Benton, Steve and Genevieve Berry, Josephine G. Bichsel, John and Susan Boylan Family Fund through the Columbus Foundation, Richard Bradley, Francine Butler, Michael Butler, Sherry and Stan Carmichael, Cecil Douglas Carpenter, Thomas (Jack) and Marjorie Carpenter, Brent Carson, Mary Ann Castagna, Robert & Darlene Caulkins, T.K. Cellar, Sherry Chambers, Alice Chapan, the Columbus Foundation, Ryan and Anna Conklin, Tim and Lynn Cook, Curt Cooper, Joan Cornell, Becky Cornett, David and Kay Cotter, Christopher Davenport, Ann Davis, Designwork LLC, Judy and Ray Domire, Joe and Nancy Dwenger, Carolyn Eberts, Amy and David Efland in Memory of Arthur Efland, Ed and Wanda Evans, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Richard Fisher, Jan Fleischmann, John and Lynn Foreman, Donald Foster, Jan Miller Foy, Steve Frazier, Judith Freed, Larry and Susan Garrett, Bob and Holly Gerspacher, Katherine and Norman Gharrity, Robert Gitter, Melissa Long Goers, Annette & Aronne Goldkette, David Gormley, Christopher Gorz, Diann Graham, Greif Inc., Geoff Gruendl, Alan and Joan Hackel, Ann and William Hanning, Jr., Danielle Harden, Ellen and Mark Hardyman, Teresa Heald, David Hejmanowski, Nora Hiland, Jack Hilborn, Hilborn Insurance, Hiram Masonic Lodge #18 F & A.M., George Hoffman, Tom and Mary Homan, Stephanie Jebode, James R. Johnston, Robert E. Jones,

Matt Kear, Jim Keefer, Carole Kern, David Kerr, Kiwanis Club of Delaware, Inc., David Klein, Don Kleinhenz, John Kneisly, Roger Koch, Kroger, Ginger and Jerry Kucan, Janell Kuck, Joan Lawrence, Delaware County League of Women Voters, Richard Leavy, Laurie Lendon, Edward Lentz, Paul Lincoln, Susan Logan, Ross Long, Chris Macisco, Mail Pro I LLC, Joan and Fred Manter, Manos Martin & Pergram Co. LPA, Barbara Martin, Philip R. and Jeanette P. Matheny, John McDavid, Dave and Kathleen Miller, Marilou Mitchell, Ray Myers, George Needham, Shirley Newell, Alan and Carol Norris, Janet and Bill Oberfield, Carol O'Brien, Jeffrey and Geryl O'Brien, the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio History Connection – History Fund, Ohio Humanities through the National Endowment for the Humanities, Ohio Local History Alliance, Sue Packard, Arlene Palenshus, Mark and Maria Pizzi, Kristina Prengaman, Edmund & Diane Radlowski, Ellen H. Richardson, Bill and Kay Rietz, John L. and Diana P. Roach through the Columbus Foundation, John Rodeheffer, Sheldon and Carolyn Ross, Peter and Jeannine Ruffing, Ruchir Saha, Diana and Richard Sanfillipo, Adrienne Selsor, David and Leslie Shade, Michael and Margaret Shade, James Steven Shaw, The Charles and Betty Sheets Family Fund through the Delaware County Foundation, Dennis and Linda Sheets, Carolyn and Gary Skinner, Richard and Betty Smith, Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Co., Snyder Funeral Homes, Inc., C. Clay Snyder, David Staats, Margaret Steffel, Betty Stimmel, Melissa Stroupe, Robert Tannehill, William Thompson, Noelle Van Pulis, Marian and Larry Vance, Gary Wallen, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Jennifer B. and James R. Whetstone, Carole Wilhelm, Willow Brook Christian Communities, Donald and Kathleen Wolf, Jay and Susan Wolf, J. Michael Yohe, Dee and Ronald Zarzycki.

*Please note these donations are from Oct 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2020*



# Programs and Events *throughout the year*

In October 2019, we organized a sold-out *TOUR OF THE HISTORIC JAIL IN DELAWARE* with more than 160 people participating to view this iconic building. We also held the 3rd annual successful *OAK GROVE CEMETERY WALK* featuring eight notable Delawareans who have been buried there. Our *HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE* was held in December 2019 and featured a festively decorated Nash House Museum on East William Street.

