Newsletter of the Dublin Historical Society
August 2026
Newsletter sponsored by Dublin Barber Shoppe

Society News

Mark Your Calendar!

HISTORIC DUBLIN WALKING TOURS
(see our website for details)

COFFMAN HOMESTEAD
Open 3rd Sunday, May through October
(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
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 4–6:00 p
Dublin History Museum,
35. S. High Street

MUSEUM HOURS:
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 12:00–4:00 p

Check our website DublinOhioHistory.org for special event hours



To learn about membership in the Society visit DublinOhioHistory.org

Society News staff

Editor: Virgil Mathias
Graphic Design: Gayle Holton Design

Coming in Our Next Issue

Dublin has been home to a large number of athletes that have gone on to future careers. The Museum will soon unveil a brand new exhibit, "Dublin Athletes on the World Stage". Read all about it in the next issue.

How Dublin Got Its Name

The Story Behind the Name

When people hear "Dublin," they often picture Ireland's rolling green hills and lively folklore. But the story of how our own Dublin, Ohio earned its name is far more personal—and wonderfully local.

The tale begins in the early 1800s, when the Scioto River valley was still a patchwork of dense forest, fertile floodplain, and scattered pioneer cabins.

The naming of Dublin begins with John Sells, member of the founding Sells family. He owned large tracts of land along the Scioto River in the early 1800s. When he decided to formally lay out a town on part of his property, he needed a professional surveyor.

About 1810, he hired a surveyor, John Shields, to map out a small settlement along the river. A grateful John Sells gave Shields the honor of naming the town.

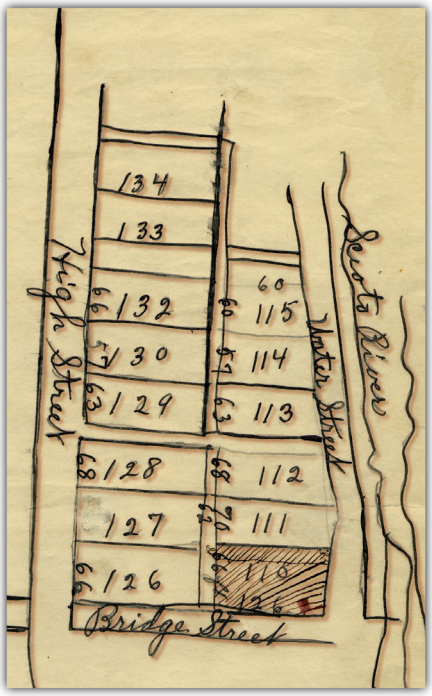
Shields was born in Dublin, Ireland, and the landscape along the river stirred a memory of the countryside he left behind. As the story goes, Shields looked out over the gentle rise of the land and the shimmering Scioto, and declared:

"If I have the honor conferred upon me to name your Village, with the brightness of the morn, and the beaming of the sun on the hills and dales surrounding this beautiful valley, it would give me great pleasure to name your new town after my birthplace, Dublin, Ireland."

By the 1830s, the village had grown into a modest but lively community with mills, shops, and a schoolhouse. The name "Dublin" became part of its identity—first a nod to one man's heritage, and over time a symbol of the town's welcoming spirit. As the decades passed, the name helped shape Dublin's character: a place where history, community, and a touch of Irish charm blend together.

Today, Dublin's Irish festivals, shamrock motifs, and cultural celebrations echo that original connection. What began as one surveyor's sentimental tribute has become a defining part of the city's personality.

A simple moment—one man looking across the Scioto River—gave Dublin a name that still resonates more than two centuries later.



Part of the plat filed by John Sells, April 9, 1818.

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**

THE SELLS BROTHERS CIRCUS RETURNED TO HISTORIC DUBLIN















Celebrating Dublin's Circus Heritage in Grand Style

Historic Dublin was buzzing with excitement during this year's Circus Saturday, a lively celebration honoring the Sells Brothers Circus, which once brought national acclaim to our community begun in the late 1800s. The streets were transformed into a colorful circus midway, with merchant storefronts and offices decorated in bright, nostalgic circus themes. Families enjoyed cotton candy, popcorn, face painting, street vendors, and a magician who delighted crowds throughout the day. Performers along the sidewalks added to the festive atmosphere, creating a sense of wonder reminiscent of Dublin's circus past.

The Dublin Historical Society Museum welcomed nearly 500 visitors, marking one of its most successful days in recent memory.

The celebration continued during the 250th Birthday Independence Day Parade, where a circus themed float and a beautifully refurbished Sells style circus wagon carried Historical Society members proudly through town. The float and wagon drew enthusiastic cheers and served as a joyful reminder of Dublin's unique heritage.

This memorable weekend was made possible through the **partnership of the Dublin Historical Society, the City of Dublin, Visit Dublin, and the Historic Dublin Merchants Association**. We extend heartfelt thanks to these groups, as well as the Waterford Village community, whose support and volunteer efforts were invaluable.

A very special acknowledgment goes to former Mayor Jane Fox and her dedicated team, whose tireless coordination and creativity brought both projects to life. Their commitment ensured that Circus Saturday and the parade participation were not only successful, but truly unforgettable.

Bet You Didn't Know!

Travelers to the settlement that became Dublin used a variety of routes. The earliest families traveled using the Scioto River via the Ohio River.

In 1812 a committee of the Ohio legislature considered Dublin along with Worthington, Franklinton, Circleville as the site for the capital of Ohio.

Dublin doctor Eli Pinney secretly ran a site on the Underground Railroad in the 1860's. This was a hiding place along the Scioto River for persons escaping bondage and seeking freedom in the North.

