



## SPRING 2018

April 9            7 p.m. — Marilyn Battin — Researching Your Local Ancestors  
in Delaware County

Battin plans to share resources available at the Martin-Perry House such as the 1880 Delaware County History, newspaper abstracts of the *Delaware Gazette* from the 1800's, Liberty Township cemetery information, property ownership maps and various local family histories.

May 14            7 p.m. — Deb Schatzer — Lemonade Lucy, Mrs. Rutherford B.  
Hayes

Schatzer, who is executive director of the Delaware County Convention and Visitors Bureau will portray President Rutherford B. Hayes' wife, who was referred to as "Lemonade Lucy." If you don't know why Lucy Webb Hayes received this nickname, you will find out and learn much more about this Ohio native.

*Take a moment please to express your appreciation for this organization's service to the community. If you have not become a member, we seek your support. If you realize it's been a year or two since you last renewed, we would appreciate hearing from you!*

*Board meetings are generally held one hour before each event at the Martin Perry House ♦ email: [info@powellhistory.org](mailto:info@powellhistory.org); phone number: [614-848-6210](tel:614-848-6210); website: [powellhistory.org](http://powellhistory.org)*



## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Jo Cornish-Gerwig who died at age 64 on January 18, 2018, following complications of a brain aneurysm a month earlier. As one of three daughters of Paul and Louise Cornish, she followed in her mother's footsteps. Genealogy and history were major interests of them both.

Jo was a descendant of some of the earliest settlers in Powell, and she had many relatives for whom she was able to share stories. We will miss her knowledge and her dedication to the Powell Liberty Historical Society.

She served as president, was a long-time member of the Board and actively contributed to many of its activities.

Like Louise, Jo was a member of the Mayflower Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Delaware County Pioneers Club, where members must have proof of ancestry in Delaware County prior to 1850.

One experience which showed Jo's respect for history involved a purchase made at a Central Ohio garage sale. The baby album had no identification, and she found it sad to know it perhaps was lost forever. At a DAR meeting several years later, Jo struck up a conversation with someone new. Hearing the woman's background and remembering that purchase, she realized the baby album was devoted to her new



acquaintance. We do not know the family dynamics that allowed the precious memories to be abandoned so easily, but it was Jo's caring and curious nature to rescue that history.

The Powell Area Women's Garden Club was formed in 1991. Jo served as president and was regularly involved in their efforts to care for the gardens at the Martin-Perry House. She brought plants from the yard of the home she shared with her husband, Ron, in Arlington and also plants from her mother's yard on South Liberty Street. Jo's heart was in Powell. The city honored her with a proclamation from the mayor on February 6, and the Society continues to benefit from her life by generous donations in her memory.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Farewell Jo

Jo Cornish-Gerwig passed away recently at much too young an age. Her passing leaves the Powell Liberty Historical Society with a gaping hole in our organization and our hearts.

My family's first contact with the PLHS was at a pancake breakfast six years ago. Marge set the hook with her energy and enthusiasm, and Jo, the PLHS president, reeled us in with her friendliness and warmth. We have enjoyed being a part of the society ever since. Jo absolutely loved Powell and its people. Her roots were exceptionally deep, so she shared a special bond with her "original" Powell neighbors, but she also welcomed us "newcomers."

She was a permanent fixture at the Historical Society. She was a founding member, past president, and long-time board member. She obviously loved the Martin-Perry house; she was married there, and she seemed especially happy we were finally repairing and painting

the house's exterior. She was a major contributor to our Good Ol' Days events. She especially loved "sign flipping" in the center of town to encourage people to come to the festival; she loved the music and dancing, and mingling with the folks who attended. I will especially miss her at board meetings. She always added intelligent points to our discussions, and her long history in the community proved invaluable in keeping us on the right track.

I realize I am one of the least qualified at the PLHS to share Jo's contributions to the society. I knew her for a much shorter time than many of our members. But maybe that illustrates one of Jo's best qualities. You didn't have to know her long before she made you feel like you had known her forever.

Farewell Jo. We will miss you very much.

