



Delaware County Historian

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History of the Arts in Delaware Unfolds as the Arts Festival Turns Forty-Eight

By *Becky Sutherland Cornett, DCHS Trustee*

The Delaware Arts Festival, now in its 48th year, is an integral part of the city's diverse and expanding arts and culture offerings. The festival takes place in May, its white tents covering Sandusky and Winter Streets in the historic downtown. Exhibitors display creative work including jewelry, leather work, ceramics, wood carvings, paintings, photography, textiles, and more. Food trucks, other vendors, and musical entertainment are also offered for the large crowds.

The non-profit organization awards \$20,000 to three senior high school art students from around Delaware County pursue their visual arts studies. Grants are also provided in the visual arts to Delaware County teachers and other members of the community.

Many of Delaware's other arts offerings are steeped in the past and continue to tell their stories. The Delaware Cultural Arts Center – known as the "Arts Castle" - was once the home of well-known horticulturalist, George Campbell, and his wife, Elizabeth Little. She was the daughter of prosperous businessman and Delaware founder, William Little, whose house stood where Monnett Hall is today. The land on which the Arts Castle (190 W. Winter Street) stands was Little's wedding gift to the couple. It was built in 1854 of Blue Limestone from the quarry, then owned by Little, and later Campbell. (Today, it is Blue Limestone Park). Campbell is best known for commercializing the Delaware grape, which is the table grape of choice in Japan today. The property included vineyards, a greenhouse, and gardens. He distributed a catalogue of his fruits, vegetables, and flowers widely. Campbell was president of the Ohio Horticulture Society and was



Mural about what community means by Brett Cook at the back of Andrews House on Winter Street

appointed by President Hayes as U.S. Commissioner to the Paris Exposition of 1878. He died in 1898.

Later, the Arts Castle was part Ohio Wesleyan University's Lyon Art Hall for 70 years. After other iterations, it became the Delaware Cultural Arts Center. In another nod to history, the exhibit "Delaware's History Through Architecture" (March 13 - June 17, 2023), offered in conjunction with DCHS, includes antique postcards, photos, documents, and objects such as pillars and iron fencing, that celebrate the city's history and architecture.

Gallery 22 (at 22 W. Winter St.) is presented by the Arts Castle. The all-volunteer organization's goals are to "promote art education, engage the public

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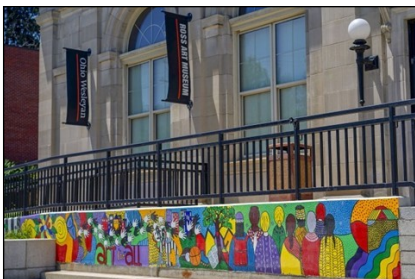
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with art, and implement a creative environment that creates originality beyond the arts." The building housing Gallery 22 was a department store until 1915, later becoming individual businesses.

It is a delight to watch the transformation of **Boardman Arts Park**, formerly the site of an elementary school from 1904-1979 when the building was demolished. The property is leased to the park by Delaware City Schools. Bricks from the school are featured in new pathways. The park includes an outdoor gallery featuring rotating exhibits; opportunities for the community to create exhibits for the park; art structures that encourage hands-on activities; and a multi-use venue for classes, concerts, and events/festivals.

The **Richard Ross Art Museum** was acquired by Ohio Wesleyan University in 1969. It was previously the U.S. Post Office. After serving as OWU's fine arts department, it was converted and opened as a museum in 2002. What most people likely do not know is that this site on South Sandusky Street was the Anthoni and Sons Brewery. The Anthoni family, immigrants from the Lorraine area of France, opened the brewery in 1834 and had agencies and depots in Fostoria, Akron, Galion, and Findlay. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2019.

Erin Fletcher, Director of the Ross since mid-2016, envisioned community engagement through public art early in her tenure. In 2017, the museum mounted "The Shadows We Cast," an architectural-scale video that was projected nightly onto the front façade of the art museum from September 20-October 31. The Columbus Dispatch article about the project said that the video featured a montage of archival postcards, letters, and home movies created by ordinary residents of Central Ohio that promoted the American Dream through the decades. It was OWU's first foray into



"Art for All" by Queen Brooks and Shelbi Harris, Ross Art Museum

public art for the community, Fletcher said (a large campus mural at the amphitheater had been created by students in 2014).

