

# Delhi History

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## Delhi Historical Society

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*Preserving our Past for the Future*

Nonprofit organization

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## Family History Scanning Project Starts

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

Our historians will use Delhi Historical Society's safe scanning equipment to digitally collect family photographs 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. **The first scanning session will be on January 12, 2016 at Bayley Place from 1pm - 4pm.** (Please call the historical society beforehand (451-4313) if you have a large amount of material to scan, and we will make arrangements to meet with you at a different time.)

## Bring Your Family's...

Photographs

Slides

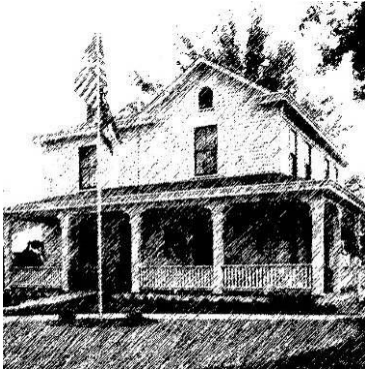
Letters

Diaries

Historical Documents

## To a Location Near You:

JAN. 12:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
JAN. 16:	Delhi Public Library	1-4pm
FEB. 11:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
FEB. 22:	Delhi Senior Center	9am-noon
MAR 5:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
MAR 12:	Delhi Public Library	1-4pm
APR 14:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
APR 25:	Delhi Senior Center	9am-noon
MAY 10:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
MAY 21:	Delhi Public Library	1-4pm
JUNE 9:	Bayley Life	1-4pm
JUNE 27:	Delhi Senior Center	9am-noon
JULY 12:	Bayley Life	1-4pm



# Delhi History

## TALES OF DELHI HISTORY AS TOLD BY ITS RESIDENTS

### Programs & Events

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

Jan 11: "Delhi Tales as Written and Shared by Its Settlers" presented by Peg Schmidt, Archivist, Delhi Historical Society

Jan 12: **Family History Scanning Station** at Bayley Wellness & Fitness Center, 1-4pm. See inside for more dates.

Feb. 8: "The Florists of Delhi and the Language of Flowers," Rebecca Johnson, historian, Delhi Historical Society

Feb. 20: **Genealogy Workshop**, DHS farmhouse, led by Peg Schmidt. 1-3pm. See inside for details.

March 9: "Delhi Township Fire Museum Tour," Pete Pritchard, Delhi Township Fire Department

April 11: "Native Americans in Delhi Township," Matt Maley, DHS Board Member

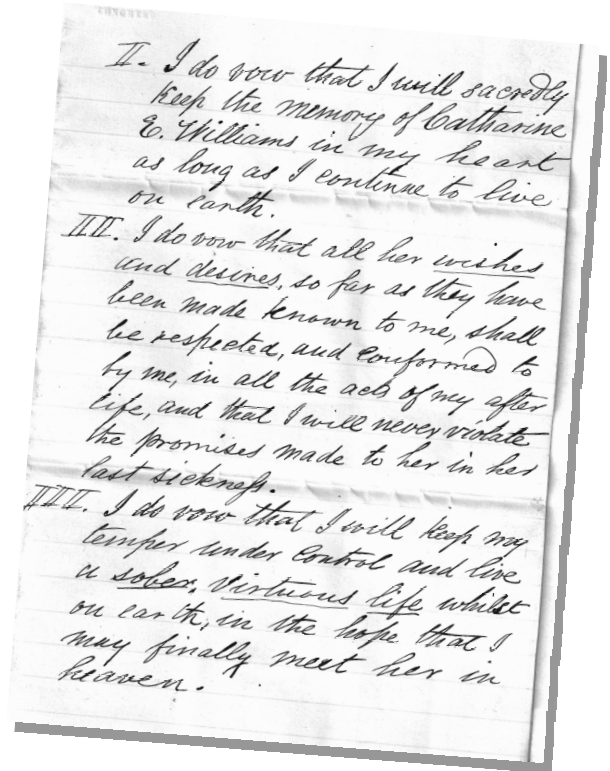
The manuscripts, newspaper articles, books, letters and taped interviews in the Delhi Historical archives give us first-person stories about how the people of Delhi lived, worshiped, played, worked and died. Using these hand-written and oral stories,

Charles Schumann left interesting instructions in his will when he died in 1855—"bury me in under drawers after waiting 3 days to makes sure I'm dead."

Gertrude Feist recalled in a tape interview that she stopped at the Delhi Pike tollhouse to get warm on winter days on her way home to Pedretti Road from Sedamsville.

Bertha Myers recalls that she and her sister created a rutted path to the outhouse one summer day in 1910 after eating too many apples from the family orchard on Foley Road.

And in a poignant letter to himself upon the death of his wife in 1875, Peter Williams made a solemn promise "to sacredly keep the memory of Catherine Williams in my heart as long as I continue to live on earth...in



This letter by Peter Williams to his at her death, is one of many documents, photos and personal stories from the Delhi Historical Archives.

the hope that I might finally meet her again in heaven."

Peg Schmidt will share tales of Delhi - told by the people who lived it - at a January 11 program at the Glen Carder Lodge in Delhi Park. The program begins at 7 p.m. Bring a snack to share!

**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 in off-season.**



## From the Archives by Peg Schmidt, archivist

# Catholics from Lorraine and Baden in first wave of Germans to Delhi

As we continue to look back over the past 200 years, we look at the first wave of foreign immigration into what is now Delhi Township.

