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Cover Photo: Quilt created to celebrate Helen Sheets Fleming, Nancy Fleming's mother-in-law, for her 70th birthday. Nancy and friends created the 74-panel quilt with 1-square-foot panels, representing different stories about Helen's life. More quilt stories in our Winter issue!

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DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORIAN

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

Letter from Our DCHS President

By Karen Cowan

A FOND FAREWELL

NOTE: The joint press release with Westwood Connective on the sale of the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence is provided for your information.

The Delaware County Historical Society has undergone a major change recently. As you have all probably heard, we have sold the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence.

The decision was a very emotional one that we did not take lightly. With six buildings, five of them historic, it became very difficult to keep them the way they deserved to be kept.

Westwood Collectives is the buyer of the building. The company is owned by Andy Warnock, a Delaware native, who graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University. After Andy came to see the Jail, he sent me a rendering of what it could be. I looked at the plans and said to myself, "He loves it."

And he does.

The following photos show a comparison of how the jail looks and how it will be remodeled. We look forward to seeing the jail shine!



Before

EXTERIOR – FRONT ENTRANCE



After



Before

EXTERIOR – SIDE ENTRANCE



After



Before

INTERIOR - OFFICE

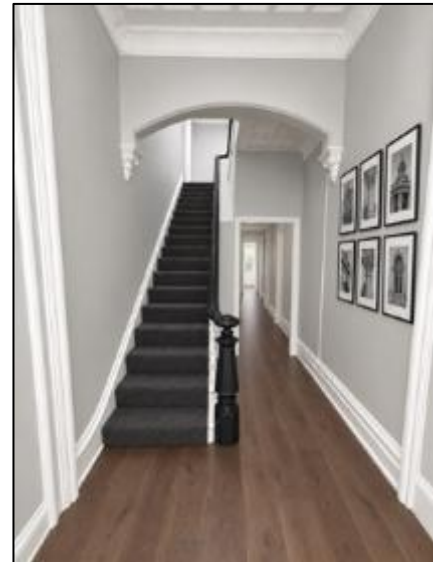


After



Before

INTERIOR - STAIRWAY



After



INTERIOR – JAIL CELLS

September 11, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence Enters a New Chapter Under New Ownership

Delaware, Ohio – After more than five years of stewardship, the Delaware County Historical Society and Westwood Collective (Hilliard, Ohio) announce the sale of the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence to Westwood principal, Andy Warnock, a Delaware native. The sale marks a new chapter for one of Delaware's most iconic buildings.

"The Historical Society faced a difficult and emotional decision to sell the Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence," said Karen Cowan, President of the Delaware County Historical Society. "We were both grateful and excited when Andy Warnock, whose family has deep roots in Delaware, offered to purchase the property. We are confident in Andy's commitment to preserving this historic landmark and allowing it to reach its full potential."

Constructed in 1878 by David Gibbs of Toledo, a master architect known for designing public buildings throughout the Midwest, the 8,500-square-foot Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence served the community as a working jail until 1988. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. Its primarily Italianate architecture, complemented by Gothic Revival and Second Empire details, reflects an important period in Delaware's history.

The building contains 18 jail cells – 16 originally designated for men and two for women – and was designed during an era of prison reform championed by Ohio Governor and future U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes who was born and raised in Delaware. As part of that reform movement, the sheriff lived on site with his family. The sheriff's wife, known as the "Matron," played an important role in the daily operation of the jail, preparing meals and caring for inmates.

The Delaware County Historical Society purchased the property in 2021 and worked to bring its stories to the community through exhibits, tours and special events. The Jail even became an unconventional wedding venue. On October 31, 2025, the City of Delaware and the Historical Society hosted nine weddings at the property. Court employees dressed in costumes and decorated the entrance to the various cells.

In addition to exterior renovations, interior upgrades include HVAC and electrical improvements, modernization of each room to be equipped for private office use, plus design of a shared kitchenette, conference room, and lounge. The jail cells will be freshened up for future use as part of a second phase of renovation. A prohibition era speakeasy or maker's space with art gallery are concepts being considered for the rear jail. Dave Kerr and Cara Hering with DK Architects are working the project.

Eight new private offices will make up the original residential portion of the structure. Westwood Real Estate Co., a brokerage affiliate of Westwood Collective, is looking to grow into the Delaware market and actively recruiting agents to join the firm in both the residential and commercial sectors. A portion of the renovated space would be dedicated to those agents. Other interested parties seeking leasable space should contact Westwood directly: info@westwoodcollective.com.

"This is our second major investment in a real estate project in the city of Delaware" Warnock shared. "But it is certainly the most transformative. I couldn't be more excited to bring 20 years of industry expertise back to my hometown. What a unique opportunity to leave our mark on a community that has given so much to me."

About the Delaware County Historical Society

The Delaware County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing the history of Delaware County, Ohio. Through its collections, exhibits, programs and historic properties, the Society connects the community with the people, places and stories that have shaped the region.

About Westwood Collective

Westwood Collective is a Central Ohio-based real estate development and investment firm focused on community-driven projects, adaptive reuse, and long-term value creation across the region.

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

westwood
COLLECTIVE

The Delaware County Fair

By Nancy Fleming

The smell of caramel corn wafts through the crowd. Simultaneously, the sound of a pipe organ grinds at a nearby Ferris wheel, and a barker yells, "Step up, step up!" Jersey cows "moo" in response to the squawking of chickens in nearby tents and cages, and "Little Brown Jug" signs start to appear! Yes, once again, it is time for the Delaware County Fair! However, if the name Milo D. Pettibone is mentioned, hardly anyone would recognize it.



Let me introduce you to Mr. Pettibone.

Milo D. Pettibone was an attorney, land speculator, and abolitionist in Delaware County. He owned land in east Delaware, and he was responsible for part of the annexation of South Delaware, between Sandusky Street and Liberty Street. He owned Seven Oaks, the Underground Railroad (UGRR) home on East William Street, and he was a member of the Anti-Slavery Society. Mr. Pettibone founded Waldo, Ohio, naming it for his son, Waldermerr, whose nickname was Waldo. He also built the stately home across from the Court House on 94 North

Sandusky Street, now home to law offices. Formerly, this was the old Bennett-Brown Funeral Home, and residence of the Vincent Minnelli family. Most importantly, he was elected the first president of the Delaware County Agricultural Society, our county fair.

Mr. Pettibone was instrumental in its organization, when our forefathers decided to form an Agricultural Society in Delaware. Andrew Jackson was our President at the time. An act of the Legislature of Ohio to authorize and encourage the establishment of Agricultural societies of this state passed on February 25, 1833. Now, the Delaware County Fair was to begin its own tumultuous ride!

First, Mr. Pettibone would have overseen several adopted resolutions, including that "a society be formed, called the Delaware County Agricultural Society." Society members had to pay 50 cents a year to belong. In today's standards, that would equal about \$20.00, or a full day's wages for them. The Google response to "How much was 50 cents worth in 1833?" was \$19.95.



Officers elected that year were President Milo D. Pettibone, attorney, land speculator, and abolitionist; Vice President Wilder Joy, a significant investor and a founder of Ohio Wesleyan University; Secretary Frederick Avery, judge; and Treasurer William Little, a merchant who established the Blue Limestone Quarry.

Looking back over the first fair officials who worked with Mr. Pettibone, the dignitaries included names we hear today. These names translate into street names, e.g., Milo Street (The Mill on Flax Street,) Curtis Street, Wilder Street, Joy Avenue, Eaton Street, Potter Street, Forest Avenue, (Forrest Meeker), Kelly-McMaster Road, Curly Smart Circle (a native of Delaware and famous jockey), Hanover Street, and Hanover Road (Ensign Hanover won the first Little Brown Jug race), and the more and the more recently named Pettibone Drive, to name a few. Waldo St., shown in *Modie's 1908 Centennial Atlas of Delaware County*, ceased to exist in the *1913 Delaware Bluebook*. It was renamed Vernon Avenue when redistricting occurred. Another dignitary was to become the namesake of a museum, *The Forest Meeker Homestead and Museum*, and road, Meeker Way, both off State Route 23.

Mr. Pettibone headed a committee appointed to prepare by-laws and a constitution. At the next meeting, held on July 4, 1834, a fair was organized, and its date set for Friday, October 3, 1834. Officials then decided a fair should include an exhibition of "domestic animals and manufactures." Of course, a fair would need judges, and Mr. Pettibone oversaw the appointment of David Gregory, a Berkshire school teacher; H. J. L. Brown, Ohio State Bank Director; Dr. Charles Pickett, physician; Benjamin Powers, President of First National Bank; and James Eaton, a surveyor.

Having no way to anticipate the turnout, officials were very pleased, but a bit surprised with the first attendance. *The Delaware State Gazette (The Delaware Gazette)* reported that fair officials were "...agreeably disappointed when they did not anticipate so large an exhibition nor so general an attendance."

After a "deliberate and impartial examination" of the various objects, premiums from 50 cents to \$5.00 were awarded to notable participants. Only two classes were designated to receive \$7.00, those being Best Horse and Best Stud Horse. It also would appear men were awarded larger premiums than women.

The first year, award winners of livestock and manufactures were vaguely familiar to our fair organizers. Prizes were given out to Forrest Meeker, Best Spring Colt; Joseph Prince, Best Cow; William Sweetser, Best Brood Mare; and Wilder Joy, Best Bull, to name a few. Their wives seemed to fare equally well. Winners were Mrs. J. Carpenter, Best Pair of Woolen Socks; Mrs. L. S. Avery, the 2nd Best Pair of Woolen Socks; Mrs. H.S. Jameson, Best Counterpane, and Mrs. Martha Joy, Best Cheese of 20 Pounds or More.

I doubt there was any partiality shown here!



Early fairs were held with domestic manufacturers in the Court House, animals shown on the lot of the old Baptist church, and sometimes other items displayed on the public

Until 1854, the fair was held in many places, wherever they could find suitable accommodations. New fair officials were chosen: John J. Fleming, was elected President that year; L. P. McMaster, Vice President; C. M. James, Secretary; and H. D. Potter, Treasurer. Needing more space, the new members continued to look for roomier accommodations.

(Lyman McMaster and his brother, Benjamin, were the owners of 640 acres in Brown Township and were reputed to be the best farmers around in farming and livestock. That year they sent two head of cattle that weighed 5,000 pounds each, and carloads of other exemplary stock weighing no less than 1,900 pounds per head, to Buffalo by train.)

Eventually, Mr. Pettibone was resurrected once more, if only in name.

With renewed enthusiasm and direction in 1854, the fair board purchased seven acres in East Delaware from his heirs, for \$150 an acre. The ***Modie's Delaware Centennial Atlas*** tells us that it was located between Waldo Street and Fair Street (Avenue,) which runs parallel to Central Avenue. This eventually expanded into 30 acres on the east side of the river, and it was beautifully designed and restructured with many new buildings and a wall around it.



