



## Delaware County Historian

VOLUME 66 ISSUE 1  
Spring 2021

# Radnor Township - An Ohio Community Committed to its Heritage Then and Now

By Becky S. Cornett

The story of Radnor, Ohio is quintessentially American: people from other countries, weary of difficult economic and political conditions, sought their own land and religious freedom in America. They made long journeys and often encountered harsh conditions in order to settle and make a living for their families. Groups of individuals of the same ancestry, ethnicity and culture came together (or in quick succession) from the Old Country (in this case, Wales) so that they could continue their affinity and hopefully prosper together. They became patriotic Americans, but also retained a love of their heritage. However, unlike many communities over the decades whose interest in heritage waned, Radnor's commitment to its Welsh roots burns strongly to this day. According to City Data, a few hundred residents live in the unincorporated village of Radnor; about 50% of Welsh heritage (Joe Preston, historian for the Radnor Heritage Society, is conducting genealogical research and is finding that many more than half are Welsh).

A number of Radnor families trace their ancestry to the first settlers. The almost 2,000 residents of Radnor Township represent German, English, Irish, and a few other ancestries in addition to Welsh.

Around 1805, Pugh named the town that formed, New Baltimore. From then, until 1833 the town was called Delhi until the Columbus and Toledo Railroad line pointed out that there was already a Delhi, Ohio on the line. Since then, the unincorporated village of Radnor and Radnor Township are named for Pugh's home of Radnorshire, Wales.

### The Founding of Radnor

Radnor's founding began in Pennsylvania (which was the original Welsh settlement, negotiated by Welsh Quakers with William Penn in 1684). David Pugh emigrated from Radnorshire, Wales to Baltimore, and then traveled to Philadelphia where Pugh was hired by

(Continued on page 4)



Radnor Elevator located on Radnor Road near the railroad tracks. Also shown here is a C, D & M Interurban Car, whose tracks ran parallel to the railroad tracks. (Photo from DCHS Collection)



The same building, though altered, as it stands today. The foundation of the C, D & M Station is next to it on the left. (Photo by Donna Meyer)

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## Meet Our Newest Board Member

**Amanda Sheterom**, our newest board member, was appointed to the DCHS's Board of Trustees at our March 2021 board meeting. She is currently the Human Resources Manager at the Delaware County District Library, and prior to that, she worked at Orange Township for 6 years and the Delaware County Probate & Juvenile Court for 8 years. Amanda grew up in Delaware County, participating in 4-H, showing horses and other animals at the Delaware County Fair. She is a graduate of Big Walnut High School and The Ohio State University. Amanda lives in Sunbury with her husband Matt, their son Ethan and their dogs, cats, chickens and horse. She brings a wealth of experience in Human Resources as well as a in-depth knowledge of our county.

## DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

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

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

*Donna Meyer, Executive Director*

*Melissa Stroupe, Sales and Event Manager*

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The Delaware County Historian is published biannually by the Delaware County Historical Society, Inc.  
 2690 Stratford Road  
 Delaware, OH 43015  
 740-369-3831

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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.



## Ch-Ch-Ch Changes - The Best is Yet to Be

Spring is about change. And we have all experienced many forms of change over the past year. Here at the Delaware County Historical Society, we have learned to adjust and adapt as our needs and the expectations from the community have shifted. 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.

Due to the pandemic, our vocabulary has changed over the past year and many new words were added, such as “Zoom”, “social distancing”, “PPE”, and “Work from Home” (or “WFH”). Also, we added phrases like “you’re muted”, and my favorite “soft pants” (which are forgiving of the pounds added over the past year) and are loose-fitting knit garments, worn with regularity beginning in March 2020. I can tell my regular (hard) pants have missed me because when I put them on, they hug me so tightly.

In order to help teachers and students learn online, our ever hardworking, idea-driven 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.

We were able to modify our in-person programs, creating virtual presentations, often with more people viewing them from home than would have been in attendance during a live program. In January, we held a virtual panel discussion on the Compromise of 1877 - it was an important conversation. In February, our program was on the History of the Lucy Depp Historic Settlement and in March, our program was on early Delaware County Settlers and American Indians. In April we had a well-attended program on the history of the Columbus Zoo.

In August, our program is titled “That’s Entertainment: Opera Houses in the City of Delaware”. In September, our Delaware County Fair booth will feature an Oral History project on the Little Brown Jug Harness Race. October will feature two programs—the first will be on “Young and Old Rutherford B. Hayes Walking Tour” and the second will be on “Ghost Towns



Director’s  
Column  
by  
Donna Meyer



and Stories in Delaware County’. We will not be doing the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk but will plan for that in the future.

