



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

# *annual report* OCTOBER 2020 – SEPTEMBER 2021



**THE MEEKER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM  
MILLWORKER'S COTTAGE**

**CRYDER RESEARCH LIBRARY**

**THE BARN AT STRATFORD**

**THE NASH HOUSE MUSEUM**

**HISTORIC JAILHOUSE & SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE**

# from our president



## FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

It has, again, 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 last 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. And now, through acquisition of the historical jail and sheriff's residence, we are presented with amazing new opportunities and challenges.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff, tireless volunteers, supporters and 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

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## STAFF

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

## 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

### Historic Jailhouse & Sheriff's Residence

20 West Central Avenue, Delaware, OH 43015



# financials 2020 - 2021



## ASSETS

Bank Accounts .....	\$214,718
Accounts Receivable.....	\$9,764
Investments .....	\$416,247
Fixes Assets/Property.....	\$1,271,600

**Total Assets .....\$1,912,329**

## EXPENSES

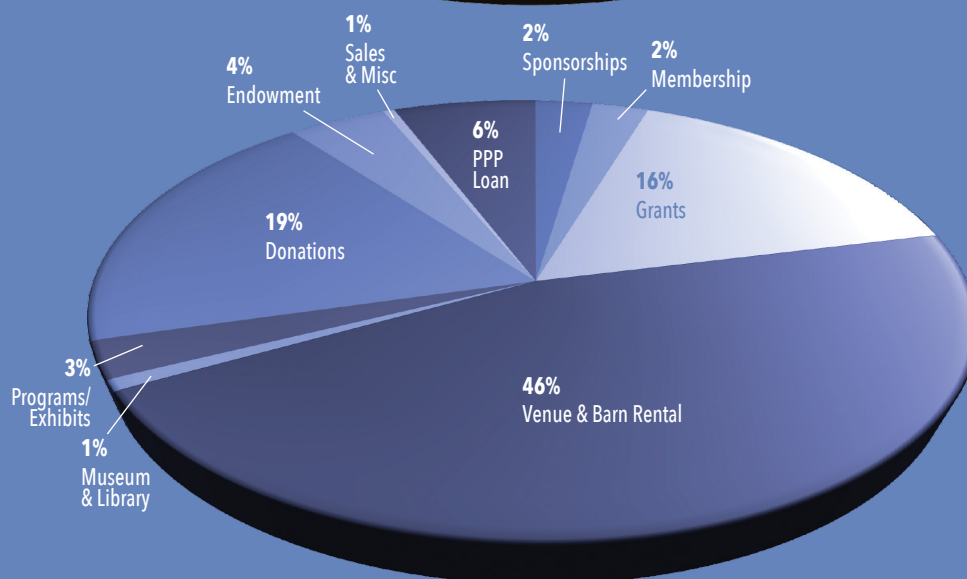
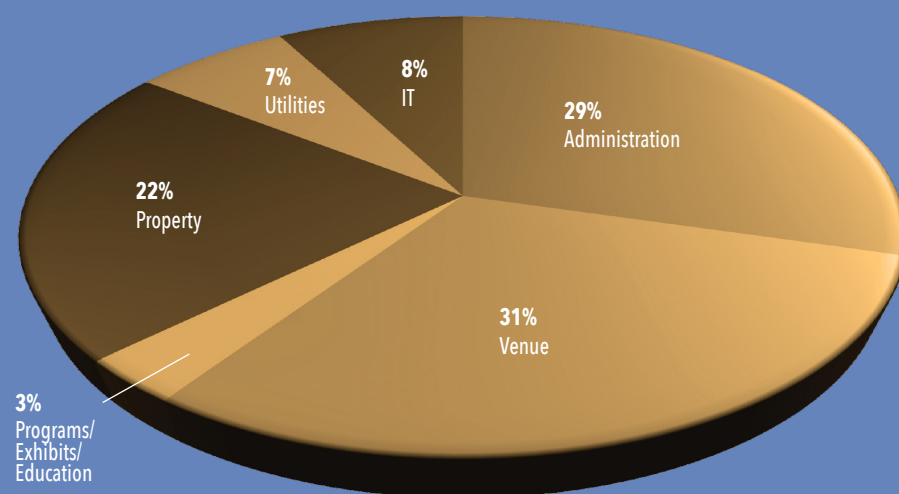
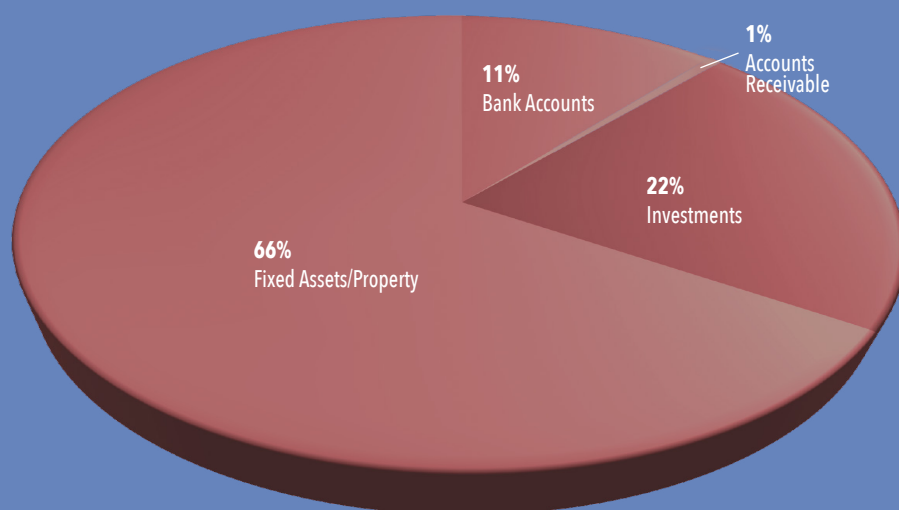
Administrative .....	\$83,115
Venue .....	\$87,108
Programs/Exhibits/Education .....	\$9,347
Property .....	\$62,150
Utilities .....	\$19,355
IT .....	\$23,078

