



**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

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2022 through September 2023



**Delaware County
Historical Society**

Our History, Our Heritage

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

What a year it has been for your Delaware County Historical Society! When it comes to functions, facilities, and fun, we've facilitated fantastic features to fascinate our fabulous followers.

Our museums are flourishing. Exhibits at the Nash House, Meeker Home and the Old Jail have received rave reviews. Just last month, Benny Shoults, Steve Frazier and Roxann Newton were on hand to receive an award from the Ohio Local History Alliance for their Journey to Delaware County exhibit at Meeker. A Victorian Tea at the Nash House sold out in October, and visitors to the Old Jail are finding the current exhibit on Prohibition in Delaware County to be simply intoxicating—hand in hand with Roaring 20s exhibit at Nash.

Speaking of the Jail, first Friday tours continue to draw big crowds, ghost tours are selling out, and not one, but two movies—an independent feature film featuring Hollywood Actors Doug Bradley and Courtney Gains, and a student film made by Hayes High School students—have been filmed in the jail this year. More importantly, three of the jail's office spaces are now rented, meaning that the building is covering its costs and beginning to slowly pay down its purchase price.

We hope that you have enjoyed our exciting events, engaging exhibits, and entertaining educators. Even if you've noted a necessity to reduce giving, we hope that you choose to place the Delaware County Historical Society high on your list of organizations to donate to. We cannot continue this momentum without your support, your attendance at our events, and your willingness to make sure that Delaware County's history is preserved for future generations.

Dave Hejmanowski
President, DCHS Board of Directors

Board of Trustees

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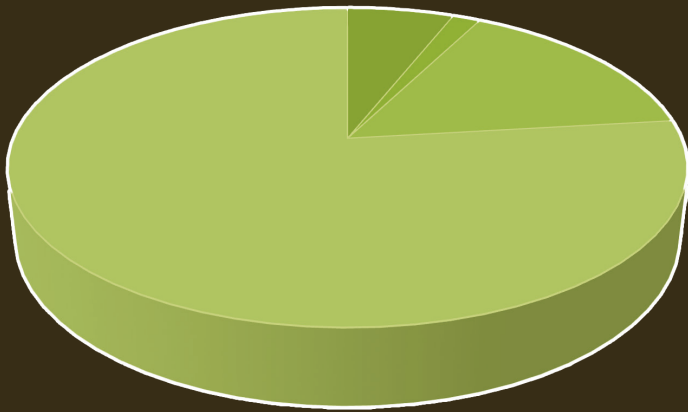
Staff

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

We continue to be immensely proud of the Barn at Stratford and the events that are held there. This summer's Stratford Festival was a hit with those who attended, and weddings, corporate events, and family gatherings continue to make great use of the space. The new roof is on— a huge relief for all of us, and the improvement that was needed in order to guarantee that the building will be available to generations to come.

But with all this success, of course, there continue to be challenges. The post-pandemic wedding boom is behind us, and every year, more and more wedding event venues are opened in the county, making it an ever more challenging environment in which to book events. Melissa Stroupe is more than up to that task, and we're so very fortunate to have her on our team. Rampant inflation is also creating an incredibly difficult fundraising environment as our donors find themselves with less and less discretionary income from which they can make gifts. Our costs are also driven up due to inflation and, as such, we find ourselves in a very, very challenging financial position as 2023 draws to a close, having had to dig into reserves to make ends meet during this year.

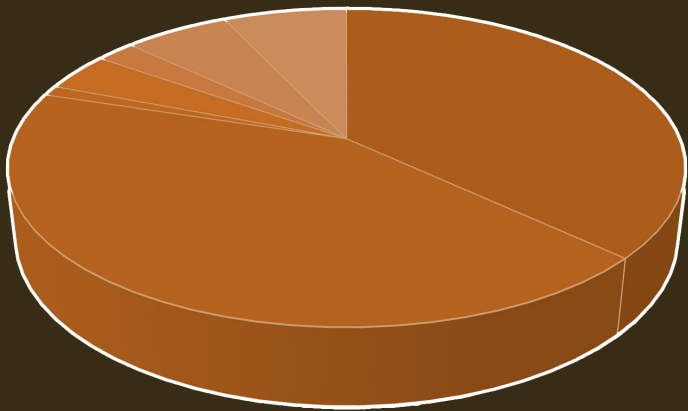
FINANCIAL REPORT



Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 142,516
Accounts Receivable	\$ 36,942
Other Current Assets/Endowments	\$ 367,109
Fixed Assets	\$1,815,081