Doom was, however, to fall on the fair in 1856. A steam engine on loan from Bradley, Burnham, and Lamb, was on display at the fair. It was touted to be one of the most powerful, and most capable, with the ability to run a threshing machine. A defective boiler made in Sandusky exploded, causing the deaths of more than 14 people, who all died that day. These were Mrs. A. Walker, Thomas Williams, F. Smith, James Nicholson, Wiley Finch, Lewis Powers, Hiram Nafus, Henry Stimmel, Tone, Oscar Markle, and a person who could not be recognized. Others who were wounded, Mr. Wade, Mrs. Markle, and Mr. Newberry, died within a few days afterwards. Winners' premiums were not paid that year, giving the money instead to families to help defray burial costs. The Welch and Lentz Circus, scheduled to open the day of the funerals, willingly postponed their opening. Instead, they offered their wagons and horses for the funeral procession. It was decided that people wear black armbands for 30 days. Different accounts add the deaths of two unidentified negro men from Franklin County.

While we do not have many reports from women of domestic fair participation, Hattie Mae Colflesh Cellars (1862-1955), daughter of John Colflesh of Liberty Township, describes her fair experiences at this time in her family memoir. *We'd love to know what she prepared!*

"When I reached the age of 18, (1880?) a prize was offered at The Delaware County Fair to the girl who could cook the best dinner in the shortest length of time. Three girls entered the contest; Miss Buell, Miss Main, and myself. We each had a day to try for the prize. There were six judges - three men and three women from Delaware. These judges (after eating the three meals prepared) decided my dinner was the best and it took me only 58 minutes to prepare it, so I won the prize, a kitchen range."

However, due to continued growth, it became necessary to expand even more. In 1880, the fair purchased 80 acres on Pennsylvania Avenue. Following this, the fair board built a grandstand on the property in 1903. Bad weather plagued patrons and attendance in the 1890's, and a New Fair Association was formed in 1908 to resolve some of the difficulties caused by weather and poor attendance. square and commons. The fair continued in this form for many years. In 1835, more categories were added for showing. These were domestic manufactures, fruits, dairy, and household productions. As the years passed, Mr. Pettibone would have seen the fair expand and grow using various locations as they could access them.

Our dear Mr. Pettibone passed away in 1842 at age 49, but no doubt continued to watch over The Delaware County Fair from a higher vantage point!

For unknown reasons, the fair was not mentioned in the 1840's. Eventually, it was reorganized in May, 1848. This no doubt was influenced by new state legislature, which encouraged farmers and businessmen to become involved, to broaden their knowledge of agricultural pursuits and science.

Milo Pettibone might have been shocked had he known the fair was taken out of Delaware City!

The decision was made to move the fair to Powell, Ohio. However, there were many advantages to that change. In that year, Dr. John Campbell made a generous offer to lease 12 acres of his property west of the railroad tracks in Powell to the Agricultural Society. This gave the Delaware Fair access to an established grandstand and racetrack with more midway room. At this time, without money to sustain its own grounds in Delaware, this was a welcome solution to the society.

This also provided the Agricultural Society a way to consolidate many community resources. Until now, many small towns in Delaware County had their own exhibitions. These festivals included:

The Ashley Fair (1912-1949)

The Ashley Fair started as an offshoot of horse-racing. Ashley is best known for starting its Jr. Fair. In 1923 Charles Ashbrook set up the first Jr. Fair in Ashley. He was then asked to set one up for the Ohio State Fair (1929.) Thereafter, most fairs continued the tradition. Ashley did not have a fair in 1943 due to WWII, and afterwards experienced a loss of attendance. Due to financial concerns, its last fair was in 1949, and the property sold in 1951.

The Delaware Pumpkin Show (early 1900-22).

This fair was held on Sandusky St., William St., and Spring St., and it boasted a 154-pound pumpkin! Our main streets held animal pens, draft horses, chickens, stock, and produce of every variety! Needlecraft and domestic items were displayed in the Ladies' Underwear Store. In 1919, they held their first dance, which became a traditional part of the festivities. They also had Delaware's first horse parade, including harness, draft, and Percheron horses.



The Powell Fair (1909-1937)

Horse-racing and a small grandstand welcomed visitors. A bandstand for square-dancing and a small midway entertained children and adults who were there to show livestock, produce, and needlecraft. No alcohol or bootlegging was permitted, and a person could collect a \$10.00 reward for turning someone in. Even the 1913 Flood did not deter visitors.

The Rome Fair (Rome Corners, 1877-1914)

This fair was started by George Buckingham Carpenter. The fair admission was 10 cents in 1897. It boasted horse, hog, and baby contests. The Rome Fair had “no rides, no games, no races, no betting, and no alcohol!”



Lastly, the ***Boys' Hog Show*** became popular. This demonstration was set up at most local fairs. This later merged into the Junior Swine Show, and is part of the Junior Fair today.

Tri-county Fair (1896-1909)

This included Delaware, Licking, and Franklin Counties. Most of the fairs featured animals, rides, horse races, tractor pulls, carnival treats, and when timely, demolition derbies, or a combination of the above.

Another advantage of relocating to Powell was the railroad, which sat very close to the fair. Weather could make dirt roads a major obstacle in travel, and the railroad provided easier access to those exhibiting and attending. Coming from long distances was encouraged, and this more easily facilitated travel. This

Horse races, balloon races, and car races all have been great attractions. In 1946, founders Joe Neville and Henry “Hank” Thompson had a vision which became “The Little Brown Jug.” This race was to become world famous as the “fastest half-mile track in harness racing.” We are known worldwide for our Little Brown Jug races, one of the most highly-regarded competitions in harness racing. Today it is part of the Triple Crown of harness racing. In the first Little Brown Jug race, Ensign Hanover won after four difficult heats, competing against a native of Delaware, Wayne “Curly” Smart.

The current Delaware County Fair still is managed by the Delaware Agricultural Society. This organization is non-profit, and oversees all our fair events and activities. The fair encompasses over 100 acres, and still retains the grandstands built in 1903. Numerous improvements have been added, and more fair buildings were constructed.

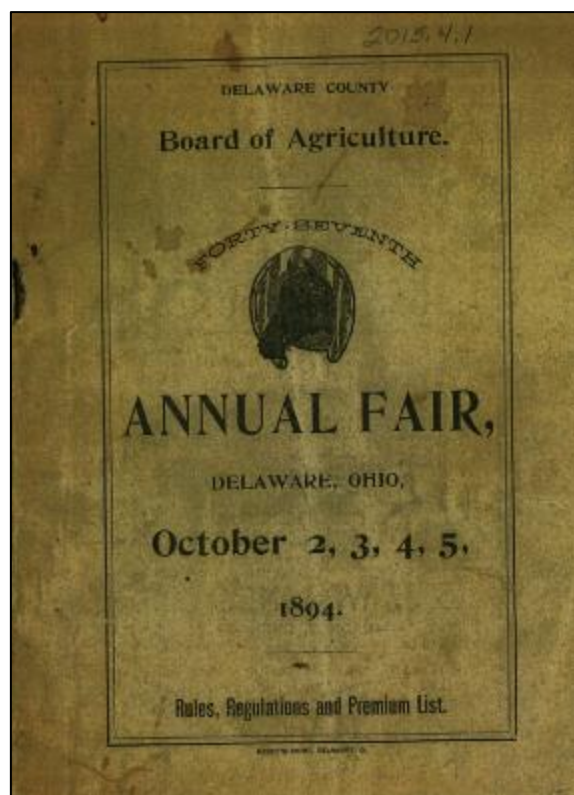


Our fair offers opportunities to adults and children in 4-H activities, livestock-judging, midway rides, live music and entertainment, and vendors. In addition, when not in use for the fair, the fairgrounds is an integral part of our community activities.

If he were here today, Mr. Pettibone might be astonished at what he started!

His premium book only contained 27 items. Today, opportunities are there for thousands, and it takes many books to publish all we offer for both adults and children!

Now, we all should go and buy some caramel corn!



Vintage Fair Memorabilia



Vintage Balloon Festival, 1913

This 1913 scene captures the excitement of a hot air balloon festival, with several balloons preparing for flight in an open field while spectators watch and cheer. Ropes, baskets, and burners are arranged as pilots make final adjustments, and the crowd gathers to witness the spectacle.

Silent Sentries

By Marilu Quinn

I am from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania originally, and am an avid fan of a series of videos from the PBS station there (WQED) about the Steel City. In particular, I enjoy the videos titled "Things That Are Still Here" and "Things That Aren't There Anymore" by producer/narrator Rick Sebak.

This article takes its queue from those themes, with a twist – I like to think of it as "Things That Almost Aren't Here Anymore in Delaware County." There are many objects that still may be around, but which are showing wear and tear and deterioration. Case in point: a fellow volunteer here at the Delaware County Historical Society, Jan Fleischmann, wrote an article that highlighted the ghost signs throughout town. That Walking Tour information is at this link: (<https://www.DelawareOhioHistory.org/project/downtown-delaware-ghost-signs/>). These are remnants of past advertising painted onto the sides of buildings, which no longer are home to those businesses. We might take them for granted, and may not realize if/when they completely disappear, but at least they are preserved in print now for future generations.



In that same vein, I wanted to capture information on something I've seen recently around the county.

I'm sure you've noticed many features while driving along in the county – trees, "telephone" poles, signs, trash, accidents, animals, flowers, billboards, parked vehicles, bicyclists, and so many other interesting sights. But have you ever seen one of these on the side of the road?



The first time I noticed one, I assumed it was a mileage marker from the past, similar to those pictured below that I saw at or near the National Road & Zane Grey Museum. I based that on the way they were lined up along one road, until I realized they were not placed at any regular intervals. Upon further inspection, there were no markings or words or numbers on them, so that explanation was ruled out. It also helped dismiss the idea that they were memorials.



Then, based on the placement of some of them, I thought they might be property markers, used to designate the boundaries of acreages. However, I wasn't able to match them up to any property maps, either past or present.

And then, I came across a more modern (or refurbished?) marker that clarified the original use: fence and gate posts. Many of the cement structures left standing do display metal implants or impressions where they would have been at just the right heights, suggesting this conclusion is accurate. Other posts have metal loops, which are assumed to have held additional hoops to which horses may have been hitched.

From what I have learned talking to other volunteers at the Delaware County Historical Society, the manufacturer of some or all of these post tops was Hazelton Blocks. This was a concrete block manufacturer, which used blue limestone from local area quarries to make the blocks. They also created the spheres on the top of these posts, using custom machinery. The Hazelton family ancestors William and Wayne are interred in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Sadly, some of these silent sentinels are falling into ruin, possibly by being hit with vehicles or mowing equipment, or from age. In just the past year, at least two of those I've observed have broken in half or fallen over, and several have lost the sphere that originally sat top of the post.



Still, it is interesting to think about how common these probably were in bygone eras. The fact that some of them exist still today is a testament to those who support and retain the legacy the monuments represent.

NOTE: Locations are not shared to protect property owners' privacy.