In 2018, Fletcher

worked with Columbus artist Queen Brooks and colleague Shelbi Harris to paint a mural on the east side of the museum's accessibility ramp titled "Art for All." It is a vibrant addition to the museum and the city.

The Delaware Mural Project

The Delaware Mural Project began when Ross Art Museum director, Erin Fletcher, invited artist, Brett Cook, to discuss her goal of integrating art more visibly into the wider community. Two murals were completed in 2019 – one at the Unity Community Center at 50A Ross St. and at Andrews House 39 W. Winter Street



Unity Community Center Mural by Brett Cook (pictured are Melissa Harris and her daughter, Ava Johnson)

(which was the mansion built for entrepreneur Hiram Griswold Andrews, later becoming Delaware's first hospital and then home to two OWU fraternities. In the mid-1990's St. Peter's Episcopal Church bought and restored the building to form the community center).

Readers are encouraged to explore the many facets of Delaware's art and historic architecture (including "ghost" signs – which are associated with local businesses in history) through self-guided tours, offered in pdf brochures online or hard-copy form):

- **Delaware Art Walk (developed in 2020 in response to the pandemic) -** <https://www.artscastle.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ArtWalk2020-web.pdf>
- **Mosaic Art Tour** (featuring the mosaic work of Lynda Elias and Virginia Corwin throughout the city) - <https://www.artscastle.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ArtWalk2020-web.pdf>
- **Ghost Signs of Delaware Tour—** <https://delawareohiohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Downtown-Delaware-Ghost-Signs.pdf>
- **A Walk on Winter Street—** <https://delawareohiohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/A-Walk-on-Winter-Street-Self-Guided-Tour.pdf>

- **A Stroll Down Sandusky Street—**
<https://delawareohiohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/A-Stroll-Down-Sandusky-Street-Self-Guided-Tour.pdf> (Also offered in Google Maps)

Delaware County District Library (DCDL) patrons can create their own art at the Maker Studio at the Delaware or Liberty branches. Businesses in downtown Delaware that feature DIY art projects include Tiny House Vintage and Art and Bare Bowl.



Happy National Historic Preservation Month!

Technically, National Historic Preservation Month takes place in May each year, but we think it should be **every month!**

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1947

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 history through community engagement, education and historic preservation.

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Contributions of original historical research concerning Delaware County, Ohio, are welcome!
 Please send contributions to the attention of the Newsletter Editor at the above address.

Librarian's Dilemma: The Value of Proper Cataloging

By David A. Simmons, DCHS Volunteer - Cryder Research Library



At first glance, construction of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge over the Ohio River in 1849 seems like just another interesting story of Ohio

Valley history without much direct connection to Delaware's history. In reality, this distant event had a clear impact on Delaware, but, even as a bridge historian, discovering that connection only occurred after a round about journey.

I was part of the organizing committee for a conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge in October 1999. Stretching a bit over 1000 feet, the bridge was the nation's longest when it opened in October 1849 and was the first ever crossing of the Ohio River's navigable channel. While working at the Ohio Historical Society, I had helped organize a series of historic bridge conferences that began at Ohio State University in 1985 to bring together historians and civil engineers. Wheeling was scheduled to be the sixth in the series and the first outside of Ohio, and I eventually joined fifteen other speakers in making formal presentations at the conference. I spoke about the spate of suspension bridges built in the Ohio Valley that were inspired by the opening of the Wheeling Bridge. A contemporary observer characterized them as "light, aerial structures of modern engineering." My paper covered eighteen suspension bridges in Ohio, western Virginia, and Kentucky built between 1852 and 1876, and West Virginia University Press published the proceedings that year.

What I didn't discover until 2002 was that Delaware should have been included in my study! After picking up a copy of Ray Buckingham's Bicentennial book *Delaware County Then and Now*, I was shocked to find a reproduction of an 1857 ink, graphite, and wash drawing of a suspension bridge over the Olentangy River on Winter Street as the inside cover. The art was

the work of Catherine Cooper Hopley, a British native, who between 1855 and 1859 was living in Cleveland where she offered private lessons in drawing, painting, music, and French. The circumstances of her coming to Delaware are not known, but her watercolors received commendations at the Ohio State Fair in 1856 and 1859.

