



# *Annual Report*

October 2021 – September 2022



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

**75**years  
1947 – 2022  
Celebrating & Serving Our Community

**Meeker Homestead Museum**

**The Barn at Stratford**

2690 Stratford Rd., Delaware, OH 43015

**Cryder Historical Center &  
Research Library**

**Nash House Museum**

157 East William St., Delaware, OH 43015

**Millworker Cottage**

2571 Stratford Rd., Delaware, OH 43015

**Historic Jail & Sheriff's Residence**

20 West Central Ave., Delaware, OH 43015



## *From Our President*

### **Dear Friends:**

As the nation, and the world, began to emerge from pandemic-related restrictions, 2022 has slowly transformed from a cautious re-emergence to a truly exciting year for your Delaware County Historical Society. And the future looks even brighter.

Our volunteers and our incredible professional leadership team did an amazing job keeping our essential work flowing during the pandemic's darkest days, facilitating continued research, planning electronically delivered programming- and continuing to book weddings and other events in the barn, so that they could begin again just as soon as it was safe to do so.

But as we move toward the end of 2022, we see so many exciting developments that it is almost impossible to list them all. Our museums are open and providing amazing exhibits. The barn is frequently bustling with events, both professional and matrimonial. The jail is open for tours, a museum display, and even ghost hunts. Our programs are well-attended and well presented, both indoors and sometimes outdoors. We had a wonderful joint fundraiser with the Arena Fair Theater Company back in April, recreating the last dinner on the Titanic- an event that packed the barn almost to the limit. And now, with thanks to State Senator Andrew Brenner who shepherded our funding request through the state process, a barn roof that had exceeded its life expectancy and was beginning to become a safety concern is being replaced as we gather. This work will help to secure the barn as an asset for generations to come. And now we reach the celebration of the Society's 75th birthday. Truly a time to celebrate the history of celebrating our history!

The present is exciting, but the future looks amazingly bright. We have barely begun to scratch the surface of possible uses for the old jail and sheriff's residence. We have, for the first time, brought in the services of a professional fundraiser. Our programming offerings are among the best in the state. And we continue to expand the ways in which

technology can permit us to share our historical resources.

Whether your family goes back generations in Delaware County, you're a recent transplant who loves history, or you simply have an interest in the history of your home or adopted home town, there is so much to draw you in and keep your interest. Forrest Meeker, Moses Byxbe and John Van Deman would be proud of the way we have preserved their eras of Delaware County history, and we hope that you are as well. Please join us in 2023 – as a volunteer, a program attendee, a barn patron, or a researcher. The only thing we love more than our history is sharing that history with others.