QUOTE: "The one thing we have learned from history is that we haven't learned from history."

This is a popular simplification of a thought by the German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, who originally wrote, *"What experience and history teach is this — that peoples and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it."*

~ The Philosophy of History by Hegel

Remarks of Delaware County
Commissioner Jeff Benton; America 250-
Delaware County Homecoming & Picnic
DCDL Orange Township Branch – 7/11/26

“On behalf of my fellow County Commissioners, Barb Lewis and Gary Merrell, thank you for the invitation to be a part of today’s events. It’s truly an honor and a privilege to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding with all of you here in the best county in Ohio. Thank you also to the Delaware County District Library and Orange Township for organizing and sponsoring the Homecoming Picnic. This is a perfect location for a day when we are celebrating history. That busy road right over there — Route 23 — has long played a significant role in Delaware County’s past, as has the old Gooding House and Tavern, just down the road from here.

Route 23, like so many other long-established roads in the U.S., was originally laid out to follow trails that were established first by the Native Americans who settled here- this one the Scioto Trail; then further developed by the pioneers who traveled here from the east. My own family is among the earliest settlers in Delaware County, going back seven generations now from the youngest of us, and my ancestors undoubtedly walked, rode horses and traveled in wagons on that road. And they probably stopped off at Gooding Tavern a few times, which was built in 1827, 19 years after Delaware County was officially established as a county in the state of Ohio.

In 1826, the road was named the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike, and then later the Columbus and Portsmouth Turnpike. It was just as often referred to as “the Mud Pike” by early citizens of the area and even by a very

famous visitor in 1842 — Charles Dickens, the British author of such classic novels as “A Christmas Carol” and “Oliver Twist.”

Dickens and his wife Catherine rode on a stagecoach past this very spot. He was not impressed with the road, writing: “A great portion of the way was over what is called a corduroy road, which is made by throwing trunks of trees into a marsh, and leaving them to settle there. The very slightest of jolts with which the ponderous carriage fell from log to log, was enough, it seemed, to have dislocated all the bones in the human body.”

Thankfully, over time, the paving on the road improved greatly and in 1926 it became part of the U.S. Numbered Highway System. Originally, it was called State Route 4, but with the creation of the national system, it became U.S. Route 23, extending from Jacksonville, Florida, to Mackinaw City, Michigan.

The Gooding House — also called “Halfway House” - was an important stagecoach stop along the road, at about the halfway point between Worthington and Delaware — a journey that, back then, would have taken at least half a day. The George Gooding family operated a tavern and inn where travelers could stay overnight. Many people pivotal to the development of the state, region, and nation stopped there as part of their travels.

It’s often said that Ohio is the “heart of it all,” but I believe that Delaware County and Route 23 are truly at the heart of not just Ohio, but of American history. It is humbling to consider all that has passed by this site over the centuries and how much more will pass by in the next 250 years.

Thank you.”

Editor's Addition:

US Rte. 23 today is the target of turmoil, as relief is sought for traffic that is at least 30% over capacity and increasing, and for significant bottlenecks in the Delaware County area. ODOT is finalizing a recommendation to the General Assembly for a 23-I 71 connector, as well as continuing to consider improvements to US 23 itself in our region. As Commissioner Benton pointed out, the long stretch of roadway that today is US 23 has had a long and fraught history. Renowned former *This Week Community News* and guest *Columbus Dispatch* columnist, Ed Lentz, wrote the following account in "As It Were: Central Ohio trails led to early roads" Nov. 3, 2020:

The most notorious of them (the early turnpikes) was the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike. Begun in 1826, it was completed in 1834, and it had been promised to be an

all-year gravel roadway. It was not that at all and charged its users a toll to travel in the mud. In 1843, the charter of the turnpike company was revoked, and in 1845, legislation was approved to make that route a public highway. Today, it is U.S. Route 23.

In the Ohio State Journal in 1843, a local note said a "gentleman just informs us that he was three hours coming from Worthington, eight miles, on the repealed mud pike of north of this and had to pay toll at the gate."

The last toll booth in central Ohio used by the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike was along High Street about 2 miles north of downtown Columbus. In 1845, a group of "wrathful citizens" tore down the toll booth and removed all traces of it from its site. It would take some time to get good roads in central Ohio.

Nothing has really changed....



The Gooding House, 7669 Stagers Loop, Delaware

Note: now a media business - not open to the public

***Rte. 23 that way
– to the left –
Delaware, Ohio***



Inside President Hayes' Library

By Becky S. Cornett, with Kevin Moore

"Inside President Hayes' Library" was a special exhibit at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museum from March 2025-June 2026. The display explored Hayes' personal library and favorite authors. A voracious reader throughout his life, President Hayes collected over 12,000 books. According to Kevin Moore, Curator of Artifacts, "Rutherford was an intellectual whose thoughts, beliefs, and convictions were shaped by what he read. The museum team developed a greater appreciation for what a deep thinker he was by researching this exhibit. I think for those of us living today in an era of short form content and an attention-based economy, Hayes's intellectual life serves as a great inspiration for critical thinking and deep learning."



President Hayes' Library – Spiegel Grove

Moore says that Hayes would recommend to us anything written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens (which he thought was Dickens's best book); the works of Shakespeare, and the poetry of Lord Byron or William Cullen Bryant. He also read Mark Twain's tales, and the writings of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, and others. Hayes even taught himself Spanish so he could read *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes in its original language!

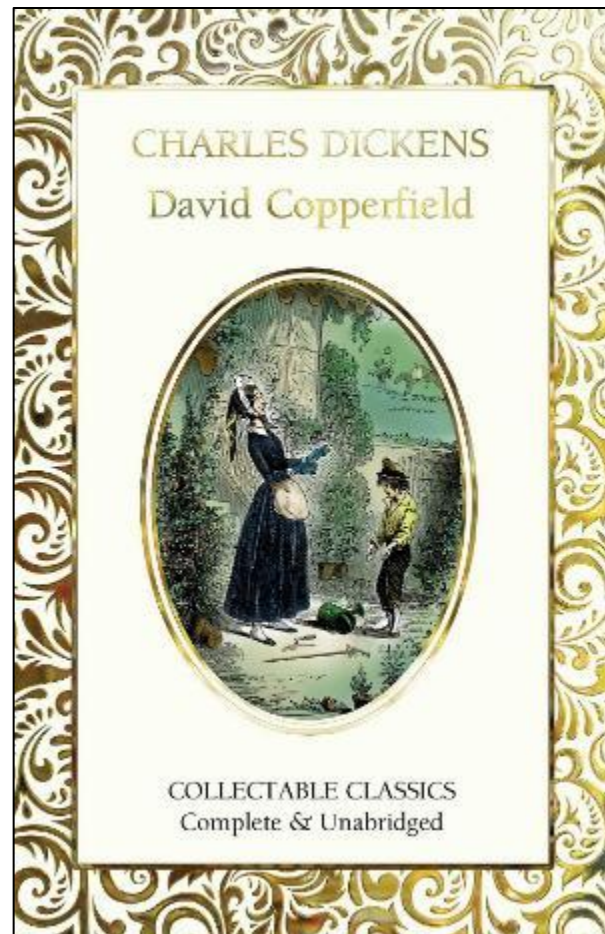
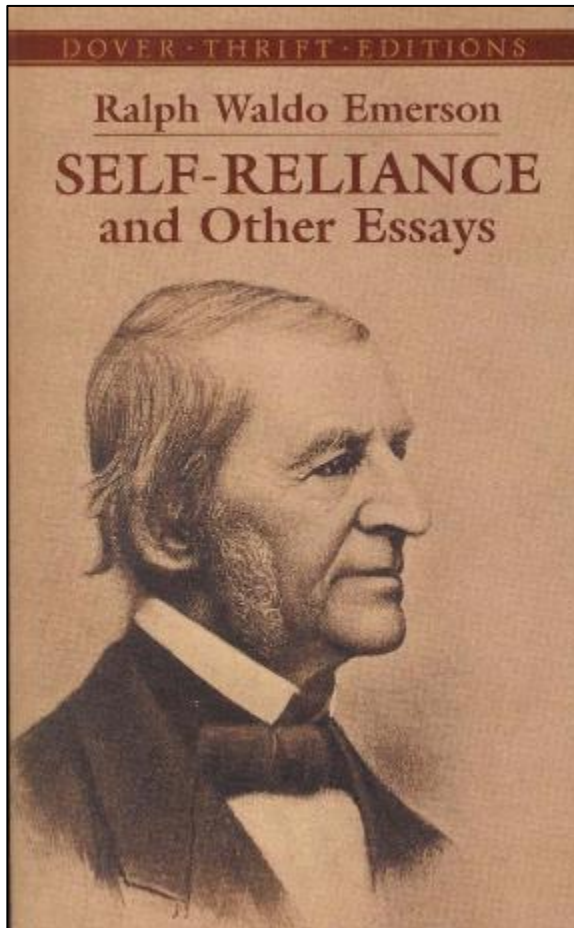
"I today formed the purpose to study the Spanish language enough to read *Don Quixote*," Hayes wrote in his diary on Oct. 10, 1873. "Yesterday I bought of Mr. Curtis one hundred and sixty volumes for Birchard Library. He threw in a few Spanish books of small value. It occurs to me I can easily learn to translate."

Other books in the collection cover issues of the day, such as slavery, Chinese immigration, tariffs, and prison reform. "If there was an issue, he voraciously read about it to figure it out," said Moore.

The exhibit also featured Hayes' own words about many works. An essay about reading from Hayes' college years at Kenyon College, as well as correspondence he had with "The Fireside Poets," a group of American poets who were popular in the mid-1800s - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Cullen Bryant, John Greenleaf Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell - were displayed. Moore observed: "Rutherford loved poetry."

Hayes Presidential was America's first presidential library and the forerunner of the federal presidential library system. It is partially funded by the state of Ohio and affiliated with the Ohio History Connection. Hayes Presidential is located at Spiegel Grove in Fremont, Ohio.

First published in 1841, "Self-Reliance" advocates for individualism and encourages readers to trust and follow their own instincts and intuition rather than blindly adhere to the will of others.



David Copperfield (published in book form 1850) is the story of a hard life endured and is ultimately rewarded because of perseverance, kindness, and common sense. Flame Tree Collectible Classics, Simon & Schuster. .

Quotes from Rutherford B. Hayes

On governance and party: "The President of the United States should strive to be always mindful of the fact that he serves his party best who serves his country best."

On human nature and war: "Wars will remain while human nature remains."

On civic duty: "To vote is like the payment of a debt, a duty never to be neglected, if its performance is possible."

