



Society News

Mark Your Calendar!

HISTORIC DUBLIN WALKING TOURS
(see our website for details)

COFFMAN HOMESTEAD
Old Fashioned Christmas at Coffman Homestead
Thursday, December 4, 5:30-7:30 p
Sunday, December 7, 4-6:00 p
Sunday, December 14, 1-3:00 p
(see our website for more details)

MUSEUM SPECIAL EVENT
Santa, Carols and Crafts
Saturday, December 13, 1- 3:00 p

DHS SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES
Location: Dublin Branch – Columbus Metropolitan Library
Visit our website for information about upcoming programs beginning March 2026.

BOARD MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 4-6:00 p
Dublin History Museum,
35. S. High Street

MUSEUM HOURS: Nov.-Dec. 2025
Friday: 11 a-6:00 p
Saturday: 11 a-4:00 p
Sunday: 1-4:00 p

Check our website DublinOhioHistory.org for special event hours

To learn about membership in the Society visit DublinOhioHistory.org

Coming in Our Next Issue

Build a hospital and discover a historic cemetery.

Coffman Homestead and Dublin History Museum Christmas Open Houses

Once again, step back to the happy, golden days of yore in this beautifully decorated historic Dublin home. Candles twinkle, the aroma of cider and cookies fills the rooms, and seasonal sounds put you in the holiday spirit. Join us for An Old Fashioned Christmas at Coffman Homestead on Sunday afternoons **December 7 from 4:00 to 6:00PM and December 14, 1:00 to 3:00PM.** We will have a preview of the event during the City of Dublin Tree Lighting Celebration on Thursday, **December 4, 5:30-7:30.** Members of the Muirfield Village Garden Club have decorated the historic Coffman House at Coffman Park, built in 1867, in a Victorian theme. Visitors will enjoy touring the kitchen, dining room, entrance hall and parlor, each room furnished in holiday style.

Be sure to stop in the barn for a special photo opportunity with an antique sleigh and with Ethel, our cow!



Also mark your calendar to visit **Santa at the Dublin History Museum on Saturday December 13th from 1 PM. to 3 PM. Come and enjoy music, goodies, and the Jolly Man!**



Voter's Choice Award

During October, the Dublin Visitor's Center conducted their annual "Voter's Choice Award for the Best Dublin Attraction" to celebrate businesses, restaurants, and experiences that make Dublin so special. Voting was available online to the public. We are thrilled that our Dublin Historical Museum was chosen and voted as the best Dublin experience. Also recently, the Museum was honored with a Google Community Award for outstanding contributions to local history. Thanks for these awards go to all of the volunteers, donors, sponsors, and grants for making the Dublin experience happen. Thank you all!



DHS Museum Mission Statement

To provide the story of Dublin, and the surrounding area, through the sharing of our historical collections. Our purpose is to inspire and connect individuals to Dublin, while providing educational support and resources for research. | DublinOhioHistory.org



A Message from the President

As we close another remarkable year at the Dublin Historical Society, I'm proud to reflect on the progress we've made together. Notably, we welcomed 6,470 combined visitors to the museum, Coffman Homestead, Davis Cabin, speakers series, and tours. While we've faced challenges—membership and corporate donations have dipped—we've been uplifted by generous support from individuals and organizations who believe in our mission. Special thanks to City of Dublin, Karen Gillmor, Lynn and Clay Rose, Ross Foundation, Cap Clegg, Dublin Community Foundation and Dublin Cleaners for their vital support.

Our volunteer base has grown significantly, and we've expanded programming, tours, and open houses at the Coffman Homestead, and have been curating the Davis Cabin. We've also accelerated our exciting online archiving project. Our new speaker series is off to a successful start. The museum continues to thrive as a hub of learning and community pride.

Looking ahead, we're excited to support the America 250 celebrations and the 50th anniversary of The Memorial Tournament through our Second Sunday Speakers Series and other initiatives. Collaboration with our fantastic community partners remains strong, and we're committed to engaging younger generations and thinking creatively to meet the future.

