

## What Fun!!!

The staff and volunteers of the Historical Society have been very busy creating multiple enjoyable events for our members and guests.

■ **Music at the Meeker in March** brought a special treat when Susan Waterbury, renowned violinist and daughter of Mary Alice Dillman, joined her mother in our square grand piano concert on March 9th for Adopt a Memory Guardians and Lifetime members. A capacity crowd filled the parlor of the Meeker House enjoying the music and commentary of Board President David Hejmanowski as well as the solo pieces performed on the piano by Mary Alice and the piano and

violin duets provided by her and Susan. Watch the Historical Society's website ([www.delawareohiohistory.org](http://www.delawareohiohistory.org)) where we plan to post snippets of the program for all to enjoy.

Mary Alice Dillman and Susan Waterbury



A capacity crowd in the parlor of the Meeker House Museum

Guest Artist David Hejmanowski



■ **Last Dinner on the Titanic** was another capacity event which was a combined effort between Arena Fair Theatre and the Historical Society. Some of our guest really got into the

Sherry & Stan Carmichael looking very dapper



spirit of the evening, as shown by the dapper Carmichaels, who arrived formally dressed for dinner. Sherry's decorative hair ornament added some pizzazz to her evening attire. Rave reviews of the event were heard by staff and volunteers supporting this delightful evening. One of the Arena Fair actresses, who portrayed John Jacob Astor's new trophy bride, was

With permission Arena Fair Theatre Photo by Lorelea & David Matheny



heard to say that she was amazed at the insults she received from the people at her table! The retort was that she really must have been in character.



Keith Robinson a.k.a. Captain Smith on the ill-fated Titanic

## Summer Events

If you attend First Friday in downtown Delaware in the coming months, look for the Delaware County Historical Society tent and volunteers. **We will be giving tours of the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence from 6-8 p.m. at every First Friday. Stop by! We'd love to chat with you.**

### ■ Programs

**June 21 at 7 p.m. A Walking Tour of Blue Limestone Park** presented by Steve Schmitt, Volunteer. Originally created as a quarry in the 1840s, it evolved after several twists and turns to become the park it is today.



*Blue Limestone - then and now.*

**July 20 at 7 p.m. Irene Carpenter Journal - A Woman's Perspective in Traveling to the Ohio Territory** presented by Sherry Carmichael, Powell-Liberty Historical Society Volunteer and DCHS member Board of Trustees. Sherry will portray Irene Carpenter, the first woman to settle in Liberty Township (1801). The program will be at The Barn at Stratford.

**August 28, Northwest Delaware County Cemetery** self-directed tour focuses on six historic

## Headed in the Right Direction

Thanks to a grant from the Ohio Arts Council and a matching grant from the Delaware County Foundation, our consultant, Jackie Barton of Birchwood Planning, has and is working with the Strategic Planning Committee, chairs of the organizational committees and the Board of Trustees to help us generate new Mission, Vision, and Values statements and a new Strategic Plan. Karen Cowan, Vice President of the Board, shared "We were very excited to see the values that here to fore were unwritten, have been put on paper to guide everyone in their day-to-day work." Jackie is spending much of May discussing the aspirations and opinions of individuals, who participate in numerous and diverse focus groups. From these discussions will come recommendations for our newest 5-year Strategic Plan.

We feel the new Mission, Vision, Values statements and Strategic Plan are very important and need to be adequately discussed in their own document. Stay tuned you will be hearing more from us on these exciting new developments.

characters. The participants will be given maps of the home sites and grave sites of these individuals. At the cemeteries, participants will be greeted by DCHS docents assisted by Radnor Heritage Society members; Harla Lawson, Librarian, Ostrander Branch DC District Library; and Brent Carson, DCHS President Emeritus. Participants may travel the route at their leisure between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. At 5:15 the focus will shift to the Meeker Homestead Museum, where participants will enjoy a concert and picnic on the lawn (food trucks available). At 6:45 re-enactors will introduce participants to the 6 characters noted in the tour.

### ■ A New Exhibit

Coming in June, the Meeker Homestead Museum will be presenting a new exhibit titled, "**Journey to Delaware County.**" This two-part exhibit will explore the people who settled into the Delaware County area. Interactive displays that

feature artifacts from the 1800s will highlight how these people migrated, the challenges they faced, and the communities they built. We invite everyone to come and journey with us!

