

# The Story of the Star:

## A History of the Delaware County Sheriff

### Delaware County, Ohio

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The following historical document was researched and compiled under the direction of Ohio Wesleyan University student Jesse Hysell, who served as an intern with the Sheriff's Office in 2008. We are grateful for his dedication to compile an accurate historical piece.

Jesse, who is now Dr. Hysell – an adjunct instructor of history at Mercy College in New York, extends his gratitude for the help he garnered during his research, stating, *“Compiling this record required the help of a number of people, and was indeed a community project. Without their donations of photographs, newspaper clippings, and time, this history would not have been possible. In particular, the following names/groups deserve our thanks:*

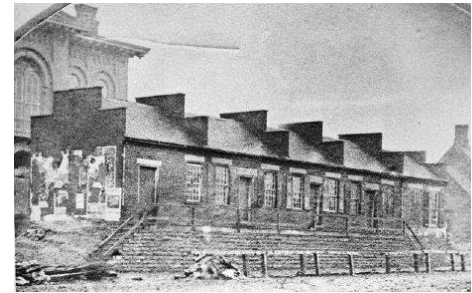
- ❖ *Millie Barnhart and the Delaware County Genealogical Society*
- ❖ *Walt Boham and the Mounted Deputies*
- ❖ *The Delaware County District Library*
- ❖ *Dick Browning*
- ❖ *Eugene Jackson*
- ❖ *William Lavery*





## The Story of the Star: A History of the Delaware County Sheriff

The year 2008 marks the bicentennial anniversary of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. There have been forty sheriffs in all, and each one has ably fulfilled his obligation to protect life and property. Over time, the office has seen considerable improvement and expansion through the addition of more personnel and special divisions. The business of policing the county grows increasingly complex at the outset of the twenty-first century, but the enduring ability of the Sheriff and his deputies means they stand prepared to meet any demand placed upon them.



First Delaware Courthouse

Of course, the task was much different when Delaware was founded. What was it like back then? Conditions in those first pioneer years were incredibly harsh, and walking and riding were the only means of transportation. The few dirt roads that cut through Ohio's wilderness turned to pits of mud in the winter months, making many places inaccessible. Delaware's low crime rate matched its small, scattered population. What violations there were included such acts as letting geese or hogs run wild, selling bull meat, and loitering near a women's college, while riding any quicker than a trot constituted speeding.



Old County Jail

When the settlers arrived two centuries ago, all law enforcement at first followed the county sheriff style borrowed from England. The word sheriff actually comes from the Old English words *shire reeve*, meaning an official who kept the king's peace in the countryside. Over the course of the nineteenth century, the power and influence of this office grew as the position became a useful route towards political advancement.

Arrests were rare at first, and for a time it was generally as difficult to break the law as it was to be held in jail. The first prison, a log structure measuring twelve by twenty-four feet, stood overlooking the Delaware Run. A certain Addison Carver was contracted to handle its construction for a fee of \$128.75. Poorly built, prisoners would allegedly escape through its roof, crow like a rooster and flee the scene.

Despite this rough start, matters improved, and in 1814 a larger and sturdier stone prison was finished. It was in turn replaced after a decade by a red, wooden barnlike building measuring almost 1300 square feet. Throughout the middle of the century, Delaware County used a two-story brick facility to house its inmates, until the 1870s when the more elegantly designed "old county jail" was put up at Central Avenue. As late as 1976, the Sheriff resided there with his wife, who as jail matron fed and cared for the inmates. A new jail was completed on Route 42 in

1988, and although the old location has mostly fallen out of use, several rooms currently contain the Delaware County Law Library.

In 1930, Delaware's population hovered at 26,000 and the Sheriff made a total of 322 arrests. By 1950 the population had reach 30,000, while 450 arrests were made with only three deputies and two vehicles. The jail housed nearly 800 prisoners in 1967, and the Sheriff's Office had come to include five deputies and three patrol cars. An emergency medical service requiring four special cruisers was attached in 1972, and the ranks swelled to 32. Patrolling a population of 156,000, there are currently 78 sworn deputies making nearly four thousand arrests each year.

### **Biographical Sketches of All Delaware County Sheriffs**

The people who have belonged to this organization have all shown a strong commitment to duty and honor. A glance at the lives of the sheriffs and some of their deputies reveals stirring instances of civic obligation and good citizenship. All of these ordinary men and women exhibited extraordinary interest in helping their community, often with records of involvement in areas like public safety, education, and the military. As is obvious in the following pages, this is a pattern that has remained constant for two hundred years.

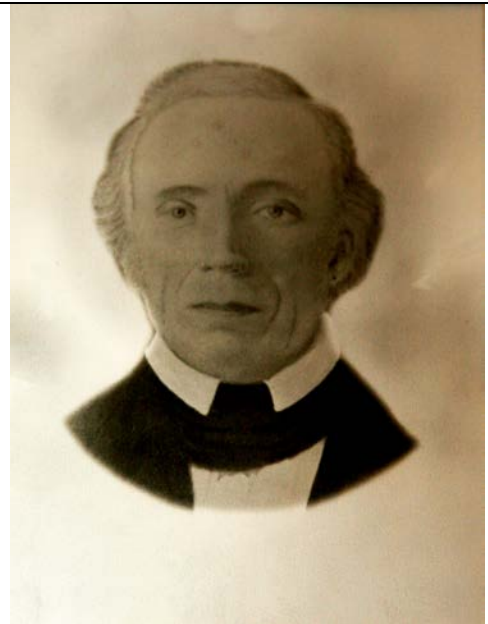
#### **Solomon D. Smith**

**1767?–1845**

**Elected 1808**

A New Hampshire native, Col. Solomon Smith had taken part in the Revolutionary War in his youth. At the dawn of the nineteenth century, he drove one of the three original wagons into the Delaware area after having set out from Massachusetts. As friend and aid to founder Moses Byxbe, Smith filled many positions of trust in the town's early years. For a time, he taught school in Chillicothe, but returned when Delaware County was organized, and became its first Sheriff. In May 1808, he was elected to that office by only 32 votes.

Smith's interest in education endured, however, and during the winters he taught in Berkshire Township.



Solomon Smith

He later became responsible for selecting the best-qualified public schoolteachers when he was appointed to the first Board of Examiners.

Besides serving as Sheriff, Smith also acted as Delaware's first Justice of the Peace and its second Postmaster. He functioned as an army supply contractor during the War of 1812, scouring the countryside for cattle, corn, and hogs. Active in civic affairs, Smith was the first Grandmaster of the local Masonic Lodge and a charter member of Delaware's Episcopal Church. From 1820 to 1830, he worked as county auditor and then as county treasurer. In the 1830s, he became privately involved in the building of railroads as a commissioner with the Mad River & Lake Erie R.R. Co.

**Sanford S. Bennett**  
**1791–1881**  
**Elected 1816**

Having reached maturity in Vermont against the backdrop of the War of 1812, Sanford Bennett came to Delaware in 1816. He clearly made quite an impression on the community because within the year he was elected to serve as Sheriff. A successful businessman with a dislike both for litigation and public office, Bennett nevertheless served as an associate judge in Marion County from 1832 to 1834. Living to the age of 90, he wrote the following before his death in 1881: "Oh, how wonderful that I, the first born of my father's family of ten children, should live to record the death of each and every one of them."

**Pardon Sprague**  
**1788? –1828**  
**Elected 1822**

Col. Pardon Sprague came to Delaware with the first settlers. He served in the War of 1812 and was one of the founders of the William Street Methodist Episcopal Church. *The Delaware Patron and Franklin Chronicle* lists Sprague as a Sword Bearer in the local Masonic lodge, and he was also the proprietor of a hotel on the site of the American House. He worked briefly as Delaware County Sheriff from 1823 to 1825 and then in 1825 took office as a member of the Ohio Legislature. Before his death in 1828, Sprague promoted the idea of a north-south highway. He successfully passed an act sponsoring the Columbus & Sandusky Turnpike, which in the twentieth century became Route 23.

**Daniel D. Tompkins**  
**Elected 1828**

Daniel Tompkins held the office of Sheriff in the late 1820s. Little word remains of his term.