***Dave Hejmanowski***

***President, DCHS Board of Directors***

---

### **Board of Trustees**

**Dave Hejmanowski, President**

**Jack Hilborn, Executive Vice President**

**Margaret Duber Snyder, Development Vice President**

**Karen Cowan, Vice President of Board Operations**

**Alice Frazier, Secretary**

**Ralph Au, Treasurer**

**Brent Carson, President Emeritus**

**Ceena Dinovo Baker**

**Brenda Eldridge**

**Michael Butler**

**Dave Kerr**

**Sherry Carmichael**

**Mary Ann McGreevey**

**Becky Cornett**

**Nancy Reger**

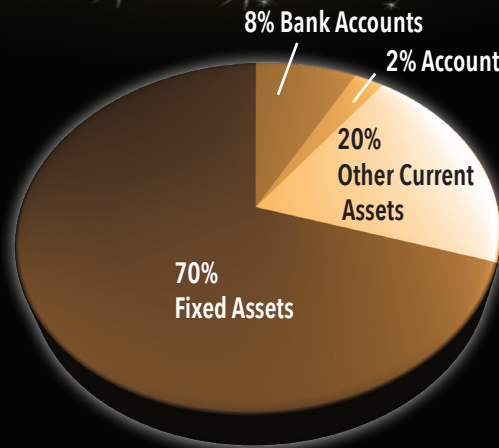
### **Staff**

**Donna Meyer, Executive Director**

**Melissa Stroupe, Sales and Event Manager**



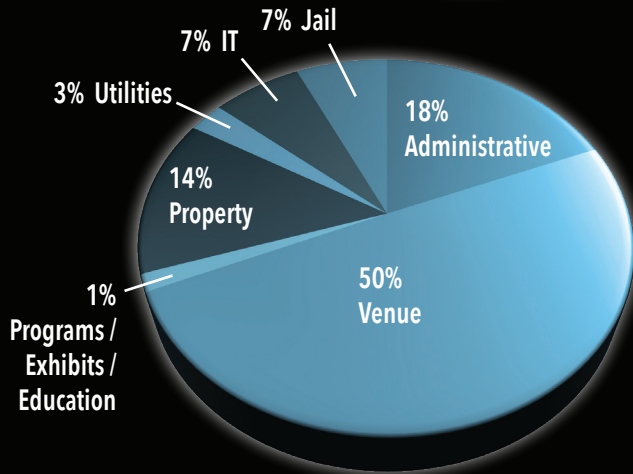
# Financials



## Assets

Bank Accounts .....	\$182,802
Accounts Receivable.....	\$53,740
Other Current Assets .....	\$457,486
Fixed Assets.....	\$1,585,683

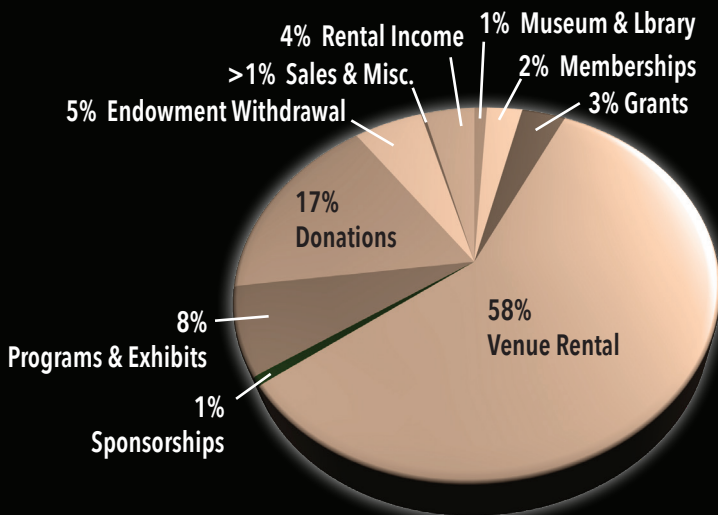
**Total Assets ..... \$2,279,711**



## Expenses

Administrative .....	\$61,452
Venue.....	\$164,410
Programs/Exhibits/Education .....	\$4,865
Property .....	\$44,810
Utilities .....	\$8,863
IT.....	\$22,809
Jail .....	\$23,455

**Total Expenses ..... \$330,664**



## Income

Sponsorships .....	\$3,440
Membership .....	\$9,780
Grants .....	\$12,030
Venue Rental.....	\$202,270
Museum & Library.....	\$2,690
Programs & Exhibits.....	\$26,697
Donations .....	\$59,003
Endowment Withdrawal.....	\$18,858
Sales & Misc .....	\$913
Rental Income from Historic Jail .....	\$13,935

**Total Income ..... \$349,616**



# 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 21,970 items, which include photos, documents, artifacts, family histories, and maps. Many of the photos and the digital copies of books are available online & can be accessed online at <https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com/> We have also contributed eleven Delaware City Directories (1859-1922) and 1909-1929 Delaware Daily Journal Herald to Ohio Memory, which can be accessed at <http://ohiomemory.org>

## Our volunteers

Between October 2021 and September 2022, we had 98 active volunteers who reported 10,954 hours of service this year. The estimated value of this service, according to IndependentSector.org, is nearly \$329,000!