I immediately contacted Marilyn Cryder and arranged to bring a photographer to the library to copy the drawing. There I discovered that an 1872 bird's-eye map of Delaware also showed a distant view of the bridge. Marilyn agreed to loan me a large format copy negative of the map, and I had several enlargements made from it before returning the negative.



John Gray, a Kentucky native then living in Pittsburgh and calling himself a civil engineer, erected the Winter Street Suspension Bridge in 1853. Officials from Seneca County, Ohio, hired him to build a 210-foot wire suspension bridge in downtown Tiffin in April 1853. About the same time, Gray contracted to complete a 550-foot suspension bridge over the Licking River in northern Kentucky. It was a busy year for Gray, for in October 1853, Delaware City officials asked him to build a suspension footbridge over the Olentangy aligned with Winter Street. It was completed by December.

The details of Gray's design are known only through Hopley's artwork. Erected on traditional stone piers, the towers appear to have been iron. The bridge also featured a traditional stiffening truss running along the footpath that was reminiscent of a Howe truss. Obviously, the wire cables were not heavy enough to provide much dead weight, making it too easy for "Rowdies" to entertain themselves by shaking and swinging the superstructure to the point of endangering

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The Lost Townships of Delaware County

By Steve Shaw, The Historian DCHS Newsletter Editor



Graphic (WWW)

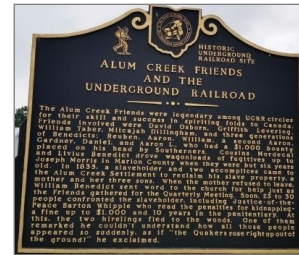


On February 10, 1808 Speaker of the House Pro Tem for the Ohio House of Representatives signed a one-page document called "An Act Establishing the County of Delaware." It is a simple-looking document that is built on existing foundations of law - especially the Northwest Ordinances of 1785 and 1787 and the

Congressional Act giving Ohio statehood in 1803. Ohio was the first state established in the Northwest Territory and in 1808, Ohio was just 5 years old as a legal entity.

Some of the interesting language in the document had county boundaries for Delaware County outside of the boundaries we are used to in the 21st Century. Consider a statement that took the County well into the Virginia Military District to the "east boundary of Champaign County". That would stretch the new county to the west over what would become Union County. The enabling act set the northern boundary at the "Indian Boundary Line". The line had been established by the Greenville Treaty of 1795, which established boundaries for American Indian tribes. From 1803 to 1808, the date the county was established, the area we now call home was

actually part of Franklin county. In 1808, there were a number of tribes still residing in Ohio. Among the tribes that were neighbors between Delaware County and Lake Erie were the Ottawa, and the Huron (Wyandots).



Delaware County stayed intact in that configuration from 1808 until 1820, its northern border reaching Lake Erie. The Ohio Legislator created Union County out of portions of Delaware, Franklin, Madison, and Logan counties. The county seat for the new county was the small village of Milford, (later changed to Milford Center).



The northern part of Delaware County contained townships that were eventually to be part of Marion and Morrow County - townships of Westfield, Lincoln, Harmony, Bennington, and Peru.

Building the Harrison Military Road came about because of the War of 1812. That road was a supply chain that included Fort Morrow as an important link in that chain. It was built on the Whetstone River (now Olentangy) and just East of Norton. Peru Township was home to the Alum Creek Friends (Quakers), which was a focal point for Underground Railroad activity. Cutting through the small village of Westfield was the nearly forgotten Delaware to Mansfield Road. Between the 1820s and 1840s, the agrarian economy created opportunities for small villages to be platted and thrive. For example, the village of Westfield had a dry goods store, a harness shop, a distillery, and a stagecoach stop. In 1835, the town of Middletown was platted in Marlboro Township. The name was chosen because it was midway between the towns of Marion and Delaware. Middletown later changed its name to Prospect.

In 1848, the State of Ohio redrew the county maps to allow for the creation of the new County of Morrow.