**Sidney Moore**  
**1788–1866**  
**Elected 1830**

Originally a bricklayer from Brattleboro, Vermont, Gen. Sidney Moore took part in the War of 1812 and served the public in many ways, both civil and military. As a young man, Moore had been a captain in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Vermont Militia. After he came to Delaware, he was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel and then as a brigadier general, becoming known simply as “General Moore.” Besides filling the office of Sheriff from 1831 to 1833, Moore was also a county recorder, auditor, and member of the Freemasons. He had three children with his wife, Phoebe Mann, one of whom grew up to be a successful banker. Moore died on April 11, 1866, at age 78, and was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

**Emery Moore**  
**1799–1865**  
**Elected 1832**

Elected on the Whig Party Ticket, Emery Moore replaced his brother as Sheriff in 1832. He joined the Ohio Legislature in 1834 and held onto office until 1842. In his sixties, Moore was an assistant US assessor of internal revenue. His sister, Sophia, ran a school for orphans on Franklin Street.

**Andrew H. Patterson**  
**Elected 1834**

A saddler by trade, Gen. Patterson made up for his lack of education with a remarkable shrewdness. He had great management skills, and was once described as “the most successful electioneer Delaware County ever had.” Patterson served as Postmaster until he was elected Sheriff in 1834 as an early Democrat, then was reelected in 1836. Two years later, he joined the state legislature. After many years as a public servant, Patterson apparently fell into financial ruin. He moved west, but it was widely believed that he never recovered his fortune.

**Peleg Bunker**  
**1812–1864**  
**Elected 1838**

Elected Sheriff in 1838, Peleg Bunker came to be known for his endorsement of statewide women’s suffrage and legal rights at several public meetings. After he left the Sheriff’s Office at the end of 1842, he practiced law in Marion and Zanesville.

**Francis Grant Horr**  
**1808–1846**  
**Elected 1842**

Having come to Ohio from the state of Maine, Frank Horr was elected street commissioner in 1841 and then elected Sheriff in 1842. With his wife Ruth, he had five children. Although Horr died in office in 1846, but the cause of death is unknown.

**Nicholas Jones**  
**1807–1868**  
**Elected 1846**

Nicholas Jones was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and lived there until construction of the National Road began. He came to Ohio in 1828, and started out working as a hotel clerk in Morristown. Jones married Elizabeth Warner, the hotel manager's daughter, and together they had twelve children. In 1835, Jones and his family moved to Troy Township, where they built a log cabin in the forest and cleared a large farm.

He was considered a man of impressive intelligence and moral character, and as a result he was retained in public office for a long time. Jones first served as a justice of the peace for eleven years and was then elected Sheriff in 1846. He left after four years to become county auditor and then returned to Troy Township and bought a stretch of land people called the broom-corn farm. He had apparently developed a liking for Delaware, however, and at the end of five years he sold the property and returned to town.

**Elam Carter Vining**  
**1811–1899**  
**Elected 1850**

E.C. Vining was born in a house just east of where City Hall now stands on March 9, 1811. His career in law enforcement began in 1837 as one of the youngest officers serving in Central Ohio at that time. Following his work as an assistant constable, Vining was elected Sheriff in the 1850s. During the Civil War, he enlisted as a lieutenant in the 86<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry and saw combat along the Blue Ridge Mountains. Between 1859 and 1882, Vining remained prominent in the public eye while working as a deputy marshal, constable, special police officer, street commissioner, and coroner.

Vining retired at 71, when failing vision bordering on blindness forced him to stop working. His public career continued to be a source of pride to which he referred well into retirement, and the community held him in the highest regard. At the age of 88, Vining's blindness led to his death when he mistook the cellar door for that of the sitting room and fell to the floor below.

**Andrew Jackson Smith**  
**1818–1894**  
**Elected 1854**

Andrew Jackson Smith married Mary Glass in 1843, and had five children. Elected Sheriff in 1854, Smith was later appointed to the Board of Elections. President of the Delaware Pioneers Association after retirement, he was found dead in his barnyard near Galena at the age of 76.

**Charles Sherman**  
**1822–1884**  
**Elected 1856**

Charles Sherman held office as Sheriff in the 1850s. He and most of his extended family picked up and moved to Martinez, California, soon after his tenure expired. Sherman died in San Francisco on May 25, 1884.

**Benjamin C. Waters**  
**1819–1882**  
**Elected 1860**

B.C. Waters was born in Fairfield and worked in his youth as a blacksmith in Harlem Township, Delaware. An intelligent man, his later years were spent in office, first being elected Sheriff in 1860 and then appointed provost marshal in 1865. In 1869, Waters was elected Delaware County probate judge, winning reelection in 1872.

**John W. Ladd**  
**1823–1890**  
**Elected 1864**

Born in Worthington, Ohio, John Ladd spent several years as a justice of the peace in Delaware before he was elected Sheriff in 1864. Afterwards, he became general deputy US marshal for the Northern District of Ohio. He held this position for eight years and was elected Mayor of Delaware shortly thereafter. Ladd traveled to New Mexico in 1880, and then to Shenandoah, Iowa in 1881, where he passed the remainder of his days.



**William Brown**  
**1834–1890**  
**Elected 1868**

William Brown belonged to Company D of the 145<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. As Sheriff from 1869 to 1873, he encountered one successful breakout attempt. William Kilgore, a man held for shooting with intent to kill, overtook Brown's wife when she entered his cell with food and then took off running through a nearby garden, knocking over a small child along the way. According to the *Delaware Gazette*, Brown, who was just returning from business, chased the fugitive through town but failed to catch him. Seventy years later, Sheriff Murt Pinney would be recorded as saying, "The guys we used to get in here wouldn't think of breaking out."

**James M. Crawford**  
**1834–1920**  
**Elected 1872**



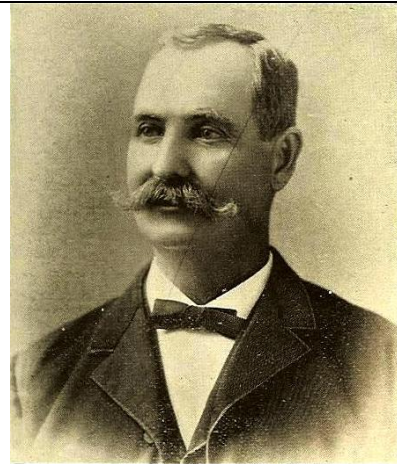
Col. James Crawford belonged to a military family: two brothers fought in the Mexican-American War and three brothers and five nephews took part in the Civil War. One ancestor, William Crawford, was an officer under George Washington during the Revolution and was later burned alive by natives on the Sandusky Plain. A younger relative belonged to Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. His father of the same name had moved into the area from Pennsylvania in 1806 and fought in the War of 1812.

Although originally a painter, Crawford went on a ten-man mining expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1858, but returned having encountered only mixed results. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he managed to recruit an entire company of fellow citizens in a single day. Through his efforts to answer Lincoln's call for troops, Crawford's became the first Ohio unit to enter service. He remained active and succeeded in attaining his father's rank of colonel despite recurring lung problems.

Crawford married Sarah Henry in 1864 and went back to work as a painter until being appointed Delaware County's Revenue Assessor in 1866. Elected Sheriff in 1872, he was one of only a handful of Democrats to have ever held this office. After leaving that post, he put in two terms as a justice of the peace and later joined the city school board. Crawford was also a leading statesman among Ohio Democrats, becoming well known for thwarting an attempt by party bosses to block Judge Allen Thurman's bid for the presidential nomination.

Beginning in 1882, he and his wife ran the Girls' Industrial Home with remarkable efficiency and success as superintendent and matron. Returning to Delaware ten years later, Col. Crawford organized the Delaware Electric Railroad Company and directed the construction of

the town's first streetcar system. In old age, he taught Sunday school, worked as a director of the Citizens Savings Bank and belonged to the William Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Crawford was a friend to everyone, and his home was a haven open to all.



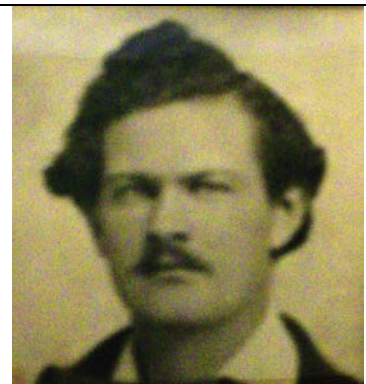
**George Lafayette Sackett**  
**1840–1902**  
**Elected 1874**

A native of Delaware County, George L. Sackett belonged to a pioneer family that had emigrated from Pennsylvania in 1805. After attending Ohio Wesleyan University, he taught school until 1862. In August of that year, Sackett enlisted in the 96<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but returned home after being wounded at the Siege of Vicksburg.

