

Footprints

Volume 38, Issue 1

Delhi Historical Society

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Preserving our Past for the Future

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News About the Board

We are lucky to have enthusiastic new and returning members willing to serve on the Delhi Historical Society's Board of Trustees.

Terry Aretz loves Delhi, where her husband is president of Mount St. Joseph University. This is her 5th year on the board; she is also a Cincinnati Art Museum docent, a member of the Cincinnati Woman's Club, the Western Hills Garden Club and many other local and national nonprofit organizations.

Phyllis Timperman is originally from northern Kentucky, attended Villa Madonna Academy and graduated from Thomas More College. She retired from Franklin Savings after 35 years and now lives in Mack. This is her second term and is on budget and finance committees.

Sue Ann Lott Vogt has resided in Delhi most of her life. She is a retired elementary school teacher and now is a school volunteer and tutor. She is an active member of the Western Hills Garden Club and volunteers in the farmhouse in its garden. She is on the Program Committee for the historical society and fixes all of our computer problems!

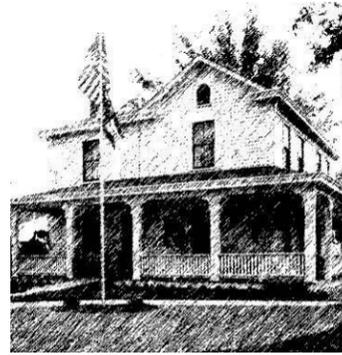
Thank You... for these gifts over the fall months

Jo Anne & John Gottcent and Gates & Barbara Moss for donations in memory of Dorothy May Deneke Henn.
Ron Robben of Robben Florist and Garden Center, for the donation of bulbs to plant in our Farmhouse flower garden.
Diane Dudley, for planting those bulbs!
Sue Doan, for a kind donation
Volunteers of the Western Hills Garden Club for putting the Farmhouse flower gardens to bed for the winter months...thank you!
Edith Hunsicker Henlein, for the donation of historical books to add to our collection

News About the Board, continued...

Gery Greiner was born and raised in Cincinnati and graduated from St. Xavier High School and the University of Cincinnati. He is a retired pharmacist and enjoys gardening, fly fishing and hunting.

Gary Schroeder has lived in Delhi for over 40 years and retired from Provident Bank as vice-president. He was also a Delhi Township Administrator from 2005 to 2012. He now volunteers with many service and non-profit organizations and enjoys life with his wife Kathy, his sons and their families.



Programs & Events

Jan. 12: "**Savage Seamstress.**" See newsletter for details.

Feb. 9: "**Boss Cox**" presented by Judy Spraul-Schmidt, professor of History at UC-Blue Ash.

March 9: "**Spring Grove Cemetery**" presented by Phil Nuxhall, Spring Grove Cemetery Historian.

April 13: "**History of the Enquirer**" presented by Jeff Suess, Cincinnati Enquirer Librarian.

May 11: "**Local Boys: Hometown Players for the Cincinnati Reds**" presented by authors Jack and Joe Heffron

June 15: "**A Sentimental Journey with Doris and Rosemary**" presented by Cincinnati Museum Center

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.

DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2015

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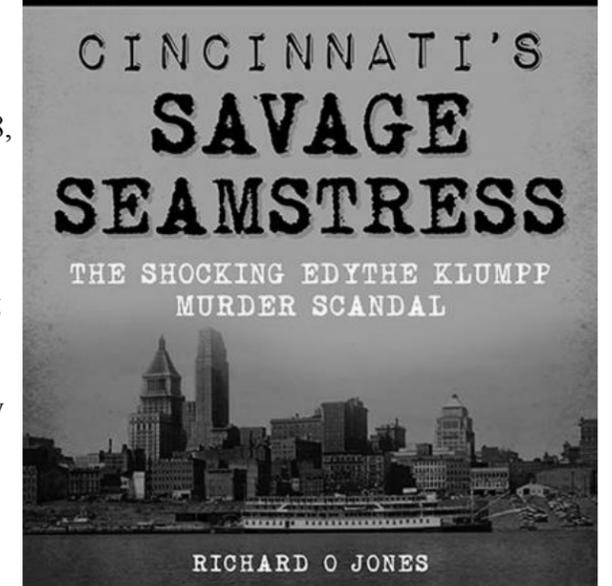
Crime and Culpability in Cincinnati

Join us at the **Delhi Park Lodge on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 pm** to hear local author, Richard O. Jones, share the tragic story of Edythe Klumpp and a saga of crime and punishment that captivated Cincinnati in the late 1950s.