As always, being a nonprofit organization, we continually need financial and volunteer support. Please keep us in mind to help sustain our success.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Mike Jewell

President, Dublin Historical Society

All in the Family, Part 2

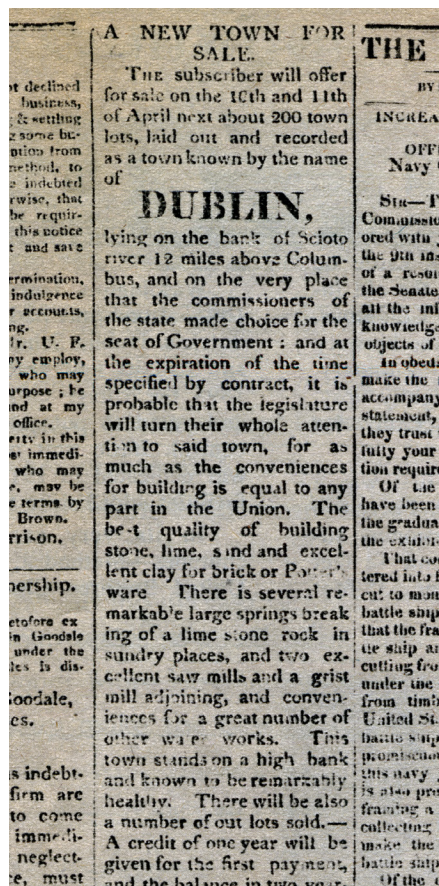
There have been a lot of stories about Dublin's Sells family connection to Upper Arlington. In the last issue, we presented a story about the Sells connection to Columbus. Now here is the story of how the family was involved with the creation of Upper Arlington. (Written by David Hartman)

Two of Central Ohio's most prominent communities are Dublin and Upper Arlington. Successful in their own right, what makes these suburbs even more interesting is that they were founded by members of the same family and 100 years apart. The genealogical beginnings of the founding families of both Dublin and Upper Arlington start with the birth of one Hendrick Sellen in Krefeld, Germany, in 1666.

By 1685 Sellen was a member of the German Mennonite colony of Germantown, Pennsylvania, became naturalized in 1691 and remained active in the Mennonite community until his death in 1749. In 1735, Hendrick (Henry) purchased 200 acres of land in Adams County, Pennsylvania, a part of what became the disputed "Digges Choice" land warrants of both Pennsylvania and Maryland. The Dublin and Upper Arlington connection descends from Sellen's son Anthony Sell, later "a farmer of the Little Conewago." By 1774 Anthony Sell and family had moved to a remote former

Indian village called the "Standing Stone" in Barree Township, Bedford (now Huntingdon County). His children became prominent citizens of the community; and son-in-law Frederick Ashbaugh, the town's leading potter.

By 1796 the family had dispersed: sons Ludwick and John emigrated to Kentucky; Anthony moved to what is now West Virginia; and Frederick Ashbaugh went to Maryland. By 1800 both Ludwick and brother John had emigrated to Ohio from Bracken County, Kentucky -Ludwick to Franklin County, Ohio and John to Clermont County (OH). And exactly how are the communities of Dublin and Upper Arlington related? The founder of the town of Dublin, John Sells, was the son of Ludwick Sells; the founders of Upper Arlington, King and Benjamin Sells Thompson were the great-grandsons of Ludwick's brother, John Sells. The town lots of Dublin were first offered for sale in March 1818 in the Columbus Gazette. The City of Upper Arlington was founded by the real estate developer brothers King and Ben Thompson in 1918, and the original community layout was referred to as the "Country Club District."



Donations Always Needed

The Dublin Ohio Historical Society is a non-profit organization and funding of the museum, videos, city tours, special events, seminars are all funded by donations, corporate sponsors and grants. Donations of any amount are always welcome and are tax-deductible. You can donate directly from the website or by sending to Dublin Historical Society, P. O. Box 2, Dublin, OH 43017.

Thank you to **The Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Cap Clegg** for their recent generous donations.

Thank you to Dublin Barber Shoppe for sponsoring this newsletter.

Dublin Historical Society is a 502(c)3 non-profit.



The Legacy of the Lucy Depp Family and the Underground Railroad

One of our recent Second Sunday Speaker Series events offered a very informative account of the Lucy Depp Underground Railroad story. In case you missed it, here's a short synopsis of the historic Depp family's endeavors during a troubled time in our history.