He was married in 1864 and had two sons. Sackett received the Republican nomination for Sheriff of Delaware County in 1874 and was twice elected. In the 1880s, he was a member of both the Ohio Legislature and the Freemasons. Sackett worked and lived all his life on his farm in Berlin Township, where he died in 1902.

**William H. Cutler**  
**1836–1910**  
**Elected 1878**

From 1879 to 1883, William Cutler acted as County Sheriff and afterwards engaged in business in the city. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having been a sergeant with the 121<sup>st</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He returned to Delaware in 1864, where he married Isabel McClure and served two terms as a justice of the peace in Concord Township.



**James White**  
**1823–1904**  
**Elected 1882**

Born in New York, James White came to Ohio at an early age and spent most of his life as a businessman and shopkeeper. He later served two terms as Sheriff, having been elected in 1882. White died unexpectedly of sudden heart failure while visiting his niece in Chicago.

**William J. Davis**  
**1849–1912**  
**Elected 1886**

Originally from Wheeling, West Virginia, William Davis was a blacksmith in Central Ohio until the 1870s, when he became Chief Engineer of the Delaware Fire Department. Between 1880 and 1884, Davis was city marshal, going on to become Sheriff in January 1887. He was elected to the Delaware City Council in 1904 and made a successful run for reelection. Before his death in 1912, Davis earned his living selling real estate.

**Thomas R. Griffith**  
**1838–1900**  
**Elected 1890**

The son of Welsh immigrants, Thomas Griffith spent the first sixteen years of his life on his father's farm in Marion County. In 1854, he moved with his family to Delaware County, administering their estate after his father died in 1860. Griffith enlisted in Company E of the 66<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry on November 8, 1861, and was with the Army of the Potomac for a number of important battles, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Lookout Mountain.

Upon leaving the service, he resumed farming until the death of his first wife in 1870. At this point, Griffith became a Baptist minister, preaching for the next eight years. He then went into construction, building some of the best houses in northern Delaware County. He moved to the town of Delaware in 1890 to serve the county as Sheriff. Griffith spent the last six years of his life at home in Prospect, Ohio.



Delaware ca. 1890

**Stephen P. Thrall**  
**1843–1904**  
**Elected 1894**

Stephen Thrall was born in Berlin Township and enlisted in the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry at age eighteen. Wounded at Raymond, Georgia, he became a prisoner of war. Released by the Confederates after only two weeks, Thrall returned to the Union Army and entered the lines at Vicksburg. At Fort Donelson, he piloted a prison barge and is said to have helped foil a major escape attempt.

Thrall married Evaline Gilson in 1866 and had five children with her. He owned a farm four miles east of Delaware City and was elected Sheriff in 1894. Ultimately, Thrall died at the end of a two-year struggle with cancer. Shortly after his death, he was described in the *Delaware Gazette* as one of the most prosperous and well-known farmers in the county.

Thrall's retirement in 1899 caused unexpected chaos when the situation produced three rival Sheriffs. His son, Charles, had traveled to Columbus and been personally commissioned by Governor Bushnell. Despite their questionable authority, the county commissioners appointed him Sheriff and handed over the keys of office. Simultaneously, Judge Wickham named William Kelly to the position, arguing that he had filed his bond and was Sheriff as far as the court of common pleas was concerned. The Supreme Court finally settled in favor of Jacob Schaffner, a third candidate, who could at least claim an electoral victory.

**Jacob M. Schaffner**  
**1866–1949**  
**Elected 1898**

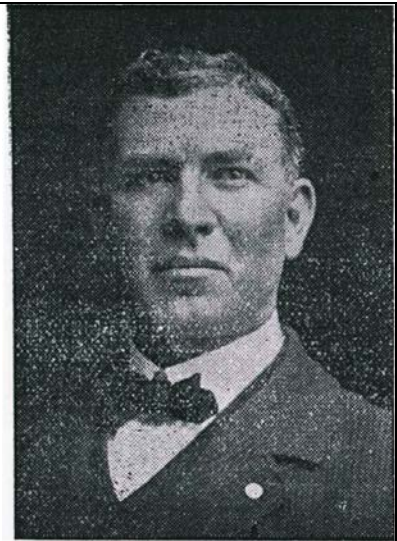
Jacob Schaffner, whose father came to Ohio from Basel, Switzerland in 1855, grew up working on his family's farm. He then taught music for several years, marrying Louie Downing in 1896. A charismatic but zealous Democrat, Schaffner was elected Sheriff in 1898. With his reelection in 1900, he became the first Sheriff from the Democratic Party to be elected to two consecutive terms in the history of Delaware County. As the *Delaware Gazette* reported after an elaborate farewell ceremony on the courthouse lawn, he left "with a good record, having performed the duties connected with the office to the satisfaction of all concerned."

From 1916 to 1920, Schaffner held the office of probate judge, and in his sixties he returned to the Delaware Sheriff's Office to work as a deputy under his friend Veley Main. During the Great Depression, he spent a few years with the Ohio Highway Division of the Department of Public Safety, ultimately retiring to the family farm in Troy Township. When construction of the Delaware Dam began, however, Schaffner left the farm for Columbus before finally removing to Clearwater, Florida.



**Almer C. "Al" Williamson**  
**1857–1947**  
**Elected 1902**

Al Williamson grew up in Porter Township, and ran general stores at Olive Green and Kilbourne towards the end of the nineteenth century. He was twice elected Sheriff of Delaware County, and left office in 1907 to open a grocery at the corner of Central and Sandusky. In 1914, Williamson went into business with his son, and together they operated A C Williamson & Son Grocery at Hyatts. The store was sold in 1941, at the start of the Second World War, when Williamson retired.



**Caleb Morse "Cale" Leonard**  
**1859–1930**  
**Elected 1907**



Cale Leonard was a horseman and Delaware native who became Sheriff in 1907, serving two terms. He had three daughters with his wife, Anna Eastman, whom he married in 1885. Leonard died of pneumonia in 1930 at his home in Forest Hills, Pennsylvania.



Leonard with Family



Leonard with Granddaughter

**Thomas B. Williams**  
**1869–1941**  
**Elected 1910**

**Before being elected Sheriff of Delaware, Thomas Williams had been both a police captain and successful restaurateur. Originally from Brazil, Indiana, Williams worked for eighteen years at the Busy Bee Restaurant in Columbus, and then at Bun's Bakery in Delaware before his entry into law enforcement.**

Williams was nominated as the Republican candidate for Sheriff in 1910, serving four years. He had four children with his wife, Lizzy Disdro, and while he was in office she worked as the jail matron.

He did not run for reelection in 1914, but instead went on to become the proprietor of the Allen Hotel Dining Room. During the Great Depression, Williams worked as a bailiff and federal probation officer. He died of a heart attack at a high school football game between Delaware and Westerville.



**William O. Pickett**  
**1869–1919**  
**Elected 1914**

Will Pickett joined the Delaware Police Department in 1907 and in 1910 replaced Frank Vining as a plain-clothes officer. Prior to this, he earned a living as a dealer in implements and later a motorman. Pickett left the police in 1912 and successfully ran for Sheriff in 1914. His brother-in-law, Wesley Charles Martin, was an inventor and possibly the first aviator in the county. Pickett himself died of pneumonia in 1919 while convalescing in North Carolina. He was buried in Marlborough Cemetery next to his son, Luther, who had died of typhoid the previous year.



**Abraham Lincoln Alkire**  
**1868–1943**  
**Elected 1918**

For several years A.L. Alkire worked as a grain elevator operator in Madison County, the place where he was born. Elected Delaware Sheriff at the end of the First World War, he was the first county official to propose the use of motor police along Route 23 in response to complaints of fast driving.

**Fred D. Harter**  
**1878–1930**  
**Elected 1922**

Fred Harter left his father's farm in Liberty Township in 1919 to take a job as a Delaware County deputy under A.L. Alkire. When Sheriff Alkire left office, Harter was himself elected in 1922. At the end of his second term four years later, he bought the Candy Kitchen Cafeteria, which he ran with his two sons as Harter Cafeteria. In 1929, Harter became Director of Public Safety by the appointment of Mayor Johnson.

Sheriff Harter served in the era of prohibition, and the black-market trade in alcohol brewed special problems for law enforcement. In one tragic incident, rum running cost the life of Rea Horlocker, Harter's deputy.

