



# Society News

## Mark Your Calendar!

### HISTORIC DUBLIN WALKING TOURS

(see our website for details)

### COFFMAN HOMESTEAD

(see our website for more details)

### DHS SECOND SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Location: Dublin Branch – Columbus Metropolitan Library

See the article in this newsletter for program dates and registration information.

### BOARD MEETING

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 4–6:00 p

Dublin History Museum,  
35. S. High Street

### MUSEUM HOURS: Jan-Feb. 2026

Saturday: 12:00–4:00 p

Sunday: 12:00–4:00 p

**Beginning in March the museum will also be open Friday from noon to 4:00 p**

Check our website [DublinOhioHistory.org](http://DublinOhioHistory.org) for special event hours

To learn about membership in the Society visit [DublinOhioHistory.org](http://DublinOhioHistory.org)



## Coming in Our Next Issue

Learn all about the newly-curated historic Coffman Homestead.

## A Forgotten Cemetery Emerges

### *A Lost Chapter of Dublin's Past Comes to Life*

In 2020, as engineers and planners prepared the site for what would become Ohio State's Wexner Outpatient Care — Dublin, an unexpected discovery halted the work and opened a window into a long-forgotten chapter of local history. Beneath a quiet stretch of farmland near Shier Rings Road, surveyors uncovered the remains of a 19th-century African American cemetery, now known as the Brown-Harris Cemetery.

What began as a routine land survey quickly transformed into one of the most meaningful historical recoveries in Dublin's modern era. The cemetery contains approximately 20 graves belonging to members of two early Black landowning families in Washington Township. Their presence in the area predates the Civil War, making the site one of the oldest African American cemeteries in central Ohio.

For decades, the burial ground faded from public memory. As farmland changed hands and development reshaped the landscape, the cemetery's markers were lost and its location slipped from local records. Its rediscovery restored not only a physical space but also the story of families who helped shape early Dublin. Following the discovery, the City of Dublin partnered with descendants of the Brown and Harris families and the engineering firm EMH&T to ensure the cemetery would be protected, restored, and honored.

Archaeologists and historians documented the site, and the city committed to preserving it permanently. The cemetery is now enclosed by a wrought-iron fence with stone pillars, landscaped grounds, and a central obelisk monument bearing the family name. An informational plaque provides historical context, ensuring that visitors understand the significance of the people buried there.

On June 28, 2024, the City of Dublin held a public dedication ceremony formally recognizing the cemetery and the families connected to it. The event was attended by descendants, city leaders, and community members. For the Brown and Harris descendants, the ceremony represented a long-overdue acknowledgment of their ancestors' place in local history.

The cemetery has been deemed eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic

Places, underscoring its cultural and historical importance. Once nearly erased, it now stands as a protected landmark within Dublin's West Innovation District — steps away from the modern medical campus that helped bring it back into view.

The rediscovery of the Brown-Harris Cemetery is more than a historical footnote. It is a reminder that Dublin's story is richer and more diverse than many residents realize. It

*Continued on page 3*



### 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](http://DublinOhioHistory.org)



# Davis Cabin: A True Dublin Historic Relic

If you have ever dropped off a letter at the downtown Dublin post office, or hiked the Indian Run Falls, you likely noticed a log cabin by the park's entrance. The Davis Cabin, owned by the City of Dublin, was disassembled, moved, and reconstructed to its current location at 700 Shawan Falls Drive in the early 2000's. The cabin originally stood near the corner of Tuttle Road and Dublin Road. When the cabin was rebuilt, the fireplace was not rebuilt and a concrete slab replaced the original wood flooring.

The Davis Cabin is believed to have been built by Beriah Davis in about 1830. Beriah and Mary Ann Davis had six children. Mary Ann died at a young age. Beriah married Clara Andrews, and they had six more children. It is not known how many of the 12 children were in the cabin at one time, but it was common for large families to live in a small space. The children slept in the upper level or loft. At that time, Dublin was small. There were about 400 people in the village and surrounding area.

