

Footprints

Volume 33, Issue 2

Delhi Historical Society

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Preserving our Past for the Future

Society News

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Best of Delhi Raffle

Inside this newsletter you'll find your Best of Delhi raffle chances. This is an opportunity for you to help the society pay the upkeep and maintenance of our Farmhouse Museum during the slow summer months. At the same time, you have a chance for some great prizes thanks to some fine businesses in Delhi Township.

Prizes include flowers each month for a year from Delhi Kroger Store, a \$50 gift card for Delhi Frisch's, \$40 in gift certificates from Delhi Skyline, and two field level box seat tickets to a Cincinnati Red's game in September. Several more prizes are in the works.

We wish to thank Delhi Kroger, Delhi Skyline, Delhi Fifth Third, and Delhi Frisch's for their donations. Please remember to support these businesses and thank their managers for helping out the Delhi Historical Society.

The raffle takes place at the September 13 meeting of the Historical Society. You do not need to be present to win.

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Condolences

Condolences to Gene Bertke and family on the death of Gene's wife. The Bertkes were faithful house volunteers for many years. Condolences also to the family of member Bill Lape. Bill operated the Barber Shop at Greenwell and Delhi for many years. We also note the passing of longtime member Terry Garrett.

Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes go out to member Pat Morgan who suffered some broken bones in a fall at her home recently as well as to longtime board member and volunteer Shirley Lyman, who is well on the way to recovering from a broken hip.

The date on your mailing label tells you when your membership expires. Don't miss the opportunity for all the historical society offers. Renew your membership! (If no date appears then you are a life member.)



Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 13: Delhi Historical Society Program at Delhi Park Lodge, 7 pm - "History of Cincinnati High School Football" with Lonnie Wheeler
- Oct. 11: Delhi Historical Society Program at Delhi Park Lodge, 7 p.m. - "History of the Sisters of Charity" and tour of Mount St. Joseph Motherhouse with Sister Judith Metz, SC.

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.

Suggested donation is \$1.

Footprints is published 5 times a year by the Delhi Historical Society for its membership.

DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Society Honors Cusicks for service



Garden Club members who keep the historic garden at the Farmhouse beautiful: from left, Eileen Wolfer, Nancy Clare, Mary Finn, Nancy Fen-ton, and Lois Stephens

The Garden Club of Ohio awarded the first place in Historic Preservation to the Delhi Historical Farmhouse Garden. This happened in the spring. All the award winners presentations were sent to the National Garden Club and I am pleased and proud to announce that the Delhi Farmhouse Garden has won the National Award #50 for Historic Preservation - The May

Duff Walters Award for the Preservation of Beauty. This award will be presented at the GCO Fall District meeting on September 14.

The garden has been tended by volunteers from the Western Hills Garden Club since 2003. Every week, beginning the last week of April until the end of October, Western Hills Gardeners come on their assigned weeks to deadhead, weed, water and cultivate the perennials. The flowers chosen for the garden are ones which were found in gardens 100

Civil War Items needed for 2011 exhibit at Farmhouse

Next spring will mark the 150th anniversary of the U.S.'s greatest internal conflict, the Civil War. The Delhi Historical Society will mark the occasion with an exhibit that tells the story of how people in Delhi Township coped with the war between the states, from the soldiers who fought on the battlefield, to those who guarded the homefront, as well as the Sisters who served their country.

We'll also showcase the story of the underground railroad and tell the story of how Morgan's Raiders skirted the township.

To make this exhibit come alive we need artifacts, photos and your family's stories of the Civil War. Please contact the historical society at 513-451-4313, or email delhi.history@fuse.net if you have something that might be of interest for this exhibit.

Farmhouse/Society News

Society Honors Cusicks for 20 years of service

The Delhi historical Society honored John and Nancy Cusick with the Volunteer Appreciation Award at the annual Ice Cream Social on July 12. The Cusick's association with the Delhi Historical Society began nearly 20 years ago in 1991 when they became members. It wasn't long before both of them were actively involved.

John served on the board of directors serving as president, vice president and also treasurer for many years. He also volunteers on the maintenance committee. He developed and maintained our Website for many years. One of his most important jobs is being our computer technician – whenever there is a technical problem at the farmhouse we can count on John to fix it, saving us big bucks on service calls.

Nancy, who also served on the board, for many years has been our membership chairperson. She also is one of our tour planners, using her expertise as a travel agent to make bus, eating and site arrangements. About 10 years ago she graciously took over running our Christmas and Spring teas, one of our biggest fundraisers. With help from Sue Timmer, this job involves months of preparation, sending out letters to those who have attended before, getting volunteers to help serve and do dishes, and then preparing the food. She gets a



Nancy and John Cusick accept the Volunteer Appreciation Award from DHS president Mary Finn.

group together each year to make perhaps a thousand cookies for the tea-goers.