Celebrating the Historic Barns of Delaware County, Ohio

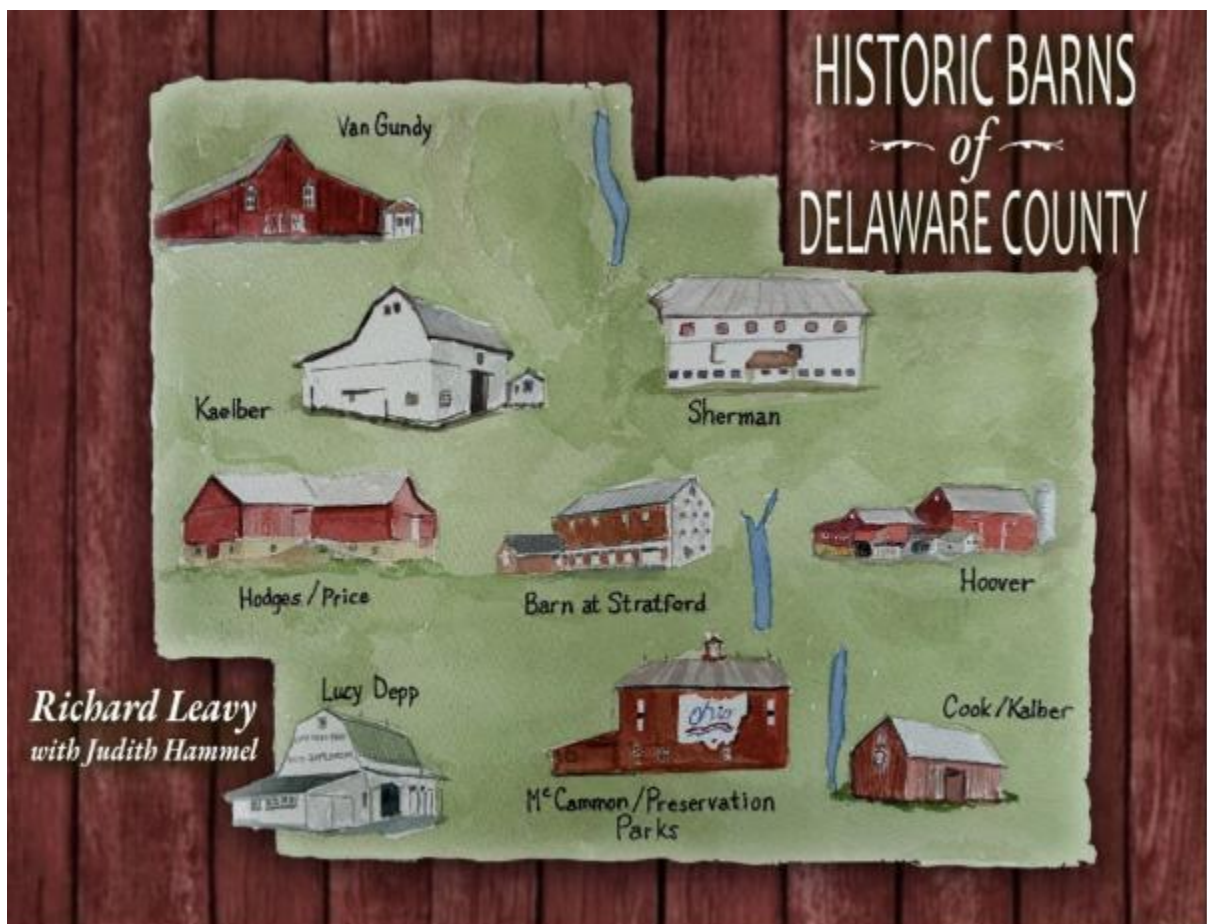
By Becky Cornett, with Richard Leavy, Sherry Carmichael, and Ann Jones

DCHS' historic barns project is an ongoing, multi-year effort to identify all the historic barns in the county, both standing and no longer standing. So far, society volunteers have identified 550 such barns.

Dick Leavy, with colleague Judith Hammel, have spent countless hours developing the new book, *Historic Barns of Delaware County* (with volunteer photographers Brad Cowan and Chuck Mason).

Leavy said, "Agriculture is a critical part of the county's history, and the barn is its symbol. Regrettably, old barns are rapidly disappearing, as new housing and businesses are built on farmland."

The new photobook features 24 selected barns that have unique architectural features and histories. The book can be purchased (\$25 plus tax & postage) through the Society's website store www.delawareohiohistory.org/store, in person at events, or at Cryder Research Library.



Leavy chose three barns to feature here in *The Historian*. The Cook-Kabler Barn (that's Benajah Cook, found of Harlem Twp) - owned and preserved today by Mike & Diane Kabler...



...the Vance-Highbanks Barn (which is on Highbanks Metro Park land); sixty acres previously owned by Herman E. Vance (1860-1948), president of Kinnear Manufacturing Co. in the early 1900s. One of the largest barns in the county...



...and the Van Gundy Barn, for its unique construction.



Gallant Farm, Delaware

Gallant Farm's "Big White Barn" was reconstructed using original support beams and posts salvaged from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago! Made of Douglas fir and heart pine, the timbers were used to build massive temporary structures at the fair – "the White City." After the fair, the buildings were dismantled and some timbers were sent to Radnor to build a railroad stockyard barn, then moved to a property owned by the Columbus Zoo, before finally being used to build the barn at Gallant Farm. The Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building (MLAB) at the Columbian Exposition was the largest building in the world in 1893. 17 million feet of lumber, 12 million pounds of steel, and 2 million pounds of iron were used to build it.



MLAB photo: worldsfairchicago1893.com

Learn more: "Barn Life"

<https://preservationparks.com/barn-life/>

article by Robin Mayes, Farm Educator,
Preservation Parks



Aerial view of Gallant Farm at 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware, OH

Bennett Sheep Farm, Powell, c. 1857

Sherry Carmichael, former DCHS board member, current History Network coordinator, and longtime volunteer leader (and tour guide) in the Powell-Liberty Historical Society, shared the remarkable story of the Bennett Sheep Farm:

2049 State Route 750, Powell, Ohio was long the address of the Bennett Sheep Farm, which stood for 170 years. Today, the barn has been dismantled – but will be relocated and rebuilt for reuse as a feature of the new Bennett Farm Park in Powell. More info on City of Powell's webpage: <https://www.cityofpowell.us/About-Us/Bennett-Farm>. In 2025, the city won the CoStar Impact Award for Redevelopment of the Year for its acquisition of the 32-acre farm, which is next to Arbor Ridge Park.

The original builder and owner of the property was John Lowry, great-great grandfather of Sherry Carmichael. Lowry raised and sold livestock. Widower John purchased the land and built the barn and home to begin anew with his second wife, Sarah, whom he married in 1855. Before then, he had farmed along the Olentangy River in Liberty Township with his first wife and children.

What a gift this new property must have been to Sarah, as the view included the high pasture, the hill to the rambling creek, the woods with its' ravines, the barn lot down the path and the grand house for the family. John and his sons worked the farm and continued to amass as many as 300+ acres. There was the barn with hand hewn beams, a granary, corncrib, hog house, and shed on the barn lot.

John Lowry died in 1905, deeding the property to his single dressmaker daughter, Emma Lowry. Unable to maintain the property, it was sold to Marion Crane in 1908. Mr. Crane willed the property, now 160 acres, to Nettie Decker (83 acres) and daughter Naomi (80 acres).

Naomi Decker married Willard Bennett in 1920. Lettie Decker died in 1949, at which time Naomi inherited the entire 163-acre farm. This was the establishment of the farm as the Bennett farm. Prior to Mrs. Decker's death, Willard and Naomi had moved to the property with their family.

Enter the first sheep to the farm. In 1939, son Bill Bennett took on a 4-H project of raising a couple of lambs. Long after Bill was grown and had left the farm, sheep remained, graduating to flock status, which was now tended by Willard.

After Naomi's death in 1969, Willard married Marjorie Snouffer Harris. It is most interesting that John Lowry was Marjorie's great-grandfather, returning the land into the hands of family. In 1991, at Willard's death and after the Bennett children's inheritance, Marjorie was left with 32 acres, and the sheep had a new shepherd!

Marjorie continued raising and selling the sheep with help from her son, Michael Harris, until her death in 2023. At this time, the property was willed to Michael and daughter Sharon. A bittersweet decision was made by the siblings to sell the farm. In 2024, the property was sold to the City of Powell for the development of the 32 acres as a public park, saving it from becoming a housing development and opening it to the general population. A memorial is planned, and somewhere on the property will be a path named Lowry Lane.



Bennett Farm barn; courtesy of Sherry Carmichael



Bennett Farm sheep; courtesy of Sherry Carmichael

The Jones Farm of Radnor

In 1921, T. Arthur and Mabel Jones purchased a farm that included a large barn on SR 203. The barn served as a multi-use structure, housing livestock in the lower level, and hay and straw in the large upper story. It offered storage for farm equipment until the late 1990's when most equipment became too big for the barn. The barn has been identified as an upcountry posted extended forebay Standard Pennsylvania barn, rare for this area. In 2018, the Jones farm was sold to the Hope family, who insisted on keeping the Jones family name on the front of the barn.

Ann Jones, granddaughter of T. Arthur and Mabel, along with her brother, sister, and cousins, spent hours of their childhood playing

in the barn, jumping through the hole in the floor where hay and straw were dropped to the livestock, and climbing ropes and ladders there. To preserve these many happy memories, Ann asked Molly Jones, (no relation) to paint the barn interior so that Ann could admire it every day at her home. Ann first met Molly the summer of 2025 during the art show at the Radnor Museum, where Molly was exhibiting. Her award-winning painting of a barn interior – “Hayseed” caught Ann’s eye and reminded her of the family barn. She and Molly met at the Jones barn, where Molly took photos of the barn interior and asked Ann about what was in the barn 60 years ago.

Molly’s rendition of the barn interior shows the wood tones, grain, and rough finish of this beautiful structure. She has an incredible eye for detail and has recreated the memories of the Jones cousins beautifully.

“Inside the Bank Barn” by Molly Jones @the_mollyjones.

*Gouache on canvas; 2026.
Photo courtesy of Ann Jones*



Wisdom from December 1932's *The Farmer's Wife Magazine*

The Real Job Lies Ahead

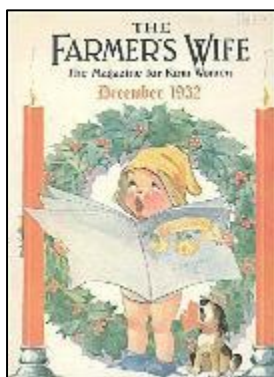
And now, with another presidential election out of the way, "the shouting and the tumult die" (we hope) and the "captains and kings depart."

"What to do about it?" Shall the answer be, "let's turn out the lights and go to sleep?"

Aunt Mary, who has lived through a good many campaigns, believes that the biggest job of good citizenship, as far as getting a square deal for farming is concerned, lies ahead and is not finished. She also believes that economic and social salvation for the Aunt Mary family and their neighbors depends largely on what they do for themselves, as it always has.

Editor's note: This commentary was written after the November, 1932, election of FDR during the Great Depression. The quoted segments are from "Let's Put out the Lights, (And Go to Sleep)" - a popular song by Herman Hupfeld that humorously addressed the economic situation of the 1930s. Readers can listen to the song online.