**Total Expenses.....\$284,153**

## INCOME

Sponsorships .....	\$8,455
Membership .....	\$8,335
Grants .....	\$54,337
Venue & Barn Rental .....	\$156,589
Museum & Library.....	\$2,697
Programs/Exhibits.....	\$9,174
Donations .....	\$63,726
Endowment Withdrawal .....	\$14,487
Sales & Misc.....	\$1,637
PPP Loan .....	\$21,063

**Total Income .....\$340,500**



# 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 18,768 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 placed 15 years of the *Delaware Journal Herald* on the Web at [Ohiomemory.org](http://Ohiomemory.org).

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have 65 active volunteers who contributed 11,878 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this service, according to [IndependentSector.org](http://IndependentSector.org), is nearly \$339,000!

## WE GENERATE INTEREST IN HISTORY

We participated in Main Street First Fridays in downtown Delaware beginning this summer. Our Curriculum Support Committee created an award-winning program titled "Cultural Communities of Delaware County: Early Settlers and American Indians 1770 - 1850," featuring costumed reenactors and produced by members of the Society's Curriculum Support Committee. Our Oral History Committee completed a year long project on the 75th Anniversary of the Little Brown Jug Harness Race. It was a major part of our booth at the Delaware County Fair and consisted of a video about the Little Brown Jug, as well as posters and graphics. Our successful 2020 fundraiser was held as a virtual event – the UnBanquet, in November. We participated in several outreach events including the Community Unity and Juneteenth Festivals. We created several new brochures including one on our Black History, and Early Settlers and American Indians. We created an Adopt a Memory program which lets DCHS supporters "adopt" an artifact which provides funding for its care.



## OUR MEMBERS

**In addition to our 504 members, we would like to recognize our Life and Business Members.**

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

**BUSINESS / ORGANIZATION MEMBERS:** Buns Restaurant | Delaware County District Library | Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan | Frame Artistry | Greif Inc. | Hardware Exchange | Mail Pro 1 LLC | Main Street Delaware | Manos, Martin, & Pergram Co., LPA | My Hearth Story, | Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc. | Solar Saloon | Triad Architects

# *thank you* TO OUR GRANTORS, DONORS AND SPONSORS



Thanks to our benefactors we have raised over \$126,000 in donations, grants and sponsorships over the past 12 months. These gifts provide vital support of our programs and operations, as we serve the public in many ways, including providing educational programs tied in with the curriculum requirements of our schools, public programs which we presented both live and virtually, exhibits at our museums, and more.

