

# Delhi History

Volume 44, Issue 1

## Delhi Historical Society

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# DELHI

Spring 2021  
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# HISTORY



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Society Presents April and May Programs On Facebook Live

**Monday, April 12**

### HOW DELHI STREETS GOT THEIR NAMES

Presented by Pete Pritchard, DHS board member and director of the Delhi Fire Museum takes a look at the interesting and sometimes whimsical names for Delhi Township streets.

There are 323 streets in the township.... Some named for the landowner who the property was purchased from or from the developers family members.

It's quite interesting that some street names are a combination of two family members' names such as Betlin Ct. which is Betty and Linda as an example. Morrvue Dr. is named after longtime Delhi leader Fred Morr. Palisades Dr. was named by the Greater Cinti. Home Builders Assn for the Homerama show for 1968.

Main county-owned street names tell their own interesting stories and how these roads traverse many local communities.

**Monday, May 10**

### ADVERTISING FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN TIMES

Historian Matt Maley will present a light-hearted look at man's attempt to get others to buy (or buy into)

something. The first known advertising occurred in Egypt around 2500BC and around 1700BC there was a Cuneiform ad for a stew recipe. When Pompeii was excavated a 100BC political ad was observed on building walls - it was a negative ad - nothing new. The first "plate print" ad came from China in 1200AD for sewing needles. The first "movable type" ad for a prayer book occurred in 1472, in England. From that point advertising showed up on walls, windows, on posters, in books and then radio, followed by TV. The first TV ad, in 1941, cost \$9 for 20 seconds. Compare that to the Super Bowl 2017 ad of \$5,000,000 for 30 seconds. Of course we cannot forget the Burma Shave signs, along highways, that spanned a time period from 1952 to the late 1950s or early 1960s. Now social media has introduced an entirely new and somewhat uncontrolled medium for just about everything and anything one wishes to "advertise".

*To view these programs, just go to the Delhi Historical Website at [www.delhihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.delhihistoricalsociety.org) and click on the "Watch Program" link. The link will be available at 6:45 p.m. on both dates. You can also join us on Facebook that evening.*



## May and June Programs & Events



**Our Annual Flower Sale** will take place the first weekend in May. Sales will likely be online or mail in only again this year as we transition out of the Covid 19 era.

### June 14 Program.

We are planning to have an in-person June 14 program that will likely involve a short trip. Reservations will be required so that we follow whatever crowd limitations are in effect at that time.

Look for more information on both of these events in a mid-April mailing.

## End of Landmark Offers Surprises

Late last year, the RC Witterstaetter property on Covedale Road was sold and is currently being developed as condominiums. Richard C. Witterstaetter was brother to Charles and Joseph who operated the greenhouses where the DHS headquarters now sit. Richard began operating the greenhouses in 1919, where he originated 11 varieties of snap dragons. Before he died in 1974 he was oldest living greenhouse owner.

Before bulldozing began, metal detector enthusiast Roger Dittelberger was given permission to search the site and found

three items: a St. Christopher's medal, a WWII ID bracelet and pocket knife. He returned these to Susan Witterstaetter Kuerze, granddaughter of Ray Witterstaetter to whom they belonged.



**The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum reopened March 9. Covid protocols are still in effect. Please wear a mask and visitors are limited to 6 people. If you are coming to do research call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.**

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



From the President

New Year Brings a Time of Transition for the DHS Board



Anita Klawitter

The transition at the end of each year is a bittersweet time for many non-profits, including the historical society. It was no different as 2020 transitioned into 2021. In the past year four board members have stepped down: Sue Ann Vogt, Jan Audette, Phyllis Timperman and Melinda Fisher. I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderfully thoughtful leadership each has provided.

DHS serving as our Membership Coordinator. Melinda's insights and attention to detail have been invaluable. As board members transition out, we seek and vet new board members. I am happy to announce that Travis Curd and Dann Woellert have recently joined the DHS board and have already attended their first meeting. By way of introduction, Travis Curd is a lifelong Westsider. After nine years of service in the US Navy, Travis earned his bachelor's degree from Mount Saint Joseph University. He is a financial advisor who owns and operates the Delhi office of Edward Jones Investments. Travis is active in the community as a member of Riverview-Delhi Kiwanis Club; the Delhi Business Association; Delhi Township Financial Advisory Board, and President of Kids & Community Food Collaborative 501c(3). Travis is the embodiment of the saying, "If you want someone to get something done, ask the busiest person in the room."

Dann Woellert brings together history, writing, business, and marketing skills. Dann's books reveal the history of foods explaining how they came to be in our region. He is a five-time recipient of the Ohioana Award for Literary and Artistic Achievement. Dann received a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and an MBA in Entrepreneurial studies from Xavier University. His skills and knowledge have led him to be employed as an engineer and product manager in a variety of fields, with a focus on meeting customer needs and marketing. Please join me in welcoming Travis and Dann and in thanking Sue Ann, Jan, Phyllis and Melinda for so many years of dedication to DHS. Over this next year, we will spotlight additional members of the DHS board as their service and commitment to DHS is invaluable.