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Connecting Delaware's Ancient Past to its Future

By Ronan Thompson, DCHS Volunteer and Student at Ohio Wesleyan University

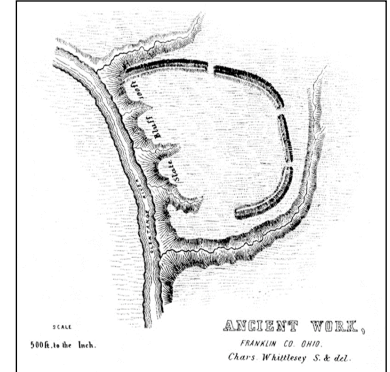
The Delaware County Historical Society offers learning opportunities for local elementary students that are beloved by the community. I've heard stories of people approaching volunteers almost a decade after they came to The Meeker House for a field trip to thank them for bringing the history of Delaware alive. So, when I started to develop my addition to the lineup, I knew I had to do something special. I decided to go further back in time than any of our previous programs and take students into the world of the first peoples of Delaware County.

I start every presentation with the same question: "How long do you think people have lived in Delaware?" I've gotten guesses from a few hundred years to a few million. The actual answer is somewhere in between. The oldest evidence for human habitation in Central Ohio dates back approximately 12,000 years. When the last Ice Age ended (approx. 13,000 B.C.E), the glaciers that had covered Ohio receded, leaving wide swaths of flat land bisected by a complex series of rivers. The fertile plain between the Olentangy and Scioto offered an abundance of game and edible plant life to the very first inhabitants of Delaware.

I discuss with students the resources that made Delaware County such a desirable place to live. To study these ancient hunter-gatherers, archeologists use tools left behind to learn about them. We briefly go through the timeline of cultures that evolved after those earliest inhabitants. We explore the unique differences between Paleolithic (approx. 13,000 to 8,000 B.C.E.), Archaic (approx. 8,000 B.C.E. to 1,000 B.C.E.), and Woodland (approx. 1,000 B.C.E.- 800 C.E.) cultures that all called Delaware home and how they changed as people learned and adapted to their surroundings.

To showcase these cultures, I use a display case of 20 flint spearheads, ranging from about 9,000 to 900 years old. Three Middle Woodland blades (dulled by

around 7,000 years) the kids pass around to touch and feel. These tools were created by the Adena and Hopewell people, also called the Mound Builders. They are examples of cultures that left a permanent mark on the landscape of Delaware County, with their massive earthwork structures.



Map of the Highbanks Cole Earthwork

Some mounds could reach up to ten stories tall and the length and width of a basketball court and were often covered in slabs of white limestone to reflect sunlight. Though there were over 100 earthwork sites in Delaware County when Europeans first arrived, including dozens of the classic conical burial mounds, only a handful remain today. Though the mounds themselves may not remain, the people who made them left behind countless artifacts here in Delaware.

We talk about what we can learn from these artifacts, and why they're important. For example, each color of stone (from pink and red, to speckled green and blue, to the plain gray Delaware Chert) comes from a different quarry around Ohio, but every piece was found in



Example of early Adena pottery, image credit: Ohio History Connection



Case of flint points used during the school programs

Delaware, which teaches us that the people who lived here 7,000 years ago communicated and traded with other communities across the state. In fact, other artifacts discovered in Hopewell Earthworks use materials that would've required a trade network stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Florida Gulf.

Not only can we learn important facts about history from artifacts, we can also use them to connect to the people who lived here before us, even though our lives now look very different. If you feel the knapping marks on a flint blade very carefully, you can even tell if the person who made it was right or left-handed. Stone may not seem like it could make history come alive, but in holding these tools, the people who created them become more than just an idea in a textbook. They were craftsmen, artists, and cooks, and they liked colorful stones. They were people just like us.

I've been asked if I worry about things being broken, but I've never seen kids more careful than the students I've been lucky enough to work with. They understand why it's important that we keep these artifacts safe and what they can teach us. Even if something slips and breaks, which could happen just as easily in my adult hands, these tools have long outlived their original purpose. I like to think the ancient craftspeople who created them would be proud to know their work is still being admired. Studying these ancient cultures provides clues as to how they sheltered, hunted, grew and stored food, and made their own clothing.