Our museums reopened in July on an appointment

basis. Last year, we created “Adopt a Memory” program which allows our supporters the opportunity to contribute funds that will assist with the preservation and curation of historical objects and irreplaceable artifacts.

Last year, we hosted a number of weddings and special events, following strict safety guidelines put forth by the State of Ohio Health Department.

A donor has provided funds to create a special garden area on the north side of the Meeker House, dedicated to Tom and Carolyn Porter, who lovingly cared for the property and, in 2010, donated it to us.

And the biggest change we will see this year is the development of plans for the Historic Sheriff’s Residence and Jail. A benefactor has stepped forward to create an LLC to purchase the building and is selling it to us on a land contract.

We are so appreciative of our County Commissioners who continue their legacy of support for our organization and understand how important it is to preserve such an iconic structure which is such an integral part of our history. We look for support from our community which includes donations, ideas, and encouragement. Stay tuned to learn of all the exciting plans we have for this beautiful building! (See more details in this newsletter.)

I am so very fortunate to have a hardworking 15 member board as well as numerous key volunteers who never hesitate to roll up their sleeves and take on new projects.

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 conquered the challenges and are a tougher and more adaptable organization, fearlessly facing changes 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*



(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Samuel Jones, an ordained Baptist minister (born in Cardiff, Wales) to scout the area that became Radnor Township for settlement. He subsequently purchased the land in 1803 from Jones. According to one source Pugh “left the door of Dr. Samuel Jones, with a deed in his pocket which made him the owner of four thousand acres in the wild lands in the territory North of the Ohio River.” Certain acres were set aside for residents stipulated by Dr. Jones, including 50 acres for a Baptist or Presbyterian minister (the Baptist church was the first formed in Radnor in 1816, in a log schoolhouse on the William Lawrence farm).

The first settlers were Henry Perry and sons Levi (13) and Ebenezer (15). Levi and Ebenezer were the subjects of a legend that tells of their father building a 3 sided lean-to and leaving them to travel back to Maryland to get the rest of his family. His return was delayed, and the boys survived the winter by hunting for game and by the generosity of the Indians living nearby. Perry’s wife and younger children were brought from Baltimore to join the family (they traveled on foot and used an ox cart to carry household goods). Henry Perry is the 6th great grandfather of former president Barack Obama. David Pugh visited the settlement in Fall 1804, laying out 100 acre lots for sale. New residents were added and by 1808 a community was formed. David Pugh recruited other family members to move to what became Radnor. Familiar family names such as Pugh, Gallant, Penry among others that are descendants of the first group live in the area today.



Located on the NE corner of State Route 203 and Radnor Road, the Evan I. Jones Store sits across the road from the Watkins House. John Watkins, Civil War vet, is seen in front of a cedar tree, James R. Jones leaning on west porch post, and Evan I. Jones talking to a woman on the porch. (Photo from DCHS Collection)



The same intersection as it looks today. The Evan Jones store was located where the flagpole now stands near the Radnor Cemetery. (Photo by Donna Meyer)

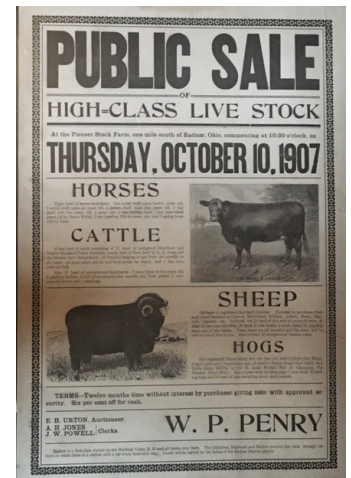
Around 1805, Pugh named the town that formed, New Baltimore. From then, until 1833 the town was called Delhi until the Columbus and Toledo Railroad line pointed out that there was already a Delhi, Ohio on the line. Since then, the unincorporated village of Radnor and Radnor Township are named for Pugh’s home of Radnorshire, Wales.

### Importance of Education and Music -

The Welsh settlers’ devotion to education and free thought was evident from the beginning. A number of early one room schools evolved into strong community schools (township students attend Buckeye Valley Schools today). One large room at the Radnor Heritage Society Museum is filled with school memorabilia. The walls are lined with Radnor High School class portraits. Standing in the upstairs of the museum (the old town hall) at the corner of US Route 203 and Radnor Road, it’s easy to imagine the many lectures and musical performances that were presented there. Program series included the Merrick

Lecture Series organized by Professor Frederick Merrick, president of Ohio Wesleyan University (1860-1873). The Merrick Lecture continues today at OWU. There was also a Radnor Lecture Course (ca 1892) that included well-known musical entertainment such as the Swiss Bell Ringers, Welsh Singers, and musicians from Chicago. In 1901-1902, the Mutual Lyceum Bureau of LaPorte Indiana provided lectures and entertainment.