We held several in-person programs during the first quarter of 2020 including a program on *COVERED BRIDGES* in January. Our February program was on *HIDDEN COMMUNITIES – AFRICAN AMERICANS IN RURAL OHIO*.

Beginning in March, we cancelled all live programs, and opted for virtual events which were held on Zoom and Facebook live. These included a presentation on *ARCHEOLOGY IN THE OLENTANGY RIVER VALLEY/STRATFORD AREA*, presented by Dr. Jarrod Burks, Director of Archaeological Geophysics, Ohio Valley Archaeology Inc., and a program on *ROUTE 36: OHIO TO COLORADO - AMERICA'S HEARTLAND HIGHWAY*,



Ward, Early Delaware County Settlers and American Indians, a program on the Opera Houses in the City of Delaware, and Ghost Stories/Towns of Delaware County.

We are grateful to our program and exhibit sponsors for the resources needed to present these learning opportunities to the public:



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

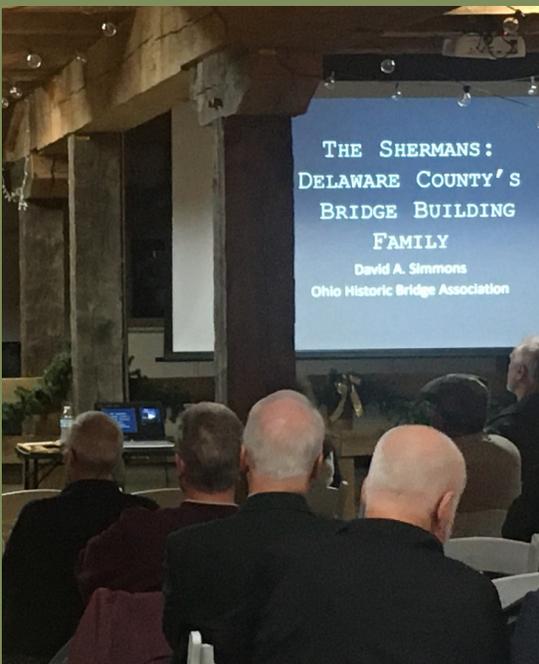


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presented by Author Allan McAllister Ferguson. We also held a virtual program in August titled "*REMEMBER THE LADIES – 1850's WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION IN SALEM OHIO*", presented by Cathy Nelson, member of the Ohio Humanities Council Speakers Bureau in partnership with the Delaware County League of Women Voters.

Our programs for 2021 will probably be held as virtual events and walking tours. They include topics such as Rutherford B. Hayes and the Compromise of 1877, Stories of the Community's Second



# We Educate *children as well as adults*

As expressed in our mission statement, education about local history takes a priority. Though our in-person programs



at two vendor fairs, at Stratford Ecological Heritage Days, the Diversity Fair, and SourcePoint's Grandparent's Day event.

All in-person school visits scheduled for the remainder of the year were cancelled due to the pandemic. We had planned a week dedicated to Pioneer Days for elementary school students in May, which was cancelled. Our school Artifact Cart presentations were also cancelled. We also were not able to complete the Black History pilot program at Woodward School which would have launched the first Walking Tour of the Woodward School neighborhood.

and events ended after mid-March, our Curriculum Support Committee created a host of online learning opportunities for students, including topics like what can be found on a bicycle scavenger hunt, 19th and 20th century games, writing a family journal and much more. These gave students an opportunity to learn about our history and teachers and parents, an opportunity to guide learning experiences.

From September 1, 2019 to March 15, 2020, our Curriculum Support Committee provided a total of 19 student programs, viewed by 2,505 students, as well as 136 teachers and chaperones. One parent exclaimed, "This is the best field trip my kids have ever been on!" We also created two programs for adults on the Underground Railroad with 183 people in the audience. The Committee also had a display table



Currently, the focus of the Curriculum Committee is still about getting information on local Delaware History to schools and classrooms and we have been working on virtual activities. Our award-winning Tote Bag program has undergone an updating process with new folders on African American History and the Little Brown Jug Race. All Delaware County 3rd grade teachers, librarians, principals, curriculum directors are invited to pick these up to use throughout the year.