Example of Hopewell artifacts that display their copper-working skills. Image Credit: Ohio History Connection

Cryder Research Library Relocation Update

By Nancy Reger, Chair - DCHS Collections Committee

On February 27th, the DCHS hired movers to relocate several items located in the Cryder Reading Room. This began a 3 phase project to improve the Cryder Research Library appearance and make it more inviting to visitors and volunteers.



Phase 1 included removing some items from the back of the Reading Room and installing a portable wall to section off the 'collection processing area' from the rest of the room. Most notable of objects moved was the relocation of the pre-1850 desk on which Calista 'McCabe (Mrs. Lorenzo) wrote the initial constitution for the Womens' Christian Temperance Union to the parlor of the Historic Jail. The Presidential Easter Egg Collection is also now more prominently displayed in the Reading Room.

Phase 2 includes opening the west wall of the Reading Room to improve visibility of the display cases along the wall where plans are being made for an entirely new display. Opening the space includes removing the existing portable wall and finding new homes for several glass display cases. These cases, after their contents are assessed for retention or deaccession, will be offered to members of the History Network for their use. This phase is in process now.

Phase 3 includes shifting the volunteer cataloger area a few feet to the west to accommodate additional storage on the east side of the Reading Room. This will not only increase storage space but alleviate concerns from fire inspectors about having items too close to the ceiling. Several volunteers are involved and hope to have things wrapped up by the end of year.

There She is Miss America

By Steve Shaw, DCHS Historian Newsletter Editor



In a quiet corner of Oak Grove Cemetery is the unassuming gravesite of Mary Katherine Campbell Townley and Frederic Townley. The Townley's never resided in Delaware but chose here as their final resting place. It is notable that 100 years ago, this year Mary Katherine Campbell became the only two-time winner of the Miss

America Contest. Here is part of her story.

Mary Katherine Campbell was born in 1905 in Columbus, Ohio. She was a graduate of Columbus East High School. In 1922, she earned her chance to compete for Miss America by winning the Miss Columbus contest. She traveled to Atlantic City, New Jersey to compete in the three year old pageant. Although competitive, the early years of the pageant were decidedly more relaxed. Phases of the competition included rolling chair parade, evening gown, intercity bathing, amateur surf attire, and professional mermaids. There was no talent competition and no formal interview sessions between contestants and judges. Norman Rockwell was one of the celebrity judges. He is quoted as saying the panel was given no formal guidance on how to judge the contest or select the winner. At the conclusion of the event, Miss Campbell was presented with \$5,000 and the Golden Mermaid Trophy. She was hoisted on the shoulders of the Mermaid Court and paraded around the ballroom.

Under pageant rules of the time, Miss Campbell was allowed to compete for the crown again in 1923. In 1922, there were 57 contestants from the Inter-city Beauty Contest, as it was called. In 1923, there were 84 contestants for the growing contest. Mary Katherine Campbell became the only 2-time winner in the pageants history. She stated that she hoped one of the other girls would win. One judge explained her appeal as, "posing a great vivacity and an inherent shyness that constitutes a wonderful combination". 1924 found Mary returning to the pageant for a third try. She was runner up. Shortly after the 1924 contest, the board initiated bylaws that made it so no previous winner could win again.

Mary's high profile earned her offers for movies, vaudeville and even a spot with the famous Ziegfeld Girls. She was referred to as the girl with the figure and gave as one of her beauty secrets that she never wore make up.



Her mother didn't want her to join the Follies, and so, she returned to Columbus. Fate was to keep her in Columbus, Ohio to care for her mother. Her mother, Estella Campbell, died in 1927 and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery. Her father, Herman Rhodes Campbell died in 1941 and is also buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.