## We generate interest in our history

We were able to celebrate the lifting of Covid restrictions early this year and began in person events again. This spring, we were able to bring local history to more than 2500 adults and students by creating programs and walking tours, opening our four museums, and bringing our artifact cart into the classrooms. At First Fridays, we had a table in downtown Delaware and were able to open the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence for tours. We continued our oral history project, titled "Growing up Black in Delaware," which will go on through next year. We also participated in several outreach events and festivals, such as the Community

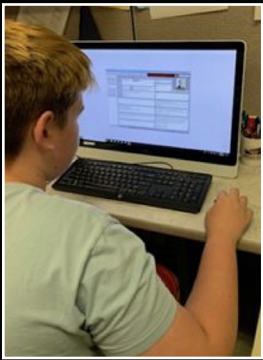
Unity and Juneteenth Festivals. Our booth at the Delaware County Fair had an amazing exhibit titled "Journey to Delaware County" which explored the lives of early settlers in Delaware County.





# We Educate

The last two years in the education world have been very challenging for young students with the Covid pandemic and learning from home. Those same challenges were present as the Curriculum Support committee shifted gears to bring more online and virtual local history learning experiences



to the students in Delaware County. Volunteers spent many hours not only creating lessons and activities to replace our in-person programs, but also working with the newly revamped website to make these online resources readily available to students, teachers, home school programs, and children in general. In

addition to creating these pages full of hands-on activities, bike-riding the historic markers, age-appropriate creative art and writing projects, we also added lists of our YouTube videos of walking tours and historic spots around Delaware.

This spring, our Curriculum volunteers had the busiest spring since our committee formed in 2012. We met with thousands of students across the county providing a variety of programming that included Artifact Cart presentations in the primary age classroom or the very popular **Early Delaware Walking Tour** to support the 3rd grade local history learning standards. Students start at the Sulphur Springs on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University to learn



how the town of Delaware got started. From there, they walk over the historic Olentangy River and on to the Nash House Museum and then regroup for a **Scavenger Hunt** at the Cryder Research Library.



A new middle school program was created in partnership with the Dempsey Middle School language arts department and was based on the classroom novel, *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Several of our volunteers brought the novel to life by portraying some of the characters in the book.



Brent Carson added to the presentation by sharing facts about our area during the Revolutionary War era.

## **"Who Came Down This Road?"**

was a new morning-long program at The Barn for 3rd graders that emphasized the diverse history

of early Delaware and Stratford Road and encounters with early settlers, Native Americans, Black history, transportation, and our Three Sisters Garden.





# Members

**In addition to our over 500 members, we would like to recognize our Life and Business Members:**

**Life Members:** American Legion Post 115, Alice Baker, Sharon Baxter, Steve Berry, John and Debra Blakeslee, Michele Brockett, Linda Browning, Kevin and Kosby Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles and Kay Caudy, Robert and Darlene Caulkins, T. K. Cellar, Edmund and Diane Cox, Louis Crognale, Sandra Cryder, John and Yvonne Dewey, Elizabeth A. (Beth) Fisher, Jan Fleischmann, John and Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Bob and Holly Gerspacher, Margo Bartlett and Gerald Glenn, David Gormley, Max Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Cheryl Hagerty, Judy Brozek and Jeff Hamilton, Carrie Harris, Rick Helwig, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Julie Heston, Mark and Carrie Hickman, Jack Hilborn, Karen Hildebrand, Ralph and Diane Hodges, George G. Hoffman, Chris Hon, Louis Iverson, Karl Jentgen - Rivers Edge Farm, Steve and Joy Kaser, William and Virginia Kavage, Mary Ellen Kelly, Thomas King, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner, John Lewis, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, Shirley Metro, 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 – Price Farms Organics, David Pritchard, 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, Sharon Shaw, Betty Sheets, Dennis and Linda Sheets, Vickie R. Sheets, Lloyd "Buck" and Sharlene Shoaf, Joyce Siegley, Carolyn and Gary Skinner, Jim Smith, Sally Smith, 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, Kris Thomas, William Thompson, Jeff

and Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Rex Welker, Steve Wells, Dorinda Wills, Thomas Workman, John Yelavich

## **Business/Organization**

**Members:** Buns Restaurant | Delaware County District Library | Edward Jones Investments - Dusty Hostutler | Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan | Frame Artistry | Greif Inc. | Hardware Exchange | David Kerr Architect, LLC | Mail Pro 1 LLC | Main Street Delaware | Manos, Martin, & Pergram Co., LPA | Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc. | Solar Saloon | Triad Architects

