



Educational Farm & Nature Preserve

## Legacy Series

An ongoing series of articles recounting the history of the Stratford Ecological Center and the Warner family

### Legacy Series: Part 4 May, 2011



Gale Warner

Although not born in Delaware County, the paternal grandparents of Gale's mother met each other while students at Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU).

Elmer Samuel (E.S.) Oman was reared in Pickaway County, Walnut Township, with eight siblings. He loved poetry and literature from an early age. E.S. worked on a farm near Ashville, OH, and taught school for 2 years before attending college at OWU. While studying Greek and other academic subjects, he lived at a boarding house run by his future wife and her family. He graduated from OWU in 1894 with a Bachelor's Degree, and then entered the Ohio Medical University in Columbus, obtaining a Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1898. As a kindly family doctor, he visited patients via bicycle, horse and buggy, and later on, a 1911 Ford. His charge for a house call was \$2. Much of his service was charitable; appreciative patients paid with produce, eggs, chores, etc. if they were able.

About 1897, he married Harriet Shultz in one of the Methodist churches in Delaware; the couple set up housekeeping just north of downtown Columbus and later moved to a large brick home in the Clintonville area of Columbus, where they kept a large garden and chickens. A Grandfather's Clock, purchased in 1916, stood in their parlor; it now graces Gale's childhood home, where she grew up enjoying its melodious chimes.

Harriet (Hattie) Shultz was born on a farm near Lewistown in Logan County, Ohio. After the untimely death of her father, she, along with her mother and sister moved to Oberlin, OH, so Hattie could study violin (she could also play the piano "by ear"). When funds ran low, the three women started a boarding house on Griswold Street in Delaware, OH, so Hattie could continue her education at OWU. She excelled in oil and watercolor painting, and woodcarving, and graduated from OWU in 1893 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts – the first woman to receive a diploma in Gray Chapel. As a talented artist, she was offered an opportunity to study art in the East, but chose marriage instead.



Harriet Alice Shultz Oman  
1869-1947



Dr. Elmer Samuel Oman  
1868-1950