**Livelihoods** — The Radnor Handbook and Advertiser of 1901-1902 offers important insight into everyday life of Radnor residents of the time. Farming was predominant (then and now). The circular tells us that “Radnor today is one of the prettiest and brightest little villages a traveler may find” and the farmers and business owners considered the township as one of the best agricultural districts in the state. Hay, grain, livestock, lumber and tile were shipped extensively from Radnor. The first (and second) Hampshire Hog sales took place in Radnor. The “B” type of Standard Delaine Merino sheep was developed principally in Ohio by brothers WP and Guy Penry of the Penry’s Pioneer Stock Farms of Radnor.



## Read all about it...



We are so excited to take on our next adventure! Our Board and Staff are pleased to announce that we are in the process of taking ownership of the old Historic Sheriff's Residence and Jail. Centrally located in the historic Downtown District, on Central Avenue, the brick structure is over 8500 sq. ft. and was officially retired when the new jail was built on Route 42 in 1988. It was constructed in 1878 by David Gibbs of Toledo, a master architect who built public buildings throughout the Midwest, chiefly Ohio. It contains 16 cells for men and 2 for women. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1990 and is the third jail built on the site. A benefactor has stepped forward to create an LLC to purchase the building and will be selling it to the Historical Society on a land contract basis.

Planned uses include exhibits on the history of our county, including one on prison reform championed by

our own Rutherford B. Hayes, tours for students, city walking tours with stops at the old Jail, general admission during certain hours, special events such as one around Halloween, and community meetings. We will be holding fundraising activities and seeking donations and gifts to assist in the maintenance and planned renovation of the Jail.

**History** - Built in 1878 by David Gibbs of Toledo, the building housed the Sheriff and his family as well as 16 men's cells and 2 women's cells. It is the fourth county jail building. The first prison, a log structure measuring twelve by twenty-four feet, stood overlooking the Delaware Run. It cost \$128.75 to build. In 1814, a larger and sturdier stone prison was finished. It was in turn replaced after a decade by a red, wooden barnlike building, which was replaced by this structure. There has been a total of 40 county Sheriffs. The first was elected in 1808.

**Future plans** - We plan on conducting tours, and hosting community events, attracting residents and tourists. We will be creating exhibits on the history of our county, including one on prison reform championed by our own Rutherford B Hayes. We will invite elementary and home-schooled students to tour the building and plan on holding city walking tours with stops at the Old Jail. These plans will ensure that we create an ongoing synergy with other downtown community events and activities to make the area viable as a tourist attraction.

Our other two campuses, in Stratford and on East William Street, will continue to be used as museums, venue space, and research library. We will also continue to receive, research, catalog, and store collections at the East William Street location.



### Jail House Rock!

This year's fundraiser, formerly known as the Banquet in the Barn, will be called "Jail House Rock", to celebrate our acquisition of the Historic Sheriff's Residence and Jail. It will be held (hopefully as a live event) on Friday, October 8th and will include tours of the jail followed by events at The Barn at Stratford including a live auction, historic storytelling, music, and great food. Mark your calendars! More details in the Fall 2021 newsletter.



# Sunray Stove Company - 90 Years of Manufacturing

**By Steve Schmitt**

Beginning in the early 20th century, Delaware was home to one of the leading gas and electric stove manufacturers in the country. It started with a modest manufacturing capability and grew into a company with a large manufacturing presence. Products and manufacturing innovations kept up with changing cooking and baking needs as home kitchen needs changed across the 20th century.

The Sunray Stove Co. was incorporated in 1907 in Delaware, Ohio, with an initial capitalization of \$15,000, to manufacture gas ranges and heaters. The company was incorporated by five Delaware men: Samuel S. Blair (President), Benson W. Hough (Vice-President), Merrill C. Russell (Secretary/Treasurer), Oliver D. Hunt (General Manager) and Oscar C. Knoske. Over the years manufacturing plants changed as the needs for a growing production and shipping operations evolved. Early operations were located at 27 N. Union Street in a building had previously been occupied by the Delaware Milk Co. and later by the State Liquor Store. Sunray continued operations for 90 years and became a major employer in Delaware.

