

# Delhi History

Volume 39, Issue 1

## Delhi Historical Society

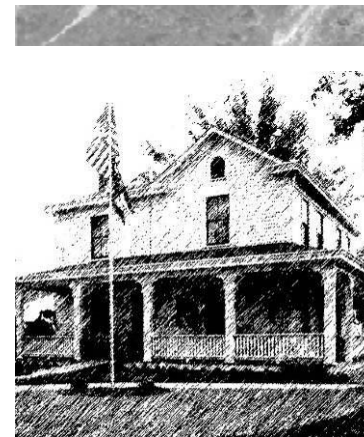
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DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2016

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## Touring the Delhi Township Fire Museum

Our March program will move to a different location: the Delhi Township Fire Museum, located at the Fire Headquarters (Station 33) located at 697 Neeb Road. The museum is operated and maintained by the Delhi Historical Fire Museum Society, an independent organization separate from the fire department. However, this organization is mostly comprised of current and past members of the Delhi Township Fire Department. They are dedicated to educating Delhi Township residents and its surrounding communities about fire safety and prevention through fun and innovative programs associated with the new fire museum.



Pete Pritchard will lead a tour of the museum, which focuses on the display and exhibition of the Delhi Township Fire Department's original fire pumper truck and many other artifacts.

The program is at its usual time, at 7pm on the second Monday of the month, March 9, but **we are meeting at the fire museum instead of its usual location.** See you there!

## World War I Centennial Approaches

Europe recently "celebrated" the important World War I Battle at Verdun; historians around the globe made sure to comment on the tremendous loss of life (over 300,000 people) and how pointless was the battle and, in some ways, the war.

But the First World War was a time of great technological leaps, too: the invention of industrial fertilizer, drones, air traffic control, portable x-rays, even sanitary napkins and tissues. And America had it easier in that war: we entered late and lost far less life as a result.

In the next two years, the U.S. will be gearing up to celebrate our involvement in World War I. Delhi Township offered its own sons (and some daughters) for the war effort, and the Delhi Historical Society encourages those who have records of their family's involvement to let us know. We'll happily scan them or conserve and protect them for you, and we'll use what we collect in an exhibition. Please call 513-451-4313 (and leave a message; we'll get back to you soon).

## Family History Scanning Stations

Celebrate Delhi's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday and share your history! The Delhi Historical Society continues to host Family History Scanning Stations at locations around Delhi throughout this 2016 bicentennial year.

Our historians use Delhi Historical Society's safe scanning equipment to digitally collect family photographs, slides, and documents to preserve the township's rich history. All material will be safely scanned at the scanning location. Families will receive donor acknowledgments for the digital copies and will leave with their own documents and photographs, keeping all materials in the family.

Bring your history and visit us at the location most convenient for you.

**March 8, 1-4pm: Bayley Place**  
**March 12, 1-4pm: Delhi Library Branch**  
**April 14, 1-4pm: Bayley Place**  
**April 25, 9-noon: Delhi Senior Center**  
**May 10, 1-4pm: Bayley Place**

## Programs & Events

**Ongoing: New Exhibits at Farmhouse:** *Delhi In Bloom & The Language of Flowers*

**March 9, Monday Program:** "Delhi Township Fire Museum Tour," Speaker: Pete Pritchard, Delhi Township Fire Department

**April 11: Monday Program:** "Native Americans in Delhi Township," Speaker: Matt Maley, DHS Board Member

**May 9 Monday Program:** "Rollin' on the River," Cincinnati Museum Center

**May 20: Historic Ohio Valley Vineyards and Wine Tasting**

**June 13: Monday Program,** *George Remus, King of the Bootleggers.* Speaker: Mark Plageman

**August 27: Dog Daze of Delhi Heritage Festival,** featuring a fishing tournament, horseshoes, hot dog eating contest, dog tricks, musical entertainment and a vintage baseball game.

**The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is open Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday March-October, 12:30-3 p.m.**

## Edith Henlein, 1918-2016

Edith Heinlein, a charter member of the Delhi Historical Society and a long-time educator in Delhi Township, designated a planned legacy gift to the Delhi Historical Society in her will. She died in late January.

A graduate of Western Hills High School, University of Cincinnati, and Miami University, she taught and was an administrator in the Delhi schools for more than 40 years. Always community-minded, she helped to found the Delhi Historical Society in the 1970s.

We are so appreciative of Edith's generosity to our organization and her dedication to preserving the history of this community.

**From the Archives by Peg Schmidt, archivist**

**Ridge southeast of Bender Road has long history**

In April there will be a couple of events that focus on Bender Ridge – the area between Bender Road and Hillside Avenue in the south central part of Delhi.

The first event is a hike and history tour of the Bender Mountain Nature Preserve sponsored by the Western Wildlife Corridor on Saturday, April 9, then a program on the pre-settlement history by Matt Maley of the historical society on Monday, April 11.

Bender Ridge sits west of the College of Mount St. Joseph. It is mostly wooded rolling terrain consisting of silty loam soil that doesn't absorb water runoff very well which results in natural culverts. This area of Delhi above the river is rich in history. It was the first area settled by people of European descent in the 1790s, but the land's history goes back long before that.

While there is no indication that Native Americans ever settled this land, it was likely a rich hunting ground for perhaps 1,000 years. During the Adena to Ft. Ancient cultures (between the years 500 to 1500) it also likely served as a path for people traveling from the settlements at the end of Pedretti Road to settlements in Saylor Park. And when Europeans first traveled down the Ohio River, it likely served as a lookout for the Shawnee Nation who were likely threatened by early Americans encroachment onto their hunting grounds.