We depend on members and donors for our funding as we continue our mission of preserving 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.

You can also point your smartphone camera at this QR Code to be taken directly to our website.



**We are so very grateful to our grantors, donors and sponsors who make it possible for us to create and present programs, maintain and improve our facilities, and preserve our history for generations to come.**

Kelsey Allen, Amazon Smile Foundation, Charlton and Roxanne Amidon, Anonymous, Frances D. and Gregory G. G Arnett, Ralph Au, Ceena Baker, Lawrence and Elizabeth Barrett, Margo Bartlett, Susan Bauer, Patricia and Richard Belch, Dan and Sue Bennington, Jeff and Barb Benton, Debra Bergandine, John and Susan Boylan, Michael Butler, Charlotte and Brad Carleton, Cecil Douglas Carpenter, Thomas (Jack) and Marjorie Carpenter, Robert and Darlene Caulkins, T. K. Cellar, Sherry Clark, Nancy Claypool, Clarity Technology Solutions - Jason Comstock, The Columbus Foundation, Ryan and Anna Conklin, Virginia Corwin, David and Kay Cotter, Brand and Karen Cowan, Edmund and Diane Cox, Michael Dangler, Christopher Davenport, Ann Davis, Michael DeChicco, Jasper DeChristopher, John and Yvonne Dewey, Tom and Mary Dillman, Larry and Emma Dixon, Judy Domire, Edward Jones Investments - Dustin Hostutler, Jon Edwards, the Delaware County Ag Society, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan,

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# PROGRAMS AND EVENTS *throughout the year*



Over the last 12 months, we held four live programs as well as four Zoom or recorded programs. Our **Oak Grove Cemetery Walk** in October went on as planned since it was an outdoor event, however our Annual Meeting, scheduled for November was held as a Zoom program with members voting for board members in advance via mail. Our festive Holiday Open Houses, last year and this, were cancelled to ensure the safety of our volunteers and visitors.

Our January program was a panel discussion on perspectives on **Rutherford B. Hayes and the Compromise of 1877**. It was our first program of this type and a very important subject. In recognition of Black History Month, our prerecorded February program was on the **History of the Lucy Depp Settlement Historic Community**. In March, members of our Curriculum Support committee presented a recorded program titled "**Cultural Communities: Early Delaware County**



*Credit: Columbus Zoo & Aquarium/ Ohiomemory.org*



**Settlers and American Indians, 1770-1850"**, which was made possible by funding from the Ohio Arts Council and by the Charles and Betty Sheets Family Fund through the Delaware County Foundation.

In April, we presented a Zoom program on the **History of the Columbus Zoo** and in August, our first live program of the year - "**That's Entertainment: Opera Houses in the City of Delaware**" was presented by Society volunteer, Benny Shoults. Our **booth at the Delaware County Fair** featured a themed display celebrating the 75th (+1) anniversary of the Little Brown Jug Harness Race. Originally planned for last year, the exhibit also consisted of a monitor showing a nine-minute video produced by Spectrum News Ohio on the Little Brown Jug.

Our programs for 2022 will include the history of **Del-Co Water and Water Systems**,

**Underground Railroad** sites, the history of the **Historic Delaware County Jail and Sheriff's Residence**, a walking tour of **Blue Limestone Park**, the history of **Delaware Foundries**, and more. Brent Carson is organizing a **self-driving tour of cemeteries** located in the northwest part of the county.

**We are grateful to our program and event sponsors for providing the resources needed to present these learning opportunities to the community:**



**Dusty Hostetler**

**Edward Jones**

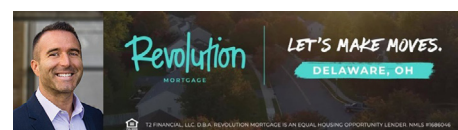
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# WE EDUCATE *children as well as adults*



As expressed in our mission statement, education about local history is a priority. Though our in-person programs and events ended after mid-March 2020, our Curriculum Support Committee created a host of online learning and opportunities for students on the Learn at Home Page of the DCHS website that include topics like what can be found on a bicycle scavenger hunt, 19th and 20th-century

games, writing a family journal and much more. These virtual activities gave students an opportunity to learn about our history from their homes, and teachers and parents a chance to guide learning experiences. We even created an ingenious way to give a presentation on our artifacts by providing a traveling artifact cart to go with our online videos.