In 1916 Sunray Stove Co. purchased the Clark and Battenfield Mill at S. Sandusky and Railroad Street, demolished it, and began construction of a new factory. The location was south of the Big 4 railroad tracks and across from the V.T. Hill hardware building (now the Hardware Exchange). The Delaware Farmers Exchange flour mill was located between Sunray and the railroad. There was a railroad siding on the north side of the building and there were two additions to the factory in 1918 and 1920. Sunray was then producing an extensive line of ranges and heaters: a 1918 price list shows 46 range models costing from \$10 to \$40.50 and 33 heater models costing from \$2.60 to \$20. Sunray remained at this location, 155 S. Sandusky Street (now Delaware Shopping Center).

Ownership of Sunray changed several times over the years. In 1934, C.F. and Earnest Goodwin purchased the company. In 1992, employee Art Schwartz recalled for a *Delaware Gazette*



*South Sandusky Street location. This building was demolished. (Photo from DCHS Collection)*

article that during WW II the owners chose not to re-vamp the plant for war production contracts. The plant closed temporarily.

The booming post-war economy created the climate for rapid business growth. New ownership moved metal stamping operations into the former Columbus, Delaware, and Marion interurban car barn at 54 E. Harrison Ave. (now Worly Plumbing). 1952 was a watershed year for growth.

Sunray purchased the stove manufacturing assets of Grand Industries of Cleveland and moved production to Delaware. Sunray also became the primary supplier of ranges to Glenwood Range, an old New England firm that had ceased producing their own ranges in 1949. The newly-styled 1952 Sunray product line consisted of 10 models: three 20-inch, two 30-inch, and five 36-inch models. Prices ranged from \$89.95 to \$189.95. In 1954 a fire at the Big 4 Railway round-house on Lake St. destroyed a new porcelain enamel line that Sunray had in storage there. Presumably the new equipment was for a new plant that was planned.

In 1957 Sunray moved into a new 98,000 square foot factory located at 435 Park Ave. with a rail siding connected to the New York Central Springfield division. Key owners/managers at the time were George Mumma, President; Forest McClintock, Vice-President; Glen Butcher, Secretary/Treasurer; George McArthur, Plant Manager; George Wolfe, Sales Manager. The new plant added porcelain enamel capability for the first time at Sunray. In a 1957 *Delaware Gazette* article, Mumma stated that several jobs in the new enamel department could be "performed by



*Sunray 1949 Stove in the DCHS Nash House Museum kitchen (Photo by Steve Shaw)*

(Continued from previous page )



*Glenwood-Sunray's 98,000 square foot factory, built in 1957, located on Park Avenue in Delaware. (Photo from DCHS Collection)*

women". This was the first time women held non-office jobs at Sunray. Several expansions were made including a final large addition to the back of the plant for storage and more truck docks.

In 1978, Raytheon acquired the Glenwood Range Company and operated it as a division of its Caloric Corporation. Modern Maid was the flagship, Caloric was the mid-range division and Glenwood-Sunray was the low-cost division. Raytheon's appliance division also included and Glenwood-Sunray was the low-cost division. Raytheon's appliance division also included Amana and Speed Queen. In 1986, Caloric announced plans build a new \$40 million assembly plant in Florence, South Carolina. Wages in the new plant were about half those of the unionized Caloric plant in Pennsylvania.



*From Sunray 1918 catalog. (Photo from DCHS Collection)*

which allowed users to control burners from up to 50 feet away. A SAFE-TEE-KEE feature allowed owners to use a key to shut off gas and electricity to prevent children turning the range on. The Catchal-Ator was a feature that placed a roll of aluminum foil in the oven to catch droppings. Electric ranges were added to the product line in ranges were added to in the early 1960's as the technology improved.

Over the years, Glenwood/Sunray Stove Co. was an innovative company. Employee Art Schwartz recalled that Sunray implemented the first assembly line for appliances around 1933. In 1958 Sunray introduced the "Touch of Tomorrow" remote control gas range at the Furniture Market in Chicago

In 1963 Sunray offered the Riviera Eye-Level Range with two ovens in gas or electric models. In 1969 Sunray introduced a self-cleaning oven – Sunray was a leader in developing pyrolytic self-cleaning ovens. Sunray also offered the "burner with a brain", a component produced by Robertshaw that enabled the user set a desired cooking temperature of a pot. These types of innovations helped Glenwood/Sunray compete with larger appliance firms.