The cabin was not open for tours and lacked furnishings in its new location. Starting in 2014, students from Indian Run Elementary came to tour the cabin. Students enjoyed visiting the empty cabin each year, and a desire grew to furnish the cabin and make it look more

authentic. In 2021, students from Wright and Thomas Elementary Schools, with the support of the Dublin Historical Society, wrote letters to historical societies around the state to procure furnishings for the cabin. Donations came from Historic Sauder Village, and Dublin, Hilliard, Powell, and Southwest Franklin County Historical Societies. Additionally, Dublin Historical Society Volunteers Clay Rose and Mike Jewell worked to build a mantle, and bannister. A stone fireplace was donated and built by John Leppert. John also installed vinyl flooring that was donated by Floor and Decor to give the cabin a more natural look.

Students have been working for the past four years to fully furnish the cabin and provide lessons there for fellow students and parents. This spring, students will host the fifth year of student-led tours with the support of Dublin Historical Society Docents.

The cabin has hosted tours, and even a student-written play about the Davis family. The spring tours are filled with many stations where lessons are provided by students to help others learn more about life in the 1800's.

This upcoming year, a generous grant from trustee Karen Gillmor has helped to provide lessons and needed furnishings

for the cabin. The grant provided a master weaver who taught students how to use the union loom in the cabin.

This school year's cabin program will take place on April 14th, 2026 with a thunder storm rain date of April 15th. We hope you will mark your calendars to stop by between 10:30 and noon to see our student docents and learn more about Dublin in the 1800's.



Clockwise from top right: A student tries his hand at weaving. An "after photo" of students performing a play in the cabin with new cabin fireplace and flooring. View of Davis Cabin.

## 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

**Thank you to Dublin Barber Shoppe for sponsoring this newsletter.**

## Cemetery (continued from page 1)

highlights the presence of early Black families who lived, worked, and contributed to the community long before the city we know today took shape.

Most importantly, it demonstrates the power of preservation: when we honor the past, we strengthen the foundation of our shared future

*(Story Credits: WOSU Public Media, NBC4 WCMH TV, Columbus Dispatch)*



Ludwick Sells log house in 1982.

## Historic Reunion and Sells Memorial

Organizational meetings were held at Dublin, Ohio, in July and August 1915 to honor the life of the community's pioneer founder, Ludwick Sells. Officers elected were as follows: James H. Sells, President; Willis Sells, Vice President; Eva Sells Jaeger Secretary; and Stanley N. Sells, Treasurer.

On August 25, 1915, IOOF Cemetery sexton John Wing removed Sells's remains from the Indian Run Cemetery to a new gravesite at the entrance to the cemetery. A new monument was dedicated by the Reverend Byron Long of the Dublin Congregational Church with over 150 of Sells' descendants in attendance.

Then, on Sunday, September 11, 1915, a historic memorial celebration and reunion was held to honor Ludwick at the Ludwick Sells Homestead, located at 6028 Dublin Road, a half mile South of Dublin and the then-current home of Mary Davis Dun Hutchinson. A basket dinner was held and a welcome address was delivered by Byron Hutchinson.

Following dinner, a program was presented featuring remarks by Upper Arlington Founder, Benjamin Sells Thompson and a biographical sketch giving the early history of the Sells family read by Stanley Sells. In addition, a reading of the story of the love and courtship of Benjamin Sells and Betsey (Elizabeth) Davis- written by Mrs. Orange Sells, and just completed just days before her death- was rendered by Miss Helen Sells, a granddaughter of the couple.