All programs have been revised to reflect the 2018 State of Ohio Social Studies Content Standards. Currently, the focus of the Curriculum Committee is to provide information on local Delaware County history to schools and classrooms. Our award-winning Tote Bag program has been updated with new folders on Black History, Native Americans, and The Little Brown Jug. These are available to all Delaware County 3rd grade teachers and home school programs. A digitized version of the tote bags is in progress. In addition to teachers, librarians, principals, curriculum directors were contacted and invited to pick these up or have them delivered to the schools to use throughout the year.

Earlier this year, our Curriculum Support Committee received an Outstanding Achievement Award given by the Ohio Local



History Alliance (OLHA) in the category of History Outreach – Public Programming. The selected program, titled “Cultural Communities of Delaware County: Early Settlers and American Indians 1770-1850” is an entertaining and educational experience geared for both school-age and adult audiences.

Featuring costumed reenactors, the program consists of eleven vignettes that illustrate the interactions between the Leni Lenape (Delaware People) and early pioneers who settled Delaware County.

Next year, some of our goals include: continue development of Cultural Communities in Delaware

County, create a historic Walking Tour of South Delaware, create an adult artifact cart, and continue developing a musical program about the Crawford Band. We have started planning an autumn Harvest Fair, which will include some of the activities we have used previously with school programs like Pioneer Days at Olentangy. This family event will showcase our agricultural history and long-lost craftsmanship. We welcome your ideas on programs and activities you would like to see.



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**TERESA WATKINS**

**DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD  
OF COMMISSIONERS**



# FROM THE *executive director*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

The last 18 months have been very challenging for us all and a devastating time for so many. The pandemic, protests, riots, and political divisiveness have taken their toll on us all, yet there were some positive aspects about the changes at the Delaware County Historical Society. We were able to still have monthly programs, however, most of them were held on Zoom. Not being able to see our supporters in person was less than ideal, however, being able to watch the programs from the comfort and safety of your home was certainly advantageous. We were not able to present in-person educational programs to school children, but we developed creative ways to remotely teach local history to students.

For most of our staff and volunteers, it was almost business as usual. We continued to receive items into our collections and utilized volunteers to process and catalog them. We recruited new volunteers with a variety of much-needed skill sets, and experience. Researchers continued to work at the



collected historical information about the pandemic and how it affected each of our lives, because that too, is history.



Cryder Research Library, helping visitors with their questions about the history of their homes or ancestors. We planned programs, applied for grant funding, and collected historical information about the pandemic and how it affected each of our lives, because that too, is history.

As I complete my sixth 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. We are led by a strong and capable board, with a generous amount of vision and great ideas.

And we had weddings! Boy did we ever have weddings! Many brides-to-be had to adjust their expectations about how many people could attend the event due to restrictions, but love was definitely in the air. The increase in the number of people getting married might be related to the thought that no one is promised tomorrow – so you should start planning your future as soon

as possible. Our Sales and Event Manager does an incredible job, even booking events in the darkest depths of the pandemic, by conducting virtual tours. Her success is one of the key factors which has allowed us to achieve our goals of self-sustainability. We had a total of 36 weddings (including Micro Weddings and "Just Us" ceremonies) as well as 28 other events such as graduation and birthday parties, corporate events, reunions, and celebration of life events. Our beautiful 173-year-old barn with its hand hewed craftsmanship stood watch over it all.

And of course, what I believe is our biggest accomplishment this year was the acquisition of the historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence. Purchased by one of our major supporters, we will be paying him back for many years. Next year, we will embark on a fundraising campaign (wouldn't everyone want to sponsor a jail cell?) so look for information about that effort. We welcome your ideas about what we should do with the building.

*Donna Meyer*

