

Footprints

Volume 37, Issue 4

Delhi Historical Society

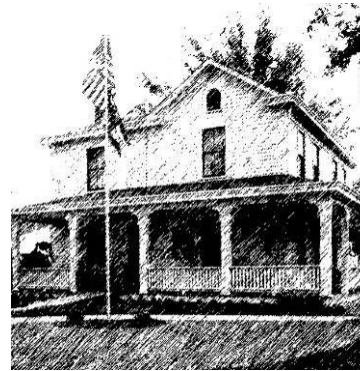
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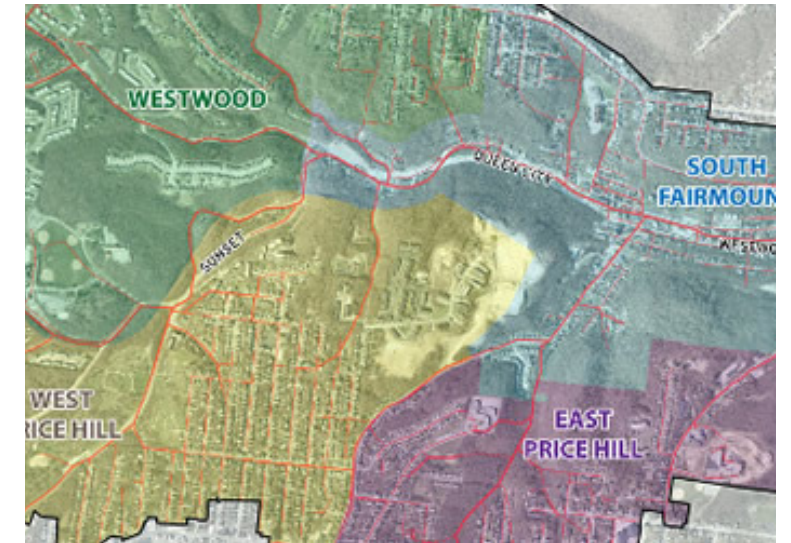
Fall 2014

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The History and Impact of the Lick Run Watershed Project

Join us at the **Delhi Park Lodge on Monday, Sept. 8 at 7 pm** to hear Deb Leonard from the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati speak about the Lick Run Project, a significant storm water project that will affect the entire Westside in what promises to be a very good way.



The Westside Lick Run watershed, covering 2,900 acres, is the largest combined sewer overflow in Hamilton County. And, every year, about 1 billion gallons of raw sewage mixed with storm water, overflows and spill into the Mill Creek.

Years ago, best practices in sewage and storm water management were to convey sewage through giant pipes, to bury streams and dry up wetlands. Unfortunately, the storm water then had no place to go but into sewage systems, and damaging overflow has been the result.

The solution? To restore the storm water's natural flow. The Lick Run Project will restore the area's "green infrastructure" of streams, wetlands, and bioswales and create rain gardens and storm water basins to provide cost-effective solutions with community benefits.

The central element of this massive project is an urban waterway through South Fairmount. The other eleven projects will convey storm water to the urban waterway. That urban waterway, called a VCS, will be located in South Fairmount between Queen City and Westwood Avenues from Old Queen City Ave. to the Mill Creek. This area is the gateway to the west side from I-75 and downtown Cincinnati.

The Lick Run Project was officially approved by the EPA in 2013. Once completed, the project will eliminate about 1.78 billion gallons of combined sewer overflow into the Mill Creek each year!

Remember that we have moved back to the Delhi Township Parks Glen Carter Lodge at 5125 Foley Road. Please join us for our first program of the season. Our programs are the second Monday of every month, except December.

Programs & Events

Sept. 8: **"Lick Run Watershed Project"** See newsletter for details.

Sept. 27: **The Great Outdoor Weekend** in Delhi, celebrating Delhi Township's heritage and held at the Park Lodge from 1-5pm. Please contact Matthew Maley at mattprm@gmail.com for more information.

Oct. 13: **"Story of Morgan's Raiders"** by Lester Horwitz, author. Learn how General John Hunt Morgan led 1,300 Confederate cavalrymen on a 13-day raid across southern and eastern Ohio in July 1863.

Nov. 10: **"Local Disasters 1812-2014: Flood, Wind, Snow & Ice, Tornado and Earthquakes"** presented by Matt Maley.

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is open March-October from 12:30-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday. Please call to arrange an appointment if you wish to come by at another time.