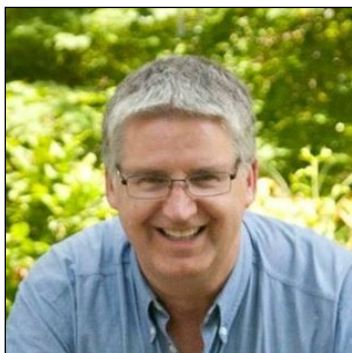
Mary returned to the East Coast and ended up marrying a Dupont executive Frederick Townley. Together, they lived a life over the years in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, just West of Central Park in New York City and San Francisco. A brief mention of Mary in a 1959 *Time Magazine* said "now 52, the wife of Dupont Salesman Frederick Townley, she lives in New York City, still vacations at Atlantic City, but not during the contest."

Frederick Townley died in 1987 at the age of 83 and was interred in Oak Grove Cemetery. Mary Campbell Townley died in San Francisco and was returned to Delaware, Ohio. She was buried next to her husband in Oak Grove Cemetery. She had said that she considered Delaware her favorite place in all the world. She is in Oak Grove along with her father and mother, her grand parents, Herman and Estella Campbell, and Great Grandparents, Frank and Emma Campbell, and Great Great Grandparents who built what is now known as the Art's Castle. Mary had written how she loved visiting her grandparents' home on West Winter Street. If Mary had the opportunity to walk those streets today, much of the neighborhood and downtown would still be recognizable to her.

Welcoming Two New Board Members!

By Karen Cowan, Vice President of DCHS Operations

Scott Martin



Scott Martin is one of two new members to our DCHS Board. Scott comes to us via Leadership Delaware. Scott has founded two businesses – Make Paper Digital, LLC and MP Digital LLC. He is active in the Delaware

Rotary and with the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce.

In his professional life, Scott has worked with and grown to love Historical Societies and felt that serving on our board was a good way to give back to the community.

Dan Coutcher



Dan Coutcher is the second new member to serve on our DCHS Board. Dan also comes to us from Leadership Delaware. He is the Director of Development and Marketing for People in Need, Inc. of Delaware County, Ohio.

Dan has always loved history - particularly, local history. He felt that the Historical Society offered the opportunity to make a difference in the community and utilize his skills and talents.

These individuals were voted in by the board, to fill two unexpired terms. We welcome both Scott and Dan to our Board of Trustees.

Mark Your Calendars

Join us for our upcoming events and exhibits!

History of Del-Co Water & Water Systems

Presented by Glenn Marzluf, CEO & General Manager

Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 PM
The Barn at Stratford

The Stagecoach Era in Delaware County

Presented by Sutherland Cornett, DCHS Trustee

Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 PM
The Barn at Stratford

Stop by and see us!

Visit our booth during Delaware First Fridays

Tour the Historic Jail & Sheriff's Residence

20 East Central Avenue, Delaware
First Fridays from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

And, explore our other historic properties to check out featured exhibits and learn more about our shared history here in Delaware, Ohio!

Nash House Museum

157 East William Street, Delaware

- *Wednesdays from 10:00AM - 12:00 PM*
- *Wednesdays from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM*
- *Sundays from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM*

Meeker Homestead Museum

2690 Stratford Road, Delaware
Open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The Killing Deed

By Judge David Hejmanowski, DCHS Board President

Trying to decipher the mysteries of history can be a challenging, frustrating and sometimes infuriating task. At times, things that are taken as near certain fact can turn out to be complete fiction. At other times, things that seem horribly far-fetched can reveal themselves to be true. And sometimes, things that are repeated time and again turn out to be almost comical once the truth is revealed.

An often circulated story about the history of the old Delaware County Courthouse falls into this last category. With an architectural firm

now hired to plan the renovation of the building, interest in the building's history has again peaked. Along with that interest has come a revival of the fanciful, and completely false, tale about the history of the building.

The most reliable source of courthouse lore is the legendary Henry E. Shaw, Jr. Judge Shaw was Delaware County Prosecutor, and then served 27 years as Judge of the General Division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, presiding that entire time in the 1868 courthouse. As it was his work home for three decades, Judge Shaw took a particular interest in the history of the building and its occupants. A summary of that work can be found on the court's website.

The Auditor immediately notify the Bellinginger to desist now, henceforth, and forever from ringing said bell.

Delaware County Commissioner's minutes March, 1852

The myth goes like this: whoever owned the land on which the courthouse now sits was opposed to the death penalty (or at least its public fulfillment). Thus, when they sold the parcel to the county, they included a deed restriction that if there was ever a death sentence handed down in the county, or if anyone was ever put to

death there, then the county would forfeit the land, and it would go back to the family who sold it.