**Conner C. Lambert**  
**1895-1943**  
**Elected 1926**

Chief Deputy under Fred Harter, Conner Lambert was sworn into office as Sheriff in January of 1927. Lambert was defeated in the election of 1928.

**Veley E. Main**  
**1888–1949**  
**Elected 1928**

Veley Main was the last Democrat to be elected Sheriff in Delaware County, serving from 1929 to 1933. In November of 1930, his vigilance prevented a jailbreak by six prisoners boldly attempting to tunnel their way through the floor. Two years later, the state auditor admonished Main for lavishly feeding inmates a diet that included such delicacies as mango, goose liver, and coconut. In 1933, Main took office as Mayor of Delaware, residing at 241 South Sandusky Street. He resigned in 1935 to become a deputy marshal in the Southern District of Ohio and then first deputy marshal in Cincinnati.



**Chester E. "Chet" McKinnie**  
**1889–1949**  
**Elected 1932**

Chet McKinnie spent his entire life in Delaware County. He was elected Sheriff on the Republican ticket in 1932 and upon entering office he was confronted with the first two murder cases in more than 30 years. He served as Sheriff until 1937, and after working in several other law enforcement capacities, he went on to serve as the Superintendent of the Delaware Children's home until his death.



**Murton Field Pinney**  
**1887–1979**  
**Elected 1936**

Murt Pinney entered law enforcement in 1933 as a deputy under Chet McKinnie. He served two terms as Sheriff beginning in 1937, and was responsible for appointing the first female deputy, Doris Carpenter. Pinney faced several breakouts from the decaying county jail during his tenure. Four months after taking office, he uncovered missing door and window bars as well as chains and pliers used as escape tools. In another episode, two inmates used a broom handle to break through the 75-year-old limestone in order to descend to the ground from blankets.

A year later, Pinney's wife narrowly missed being hit by a large stone block when the building's front porch caved in. A Delaware County grand jury had previously made a tour of the jailhouse and recommended renovation.

At the height of World War II, Pinney was chairman of the USO Drive and largely responsible for the memorial that stands on the courthouse lawn. He was elected Mayor in 1942, and continued until 1954 when the charter form of government took effect. In old age, he belonged to the Delaware Historical Society, the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason. As a young man, Pinney had traveled with Santinelli, a well-known entertainer from whom he learned hypnotism.



**Earl Fravel**  
**1895–1970**  
**Elected 1944**

A veteran of the First World War, Earl Fravel worked as a special deputy for eastern Delaware during the 1930s. Murt Pinney later appointed him to be a regular deputy, and he was stationed in Sunbury until his election to the office of Sheriff in 1944. Besides having two children with his wife Martha, Fravel was a member of the Asbury Methodist Church, the Buckeye Sheriff's Association, and the American Legion.



**Harley Wornstaff**  
**1923–1996**  
**Elected 1956**



Raised in Ashley, Ohio, Harley Wornstaff came to Delaware at an early age and for a time worked in a tire shop on Sandusky Street. At first working as a special deputy under Earl Fravel, he was fired when he mentioned his desire to run for Sheriff. Wornstaff delivered on his word, however, and unseated his former boss in the 1956 election. After leaving office he briefly sold law enforcement equipment, but eventually settled as a bailiff for the court of common pleas in Mansfield. Wornstaff suffered from rheumatic fever as a child, which caused him to have heart problems throughout his life. He died shortly after undergoing valve replacement surgery in 1996.

While in office, Wornstaff was responsible for one of the largest manhunts in Delaware history. An unknown assailant posing as a junk dealer attacked two women near a farm along Route 23 in June of 1958. He had tied the pair up in an empty farmhouse, but was taken by surprise at the appearance of one of the girl's brothers. The attacker fled into the surrounding cornfield and disappeared into the woods just south of the Delaware Dam.

In response, Wornstaff ordered a search across a thousand-acre tract of land. The manhunt enlisted over two hundred men as well as mounted deputies from Franklin County, surveillance planes, and even a helicopter. The event somewhat resembled a Wild West posse, particularly since many of the men had actually grown beards to prepare for Delaware's one hundred fiftieth anniversary. The search was abandoned, however, when the discovery that a car had been stolen the night before suggested the suspect was long gone.

**Eugene T. Jackson**  
**b. 1930–2018**  
**Elected 1966**



Enlisting at age 17, Gene Jackson served in the Korean War as a sergeant in the 24<sup>th</sup> Signal Company of the Army's 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Discharged after three years of active duty, he was married in 1951, and had two children. In 1954, Jackson entered law enforcement as a deputy under Earl Fravel, and was elected Sheriff himself in 1966.

At that time, the old county jail was in such bad condition that large chains had to be wrapped around the cell door to keep the inmates locked in. After one prisoner escaped his cell three times in a row, Jackson discovered that the man had used a saw made from a metal spoon to break the door chains.

After Jackson left office in 1977, the Sheriffs of Delaware discontinued the practice of living in the jail with their wards.

**William B. "Moose" Lavery**  
**1935–2022**  
**Elected 1976**



Bill Lavery joined the Navy in 1953 and was discharged as a radioman first class at the end of four years of service. He then attended the University of Cincinnati and shortly thereafter joined the Sheriff's Office. After solving a notorious 1967 homicide case, Lavery earned a reputation as a talented criminal investigator and joined the Ohio Attorney General's organized crime division. He resumed work at the Delaware Sheriff's Office in 1969, when Gene Jackson asked him to return as chief deputy.

With the conclusion of Jackson's final term in 1976, Lavery successfully ran for election, becoming the last Sheriff to operate out of the old county jail. In his first year, he formed a new detective unit with deputies Bob Terry, Phil Longshore, and Bob Lavery.

Having turned down job offers to become a security consultant, Lavery finally retired at the start of 1993.

**Al K. “Butch” Myers**

**b. 1949**

**Elected 1992**



Al Myers graduated from Hayes High School in 1967. He joined the Air Force in 1971, and served a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1972 to 1973. Myers then spent four years with the US Air Force Office of Special Investigations, conducting criminal inquests for the Department of Defense and the Pentagon. The military awarded him both a certificate of appreciation and the Meritorious Service Medal prior to his honorable discharge in 1979.

For the next twelve years, Myers acted as a deputy under Bill Lavery. He was elected to the office of Sheriff in 1992, and in 1995 began working as a part-time emergency medical technician and firefighter for Radnor Township. Myers was with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office for a total of twenty-seven years before his departure in 2007.

**Walter “Magnum” Davis III**

**b. 1949**

**Elected 2008**



The oldest of five children, Walter Davis was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol as a Motor Vehicle Inspector in 1979, shortly after his graduation from high school. Three years later, Davis earned his Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement and Criminology, and became a State Trooper.

After 10 years, he transferred to the Investigations Section, conducting pre-employment background investigations, and managing newly sworn officers. In 1999, Davis became the Administrative Assistant to the Commander of Recruitment and Minority Relations. In this role he helped plan recruitment policies and created the Career Expo for the OSP which drew over one thousand attendants.

From 2004 until his appointment as Sheriff in 2007, Davis worked for the Criminal Intelligence Division of the OSP, supervising the analysis of criminal data.

**Russell L. Martin**  
**b. 1956**  
**Elected 2012**

Appointed to the position of Sheriff in June 2012, Sheriff Martin proudly served the City of Delaware for 31 years, the last eight as the Chief of Police.

Martin holds a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. He graduated from the Certified Law Enforcement Executive program and the Police Executive Leadership College. He is a Certified Instructor for the Pointman Leadership Institute, and has taught on principal based leadership – locally and internationally.

Martin and his wife of nearly 40 years have resided in Delaware County 35+ years and are the proud parents of two grown children, both graduates of The Ohio State University.



## Special Divisions

As Delaware's population changed and grew, county law enforcement became more professional with the establishment of new units focusing on specialized areas. The following additions have been made to the Sheriff's Office over the last fifty years in order to better serve the community.

### **Delaware County Mounted Deputy Sheriffs** Established in 1967

Formed in the late 1960s, the Delaware County Mounted Deputy Sheriffs, Inc. is a non-profit organization intended to aid the community. Specifically, the Mounted Unit assists the Sheriff's Office whenever necessary and taking advantage of the unique benefits afforded by horses. For the past forty years, it has performed a variety of duties ranging from searches for missing persons and stolen property, traffic control, and security at rallies and sporting events. Participation is voluntary, and each mounted deputy must complete 500 hours of training and furnish his or her own horse and tack, transportation, and uniforms.

