

Delhi History

Volume 45, Issue 2

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DELHI



HISTORY

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Coming this Fall: Delhi Wine and Cincinnati Chili

Three Icons of Cincinnati Chili Making Will Come Together Onstage for the First Time in History

The Delhi Historical Society's speaker programs will take a break in July and August. We are back in the fall and all about food and drink with a couple of fantastic programs. Please note that the October program will be at Mount St. Joseph University because of the anticipated crowd at this once in a lifetime meeting of three Cincinnati Chili icons. It will also be on a Tuesday, instead of our normal Monday date.



Winemaking in the West Side During the Catawba Craze - Sept. 12, 7:00 PM. Author, historian, and "Food etymologist" Dann Woellert will share the discoveries he made while writing his book, *Cincinnati Wine, an Effervescent History*. Get a taste of wine history which has its roots in Delhi Township and its neighbors. At the Delhi Park Lodge.

A Night With Cincy Chili Royalty! - Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7:00 PM. Learn how Cincinnati chili was created and how it has evolved into a Cincinnati staple from the families involved! Johnny Kiradjieff of Empress Chili, Roger Daoud of Gold Star Chili, and Joe Lambrinides of Skyline Chili, will make chili history come to life. This big event will be held at Mount St. Joseph University.

More details later this summer. Visit us on Facebook or our Website.



Your Best of Delhi Raffle Tickets are enclosed. Drawing will take place at the Monday, Sept. 12, program. Return your tickets soon for a chance to win some great prizes from Delhi businesses!

Programs & Events

- Sept. 12, 7 p.m., at the Delhi Park Lodge: *Winemaking in the Westside During the Catawba Craze* with Dann Woellert.
- Tuesday, Oct. 11, 7 p.m. at Mount St. Joseph University: *A Night With Cincy Chili Royalty* featuring Johnny Kiradjieff of Empress Chili, Roger Daoud of Gold Star Chili, and Joe Lambrinides of Skyline Chili.

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum and Research Center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. If you are doing research please call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.

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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 Anita Klawitter

Chain Migration: Untangling the Delhi Links



Chain migration is when a series of people from the same place follow each other to a new destination.

The first time I even thought about the chain migration phenomenon was in 2018 when I was preparing for a Klawitter Family Reunion being held at the Delhi Park Lodge. In order help my extended family better understand from where our ancestors originated, I bought a large map of Germany and placed stickers indicating each branch of the family along with their town of origin.

As I began placing the stickers on the map a pattern quickly emerged. Clustered within a 30 mile radius on the Netherlands/Northern German border were the towns several of my ancestors immigrated from... eventually all settling in the little village of Delhi, Ohio. Recently, Board Member Peg Schmidt, informed me that several of her husband's ancestors also hail from the same region as my Netherlands/Northern German ancestors. Begging the question, was there a link? Did my Huenefeld, Kuper, Reimerink and Busch ancestors know the Schmidt ancestors, or was it just word of mouth that enticed so many to leave their homeland and eventually settle in Delhi?

I continued placing stickers on the map signifying other branches of our family tree, this time in the Baden-Baden region. Again, the same pattern emerged. My Robein, Wittich, and Rhein ancestors all lived even closer together in this region of Germany, with my Tuchfarber ancestors just a bit further south. Again, did they know one another before establishing roots in Delhi?

My Klawitter ancestors are another form of chain migration. The first Klawitter to arrive in Delhi was my great-great uncle, Father Laurenz Klawitter, a Catholic priest, who immigrated from Tuetz, West Prussia, around 1865 to complete theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Price Hill and was working at Our Lady of Victory parish.



Within a few years, all five of Laurenz's siblings would eventually find their way to Cincinnati and eventually to Delhi where my great grandfather later ran a saloon and general store on Neeb Road across from Our Lady of Victory church.

Interestingly, at DHS's recent flower sale, longtime DHS volunteer Joanne Fischesser and I were talking and I learned she is related to the Brune family – the Brune's originally owned the saloon and general store my great grandparents bought in 1895 and an Elizabeth Brune witnessed my great, great grandparents Delhi wedding in 1863. Another link?