A cursory review of the myth reveals so many holes that it appears as see-through as Swiss cheese. First, the myth identifies no owner nor heirs to whom the property would revert. Second, the property was conveyed to the county more than five decades before the current courthouse was built on the site. Third, such a deed

How effective Colonel Byxbe was at populating Delaware and Delaware County is a matter of personal opinion.

Moses Byxbe: His Impact and His Image' by Ray E. Buckingham

restriction would be unenforceable. And fourth, a death sentence has been handed down in that building, and clearly, the county still owns it.

When Delaware was first laid out as a county in 1808, one of its founders, Moses Byxbe, appointed his son, Moses Byxbe, Jr., as the first clerk of the Common Pleas Court. There being no courthouse at the time, Commissioner's records indicate that the court first met on June 3, 1808 at the Barber Tavern, also known as Pioneer Tavern, on South Henry Street, now part of the Ohio Wesleyan campus.

It was seven more years before the County Commissioners decided to purchase land for a courthouse. On January 7, 1815 Moses Byxbe and his wife Dorothy, and another of Delaware's founding figures Henry Baldwin and his wife, deeded property they owned at the NW corner of Sandusky Street and Central

Avenue for the construction of a courthouse. The Commissioners journal of January 3, 1815 describes the two-story brick structure as being 38 feet by 40 feet, with an 18 foot octagonal cupola. It cost \$8,000. There are no known photographs of the building, but Judge

Shaw commissioned a drawing in 1997, based upon the description in the Commissioner's journal.

By March of 1852, the building was in such bad shape that the Commissioners ordered the bell ringer to stop clanging, worried that the act would bring the building down. The building was demolished in 1858, and after several tax levies failed, the state legislature imposed a \$76,000 assessment upon the county to build the current structure in 1868.

Ohio law provides that no deed restriction can be enforceable if the restriction is contrary to public policy. The state Supreme Court has held that restrictions prohibiting schools are void for that reason. Since the death penalty is the public policy of the state, a deed restriction prohibiting it would almost certainly also be void.

So where does this myth come from? Well, it comes from the 1815 deed itself. That deed contains the following language, "The said premises shall in no wise be at anytime subject to be transferred or sold by virtue of any decree, judgment, or execution." A non-lawyer might think that the word 'execution' there is a noun- a death sentence. But in fact, it's a verb. It simply means that no one can ever take the land as a result of a legal judgment against the county.

Thus, the myth, like the building, has a colorful history, albeit a boring legal explanation.

David Hejmanowski is Judge of the Probate/Juvenile Division of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas.

Volunteers Needed!

Preserve. Educate. Engage.



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

The Nash House * Cryder Research Library
Barn at Stratford * Meeker Homestead Museum
Millworker Cottage * Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence



Contact us at 740.369.3831 or
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WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

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- People to Catalog Our Artifacts
- People to Install and Create Displays in Our Museums
- Curriculum Committee Members to Support Our School-Age Education Programs

Flexible schedules. Training provided.

Bring your unique skills and a love of history. We'll show you the rest!



Director's Column

By Donna Meyer, DCHS Executive Director



So Many Reasons to Celebrate!

As a reflection of all we have done over the last 8 months, one word that comes to mind is "accomplishment". Here at the Delaware County Historical Society, we have many accomplishments and successes to celebrate. First and foremost is the completion of the Barn at Stratford roof replacement, which is the last of the renovations needed to preserve the 175-year-old building. This was the final phase of all the work which took place over nearly 5 years. We were so fortunate to have Midstate Contractors, from Marion OH, do the work. Their meticulous attention to detail, and highly skilled workmanship will ensure the Barn will last another 175 years.

We were fortunate to have received three grants from the State of Ohio's biennial capital budget, totaling \$1,050,000, thanks to the efforts of our State Senator, Andrew Brenner, who continues to support our organization. This nearly covered the expenses of both phases, and the balance was funded by generous donations from supporters like you. Our hard-working board members and volunteers were

always on hand to guide me through this process.