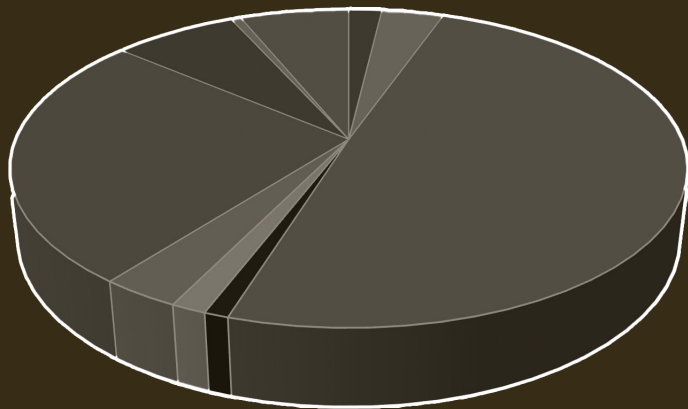
Total Assets \$2,361,648



Expenses

Administrative & Fund Raising	\$ 140,934
Venue	\$ 163,803
Programs/Exhibits/Education	\$ 3,894
Property	\$ 14,883
Utilities	\$ 8,455
IT	\$ 22,774
Jail	\$ 26,822

Total Expenses \$381,565



Income

Sponsorships & Grants	\$ 5,394
Memberships	\$ 10,080
Venue & Barn Rental	\$ 141,859
Museum & Library	\$ 2,858
Curriculum Support	\$ 4,115
Programs & Exhibits	\$ 9,280
Donations	\$ 73,741
<i>(not including restricted donations)</i>	
Endowment	\$ 20,244
Sales & Misc	\$ 1,618
Income from the Historic Jail	\$ 17,750

Total Income \$286,940

These figures do not include depreciation.



COMMUNITY VISIBILITY

We collect and preserve

Between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023, the Cryder Library volunteers have cataloged 4,398 items, to make the total items cataloged 26,368. These include photos, documents, artifacts, family histories, and maps. Many are available online & can be accessed online at <https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com>. We have also contributed numerous digital files to Delaware County Memory, which can be accessed at <http://ohiomemory.org>.

Cryder Library volunteers also answered 76 questions from the public and assisted with research in support of the Society programs, newsletter articles and exhibits. Phase 1 of 3 planned changes in the Reading Room work area has been completed. This phase included moving several storage cabinets and hiding our yet-to-be donated items behind office panels.

Our Volunteers

Between October 2022 and September 2023, who reported an amazing 13,759 hours! Our volunteers work on a variety of projects including cataloging artifacts, researching, museum docents and monitors, gardening, and of course committee and board members. The estimated value of this service, according to IndependentSector.org, is nearly \$437,600!

We generate interest in our history

Over the past 12 months, we were able to bring local history to more than 2,500 adults and students by creating programs and walking tours, in 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," and a compilation video of our interviews titled "Sankofa: Growing Up Black in Delaware" was produced by students at the Delaware Area Career Center. The video was presented to an audience of over 50 people at a Black History Month (February) event at Unity Community Center. The video is now a part of the DCHS webpage and is available on YouTube.



Future projects include Hundred-Year-Plus Businesses in Delaware, "First Women" which will identify women in Delaware County who were the first to achieve leadership positions in male-dominated professions and reviewing and summarizing audio and over 50 video and audio tapes completed by Brent Carson. We have begun the process of designing a system for listing all oral history material in a way that makes locating it easy and complete.