Nestled just north of Dublin and Shawnee Hills lies a quiet but powerful testament to African-American resilience and community: Lucy Depp Park. What began as a bold act of land ownership in 1835 became a sanctuary for freedom seekers and, later, a vibrant cultural haven. The story of the Lucy Depp family is one of courage, vision, and enduring legacy.

In 1835, Abraham Depp—a freed blacksmith from Virginia—purchased 300 to 400 acres of land in what would become Delaware County's first Black-owned farm. This act alone was revolutionary, but the land's purpose would soon transcend agriculture.

Depp's property became a safe haven on the Underground Railroad, offering shelter to enslaved people escaping northward. Hidden limestone caves along the Scioto River served as daytime refuges, and at night, the Depp family rang a bell to signal safe passage and an opportunity for food and provisions. This quiet act of defiance helped countless individuals on their journey to freedom, often to Canada.

The Depp farm was recognized as a Freedom Station, part of the clandestine network that aided enslaved people. Families like the Depps risked their own security in doing so as runaway slaves were tracked and captured by bounty hunters and others.

The land remained in the Depp family for generations. In the 1920s, Abraham's daughter, Lucinda "Lucy" Depp sold 23 acres to her cousin Robert Goode, who expanded it into a 102-acre subdivision. Thus, Lucy Depp Park was born—a community designed as a summer retreat and residential enclave for African-American families from Columbus and beyond.

During its heyday, Lucy Depp Park was a lively resort-style neighborhood. Families gathered to swim, fish, ride horses, and celebrate free from racial persecution. Notable visitors included heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis and musicians performing at Columbus venues like the Lincoln Theatre.

Today, Lucy Depp Park remains a living monument to Black history. Many original homes still stand, and the community honors its roots through annual Labor Day gatherings, historical markers, and storytelling.

The Lucy Depp story is more than a local tale—it's a national narrative of resistance, resilience, and renewal. It reminds us that history lives not only in textbooks but in the land, homes, and hearts of those who carry it forward. Much more information is available online or through the Columbus Public Library

Dublin Speaker Series

In September the Society established a new Speaker series, to be held the second Sunday each month, to be known as The Second Sunday Speaker Series. To-date, there have been three popular presentations, including these topics: The Liberty Earthworks, Ghost Encounters in Historic Dublin, and Lucy Depp Park and Underground Railroad. Attendance grew and the series will continue, beginning in March, and held at the Dublin Public Library on the second Sunday from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. Topics of local interest will be presented (e.g. Early Medicine in Dublin, Abraham Lincoln, and more).

All ages are welcome. Admission is free. A voluntary donation of \$5.00 per person is appreciated. Check the website for more information and specific topics.



Giving Thanks

It's the time of year that we give thanks for people, events and benefits that have had an impact on us. DHS has benefited enormously from all the many, many volunteers that have assisted us in the Museum, the Coffman Homestead, the Davis Cabin and other projects. Without their help, nothing much can happen. In this issue we salute those who have volunteered for 5+ and 10+ years.

Thank you very much!

10+ Years

Tom Holton
Gayle Holton
Marlen Mathias
Carol Homon
Rich Weber
Ashleigh Minor
Carl Karrer

Gina Kanter
Becky Schisler
John Leppert
Virgil Mathias
Gina Adams
Sam Freytag
Becky Atcheson
Grace Bunt
Sandy (Sells) Corica
Linda McCaffrey

Ellen Jewell
Darci Bassett
George Kneil
Cali Judge
Rye Fago
John Dawson
Kathy Harter
Susan Willis
Ankit Bansal
Arjun Acharys
Reina Spino
Perry Wages
Mary Jo DiSalvo
Olivia McCoy
Anne Clark
Tim Hansley
Fin Blake

5+Years

Katie Cook
Kevin Simmons
Carol Adam
Perry Orange
Clay Rose
Amy Kramb

Val Reiner
Amy McCullough
Tom Davis
Deb Davis
Greg Arndt
Gina Miller
Mark Stechschulte
Don Wisler
Shannon Freed
Robert Hetzel
Brad Sterner
Lynn Rose

1 Year +

Jenny Briggs
Tam Wisler
Linda Zack
Kari Parsons

Jim Early
Mike Jewell
Karen Gillmor

Meet Our Trustees

Clayton (Clay) W Rose III



Clay became active with the Dublin Historical Society in 2020 and served as president in 2022 and 2023. He now serves as treasurer, along with leading walking tours in Dublin's Historic Tours.