In the 1990s, competitive pressures increased. Major appliance manufacturers such as Electrolux, Whirlpool and General Electric that were expanding their market share through acquisitions. In 1996, Raytheon announced the Delaware plant would close, stating it was unable to compete with Whirlpool and General Electric for low-cost ranges. A Delaware Appliance Buyout was formed to attempt to put together a funding package to purchase the plant. Despite support from the State of Ohio, the City of Delaware, Delaware County, the Teamsters Local 284, and local investors, the nearly \$10 million offer was not accepted. The Park Ave. plant was sold and is currently used for storage and shipping.



*Glenwood Parlor Stove in the DCHS Nash House Museum. (Photo by Steve Shaw)*

The Delaware County Historical Society has a number of items related to Sunray Stove. The Nash House has a Sunray range in the kitchen of 1960 vintage and an older gas room heater. The Cryder Research Library has many documents and photographs, including catalogs, price lists, a 1967 open house program, and a scrap book of newspaper and trade magazine clippings.

*Editor Note—Steve Schmitt has been cataloging DCHS documents and other items concerning Sunray Stove Co. He worked in the Sunray enamel department before leaving to complete his engineering degree. Steve's father, John C. Schmitt, joined Sunray as an industrial engineer in 1964 and stayed with company for over 32 years with increasing responsibilities.*

The following have made financial donations to the Delaware County Historical Society between 10/1/20 and 3/31/21. Their gifts help us create programs and exhibits, preserve our historic buildings, and pass along our rich heritage to future generations. **Learn 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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Margo Bartlett and  
Gerald Glenn  
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# Life in Delaware During the 1918 Flu Epidemic



*Photo of mask-wearing family during the 1918 Flu epidemic.*

**By Steve Shaw**

See if this sounds familiar: A raging disease can make a family member very sick and very contagious in just a short period of time, often leading to death. A century ago, the world, nation and Delaware County were faced with a major flu epidemic. In the midst of World War I, that epidemic would end up taking more lives worldwide than the World War being fought. The Delaware Journal Herald's front-page headlines for October 5, 1918 were all about the war. A little noted page three story stated simply "Local Board of Health Takes Action".

Among institutions singled out for regulation included saloons, taverns, churches, lodges and public and private gatherings. Every corner of the county all the



way out to the rural schools were to be affected. Here are some stories how Delaware institutions adapted.

The Delaware County Red Cross project of making bandages and compresses for the war effort was halted. They switched to supplying compresses, medical bandages and flu jackets to fill a shortage due to increased local health care needs.

Sports were central to the community then as now. It must have been a frustrating fall for coach Harry Ewing. Coach Ewing was newly arrived from Nebraska. He was the head football coach for both Delaware High School football team and the Ohio Wesleyan University football team. The football season was not going to be what he thought when his teams ended summer practices. The Delaware High School football team ended the season with a 2 and 1 record. The flu cancelled most games for the safety of the players and their fans. Ohio Wesleyan's team had a shortage of players due to the number of players available being low due to the War effort. The flu epidemic added to that problem. They would eventually end with a 3 and 2 record with three cancelled games due to the disease. The Wesleyan yearbook said their lopsided loss to rival Ohio State University could be attributed to key players missing, due to illness.



*Jane M. Case Hospital, on the corner of W. Winter and Franklin Streets - now Andrews House. (Photo from DCHS Collection)*

Jane M. Case Hospital capacity to take on new patients was strained. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house on North Washington Street was

to become the overflow ward for flu patients because of a lack of hospital beds. The Sanitary Army Training Corps, connected to Ohio Wesleyan, was in training to provide medical combat assistance for the war in Europe. They stepped up to provide extra medical personnel.

Ohio's basic training camp for World War I recruits was Camp Sherman in Chillicothe, Ohio. Many Delaware draftees would go there for their training. The close proximity of military life was tough on the recruits. On October 1, 1918, 2 soldiers reported to sick bay with a 104 degree fever, by October 14th, 842 soldiers had died from the flu. One particularly tragic story underlined the human cost of the disease. Hosea Jones of Galena was a recruit training at Camp Sherman. His mother, Ella Jones, went to Camp Sherman to visit her dying son. Hosea Jones died from complications from the flu in October 1918. His mother Ella died at home from the same disease shortly after returning home from Camp Sherman. Thomas B. Jones was to lose his wife and soldier son in the same week. The family is buried in Sunbury Memorial Park. The flu epidemic took its toll at a worldwide level and a local level.