In its early years, Delhi Township's population mirrored nearby Cincinnati and North Bend – consisting of families who could trace their American roots back several generations, for the most part natives of eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and New York.

Then, around 1830 waves of German and Irish born immigrants began arriving to Cincinnati. The earliest were German Catholics who came from the Lorraine region of France and specifically a town called Walschbronn and from the Baden-Wuerttemberg area of Germany. The Gregory Lipps, Ignatz Witterstaetter, and Philip Feist families arrived in 1832 from the Ortenaukreis area of Baden in the Black Forest. Within two years, Jacob Bender (Binder) and Michael Wolfer arrived.

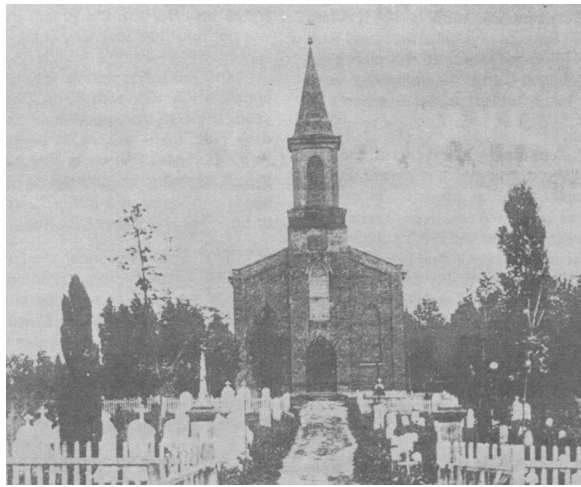
In 1834 Peter Strassell arrived from Walschbronn, France. He was to be the first of many families to travel from the little town that sits on the border of Germany in the Lorraine region, followed shortly thereafter by Charles Megel and Benedict Olinger Pierre, Baltazar, Karl and Jacob Backscheider would follow soon after. Within 15 years, the Kayser (Kaiser), Demerle and Martini families came.

Most of these early families came through New Orleans on their way to Cincinnati. For the most part, we don't know why they left their homes. What they had in common was living in areas along the French-German border that suffered greatly by the Napoleonic Wars between 1805 and 1815.

We do know that the immigrants from Walschbronn were all related in some way, a fact that would continue after they came to the U.S. Philippe Martini, for example, came to Cincinnati directly after his arrival in

New Orleans at the invitation of his cousin Peter Strassell. The Backscheiders were cousins of the Megels. Even though they were French, they spoke a German dialect call Platt Lorain.

All of the above named early German speaking families found security in the Catholic Church in Delhi. Organized in 1834 under the name of the St. Stephen Society, the name was changed to Our Lady of Victory.



*St. Stephen Church, later Our Lady of Victory 1855*

of this town from its resettlement in the 1690s. We also have the 20-year newsletters between the Martini family in Walschbronn and their Delhi relatives.

A final note about these early German Catholic immigrants. In December, Herb Martini, the sole surviving grandchild of immigrant Philippe, died at the age of 100. Herb's family moved to the back house on his grandfather's farm in the 1920s.

He spoke with me often about visiting his grandfather, and related the story of Phillip's arrival in the early 1850s.



*The original Martini house, which overlooks Saylor Park and the river off of Martini Road.*



*Jacob Binder arrived in Delhi around 1835. The family name often was spelled Bender, the same as the road named for the family.*

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

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

**Delhi Township  
Bicentennial Celebrations**

The Delhi Historical Society begins this year with several programs celebrating the year 1816, when Delhi Township was incorporated. Over the year, we will continue to lead the Bicentennial Education Committee in planning events and programs that will focus on the culture and history of Delhi Township.

Our first event is a **Genealogy Workshop on Sat. Feb. 20, 1-3pm**, led by Peg Schmidt, for anyone interested in genealogy, from beginners to advanced researchers. Registration is limited and will cost \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. (DHS has a membership to Ancestry.com and allows members to use it when visiting the farmhouse...another membership perk.) Please register by calling 451-4313 or online at [www.delhihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delhihistoricalsociety.org).

Watch for registration information for the following events in 2016:

- **April 9: Nature & history hike**
- **May 20: Ohio Valley wine-tasting event**
- **Sept. 10: Mini-Antiques Roadshow**
- **Oct. 22: Cemetery tour**

DHS is joining the Delhi Business Association to organize a summer festival on August 27, 2016. The Delhi Historical Society will host a Pioneer Day in the Glen Carder Lodge, with various exhibits and living history displays of pioneer skills, and will organize old-fashioned game competitions, including sack races and horseshoes. Fun for the whole family!

**Christmas Parade 2015**

*Thick fog created a Dickensian atmosphere for the annual Delhi Township Christmas Parade on December 5. DHS members Mary Finn, Sue Timmer, Katy Corn, Sue Vogt, Ben Schmidt, and Len Kleiner (as Abe Lincoln) dressed in perfect period costumes for the event!*



**Thanks for the Membership Renewals!**

Membership renewals are again steady and strong this year. The Delhi Historical Society has collected \$1970 so far during this year's membership drive.

Our endowment provides money for educational expenses like the work of a consultant. Therefore, membership dues, raffle ticket purchases, split the pots at programs, flower sales and other donations pay the heat bills and other house expenses the historical society has each month.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership form and check, we'll still take it! Thank you for helping the historical society keep its doors open with your yearly membership.

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