Clay is a lifelong resident of the Dublin area, as were both of his parents. "I was lucky enough to grow up in this community, and to see it grow from a very small town to the wonderful city it is today. I cherish the memories of the people who helped make Dublin what it is today." Says Rose.

A CPA, Clay practiced in Dublin for 38 years with Rea & Associates. He and his wife Lynn have been active in the community over their 45 years together. They are both very active within the Dublin Community Church. They have three children and six grandchildren.

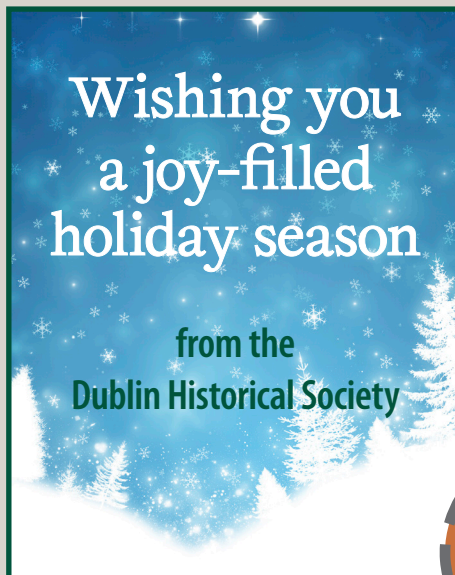
A 44+ year member of the Kiwanis Club of Dublin, Clay served as president two times and was treasurer for many years. He also co-chaired the Dublin Kiwanis Frog Jump for 25+ years. He has served on the board of trustees for Visit Dublin since its inception in 1988, serving as president two different times and as treasurer. He is also a member of the Society of Grand Leprechauns.

New Winter/Spring Museum Hours

The board of trustees recently established Museum operating hours for the Winter and Spring months.

- From **January 5 through February**, regular hours will be Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Beginning March 1**, hours will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

However, with one-week advance notice, tours can be scheduled outside the regular hours by appointment for families or groups. A voluntary \$5.00 person donation is appreciated for these special tours.



Meeting Room Rental

Looking for a small venue in downtown Dublin for an upcoming meeting or gathering? The Dublin Historical Society has a lovely indoor/outdoor rental space perfect for showers, meetings, small gatherings. Kitchen included so catering or coffee service from nearby restaurants makes it easy! We can allow access to the museum for your gathering if it would be enhanced with a taste of Dublin's rich history.

The best part — your rental fee is a donation to the society.

Email **Katie Cook** for details:
katie.cook@dublinohiohistory.org

Attendance since
October 19th, 2024.

5043 visitors
from 42 States and
23 countries

Be a Dublin Historical Society Volunteer!

Visit our website DublinOhioHistory.org to learn about the many opportunities available.

Volunteering at the Dublin Historical Society is a great way to learn more about history while helping to preserve the past for the enjoyment of future generations. Meeting new people, learning and sharing information and making a contribution to the Society are just a few of the benefits volunteers can receive for their time and efforts.

Here are some ways to make a difference:

- **Museum Staffing.** Meet and greet visitors to the DHS museum. Assist guests with questions and assist with guest registration. Hours extremely flexible.
- **Docents.** The Historical Society needs docents to give tours of the Coffman

Homestead and lead walking tours of the Dublin Historic District. Includes education and training. These are scheduled tours, so the dates and times are established in advance.

- **Communications.** If you have expertise in this area, we need people to write articles for our newsletter and to help maintain our website. *An immediate need is for people experienced in marketing, social media and technology enhancements.*
- **Educational Programming.** Volunteers are needed to develop programs and source speakers and help promote these events in the community at large.
- **Special Events.** We would appreciate help

from anyone who enjoys planning special events.

- **Fundraising and Corporate Sponsorship.** We need assistance fundraising and finding corporate sponsors for the Historical Society. This will also include membership drives and special events to increase our current membership base.

It's easy to become a DHS volunteer. Just simply go to our website at: dublinohiohistory.org and click on the



'Volunteer' link and you can quickly sign-up there. Please come and join us!