~ No author listed



Magazine issue owned by Editor

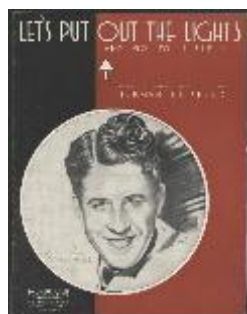


*Photo of sheet music.
Rudy Vallee pictured.
American History
Museum, Smithsonian*

So Good to Us - An Immigration Story that Began in 1913

Dear Editor: Nineteen years ago, we came to this wonderful country with four children. Two of them started school three days afterwards and the first day when they came home, they cried, and said, "Mamma, let's go back to Switzerland."

Later, I did the same as that other mother, studied right with them, from first grade up, and what I liked best was, and still is, American history. Afterwards I told their teacher and her mother about the unseen pupil, and it pleased them.

I could sit and listen to the teacher's mother; she could tell such interesting things about old times, when her mother taught for a dollar a week, and when she herself got two dollars a week and thought how rich she was. She lived until she was 93.

We have six children now and have built a new house. Five of our children have had a good education; three boys are in trade school; one girl is a trained nurse, and the other girl a bookkeeper. Baby Sunshine is in the 3rd grade.

If the dear Lord keeps on being so good to us, I might see Switzerland again next year with my sister. I made the money by dressmaking. I guess you could find many foreign mothers who learned as I did because you feel lost if your children grow away from you. I certainly like *The Farmer's Wife* very much.

~ Unseen Pupil, Connecticut

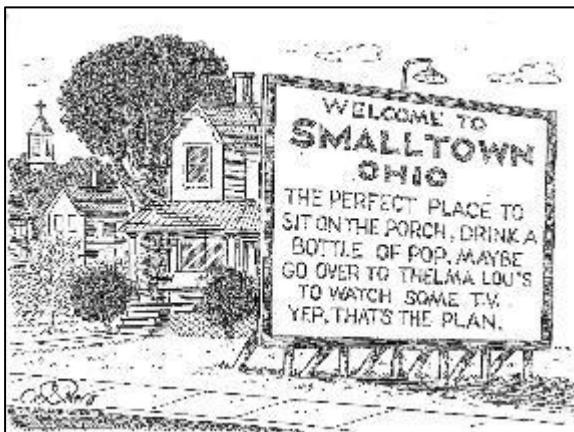
Editor's Note: Review a snapshot of life in Delaware, Ohio, in 1913, in *The Delaware, Ohio, Blue Book; Some Facts and Figgers - 1913* <http://delawarecountymemory.org/items/show/172>

A Blast from the Past...

These illustrations of issues in Delaware County from decades past were drawn by Dan Collins, editorial cartoonist for the *Delaware Gazette* from 1996-2004. Collins won 10 first-place awards from the Associated Press of Ohio during his tenure.



These Gazette illustrations were scanned from prints retrieved from the Wornstaff Library, Ashley, OH.



...Or Is It?

Editorial cartoons are an important way to study public opinion, politics, and in our county - issues faced as the county undergoes rapid growth.

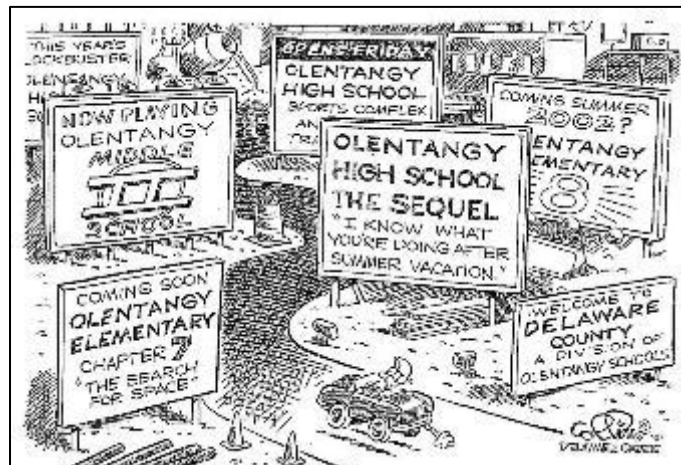


See more of Dan...



...and his work at this site:

<https://www.collinstoons.com/editorial.html>



People of the Past...



Bouic index notebooks

Local History Room, Delaware Library branch

Margaret Main Bouic (1911-2012)

Margaret Bouic, of Ostrander, and then Marysville, developed the *Genealogical Index of Delaware and Union Counties in Ohio*, which also is referred to as *The Index, Delaware and Union Counties*. It is an extensive reference of genealogical sources and vital statistics relating to Delaware County and Union County, Ohio. Each volume is given a letter designation, reflecting the first letter of the surname covered in that volume. Names then are listed in alphabetical order in each volume. A key to abbreviations used can be found at the beginning of each volume. Bouic developed the index between 1991-2000, and they are maintained physically (hard-copy) and digitally by the Delaware County District Library and the Marysville Public Library.

Bouic's wedding gown was displayed as part of a Delaware County bridal gown exhibit, at the Ostrander branch of the Delaware County District Library in June 2022.

Oatfield "O.W." Whitney (1881-1978)

A paragraph of O.W. Whitney's obituary provides the perfect summary of the life of the patriarch of the prominent Whitney family in Sunbury: "from the farm boy walking across Trenton Twp. fields to go to school, to the young man who was not afraid to get into local shenanigans with his peers; from the young, just married gentlemen operating the dray business hauling coal, ice, and hardgoods around the community, to the postmaster (under William Howard Taft), school board member, and village official, raising three boys to become leaders in the community; from the editor and publisher of *The Sunbury News*, to the Ohio legislator and state senator; O.W. a lifetime resident, lived this community."

Whitney served three terms in the Ohio General Assembly, having first run in 1929 on a platform of establishing the sales tax in Ohio. In 1938, he was elected to serve three terms (1938-1944) as senator of the 15th-16th district, authoring bills to give free licenses to school buses, removing the Ohio Nurses Association from the Ohio Medical Assn., and prohibiting nudist camps in Ohio.

Whitney was married three times, first to Pearl Greene, who died in 1954; then to Verna Green, who died in 1960; and then to Goldie Juengert in 1961, who survived him. His three sons preceded him in death. Polly Whitney Brehm Horn, curator of the Meyers Inn in Sunbury, is O.W. Whitney's granddaughter.



O.W. Whitney in 1920

Photo courtesy of Big Walnut Area Historical Society.

Abraham Depp (1791-1858)

Abraham Depp's legacy, the Depp Settlement and Lucy Depp Park (which is not a park but a community of historic homes in Shawnee Hills, Ohio), is a testament to Abraham's and his descendants' story of resilience, determination, enterprising spirit, and community building. Depp was born into slavery in Virginia, working for decades as a blacksmith on a tobacco plantation. Freed in 1831 following the death of his enslaver, he moved to Columbus in 1834 to work as a blacksmith. In 1835, Depp purchased a large plot of land – 300 acres from Joseph Sullivant and an additional 100 acres from others, along the Scioto River in Concord Township, Delaware County. It was the first African American-owned farm in the county. Later in 1835, he returned to Virginia to bring his wife and children back to his farm in a covered wagon. His wife Mary died on the way home. In 1836, Depp married China Ellis and they had six children.

The Depp Farm became an important station of the Underground Railroad during the years before the Civil War began. It is memorialized in the Ohio Underground Railroad Interpretive Trail: <https://ohio.org/home/ugrrtrail>.

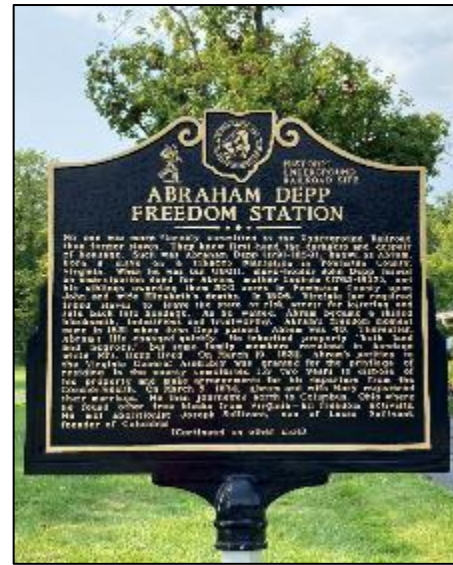


Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

After Depp's death in 1858, the farmland remained in his family. In the 1920s, part of the land was subdivided by his descendants into a community named Lucy Depp Park (after the daughter he had with second wife China Ellis). During the era of segregation, it flourished as a summer resort and residential area for black families from Columbus—even hosting famous visitors like boxer Joe Louis and famous musicians. Today, it is still a thriving community that hosts a popular holiday light show.

Learn more:

<https://lucydepppark.com/abraham-depp/> and <https://ldplights.com/history-of-lucy-depp-park/>

Lucy Depp Park Holiday Light Show:

<https://ldplights.com/>

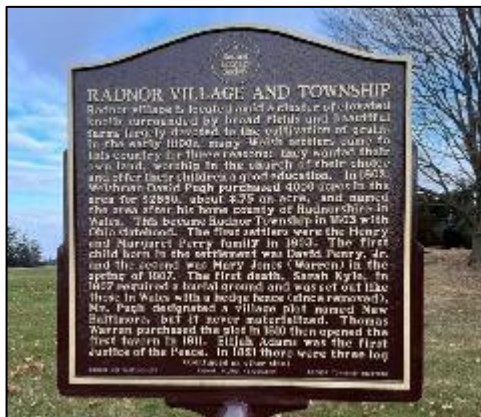
Abraham Depp Elementary School Hyland Croy Rd. & Gardenia Dr., Plain City, OH.

People of the Present...

Pamela “Pam” Jones Zeirott

Pam Zeirott, president of the Radnor Heritage Society since early 2026 (succeeding her cousin, Dr. Ann Jones), is an organizer and “doer” with long connections to Radnor Township via the Rees Jones family, who emigrated to Delhi (Radnor) in 1861 from Wales via Liverpool, England and Quebec, Canada. Rees Jones purchased the Baker Tavern, which still is standing as a private home on Route 203. Zeirott’s grandfather, Robert E. Jones, was the last of the Jones line living in Radnor – until about 1970. Pam grew up in Columbus but visited Radnor most weekends. Zeirott’s other “claim to fame” that relates to Delaware County’s history is that her great-grandfather, Abraham Lincoln Alkire, was sheriff of Delaware County from 1918-1922. The family lived in the Historic Jail and Sheriff’s Residence by the Courthouse. He was the first county official to propose motorcycle patrol officers along Route 23 to combat fast driving.

Zeirott’s service to the Radnor Heritage Society includes being secretary from 2022-2026; organizing St. David’s Day luncheons; writing



The Radnor Heritage Society is a member of the Delaware County History Network.