How did Dublin get its name? John Shields named the new town. He was a surveyor, an Irishman, who had surveyed land on the west side of the Scioto River for Virginia Military land grants. In 1810, he laid out village plats for John Sells in his new town. For this work, Shields was given the honor of naming the town and he named it for his home, Dublin, Ireland.

Ohio become a state in 1803. Before that time, Ohio was part of the Northwest Territory, also called the Ohio Territory.

Was Dublin settled by Irish? No, most of the early settlers were of German heritage. They were a second generation of Germans who migrated from Pennsylvania, and some came directly from Germany.

The first commercial swimming pool in the area was located on Reindeer Lane in Shawnee Hills and featured a sign, "Swim in Drinking Water." Before that pool, Dublin folks swam in the river, in creeks, springs or in ponds.

Before toothpaste was commercially manufactured and available, Dublin villagers used home recipes. One of them was a mixture of charcoal powder and salt.

Donato's Pizza is a prominent building in the Historic District. When it was built in 1834 it was a hotel for travelers on the stagecoach road we call Bridge Street today.

The Dublin Community Church became the only place of worship in Dublin in 1913 after the Presbyterian and Methodist churches were damaged by a tornado.

The Field of Corn is a public art tribute to Dublin's agricultural heritage.

The village of Linworth first was named Elmwood. When it became large enough to have a post office, the Postal Service required a name change because there was another Ohio town with the same name. How did they determine the name used now? Dublin + Worthington = Lin Worth.

Dublin's frog statue, in the Frog Park near the Dublin Village Tavern on South High Street, is called "Skippy." It commemorates the Kiwanis Frog Jump; a Dublin tradition started in 1961 that ran for 50 years.

The Morgan House includes a log cabin that was moved from southern Ohio. It once was used by John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate Army cavalry officer during the Civil War. He brought 2,500 cavalry raiders into Ohio to terrorize southern Ohio and divert Union Army troops.

Closing Note

Dublin's history is full of unexpected corners—industries that vanished, buildings that left no trace, and stories that survive only in memory. By uncovering and sharing these lesser-known pieces of our past, we keep the village's character alive for future generations.

Second Sunday Speaker Series

The new DHS-sponsored speaker series has become a big success, averaging over 80 persons per lecture. It is held the second Sunday of each month at the Dublin Branch of the Columbus Public Library at 3:00 PM and lasts about an hour. It is free to the public but a $5.00 per person donation is much appreciated with your free registration via our website at DublinOhioHistory.org. See the upcoming schedule below.

September 13	Kevin Wood, "Abraham Lincoln: A new birth of freedom"
October 11	Becky Schisler, "Stories from 15 years of Dublin Ghost Walks"



Reserve your seat at the Dublin Historical Society website, 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.

Coffman Homestead:

Free pony rides for kids on September 20!

The newly restored/renovated vintage home is open each 3rd Sunday from 1 to 3:00 pm through October. ***At all open house dates, home tours, pioneer games, and free ice cream are available at no charge courtesy of Dublin Historical Society.*** Donations are appreciated on site. No registration needed in advance. See special attractions below.

September 20th
Free pony rides will be available and create something with clay

October 18th
Play apple games and learn Johnny Appleseed lore



Coffman House in the early 1900s. Pictured is Willie and Ida Coffman with their two sons and their ponies.

Was Johnny here? Find out on October 18!

Most everyone has heard the stories of the legendary Johnny Appleseed, the frontier nurseryman who helped early settlers establish the orchards required for claiming land. Johnny—born John Chapman in 1774 and passing in 1845—has inspired movies, songs, ballads, and countless tales celebrating his place in American folklore.

What few people know is that Dublin has a direct connection to this legend. Not only does our community include an actual descendant of Johnny Appleseed, but the Coffman Homestead is home to four apple trees that trace their lineage to a tree known to have been planted and tended by Johnny himself.

You can see these remarkable trees—and meet the mystery descendant—at the Coffman Homestead Open House.

Dublin History Museum Anniversary

On the weekend of October 17–18, the Dublin Historical Society will celebrate the two year anniversary of the opening of the Dublin Historical Society Museum – a long held dream of the Society.

In addition to its comprehensive displays of Dublin's history and artifacts, the Museum recently unveiled a special exhibit honoring the 50th anniversary of the Memorial Tournament, and a special exhibit featuring original Muirfield Village design work by James Bassett. Currently in development—and planned to debut during the anniversary weekend—is a new exhibit celebrating Dublin's local athletes who have excelled and gone on to distinguished careers.

The Museum's success is the result of extraordinary dedication from its many volunteers, the Board of Directors, advisors, and generous donors. Their efforts have transformed this nonprofit endeavor into not only a significant cultural asset for Dublin, but an outstanding destination for visitors from near and far.

Special appreciation is also extended to the City of Dublin and the Dublin Community Foundation for their financial support.

We invite you to visit, explore, and share in the excitement as we celebrate the Museum's achievements and its bright future.

Thanks to Our Supporters!

A special thank you to all our donors and our grantors, the City of Dublin and the Dublin Community Foundation. Your support makes our facilities and programs possible.

City of Dublin OHIO, USA

THE DUBLIN Community FOUNDATION



Museum Attendance

As a popular Dublin destination, the Museum continues to see many visitors. In fact, we've seen

guests from 32 countries and 45 states.

We've not yet had visitors from Hawaii, Alaska, Delaware, Louisiana, or Wyoming. If you have guests from these states, please encourage them to come see us.

We've now had over 10,270 visitors

Need Space for an Event or Meeting this Fall?

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

Be a Dublin Historical Society Volunteer or Donor!

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!

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.

Thank you to Dublin Barber Shoppe for sponsoring this newsletter.