*(This exhibit was made possible through the Delaware County Foundation from the Ron Sabatino Family Fund and the Charles H. and Betty J. Sheets Family Donor Advised Fund.)*

Submitted by Roxann Newton, Benny Shoults, and Steve Frazier



*L to R: Steve Frazier and Benny Shoults assembling the new exhibit. Photo by Roxann Newton.*



## A Winning Partnership

This spring the Delaware County Historical Society was approached by a representative of the R.B. Hayes Heritage Fund Committee with a request to partner in its goals. The R.B. Hayes Heritage Committee grew from a desire to provide a statue of Rutherford B. Hayes for the city of Delaware. When donations were solicited and expenses paid, a small surplus remained.

The Committee has proposed using the surplus funds to generate new revenue to be used for a Rutherford B. Hayes Scholarship fund. The scholarship will be for \$2,000 with the hope that two awards might be made each year.

Funding for the scholarships will be through the R.B. Hayes Day event, held annually on October 4th at Hayes High School. Additionally, the Committee is planning a R. B. Hayes Center of American Political History (CAPH) that is proposed to be located at the Willis Education Center.

A request was presented from the Hayes Heritage Fund Committee at the March meeting of the DCHS Board of Trustees. At its April meeting, trustees discussed the details of the stewardship of the funds that will be entrusted to the Historical Society for accountability and fiscal control and the responsibilities of the Committee to: 1) generate funds

through the R.B. Hayes Day event, 2) be responsible for selection of the scholarship recipients and 3) work with Historical Society staff and volunteers to create and maintain the Hayes Center of American Political History. The Board unanimously approved the proposed joint effort of the Hayes Heritage Fund Committee and the DCHS. This new facet of Historical Society's community action reflects the Society's commitment to being a positive presence in Delaware County Community and enriches the Hayes Heritage Committee with the artifacts and resources of the Historical Society - a winning partnership.

Submitted by Bill Rietz and Ralph Au

## We Make Learning Fun!

### ■ Spring 2022: Students, Schools, and Local History with the DCHS Curriculum Committee

One of the most popular school presentations offered by the Curriculum Committee is the Artifact Cart program. Our volunteers present a variety of artifacts in classrooms, gymnasiums, libraries and community rooms across the county in elementary school buildings. We have artifact programs for Grades 1, 2, and 3 and also one on American Indian artifacts. Students are always entertained by figuring out

what some of these items could be or how they were used back in the day.

Guided by the Ohio Content Standards, we emphasize a "Then and Now" approach to these artifacts; from using a curling iron that had to be heated in a fire or on a stove to the use of a slate for writing, or grasping a pole to reach items at the top of grocery store shelves. And what were ice tongs

used for? Or a darning egg? Or a hair receiver? Many items bring laughs and giggles because the use of the artifact was unimaginable to students today.

Photos and article submitted by Karen Hildebrand



Brent Carson doing what he loves to do - share his knowledge.



Hands-on learning!



A few members of the Curriculum Committee, L to R: D.J. Sanfillipo, Brent Carson, Ray Myers, T.K. Cellar, Nancy Fleming, and Bill Rietz.

## Congratulations to An Outstanding DCHS Volunteer

We were very pleased to receive notice that our own President Emeritus, Brent Carson will be receiving the 2022 Heidelberg University Outstanding Alumni Award of the Year. This prestigious honor is given each year to an alumnus in recognition of lifetime accomplishments and contributions to his/her profession, community and society at large. It is considered to be the highest alumni award.

A graduate of the Heidelberg class of 1970, Brent has spent his entire professional career primarily teaching sixth grade social studies at Willis Jr. High School. His teaching style was unique with activities such as wearing a toga and leading his students through tubs of ice water to re-enact Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon, writing and performing medieval plays and writing and performing the Marathon Runner's Rap.



*Brent showing a Native American projectile point to students visiting the Cryder Research Library.*

Brent has had a long interest in history, particularly local history. As a teacher, he incorporated "Delaware Extras" as a weekly extra credit exercise for his classes. He formed an after-school extra-curricular group called the Willis History Club. Its purpose was to promote and preserve the history of the school, community and county. Brent retired from teaching in 2005 to devote more time to promoting local history.

Carson has served on the Delaware County Historical Society's board president for many years and as president for 11 years. As a key member of the DCHS Curriculum Support Committee, he reenacts historic figures for programs to students, and routinely gives presentations throughout the community on history topics. He received the Teacher of the Year award in 2002 from the Delaware Rotary Club and in addition, he was inducted in 2014 into the Delaware City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, which recognizes alumni and friends who have excelled in their careers, athletics or the arts.

Congratulations to our own Brent Carson – an inspiration to us all!

Submitted by Donna Meyer, DCHS Executive Director



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