

# Delhi History

Volume 40, Issue 1

## Delhi Historical Society

468 Anderson Ferry Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45238  
513-451-4313  
www.delhihistoricalsociety.org

Preserving our Past for the Future

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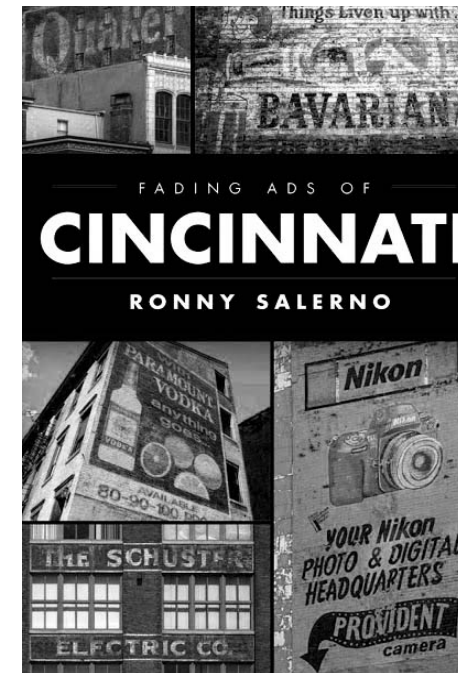
# DELHI HISTORY



February 2017  
Volume 40, Issue 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FADING ADS OF CINCINNATI



Driving through Cincinnati, it is almost impossible to miss the faded ads of the past. What can these historic signs tell us about Cincinnati's history and culture? Photographer/Author, Ronny Salerno explores Cincinnati to discover these ads and preserve them through photographs.

Join us at 7 pm Monday, February 13, at the Delhi Park Lodge to hear their stories as Salerno discusses his book, Fading Ads of Cincinnati.

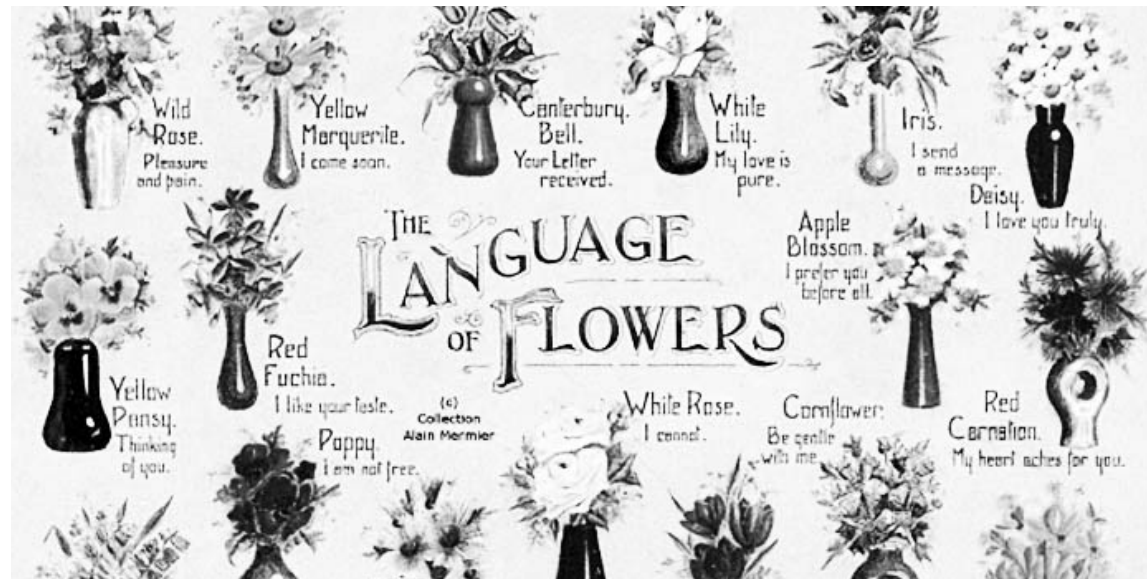
Feel Free to bring a snack to share!

Interested in learning more about Salerno's work? Check out his blog at [www.queencitydisco.com](http://www.queencitydisco.com). The blog covers Salerno's documentary projects and information on forgotten places around Cincinnati.

## Flood Exhibit Coming in Spring

We are very excited to announce a new exhibit coming this spring in memory of the 1937 flood. Opening in late April, the exhibit will include photos and research of floods and how it affected Cincinnati. The project will be done in partnership with Mount Saint Joseph University students. Some of the students are enrolled in a honors class focused on maritime history and will travel to Maine this summer after their studies. Stay tuned for updates!

## LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS EXHIBIT TO CLOSE IN APRIL



Be sure to stop by to see our Language of Flowers and History of Delhi's greenhouse industry exhibits. Language of Flowers to make room for the new Flood exhibit.

The Language of Flowers explores the use of flowers as symbols over the centuries, the Victorians' enchantment with flowers and a "flower language," and how that helped to fuel a demand for blooms that gave rise to Delhi's many greenhouses.

**Make an appointment today or visit us during our normal hours beginning March 2, 2017.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fading Ads of Cincinnati Program

February 13, 2017  
Delhi Lodge 7:00pm

### The History, Development, and use of Essential Tools From 1,000,000 BC to the Early 1900s Program.

March 13, 2017  
Delhi Lodge 7:00pm

### Music Hall and Washington Park Bones Program

April 10, 2017  
Delhi Lodge 7:00pm

### Navigation on the Ohio River, Then and Now

May 8, 2017  
Delhi Lodge 7:00pm

### Using the Hamilton County Recorder's Office for Research

June 12, 2017  
Delhi Lodge 7:00pm

## FARMHOUSE MUSEUM

The Delhi Historical Society is closed for the winter. We will reopen in March with our regular hours. Until then, please contact us at 513-451-4313 or on our Facebook page to make an appointment (two weeks in advance, please).



