



# Delaware County Historian

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## 1913 and 1915 Delaware High School Basketball Teams: STATE CHAMPIONS OF OHIO

By Jerry Linscott

### State Title Tournament Origin

The City of Delaware caught basketball fever when the Delaware Hayes Pacers boy's basketball team made it to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) final four this year. This was the first time to reach those heights since the OHSAA was formed in the 1920's. Previously those championship heights had been reached when Delaware High School captured a championship trophy. In 1913 and 1915 Delaware teams were champions of Ohio in basketball. Here is part of their story.

Prior to the OHSAA basketball tournament takeover in 1923, state champions were crowned from 1909-1922 at the annual tournament held at Ohio Wesleyan University's Edwards Gym.

Old Delaware High School which predated both Delaware Willis High School and Delaware Hayes High School, made it to the state semifinals seven times (1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1915, and 1922), with all but 1909 and 1911 not ending in a state title game as well.

Terms such as "orange and black" and "Delawareans" often served as descriptors for the earliest high school since it had no official mascot. In two of the five finals they were in (1913 and 1915), the original orange and black were able to call themselves in scholastic hoops the state champions of Ohio.

Both seasons began the same way, without a head



coach. Leave it to Delaware teams to turn a recipe for disaster into the recipe for success.

The 1913 campaign endured more setbacks in the early going. Finding teams who were willing to play D.H.S. was difficult with its recent success in athletics, and several other opponents like Galion, Granville Doane Academy, Marion, and Mount Vernon canceled scheduled games.

Previous head coach Frederick W. Dixon was unable to lead the team due to being the athletic director

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for OWU where the high school played its home games. The players struggled until mid-season when Albert W. McCally finally arrived.

Still, more challenges arose when 1912 state championship quarterback and star hoops defender Jimmy Battenfield had to accompany his parents during their month-long Florida vacation. "Batty" returned, but not before the team hobbled into the postseason with a lowly record of 2-4.

As for the 1915 squad, their season began with an 0-3 start before improving to 5-3 heading into the tournament (slightly better than the first state title hoopsters). Things only turned around after 1913 state championship player-manager Emil Turner became the team's head coach.

### Last Team Standing (Twice)

A total of 26 high schools broken into two divisions (northern and southern) participated in the 1913 state title tourney and Delaware had to win over five opponents to claim the ultimate prize.

In the semifinals (what everyone calls the "Final Four"

these days), Newark defeated Springfield 14-10 for the northern division championship and Delaware won the southern division championship from Findlay 24-14. The two division champions met in the state final and after trailing 12-13 in the second half, Jimmy Battenfield replaced Emil Turner at guard to stymie the Newark offense and help rally the team.

It worked to perfection as the orange and black claimed its first state championship in basketball 25-18 in front of the Delaware hometown faithful.

Whereas this would have been any modern campaign's conclusion, Geneva High School decided it wanted a shot at the newly-crowned state champs after the tournament was over. Delaware obliged with one last away victory, officially wrapping up its 1913 season at 8-4.

On a side note, you can actually see the 1913 basketball team's state

championship trophy. It is currently sitting proudly on display in the showcase of the Willis Education Center alongside a framed photograph of the players.

A higher number of tournament entrants in 1915 (46) meant D.H.S. needed six wins to hoist its second state title trophy in hoops for the city of Delaware. After dispatching four teams to get to the state semis, the Delawareans won the southern division championship 27-15 over Ashville. In the other semifinal, Mount Vernon claimed the northern division championship against Bellevue, 29-25.

The home crowd then saw the orange and black defeat the Mounties 32-17 in the state final. Clarence Perry and Ralph Thomson scored 12 and 8 points, respectively.

The 1915 team was able to run the table with 11 straight victories after a winless 0-3 start, finishing 11-3.





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## “Do Not Marry Young” – Editorial From 1862 Breaks Conventional Wisdom

It is well known that women in American society had limited choices. The right to vote is often cited, but the ability to choose an education, career, own property were also severely limited. This *Delaware Gazette* article and editorial underscores many of the issues of that time.