When duck hunters stumbled over the body of Cincinnati resident Louise Bergen in 1958, the police immediately turned to her estranged husband and then to the woman he was living with: an older divorcee named Edythe Klumpp. Using lie detector tests, she was accused and later convicted of murder and sentenced to die by the electric chair.

Governor Michael V. DiSalle put his political career on the line to save Ms. Klumpp from death by personally interviewing her using "truth serum." But, still today, doubts remain about her guilt or innocence.

Richard O. Jones separates fact from fiction in his comprehensive book on the subject, published in September, 2014. Jones, a former writer and editor for the Hamilton Journal-News, now writes about true crime. He is a board member of the Butler County Historical So-



ciety, a member of the History Speakers Bureau, and a regular presenter at Miami University. He recently received special recognition for his coverage of the Centennial Commemoration of the Great Flood of 1913.

We will meet at the Delhi Township Parks Glen Carter Lodge at 5125 Foley Road. Our programs are always the second Monday of every month, except for July, August, and December.

From the Archives by Peg Schmidt

Newspaper articles are windows to Delhi's past & people

Many of you might not be aware that the Delhi Historical Society has a World Plus subscription to Ancestry.com that includes access to Newspapers.com (3400 newspapers nationwide) and Fold3.com (U.S. military records). All three of these Websites are just another option for genealogy researchers coming to the Farmhouse to learn about their family history. It's how we use your membership fees to help you!

Newspapers were the Internet of the 19th and early 20th century. In addition to regular news, they carried everything from burial permits to marriage licenses, to murders and suicides...and just plain gossip.

In April 1907, a descriptive lengthy article appeared concerning the mental cruelty and battery charges filed by the wife of Delhi Township trustee John Wentzel, in which she claimed, while arguing one morning in bed the trustee "pulled the quilts off of her and took them with him to another room." The paper didn't report how the judge ruled on that charge!

An 1892 article entitled "A Delhi Scandal" relates the story of two well-known Delhi families, Myers and Biggs, who were neighbors (the Biggs house still stands on Mount St. Joseph property and the Myers house sits on a hill above Neeb and Foley roads). Seems that insurance adjuster W.M. Wicker caught the eye of both Jennie Biggs and Lily Myers. He ran off to Louisville with Jennie, but kept a relationship with Lily in Delhi for 20 years. When Jennie found out, it ended up in the courts and the whole sordid affair was aired out in Enquirer.

Another story involved the Paull family (for whom Paul Road is named). Seems Andrew Paul disappeared from his family home in 1906 along with \$3,300 from their bank account. After several months, however, Mrs. Paul was not ready yet to divorce him, but went to the courts to be named "receiver" of the property so she could take care of the farm.



The Biggs House, now property of Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Joseph

Backwoods Tales

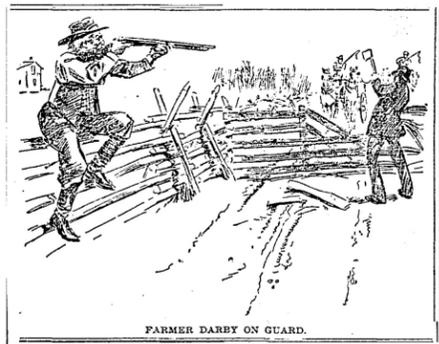
Sometimes, the reader might have felt that reporters were making fun of rural Delhi. In 1860, they reported that Samuel Perkins, while working in a Delhi Township farm field, was bitten by a rattlesnake. His leg immediately swelled, he hurried to his home, opened his bottle of whiskey, poured some on the wound and drank the rest – about a pint and a half. The Enquirer reports that the remedy "effected a cure, for in about three hours the swelling subsided and his pain was nearly gone."

