

Delhi History

Volume 46 Issue 1

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DELHI



HISTORY

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Programs

Steinkamp Brothers: Cincinnati's Lost Architects

Join us Monday, Jan. 9, at the Delhi Lodge for our first program of 2023. Dr. Thomas Connor will talk about the Brothers Steinkamp: Cincinnati's Lost Architects. In addition to two known homes in Delhi, the brothers Joseph and Bernard Steinkamp designed many iconic Cincinnati buildings like the Metropole Hotel (now the boutique 21c Hotel), the American Building and the St. William's Catholic Church, school and parish house.

They were even contracted by pottery maven Maria Longworth Storer for the St. Ursula Chapel in Walnut Hills that she commissioned. Dr Connor will take us on a journey of their architectural prowess.

If you know of a Steinkamp house, just post a pic of it on the Delhi Historical Society's Facebook page with a description of your favorite feature of its architecture and earn one free chance for the Split the Pot (must be in attendance to receive the ticket and chance)



Programs & Events

Jan. 9, 7 p.m., at the Delhi Park Lodge: *Steinkamp Brothers: Cincinnati's Lost Architects* with author Dr. Thomas Connor.
Feb. 13, 7 p.m., at the Delhi Park Lodge: *The Schumann and Other Hidden Cemeteries of Delhi* with Ray Grothaus and Alan March.

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum and Research Center is closed for the winter and will reopen Feb. 28, 2023. Research by appointment by calling 513.451.4313.

Schumann Cemetery

Continued from page 1

Our St. Louis friends had to leave, but the research by DHS volunteers continued. We learned much about the Schumann Family from the resources in our Research Center. Here is the rest of the story.

Today, the Schumann property is within the City of Cincinnati, that portion of Delhi having been annexed by the city in 1909. However, the roots of the land is in Delhi Township.

Charles A. Schumann came to America from Germany in 1841 and purchased a 123 acre farm in Delhi Township. The land stretched from what is now Hillside Avenue on the north to the Ohio River on the south. Charles Schumann became one of the most prolific and entrepreneurial grape growers in the area. In addition to the wines he made of Catawba grapes, he made an unfermented juice. He promoted it as delightful way to enjoy the taste of grapes without the alcohol.

Charles died in 1858. His large property was divided between family members, including his youngest daughter, Louisa. Her lot of about 20 acres included a small square of ground where Charles was buried. Interment of other family members followed there as they passed away. Louisa died in 1922 and was the last per-

son buried there in the family cemetery. In her Last Will and Testament, created in March 1919, Louisa empowered her executor to set aside that graveyard, and additional ground as necessary along with a 30 foot wide access to the site.



Louisa Schumann's grave marker

Of course, Louisa did not know she would be the last person buried in her family's cemetery. But her family has not forgotten her or the place where her remains reside. Though a bit overgrown the fourteen grave markers still stand among honeysuckle, vines, maple and other trees. In recent years, a perimeter establishing the burial space was built using large wooden posts connected by thick, stout rope. A gateway was built to direct visitors to a respectful path into the grounds. The wood and rope border replaced an old cast iron fence that once stood there. A few small pieces of rusty iron remain, one is embedded in a tree which had grown around the fence.

The place is private property owned by a family that was once centered in Delhi Township and is now scattered across the United States. It is still a place of quiet respect for an immigrant family who came to America, worked hard, grew, and prospered as Americans.

The Schumann and Other Hidden Cemeteries of Delhi

On Monday, Feb. 13, members Ray Grothaus and Alan March will share the story of some of Delhi's oldest and little-known cemeteries in the Delhi area. Ray and Alan will focus on the Schumann family cemetery which they explored in late November.

Their interest in the cemetery began in mid-November of 2022, when a couple from St. Louis, Missouri arrived unexpectedly at the DHS Farmhouse Museum & Research Center. They were seeking information on the Charles A. Schumann family, who were their ancestors and had lived in Delhi Township from the mid-1800s and into the 20th century. The visitors had done some excellent research, identifying the former Schumann farm along River Road, west of Anderson Ferry. However, they could not locate the Schumann Family cemetery.

Continued on page 4



Schumann Cemetery on River Road

The Mission of the Delhi Historical Society is to discover, preserve and share the history of Delhi Township and the surrounding areas.

Collections Corner

DHS Accepts the Woman's Fortnightly Reading Club Collection

By Alan March

American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language:

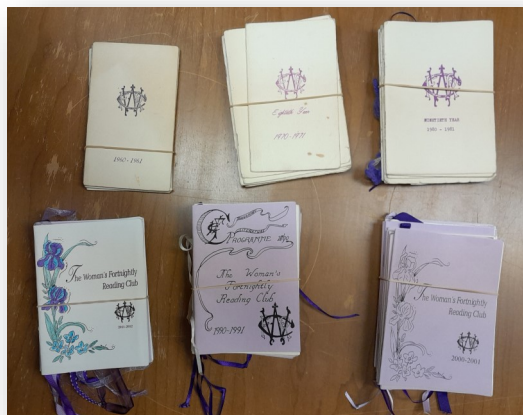
Fortnight - a period of 14 days; two weeks
Fortnightly - Happening or appearing once in every two weeks.