We are also celebrating teaching local history to a record number of students over the last 12 months. Nearly 3500 students toured our museums, went on history tours in Delaware, and attended programs about our earliest settlers and the Underground Railroad. Our traveling Artifact Cart went to schools to show students items that had been used in the past, to make candles, curl hair, and whip cream. Our reenactors allowed children to not just hear about our local history, but to watch it.

And finally, our 80+ active volunteers accomplish so much and dedicate so many hours to our organization. It is a true joy to see them share their skills with a true passion for our mission. They help us build strong community relationships and partnerships.

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

Riddle Me This

By Cindy Kerr, Museums and Exhibits Committee Chair

How do cotton swabs, magnifying glasses, and oil paintings go together? Have you figured out the answer? They are the tools of an art conservationist. How do we know? This month we were delighted to host Andrea Chevalier of the ICA for two days.

The ICA, originally called the Intermuseum Conservation Association, "is the oldest non-profit art conservation center in the United States." The Delaware County Historical Society owns many impressive artworks, and we wondered how our museums should be lighting the art, storing it at Cryder, and if or how our paintings should be restored. Ms. Chevalier reviewed nearly twenty of our paintings. She meticulously examined the frames and paintings with magnifying loops, tested the canvases with various chemicals, and took tons of notes. As her visit with us came to an end, she explained that our paintings are stored well and, on the whole, are in good shape. She will write up a detailed assessment of each piece along with its frame and framing method. We will receive that review in several months and with it, we will have the knowledge of how best to preserve our incredible art.

This survey is the product of a great collaboration between the Collections Committee, the Museums and Exhibits Committee, and the Cryder Research Library.



Librarian's Dilemma

continued from page 4

those crossing it. The Democratic Standard indicated their "performance" was accompanied by "obscene remarks and profanity," and city council soon passed an ordinance against such abusive behavior.

Unfortunately, the incident reflected badly on the technology, and the county commissioners declined the opportunity to build two more suspension bridges nearby.

The color transparency of the Hopley bridge drawing remained in my research files until I used it to put together an article on "IA in Art" for the newsletter of the Society for Industrial Archeology in 2019. When I brought a copy of the newsletter to share with Susan Logan, DCHS Library Committee Chair and Volunteer Coordinator, I was dismayed to learn that the original artwork was nowhere to be found! She was pretty sure that it was somewhere in the building, but Marilyn Cryder had never bothered to properly catalog and locate the item.

That remained the state of things until December 8 when Susan looked into a drawer in the bottom of a cabinet that had not been opened for a decade. The items in the upper drawers seemed to be cataloged and their locations recorded but there was a stack of items in the bottom drawer that were definite orphans. In the bottom of the stack was the missing artwork! Susan immediately cataloged and properly filed it. The lost had been found!

Missed the latest Meeker Museum fun? More to come!

Mark your calendar, and watch for additional details to come.

- **August 6: "Pioneer Fun and Crafting"** - Pioneer games, crafts, tin smithing, paper marbling, mini floor cloths, and coloring pages.
- **September 3: "Down on the Farm"** - Sheep shearing, spinning demo, crafts, weaving, dying wool, carding wool, and a coloring page station

Fun for the whole family!

Lost Townships

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Morrow County was carved out of portions of Delaware, Crawford, Knox, Marion, and Richland Counties. Delaware County lost the following townships to Morrow County: part of Marlboro, Westfield, Lincoln, Harmony, Bennington, and Peru. Marion County received northern portions of Radnor and Marlboro Townships. The newly annexed portions of Delaware County, which became part of Marion County, petitioned to change the new township to Waldo Township.

Just west of Prospect, there is a marker at the corner of Boundary Road and Route 4, that acknowledges the Greenville Treaty Boundary - a reminder of the one-time northern limit of Delaware County.

It is interesting to note and read about our early history and how Delaware County's map changed over time. There are also practical reasons to have this knowledge. The shifting boundaries may provide clues as to why road names change between counties or where drainage ditches are set. The dates of a boundary change can affect what jurisdiction a deed change occurred, where a will was probated, and where U.S. Census was registered.

Track boundary changes here - www.mapofus.org/ohio



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