To cover part of the expense, the unit began hosting the Country Music Show in 1971, which brought in well-known singers from across the country to perform in Delaware. In 1972, the mounted deputies purchased an additional cruiser to aid the Sheriff's Office and have been buying their own equipment ever since. Five years later, they managed the construction of the first mobile command center, a minibus with radio communications valued at \$15,000. Similarly, they paid for their headquarters at the Delaware Fairgrounds without taxpayer money.

The Mounted Unit participates in a variety of civic events, including parades in places as far away as Canada. It initiated the "Shop with a Deputy" program in 1996, which uses charitable donations to buy clothing for needy children at Christmastime in an effort to promote a positive relationship between youth and law enforcement. With a history of generous practicality, the organization's countless volunteer hours and out-of-pocket financing has saved the county hundreds of thousands of dollars.



Mounted Deputies

## Emergency Medical Services

Established in 1972

Local funeral homes provided ambulance transportation until changes in federal regulations led to the end of this tradition in the 1970s. Prompted by Chief Deputy Bill Lavery, the Sheriff's Office assumed this additional responsibility and added several specialized squad cars to its fleet. For a time, the county's deputies were also its medics, making emergency runs and invalid transports as well as arrests. This proved to be an incredible strain on county law enforcement, and in April 1978 a separate EMS department was set up. Ironically, this change was prompted by Lavery, who having learned from experience, made the transfer of the EMS his top priority as the new Sheriff.



Old Delaware Ambulance Service

## Dive Team

Established in 1973

As the region's population grew in the 1970s, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office faced the growing challenge of supplying aid to four reservoirs and numerous ponds, creeks, and rivers. Robert H. Brown, an experienced diver and deputy, solved the problem by organizing an all-volunteer scuba team to handle aquatic emergencies. Affiliated with the mounted unit, this group of dedicated individuals purchased their own equipment and training, earning recognition for locating stolen property, lost evidence, and victims of drowning.



Dive Team ca. 1975





Modern Dive Team

The first dive team faded out over the years, but was revived in 1996 by Terry Donough. In its modern form, the Dive Team exists to respond to any water-related crisis which requires the presence of law enforcement officials. A multijurisdictional unit, its members can include medics and firemen as well as deputies, all of whom are trained in underwater evidence collection and recovery.

### **Canine Unit** Established in 1993

Since its inception under Sheriff Al Myers, this unit of the Delaware Sheriff's Office has used three deputies paired with three dogs. One of the first to represent the office was Deputy Troy Petrie, and K-9 partner Hasso. Every dog is trained for the dual purpose of narcotics detection and area tracking. In addition, the animals are sometimes used for security at large events, building searches, bomb sniffing, and criminal apprehension. While bloodhounds have occasionally been in service in the past, the unit primarily relies on German Shepherds.



Canine Unit

### **Special Deputy Unit**

The special deputies are non-merit police employees who typically work full-time jobs. A group of unpaid volunteers, they nevertheless hold all the powers, privileges, and duties of other peace officers. Like regular deputies, these men and women are trained, licensed, armed, and uniformed. The purpose of their commission is to render a worthwhile service to society while encouraging the fair and impartial enforcement of the law. To qualify as specials, they are required to put in at least 16 hours each month assisting with patrol, prisoner transport, and event security. With exemplary dedication, these reliable citizens donate their time to an admirable cause.

### **Delaware Tactical Unit**

Established in 1994

The DTU was formed in the 1990s to stem the rising tide of crack cocaine. It is a multijurisdictional task force which integrates deputies and police officers taken from departments across the county. As of 2008, the unit contains sixteen tactical operators and three tactical medics organized under the banner of the Delaware Sheriff.



Delaware Tactical Unit

**Since the formation of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office in 1808, there is only one known deputy killed in the line of duty ... *Rea Christian Horlocker.***

### **Rea Christian Horlocker**

**1885-1924**

On the evening of July 2, 1924, a Dodge Roadster had been spotted speeding south along Route 23 towards Columbus. Rea Horlocker gave pursuit on a motorcycle, trading shots with the men in the car. As he pulled up alongside them, the driver swerved into his motorcycle, which forced him into a fence. Horlocker was thrown nearly thirty feet, and found lying unconscious by Sheriff Harter. Having served only eight months, the deputy ultimately died from his injuries. Citizens of Delaware remembered Horlocker for the kindness and fairness he used when dealing with lawbreakers.

Later that day, a police officer shot and killed the driver as he fled in his car down Spring Street. He was later identified as Clayton Dole, a member of a smuggling gang based out of Detroit. Dole's companion, Joseph Piccioni, was wounded and arrested. The two men had loaded the vehicle with thirty-five gallons of whiskey.





**Robert Earl Milligan**  
**1896-1943**

In the midst of the Great Depression, Robert Milligan ran a farm along the Troy Road while employed as a full-time telegrapher by the region's largest employer, the Pennsylvania Railroad. He moved to Delaware in 1939, when Murt Pinney arranged for him to work as a deputy and clerk. Although Milligan planned on running for Sheriff at the end of Pinney's term in 1944, he died from an abrupt heart attack, leaving behind a wife and two children.



**William Macklin**  
**1906-1974**

One of Earl Fravel's three deputies was Bill Macklin, a former Delaware police officer and fireman. Macklin joined the Delaware Sheriff's Office in 1952, quickly rising to the rank of sergeant. He stayed on for the next two decades until his death at age sixty-eight.



**Doris Carpenter**  
**1905-1993**

Besides the jail matron, who was usually the Sheriff's wife, Doris Carpenter became the first woman to work for the office when she was hired by Murt Pinney. Although an unarmed clerk who never made arrests, Carpenter can nevertheless be considered the first female deputy of Delaware, Ohio.

**Paul M. Jones**  
**1916-2003**

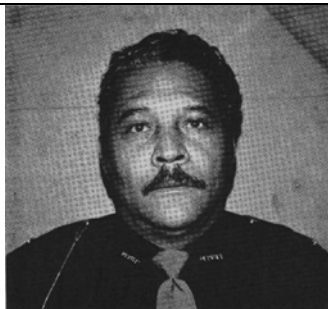
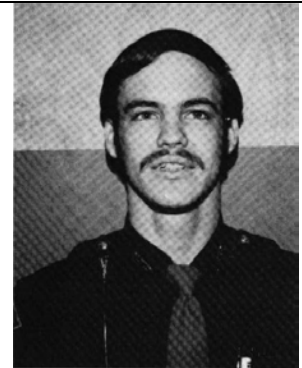
Paul Jones was another deputy who served under Sheriff Fravel. He was with the county from 1946 to 1952, and prior to this had spent two years with the city police.



Badge of P.M. Jones

**Richard "Ricky 27" English**

Rick English was a deputy from the 1970s, and began working undercover during Bill Lavery's tenure. At the Sheriff's Office, English "ran everything hot," and was known for his excitability. While checking an alarm at a house on Orange Road, he was caught off guard and opened fire on a large stuffed bear. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, and his son, Mike, retired from the Sheriff's Office as a deputy.



**Albert Williams, Jr.**  
**1922-1987**

Al Williams was the first African American deputy to join the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. He was hired by Harley Wornstaff in the 1960s and eventually rose to the rank of captain. Throughout the 1980s Williams was commander of the jail, which he ran with unquestioned authority.

He held the true respect of the inmates and was the only person who ever entered the cell block alone and unarmed. Williams gave paint to the prisoners and oversaw the creation of a colorful mural which is still visible on the inner wall of the old county jail. He managed the kitchen at the jailhouse in his final year, dying from a stroke shortly before the completion of the new detention facility on Route 42.

**Phillip B. “Longy” Longshore**  
**b. 1941**

Phil Longshore started out in law enforcement when he was hired as the seventh deputy under Eugene Jackson in 1968. Promoted to sergeant in 1972 and finally detective in 1976, he was with the Delaware Sheriff’s Office for a total of eighteen years. Longshore left in the ‘80s and worked as a bailiff at the Delaware County Common Pleas Court for another thirteen years. He and his wife Judy have four children, and in his spare time he enjoys fishing and motorcycle riding.