*Red Cross Volunteers (Photo from DCHS Collection)*

# The Three Sisters: A Poem

There once were three sisters named Squash, Corn and Bean  
No lovelier ladies had ever been seen  
They all worked together, supportive and kind  
Corn first, Bean came second and Squash right behind  
Bean grew up the corn, squash hugged them together  
No wind could destroy them, no inclement weather  
How lovely they looked, a tangle of green  
No lovelier ladies had ever been seen

**Submitted by DJ Sanfillipo and Ray Myers**



*Photo by DJ Sanfillipo*

By the time Europeans arrived in America, native peoples such as the Iroquois had been practicing advanced farming practices for centuries. The Iroquois had moved well beyond the “hunter-gatherers” stage of providing food and were into what is referred to as companion planting. The Three Sisters was an advanced form of agriculture that is still with us today.

Corn, beans, and squash were planted together and supported each other. Unlike the straight and uniform crops of today, the Iroquois planted groupings of vegetables. Corn, beans, and squash were placed together to help each other's growth and protection from pests. The Iroquois were not the first in this practice, but they became efficient and impressed European settlers. Also called a classic form of mixed cropping, archaeological evidence has shown that indigenous people have been growing the 3 crops together for perhaps 5,000 years. The Three Sisters were believed to be “divine gifts” that held spiritual significance for the native population.

Spring would see the planting of corn. Corn was the oldest sister and her critical role was one of support for the other two Sisters. Climbing beans were the middle sister and corn with its cornstalk, gave beans the support

as it climbed toward the sunlight.

As the corn and beans became entangled, the beans assisted the corn. The beans were known as the giver because as they grew, they took nitrogen from the air which fertilized the soil and helped the corn grow.

The third sister was the squash. As the last sister, the squash performed a dual duty. Squash was planted around the corn and beans. Its leaves were large and kept the soil moist and prevented weeds from finding the sun. The squash leaves also protected the corn from raccoons, as they and other critters found the barbs on squash leaves uncomfortable.

The harvest of the Three Sisters supplied corn, beans, and squash and gave the Iroquois a healthy diet that provided carbohydrates, vitamins, and dietary fiber. Cornmeal and beans with the squash made hearty winter meals such as soup and succotash.

After decades of scientific research, the Industrial Revolution, and land grant universities, you would think the Three Sisters would be ignored and forgotten. Type in “Three Sisters” in Google or YouTube today and you will find dozens of articles and videos on companion planting. People who love soil, hate plastic and enjoy homegrown foods have discovered Three Sisters gardens. In many ways, the Iroquois were doing what many of us believe we should have been practicing all along. As the Iroquois would tell you, you do not mess with divine gifts.

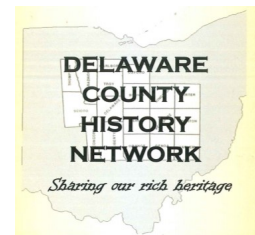
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The Curriculum Committee of the Delaware County Historical Society experimented with creating a living exhibit planting seeds from the Three Sisters model described above. One plot was planted on the Meeker Homestead and another plot was planted at the home of Dick and Diana Sanfillipo. Each plot experienced challenges and yet successes. The living exhibit is planned to be part of our school programs on the Early Settlers and the American Indians in Delaware County in addition to the Pioneer Days programs scheduled with Olentangy Schools at a future date. This will continue to be a living exhibit with replanting in the spring. are some pictures from this year's first experiment with this early agricultural model demonstrated by the local American Indians. Thanks to Ray Myers and Diana Sanfillipo and DCHS Executive Director and Delaware County Master Gardener, Donna Meyer for assisting with the launch of this project.

## Historical Networking

Several years ago, the Delaware County Historical Society formed the Delaware County History Network. Made up of history-minded groups around our county, the mission is to connect local historical societies and heritage foundations, as well as history minded individuals, for the purpose of sharing resources and promoting interest in Delaware County's rich history and heritage. Our current members are The Delaware County Genealogical Society, The Delaware County Historical Society, Delaware County Records Center, Delaware County District Library, Galena History Foundation, Preservation Parks Gallant Farm, Harlem Township Heritage, Radnor Heritage Society, Stratford Ecological Center, Sunbury Community Library, and the Powell-Liberty Historical Society. We are always looking for additional members from other townships to share information and resources. For more information, please contact Sherry Carmichael at [scarmichael@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:scarmichael@delawareohiohistory.org).



Sadly, we recently lost one of our active members, Vicki Tieche, of Harlem Township Heritage Inc. We honor her devotion to history in this Memoriam, written by fellow Harlem Township Heritage Inc. member, Dave Snyder.

Vicki Tieche (1944-2021)

Vicki Tieche, a life-long resident of Harlem Township, passed away March 10, 2021. Vicki's knowledge of the Harlem community was broad in scope, demonstrating an interest in many topics. Extending across more than the past thirty years, Vicki documented, wrote, and published on the history and environment of Harlem Township. She edited and wrote much of the *2003 Harlem Township History*, fondly called "the Big Book", which the Harlem Township Civic Association produced for the Ohio Bicentennial.