Both Nancy and John participated in Pioneer Days, Christmas Parades, and most of our special events.

They have also been very willing to help the historical society in one of its most important functions – fundraising, by working at the Christmas galas, and donating to our endowment fund drive. Recently, when Nancy celebrated her 60th birthday, she asked that instead of presents, people donate to the historical society.

About 15 years ago when Nancy's family was selling the family farm, they were able to rescue the beloved outhouse from demolition. Today it is preserved at our farmhouse, thanks to Nancy and John.

Memorials/Honorariums

Nancy Cusick (60th birthday)

- Denna Erhardt
- Paul & Nancy Dornette
- Bob & Carol Hater
- Anthony & Mary St. Charles

Jeep Sunderhaus

- Al Zeiser

Pat Thien

- Al Zeiser

William Lape

- Al Zeiser

Bernard Saffer

- Al Zeiser

Farmhouse Volunteer Schedule

Week	Sunday	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	Peg Schmidt	Need volunteer	Alfred Zeiser
Week 2	Peg Schmidt	Carol Niehaus	Lee & Betty Baker
Week 3	Pat Burden	Fred DiPilla	Katie Corns
Week 4	Mary Finn	Need volunteer	Pam Hubert
Week 5	Need volunteer	Peg Schmidt	Pam Hubert

Think of DHS in Estate Plans

Did you know that 70 percent of Americans give annually to charity, but only 5 percent of Americans leave a bequest to a charity?

Life insurance benefits are an easy way to make a gift to the historical society. To contribute a policy that is paid in full, simply indicate the change of beneficiary on a form available from your agent.

Please consider the DHS when talking with your attorney about other estate plans.

From the Archives

Sayler Park Marks 100 Years Since Leaving Delhi Township for Cincinnati

The following article is adapted from an article that appeared in the Germantown, Ohio, historical society newsletter, written by Donald E. Emerck Jr. He tells the story of the first settlers of German Township, just north of the Warren County line. And while the names and destination were different, their method of travel was the same as those who settled in Delhi Township. I've changed it a little to reflect the story of the settlers who came to Delhi from Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts that first decade of 1800. But it is a typical story of people who came by large numbers to our area in the first decade of the 19th century.

In early 1804, 24 families prepared to load all they owned into wagons and said their goodbyes to loved ones and good friends, most of whom they would never see again. Their route would take them 600 miles overland across the rugged Cumberland Mountains—a trip that took a several weeks to Pittsburgh. If they managed to reach that town, their plan was to load their families, animals and possessions on flat boats and drift, pole, or even sail down the Ohio River to a little village called Cincinnati some 300 miles away. Assuming they would reach Cincinnati and did not float or sail by it, it would then be a matter of off loading and making their way using whatever trails they could find.

It is not hard to imagine what most of the women folk had to say when they realized this undertaking would involve leaving their comfortable homes for a log cabin and dirt floor in God-forsaken Ohio.

We now know that they made a successful journey. Historical records survive telling us how it came about. But, here in the 21st century, can we really put ourselves back in that time? Can we really comprehend what it must have been like to make such a journey more than 200 years ago? Probably not – we are too far removed from that time, we are too immersed in our technology, too handicapped by modern knowledge to see and experience as they saw and experienced.

On the other hand we can at least understand and appreciate the journey and the America in which it took place. We know when reaching Pittsburgh, they did *not* take some pictures of the Ohio River, did *not* grab some burgers at McDonalds, and did *not* use their credit cards to spend a night at the Holiday Inn.

We also know none of them called for roadside assistance if a wheel came off of a wagon and none called 911 if an arm was broken or a child was burned by the



An artist's conception of the hamlet of Cincinnati sketched between 1800 and 1810.

nightly camp fire. It is a safe bet that none called an insurance agent if the wagon and everything they owned fell into the Ohio, or that it ever occurred to them that perhaps their government should be giving out subsidies to help them get to Ohio.

When they offloaded the flatboats at Cincinnati in 1804, we know they did *not* stop to telephone, text message, twitter, email or even telegraph relatives and friends back home to let them know they had arrived. A letter was possible, but that could take a few weeks if they were lucky, or a few months if they were not.

At the same time, there was a certain upside in their America. If they were distracted and their wagon ran over somebody's dog, there was little need to worry about being sued – shot maybe – but not sued. There were no driver, gun, hunting, or building permits to be had and no wagon registration under the seat. They paid no sales tax, and once they got a grist mill operating or a country store opened, there was no income tax to pay. In short, their America had not yet learned how to grow regulations, taxes and lawyers.

Relatively speaking, getting here was easy. Now the battle began against frontier disease, crop failures and a host of problems we of the 21st century can barely comprehend. Their only support would be family, friends and neighbors. Yet they were successful and did so with significantly less knowledge and technology than that possessed by American settlers who came years after them.