

Delhi History

Volume 44, Issue 4

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DELHI



HISTORY

Winter 2021-22

Volume 44, Issue 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Speaker Programs at Delhi Park Lodge

Cincinnati is Full of Firsts

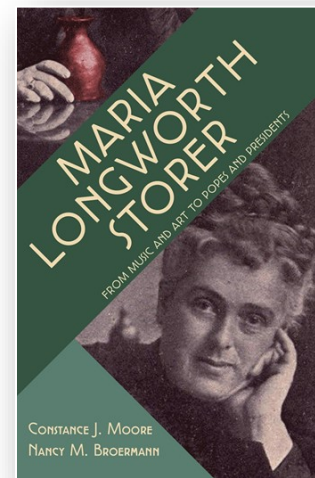


Rick Pender

For our January 10 program, author Rick Pender discusses his book *Oldest Cincinnati*. As one of the first settlements in the Northwest Territory, Cincinnati is full of firsts and oldests. Hear stories of a ferry that enabled early settlers to cross the river at Augusta, Kentucky, in 1798; it's still in business today. An inn providing shelter for early stagecoach travelers opened in 1803 in Lebanon, Ohio, and continues welcoming guests to this day.



Music, Art, Popes & Presidents—Maria Longworth Storer



The February 14 program welcomes author Nancy Broermann to discuss her book *Maria Longworth Storer*. Nancy will take us on a journey of Maria's life contributions outside of her well-known founding of Rookwood Pottery. As granddaughter of millionaire Nicholas Longworth, Maria had the funds and the connections for major contributions to our city and her powerful influence on turn-of-the-century politicians.



Nancy Broermann

Programs & Events

- Dec. 1, 2021—March 1, 2022. The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is closed for winter.
- Jan. 10, 7 p.m., at the Delhi Park Lodge: *Oldest Cincinnati* with author Rick Pender.
- Feb. 14, 7 p.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge: *Maria Longworth Storer: From Music and Art to Popes and Presidents* with author Nancy Broermann.
- Future Programs This Spring: Findlay Market, Baseball player Lee Witterstaetter, and Ohio's 9th German Regiment in the Civil War.

During winter months, the Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum and Research Center is open by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.

From the President Anita Klawitter Thanks to all of our Helpers



Looking back at 2021 reminds me of all the challenges and opportunities we met during the past year and how proud I am of all the accomplishments that we achieved. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, our consultant Alan March, who oversees our day to day operations, all of our volunteers, including Suzanne Bird, Katy Corns, JoAnne Fischesser, Ray Grothaus, Joann Verville Long, Ben Schmidt and Sue Timmer, members of the Western Hills Garden Club, members of the Board of Directors, our members, visitors and program attendees for helping to make 2021 a successful year.

The coming year will be filled with new exhibitions and programs and we'll be resuming our popular tours!

Thank you all for your continued support. I wish you a safe and relaxing winter.

Anita

WANTED

-GENTLY USED OFFICE CHAIRS-

The Delhi Historical Society prides itself on being good stewards of the support our community provides. All of the office furniture we use are second-hand. After 25 years, some chairs have out-lived their usefulness.

Before we go to thrift shops seeking replacements for our worn-out chairs, we thought we would ask our members and supporters if they have any of the below items, gently used, which they would be willing to donate to us.

Four "secretary" office chairs, on wheels, no arms.

Two desk chairs on wheels, arms or armless.

- Tall, Thin Wood Cabinet-

We also have the need for a cabinet to improve storage of supplies, allowing more efficient use of an existing closet.

Wood cabinet - 18" wide, 12" deep, 36" to 72" tall.

The ideal cabinet will have doors to hide its contents and be of simple, though older design.

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

Collections Corner

Witterstaetter Horse and Wagon Return Home To Farmhouse

A couple of weeks ago the Delhi Historical Society accepted a horse and wagon into its collections. Fortunately, we won't have to feed the horse.

Joey Witterstaetter of Delhi brought to the DHS two wooden toys which have been in his family for many years. He rescued them from the attic of the old R.C. Witterstaetter house on Covedale Avenue near Foley Road, before it was razed this past spring. Joey said the toys belonged to his great-great uncle and namesake, Joseph Witterstaetter, the youngest brother of Joey's great-grandfather R.C.

All but tiny stumps of the horse's leather ears are missing. The tail is stiff; it is likely made of real horse hair. Along the horse's back is the faint outline of what may have been a saddle.

The wagon's wheels are made of steel and all roll freely. The front wheels steer just as they would on a real horse-drawn wagon. One can imagine a horse harnessed to such a wagon hauling large steel cans of milk or many crates of flowers heading to market.

A couple of days after the donation, DHS volunteer Ray Grothaus spoke to life-long Delhi resident, 90-year-old Helen Ludwig. Helen was the last resident of the R.C.

Witterstaetter house, Though she was much younger than the elder Joe Witterstaetter, she knew him well. She knew that he carved the horse and built the wagon. In fact, he made other horses and wagons and gave them as gifts.

For decades, Joseph Witterstaetter lived in the old farmhouse at 468 Anderson Ferry Road, which is now the headquarters for the Delhi Historical Society. It is likely

this horse and wagon were made in our historic farmhouse. Now, after many years, they have returned to their birthplace. Soon, they will be displayed for the entire community to enjoy.



Wooden toy horse.
11.5 inches tall, 13 inches long



Wooden toy wagon.
7 inches tall, 14 inches long

Board News

DHS could not function without the commitment and expertise of our Board of Directors who offer thoughtful leadership as well as strategic and organizational oversight in order to keep DHS thriving for generations to come. Earlier this year we began spotlighting various board members. In this issue we spotlight Pete Pritchard and Veronica Buchanan.

Pete Pritchard serves as the Delhi Historical Society's Physical Facilities chairman overseeing the care, maintenance, and repair of the 150-year-old farmhouse which serves as the Society's museum, research center, and headquarters. Pete is an active Delhi Township firefighter and a life-long resident of Delhi. In 2003, he created the Delhi Township Fire Department Museum and contin-

ues as the museum's director and its driving force. Additionally, Pete is an experienced real estate agent and investor. Pete was also instrumental in securing two large donations to our capital campaign so our signature wrap around porch project could be completed.

Vice President Veronica Buchanan is the Archivist for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati based in Delhi Township. She also serves as the Executive Secretary for Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious, a national organization comprised of over 175 members. Veronica's first contact with DHS was as a high school volunteer. Her experience was life changing. She earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in public history and became a professional archivist. Veronica's knowledge and experience guide not only the Board, she also serves as our collections and archives committee chair.

Delhi Christmas Parade



The Delhi Historical Society participated in the annual Delhi Business Association's Christmas Parade on Dec. 4. New this year Pete Pritchard's '57 Chevrolet. Banner carriers from left to right, Linda Klawitter Shelton, Veronica Buchanan and Katy Corns, followed by Abe Lincoln (Lenny Kleiner), Sue Timmer, Jim Klawitter (in his father's WW II jacket), Ben Schmidt and Sharon Parker as Rosie the Riveter. Pete Pritchard and Anita Klawitter wave from inside the Chevy.

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 - Donor (\$50 or higher) ____
 - Business (\$50) ____

Member Benefits include 10% off purchase of items in our gift shop and excursions and programs.