

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

(Includes Donor Recognition)

Gold: \$1,000

(Includes Donor Recognition)

Platinum: \$2,000

(Includes Donor Recognition plus 4 Family Memberships)

Admission can be applied to membership on the day of your visit.

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
THE NATIONAL ANNIE OAKLEY CENTER
the GARST museum

Calendar of Events

**Gathering at Garst
July 27 & 28**

**Hold Annie's Gun
July 27 & 28
(during the Gathering)**

**Shirl Kasper
October 5 | 2 p.m.**

**Annie's GALA
Oct. 19 – Nov. 2 | 1 p.m.**

**Douglas Dickey
10th Anniversary Tribute
November 9 | 2 p.m.**

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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Garst Museum's Tornado Relief Efforts

Garst has been in a whirlwind since the May 7 tornado! Just like the City Park, Garst Museum lost beautiful, mature trees in the storm. There was also damage to the rafters and inside ceiling tiles on the Coppock Wing. Artifacts from the Lowell Thomas exhibit and portions of the Americana Wing are in safe storage while the renovation work is being completed.

Additionally, the roof over the garage will need to be replaced. The gutters and area over the Garst house will need to be repaired, but this does not impact Museum operations.

There were nine very tall, mature maple or pine trees that were totally destroyed and many more damaged. We need help covering the cost of tree and stump removal. Sadly, these costs are not covered by insurance.

The best ways to help are to purchase a membership, donate to the Annual Fund or Capital Campaign, or earmark donations for Tornado Relief—all efforts will be very helpful.

Other ways to participate in the recovery will be a 50/50 raffle at the Gathering at Garst, with the drawing during the concert on Saturday, July 27. And, you can own an actual piece of Garst tree history. Ornaments from the sycamores and other boards from the oaks are being created and will be available for sale at the Museum with the Garst logo etched into them.

As many of you are already aware, Clay Johnson, Ph.D., Garst CEO and President, has been posting continual updates regarding the tornado damage and our recovery since the day after the tornado on the Garst Museum's Facebook page. His goal is to be as informative and transparent as possible, encourage donations, and invite people to join our recovery efforts.



Damage to mature trees surrounding the Garst Museum



Damage to the ceiling tiles and rafters in the Coppock Wing of the museum

Visit the Garst Museum Facebook site for more information about the tornado damage and recovery efforts.

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The Gathering–Parks & Garst

Saturday & Sunday, July 27 & 28

The annual Gathering at Garst is coming back in 2024, but there is new management. Garst Museum and the Gathering at Garst Committee have been stewarding the event since 2011, but due to the lack of volunteers and staff at Garst, change was inevitable. The Darke County Parks (DCP) stepped up to coordinate the entire event since it had been sponsoring the living history encampment at the Gathering since its inception.



Historical re-enactors firing a cannon at the Gathering at Garst event

Garst Museum CEO Clay Johnson, Ph.D., explained the Darke County Historical Society and Garst Museum feel the event is not only a significant part of the community’s summer event schedule, but it has also found niche in telling the story of early American history, as well as highlighting a lot of local history.

Robb Clifford, director of DCP, and Megan Hammaker, special events coordinator for DCP, agree that visitors won’t see a lot of change to the festival this year on July 27 and 28. The event will continue with the same name and will be held in the same location.

Plan for a great weekend of fun, music, food, shopping, and history during the annual Gathering at Garst. Continuing a Saturday tradition, Garst Museum will hold its 50/50 drawing during the festival. This year’s funds will be used to offset the cost the museum incurred from tornado damage. Again this year, visitors will have a chance to hold a gun owned by Annie Oakley.

During the Gathering at Garst, the museum will be open with the exception of the tornado-damaged Americana Wing including the Lowell Thomas exhibit. Inside and out, there is a lot happening at the 2024 Gathering at Garst.

Hold Annie Oakley’s Gun!

Saturday, July 27 from 12–6 p.m. | Sunday, July 28 from 12–3 p.m.

Holding Annie Oakley’s gun was such a popular event in 2023 that the Annie Oakley Center Foundation and Garst Museum will create an encore experience.