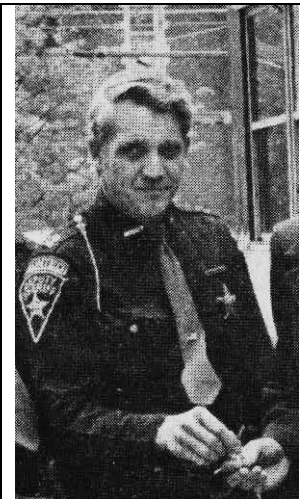


**James O. “Woody” Wood**  
**1917-1998**

Postmaster, deputy, and charter member of the mounted unit and dive team, Jim Wood lived in Delaware his whole life. He owned horses for 36 years, and was a founding advisor of the Wild Riders 4-H Club. A caring person who had two children, Wood was remembered fondly for the many years of service he gave to the Sheriff’s Office.

**Richard E. Harter**  
**1938-2005**

Dick Harter worked as a mounted deputy and emergency medical technician as well as a security supervisor and canine team member for Pinkerton Security and Investigation of Columbus. He married Pati Stock in 1960, and together they had one son. Harter was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the Buckeye Sheriff’s Association, and Eagles No. 376. In the 1970s, he replaced Robert Brown as captain of the Sheriff’s Dive Team. Harter particularly enjoyed gambling, having made many trips to Las Vegas and various riverboat casinos. He was greatly loved and sorely missed.



Dick Harter



**Ward David Watkins**  
**1927-1999**

Ward Watkins worked warrants and prisoner transport before taking on duties at the jail. Known for his extraordinary personality and ability to eat excessively without gaining weight, he could always be counted on to find food. A familiar face to practically everyone in the county, Watkins was a pal to colleagues and criminals alike.



**Robert "Pooch" Curmode**  
**1918-2007**

Bob Curmode, uncle of Joe Curmode, was a deputy in Delaware for three decades and member of the Mounted Unit and Dive Team. He spent much of his life farming, and hauled cattle around the county. In his spare time, he raised and raced standard-bred horses.



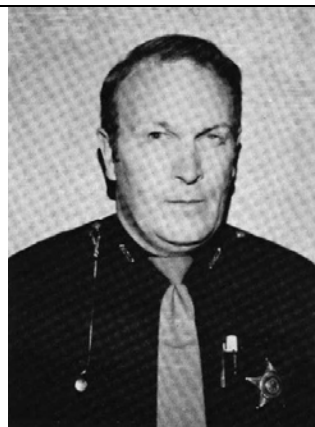
**Ray A. Harrah**

Joining in 1971, Ray Harrah spent several years working as a sergeant and then jail commander under Bill Lavery. He lived in Westerville and had served in the marines. A firm but fair disciplinarian, one citizen once said that "the manner in which he conducted himself and the attitude towards his job, however unpleasant, was exemplary and worthy of special notice."

**Edward Dick**  
**1933-2021**

Ed Dick served three years in the Army during the Korean War, where he lost the use of his left eye. Upon returning to Ohio, he earned money as a warehouse man with Big Bear Stores in Columbus. He enjoyed baseball as a younger man, and coached little league with his sons.

Wanting to work with the public, Dick afterwards served as a crew captain in the Mount Vernon emergency squad and was also a member



<p>of the Centerburg Fire Department. He joined the Sheriff's Office as a deputy in the summer of 1973 and helped organize the first Delaware Ambulance Service. Dick gave presentations in first-aid around the county and received praise numerous times from the people he treated as a medic. Remembered for being clever and comical when on call with the ambulance, he left when the EMS split off from the Sheriff in 1978. Shortly before his transfer, Dick put in 72 consecutive hours of emergency work during the Blizzard of '78.</p>	
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## Echoes from the Past

The following newspaper articles deal with strange or colorful incidents encountered by previous sheriffs of Delaware. These assorted stories cover breakouts, arrests, and also just odd events. Taken from local Ohio journals, the tales add a bit of flavor to the people described.

**Marion Star, Marion OH - 12 July 1883 - Delaware O** – Tonight at 8:30 o'clock as Sheriff White was locking up the jail for the night, he was knocked over by the prisoners, four of whom escaped. There were six in the jail & those who escaped were Ed Norton, Jim Kelly, Jim Blake & Frank Ward. They were pursued but have not been captured yet. Two of the Delaware police were in Marion this morning after the fugitives but gained no clue of them. This is the third or fourth time that prisoners have broke from this sheriff.

**Sandusky Star – Sandusky OH – 9 Jan 1899 – “Three sheriffs in Delaware”** Delaware County has two, or possibly three sheriffs, and court business is almost at a standstill as a result. The commissioners have been advised by the county prosecutor that they had no authority to appoint a sheriff, but after some delay, they named Charles Thrall, son of the retiring sheriff, who had already been given the keys. In the meantime, Judge Wickham, of the common pleas court, appointed William Kelly to the place. This was done on a petition, setting forth the condition of affairs. Kelly filed his bond for \$10,000, and is sheriff so far as the court is concerned. Young Thrall went to Columbus & was given his commission as sheriff by Gov Bushnell. Sheriff-elect Scauffner also has a claim on the office & it has come to be a complicated situation. The Supreme Court will be asked to settle the matter.

**Marion Daily Star – Marion O – 12 Nov 1913 – “Girls, see Sheriff T B Williams”** He has something for you. In fact, a lonely bachelor way out in OR has formed the opinion that the officer is sort of a Dan Cupid, and writes him a touching appeal, says the Delaware Gazette. It's a wife the homesteader wants & his letter is as follows: Honorable Sheriff, Delaware O; I am a

bachelor living out here in OR on a homestead alone, and am lonesome. I was raised in the East but have lived on the Pacific Coast several years. I want to correspond with a Christian lady over 20 years old that was raised on a farm & is matrimonially inclined; that would like to come West to live. I am 35 yrs old, six feet, 190 pounds, can give good references. There are about three men here for each woman. If you know of anyone, please give them my address. Yours respectfully, W H Robertson, Box 64, Gardiner, Oregon.

**Circleville Herald - Circleville, OH - 13 July 1928 -** Returning from their old home in Circleville, Mr & Mrs William Mead of

Mansfield, were given an unusual experience according to the Mansfield News. Flagged down by an escaped criminal near Delaware, driving with the gun of this criminal in his back, looking into sawed-off shotguns, having hand-cuffs clamped on, thrown into prison, & being cursed by a sheriff, were some of the thrills experienced Monday by the Meads. They & their little son, William, had driven to their old home in Circleville on Friday. On their way home, Mead stopped at the home office of the Logan Natural Gas & Fuel Co for which he works, being manager of the Mansfield office. They left Columbus about noon Monday. Nearing Delaware, the Meads noticed a county car in the middle of the road. A man was standing beside the car, gun in hand & waving the Mansfield car down. He asked if the car was going to Delaware. Upon receiving an affirmative answer, the stranger told the Meads he had to get to Delaware to telephone for officers to get a prisoner who had escaped. He said, "I've got the low-down on them."

Mead said he did as he was told. Not only could he see that the man had two guns, but he felt one of them in his back. As they neared Delaware, the stranger ordered them to stop so he could go into a farmhouse. He thanked the couple for the lift. The Meads drove into Delaware, stopping in front of the Post Office. A man who they afterwards learned was Delaware County Sheriff Conner Lambert, came out, and, uttering an oath, ordered him to "stick-em-up." He put handcuffs on the man & then turned him over to a trustee who marched Mead to the jail with a shotgun. Mead tried to explain who he was. He also offered to go with the sheriff to show him where the man had gotten out of his car. He was searched on the streets of Delaware in front of a curious crowd, then placed in jail with the prisoners & refused the use of a telephone. Mead says had he been allowed to use the telephone, he would have called the manager of the Logan Gas Co in Delaware.

Mrs Mead & the baby were left in the car in charge of the man who proved to be the sheriff. Mrs Mead says

he shoved a gun in her face, declaring, "We've got the right birds." She says he swore at her different times, demanding to know where the guns were. She protested they had no guns & encouraged the man to search the car. A storm came up & a woman, later identified as the matron, came out & invited Mrs Mead & her baby to go into the house. Mead was in jail one hour & fifty minutes. She & Mr Mead were not allowed to communicate with each other. The sheriff had told Mead to go upstairs & look out the window when he had offered to go back & help look for the real man. Mrs Mead said officers came to the jail for guns. The matron brought some downstairs but they were not loaded. Mrs Mead said the matron treated her very nicely.