**Thanks to our benefactors we have raised over \$124,000 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 the QR Code to the left to be taken directly to our website.**



# *Thank You to Our Grantors, Donors & Sponsors*

**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. These include:**

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, First Commonwealth Bank, Richard Fisher, Jan Fleischmann, Sammi Porter Flynn, John and Lynn Foreman, Donald Foster, Jan Miller Foy, Linda Frank, Ronald and Alice Frazier, Steven and Kerry Frazier, Judith Freed, Larry and Susan Garrett, Mail Pro 1 LLC, Bob and Holly Gerspacher, Hannah Gleason, David Gordon, Christopher Gorz, Diann Graham, Karyn Grieser, Geoff Gruendl, Cheryl Hagerty, Ann and William Hanning, Jr. in memory of James Patrick Hanning, David Hejmanowski, Nora Hiland, Jack and Mary Hilborn, James Hilborn, George Hoffman, Jennifer Host, Sheree and

Don Howard, Jann Ichida, Richard James, Beverlee Jobrack, Robert E. Jones, George Kaitsa, Darcy Kaplan, Virginia Kavage, Matt Kear, Mary Ellen Kelly, Cindy and Chuck Kerr, David Kerr, David Klein, Roger Koch, Karen Kraska, Kroger KMA, Nancy Lacher, Julie Lapp, Joan Lawrence, League of Women Voters Alice Frazier, Aaron Leavy, Richard Leavy, Susan Logan, Ross Long, Dustin Lowe, Manos Martin and Pergram Co. LPA, Joan and Fred Manter, Barbara Martin, Stephen and Debbie Martin, John McDavid, Mary Ann McGreevey, Donna and Mark Meyer, Dave and Kathleen Miller, Hiram Masonic Lodge, George and Rozella Miller, Mike Misich, Marilou Mitchell, Ray Myers, Randy Nelson, Gus Niewenhous, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Harness Horsemen's, Ohio Local History Alliance, Nick Oliver, Sue Packard, Tom Parker, Christina Patel, Mark and Maria Pizzi, David Pritchard, Revolution Mortgage, Ellen H. Richardson, Sarah Riedmaier, Bill and Kay Rietz, John L. and Diana P. Roach, Roger and Elizabeth Roberts, William and Patricia Roberts, Lolaine Meeker Rodes, Carolyn and Sheldon Ross, Mitch and Cheryl Ross, Swarna Saha, Allen Salyer, Save Ohio Pets, Rick Scarry, Carol Schrader, Michael and Margaret Shade, Catherine Shanks, James Steven Shaw, Dennis and Linda Sheets, Elizabeth Sheets, Stephen and Linda Sheets, Lloyd "Buck" and Sharlene Shoaf, Lynn Shomaker, Benny Shoults, Chester Simmons, Carolyn and Gary Skinner, Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc., Carol Snyder, Margaret Snyder, Tiffany and Charles Snyder, Marie Sowa, David Standley, Lacy Standley, R. Vladimir Steffel, Betty Stimmel, Martha Stroud, Rebecca and William Swoager, Robert Tannehill and Barbara Tull, The Benevity Community Impact Fund, James Thorpe, Laura Treichel, Caroline Tudor, US Trotting Association, Ed Valeska, Roger and Shirley Van Sickle, Ezra Vogel, Louise Warner and Clyde Gosnell, Cari Washburn, Doyle Webb, Carole Wilhelm, William Street United Methodist Church, Donald and Kathleen Wolf, Alan and Tressa Woolever, Karma Wuertz, and J. Michael Yohe



# Programs & Events

**Over the last 12 months we held ten live programs, with five also being offered to attendees by Zoom. By mid-year we transitioned away from Zoom to live-only programs.**

We began with two programs in October 2021—a **Walking Tour: Young and Old R.B. Hayes**. Later in October, Rick Helwig presented **Ghost Towns of Ohio** with a book signing. For our annual meeting program in December, Barbara Powers of the State Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio History Connection presented a history of architect **David Packard** and homes and buildings he designed in Delaware.