*By Becky S. Cornett*

*Delaware Gazette, 18 July 1862*

*By Mrs. J. Elizabeth Jones*

“I think I am warranted in saying that the mental resources of a large proportion of our American women never increase after marriage, while cases in which they diminish are very numerous. It often happens, that when a couple are married her school education is quite as good as that of the man, her talents equal, to say

the least, her family better, and her position in society superior.

“But the change in her life and occupation is so complete that she soon loses much of the knowledge she has acquired. She would gladly retain it, but it passes from her like a retreating tide. It is crowded out by new cares and duties, and thoughts on new subjects. A few years

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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.



## Do Not Marry Young continued from page 3

only pass away, before moods and tenses – levers and laws, solids and fluids, flights of rhetoric, chips of logic, and stray equation dance through her brain in confusion, forming, with every attempt to bring them into order, nothing but kaleidoscopic figures. Not so with man. He has occasion to use the knowledge he has gained, and furthermore he continues in some manner the pursuit of science. His education was but just begun, perhaps, at the time they were married, he goes on exercising it and improving his powers, increasing in knowledge and strength and ability, and twenty years of wedded life have not rolled over their heads before there is a frightful between him and his companion. Then, probably, he will begin to talk a want of congeniality and all that – his wife cannot appreciate him, and he may come to the sage conclusion that it is very dangerous for a man of great capacities to marry at all.

“All the time the wife been engaged in cooking dinners, and nursing children, and ministering to the physical necessities of her family, (they have been too poor to have any help) and when she has time to think, which seldom happens, the unwelcome conviction forces itself upon her, that their home is no home for her husband it is only a place where he eats and sleeps –and gets his linnen washed and mended. But she could not help it.

“He has been free; she has been fettered. Society invited him to a sumptuous intellectual banquet – she was shut out and starved for food, and now the public delights in his ample proportions, while it looks with contempt upon the gaunt, shriveled being at his side. Now I would say to the young woman, if this is to be your experience, if, in the language of Sidney Smith, your “swift vanishing woman hood is to wrinkle itself up into despised old age,” for heaven’s sake, do not marry young!

“But how is the result of domestic cares to be avoided? responds the inquirer. These duties and the maternal also, must be performed by women. Certainly, we cherish them as an essential part of life’s labor; and ask no exemption from their responsibilities. That it does not follow, therefore, that a man has a right to convert

woman into a mere “satellite of the dinner pot,” while he engages in some improving pursuit.

“A man of small business often keeps one or two clerks, while she with many heavy and pressing duties, keeps no servant whatever. If a man is unwilling to become a drudge himself, let him not make one of his wife. All we ask is equality. Let husband and wife cast in their lot together, and if poverty stares them in the face, let not its principal evils be felt by her alone. Let their sacrifices and self-denials be of a similar character.”  
– Mrs. J. Elizabeth Jones.

### Who was Mrs. J. Elizabeth Jones?

Jane Elizabeth (Lizzie) Hitchcock Jones (1813-1896) originally of New York state, was an

abolitionist and suffragist. She married Benjamin Smith Jones in 1846, when she was 33, and they had one daughter. In 1848, she published *The Young Abolitionists, or Conversations on Slavery*. She and her husband were the first co-editors of the *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, which was the weekly publication of the Ohio American Anti-Slavery Society (which was organized in Zanesville OH). The *Bugle* was published in Salem, OH, after getting its start in New Lisbon.

Described as an eloquent and forceful speaker, Hitchcock Jones lectured all over the country on health and hygiene for women, addressed the first convention of women in Salem, Ohio in 1850 and numerous other conventions. She argued that women’s rights are human rights and advocated human rights for all.

Perhaps Hitchcock Jones’ most significant contribution is her work championing married women’s property rights. She and her colleagues Frances Dana Barker Gage and Hannah Tracy Cutler, lobbied the Ohio legislature successfully – and with the considerable



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# The Gooding Tavern

By Donna Marston Meyer

Watching over one of the fastest growing areas of our county for nearly 200 years, this stately home has many stories to tell. It's one of those places that people drive by and wonder about its previous incarnations. Built in 1825 in the Federal style by Massachusetts native, George Gooding, it's an example of a four-over-four building type (four rooms on both the lower and upper floors), and served as a stagecoach stop for decades, serving weary travelers on what was once called the "Mud Pike", now US Route 23, a few miles south of the city of Delaware in

what is now Orange Township. It often took an entire day to go from Columbus to Delaware so the Gooding Tavern provided welcome respite. It was said that visitors

included Johnny Appleseed and William Henry Harrison, who it supposedly stayed at the Gooding Tavern on his way to his inaugural in 1841. Mrs. Gooding typically baked 40 pies at a time which was stored in the ice house on the property, to be served to visitors. Some reports say the house served as a safe location on the Underground Railroad.

