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



Discover Our History

937.548.5250 | GarstMuseum.org
205 North Broadway
Greenville, OH 45331
THE NATIONAL ANNIE OAKLEY CENTER
the GARST museum

Calendar of Events

Speaker Series:
USS Shenandoah
October 18 at 2 p.m.

Annie's GALA Auction
Oct. 22–Nov. 1
www.garstgala.com

DAR America's 250th
Anniversary Exhibit
November 4–29

Speaker Series:
Vietnam-Era Music
November 8 at 2 p.m.

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the
GARST
museum

Newsletter
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 | FALL 2025

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

The Ill-Fated USS Shenandoah

September 3 marks the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated flight that killed one of Greenville's own. Lt. Cdr. Zachary Lansdowne was piloting the *USS Shenandoah*, the lighter-than-air (LTA) ship, on the day it went down in eastern Ohio, near the border with West Virginia.

Lansdowne was born in Greenville on December 1, 1888, at the family home at 338 East Third Street. He left the Greenville City Schools in his senior year to accept an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1905. After serving on the battleship *USS Virginia* and the destroyer *USS McCall*, he traveled to England to train for the operation of lighter-than-air ships.



Lt. Cdr. Zachary Lansdowne

In recognition of the 100th anniversary, the *USS Shenandoah* and Lt. Cdr. Lansdowne will be featured in Garst Museum's Speaker Series on **Saturday, October 18, at 2 p.m.** The guest speaker will be Leroy Clouser, who has done extensive research on the lighter-than-air ships that include the *USS Shenandoah*, *USS Akron*, and *USS Macon*.

Clouser, who is a Springfield, Ohio resident, first became interested in this type of aircraft after seeing a hangar for these LTAs while stationed in San Jose, California. The sheer size of the hangar sparked his desire to know more.

To put it into perspective, Clouser said the current length of a blimp is anywhere from 192 to 250 feet long. The *USS Shenandoah* was nearly 700 feet long. The *USS Macon* and *USS Akron* were nearly 800 feet long. The *USS Shenandoah* would barely fit into two football fields laid out end-to-end. The height of the hangar is approximately eight stories high. The hangar that housed the airships can hold two B-52 bombers with a wingspan of 185 feet side by side.

Clouser believes Lt. Cdr. Lansdowne was uneasy about the weather conditions on the day his aircraft went down. From what he learned, he believes the pilot tried to talk his superiors out of making them take off, but the Navy felt it was important for the *USS Shenandoah* to continue its tour of the United States. It left from Lakehurst, New Jersey, its home base, and headed for a flyover of the Ohio State Fair before heading to its destination in St. Louis, Missouri. In total, the *USS Shenandoah* was expected to fly over 40 cities and visit several state fairs.

The Garst Museum Speaker Series is a free event and is held in the Lowell Thomas Meeting Room. Admission fees apply for individuals interested in touring the museum. Garst Museum is located at 205 North Broadway, Greenville, OH 45331. For more information about the museum, visit www.garstmuseum.org.

Lighter-than-air ship *USS Shenandoah* >



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Annie's Garden–New at Garst

Annie Oakley's archives reveal little about her gardening experiences. In her autobiography, she refers to the construction of a new family home in 1874, which included a hot bed for growing early vegetables and a tilled garden for strawberries and other vegetables.

The Queen Anne style home she and husband Frank Butler built in Nutley, New Jersey, would likely have had plantings suitable for a city residence in the early 1900s. One wonders how this famous sharpshooter managed both her home and its grounds as she performed around the world.

The Annie Oakley Center Foundation Board has recently created a garden in Annie's memory on the grounds of Garst Museum. What had been an open space facing North Broadway is now beautifully laid out with a paved area of historic Greenville bricks and cast-iron benches, surrounded by new plantings of Hostas, boxwood, spirea, dogwood, and Japanese maple. Colorful petunias and geraniums have provided the initial season's color.

An engraved boulder of pink and gray granite, installed by Lasting Legacy Memorials, announces "Annie's Garden." Two life-size murals look out from museum windows allowing Annie to gaze upon the garden. Come sit and enjoy yourself for a while! See what each season brings as the garden matures and as volunteers continue to work their wonders. Enjoy a special ambience that Miss Annie Oakley would most certainly have appreciated.



Volunteers tending to the new garden at the Garst Museum in honor of Annie Oakley.

230th Anniversary of the Treaty of Greene Ville

On August 3, 1795, the Treaty of Greene Ville was signed in what is now Greenville, Ohio, marking a pivotal moment in American history. This treaty formally ended the Northwest Indian War, a conflict between the Northwestern Indian Confederacy and the United States over control of the Northwest Territory. The treaty negotiations took place at the newly built fort called Greene Ville, one of the largest wooden stockade forts ever constructed with over 50 acres of enclosed land. General Anthony "Mad Anthony" Wayne and leaders from tribes including the Shawnee, Delaware, Wyandot, Miami, and others were present for the signing.