This past summer, our Virtual Activities Committee created a Virtual Summer Camp to which we have added more activities and renamed "School-Age Activities and Resources." Our Artifact Cart committee developed three grade level (Grades 1, 2, 3) videos that are excellent. A flyer was created to send to each school in the county. These activities can be found at: <https://www.delawareohiovirtualhistory.com/>. So as you can see, we continue to create innovative programs for our community, regardless of our ability to do so in-person.





## From the *Executive Director*

### **What a challenging time for us all!**

As you read this report, I hope you will be amazed at all the work our organization has done, despite the pandemic and all the challenges

we faced. I continue to marvel at all the work our committees have done over the last 12 months and the creativity they have shown as we remain dedicated to education and preservation of our heritage.

As I complete my fifth year as the director, I continue to be so very proud to lead the progress of our organization (sometimes I find the best way to "lead" is to get out of the way). I am inspired each day by our volunteer engagement and the support of our community.

I reflect on the difficult decisions we made this year including the cancellation of several of our planned events including our first ever Murder Mystery Dinner. We cancelled or postponed live programs that were scheduled during the remainder of the year and opted for virtual presentations. We also saw the cancellation of weddings and parties, threatening our self-sustainability, however the wellbeing of our volunteers, members and supporters is of the utmost importance to us.

We formed a safety committee to design the best and most efficient practices in sanitation, distancing, crowd size, and protective equipment, following all state standards and working closely with the Delaware General Health District to ensure the protection of all visitors to our facilities.

I applied for several grants including one to be included in the State of Ohio's Capital Budget for funding to replace the barn roof, and to the county for climate control equipment in the Meeker House. Both were put on hold by the sponsoring entities. The good news is that we received a PPP Loan, a grant from Ohio Humanities from the CARES Act, and a grant from the Ohio History Connection which enabled us to cover some operating expenses and purchase safety equipment.

Over the last year, our volunteers led by Dr. Richard Leavy, have been working on an Oral History Project to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the running of the Little Brown Jug Harness Race. Hundreds of hours were spent interviewing people associated with the race and compiling a series of videos. We had planned to unveil this project at the Delaware County Fair this year, but, due to the pandemic, that was not to be, however the videos can be accessed by the public on our website.

Our Meeker Homestead Museum reopened in July by appointment, following sanitation, facial covering, and social distancing safe practices. Sixteen trained volunteer docents gave tours to a total of 349 visitors from October 2019 to September 2020. The new exhibit, titled "Connecting Threads" showcases the county's textile history, from home-crafted clothing to other homespun items early settlers would have made and used. The exhibit features a rare collection of 8 Jacquard Loom coverlets woven in Delaware County between 1841 and 1854, and Delaware County hand-made quilts dating to the 1800s. The main feature is a pre-Civil War loom, which will be demonstrated. The

"Connecting Threads" exhibit will remain open and is sponsored by Hilborn Insurance.

This year, for the third year in a row, we received the #1 spot in the *Delaware Gazette's* Reader's Choice Awards in the wedding venue, meeting venue and banquet facility categories.

I am pleased to tell you that this year, we hosted 23 weddings, including 2 micro weddings and 3 "just-us" vow ceremonies. We also hosted 12 special events including a fundraising banquet, a vendor market, graduation parties and even a birthday party with a mechanical bull! All events which were held after mid March followed strict safety guidance put forth by the State of Ohio Health Department.

**What to expect next year.** While the uncertainty of the pandemic remains, we will continue to have our programs broadcast as virtual events. 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, we plan to keep the current "Connecting Threads" exhibit up. 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.

I am 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. For more information, check out our website.

An anonymous donor has provided funds to create a special garden area on the north side of the Meeker House, which will be dedicated to Carolyn Porter, who lovingly tended the gardens around the Meeker property for many years. This should be completed by the end of 2020. We will be looking for additional donations to provide benches in the garden seating area.

We continue to believe in strong community relationships, network creation and developing ever-changing skill-based volunteer projects and opportunities. And despite the trials we have faced this year, we have conquered the challenge and are a stronger and more adaptable organization as we continue to preserve our precious history. Stay safe, dear friends. And please let us know what you would like to see in our museums and as topics for our programs. We are YOUR historical society, after all!

**Donna Meyer**