Afterwards, the sheriff learned the man he wanted was Lynn Adkins, of Indianapolis, who made his escape from a deputy in Franklin County. He had been arrested at Marion on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He had gotten away from the deputy and probation officers. Mr & Mrs Mead said Sheriff Lambert had no description of Adkins. His picture does not look like Mead as he is about twice his size. Columbus telephoned Delaware to stop a car with a certain license. This was the car Mead was driving. This number had probably been gotten after Adkins got into the Mansfield car after abandoning the county car. The Meads were unable to sleep last night. They would sometimes think it funny & again, they become indignant at the sheriff for not listening to their story. "If he had listened to me & let me go with an officer to the road where Adkins got out of the car, we could have gotten the criminal," Mead said. He says the sheriff did not apologize after learning of his blunder, but added, "I had to do my duty."

**Times Signal - Zanesville OH - 5 Nov 1930 - Delaware O -** An attempted jail break, in which six prisoners in the Delaware County bastille were implicated, was frustrated last night by Sheriff Veley Main. As a result, Walter Thomas, of WV, who was reported to have been leading the attempt, was in solitary confinement today. Investigation showed that Thomas & five other prisoners, whose names were not revealed, had been digging a hole in the jail floor. A search of the prisoners and their cells uncovered a number of saws & iron bars, the sheriff said. Thomas is held on a burglary charge and is awaiting grand jury action.

**Chronicle Telegram, Elyria, OH 3 Aug 1932 - Columbus Aug 3 -** Pointing to the assertive liberal use of such delicacies as olives, dates, grapefruit, oranges, mushrooms and chocolate wafers, in a report filed today in the office of the state auditor, severely

criticized Sheriff Veley Main, of Delaware County. Findings for recovery aggregating \$395.40 were listed against Main. They were returned in connection with feeding prisoners in the Delaware County Jail. Other purchases made by the sheriff between Feb 1, 1931 and Nov 30, 1931, the period covered by the report, were said to have included pineapples, cherries, apricots, peaches, brussels sprouts, mangoes, celery, goose liver, pimento cheese, berries, bananas, grapes, cocoanut, and large quantities of sugar.

The report stated that if food for jail prisoners had been purchased on the same basis as was food for the County Home, the savings would have been \$1446; and if bought on the same basis as the county Children's Home, it would have been \$1110. "Are the enemies of society entitled to more favorable consideration than the unfortunates who must depend on public charity?" said the examiners, who then added that the county commissioners who approved the sheriff's food bills were guilty of "official negligence."

**Chronicle Telegram, Elyria, OH 16 Jul 1934 - Delaware OH Jul 16 -**

Eight adults and two children were held at the Delaware County jail here today on open charges following a raid yesterday on an alleged nudist camp near here. Sheriff C E McKinnie raided the camp. "A space of about two acres had carefully been cleared of underbrush," the sheriff said. "The debris had been piled around the edges to form a wall of brush. None of the people had a stitch on. Some were playing volleyball, some were pitching horseshoes, and some were just sitting around talking."

A man who gave his name as Jasper Adams, 34, of Columbus, said he was a member of the executive board of the camp. "We call it the Health Hunters Club," he said. "We have between 40 and 45 members, mostly from Columbus. We just go up for the weekends because we haven't any sleeping quarters yet." Adams said he is an unemployed school teacher. Others arrested gave the following names: Walter Resch, 34, mechanic from Columbus, Mr & Mrs Leon Endslow, of Pasadena CA & are visiting in Columbus. They had with them their two children, David, 7, and Donnie, 6; August Smith, 29, a bookkeeper from Cincinnati; Charles Brown, 48, a machinist from Cincinnati; Mr & Mrs Harry Black, of Lancaster.

**Chronicle Telegram, Elyria, OH 17 Jul 1934 - Columbus OH Jul 17 -**

Prosecuting Attorney Lawrence Kellar of Delaware County today had filed charges of "acting in a way tending to contribute to the delinquency of a minor" against eight nudist colony members arrested by Sheriff Chester McKinnie. The sheriff had raided the colony near Worthington yesterday.



**Marion Star – Marion, O – 27 Nov 1935 – Delaware O – “Turkey thieves don’t deserve turkey or chicken on Thanksgiving”** Sheriff McKinnie believes, and therefore the regular weekday menu will be served Thursday in the Delaware County jail. Annually turkey with all the trimmings have been served to the prisoners but this year four turkey thieves from Franklin County are “guests” at the jail. Thus being the case, Sheriff McKinnie believes turkey dinners would be out of place.

**Marion Star – Marion, O – 5 May 1937 – Delaware O –** County authorities frustrated a jailbreak attempt when they discovered yesterday morning two bars from a first floor corridor and a set of window bars had been partially removed. Odor of escaping gas and a rubber hose which became overheated when the prisoner attempted to use it as a gas hose attracted attention of Sheriff M F Pinney and deputies. When they investigated, the attempted jailbreak was discovered. Five of the nine prisoners were removed to other parts of the jail. Two pairs of pliers and an iron bar from an undetermined source, bars removed from a door, and sections of chains used to support bunks were the prisoner’s tools.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 18 Mar 1938 – Delaware O –** A bulletproof vest will protect Delaware County Sheriff M F Pinney for now and in the near future, Deputy C E McKinnie will have the same protection. Sherrif Pinney’s vest, the first ever purchased for a Delaware County official, weighs 11 pounds and resembles an ordinary vest.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 21 Feb 1939 – Delaware O –** Appointment of Robert E Milligan, well known Troy Twp. Farmer & for 14 years a telegrapher for the Pennsylvania Railroad, as Delaware County deputy sheriff and clerk in the sheriff’s office was announced yesterday by Sheriff M F Pinney. Milligan succeeds E L Litsinberger, of Delaware, who resigned to take a position in the bookkeeping dept of the state highway garage in Delaware. Mr Litsinberger was with the sheriff’s dept for more than two years.

**Zanesville Signal – Zanesville, O – 21 Aug 1939 – Columbus O – “Brought to the Franklin Co jail by his own parents”** Eugene Porter, 23, Columbus, one of two men who escaped from the Delaware Co jail Sunday, was back in custody. “He’s got himself in trouble, now let him suffer the consequences and go straight,” Porter’s father was quoted as saying. The parents told deputies their son came home shortly after midnight and said he was hungry. Porter & Henry Modzelewski, 23, Farmingham, Mass, escaped from the 75-year old jail at Delaware about 4 a.m Sunday by breaking through a limestone

slab in the ceiling & sliding to the ground from an attic window. They used a rope made of blankets for the descent. Porter was being held for the grand jury on automobile theft charges & Modzelewski was held for the jury on a charge of carrying concealed weapons. Sheriff Merton Pinney, of Delaware, said the men cracked the six-inch wall block with the handle of a broomstick and pieces of an iron cot. This is the second escape of the year from the jail. A burglary suspect broke one of the limestone blocks to gain his freedom last spring. "This jail wasn't built for the modern criminal," Sheriff Pinney said. "The guys we used to get in here wouldn't think of breaking out."

**Mansfield News Journal – Mansfield OH – 18 Sep 1939 – Columbus**

**O** – On his way to the Franklin County jail to get two men out of custody, Sheriff Merton F Pinney, 51, of Delaware County, was arrested early today on a speeding charge by Columbus police. Taken to the Central police station, Sheriff Pinney was released on a recognizance bond to appear in traffic court Wednesday. Motorcycle Patrolman Stanley Doods, who arrested the sheriff, said he chased him at a speed of 62 miles per hour. "I was going a little fast, but at that hour of the morning there was no traffic. One of the fellows I was going after is a school bus driver & had to go after the children at 7 a.m. When the officer stopped me, I showed him my badge and told him who I was. I said that if a member of another law enforcement agency was stopped for a traffic violation in Delaware County, he would be treated courteously and not hauled into jail," Pinney said.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 17 Nov 1939 – Delaware O** – Six indictments, one secret, were returned yesterday by the Delaware County grand jury after hearing 17 cases. After the session, the grand jury made a tour of the jail & recommended the sheriff's quarters be redecorated and the basement modernized. Those indicted and the charges follow: William McComber, non-support, Charles Hawkins, non-support, Raymond Rottar, burglary, and John Miller, cutting with intent to wound and assault & battery.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 27 Nov 1939 – Delaware O** – Former Sheriff C E McKinnie, recently appointed a guard at the Ohio Penitentiary, has been transferred & promoted to a position in the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification. At the time he was appointed guard at the penitentiary, he was serving as deputy sheriff in Delaware County. In his new job, Mr McKinnie will have his headquarters at the London Prison Farm. It was reported that the transfer and promotion were based on his work on identification and investigation

while serving as Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff in Delaware County.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 31 Jul 1940 – Delaware O –** Mrs M F Pinney, wife of the Delaware County Sheriff, is recovering from bruises suffered Monday when a part of the front porch at the jail residence caved in. Mrs Pinney, who was sitting on the porch, narrowly missed being hit by a large stone slab support that fell when the porch broke through.