WE EDUCATE

As life emerges from the Covid pandemic, schools are starting to call again for programs. We had a very busy spring beginning in March with an Underground Railroad program and continuing until the end of the school year with Artifact Cart programs, 1800s Schools, Early Delaware Walking Tour (Sulphur Springs, Nash House, Cryder Scavenger Hunt), From Slavery to Freedom, Early Settlers and the American Indians in Delaware County, and Long Ago Days. We did approximately 18 programs and had to turn away 6 schools because the dates they wanted were already scheduled.

Per our Strategic Plan, we have made extra attempts at making our programs more hands-on. The 1800s Schools program included a reenactment of Eliza Carson who has a table full of artifacts from a coal scuttle, wooden pencils, quills, a school bell, a switch, and a dunce cap! From there the students rotate through 3 hands-on activities with hornbooks, slates and chalk, and McGuffey Readers.

Our award winning "Journey to Delaware County" exhibit has become an integral part of the Early Settlers program and children enjoy learning about how some of their ancestors came to this county. They also enjoy "selecting" items from our general store and finding out if the things they picked will help them survive the journey.

Schools are gearing up for spring and requesting programs already. Our Curriculum Support Committee is always looking for volunteers to help in this important mission to bring local history into the schools. Let us know if you are interested or want more information.



MEMBERS

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

Business/Organization Members

Frame Artistry
RVB Services, LLC
Triad Architects
Manos, Martin, & Pergram Co., LPA
Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc.
Buckeye State Bank
Mail Pro 1 LLC
Benchmark Woodworks Co. Inc.



Life Members

Alice Baker, Sharon Baxter, Steve and Genevieve Berry, John and Debra Blakeslee, Linda Browning, Michael Butler, Tim Calvin, Kevin and Kosby Carrico, Brent Carson, Charles and Kay Caudy, Robert and Darlene Caulkins, T. (Thomas) K. Cellar, Becky Cornett, Edmund and Diane Cox, Louis Crognale, Sandra Cryder, John and Yvonne Dewey, Brenda Eldridge, Elizabeth A. (Beth) Fisher, Jan Fleischmann, John and Lynn Foreman, Marion Foster, Alice Frazier, Bob and Holly Gerspacher, Gerald Glenn and Margo Bartlett, David Gormley, Arlene and Jim Gregory, Max Griffith, Geoff Gruendl, Cheryl Hagerty, Jeffrey Hamilton, and Judith Brozek, Carrie Harris, Julie Heston, Elizabeth Sue Heston, Mark and Carrie Hickman, Jack Hilborn, Karen Hildebrand, Ralph and Diane Hodges, George G. Hoffman, Chris Hon, Louis and Margaret Iverson, Karl Jentgen, Steve and Joy Kaser, William and Virginia Kavage, Mary Ellen Kelly, Roger Koch, Janell Kuck, Don Lateiner and Marianne Gable, John Lewis, Susan Logan, Bill McCarty, Barbara Martin, 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, Gregg Powers, Greg and Melanie Powers, Philip Powers, Kristina Prengaman, Tom Price, David Pritchard, Susan Ratcliffe, Larry and Susan Ratcliffe, Barbara Reed, Bill and Kay Rietz, Bob and Nancy Rietz, John L. and Diana P. Roach, John Rodeheffer, Deanna Rush, Lauren Schaefer, David and Leslie Shade, James "Steve" Shaw, Sharon Shaw, Vickie R. Sheets, Betty Sheets, Dennis and Linda Sheets, Sharlene Shoaf, 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, William Thompson, Meleah Powers Wagner, Jeff and Laura Waltz, Teresa Watkins, Lynne Powers Weber, Rex Welker, Steve Wells, Dorinda Wills, Thomas Workman, and John Yelavich.

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



Dan Jay, Financial Advisor



OHIO LOCAL
HISTORY ALLIANCE
Inspire. Connect. Educate.



THANKS TO OUR GRANTORS, DONORS, AND SPONSORS

The following have
made a donation to
the Delaware County
Historical Society of
more than \$50 from
October 1, 2022 to
September 30, 2023.

We Thank You!