Gooding owned one of the most prosperous farms in the area, extending 1300 acres on both sides of Rt 23, and producing 300 pounds of wool, 900 pounds of



butter and 1,000 pounds of cheese each year. In 1856, his estate was valued at over \$20,000, an amazing sum of money for the day.

As renovations were made, the Gooding House provides an example of the architectural evolution exhibiting significant features from each of these three periods: 1820s Federal influences, 1850s early Italianate influences, and 1910s Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Each era was important to the changing styles of the property owner as it was occupied by succeeding generations of the Gooding family.

The Gooding House and Tavern was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and restored in 2007. Its current use as office space is a wonderful example of adaptive reuse of an historic structure which could have fallen victim to the wrecking ball.

So the next time you drive by this stately building, imagine what it was like in the mid-1850s. And be glad the "Mud Pike" is now paved.

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help of Governor Salmon Chase – in 1857 married women in Ohio were granted limited property rights in three provisions – that is, a husband could not sell property without the consent of his wife; second, if the husband violates the provision, the wife could "commence and prosecute" for the recovery of the property or its monetary value; and third if the husband deserted his family or was otherwise incapacitated,

the wife could make contracts on her own for her labor and that of minor children and in her own name sue for collection of earnings (the law still did not grant women control of their own property or grant legal autonomy).

For more detailed information about the women of Ohio who helped make possible the rights we have today see *The Fifth Star: Ohio's Fight for Women's Right to Vote* by Jamie C. Capuzza.

## Another Summer...

*By Donna Marston Meyer*

Another Delaware County summer is upon us and will speed by all too quickly. I recall a time when summer seemed to deliciously drag on and days crept by much slower. Growing up in this wonderful community, summer was a magical time for my sisters and me. Long lazy days stretched out before us as we woke up each morning wondering what adventures the day would bring. After breakfast, we got on our bikes and only came back home for meals (or some injury that required a cool washcloth, band aid, and a kiss from our patient mother). The summer sun baked my skin brown but my younger sister, much fairer than I, usually only got a sun burn.

The summer of 1963 was not particularly notable, except to say that it was a time of innocence – Kennedy had not yet been shot, the country was “between wars”, and we rarely locked our front door at night. When I wasn’t selling Kool-Aid on a card table in front of our house (my mother was my best customer), my favorite summer destination was the Delaware Pool. Then, located behind the Delaware County Fair office, it offered a cool respite from the intense heat and some fun time with friends. Those of us who were lucky to have a season pass, proudly sported that status with a sewn patch on our swimming suit. I recall it was a round “D”, for “Delaware”. That meant we could strut through the pool entrance, without paying, and receive a knowing nod from the attendant. Our great grandmother (who lived with us) purchased the pass for us each year. She said it was so we could get lots of good exercise, but I think it was to keep us from being underfoot all summer – a true win-win situation. We took swimming classes when we were younger. Progression was marked by fishy names (minnows, tadpoles – or was it the other way around?), but at 10 years old, I was way beyond that.

We scheduled eating our lunch each day so that we would meet the necessary 1 hour waiting period after eating, before we swam. “You’ll get cramps” was usually the threat from my mother, if that appropriate



*Photo courtesy of The Delaware County Historical Society*

who got cramps from swimming too soon after eating but the fact that adults said it, meant that it must be true. Since it was about a half hour trip to the pool, this necessary waiting period was easily accomplished. We rode our bikes to the pool each day, unfettered by safety equipment, helmets or even a bike lock. A stolen bike was fairly unheard of in the 1960’s at least in Delaware – sort of an unspoken rule of honor between kids. We parked in the bike racks and ran to the showers to rinse off for our first swim as the pool employees yelled “walk, walk!!” Despite their gruff and intimidating tones, we only slowed down until we were out of visual range. We continued to walk-run through the dark, damp and musty shower area until at last, we made it to the freedom of the pool. Our senses were assailed by the blinding bright sunshine, blasts of chlorine-air filled air, the feel of the hot, rough concrete below our feet (don’t stub your toe – ouch!), the loud squeals and shouts from high-energy swimmers, and the cold splashes of water blasting out of the pool when someone did a cannonball. Not to mention the whistles from the lifeguards (usually high school kids or college students who loved having such a fun summer job) warning kids not to run, splash or commit some other minor infraction.