The sheer volume of people pouring into Ohio meant settlement along the ridge was inevitable. The earliest indication that people felt safe to build on top of Bender Ridge is the Darby-Lee Cemetery which is on the "Sister's Hill Trail." Ruth Lee who died in 1819 is the earliest recorded burial there.

One of the earliest roads, the Delhi-Industry Pike (Sister's Hill Trail), followed the ridge before dropping down to Hillside. There are also stone steps on the Paw Paw Trail that show human settlement. The Darby family owned most of the

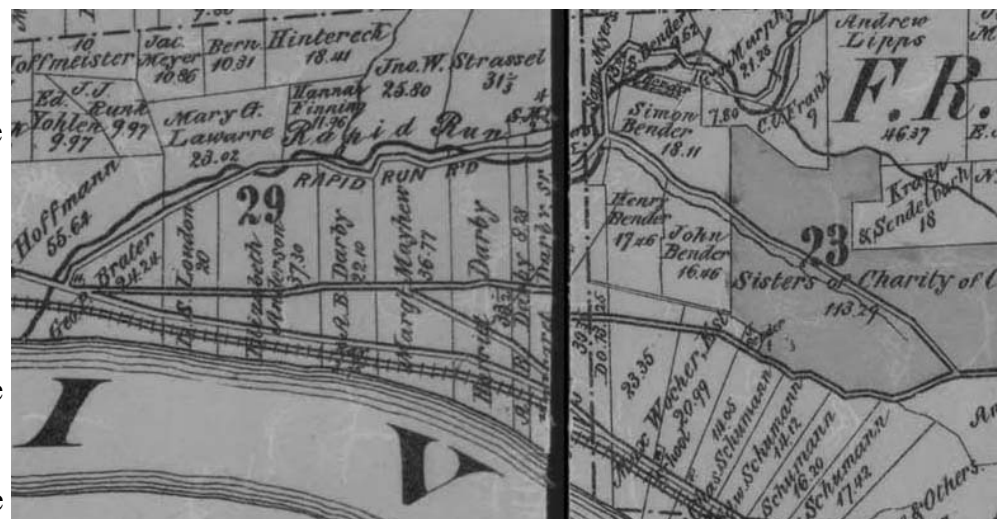
land along the western ridge while the Bender Family controlled the east end of the ridge.

But it soon became apparent that the land was not good for farming and too hilly for houses. The Rapid Run Creek on the other side of the ridge was too unpredictable – prone to going from dry bed to raging flood in just a few hours. Charles Schumann put in grape vineyards on the east side of the hill until a virus decimated his crop the 1850s, but other than a few houses along Delhi it remained completely forested.

Until 1913 Bender Road ran from Delhi Road to the now abandoned Old Rapid Run Road. When Old Rapid Run closed Bender became no outlet. All that changed in 1972 when a major landslide took the Sister's Hill portion of Delhi Pike along with the few houses on the hill. The portion of Old Rapid Run below Bender was rebuilt and reconnected from Bender to Hillside. Delhi Pike's Sister's Hill remains closed and abandoned.

Today, thanks mainly to the efforts of volunteers from the Western Wildlife Corridor, the ridge along and above Bender Road has been reclaimed to its natural habitat. Invading bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard have been removed allowing wildflowers to come back in abundance and diversity. Limestone walls, rock steps, foundations, old road bed and possible mound also show the human history. There are several trails that gently traverse the area, allowing visitors to enjoy the simple beauty, nature, and an occasional spectacular view.

1884 map of Bender Ridge area



**News from the Farmhouse by Becky Johnson, historical consultant**

**It's 2016 and Time to Celebrate Delhi's Bicentennial!**

We'll make sure you are always in-the-know about upcoming Delhi Township bicentennial celebrations this year. Here are some to put on your calendar now:



**Bender Mountain Hike and History Tour**, April 9, 2 p.m.

Take a hike on Bender Mountain and learn about the natural and cultural history along the way. Sponsored by the Western Wildlife corridor.

**Ohio Valley Wine Tasting and History**, May 20 at the Glen Carder Lodge in Delhi Park.

Join the Delhi Historical Society as we taste our way through several current Ohio Valley wines and learn about the important history Delhi played in the early wine industry here. Register at [www.delhihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delhihistoricalsociety.org)

**Heritage Festival "The Dog Days of Delhi"** Aug. 27

Join the Delhi Business Association to celebrate our community with dog contests, old-fashioned game competitions like sack races, a hot dog eating contest, horseshoes and pioneer skills and interpretation. See a vintage baseball game, led by the Blackbottom 9 team, at 1 p.m. that day in Delhi Park.

Please go to our website or Facebook page to learn more.



**Al & Pat Duebber: Long-time DHS Volunteers**

The Delhi Historical Society is saddened to hear of the deaths of two of our long-time volunteers and board members. Al Duebber passed away in October of 2015 and his wife, Pat died in December.

Together they spent years helping to ensure that the historical society would be a vibrant, lasting institution for the Delhi Community. Both served on various committees and members of the board during the 90s. They both participated in Granny's Attic, our historical vignette group, they volunteered at the Farmhouse. Pat worked at the DHS teas, Pioneer Day and served on almost every committee. Al was our oral historian, and wrote a regular column sharing his oral histories. He was on the finance committee. They were both ready and willing to work on anything DHS related. They will be missed.

Condolences to their children - all members of the DHS, Al, Diane, Steve and Janice.

**Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Delhi Historical Society,  
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Membership Levels

- Regular Annual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_
- Regular Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_
- Donor (\$50 or higher) \_\_\_\_\_
- Business (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_