Our first program in 2022 was in February. Watson Walker, Jr. introduced the video **Slavery to Freedom**. In



March, Steve Schmitt gave a program on **Delaware County Industrial History: Foundries**.

In April,

David Hejmanowski presented **A History of the Delaware County Jail and Sheriff's Residence**. He shared many interesting and amusing stories from people that had lived or worked at the jail over the years.



Watson Walker, Jr. returned in May to present **South Delaware: An African American Community 1808 - 1943**. The program was based on his extensive research and was well attended.



In June, we had our first outdoor program of the year at **Blue Limestone Park** in Delaware. Attendees toured the park and listen to four re-enactors discuss its history.

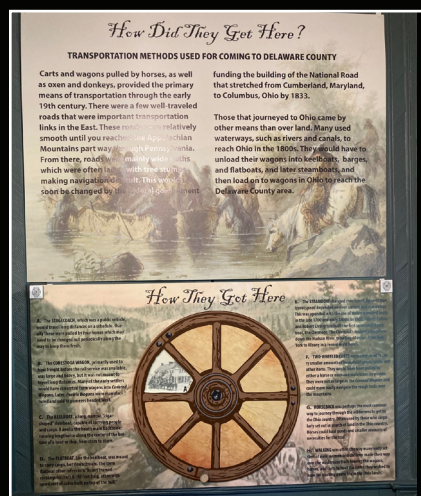
For our July program, Sherry Carmichael debuted a video she had created with the Powell Liberty Historical Society: **Irena Carpenter Journal - A Woman's Perspective on Traveling to the Ohio Territory**.



Our final program for 2022 included a self-guided driving tour of five **Cemeteries in Northwest Delaware County** followed by a program at The Barn at



Stratford with live music, a BBQ food truck, and reenactors of folks buried in the cemeteries.



The theme for our booth at the Delaware County Fair this year was **The Journey to Delaware County** which aligns with a new exhibit at the Meeker House Museum.

Our programs for 2023 will include two speakers from the Ohio Humanities speaker

bureau: **Understanding Black History through Black Music** with special treat, the **Zion AME Choir**, and **Black Men in Blue: The Civil War, Ohioans, and the US Colored Troops**. Jack Hilborn will present **Railroads of Delaware County** with special guest railroader **Peter White**. We also have the rescheduled **History of Del-Co Water** and a program titled **The Stagecoach Era in Delaware County**. We're planning another outdoor event The Barn/Meeker house as well as reprising the Oak Grove Cemetery Walk in October.

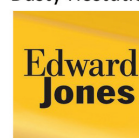


We are grateful to our program and event sponsors for providing the resources needed to present these learning opportunities to the community.

Last Dinner on the Titanic Sponsors:



Dusty Hostutler



MANOS, MARTIN  
& PERGRAM CO., LPA  
Attorneys at Law  
Caring Counseling and  
Sophisticated Solutions since 1951



JACK AND MARY HILBORN



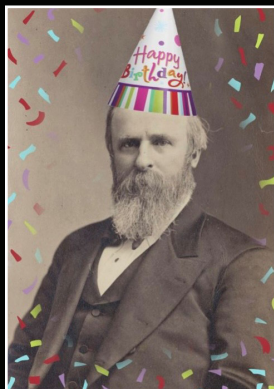
Also many thanks to the following for their support:



OHIO LOCAL  
HISTORY ALLIANCE  
Inspire. Connect. Educate.



# *Our Core Mission*



## **Our Core Elements**

**Our Vision:** A community that values its history as it plans its future.

**Our Mission:** Delaware County Historical Society strives to be a trusted resource to preserve and connect the diverse stories and fabric of the past to the people of today and tomorrow through education and engagement.

## **Our Core Values**

- 1. We delight in discovery.** Curiosity about the past illuminates our present and helps us prepare to navigate tomorrow.
- 2. We welcome you.** We seek to provide hospitable spaces for all to gather, engage, learn, and build community. We embrace a diversity of perspectives in our storytelling and within our organization.
- 3. We get things done.** We are committed to our communities and tackle the responsibility of preserving and interpreting our unfolding history with energy.
- 4. We collaborate.** We are enthusiastically committed to the cultural and geographic communities that were and are in Delaware County and embrace working alongside them to preserve, understand, and share the region's historic people, events and objects.
- 5. We are stewards.** We promote preservation of places, artifacts, stories and memories.