**Marion Star – Marion O – 30 Apr 1941 – Delaware O –** The 50-year grocery business career of A C Williamson ended this week with announcement of the sale of A C Williamson & Son Grocery at Hyatts to Robert Ebright of near Butts Corners. He had operated stores at Olive Green, Kilbourne, & Hyatts with the exception of four years in the early 1900's when he was elected Sheriff of Delaware County. Claude M Williamson, his son & junior partner, is treasurer-elect of Delaware County.

**Marion Star – Marion, O – 8 Jan 1934 –** Verne Mitchell, 50, father of ten children, was killed and Herman Rodenfels, a farmer, was injured, probably fatally, when the auto of Dep Sheriff Murt Pinney crashed into a parked bus near Delaware. Mitchell lived near Warrensburg, west of Delaware. Pinney, accompanied by Mitchell, had just arrested Rodenfels and were taking him to the Delaware County jail when the accident happened.

**Zanesville Signal – Zanesville, O – 7 May 1938 – Delaware O –** "His throat severely slashed by a razor" H L Roush, the confessed slayer of Mr & Mrs Homer T Myers, prominent Marion farm couple, was in a hospital here today. Paul Michel, Marion prosecutor who hurried here, said the injury was self-inflicted. Roush was transferred to the Delaware County jail last Monday for "safe keeping" after he pleaded guilty to a charge of killing Myers. Dr Harry Caldwell said he expects Roush to recover. Sheriff Murt Pinney of Delaware County, said the man had been allowed to join other prisoners in the jail "bullpen" and early last night he went unnoticed into an unoccupied cell and slashed his throat. Prisoners summoned aid & Roush was taken to the hospital where a guard was placed over him. Dr Caldwell said he lost much blood.

**Mansfield News Journal – Mansfield OH – 24 Oct 1953 – Delaware O –** Sheriff Earl Fravel, who has been conducting a pre-Halloween campaign against vandalism, parked his car in front of a friend's house & returned later to

find the hubcaps missing, one tire flat, and the trunk lock jammed.

23 Oct 1954 - Columbus O (UP) - Arnold Morgan, 58, was found hanged in his cell today at the county jail in Delaware, Ohio. Morgan was picked up Friday for investigation. Police could supply no reason for his act.

**Mansfield News Journal - Mansfield OH - 29 Jul 1957 - Delaware O**

- A member of the teenage Black Leather Gang escaped under gunfire today from an officer taking him to prison. Bernard McLaughlin, 17, Plain City, broke free from deputy sheriff John Weiser and disappeared among shoppers on the street. The prisoner had been sentenced minutes before to Mansfield Reformatory for his part in the gang's activities. The gang had terrorized persons parked in their cars at the O'Shaughnessy Dam & the Columbus Zoo near the Scioto River. Weiser said the prisoner jumped between parked cars & disappeared into a street crowd. The deputy sheriff fired his gun twice. He said he was unable to aim directly at the fugitive because of people on the street. McLaughlin was the first of five members of the gang to be sentenced. He previously had served a term in the Boys' Industrial School near Lancaster.

**Delaware Gazette - Delaware OH - 28 Feb 1985 - "Deputies seize \$30,000 in drugs, two arrested"** A stakeout has paid off big. Sheriff's detectives and deputies Wednesday night seized \$30,000 worth of drugs, \$2,300 in cash and arrested two men after a two-month surveillance of a Radnor house. Donal E. Platt, 36, of 5156 Rive Road, Radnor, and James A. Taulker, 29, Pemberville, were arraigned today on drug-related charges in Delaware Municipal Court.

Platt was charged with aggravated trafficking and bail was set at \$50,000 cash or \$100,000 security. At press time he was being held in the City Hall. Taulker was charged with drug possession and his bail was set at \$2,500. He is being held in the County Jail. Both cases are expected to go to the grand jury when it meets next week, Sheriff William B. Lavery said today.

Lavery said they had set up the stakeout because, "Information came our way that there may be some trafficking up there. You can pick those things up in a lot of places." The case broke open late Wednesday night when a sheriff's deputy stopped Taulker for running a stop sign on Radnor Road. A search of his car turned up five pounds of marijuana and he was arrested for drug possession.

Earlier in the evening while Platt's home was being watched, Taulker was seen going in and out of the

house. After Taulker's arrest deputies returned to Platt's house, arrested him and searched his home. The search turned up another pound of marijuana, 5,000 doses of LSD, 12 ounces of opium, four grams of cocaine, three quaaludes and the \$2,300 cash.

Lavery credited the successful operation to two detectives, Phil Longshore and David Ware and deputies Ray Cook, Tim Harter, and Russell Redman with the help of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Lavery said surveillance of the home had nothing to do with any earlier undercover drug operations in the county. "A couple of months ago we thought that there was trafficking going on out of Platt's house," Lavery said. He said no undercover drug buys were made, but detectives and deputies just watched the patterns of people going in and out of Platt's house. While the evidence today was turned over to BCI in London, Lavery said the investigation will continue. "There's nothing imminent, but it could lead to other arrests," Lavery said.

**Delaware Gazette - Delaware OH - 19 April 1991 - "Deputies' 'Robocop' cars on road'"** The first of six new Delaware County Sheriff's Department cruisers hit the road this week, and the vehicle is turning a few heads. The 1991 Chevrolet Caprices - dubbed "Robocop cars" by deputies - are streamlined, futuristic-looking vehicles, and handle "fabulous," according to officers.

The first two cruisers arrived earlier this month, with four more to be delivered later this year, according to Deputy A.K. Myers. One car is on duty, while the other is being outfitted with radios, beacons and lettering. The department staggers acquisition of vehicles to minimize the chance of simultaneous breakdowns, Myers said.

The cars were bought through a state purchasing contract at Byers Chevrolet in Columbus. The base price on the cruisers is \$ 14,897. With options, the vehicles cost \$15,613. Myers said cruisers are generally used by the patrol division for a year, during which time they log an average of 105,000 miles. Retired cruisers are used by the departments warrants and civil divisions for about another year before being sold.

## Looking Ahead

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office continues to be as much a vital part of Ohio law enforcement as it was in 1808. As the region develops, its talented members will undoubtedly continue to prove their ability to meet demand. Plans are now underway for the creation of a new motorcycle unit and color guard. In many respects, the greater professionalism of the Sheriff's Office reflects the changes in the community it serves. The adaptability of this modern organization will guarantee its effectiveness in the century ahead.

## **ADDENDUM – Line of Duty Death Memorialized**

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*by Deputy James Mox and Dispatcher Julie Buco*

*May 2015*

The ONLY Line of Duty Death this Office has suffered was in 1924, when ***Deputy Rea Christian Horlocker*** lost his life at the age of 39 while in pursuit of criminals. This is described earlier in this document.

However, it was in 2014 that two of the Sheriff's Office current employees – a curious deputy and a creative dispatcher – began a journey back in time. ***Deputy James Mox and Dispatcher Julie Buco*** spent hours upon hours over the course of several months (all on their spare time!) researching records, pouring through court documents, perusing dozens of news files to learn about and put together the story of Deputy Horlocker.

Buco and Mox felt a deep desire for this Office to do its part in paying the utmost respect and honor to Horlocker's name. In the course of their journey, not only did they succeed, but along the way they made new friends – some of the descendants of the Horlocker family. So, there's a lot of truth when we say law enforcement is one big family.

The ultimate success came when Deputy Horlocker's name was added to the following three Memorial Walls during deeply moving ceremonies. This ensures that Horlocker's name and ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

**Delaware County:** Delaware Co. Memorial at Delaware City Police (70 N. Union)

**Ohio:** The Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Wall (London, Ohio)

**National:** The Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.

An entire scrapbook is dedicated to this hero's story, and can be found at the Administrative Offices of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office extends a heartfelt thank you to Deputy Mox and Dispatcher Buco for their extreme dedication and passion.