We carefully arranged our towels on the grass – most kids had a favorite spot, mine was by a shrub near the shallow end. I usually brought several quarters used to purchase cheese or peanut butter crackers from the

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tennis shoe or rolled up in a corner of our towel. And we were off and running. The first stop was the 3 foot side. We would hold hands as we jumped in the pool, (which usually warranted a whistle blow). We would squeal as we plunged in, the cold water rushed over our hot skin. The shock took our breath away but we quickly moved towards the deeper end – after all, at 10 years old, I was much too old to hang around with the younger kids and besides, most of our friends were in the 4 foot or even deeper. The adrenaline rush that came when we were finally brave enough to jump off the “low dive” or eventually off the “high dive” was huge and made us giddy with triumph.

One of our favorite things to do in the pool was playing the diving game, where we would throw in a coin, usually a quarter and someone would dare to go down to the bottom to fetch it. This required opening your eyes under water, not always easy to do, but the rarely-seen view of hopping or tangled legs plus the wonder of muffled underwater sounds made it worth the risk of (supposed) drowning. Other games we played were Mermaid, Frog, or swimming between each other's legs. My older sister taught me that last game, though technically it was not really a game since it had no winners, losers or rules. Occasionally, someone would close their legs and you were “stuck” until you could wriggle free.

Then there came a mid-August day, when it did not get as warm as usual. A cruel reminder that summer was about over. We usually still made it to the pool but the sun seemed dimmer and the wind was chillier. Our lips turned blue and our teeth chattered but we stretched out like lizards on our towels, attempting to absorb the last few rays of sunshine before this wonderful time of year was actually over. A growing knot in my stomach was another reminder that school was about to start (though always AFTER Labor Day) as I tried to catch the remainder of summer in my hands and hang on to it for as long as possible.

1963 marked a small hometown kind of summer in Delaware (as did many summer seasons before and after), full of lightning bug catching, mosquito bites

and scraped knees. I was blessed to grow up in such a wonderful community full of happy memories. And blessed to still be creating them.

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# Willis Middle School – an Architectural and Educational Masterpiece

*By April Nelson*

We think of our streetscape in terms of the buildings, not the numbers. The address 74 West William Street in and of itself is indistinguishable from any other street number. Say the name “Willis,” however, and the large, brick edifice that has served as a Delaware school for decades comes to mind immediately.

Willis Middle School sits on the north side of William Street, between Washington and Franklin Streets. Including the playground added in 2000 to the east side of it, it almost reaches from street corner to street corner, missing only the small former garage at the intersection of Franklin and William Street. To the north, the building stretches from William to Winter Street, flanked by churches on either side on the Winter Street side.

The original building was made up of three components: the original building on Winter Street, built in 1883, the massive edifice fronting William Street, built in 1931 and 1932, and an inner addition that converted an interior courtyard into two floors of building space, completed in 1985.

The main façade of Willis is a continuous brick wall in three distinct sections. The west and east ends of the street face are recessed, with the entrance to the gymnasium being on the east end and the entrance to the auditorium being on the west end. The gymnasium and the auditorium are two stories each, in contrast with the three story center portion, which contains the classrooms. By setting back the end units of the building, the central face of Willis is allowed to dominate the streetscape.



The main facade is broken in the center with a recessed entrance. The building is elevated above street level, so one must walk up to enter the portico through one of three Roman arches. The arches line up with three exterior door openings, matching the arches in size and dimension, and with three inner entrances, also a match in size and dimension, that lead off the foyer into the main hallway of Willis. The exterior arches are faced with cut stone voussoirs, each topped with a plain three-part keystone. Cut stone depictions of lamps and books flank the arches and fill the spandrels between them.