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



Roxanne and Charlton Amidon, Frances D. and Gregory G. Arnett, Ralph Au, Jean and Jake Ball, Jeffrey Balzer, Nicole Banks, Jim Barrett, Lawrence and Elizabeth Barrett, Susan and Mark Bauer, David Baxter, Patricia and Richard Belch, Dan and Sue Bennington, Jeff and Barb Benton, Steve and Genevieve Berry, Paul Bingle, John and Susan Boylan, Richard Bradley, Brian Breece, Garth and M. Karen Brokaw, Patricia Brown, Terry and Steve Brown, Michael Butler, Charlotte and Brad Carleton, Sherry and Stan Carmichael, Thomas (Jack) and Marjorie Carpenter, Brent Carson, Mary Ann Castagna, T. (Thomas) K. Cellar, Alice Chapan, Curt Cooper, Joan Cornell, Becky Cornett, Virginia Corwin, Dan Coutcher, Brad and Karen Cowan, Edmund and Diane Cox, Ann Davis, Sharon Davis, Karen Deighton, Delaware County Commissioners, Delaware Rotary Foundation, Kirsten Dell and Rusty Bell, Larry and Emma Dixon, DK Architects LLC - David Kerr, Allen and Char Duber, Edward Jones Investments - Dan Jay, Brenda Eldridge, Sgt. Richard Enderlin Camp #73 in Memory of Henry Shaw, Exact Excavating LLC - Scott Hoffman, Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan, Jan Fleischmann, Donald Foster, David Foust, Fraternal Order of Eagles #376, Alice Frazier, Judith Freed, Larry and Susan Garrett, Maggie Garrison, Roberta Gerlach, David and Linda Gordon, Christopher Gorz, Diann Graham, Ralph Graham, Geoff Gruendl, Ann Hanning, Ellen and Mark Hardyman, Marita Duber Haves, Richard L. and Jane Hawes, Heartland Bank, Carolyn Hefelfinger, David Hejmanowski, Nora Hiland, Jack and Mary Hilborn, James Hilborn, David Holtzapple, J. Patrick and Marilyn Hughes, Ed Humes in memory of Ralph Humes, Amelia Jeffers, Robert E. Jones, Darcy Kaplan, William and Virginia Kavage, Matt Kear, Jim Keefer, Mary Ellen Kelly, Cindy and Chuck Kerr, David Krebs, Lamb's Block Management LLC - Vasilis and Maria Konstantinidis, Jan Larson, Jim Lashbrook, Joan Lawrence, Richard Leary, Richard Leavy, Nancy Levanduski, Jim and Barbara Lewis, Susan Logan, Bill and Sandy Lowe, Joan and Fred Manter, Kate and Laurie McDonald, Mary Ann McGreevey, Donna and Mark Meyer, David Micol, Marilou Mitchell in Memory of Abigail Semens, Ray Myers, Shirley Newell, Roxann and James Newton, Gloria Jean Nolan, Alan and Carol Norris, Janet and Bill Oberfield, Carol O'Brien, Joan Obusek, Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association, Ohio Local History Alliance, Sue Packard, Arlene Palenshus, Tom and Tracy Parker, Don and Joy Partlow, Tito Paul, Payne and Brown Insurance Agency, Anne Pernaveau, Mark and Maria Pizzi, Tom Price, Nancy Reger, Ellen H. Richardson, Bill and Kay Rietz, John L. and Diana P. Roach, Roger and Elizabeth Roberts, Lolaine Rodes, Carolyn Ross, Mitch and Cheryl Ross, Penny and Dean Rushmore in Memory of Henry Shaw, Allen Salyer, James Schlichting, Steve Schmitt, Tyler Schuch, Michael and Margaret Shade, James "Steve" Shaw, Betty Sheets, Dennis Sheets, Benny Shoults, Carolyn and Gary Skinner, Smith-Feike-Minton Insurance Inc., Snyder Funeral Homes, Inc. - C. Clay Snyder, Margaret Snyder, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Memory of Henry Shaw, Sons of Veterans Reserve, Marie Sowa, Vladimir and Margaret Steffel, Martha Stroud, Melissa Stroupe, John and Verna Tetz, Sean P. and Elizabeth E. Trende, Roger and Shirley Van Sickle, Larry and Marian Vance, Janice Walters, Jeff and Laura Waltz, Louise Warner and Clyde Gosnell, Teresa Watkins, Jennifer B. and James R. Whetstone, Williams Insurance Agency - Mike Williams, Donald and Kathleen Wolf, Ed Wolf, Jay and Susan Wolf, Kathryn H. Yoakum, J. Michael Yohe, and Dee and Ronald Zarzycki.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Over the last 12 months we held six educational programs with great attendance. All but one was held at the Barn at Stratford. Our January programs are typically held on Zoom. This year's January program was part of our Delaware County Industrial History series, titled "Rubber Products in Delaware." Last October, volunteers installed a unique exhibit in the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence titled "Victorian Era Mourning" which featured (empty) coffins, hair wreaths, and macabre photos. Attendees visited during First Fridays and enjoyed the unusual displays.