Farmhouse News

As our volunteers at the farmhouse continue to organize our collections, we have developed a new, "House History" file. If you are interested in learning about the history of your house, please visit this new section which is organized by streets and numbers. You will also find how-to information for renovating your historic house: what to do about crumbling foundations, brickwork, window restoration and much more.

Also, if you have information about your house's history, please consider showing us...we'd love to make copies and file them for future use.

We are always hoping for donations of copies of local family genealogies...please consider sharing yours with us!

New Hours

We've changed our opening time to better accommodate our volunteer's schedules. Please stop by any Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Best of Delhi Raffle

Don't forget to turn in your Best of Delhi Raffle tickets by the September 8 meeting. We have the best list of great prizes ever. **You don't want to miss your chance to win one of 10 prizes!!**

Also, please patronize our businesses, who so graciously donated to this raffle: Delhi Barbershop, Delhi Kroger, Robben Florist, McCabes Do-It-Center, Maloney's Pub, Mount St. Joseph University, Frisch's, Allison Landscaping, Humberts Meats and Delhi Skyline.

Our Condolences

Our heart-felt condolences to the families and friends of the Delhi Historical Society who have lost loved ones over the summer:

- **Andy Backs**, son of Bill and Nancy Backs,
- **Art Hunsicker**, brother of Edith Henlein
- **Jesse Smith**, father of Debbie Duebber
- **Ernie Timperman**, husband of Phyllis Timperman

We also remember **Dottie Henn** and **Kent Smith**, life members who were both faithful volunteers...Dottie at the Farmhouse and Granny's Attic, and Kent as one of Granny's Guys Quartet.

From the Archives by Peg Schmidt

Lick Run Corridor was Cincinnati's Gateway to West

Most early Cincinnatians knew it as Lick Run, but it had many names: Lick Run Hollow, Spring Garden, St. Peters or Petersburg, Barrsville, Fourbusville, Weaversburg and Little Italy...the string of little villages along Queen City and Westwood Avenues eventually became known as South Fairmount. Nestled in the valley of the Lick Run Creek, it sat between Schutzenbuckel or Shooting Hill (Fairmount and Westwood) to the northwest, Warsaw (Price's Hill) to the south, and the wide and sometimes marshy Mill Creek Valley to the east. It was located almost entirely in Green Township, with a small portion in Millcreek Township.

The development of Harrison Pike as a macadamized (gravel) road in 1837 spurred development on the west side of the Millcreek. By 1847, houses, businesses, churches and schools filled in along Lick Run Pike. The St. Peter's Church opened in 1844 on Queen City near what is now Wyoming. St. Martin Evangelical Protestant Church (Martini Church of Christ) opened at Queen City Saffin in 1854. The Emmanuel Evangelical Church on Queen City near Beekman is another old congregation.

There was no shortage of jobs for the growing community. Fairmount Brewing Company opened in 1825, and Hoffmeister Brewery, on property that later became the Lutz Floral Company opened 10 years later. Another brewery, Juengling Brewery, opened in 1844, but changed its name to Herancourt Brewery, when the widow of the original owner remarried and her new husband George Herancourt took over. The Fairmount Woolen Mills was located at Queen City and Harrison where the BP station is today, Lunkenheimer built a steam valve manufacturing plant in 1862.

Ed Metz' Wine Garden on Queen City just north of Sunset was founded by Philip Metz in 1875, who had a vast vineyard on his hillside. Prohibition put the Garden out of business in 1925. More famous was Gries' Wine Garden on Quebec Road (then called South Branch Road). Later it would become Quebec Gardens. It was



St. Peter Church, Lick Run, 1844, still stands.

able to stay in business during prohibition by offering excellent cooking by granddaughters of the founder.

