

Become a Member

Help support the Garst Museum by becoming a museum member today. Your donation makes a difference!

Individual: \$30

Family: \$50
(Household family members)

Copper: \$100
(Includes 4 One-Time Museum Entry Passes)

Bronze: \$250
(Includes Donor Recognition)

Silver: \$500

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Gold: \$1,000

(Includes Donor Recognition)

Platinum: \$2,000

(Includes Donor Recognition plus 4 Family Memberships)



Garst Museum Membership Benefits Include:

- Garst Museum Newsletter
- 10% Discount in the Garst Museum Store
- Exclusive Invitations to Museum Events
- Free Admission to the Museum (depending on membership level)
- Free access to the Research Center

Looking for other ways to give?

Call 937.548.5250 and ask about the Garst Museum Annual Fund and Capital Campaign.



Discover Our History

937.548.5250 | GARSTMUSEUM.ORG

937.548.5250 | GarstMuseum.org
205 North Broadway
Greenville, OH 45331
DARKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
the GARST museum

Calendar of Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE FUN UPCOMING EVENTS!

Centennial Display for Wayne HealthCare opening in May

Annie's G.A.L.A. on June 11

The Gathering at Garst on July 30-31



OUR MISSION

The Darke County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our county and fostering education on its relevance to the American experience. Our mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit, study, and interpret materials relating to the history and culture of Darke County, Ohio.

GARST MUSEUM

205 North Broadway
Greenville, OH 45331
937.548.5250
Fax: 937.548.7645
information@garstmuseum.org
GarstMuseum.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday
10 AM–4 PM



Discover Our History

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Quick Thinking Saved Annie from eBay!

There are many Darke Countians familiar with Cathy and Don Wagner. Although they reside in Wisconsin, not only do they serve on the Annie Oakley Center Foundation board of directors, they are familiar participants at the Gathering at Garst portraying Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. Who would have predicted we would also be thanking them for their part in expanding the collection of Annie Oakley artifacts?

It was Don and Cathy who spotted an ornate fish fork and knife set, once owned by Annie Oakley, listed for sale on eBay. Their speedy call to foundation board president Eileen Litchfield led to conversations between the lifelong collectors and owners of the artifact, Pat and James McNally of Bruno, Arkansas. It was decided that the McNallys, who had not previously known of the National Annie Oakley Center, would generously donate their treasured Oakley object for the museum's permanent exhibit.

The fish fork and knife set was a gift to Frank and Annie from the William (Buffalo Bill) Cody family. It is contained in a gift box, the lid on which is engraved a kind remembrance of their times at Scouts Rest, a home of the Cody family in North Platte, Nebraska. This thoughtful inscription reflects an endearing friendship with Cody that lasted well beyond Annie and Frank's 17 years with the Wild West show.

This story has a twist, however. The McNallys revealed that they were also the owners of a shotgun associated with Frank Butler. This Parker Brothers 12-gauge DH hammerless gun was used by Frank Butler for hunting wild fowl. It was given to him by a longtime friend in October 1926. Astonishingly, and thanks to the generosity of the McNallys, the hunting gun also made its way to the Garst Museum as a donation to the Annie Oakley collection.

DARKE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Saving Annie from eBay (continued)

Both the fish serving set and the hunting gun are now prominently exhibited within the National Annie Oakley Center. From Arkansas to eBay to Greenville, what a path these historical objects have traveled to finally find a permanent home within the Garst Museum.



The fish and knife set donated to the Garst Museum by the McNallys.

The thoughtful inscription reflects an endearing friendship with Cody that lasted well beyond Annie and Frank's 17 years with the Wild West show.

Don Mong's Artwork Showcases Greenville, My Hometown

The nostalgic pen-and-ink watercolor sketches by Don Mong are Greenville, our hometown. Don, now a resident of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, captures some of the most iconic sites that have given us the memories we cherish. These are portraits of our lives in Greenville, Ohio. At present, the Museum Store at Garst Museum offers his prints, notecards, keepsake boxes, and posters of select places that would enhance any setting and be the perfect gift for someone far away or the proverbial person who has everything. Some of the prints that embrace Greenville's points of interest are St. Clair Memorial Hall, the Hamburger Shoppe, State Theater, sleds on Memorial Hill, Motorcycle Races, Darke County Courthouse, Marling Band Shell, Swinging Bridge, and Garst Museum; additional prints are available as they arrive. Perhaps a coffee-table book that is a collection of many of the special places we all know would be just the thing to help a person to feel connected. Inside the cover, the coffee-table book includes numerous images of our churches, schools, fair, theaters, businesses, bridges, one-of-a-kind Greenville structures, and unique features of the city park.



The Capital Campaign Shapes Museum's Future

The Darke County Historical Society is honored to raise funds to preserve the past and shape the future of the Garst Museum. We are asking the community to consider making a significant gift towards the Garst Museum Capital Campaign as we work towards our goal of \$1 million. Opportunities for gifts at every level are available, and donations of any amount will help. Legacy giving is also encouraged.

As we face the challenges of updating our facility, equipment, and personnel to prepare the Garst Museum for a strong future, we invite you to be a part of history by supporting this special campaign.

Funds raised will provide for many needed improvements including the addition of a new parking lot, Lowell Thomas House renovations, new roofs, structural repairs, maintenance, new equipment and IT, security and fire upgrades. The campaign will also secure funding for personnel needs.

For more information or to make a donation to the Garst Museum Capital Campaign, please contact Nancy Hegemier, our newly appointed development director. Nancy joined the museum staff in the fall of 2021 as a grant writer to assist with fundraising needs. If you would like to discuss Capital Campaign opportunities, please contact her at 937-548-5250.

Something New Is ImPRESSing Museum Visitors

Guests are now being delighted by a mechanical wonder that transforms pennies into unique Darke County souvenirs. It's a penny presser, and it embosses one of four local images—the Darke County Fair; the Annie Oakley Statue; 1795, the year the Treaty of Greene Ville was signed; a portrait of Annie Oakley—into a one-cent coin. For 50 cents, you can select a design and slowly crank the handle and watch the work of the iron gears and rollers, which exert 5070 pounds of pressure to squash the penny. Head into the museum with a pocket full of quarters and create the coolest of coins. The penny press was donated by the Annie Oakley Center Foundation.



Join us as we **preserve the past and shape the future** of the Garst Museum while advancing our efforts to educate, preserve, and share the history of Darke County.