Tim Steitz

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

We are very grateful for the following items and monetary donations:

**Greg Russell**—Three 8x10 photos of Bieber Mill

**Marge Bennett**—early valentine to Chloe Hall, gold compact & lipstick holder in cloth cover, maker Dorothy Gray, N.Y.

**Janet Cornish Wartman**—Case genealogy; 1883 letter from W. A. Warner, Kansas, to sister Mary Andrews; many newspaper clippings of Andrews family obituaries; 1908 Liberty Township High School Commencement program and newspaper clipping of Commencement address given by Blanche Andrews; 1910 postcard from Earl Converse to Blanche Andrews; newspaper clippings highlighting Earl Converse motorcycle races at Columbus Motordome and the Powell Fair; 1912 wedding invitation for Earl Converse and Blanche Andrews; newspaper clippings concerning Converse property damage by railroad fire (North Liberty Road); newspaper clipping highlighting W. F. Andrews, WW 11 pilot; newspaper announcement of marriage of Frank Andrews to Fern Baker; newspaper clipping of 1968 Johnny Jones column, “Life on the Farm Poem Written by Delaware Man,” Murton Pinney; newspaper clipping 1976 obituary of Minerva Case; newspaper clipping 1977 obituary of Dr. Henry Karrer; key chain advertisements for “The First Lady” beauty parlor, 70 W. Olentangy St.; and Maynard Ressler, “Calendar & Advertising Specialties,” Powell

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## Education

*by Carole Wilhelm*

On January 22, fifth grade girls from Girl Scout Troop 2796 toured the house and heard about jobs women in Powell had in the early 1900's. They were studying professions and learned about Hazel Martin who worked as an embargo clerk for the railroad after her husband died. She left her very young daughter Mildred with her grandmother, Mary Martin, as she took the train to Columbus on Mondays and returned on Fridays. May Duffy taught at the Powell School until retirement age in Ohio and then finished her teaching career in Michigan. Women whom I had the pleasure to know later were “Poodle” Morgan and Jean Kirkham who both joined their husbands in family businesses. The four young girls were knowledgeable and inquisitive, and it was a definite pleasure to share the past with them.



Memorial Donations from family and friends of Jo Cornish-Gerwig: Charles Andrews, James Andrews, Marilyn Andrews, Joan Ball, Marilyn Battin, Marge Bennett, Amy and Ronald Burns, Sherry and Stan Carmichael, Diane Cordial, Anne and Damon Crabtree, Sally and J.T. Dewig, Doris Fahrenbach, Susan Gerwig, Jim and Sue Halas, Cheryl and Lloyd Hagerty, Barbara Janko, Daniel and Mary Jones, Konni Karre, Irene and Charles Klein, Loretta Kline, Linda and Bob Lakemacher, Ingeborg May, Susan McCabe, Marsha McEvoy, Linda and Allen Miller, Linda and Paul Miller, Lisa Perry, Joyce Quay, Teresa and Jeffrey Rea, Harry E. Riggs, Mary Lou and Larry Rogers, Jennifer Roque, Ronald and Sue Spessard, Patty Thompson, Carole and Bob Wilhelm, Art and Mary Vacca, and Julie Zdanowicz and Jeff Pullins. The historical society appreciates your generosity, totaling \$2,975 at present.

## Donations and Memberships

**Business Membership:** HMdb.org;

**Life Memberships:** T.K. Cellar and Linda Andrews Miller;

**New Members:** Charles Andrews, James Andrews;

**Renewals:** Doris Fahrenbach, Carolyn Glenn, Jill King with \$1000 donation in memory of husband Wallace H. O'Dowd, William & Judith Kramer with \$100 donation, Harry Riggs, Greg Russell with \$75 donation in memory of Vernon & Marjorie Russell.

**Additional donations:** Bill Bartholomew for house restoration, \$500; C.L. Dulin in memory of Clarence & Annabelle Dulin for WW II program, \$50; David & Nikki Klein, \$500; Joyce Cornish Quay in appreciation for reception, \$100; Janet Wartman in memory of Jean Kirkham, \$25; Bob & Carole Wilhelm, \$500.

## Delaware County History Network

During the summer of 2017, Donna Meyer, director of the Delaware County Historical Society, invited me to become a Board member of the Delaware County Historical Society. The invitation came along with a particular task in mind. I was asked to form a network which would include all historical societies and heritage foundations within Delaware County.

With the blessing of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society, I agreed to take on this project. I began by contacting 11 other historical societies or organizations within the county which offer historical programming, all of which readily agreed to join. It is also my goal to involve individuals in the 18 townships of Delaware County, who have historic knowledge of their particular township, as representatives. At present 13 of the 18 townships are represented in the network.

Our purpose statement is simple. It reads, "The formation of a network to promote county-wide history." And, the mission statement reads as follows, "The Delaware County History Network strives to connect local historical societies and heritage foundations, as well as history minded individuals for the purpose of promoting interest in Delaware County's rich history and heritage." A major purpose is also the promotion and publicizing of each other's programming. This goal is being achieved by listing each other's monthly programs and including them in our newsletters.