In 1905, two Delhi women were "terrorized by Romanian Gypsies who had set up a camp of 14 tents in the shade of the hills along the Rapid Run." Seems they played the typical flimflam money switch game at a bakery and later robbed a woman of her purse. Constable Hafner went to the camp, retrieved the stolen property and then "ordered the party to pack up and move on."

The Darby family caused quite a stir when they put a fence up across Hillside Avenue east of Delhi Pike (old Sisters' Hill) in 1897, claiming it was their property. The newspaper reporter portrayed the family as backwoods ingrates, when quite the opposite was true. They were among Delhi's first residents, relatives of two presidents - William Henry Harrison and his grandson Benjamin Harrison; business owners and college graduates. In the end, the township constable convinced Mr. Darby that it was more appropriate to let the courts handle the dispute.

Crime and Punishment

Our small township was not immune to crime. I came upon an article about the hijacking near Delhi and Neeb roads of a truckload of alcohol coming from Lawrenceburg in June of 1921. The hijackers blindfolded the driver, put him in the car, and while two of the men took the truck toward Cincinnati, the



Above Andrew B. Darby, below, the Andy Darby portrayed by an Enquirer

other two drove the blindfolded man to Mt. Healthy where they dropped him off. Two months later, there was a similar hijacking of a truck with alcohol on River Road just west of Cleves, during which the truck driver was killed in a shootout. This time the culprits were caught and the six suspects were tried, convicted and sentenced to life in the Ohio State Penitentiary.

One of the more notable crimes was the rape and murder of Emma Brater at her home on Muddy Creek Road in 1896. The capture and trial of the perpetrator, the family's farmhand William Haas, made front page news for weeks, as did his execution when the 17-year-old became the first person to die in Ohio's new electric chair.

Tragedy

Country farm families also had their share of sadness. In 1898, Leonard Reidel, whose greenhouses stood at Ebenezer and Rapid Run, left his rifle in the woodshed after a quail hunting trip. His 12-year-old son Walter discovered the gun, picked it up to see how it worked then accidentally dropped it causing it to fire, hit and kill 7-year-old Julia Reidel. This story is particularly sad for me as I did an oral history of Walter some 75 years later for the History of Delhi Township book.

In 1867, 18-year-old William Betts became jealous when he saw Sarah Klein holding hands with another young man during Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church. He followed the couple to the Klein

house on Neeb Road nearby, and after she kissed her new beau goodbye, Betts shot Sarah to death and then turned the gun on himself.

Then there is the sad story of 18-month-old child of Ed Wickemeyer, who wandered out of his family's Delhi Township house one day in May 1876, and after an extensive search was found suffocated in the farm's privy vault.

Politics and Community

As is still true today, politics and community happenings made up the bulk of news. An ongoing problem was the toll roads. In 1910, the Hamilton County Commissioners ordered the county prosecutor to "condemn the Delhi Tollpike," which allowed the county to take over the road (which had been built and maintained by a private company through tolls) and therefore make improvements. The situation was a little different for River Road, which was constructed by the county, but run by a toll company. Delhi residents felt they had already paid for the road with their taxes and shouldn't be penalized through tolls. From 1842 on, there were constant efforts to have the gates removed. That happened in 1912 when the last remaining tollgate in Hamilton County was removed at River Road at Anderson Ferry.

On August 8, 1922, a Hamilton County judge named Henry Koester, John Koester, W.B. Snell, I.F. Murphy, and S.M. Hazzard, as the board of directors of the new consolidated Delhi Rural School District. It merged the township's five one- and two-room school-houses into the new Delhi School at Foley and Anderson Ferry roads, which boasted 10 classrooms, a cafeteria and gymnasium.



Thank You!

To you, our wonderful Delhi Historical Society members, for your overwhelming and generous response to our first "Dues Drive" this fall. Your generosity will help us continue to bring Delhi history to this vibrant community.

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) _____