## *From the Executive Director*

### **BOY, HAVE WE COME A LONG WAY (BABY)!**

I am not referring to a Loretta Lynn song or a Virginia Slim Cigarette commercial. I am referring to all that we have accomplished over 75 years. No longer a sleepy little historical society, we have grown into one of the most active nonprofits in the county. Compared to just a few years ago, many more people know about us and what we do. Some have children who have taken a field trip to one of our museums or had one of our volunteers visit their classroom with artifacts. Many people visit our research library to learn about the history of their house or contact us with history-related questions. Hundreds of people have attended our programs. It is truly a joy to connect with people who are almost as excited about our history as we are.

As I complete my seventh year as the executive director of this amazing organization, I reflect on all that we have accomplished in just the last year. Here are a few highlights:

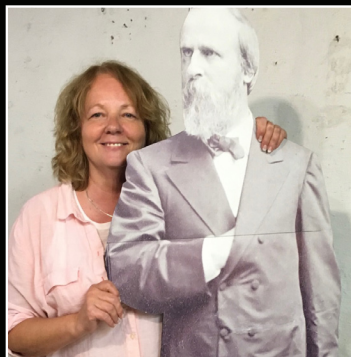
With the support of State Senator Andrew Brenner, we wrote a successful grant to the State of Ohio as part of their



biennial capital budget and were awarded funding to replace damaged timbers and a very worn roof at the Barn. This process has begun and will continue until early next year.

Volunteers installed a new

exhibit titled "Journey to Delaware County" this spring, which opened with a special reception for our donors and life members. It was made possible through the Delaware



County Foundation by the generous donations of the Ron Sabatino Family Fund and the Charles H. and Betty J. Sheets Family Donor Advised Fund. Their generosity covered the expenses related to the exhibit, including the reproduction of a covered wagon and the creation of a general store.



And we had weddings! Boy, did we ever have weddings! The success of our venue rentals is one of the key factors which has allowed us to achieve our goals of self-sustainability. We had a total of 38 weddings as well as 48 other events such as graduation and birthday parties, corporate events, reunions, and celebration of life events. Our beautiful 174-year-old barn with its



hand-hewed craftsmanship stood to watch over it all.

We received a grant from the Ohio Arts Council which provided the funds to restore a Fraktur, which is a highly artistic and elaborate folk art created by the Pennsylvania Dutch, to commemorate important celebrations such as weddings and christenings. We spent months working with a professional to create a new Strategic Plan which will serve

***Continues on back page***



## *Executive Director continued*

us well over the next 5 years. We also received funding to continue the digitization process of editions of the *Delaware Daily Journal Herald*.

And for the first time, we awarded a scholarship to a Delaware County High School senior, funded by donations from our board members. In partnership with the Arena



Fair Theatre, this spring, we held a wonderful event titled "The Last Dinner on the Titanic" to a sold-out crowd. Our Oral History project, titled "Growing up Black in Delaware" tells a very important story and continues to develop as we continue our effort to learn about the history of our diverse populations and cultural communities – narratives that must be told.

We continue to find uses for the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence which we purchased last October including inviting the public for tours and creating a new display. We hope to rent the second-floor spaces for office use. We are very grateful for the funding we received from the Delaware County Commissioners to enable us to renovate the rooms and restore the failing windows. Next year, we expect to create a plan to restore the jail back to its

former glory, removing dropped ceilings and plywood which was added to the doorways, and will begin the process of seeking funds to accomplish it.

We have hired a development consultant who will lead us in our efforts as we begin a vigorous Comprehensive Fund-Raising campaign next year. Also, next year, we will be



celebrating another important milestone, the 200th anniversary of the building of the Meeker House.

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 who donate thousands of hours to ensure that we achieve our mission. We welcome you to be a part of our ever-growing Society. We are always in need of volunteers, donations, members, supporters, and most importantly – IDEAS! I guarantee you will have a great time!

**Donna Meyer**

**Executive Director, Delaware County Historical Society**