# Historic Floods of Cincinnati 1800-1920



River Road and Anderson Ferry (current United Dairy Farmer location) in 1884.

We don't think much about flooding up here on the hill, except when it backs up into the Muddy and Rapid Run creeks. But in earlier days it often isolated Delhi. The first flood that affected what would become Delhi Township occurred in 1789. The little stockade of South Bend on the Ohio below Mount St. Joseph had to be abandoned because of flood waters - estimated to peak at about 70 feet. The 20 families and a couple dozen soldiers made their way back to North Bend for shelter. Eventually, the families returned but reoccurring floods forced them up into the hills and thus began the settlement of our township.

A few decades later another village suffered a similar fate. A little town called Industry was founded in 1847 west of Bender Road, mostly on the south side of what is now US 50/River Road. It was a bustling community. A flood in 1862, slowed development, but the great flood of 1884 put an end to it. The 1880 census reports 217 residents, a box factory, flour mill, slaughterhouse, a brick-making foundry and several other small businesses. Many houses for the laborers were on the other side of the tracks, so to speak, near the river. The 1884 flood hit 71 feet - more than enough to wipe out the whole area. The 1884 flood spurred the development of a system of dams on the Ohio.

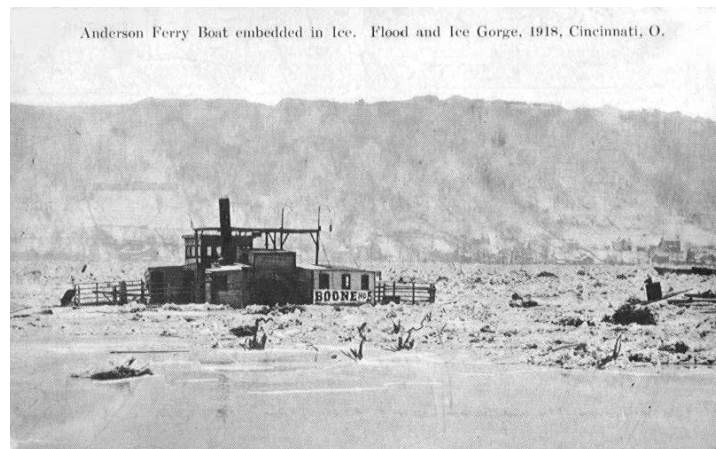
In 1913 was different than most because it was a backwater flash flood. The Great Miami River flooded at Dayton and waters rose quickly as it moved toward the Ohio. Hamilton suffered severe damage.

As it moved south, waters from the Great River took out most bridges in its path. Places like Miamitown and Cleves soon were under water. The course of the Great Miami and the Whitewater rivers were permanently changed.

The real problem with the 1918 flood wasn't so much the water level (61 feet at it's highest point), but the ice floes.

The winter of 1917-18 was bitter - according to the National Weather Service the coldest on record in Cincinnati (yes, even worse than 1976-77). By January more than three feet of snow covered the ground - all of the creeks and rivers that flow into the Ohio were frozen solid. The Ohio River was frozen for its entire length. No barges meant almost no coal to fire the electric motors that supplied electric and water to the city. Gas pressure was having trouble making it up to the hilltop suburbs. And with the Spanish Flu Epidemic, and a war in Europe... well life was pretty miserable. But it would get worse.

On January 30, a sudden surge of warm weather caused the snow to melt into the frozen tributaries which in turn caused ice to break up and move into the Ohio. A massive flow of water and ice pushed down the Ohio, gaining momentum as it picked up more water and ice along the way. People stood on the shores below Delhi at Fernbank dam and Anderson Ferry and watched crushed boats, shanties and debris swiftly head down river. The steamer Greenland was pulled away from its mooring in the East End and carried sideways down to Rising Sun where her crushed hull was later found. Anderson Ferry's Boone No. 5 itself suffered severe damage in the ice gorge.



# News From the Farmhouse

## New Website

Our website got a makeover! Visit [www.delhihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delhihistoricalsociety.org) to see the new site. We plan to add a blog featuring news and historic articles and to add a section to show off our collections. In the future, we hope to make information more accessible to researchers throughout the website. Stay tuned!

## Email List

We now have an email list distribute give reminders and news updates. We will also email an e-version of this newsletter for people who'd prefer to read it on the computer. If you would like to be part of this list, subscribe at the link below: <http://eepurl.com/cyAMWP>

## Condolences

Karen Lybrook, sister of Sue Ann Painter, aunt of Tony Brunsman and sister-in-law of Beverly Schuler.

John Schill, father of Johnny Schill

Founding member, Mildred Bauer

Henrietta Grosjean, sister of Frieda Knolle and Charlie Lipps

Dr. John Williams, husband of Mary Williams

Dr. John Popken, husband of Joan Popken



## Welcome new members since September:

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barbara Diener          | Alan March                  |
| Arlene Martini Doerger  | Victoria and Daniel Russell |
| Betsy Eckert            | Tim Sisson                  |
| Judy Ellerman           | Rose Stertz                 |
| Eileen Gangloff         | Mary Uhlenbrock             |
| MaryAnn Jacobs          | Bill Wauligman              |
| Greg Langenbrunner      |                             |
| Jerry and Judy Luebbers |                             |

Special Thanks to Rose Stertz for her recent donation of two spinning wheels!

Forget to renew your membership for 2017? No worries! Fill out the form below and mail it to:

Delhi Historical Society  
468 Anderson Ferry Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45238

## Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Delhi Historical Society.

## Membership Levels

Regular Annual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Family (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor (\$50 or higher) \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_