Many from Europe emigrated to America for a variety of reasons. Primary factors involved worsening opportunities for land ownership in central Europe, persecution of some religious groups, and military conscription.

America offered better economic conditions, especially the opportunity to own land, and religious freedom.

In researching my own family tree I saw these exact circumstances play out. Years ago I found an article referencing my great, great uncle Father Klawitter and it indicated he had to flee Prussia due to religious persecution as a Catholic priest, it also intimated his younger brothers would be conscripted to join the military. On the Wittich side, I learned via his obituary in the book "Early 19th Century German Settlers in Kentucky and Ohio" my 3x great grandfather, Albert Wittich of Tuebingen, Germany, "Participated in a revolt and found it necessary to immigrate to America in the fall of 1848... Wittich fled via France and Belgium. He immediately came to Cincinnati where he had relatives, arriving on Nov. 17, 1848.

The fortitude of my ancestors and other Delhi pioneer families amazes me – to embark on such arduous journeys and to take such leaps of faith is inspiring. As I perused the Historical Society's book "New Pioneers: The People of Delhi 1820-1900" I noticed many Delhi Pio-

Continued on page 3

Collections Corner

The Mystery of Grandma Fearnley

By Alan March

She stares at you with a bulbous nose, slightly discolored at its tip. Her round face is framed by a white lace bonnet which allows short bangs of hair to appear on her forehead.

She may not be the most attractive of subjects ever painted, with her large nose and even larger hands. However, the corners of her mouth are turned up in a slight smile, revealing a grandmotherly spirit which has shown for nearly two centuries.

Her portrait was painted in England in 1842. It is in a gold wooden frame, two feet by three feet. It was sized for the larger homes with higher ceilings of its time. It would command attention if displayed on the wall of any modern room today.

The Delhi Historical Society recently acquired the portrait as part of a larger collection from the Mayhew-Fearnley families. The history of these two families are deeply intertwined for generations in Delhi and is reflected in pages from two family bibles, clothing from the 19th century, and an album of family photographs from the late 19th to early 20th Centuries that have been donated to the historical society.

The true identity of the lady in the portrait was not clear, but the donor called her Grandmother Fearnley. In fact, when the DHS received the collection the donor wasn't sure the lady was really a family member at all. The volunteers at the Delhi Historical Society have taken to calling the portrait Grandma Fearnley. The volunteers researched the portrait and the family's genealogy and determined she is the great-

neers emigrated from Germany and began their own chain migrations. People such as Simon Oehler who arrived in 1812 and was soon followed by families named Feist, Lipps, Yunker, Zeiser and Zind - all from the same town of Schuttwald in Baden-Baden; Peter Strassel, the first of many from the Alsace-Lorraine town of Walschbronn, including Martini, Kaiser, and Backscheider; and Thomas Mayhew from Martha's Vineyard, whose westward trek was followed by other Delhi families such as Allen, Cottle, Bassett, and Vincent.

Just what was it that drew our ancestors to Delhi so very long ago? Will the links ever be untangled?

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Anita



"Grandma Fearnley" in 1842 and her great-granddaughter Harriet Mayhew Fearnley in 1963.

grandmother of Harriet Mayhew Fearnley, who was born in 1865. Known as "Aunt Hattie," Harriet appeared in a photograph with the portrait in the Cincinnati Enquirer on October 14, 1956. On March 12, 1963, Hattie was featured in another Enquirer article praising her work for the Daughters of the American Revolution, though she was 97 years old. Aunt Hattie died a month after that article appeared.

Grandma Fearnley sits in the Research Center of the Delhi Historical Society, waiting for more people to visit. We are open regularly on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM. You can arrange an appointment for other hours by calling 513-451-4313 or emailing us at Info@DelhiHistoricalSociety.org.

Condolences

Condolences to Member Frank Mueller on the death of his wife and longtime DHS member Ollie Mueller.

Thank you!

For two generous donations:

- Mary Williams in memory of her husband Dr. John Williams
- Riverview - Delhi Hills Kiwanis