The path to the Treaty of Greene Ville was forged through years of bitter conflict. Following the American Revolution, settlers flooded into the Ohio Country, triggering violent resistance from Native nations determined to defend their homelands. Early U.S. military campaigns met with disastrous defeats, including St. Clair's Defeat in 1791, an event which is still the deadliest loss the U.S. Army has ever suffered at the hands of Native American forces. In response, President Washington appointed General Wayne to build a professional army and establish a stable presence in the area.

Wayne's victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 ultimately forced Native leaders to negotiate peace terms. Following the battle, the Treaty of Greene Ville opened up most of present-day Ohio to colonization while recognizing limited lands reserved for Native tribes. While it brought a temporary peace to the region, the treaty also marked a turning point in the displacement of indigenous peoples from the Northwest Territory.

To learn more about the history of Fort Greene Ville and the people who shaped its story, visitors are encouraged to explore the Crossroads of Destiny wing at the Garst Museum. This wing highlights the Fort's construction, the events that led to the treaty, and the legacy of those who lived through one of the most consequential chapters in American frontier history.



Crossroads of Destiny wing at the Garst Museum >

America 250 Darke County Exhibit

As America approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, the Fort Greene Ville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) commemorates this historic milestone. The America 250 Darke County traveling educational panels are making their way through the community. They highlight the past, present and future and include panels that discover Darke County's frontier history; recognize the patriots that lived in the county; and look at the people, places, economy, and villages in Darke County. These panels are designed to inspire and inform residents of all ages, offering a unique opportunity to explore the Revolutionary era, learn about local patriots, and reflect on the legacy we continue to uphold. These panels will be on display at the Garst Museum for the entire month of **November 2025**.

The DAR remains committed to promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism as we approach this significant milestone. We invite everyone to take part in these meaningful events and join us in celebrating 250 years of American independence.



Vietnam-Era Music as a Salute

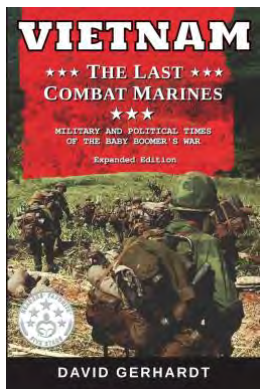
November marks the end of the Vietnam Commemorative Commission's recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Fort Greene Ville Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has been a proud Vietnam Commemorative partner and has been actively recognizing Vietnam-era events and service men and women.

Garst Museum is planning its second Speaker Series event of the season on **November 8, at 2 p.m.** in the Lowell Thomas Meeting Room as a salute to veterans. This program, produced with the assistance of the Fort Greene Ville Daughters of the American Revolution, will feature the music of the Vietnam era. Vietnam veteran David Gerhardt, author of *Vietnam, The Last Combat Marines*, which includes the social and political times of the late 60's and early 70's, is the speaker for the event.

Active-duty service men and women, veterans and their spouses will have free admission to the museum on November 8. Regular admission fees apply for all others.



Vietnam veteran David Gerhardt, author of *Vietnam, The Last Combat Marines*



Don Mong's Art from the Heart: Visual Memories of Greenville

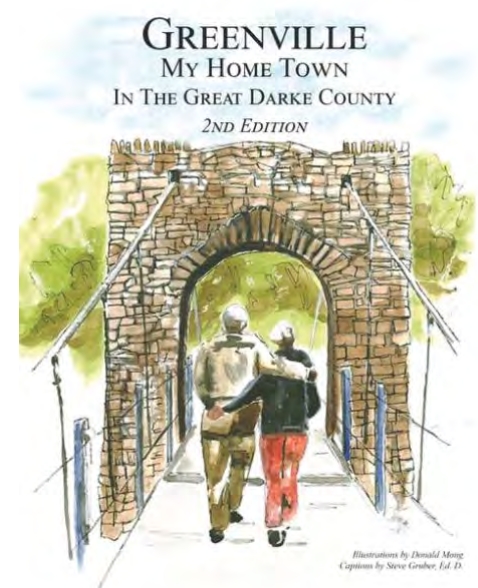
After a successful first edition of *Greenville: My Home Town*, Don Mong picked up where that book left off and created several more brilliant pieces of artwork for a second edition of the book.

The new book features all of the illustrations from the first book, plus over 50 new pieces of art. Mong reimagined some of the original landmarks, and those are now included in this book.

Mong is excited to give back to the community where he was raised and explained why he wanted to do this for the Garst Museum: "You know it's funny. I've been so blessed by what I've been able to accomplish in my life. I mean, I was a police officer for 25 years. I was in the Army. I was a diver. I traveled extensively throughout United States, and there's just something about Greenville. It is true what the book says, it's my hometown in the great Darke County. Greenville has always been a very special place for me when I grew up in the late 50s and early 60s. It was just a very magical place growing up."

All of the proceeds from the book and original illustrations help to support Garst Museum's mission.

Copies of the book are available in the Garst Museum Gift Shop, or you can purchase the book online through Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1965733670>. The cost is \$49.95.



Cover art from the book
Greenville: My Home Town 2nd Edition