Thank you, Anita

Our board members carry a burden of responsibility on their shoulders to be good stewards of finances, and to offer strategic and organizational oversight in order to keep the historical society thriving for generations to come. In addition to serving on the Board for a term of three years, board members are also asked to participate on at least one committee.

Sue Ann Vogt faithfully served on the board for years and took on the heavy responsibility of managing our monthly speaker's series; Sue Ann also served on numerous committees with enthusiasm and commitment. Sue Ann generously continues to serve on the Western Hills Garden Club which cares for many of the DHS gardens.

In addition to her board duties, Jan Audette served on the Education and Programs committee, was responsible for past fund raisers such as our silent auctions and putting all those wonderful baskets together. More recently Jan served as our Gift Shop coordinator.

Phyllis Timperman served on the board for at least 15 years, and also served on numerous committees including Finance and Development over her long tenure. Phyllis always brought acute insight to our meetings that shall be missed.

Melinda Fisher served 18 years on the DHS board and also served as our recording secretary, faithfully documenting each and every board meeting for almost two decades.

Melinda too served on multiple committees including Education and Development, and will continue to volunteer for

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 Individual (\$15) \_\_\_
Regular Household (\$25) \_\_\_
Donor (\$50 or higher) \_\_\_
Business (\$50) \_\_\_

Member Benefits include 10%

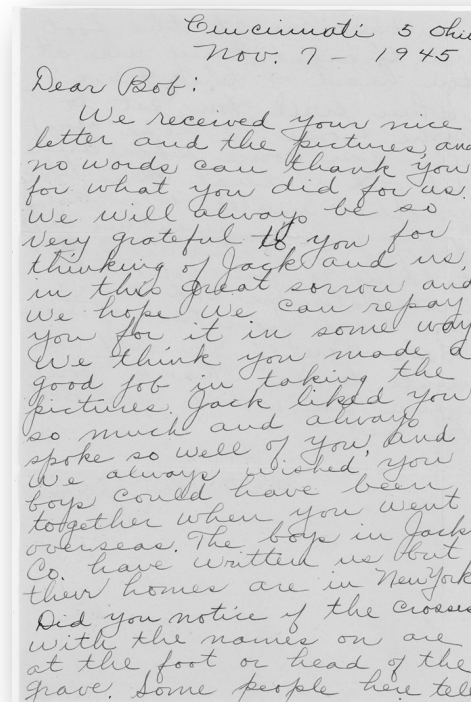
Unknown Heroes of Delhi: The Rest of the Story

By Alan March with Anita Klawitter

Last month we received a very special phone call from Rob Heintz of Delhi. He told us of a connection he had to the article, "Unknown Heroes of Delhi" in our winter newsletter. That article told the story of several Delhi veterans who had been killed in action (KIA) in various wars. However, their biographies were unknown to the Delhi Township Veteran's Association which wanted to honor their sacrifice. (A more detailed version of the article, with more photos, is available on our website). One of the veterans featured was John Spieker who was KIA near the end of WWII. Our original story relayed how Delhi native, Florian Klawitter, received a letter from John Spieker's grieving parents requesting he send to them photos of John's grave in Belgium. We learned that Mr. Klawitter traveled from his post to Belgium, took the photos, and laid flowers at John's grave. Rob Heintz's call revealed more of the story. His father was also contacted by Mr. and Mrs. Spieker requesting photos of their beloved son's grave.

One can only imagine the desperation and grief John's parents were feeling to reach out to multiple Delhi residents, who themselves were so far from home, in attempts to see their son's grave. It is thought, like any

parent, they were searching for the closure seeing their son's grave would surely bring. Rob Heintz brought to the Delhi Historical Society some letters and photographs from his father's collections from his time in the US Army during World War II. Rob's dad, Bob Heintz, served in Company H of the 67th Ar-



mored Regiment in Europe. Also a native of Delhi, Bob knew the Spieker family on Foley Road. John was the son of Lawrence and Bessie Spieker. Assigned to an armored unit, just as Bob had been, John Spieker was part

of the Allied push eastward after the D-Day invasion. As spring 1945 approached, he and his fellow American soldiers had entered Germany. On March 8, 1945, just two months before the war in Europe would end, John died in combat. He was only 20 years old.

John was interred in the American cemetery in Belgium. Mr. and Mrs. Spieker wrote to Florian Klawitter, Bob Heintz, and perhaps others, asking them to send photographs their son's grave. Bob was granted leave and found the graveyard. He snapped several photos which captured the reverent silence of rows upon rows of stark white crosses.

Thousands of Americans lie buried in this one cemetery, beneath those crosses upon which



their names and serial numbers are stenciled in black paint. One of those crosses bears the name John L. Spieker. Bob mailed several photos of the place to the Spiekers. Shortly after that, they replied with a letter of thanks for that simple act of friendship and caring. That letter appears here.