The building face has numerous elements of ornamentation. The west and east ends of the main façade each feature an inscription. On the west end, the observer is told that “Education adorns riches and softens poverty.” The east end inscription is an admonishment: “New occasions teach new duties.” Many students of Raymond Felts will remember being asked to quote the east end inscription and then being told to rise to the occasion, and subsequently the blackboard, and solve quadratic equations. Below the

*continued on page 9*



windows of the third floor are stone festoons, or swags, of flowers and fruit, as well as small festoons under the arched window openings to the left and right of the main entrance. A slim limestone belt visually separates the first floor from the upper floors across the entire front façade. The name "Frank B. Willis School" is cut in stone just below the roof line above the entrance. The quoins of the building, where the brick surfaces meet at the corners, are cut stone blocks, distinctly different from the red brick surface.

The entrances to the gymnasium and the auditorium are markedly different from the main entrance, although identical to each other. The doorways abandon the Roman arch motif, and instead feature a pediment topped entrance with a console on either side of the entrance. The tympanum above the door is decorated with a carved festoon of flowers. Further up on each wall is a similar ornament, this time with a leafy swag issuing from an oval medallion. Again, one enters the building by rising. Stairs lead to the gym entrance; the auditorium entrance has been modified to an incline to allow handicapped accessibility.

The arch motif that marks the main entrance is carried out across the entire face of the building in the same proportions as the entrance. The other repetitive theme across the face of the building is that of threes. The gym and auditorium entrances feature three doors: the main door and two narrow doors to either side of the pediment opening. The main entrance is a series of three arches. The festoons on the main building are also groups in threes, as are the windows.

A large classroom at the southeast corner of the second floor features a recessed platform stage across the entire east end. This room has served as classroom and chorus room at various times. Older adults remember Katherine Hearn of the English Department holding court in that room; later students will remember having to sing three of the verses of the "Star Spangled Banner" to receive an A in Eliza Plum's chorus class. The room is unique not only because it contains the stage, but because it also features a large mural across the north wall. Painted in 1934, it depicts a decidedly Depression era working man and

woman surrounded by elements of classical music and literature. A violinist in a tuxedo serenades them while around them swirl representations of literary works. A small cavern featuring dancing gremlins is off to one side. The woman in her office wear and the man in his coveralls with his lunchbox look markedly disturbed and bewildered by the activity around them, and the two stand close to one another as if to offer each other protection. Recently, some painters were entering the building with brushes in their hand. Delaware County Historian Brent Carson happened to be nearby and asked them what they were planning on painting. They declared "the walls and old painting in the room with the stage." "Oh no you are not!" declared Brent. And of course, they didn't.

The William Street building contains the gymnasium and the auditorium for the school. Until the expansion of Hayes High School in the 1990s that added an auditorium to that building, the Willis auditorium served not only the Willis student body but also the Hayes student body for three decades. Countless concerts, stage plays, operettas, recognitions ceremonies, graduations, and musicals have taken place on that stage in seventy years and there are few who have flowed through Willis over the years who did not find themselves on that stage at one time or another. The auditorium featured large arched window openings on the west wall, since bricked up. The arch motif is continued in the plaster work on the east interior wall of the auditorium.

When originally built, the east and west sides containing the classrooms were only two stories tall. The portion of the building above the central hall had additional space above it, possibly used for an attic and storage area. The central part of the building was topped off by a mansard style bell tower that rang to start and end the school day. The east and east facades each were topped by a cornice that resembled the bell tower. In appearance, the old building resembled the second empire home across the street from it. Sometime in the early years of the twentieth century, an addition to the south, including an auditorium and a gymnasium, was added.

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## Willis Middle School *continued from page 9*

On the night of January 10, 1910, a fire started in the old building that gutted the entire structure. At the height of the fire, the bell tower collapsed. When it was finally extinguished, only the exterior walls of the old building and the new addition to the south stood intact. Although the building was gutted, the school board determined that the exterior walls were still structurally sound and decided to rebuild the interior of the school.