Photo courtesy of Radnor Heritage Society

the documents that secured status on the National Register of Historic Places for the Radnor Museum; spearheading development of the Radnor Cemetery graves directory; writing Delaware County Foundation grants for museum repairs and restoration; planning student art exhibits; and organizing the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Radnor Cemetery, now in its third year. This year’s event is December 19, 2026, at 11:30 AM.



T. Michael Wise

T. Michael Wise is president and trustee of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society in Sunbury. He holds Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and MBA degrees and is currently completing a Ph.D. in Historical & Theological Studies from Southern Seminary in Louisville, where he has served as a Garrett Fellow and teaching assistant. His primary interest is in the Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras of American history. His dissertation theme is "From Particular Providence to Pragmatic Prudence: A Secular Shift in Civil War America." His work has been published in *The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, and *Faith & Flourishing: A Journal of Karam Fellowship* (forthcoming 2027). Wise is a member of the Society of Civil War Historians, the American Society of Church History, and is an Edmund Burke Fellow of the Academy of Philosophy & Letters.

Wise portrays his second great uncle as Captain and Adjutant of the 43rd Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry Regiment, which served under Sunbury's Major General William S. Rosecrans during the Civil War. His presentations include: "How Ohio Won the Civil War," "President Rosecrans? Our Hometown Hero," and "The Delaware Deputy Killed by the Rum Runner." He is also a licensed funeral director and Certified Life Celebrant for the Snyder Family of Funeral Homes.



The Big Walnut Area Historical Society is a member of the Delaware County History Network.

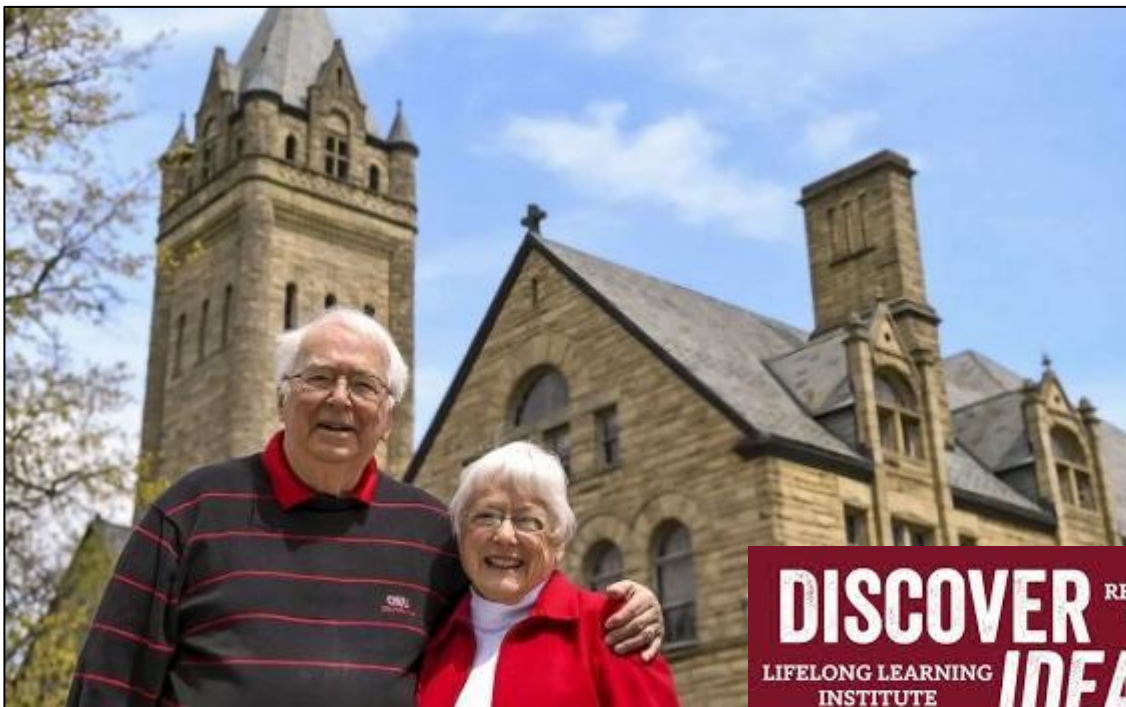


*Mike Wise reciting the Declaration of Independence at the Myers Inn Museum on July 8, 2026
[Photo by Becky Cornett]*

Mary Steele Holm and Bob Holm

We recognize the Holms together because they are truly a team, personally and in their roles as the founding chairs of Ohio Wesleyan University's Lifelong Learning Institute, which launched in the fall of 2019. Bob and Mary are avid supporters of, and advocates for, Ohio Wesleyan and the wider Delaware community, including DCHS. Both are graduates of the institution. Bob was the VP of University Relations from 1963-2003. Prior to his administrative appointment, he served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force 1960-1963 as a security and law enforcement officer. Mary – the Rev. Holm, MDiv. – is a retired United Methodist pastor, who first served Worthington UMC as an associate pastor, and then was pastor of Summit UMC, chaplain at Wesleyan Glen Retirement Community, and in her part-time retirement served for ten years as Worthington UMC visitation pastor. Mary received the OWU Alumni Award in 2015 for her "long dedication and service to Ohio Wesleyan University, the Class of 1960, the Delaware community, and thousands of individuals."

Both Holms are themselves lifelong learners (they attend almost ALL classes at the Lifelong Learning Institute). They are avid travelers, and champions of programs and services that help seniors thrive.



Bob Holm and Mary Steele Holm
Photo courtesy of Ohio Wesleyan University



People of the Past... A Political Extra

In recognition of the 2026 election year, we offer additional profiles of People of the Past. All three of these people are politicians from Delaware County, Ohio: Governor of Kansas Thomas Carney; Senator of Kansas, Preston Plumb; and Governor of Missouri Albert Pickett Morehouse.

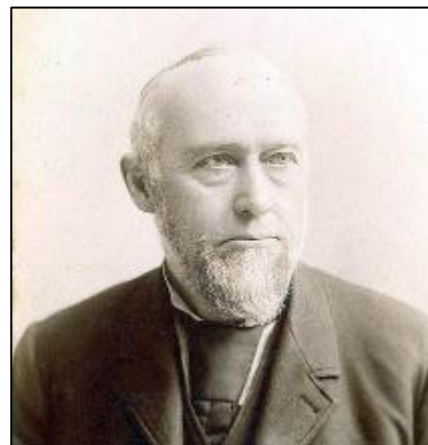
Governor Thomas Carney (1824-1888)

Thomas Carney, born in Kingston Township, Delaware County, Ohio, was the Republican second Governor of Kansas from 1863-1865 - during the Civil War – an especially fraught period for that state. Carney was first a farmer, who left Delaware County when he was 19. He worked in the mercantile business in Columbus and became a partner in Carney, Swift & Co. in Cincinnati. He later moved to Kansas to establish a successful wholesale grocery operation with a partner. He entered politics when he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1861, before being elected governor. After completing his term as governor, Carney became mayor of Leavenworth (1865-1866), also serving as director of the Lawrence and Fort Gibson Railroad Company, and was central to the founding of the First National Bank in Leavenworth. He was married to Rebecca Cannady and they had five sons.

Carney was called “the War Governor” for his efforts to protect the state of Kansas and support the war effort. Kansas had been admitted to the Union as the 24th state on January 29, 1861, right before the start of the Civil War. Despite the difficult period, Carney

worked to secure and advance the state by establishing the University of Kansas, the agricultural college Kansas State University, the prison at Leavenworth, and a school for the deaf. The state’s finances were suffering badly, so in 1862, Carney intervened to save Kansas from financial disgrace by advancing \$25,000 from his own funds to shore up the treasury - purchasing power of \$826,500 in 2026 dollars.

Prior to statehood, the Kansas Territory was established by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, repealing the Missouri Compromise of 1850 (which had kept an equal balance of power between states that were free and slave states). The concept of popular sovereignty was used to allow the territories to decide for themselves whether to be free or slave states. The result was cross-border violence between Kansas and Missouri (a slave state admitted in 1821), as pro-and anti-slavery factions fought. In May 1856, John Brown murdered five pro-slavery settlers at Potawatomie Creek, Kansas. Several days later, the town of Lawrence was “sacked” by pro-slavery forces and a sheriff’s posse, who burned the Free State Hotel, destroyed abolitionist printing presses, and ransacked numerous homes and businesses. Kansas earned the unfortunate title “Bleeding Kansas” during this period.



Thomas Carney

Photo: National Governors Association

During the Civil War and Gov. Carney's tenure, the cross-border violence of earlier years continued. Carney had to address the issues that destabilized his state and its citizens. To protect the border families in Kansas, Carney recruited a militia of 150 volunteers to patrol the Missouri-Kansas border to prevent destruction of crops and homes, and looting. Evidence suggests that the governor funded the militia himself. After quelling the violence well, the militia was disbanded in 1863 – but very prematurely. The town of Lawrence was attacked for a second time – this time by Quantrill's Raid in 1863 -which was a massacre. As a result, Brigadier General Ewing issued General Order 11, which forced the mass evacuation and destruction of rural areas in four Missouri counties. Read more at: <https://civilwaronthewesternborder.org/encyclopedia/quantrills-raid-lawrence>



Albert P. Morehouse
Photo: Office of Administration,
State of Missouri

Governor Albert Pickett "A. P." Morehouse (1835-1891)

A.P. Morehouse was born in Peru Twp., which now is part of Morrow County. Although his formal education was limited, he became a teacher at age 18. In 1856, he moved to Missouri where he continued teaching and studied law. In 1860, Morehouse was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Iowa.

As the Civil War began, Morehouse returned to Missouri, and in November 1861, enlisted on the Union side in Colonel Kimball's Six-Month Militia. He became first lieutenant of Company E, then enrolled in the Thirty-sixth Enrolled Missouri Militia, Company G. He was promoted to Assistant Provost Marshal in 1862 and later to quartermaster sergeant.

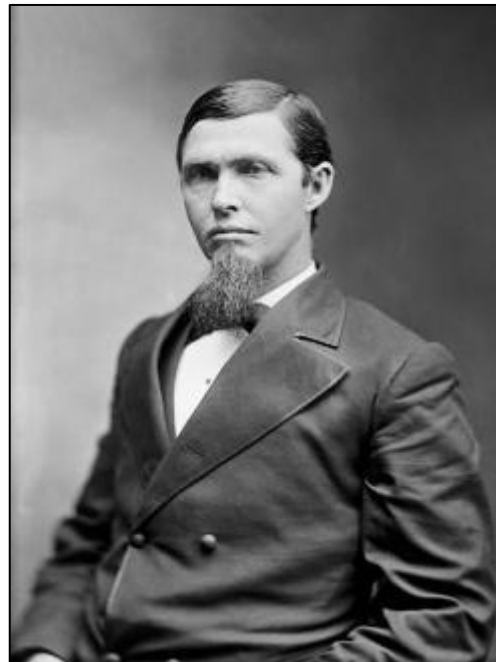
After the war, Morehouse practiced law, established a successful real estate business, and owned the *Nodaway Democrat* newspaper, allowing him to have political influence. He rose in the ranks of political life and became Lt. Governor of Missouri with Governor Marmaduke in January 1885. Marmaduke died in office at the end of December 1887. Morehouse became the 26th governor of Missouri, serving for about one year, but losing his bid for the nomination for his own full term. The mayor of St. Louis was nominated instead. Morehouse encountered labor unrest, but made improvements in education and public health. He was an advocate for electoral reform - primarily the secret ballot, which later was adopted. He used funds allocated by the Hatch Act to establish an agricultural research station at the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, facilitating innovations in farming methods. Morehouse was married to Martha "Mattie" McFadden and they had three children. After encountering health problems and depression, he died by suicide in 1891, at the age of 56.