John L. Spieker's name is etched in stone on the gray marble of the Delhi Township Veteran's Memorial on Neeb Road. It is a place to honor all the veterans who have served and sacrificed. It should also be mentioned that the Spieker family had John's remains returned from Belgium and reinterred at St. Joseph's cemetery in 1947. Bob's letters and photos remind us that the families of the fallen also sacrifice greatly for our freedom. And now you know the rest of the story.

To read about the other five Delhi KIA soldiers, go to www.delhihistoricalsociety.org and scroll down to read the blog



Collections Corner

# Old News is Good News

The Delhi Historical Society has begun work to digitize three out-of-print local newspapers from its collections. In consultation with the Ohio History Connection and the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library, the Delhi Historical Society will digitize these newspapers to make them available for researchers. When completed, the library will host the digital collections which will be fully searchable.

The papers are:

- The *Del-Retti News*, published by the St Dominic Parish at the corner of Delhi Road and Pedretti Road from 1946 to 1967. This is more than a simple parish newsletter, it is a professionally laid out and printed newspaper covering all of Delhi Township.
- *Township, the Newspaper of Delhi*, created in 1973 in response to community papers being gobbled-up by large, out of town corporations. *Township* was written by Delhi people for Delhi people. *Township* was professionally produced and continued publication



through April 1979.

- And *Cincinnati News Month West*, created by the merger of *The Green Township News*, *The Hill News*, and *Township*, in May, with two of the men who owned and operated *Township*. *Cincinnati News Month West* was a tabloid style monthly with more photographs and feature stories.

You will read more about this important project in the months to come.

# Capital Campaign a Success!

The capital campaign launched by Delhi Historical Society in September 2019 has reached its goal. As of February 2021, donations and commitments have surpassed the target of \$25,000. Those funds will help us repair and maintain our Farmhouse. Our aged heating system has already been replaced with a new high-efficiency one. Now, we will be able to repair our signature wrap-around porch and perform other needed repairs this year.



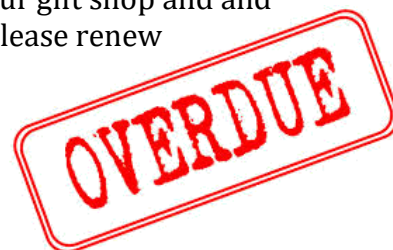
Generous donations by the following people put us over the top:

- Mary Finn
- Jay Buchert
- Jim Fanning

Our thanks to all who have supported us in this vital campaign. Your support enables Delhi Historical Society to continue serving our community.

## Notice to Lapsed Members

Check your mailing label to see the expiration date for your historical society membership. Over the next few weeks we will be purging the names of members whose memberships are more than a year lapsed. So if you want to continue get newsletters and emails, and discounts at our gift shop and for trips, please renew your membership NOW!



### Condolences to:

The family of longtime member Don Hengehold, who died in February.  
The family of Frieda Knolle, who died in January.

# DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY BRICK PAVERS

Become a part of Delhi Township history. Purchase a brick paver engraved with your name or the name of a relative or friend (living or deceased) which will be added to the flag landscape at the Delhi Historical Society. **Bricks are 4" by 8"** and engraved with a maximum of three lines of 14 letters each, including spaces. All letters will be upper case. Cost per brick is \$50.

Donor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

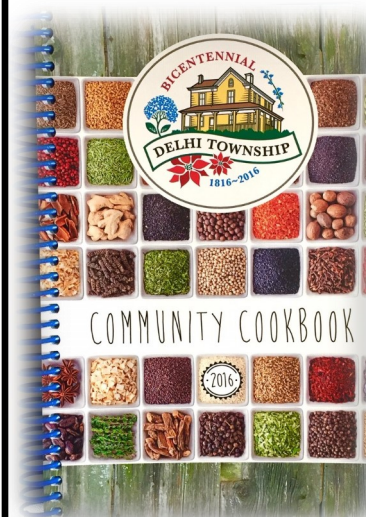
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number in case we need to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Delhi Historical Society 468 Anderson Ferry Rd Cincinnati, OH 45238

Names on Brick (3 lines of 14 letters each)


## Delhi Township Cookbook



We still have a few copies of this marvelous mix of recipes gathered from Delhi residents. The eight chapters of this spiral-bound cook book covers Appetizers & Drinks, Soups & Salads, Main Dishes & Side Dishes, Desserts, Cookies & Candies (get a copy just for this chapter!) and more.

More than 250 pages, including a table of contents and an index.

Stop by the historical society to get one now for the ridiculously low price of only \$5 (plus sales tax). We can ship one to you for \$5 more (still a great value).

**Ad space for sale**  
**\$25 per issue/ \$90 for full year**  
**For details email:**  
**amarch@delhihistoricalsociety.org**

## Support Those Who Support the DHS

Travis D. Curd  
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