A Place of Institutions

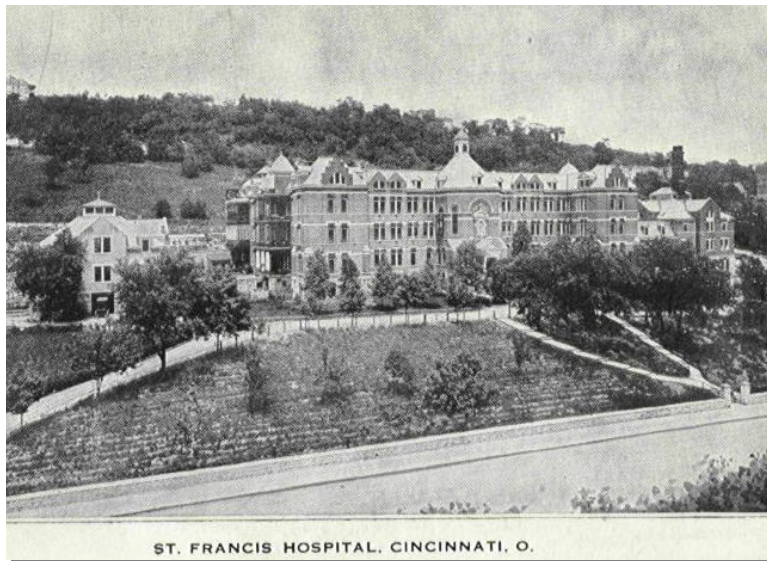
The first Insane Asylum in Hamilton County was located at Queen City and Harrison. The county leased the old Ames Mansion and grounds for \$800 per year. It operated from 1853 to 1860. At its peak, it housed 296 "inmates." The establishment closed in 1860 and patients transferred to the new Long-view Hospital in Carthage.

In 1879, the Hamilton County Pest House and burial ground for cholera and smallpox patients was moved from Clifton Heights to Lick Run. This building was destroyed but the property continued to be used (and is still today) for the county's Potters Field. Dunham Tubercular Hospital then opened across the street.

The stone building still standing at the corner of Queen City and Sunset avenues being in that part of Lick Run known as Petersburg, was before and during the Civil War used as an overflow jail when the one in the city was overcrowded. Before that it was a school. Four rooms were used as classrooms, the other four as the home for the teachers.

The St. Francis' Hospital for Incurables opened in 1888. According to the Souvenir Album of Catholic Churches, written in 1896: "This property was formerly used as the St. Peter's Cemetery. Admission is granted to incurable patients, without regard to creed or nationality."

South Fairmount is known for its cemeteries. One of the earliest, St. Peter's, was closed by the Catholic Archdiocese in 1860. The Martini German Evangelical Church Cemetery was located near Queen City and Saffin. Burials began there in 1854



ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL, CINCINNATI, O.

Pedaling Through the Past

Delhi Historical Society, in cooperation with the Betts House, Queen City Bikes and the Cincinnati Cycle Club, hosted almost 60 cyclists on June 29 as they pedaled on a 35 miles journey from downtown Cincinnati, into Kentucky, across the river to Delhi and back downtown, seeing historic sites all along the way.

The ride, "Pedaling Through the Past," featured stops at small historic sites along the Ohio River, including the Ludlow Heritage Museum, the Behringer-Crawford Museum, Mount St. Joseph University, the Price Hill Historical Society, and the Betts House. Delhi Historical Society volunteers Sue Vogt and Terry Aretz, along with Paul Anderson, shared the history of Anderson Ferry and pointed out historic settlements on the Delhi side of the river. Our farmhouse served refreshments and gave cyclists a chance to rest and learn about the history of Delhi.

Cyclists responded enthusiastically about the ride and how interesting it was to see sites and learn the history of places they had never visited before. The Cincinnati Cycle Club hopes to offer more historical site tours in the future...we'll keep you posted!



DHS Museum Consultant Becky Johnson, left, greets cyclists as they arrive at the Farmhouse on June 29.

but it is now abandoned and the headstones removed in 1966. Several Jewish Cemeteries are located on Sunset, and the county's Potters Field mentioned before is on Guerley Road.

The Cincinnati & Westwood Railroad (C&W) brought much needed transportation to the growing population in 1874. Seven residents of Westwood, including James Gamble, Michael Werk, Fred Schwartze, F.H. Oehlman, Charles Reemelin and James Robb, wanted to promote the values of their large tracts of land. The railroad only lasted a few years, going into foreclosure in 1887 as Interurbans (trolleys) began serving the area.

Change to the community began with the

opening of the Western Hills Viaduct, built to connect the west side of Cincinnati to the new Central Parkway. The new viaduct was built to help take traffic not only over the Millcreek, but also over railroad tracks leading to the new Union Terminal just to the south. The lower deck had a special lane between Spring Grove and Harrison to accommodate the street railway system.

The entire Lick Run area was annexed from Green Township by the City of Cincinnati in November 1869. In 1907, the Lick Run was enclosed within the 19.5-foot-diameter Lick Run combined sewer, which runs under 3,700 feet of streets and buildings in South Fairmount. That stream is now being "daylighted" or brought back above ground.

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ zip _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Make checks payable to: Delhi Historical Society,
468 Anderson Ferry Road, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Membership Levels

Regular Annual (\$15) _____

Regular Family (\$25) _____

Donor (\$50 or higher) _____

Business (\$50) _____