This was followed up by an exhibit this year on Prohibition titled "Bootleggers vs. the Sheriff: Delaware County During Prohibition."

The Nash House had its share of exhibits beginning with "Victorian Undergarments", which was followed by "The Roaring 20s" as a partnership with the Prohibition exhibit at the Historic Jail.

Our Annual Meeting was held in November 2022 which featured a special video celebrating our 75th anniversary. In December, we held our Holiday Open Houses at Meeker and at Nash.

In February, to recognize Black History Month, our program was titled "Black Men in Blue: The Civil War, Ohioans, and the US Colored Troops" and was presented by Kelly Mezurek, Professor at Walsh University, an Ohio Humanities Speaker. Extending the theme in March, our program was titled "Understanding Black History Through Black Music", with Special Guests – Zion AME Choir. This program was presented





by Tom McDaniel, professor emeritus at The Ohio State University, an Ohio Humanities Speaker. At the end of his presentation, attendees requested a "Part 2," which will be held next year in February.

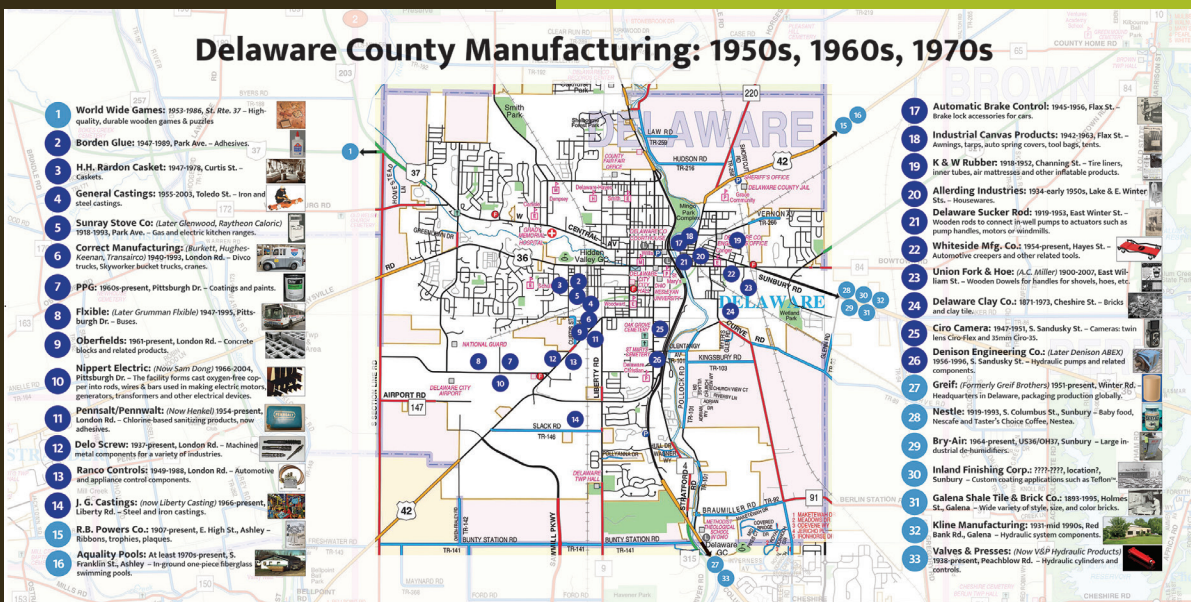
In April, back by popular demand, the program was titled "Railroads in Delaware County" and was presented by Jack Hilborn, with Special Guests Peter White and Paul Monks. In May, Del-Co Water CEO and General Manager, Glenn Marzluf, presented History of Del-Co Water and Water Systems, and in June, our program was titled "The Stagecoach Era in Delaware County" presented by DCHS Board member Becky Cornett.