Senator Preston B. Plumb (1837-1891)

Preston B. Plumb was born in Berkshire Twp., Delaware County, Ohio. When he was nine, the family moved to Marysville, OH. Plumb attended school at Kenyon College for a couple of years and learned the printing trade, later owning the *Xenia News*. In 1856, he moved to Kansas to support the Free State movement. One of the founders of Emporia Kansas, he established the *Kansas News* there. Plumb had studied law, and in 1861, he was admitted to the bar. In 1862, he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives, then joined the Union Army serving from 1862-1865 first as a second lieutenant and then as a captain, major and Lt. Colonel of the 11th Kansas Cavalry. He was on duty on the border of Kansas until October 1864, helping fight pro-Confederacy Missouri partisans and Quantrill's Raiders during the time fellow Delaware Countian Thomas Carney was governor of Kansas.

After the war, Plumb returned to Emporia, where he had a successful law practice. He rejoined the Kansas House of Representatives in 1867, serving as speaker in 1868. He gave up his law practice to become President of the Emporia National Bank, shepherding the bank through the Panic of 1873. Read more at: <https://home.treasury.gov/about/history/freedmans-bank-building/financial-panic-of-1873>

The long depression that followed the financial crisis was one of the primary reasons the public and many elected representatives and the courts wanted to end Reconstruction efforts in the American South.



Preston B. Plumb

The Kansas Legislature elected Plumb as a U.S. Senator in 1877 (when President Hayes took office after the disputed and polarizing Election of 1876), where he gave spirited and distinguished service until his death in December 1891. Plumb was married to Caroline (Carrie) Southwick of Ashtabula, Ohio, and they had six children.

***"There is no enterprise in the world beyond the ability of the American people to compass when once they address themselves to it. There is no problem their ingenuity cannot solve; there is no obstacle their courage will not overcome; there is no controversy in which they will ever engage from which they will not emerge triumphant."** ~ Preston B. Plumb*

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2026!

And as William Hale Thompson, Chicago mayor from 1915-1923 and 1931-1935, said, **"Vote early...and often."**



Collections Spotlight



by Watson Walker and Becky Cornett

John Wesley Donavin (1833-1893), was a prominent entrepreneur and hotelier in Delaware, Ohio. His hotel was on the corner of Sandusky and Winter Streets, where the PNC Bank now stands. He also was an abolitionist, philanthropist, chorister, and choir director of a glee club in Delaware. After the Civil War as a Methodist layman, Donavin became involved with the Freedman's Aid Society, and in 1874, organized and sponsored a group of young black people. He named the group Donavin's Original Tennesseans and then Donavin's Famous Tennesseans. They sang initially to raise funds for Central Tennessee College. Late, they became an independent group that performed for about twelve years after reaching all funding goals for the college. A few years previously, the Fisk Singers began offering concerts under the direction of music professor George White, to raise funds for Fisk University, which was at first funded by the American Missionary Association. The singers' 10-month season each year involved hundreds of back-to-back performances, typically concluding with generous free-will offerings. They perform to this day.

This announcement in *The News* of Newport, Pennsylvania, on Oct. 21, 1876, tells us about the popularity and success Donavin's troupe enjoyed:

The Tennesseans are Coming

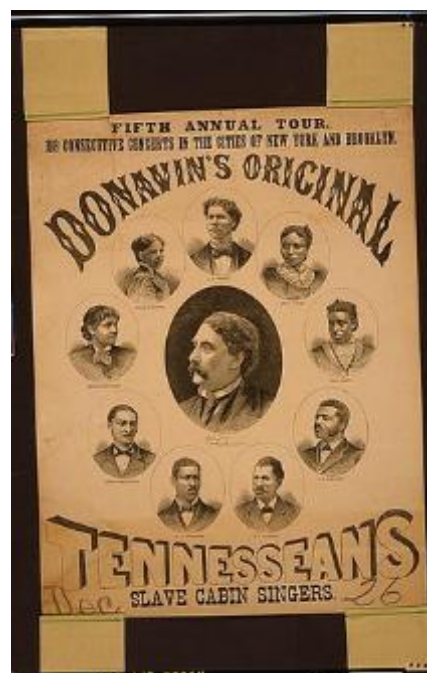
Our citizens will now have the opportunity to hear the famous Tennesseans, the slave cabin singers; they will sing in the Centennial Hall next Monday. Everybody has heard of these singers; they have sung in nearly all the large cities in the United States and Canada, and the leading papers all speak of their singing in the highest terms of praise. The Cincinnati Commercial says: The Tennesseans are 'genuine Americans of African descent;' twelve in number – seven females and five males – and are rarely gifted vocally. They sing the genuine religious songs of the plantation darkey with a melodious pathos that singularly affects the emotions now provoking laughter, again moving to tears.

At Columbus, O. they sang before the House of Representatives and at the close received a vote of thanks from that body. J.H. Vincent D.D. of Sunday School fame speaks very highly of this troupe as fine singers. Our people now have an opportunity to hear them and will, no doubt, avail themselves thereof; another opportunity may not soon be afforded, perhaps ever.

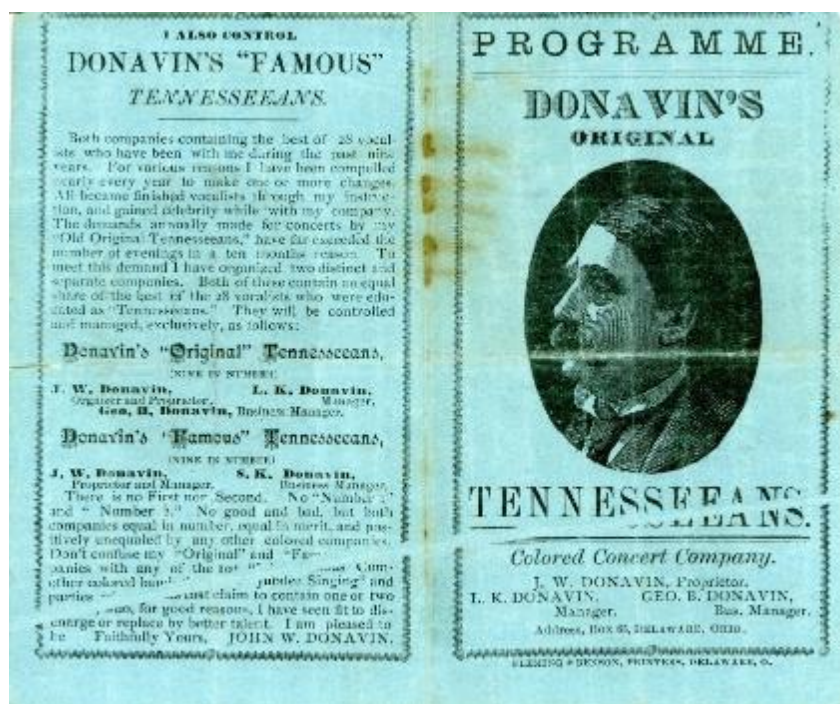
Together with the Fisk Singers and a few other "jubilee" groups who sang spiritual and other popular selections of the day, the Tennesseans helped lay the groundwork that made Nashville the famous "Music City." Nashville's focus on country music came later, in the 20th century.



Image of front of advertising booklet by J.W. Donavin, Delaware Ohio
Source: HathiTrust.
Original: University of Michigan



Poster advertising 5th annual tour
Source: Library of Congress



Tennesseeans Program DCHS Collections

Americana 250



Go ahead, try it! Bun's Restaurant, Delaware



Barber shops still are here - Sandusky St., Delaware



Gulf Station, Marion, Rte. 98
Columbus-Sandusky Pike



Sunbury Town Square Gazebo



Civil Government curriculum – displayed by Wyandot County Historical Society



A perfect summer at Gallant Farm

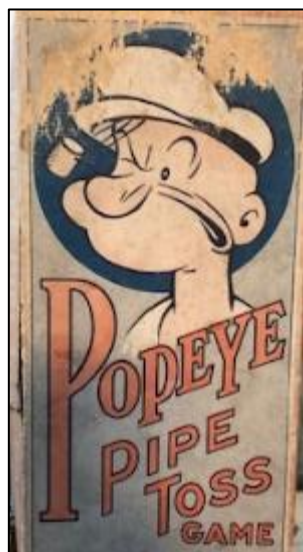


Handle with Care
by Barb Everett

Reflections of America 250 –
Ohio Art League &
Ross Art Museum (8/ 11-9/27)



Vintage Beef TV Dinner
by Greg Krivicich



Popular 1935 Pipe Toss game;
at Martin-Perry House (Powell
–Liberty Historical Society)



There are still over 15,000 high
school softball teams.



Striking new mural by Nick Stull at
the historic Strand Theatre.



Artifact displayed at Ohio
Showcase - Ohio State Fair 2026

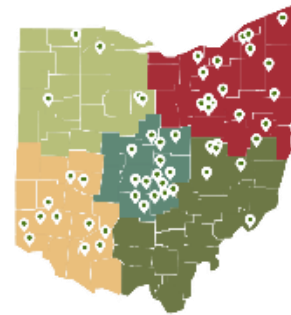
MORE THAN AN OUTDOOR HIKE!

Take advantage of all the great historic, artistic/cultural, natural, and modern Ohio sites via trails that have been developed among several government agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Ohio is truly remarkable!

OHIO AG-VENTURE GUIDE

<https://america250-ohio.org/ohio-ag-venture-guide/>

Family-friendly farms, delicious local food, and memorable agricultural adventures across the Buckeye State.



OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION PASSPORT

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historic-sites/ohio-history-connection-passport/>

The Ohio History Passport helps guide you through amazing journeys and encounters across Ohio as you explore our historic sites and museums. With your Ohio History Connection Passport, you'll find helpful information and a trivia question about each Ohio History Connection site. **Visit sites. Earn pins. Wear proudly.**



OHIO PASSPORT (consolidates the America 250-Ohio trails listed hereafter)

<https://ohio.brighttrtravel.com/passports>

America 250-Ohio's "Trails & Tales" features real-life stories of Ohioans and their contributions that align with the trail's themes. Through these stories and on-site experiences, visitors will have a greater appreciation of Ohio's role in shaping U.S. history; past, present, and future.



LAKE ERIE TO OHIO RIVER TRAIL

<https://america250-ohio.org/lake-erie-to-ohio-river/>

Ohio's waterways — Lake Erie, the Ohio River, and the remarkable historic canal systems—did more than move boats; they moved a nation.