During the rebuilding, the structure was extended upward and a third floor of classrooms was added. The bell tower was not replaced. The masonry elements that gave the front of the building its charm were stripped off, leaving the plain façade that one sees today. In 1928, fire struck the old building a second time. This time, the southernmost portion of the building, including the auditorium and gymnasium, was destroyed. Once again, the school was unusable and the students that attended Delaware High School were again rerouted to West School.

Controversy and litigation were to mark the building of the new school, with a lawsuit over the legitimacy of the bond issue funding the construction. Internal strife disrupted the school board and further delayed the project, but the school was finally built and dedicated on October 9, 1932. The new school was called the Frank B. Willis High School, named after the Delaware politician who had died four years earlier at the start of his presidential campaign.

Delaware High School originally housed the ninth through twelfth grades. When Willis opened, it contained grades seven through twelve. When Hayes High School was opened in the early 1960s, Willis was renamed Willis Junior High, then Willis Intermediate School, housing the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Designated a middle school in later years, Willis served as the school for the sixth through eighth grades until Dempsey Middle School opened in the fall of 2000. With the opening of Dempsey, Willis became a school for the fifth and sixth grades. It was this last conversion that prompted the addition of the playground to the east side of the building.

Schools hold a special place in our culture. The tradition of a free public education is rooted in this nation's history and is part of our culture. Although public education is under siege at state and national levels, we still hold to the notion that a free public education is one of our entitlements in this country. The very appearance of Willis from William Street speaks to these lofty convictions. It is a majestic building that was designed for the most serious of undertakings: the education of the future citizenry. It has served this community well and may yet serve this community for decades to come in a new role.

*(Editors note: The article is abridged. It was from research and writing by April Nelson.)*

## Honoring T.K. Cellar

Much too soon, we have lost valued DCHS member T.K. Cellar. T.K. earned all the accolades that came forth when he passed. Family, friends, church members, athletes he coached and students et al, reflected on the excellence and integrity that he brought to all he came in contact with. T.K. had a passion for history and loved to help students know of the Cellar family pioneering the early years of Delaware County. For the Delaware County Historical Society he was a former board member, reenactor for living history and ambassador to the community. He was a member of the Curriculum Committee and made history come alive for countless Delaware County elementary school classes. Thank you T.K. for your service and example to your community.



## Delaware County Barn Survey

The Delaware County Historical Society's evening programs for 2025 will feature county agriculture. One of the programs will discuss our barn survey project. County barns, especially those built before 1950, are fast disappearing. In the southern townships such as Orange and Genoa, the disappearance of the barns can be attributed, in part, to urban development. In the northern townships, the farms are getting bigger and so is the farm equipment. The new equipment can be too large for the old barns. And fewer farms are raising livestock, so the barns that used to house animals are being abandoned.

The barn survey is an ambitious project. We plan to document every early barn in the county by saving

photographs of the barn, inside and out. Beyond that, we will construct a database including the history of each property. Our volunteers have identified some 300 barns so far; we expect the total will rise to 450 or so. We will talk to the current owners to obtain their permission to collect photographs, current and historical, and record the history of the barn, if known. At this point, we have the history for a handful of the barns identified.

By March, 2025, we plan to have collected information on a minimum of 36 barns, two for each of the county's 18 townships. Some of these barns will be the subject of an evening program in the spring of 2025. We are doing this project because time is running out on some county barns. A graphic example of this urgency was observed by a volunteer working on the project. He

took a photo of a barn and a week later the barn was gone.

Miami and Ashland Counties in Ohio have completed similar surveys. When Wayne County collects information on barns in 6 more townships, their survey

will be complete. We want to be the fourth county in the state to complete a barn survey project. But beyond the database, we hope to produce a cellphone-based application that will allow drivers to tour the notable barns in Delaware County and be informed of their history.

We could use your assistance. If you have or know about a barn that you would like to include in this project, send an email

to: [Librarian@delawareohiohistory.org](mailto:Librarian@delawareohiohistory.org) and include your name, the address of the barn, a short description of it, and your contact information. If you could attach an exterior photo of the barn, that would be great!