Vicki was one of the organizers of the 2010 Harlem Township Bicentennial celebration. She was also the driving force in organizing Harlem Township Heritage, Inc., a charitable organization which runs the annual Harlem Township Days celebration, continues the Grange's Noodle Dinners tradition, and sponsors the annual Duncan's Run Bicycle Patch. She never hesitated to create opportunities to explore Harlem Township's fields, streams, geological features, homes, barns, cemeteries, archaeological sites, quarries, schools, history, and community. Vicki designed many of the historical exhibits for the Harlem Township Days event and was a reasoned voice advocating for the continued preservation of Harlem Township cemeteries. Vicki's efforts were instrumental in acquiring military markers for all of the military veterans buried in township cemeteries.

In 2018 and 2019 Vicki's research and leadership anchored the effort to install the Historic Marker in Fancher Cemetery honoring Richard Thompson, a Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veteran who settled in Harlem Township in the early 1800s. And in 2019, Vicki worked with Curtain Players to stage the play titled "16-3-3, Home" an account of the founding of Harlem Township based on her book, *16-3-3*. In late 2020, Vicki arranged for one of the trees in the township to be recognized as an Ohio "Big Tree."

Her death marks the sad loss not only of a friend but a valued community resource. Vicki's many contributions to our township gave us a better understanding of our foundations and now provide us with inspiration for our future.



## 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 October 2020 – March 2021

Pam Allen  
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### LEGACY



*Living a life that lasts*

## Leaving a Legacy for Future Historians

Want to make a difference in your community and help preserve the culture, heritage, and knowledge of Delaware County? Then please make a donation to the Delaware County Historical Society. You may also want to consider alternative means of philanthropy.

For 2021, the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) has not been waived. Contact your fund manager and designate the Society as a recipient of all or part of your 2021 RMD. Leave a legacy that will live on by remembering us in your estate planning, or as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy. Whether you wish to see your donation in action or leave a lasting imprint on your community, your donation will make a difference in our preservation, education, and curation activities.

Become an inaugural donor for our Operating and Capital Campaign for the Historic Sheriff's Residence and Jail, and help us preserve, maintain and restore this beautiful iconic structure in downtown Delaware. Please contact Executive Director, Donna Meyer for more information about these opportunities at [director@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:director@delawareohiohistory.org)

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

(Continued from page 4)

Residents were encouraged to “buy local” and the writers made it known that most of the community was proudly Republican. Lime was the leading manufactured product (there were two quarries in the township). Remnants of the lime kilns can be seen today. The Radnor Elevator Company sold grain and seed, hardware, farm implements, coal, salt, cement, buggies and wagons. WH Conboy offered high-grade buggies – the largest dealer in Union and Delaware Counties (the Columbus area was once known as the “Buggy Capital of the World”). Although retail businesses have closed over the years, thriving service businesses remain, including Delhi Landscaping, owned by current Radnor Township trustee chair David Weber, who also owns the beautifully restored and expanded Watkins House (ca 1850 -formerly Watkins Tavern and Delhi House).

Radnor Grain, on Radnor Road, is a division of Mennel Milling Company, headquartered at Fostoria Ohio. It receives wheat from area farmers and ships by truck. Radnor Grain’s storage capacity is 1 million bushels. Mennel advertises: “we recognize it all starts with you - area farmers - choosing us. That's why we don't just buy grain ... we partner with growers like you. We know you're working hard to bring us your best.” Thriving farms are still the heart of Radnor.



*Photo from DCHS Collection*

**Radnor Cemetery and the Lych Gate** - Radnor Cemetery’s Lych gate is a beautiful, prominent, and lasting symbol of the town’s Welsh heritage. Church cemetery lych gates are common in Wales and England. In Medieval times, a lych gate (the word “lic” means corpse) was used to shelter corpses and mourners. Benches were often built along each side of the structure. Radnor’s lych gate was designed by well-known local architect William Robert Powell in 1910. The structure was built with blue limestone from the nearby Meredith Quarry by Delaware stonemason Mr. Braumiller and his assistants. “1911” the year the gate was dedicated, was carved into the stone by a local carver. There is a large opening

through oak gates for horse-drawn carriages (now hearses) and a separate opening for mourners. An Ohio Historical Marker, placed in 2003, memorializes the Lych gate and cemetery for posterity. It appears that the only other stone lych gates in the United States are found at the Church of St. James the Less in Philadelphia, and at Christ Church Old Swedes Cemetery in Upper Merion/Swedesburg, PA. Rather than the rather ghoulish connotation of “corpse gate” - several sources refer to the “resurrection” gate.