A roster of the day's activities as well as an attendee list with (1915) addresses was included and made available for historical research. *(Information for this story provided by David Hartmann).*



## Second Sunday Speaker Series

Last Fall the Society inaugurated a new speaker series of short lectures pertaining to interesting Dublin-area topics. It quickly became so popular that the location had to be moved from the Museum to the Columbus Public Library on North High St, a now-permanent location. Thanks go to the Dublin branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library for sponsoring the series. Each program will be at 3:00PM on the second Sunday of each month, lasting an hour, beginning again in March. The admission is free but a \$5.00 per person donation is appreciated. Here's the exciting schedule:

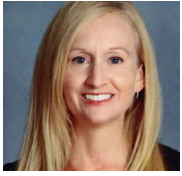
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| <b>March 8</b>      | Dr Mark Stechschulte, MD. "Tracing The History of Medicine in Dublin, Ohio"  |
| <b>April 12</b>     | Dr Sarah K. Douglas, PhD. "The American Revolution : How a fledgling Continental Army grew, adapted and persevered in win American independence" |
| <b>May 10</b>       | Dan Sullivan and Dave Shedloski, "The 50th Anniversary of The Memorial Tournament: Key moments I history and Jack's Inspiration"                 |
| <b>June 14</b>      | Kathleen Fulmer Waler, "Honoring our Patriot Ancestors: A brief history of the DAR and highlights of other local patriots"                       |
| <b>July 12</b>      | David Gerhardt, "The incredible story of Winifred Breegle: A naval cryptographer from 1944 until 1949"   |
| <b>August 9</b>     | Heather Miller, "The legacy and learnings of Wyandot removal: An intertwined history of the Wyandot and Dublin, Ohio"                            |
| <b>September 13</b> | Kevin Wood, "Abraham Lincoln: A new birth of freedom"  |
| <b>October 11</b>   | Becky Schisler, "Stories from 15 years of Dublin Ghost Walks"  |

**Reserve your seat at the Dublin Historical Society website, [DublinOhioHistory.org](http://DublinOhioHistory.org).** 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.



## Meet Our Trustees

### Katie Cook, Vice-President



Katie Cook is a native of Dublin and grew up as part of the Rowe family. She attended Dublin High School and graduated

from the University of Kentucky with a double major in special education and elementary education. She received her master's degree in school counseling from the University of Dayton. She has been teaching for 29 years in Dublin at Indian Run Elementary, Thomas Elementary, and, currently, Daniel Wright Elementary School, where she serves as a Gifted Intervention Specialist. At school, she enjoys working in the school garden and with the school news broadcast team. Katie has three children and loves spending time with her family and dear friends. She is an avid sports fan, loves to cook, and volunteer, and enjoys coaching, working out, and playing pickleball, tennis, and hockey. She also sings in her church choir.

## Thank You Donors!

Nonprofit organizations cannot grow and flourish without considerable financial support. The Museum has certainly flourished, as evidenced by attendance, feedback, and awards. This could not have happened at its young age without generous support from donations and grants.

We want to thank those who have recently supported the Museum and the Society, including the City of Dublin grant, the Dublin Foundation grant, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce (\$500), Yoshi and Keiko Hidaka (\$500), the Catherine Ross Foundation (\$4,700), Mike and Ellen Jewell (\$1,200), Tom Bassett (\$200), Cap Clegg (\$3,000), Lynn and Clay Rose (\$3,000), and Karen Gillmor (\$10,000).

We also thank those who were able to contribute smaller amounts; these gifts are very much appreciated. Donations can be made on our website.

**Thank you very much!**



## Need Space for an Event or Meeting this Spring?

*Our rental space might be perfect for your needs.*

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](mailto:katie.cook@dublinohiohistory.org)



## Great Museum Attendance

The Museum continued to have impressive attendance. Visitors for the full year 2025 totaled 3,135 and since opening in October 2024, 5,347 enjoyed Dublin's newest and voted "Most Popular" attraction. Special events included holiday visits with Santa.

## Be a Dublin Historical Society Volunteer!

Visit our website [DublinOhioHistory.org](http://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](http://dublinohiohistory.org) and click on the



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