*2017 watercolor of a barn owned by Heidi Wright and Roger Whitaker, 8131 Plumb Road in Galena. Painted by artist Richard Leavy.*







## Director's Column

By Donna Meyer, DCHS Executive Director



### *Taking Care of Business*

As we conclude another busy season, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the incredible dedication of our volunteers. Their hard work is the driving force behind our organization; from serving on our board to working at our fair booth, they truly are the heartbeat of our community. Each year, our volunteers prepare programs for over 2,000 county school children—an effort they undertake without compensation, often purchasing necessary supplies out of their own pocket.

I also want to highlight the essential role of our Venue Manager, Melissa Stroupe. Although she is a paid employee, her contributions are invaluable. Melissa manages our venue at the Barn at Stratford, navigating challenges that range from difficult brides (and their mothers), broken toilets, glitter all over the floor, and groomsmen drinking liquor in the parking lot. Her skill, grace, and diplomacy allow us to thrive even amid these difficulties.

Finding enough operating funds remains a significant challenge for us. While we have had success securing grant funding for specific projects, ongoing operating grants are virtually nonexistent. Unfortunately, we do not receive any operational support from city, county, state, or federal agencies. Our rental income from the venue and office space at the Historic Jail, along with donations and membership fees, helps cover expenses, but we are continually seeking additional financial resources to maintain our six historical buildings—most of which require significant repairs to preserve their integrity.

Currently, I am addressing a leak in the roof of the Historic Jail and Sheriff's residence, among other pressing maintenance issues. To that end, you may have received a letter from us requesting donations to support our preservation efforts. Your contributions can make a significant difference, helping us fulfill our commitment to care for these vital parts of our shared history. Monthly



donations are an option as well, and you can conveniently donate through our website at <https://www.delawareohiohistory.org/donate-to-dchs/> or use the QR code for easy access to our website.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and support in this important endeavor. Together, we can continue to celebrate and preserve our heritage for future generations. Thank you for being a crucial part of this mission!

*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 10:00 AM – 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 Sundays from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
October – November 2024 and  
April – November 2025

# Hayes Governorship Springboard to Presidency

*By Steve Shaw*

After the Civil War Rutherford B. Hayes became a reluctant Congressman representing the district of his hometown of Cincinnati. Congressman Hayes was drafted to become the Republican candidate for Governor running in the 1867 election. There were several contentious issues that the State was split on. Hayes ran supporting the 14th Amendment of the United States. There was a movement to rescind the constitutional amendment which provided all formerly enslaved people were citizens and they had equal rights under the law. Hayes became Governor by a margin of less than 3,000 votes out of 500,000 ballots cast.



*Ohio's State Capitol building*

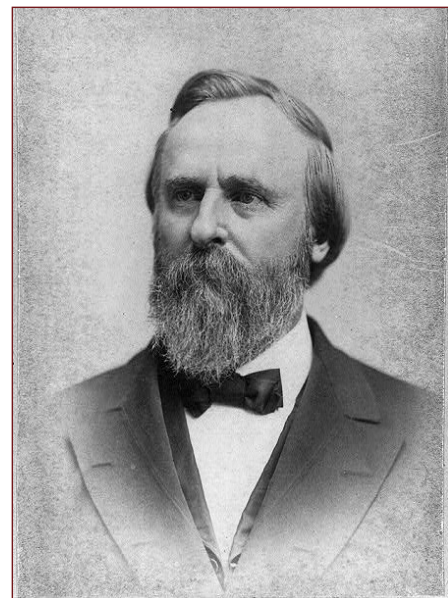
The Constitution of Ohio made the political landscape different to what we are used to. The Governor was reelected every two years. Compared to our current four-year cycle, that made for very compressed agendas after election. Four year terms were not instituted until after 1949. The Governor elect was also charged with finding their own home after election. Lucy Hayes worked hard to find a place for the Hayes family within walking distance of the State Capital, while maintaining their Cincinnati home.

Hayes became Ohio's 29th Governor in January of 1868. His inaugural address laid out plans for legislative items that came to fruition. Among them was a new reform school for girls near Delaware, a school for the deaf, a "lunatic asylum" to better care for those with that need assistance and a state geological

survey. To strengthen public education, he proposed a commissioner of county schools in each county. Hayes final push for his inaugural address was for reforms to reduce election fraud. Chief among them was strong voter registration laws, and representation of minorities on election boards.