In August, we held our first ever Stratford Festival and Ice Cream Social, which was sponsored by Edward Jones, Dan Jay, Financial Advisor. And in October, we held the ever-popular Oak Grove Cemetery Walk.

The theme for our booth at the Delaware County Fair this year was "Our Industrial History" and featured a large county map with the location of the many businesses from the 1950s-1970s, that were or are located in the area.

Next year, we will present "Delaware County Industrial History: The Village of Stratford, From Mills to Auto Sales." We will also present an exciting program on April 8th titled "Eclipse Traditions – Celebrating the legacy of our land during the Path of Totality."

In 2025, our theme of the year will be on our Agricultural Heritage and will be expressed with programs and exhibits. Many of our forefathers were farmers and it is only fitting that we recognize how they shaped our communities.





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

What a year! And what accomplishments we have made!

The biggest, by far, was the completion of the roof replacement at the Barn at Stratford. The demolition began in August 2022 and was completed in May 2023. We worked with a great family-owned company — MidState Contractors from Marion. Their quality of work was top notch and they were happy to accommodate our schedule by not pounding on nails during an event and by moving large equipment from the front of the barn. Their expertise in historic preservation was a huge plus and the project came in on time and budget. A few weeks ago, Midstate and the DCHS were honored to receive an Award of Merit from the State Historic Preservation Office for the roof restoration project, quite an honor from a statewide organization. None of this would have happened if we had not had the unwavering support from our State Senator, Andrew Brenner.

As I complete my eighth year, I continue to be amazed at our volunteers, who give their time, creativity, and expertise. They accomplish so much and have great ideas. I love their passion and enthusiasm for local history and am especially grateful for Brent Carson. His untiring efforts to tell people about our local history is awe inspiring. He seems like the energizer bunny—always on the go. Along with Hayes High School Principal, Ric Stranges, Brent has written a book about our local history. We hope to have copies at the annual meeting.

Our exhibit in the Meeker Homestead Museum, "Journey to Delaware County," received a prestigious award this fall from the Ohio Local History Alliance. This exhibit was made possible through the Delaware County Foundation and the generous donations of the Ron Sabatino Family Fund and the Charles H. and Betty J. Sheets Family Donor Advised Fund and continues to





be a favorite of museum visitors. A sequel will be unveiled and will cover subsequent years and the methods and reasons for travelling from the New England area to Ohio.

The number of weddings we hosted were down this year, as expected. But non wedding events were up. We hosted fundraisers, birthday parties, celebration of life events, anniversary parties, and so much more. Our Venue Manager, Melissa Stroupe continues to amaze me as she handles the events with enthusiasm and energy. She has great ideas and energy to make them happen. We are truly blessed to have her on our team.

We continue to have the Historic Jail open for tours and as office spaces. The community interest in this magnificent 145 year old building continues to grow as people appreciate this testament to architectural excellence. They enjoy hearing the many stories about its long history. We will receive funding from the Delaware County Commissioners to install an ADA bathroom to allow accessibility for everyone. We sincerely appreciate all the support they have given us over the past years. Next year, we expect to start the process of creating 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.

Our Millworker Cottage, located at the end of Meeker Way on Stratford Road will soon be added to the National Historic Record and served as a glimpse into the life of an 1850s family working at the nearby Papermill.

I am inspired each day by our volunteer engagement and the support of our community. We are led by a strong and capable board, led by our strong and capable president, David Hejmanowski. Our board members provide a generous amount of vision and great ideas, donating 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!