Former residents and visitors have been so impressed with the Radnor Cemetery that people have requested burial there. They are in the company of two Revolutionary War veterans- Captain John Minter and Thomas Warren II - and several veterans of the War of 1812 (although in unmarked graves). There is a covered wood Civil War monument and an impressive vault built into the hillside.

**Preservation and Community Moving Forward** - The Samuel Cooper Farmhouse (ca. 1820) is on the National Register of Historic Places (1993). The Trustees have recently made improvements to the South Radnor (Troedriwdalar) church. Members of the Heritage Society are working on design and installation of historical markers for sites around Radnor. There are plans to restore the walking tours of historic Radnor that were conducted for many years by Ann Humphreys who founded the museum in 1999; historian Joe Preston has created a miniature replica of downtown Radnor of the 1800’s. There are also plans to upgrade and expand the collection and programs of the museum. To learn more about the Radnor area and hours of museum operation, contact Ann Jones, Interim President, Radnor Heritage Society and Welsh Museum. at [hcpaej@mac.com](mailto:hcpaej@mac.com) or 614-571-6321

The spirit of Radnor is perhaps best communicated in selected lyrics of the Radnor Hymn (sung to the tune of the Welsh National Air), written by Clyde L. Kuhn (a resident of Lexington Ohio): “Radnor people, all united...Give to all our best endeavor – this our victory.”

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Meeker Museum**

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 last July, will remain open by appointment.

As we move further into 2021, we will be unveiling several new exhibits later this year including:

Mid May— Summer photo exhibit – Portraits of notable Delawareans

Early June - “Can You Dig It?” - an exhibit on the 2019 Archaeological Camp with artifacts and photos of students working on the dig.

Mid June - Garth Auction business exhibit – this exhibit will tell the story of Garth Oberlander and Garth’s Auctions, which was located on the current Meeker property from the 1940s until 2018.

Mid July - Meeker Story Wall – located on the Meeker Drawing room wall, this exhibit will tell the story of the Meeker family.

### **Programs**

That’s Entertainment: Opera Houses in the City of Delaware

Presented by Benny Shoults, Society Volunteer

Wednesday, August 18 at 7pm

\* Young and Old Rutherford B. Hayes Walking Tour

Reenacted by Devon Hardwick and Bill Rietz, Society Volunteers

Sunday, October 3 at 1pm, 2:30pm, and 4pm

Ghost Towns and Stories in Delaware County

Presented by Rick Helwig, Director of the Center for Ghost Town Research in Ohio

Tuesday, October 19 at 7pm

Delaware County Historical Society Annual Meeting: Frank Packard Homes in Delaware

Presented by Barb Powers, Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer and Architectural Historian at the Ohio History Connection

Wednesday, November 17 at 7pm

Holiday Open House - Location to be announced

Saturday, December 4 from 2pm to 5pm and Sunday,

December 5 from 2pm to 5:30pm

\* Ticketed event

Check our website for more information.



### **Thank you to our program sponsors!**

And the Charles and Betty Sheets Family Fund through the Delaware County Foundation.





## *More Ways To Help The Society*



The Society has a critical need for volunteers! Our opportunities provide social distancing, sanitization, and facemask safety as well as flexible hours for any schedule.

### **Communication Committee volunteer**

Posting on social media, writing and sending press releases, creating and writing newsletters, and marketing. Time commitment - 3 to 5 hours per week.

**Program Committee chair** - organizing public programs and tours held by the Society - time commitment - about 8 to 10 hours per month.

**Office Volunteer** - Working in an office setting on a variety of projects. Time commitment - about 6 hours per week.

**Gardening Volunteer** - Adopt a Garden at the Meeker Homestead. Schedule is flexible. Hours - about 4 per week, depending on the size of the bed.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, please contact [volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:volunteer@delawareohiohistory.org).

### **We also need members for these committees:**

Buildings and Grounds, Education, Museums & Exhibits, Collections, Curriculum, Historic Preservation, Membership, special events, and Resource Creation.

We have the perfect opportunity for every interest and experience!

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

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



On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select the Delaware County Historical Society as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. 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  
Historical Society

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**DCHS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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Adult Membership (Individual)	\$25	_____	Adult Membership (Household)	\$50	_____
Senior Membership (60+ yrs)	\$20	_____	Senior Membership (Household)	\$40	_____
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

For/In Honor or Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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