It was the "Golden Age," when American optimism was high and our economy one of the most productive in the world. By 1890, Delhi Township's Village of Home City had developed from a small community in 1850 into a modern suburb of substance. The large brick or frame Victorian houses of the suburb were home to Cincinnati's businessmen who commuted into town daily via street car. Their wives looked for something more than just "keeping house." The ladies would occasionally gather for lunch and conversation, sometimes sewing as they did so. One suggested they discuss topics of significance, including the literature of the day. Thus, in October 1890, several ladies decided to meet every two weeks to discuss a book or essay they had read. The Woman's Fortnightly Reading Club (WFRC) was born.

The WFRC had elections for the offices of president, vice-president, and secretary. The recording secretary kept minutes, relating how each meeting transpired. Within two years, small items appeared in newspapers reporting on the club's activities. In those meetings members would read a poem or an excerpt from a book, or report on an investigation into a topic of interest. Committees

developed to address issues such as the annexation of Fernbank to the City of Cincinnati or women acquiring the right to vote. The meetings often included music and singing.

Eventually, Cincinnati annexed Home City, and other neighborhoods, forming Saylor Park, but the club continued on. About 25 years ago, the WFRC moved its meetings to the Shiloh Church on Anderson Ferry Road. In January of 1990, the Club celebrated its centennial anniversary.



The Woman's Fortnightly Reading Club's annual program booklets for the decades of 1970s through 2010s.

The Woman's Fortnightly Reading Club is still active today and still meeting every two weeks. Earlier this year, members decided to entrust their archives of meeting minutes, annual program books, photographs, news clippings, and other documents to the Delhi Historical Society. Reading through those minutes, one can imagine the women in their fine dresses and hats, enjoying coffee as they listen to one of their members report on Thornton Wilder's book, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, or an investigation into the pollution of local creeks.

It will take much time and effort to study, properly organize, and care for this wonderful acquisition. It will be worth the effort, as it reveals a marvelous aspect of our neighborhood's past and its connection to our present. The Delhi Historical Society is honored to be the caretaker of such a community treasure.

Christmas Parade

Once again the Historical Society had an eye-catching entry in the Delhi Christmas Parade. A big thank you to Tim Eagan for providing his 1938 Chevrolet. Participating in the parade are Mary Finn, Joey Witterstaetter, Veronica Buchanan, Sue Timmer, Lenny Kleiner, and Katy Corns.



Thank You For Generous Contributions from:

- Sue Ann Painter.
- Frankie Sahnd
- Kay Drexler

Please consider making a year-end donation to the Delhi Historical Society. Your donation is tax deductible. Just mail check to Delhi Historical, Society, at address on this newsletter, or go online www.delhihistoricalsociety.org/support.

From the President Gratitude Abounds In New Year



By Veronica Buchanan

Although the final months of the year can feel like a marathon, it also offers us the opportunity to reflect and share gratitude for the positive moments and gifts we've experienced in our life this year. Having the opportunity to serve the DHS community as President is certainly a gift that feels nearly a lifetime in the making!

Starting out as a docent for the Society while I was in high school instilled in me a passion for history. I still remember first learning about so many fascinating aspects of Delhi's history from long-standing veterans. Many of those volunteers are still active today and inspiring me and others each day! So I look forward to giving back to a place that has given me so much.

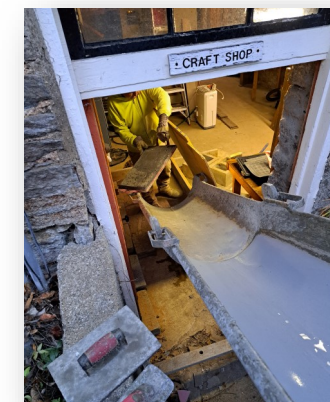
Speaking of gratitude, we have so much to be thankful for this year at DHS. Our Board welcomed its newest member, Joey Witterstaetter, at the November meeting. Many of you may remember him as the filmmaker behind *The Westside Natural* that premi-

ered at our April program. He's also been instrumental in setting up the a/v and sound equipment for our monthly programs.

We're excited to share that a new water drain was installed in the basement of the farmhouse. Pete Pritchard has been a constant advocate for this issue and was able to oversee the project this fall. This project will allow us to move forward with installing a new door to the basement, which should be completed next year. Hearty thanks are in order for Pete's steadfast dedication to preserving our historic Farmhouse and for his upcoming retirement from the Delhi Township Fire Department after serving over 30 years as a Firefighter/EMT.

Finally, we are incredibly thankful for our visitors, members, donors, interns, volunteers, DHS Board, and staff, past and present. Without your support, we couldn't continue to preserve and share the amazing history of our community and its residents.

Happy Holidays,
Veronica



Workers pour concrete for new water drain

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