The election of 1869 was equally tight in the state with Hayes winning by just 7500 votes. His January 1870 inaugural address called for reforms in the state prison system and advocacy to implement the federal effort to support the implementation of Land Grant Universities. This was the seed to establish Ohio State University. A system for soldier and sailors homes was established during this time and the care of orphans of soldiers of the Civil War. At the end of his second term in 1872, Governor Hayes attempted to retire from public office. In 1875 he was drafted again to run for the Governorship. He was inaugurated as Governor of Ohio in January of 1876. By then the Hayes family was established in their Spiegel Grove home in Sandusky, Ohio. His resume as lawyer, Civil War war hero, Congressman,

Governor and advocate for numerous social causes made him attractive as a Presidential candidate in 1876. He resigned his Governorship to be able to run for the Presidency. He was elected as President of the United States and inaugurated as the 19th President of the United States on March 5, 1877.



To our generous donors... *Thank you!*

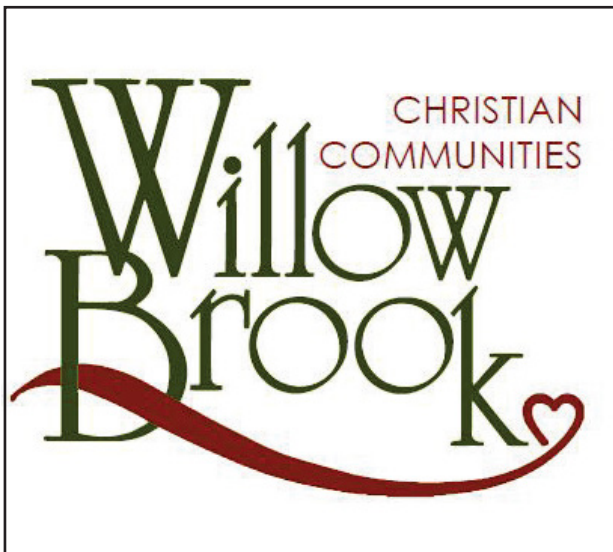
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***Our work would not be possible without your support.***



**Dusty Hostutler**

**Edward  
Jones**





## *Bringing History to Life*

### **Join us for these programs in 2025**

*Registration will be on Eventbrite for all programs and events.*

*Additional information will be posted on our website several weeks before each program or event.*

#### **Delaware County Industrial History: Agricultural Implements**

Presented by Steve Schmitt, Society Volunteer

*Thursday, January 23 at 7PM, Zoom Only*

#### **Farming - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

Panel Discussion moderated by Karen Cowan, Society Volunteer

*Thursday, February 20 at 7PM at the Barn at Stratford*

#### **The Life of a Farmer's Wife and Children Over the Years**

Panel Discussion moderated by Alice Frazier, Society Volunteer

*Thursday, March 25 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **Farm Energy—Past and Future**

Presented by TBD (Coordinator TBD)

*Wednesday, April 24 at 7PM at the Barn at Stratford*

#### **Delaware County Barns**

Presented by TBD (Susan Logan coordinating)

*Wednesday, May 21 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **Sustainable Agriculture**

Presented by Jeff Dickinson, Stratford Ecological Center

*Wednesday, June 18 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **Mechanization of Farming**

Presented by TBD (Coordinator TBD)

*Wednesday, August 20 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **The Horse World in Delaware County—1940s to 2000**

Presented by Maggie Snyder, Society Volunteer

*Thursday, September 4 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **Eastern Delaware County Cemetery Tour\***

*Sunday, October 12 Afternoon Driving Tour with Reenactments at 6:30PM at The Barn at Stratford.*

#### **Annual Meeting - Delaware County Agricultural Future**

Presented by TBD (Coordinator TBD)

*Thursday, November 20 at 7PM at The Barn at Stratford*

#### **Holiday Open House - Nash House and Meeker House Museums**

*Schedule TBD*

*\*Ticketed Events—Members will receive a discount.*

Programs are free unless otherwise noted.

The Barn at Stratford—2690 Stratford Road

info@DelawareOhioHistory.org    DelawareOhioHistory.org    740-369-3831

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

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***Make checks payable to Delaware County Historical Society, and mail to 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware OH 43015.***