This year during the Gathering, visitors can again hold Annie’s **1910 J. Stevens .22 caliber deluxe target rifle with a Scheutzen butt** in the Lowell Thomas Meeting Room of the museum. This extraordinary event will be from 12 p.m.–6 p.m. on Saturday, July 27 and 12 p.m.–3 p.m. on Sunday, July 28. As a fundraising event for the Annie Oakley Center Foundation, the cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth under 18. Additionally, if you bundle holding the gun with touring the museum, there is a \$2 discount on museum admission. This is just one of Annie Oakley’s guns on display as well as other artifacts from her life including medals, trophies, garments, and personal items. Photos along with video clips tell the story of this legend and her husband Frank Butler.

Connect with “Little Sure Shot” as you hold her authentic firearm; it is a piece of history. Experience the extraordinary moment and keep the memory for a lifetime!



1910 J. Stevens .22 caliber deluxe target rifle with a Scheutzen butt

Annie’s GALA...Moving to the Fall!

Entering its 15th year, Annie’s GALA is moving to this Fall. Annie’s GALA, inside Garst Museum, is a FUNdraiser spanning two weeks. Stop in at the Lowell Thomas Meeting Room for a free walk-through of the unique GALA items or check online at the GALA’s website where high bids will be posted daily. Up for grabs are items such as antiques, collectibles, wine, wedding gifts, art, sports tickets, and restaurant gift cards—so much more!

- **Silent Auction:** Bidding starts Saturday, October 18 and ends Saturday, November 2 at 1 p.m. There’s lots of time for you to go in Garst and mark your bids, or you can call 937-548-5250 to get a bid number and leave your bid.
- **Balloon Tree:** Each balloon is \$5 and holds a mystery prize including gift cards, Museum Store discounts, and Museum Store gift certificates.
- **Target Raffles:** You choose the items you want to take a chance on and drop a raffle ticket with your bid number in the box by the item.
- **50/50 Drawing:** Chances are \$5 each or 6/\$25. Tickets will be sold until Saturday, November 2 at 1 p.m. when the winner (need not be present) will be announced.

Enjoy the fun and watch the *Daily Advocate/Early Bird*, our premier sponsor, for more details.

**Saturday, October 19
Through
Saturday, November 2**

American Revolutionary Experience Traveling Exhibition

Garst Museum and Fort Greeneville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) combined their forces to bring the American Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibition to the museum from April 27 to May 29.

The exhibit illustrated diverse viewpoints and experiences, touching on the journeys—both literal and figurative—of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations, and even international allies. Rather than focusing only on generals and famous statesmen, it introduced audiences to drummer boys, military mapmakers, and other ordinary people who were impacted by global events.

Complementing the exhibit, two free lectures, which can be viewed on the Garst Museum Facebook page, were presented. Steve Kaplan, president of Ohio Society of Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), presented a program detailing the start of the War for Independence. Additionally, John and Karen Burkett read letters from John and Abigail Adams.



(Top) Visitors enjoying the traveling exhibition



(Left) John and Karen Burkett reading letters from John and Abigail Adams

Annie Oakley Historian and Author to Speak

Shirl Kasper, MA, Ph.D, is a journalist and historian. In the early 1980s, she began researching Annie Oakley, which led to the 1992 publication of the biography, *Annie Oakley*. A former feature writer for *The Kansas City Star*, Shirl joined the National Park Service and worked as a historian on numerous projects.

After retiring, Shirl re-visited Annie Oakley. The original biography focused on a detailed reading of Oakley’s eight scrapbooks. With today’s Internet resources, Shirl was able to unearth primary materials all but impossible to find in the 1980s. Utilizing these sources, she has written a new Afterward to the original book, which was reprinted and published in 2023. This Afterward sheds additional light on the lives of Oakley and her husband Frank Butler. On October 5, she will share some of her new discoveries featuring their early lives, which place Annie on the stage earlier than previously thought and document Frank’s first marriage, and the beginnings of Frank’s career in Camden, New Jersey.



**Shirl Kasper, MA, Ph.D.,
Annie Oakley Historian
and Author**