MURALS ACROSS OHIO

<https://america250-ohio.org/murals-across-ohio/>



From colorful walls that celebrate hometown heroes to bold images that reflect local culture and innovation, murals are powerful expressions of community pride. Through this initiative, we aim to honor the artists, the stories, and the places that make Ohio unique—while boosting tourism and bringing new visitors to discover the heart and soul of every town recognized in the effort.

**OHIO AIR AND SPACE TRAIL**

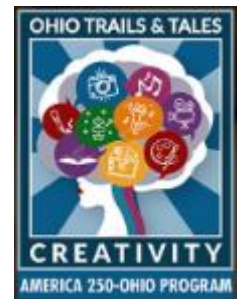
<https://america250-ohio.org/air-and-space-trail/>

Before Wapakoneta native Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, the Wright brothers invented the first controlled airplane in their small Dayton bike shop. Today, Ohio remains at the epicenter of aviation and aerospace research, innovation and manufacturing.

OHIO CREATIVITY TRAIL

<https://america250-ohio.org/ohio-creativity-trail/>

Ohioans have been at the center of American creativity for generations — and they continue to add richness to the American canvas. Discover Ohio's vibrant creativity on the Ohio Creativity Trail, featuring over 100 inspiring sites across the state. Explore sites that encompass one (or more) of six artistic genres or enjoy a "mixed media" journey within a single region.

**OHIO INNOVATION TRAIL**

<https://america250-ohio.org/ohio-innovation-trail/>

With a prime location, deep infrastructure, and a "try it, fix it, make it better" mindset, Ohio has produced wave after wave of problem-solvers whose ideas reshape how we move, manufacture, protect, power, feed, and heal – then and now.

OHIO TRANSPORTATION TRAIL

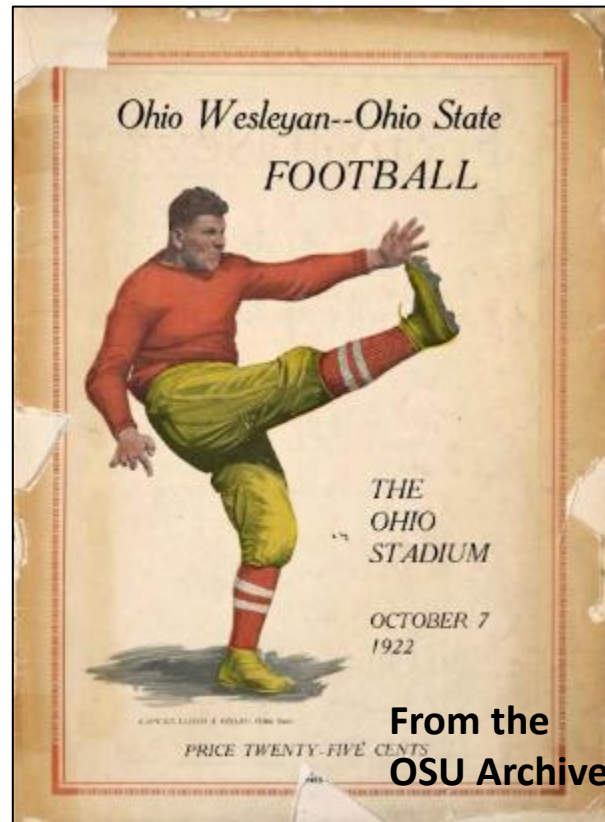
<https://america250-ohio.org/ohio-transportation-trail/>

The story of Ohio's transportation legacy spans soaring aviation milestones, nation-building roadways, powerful rail networks, working waterways, and the inventive spirit that connected them all. From first flights and canal systems to freight hubs, car culture, and Great Lakes shipping, Ohio didn't just participate in the evolution of transportation – it drove it. For generations, this has been a place where people, products, and ideas don't just move forward; they move the nation forward.





It's fall, and many of us turn our attention to football. Some readers will be surprised to know that Ohio Wesleyan University hosted the *first* Ohio State game on the morning of May 3, 1890 – part of Ohio Wesleyan's May Day Weekend! Seven hundred spectators watched Ohio State's victory: 20-14, in a field near Delaware Run. Ohio Wesleyan also was the opponent for the very first game played at the newly opened Ohio Stadium (The Shoe) on October 7, 1922, which Ohio State won 5–0. Here is OWU's article about the 1922 game: <https://www.owu.edu/alumni-family-friends/owu-magazine/fall-2022/kicking-off-the-shoe/>



Two Notable Ohio Wesleyan University Sports Highlights: Past and Present



***Nana Kwadwo, OWU.
Used by permission.***

FIFA World Cup history-maker...in Digital Art

Ohio Wesleyan student Nana Kwadwo Tweneboa-Kodua '27 did not play soccer in the FIFA World Cup series this year (June 11-July 19). He made history anyway by offering digital art, depicting scenes from World Cup games that “went viral.” Leaders of the athletic apparel company, Under Armour, saw his work. Consequently, Tweneboa-Kodua was commissioned to create pieces for the company’s social media ad campaigns.

Learn more about this highly talented student in OWU's announcement about his commission:
<https://www.owu.edu/news-media/details/world-cup-wonder/> and see many examples of his work where he has exhibited, at his website: <https://conceptbynk.com/>.

Ghost Hunts are back!



PUBLIC PARANORMAL TOURS

Historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence
20 W. Central Ave., Delaware, OH

October 9 and 16
7:45-10:45 PM or
11:15 PM - 2:00 AM



HERITAGE GARDEN FUN FEST

MAKE & TAKE CRAFTS,
Plants, and Local History

**NEW HERITAGE
LEARNING GARDEN**

 Sunday, October 18, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 PM

 **MILLWORKER COTTAGE YARD**
2571 STRATFORD RD.

MAKE & TAKE ACTIVITIES:
FLOWER PRESSING, CORN HUSK
DOLL MAKING, HOMEMADE DYE
PAINTING, DIP PENS & INK
PRACTICE, PLUS CORN GRINDING,
FINGER WEAVING, PIONEER
GAMES!!

DETAILS:




**FREE
EVENT!**



 Delaware County
Historical Society
Our History. Our Heritage.

DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – OCTOBER 2026 EVENTS

Life with the Circus: *F. Beverly Kelley*

**FREE
ADMISSION**

OCTOBER 20, 2026, 7:00 PM
THE BARN AT
STRATFORD
2690 STRATFORD RD.
DELAWARE, OH

**DONATIONS
APPRECIATED**

Registration Requested
on Eventbrite.com




BOURBON AT THE BARN

Host: Genti Koci

OCTOBER 21, 2026 | 6:00 PM
2690 STRATFORD RD, DELAWARE, OH
NON-MEMBERS - \$90; MEMBERS - \$75
VIP HOUR & EVENT - \$125

Tickets at Eventbrite.com
or use the QR Code here-->

DelawareOhioHistory.org





ANNUAL MEETING



NOVEMBER 19, 2026

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



HOLIDAY VICTORIAN TEA



DECEMBER 5, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



HOLIDAY TROLLEY TOUR



DECEMBER 12, 2026

12:00 PM - 06:00 PM

STAY TUNED!

CONTACT US
740-369-3831



MORE INFORMATION
www.DelawareOhioHistory.org



DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2027 PROGRAMS

Join us for our programs and events throughout 2027!

Our Programs & Events Committee has been hard at work organizing our 2027 offerings. Most programs and events are free, but we appreciate and welcome donations anytime. Members receive a discount for most ticketed events.

More information on our programs and events is available on our website, on the Programs & Events page:

<https://www.DelawareOhioHistory.org/programs-and-events>

Registration for all programs and events is through Eventbrite. The site manages any tickets sales when needed. We ask that you register for any and all events so we can be prepared for the number of potential attendees. We also ask that you register for activities like our Make & Take crafts at the museum, to know how much of the materials need to be provided for the participants.

About one month or so prior to an event, details and registration for it can be found on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/d/oh--delaware/delaware-county-historical-society/>

Don't forget! The Barn at Stratford is available to rent for your private parties & events.

To learn more, please visit
<https://barnatstratford.org/>

Unless otherwise indicated, these programs & events are held at:

The Barn at Stratford
2690 Stratford Road
Delaware, OH 43015

There are plans to have the barn's parking lot resurfaced in the near future, so if that should happen when programs and events are scheduled to take place there, information on an alternate location will be posted on our website.

DCHS CONTACT INFO:

Email: info@DelawareOhioHistory.org
programs@DelawareOhioHistory.org

Website: www.DelawareOhioHistory.org

Phone: 740-369-3831 (voicemail)

We are grateful for the support and partnership we receive from these important contributors. Special thanks to the Delaware County Foundation, for providing a grant to upgrade our audio/visual equipment and internet access at The Barn at Stratford.



THEN AND NOW: MEDICAL PRACTICES IN DELAWARE COUNTY

SPEAKERS: Volunteers Beverly Larson and Dr. Alice Frazier

DATE: January 19, 2027

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Virtual Presentation Only

Hear about the ways the practice of medicine in Delaware County has changed over the years.

STRATFORD AREA BANK BARNs

SPEAKER: David Simmons

DATE: February 28, 2027

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: The Barn at Stratford

Learn about the origins of stone-end bank barns, which belong to a specific category of barns known as the Pennsylvania Standard Barn.

2027 DELAWARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS - JAN-MAR

ODNR HISTORICAL TRAILS: THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

SPEAKER: Philip Hutchinson

DATE: March 16, 2027

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: The Barn at Stratford

Hear Philip Hutchinson from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources present information on how natural landscapes played a vital role in the "journey to freedom."

DONATE TODAY, MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR TOMORROW

How You Can Help:

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Earn money for our organization when you use your loyalty card at Kroger! Create an account/log in, then go to My Account > Community Rewards and link your shopper's card to **DELAWARE CO. HISTORICAL SOC, INC**

Help us connect the diverse stories and fabric of the past to the people of today and tomorrow, through preservation, education, and engagement.



Volunteer with us!



Tired of lurking in the shadows?...

- CONNECT TO OTHER PEOPLE
- BRING FUN AND FULFILLMENT TO YOUR LIFE
- STRENGTHEN YOUR MIND AND BODY
- LEARN NEW OR DEVELOP EXISTING SKILLS
- FEEL NEEDED AND VALUED
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY!

Volunteer with the Delaware County Historical Society !
Check our site for opportunities available now!



Recruit a friend or colleague as a Member!



Trick or treat? Definitely a treat!

Discover for yourself by becoming a member of the Delaware County Historical Society! Check our website for the three available membership levels.

WE SUPPORT A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES ITS HISTORY AS IT PLANS ITS FUTURE.

WE CONNECT THE DIVERSE STORIES AND FABRIC OF THE PAST TO THE PEOPLE OF TODAY AND TOMORROW, THROUGH PRESERVATION, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT.



Use the QR codes above to access more information!