A "Meet & Greet" was held at The Barn at Stratford in November, and four meetings are planned for 2018. It is our intention that these meetings will have topics of information, help and benefit to all of our societies. The first meeting was held February 22, with a tour of the Delaware County Records Center. The topic of the April meeting will be information concerning how to write Township Histories.

A laminated information card was designed and printed with the 12 member group's names, addresses and websites. They will be available at each location, as well as libraries and the Delaware County Visitors Bureau. It is hoped that these cards will bring attention to the many sites that share Delaware County's rich heritage. The following is a list of the 12 network members. Look for highlighted meeting information, and avail yourselves of the opportunity to learn even more area history!

✎ Sherry Carmichael

History network members:

- Big Walnut Area Historical Society, Myers Inn Museum, 45 S. Columbus St., Sunbury — April 10, 7:30 p.m. "Sparrow Lodge" by Rick Helwig
- Community Library in Sunbury, 44 Burrer Drive, — Sunbury Memory Project
- Delaware County District Library, 84 E. Winter St., Delaware — History Room
- Delaware County Genealogical Society, located in the Delaware County District Library
- Delaware County Historical Society, Nash House Museum — 157 E. William St., Delaware & Meeker Homestead Museum/The Barn at Stratford — 2690 Stratford Road, Delaware — April 11, 7:00 p.m. "Sports Venues in Delaware County" by Brent Carson
- Delaware County Records Center, 2079 U.S. Hwy 23 N, Delaware
- Galena Historic Foundation, Inc. — Galena Museum, 109 Harrison St, Galena
- Gallant Farm (Preservation Parks), 2150 Buttermilk Hill Road, Delaware — A 1930's working farm
- Harlem Township Heritage, Inc., 3883 S. State Route 605, Galena,
- Radnor Heritage Society, Radnor Historic Museum, 4425 State Route 203, Radnor — reopening in April
- Stratford Ecological Center, 3083 Liberty Road, Delaware — Stratford Pioneer Cemetery Project

## A Report on An Exciting Grant Development

In late December, thanks to outstanding effort by one of our trustees, Larry Coolidge, the Delaware County Foundation approved us for for an exciting grant opportunity, and awarded \$3,500 to get it going. The grant specifically gives its Purpose as being Education, Website, and Operating Expenses. The donors to this fund were the Jack and Jane Van Fossen Donor Advised Fund for the Powell Liberty Historical Society. Many of you will recall that the Van Fossens have been generous and dedicated givers to our society for many years.

We were quickly able to identify three of our most important projects that have been undergoing serious development for several years. All three are based upon computer technology, but we have not had the time or money to make them readily available to the public. This grant makes it possible for us to do so, and will pay big educational benefits for our members and friends who will be able to access our most important information via the web.

The first of these projects is a detailed database of all of our historical possessions. You may not know that everything in our collection is assigned a unique “accession number,” which distinguishes it from every other object in the collection. Each acquisition is documented by a form which describes the object, its source to us, and its location in our house. This information has always been held in our paper files. These files are invaluable to us and document our collection, but are understandably awkward for the public to search and peruse. Furthermore, they are not “backed up” with copies in case a disaster should happen.

Having now spent several years adding this information to a computer database, it is possible for us to back up the data, and peruse it on-line. Imagine you’re at home and would like to know what kinds of lamps we have? Or suppose you’d like to know what items were given to us by Marge Bennett. Or perhaps you’re interested in class pictures from Powell High School. You could sit at home, pose these questions, and see the answers on your computer. If you’re not yet com-

fortable doing these things yourself, you could simply come in and have one of us help you on our own computers at PLHS. Pretty soon, you’re likely to be doing it at home. Charlene Baggs has been the key volunteer at work on that database.

Secondly, we have been accumulating thousands of photographs of the items in our collection, and over time these will be sorted and added to our database, so you can see the objects wherever you are. Although several people have contributed to the photo collection, hardworking Brad Cowan has been rapidly building our collection for the last year or so.

The third project we will put online is a surname database, emphasizing Powell and Liberty Township residents of historical significance along with many local families. The person responsible for this work has been Marilyn Battin. She has organized these files in a way that will permit us to easily represent them on the web, and continues to add to the database.

Additional persons involved on this grant committee have been trustee Allen Miller and Treasurer Bob Wilhelm. Allen and Bob are providing the technical guidance for the project, including acquisition of new computer equipment, adding full Internet capability to the house, added disk drives, routers and other needs. Others, including Sherry Carmichael have also provided input and guidance. We are organizing the future work so that many other members can be drawn in to contribute and participate.

We are very anxious to engage many of you in this project. Let us know about your interest in doing so. We’ll definitely find a place for you. There is a lot of work to do!

✎ Bob Wilhelm, Treasurer, PLHS

