

# Delhi History

Volume 43, Issue 4

## Delhi Historical Society

468 Anderson Ferry Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45238

Phone: 513.451.4313  
FAX: 513.451.4300  
E-mail: [info@delhihistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@delhihistoricalsociety.org)  
[Delhihistoricalsociety.org](http://Delhihistoricalsociety.org)

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# DELHI

Winter 2020

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# HISTORY

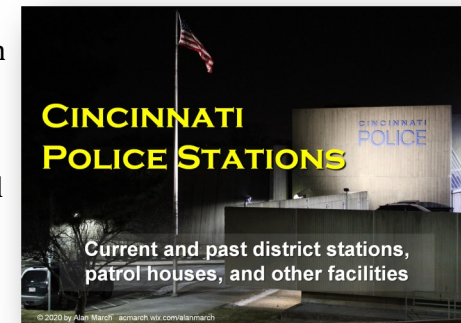
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Historical Society Presents Monthly Programs On Facebook Live

**Monday, January 11**

### **CINCINNATI POLICE STATIONS, PAST AND PRESENT**

Presented by Alan March, history and museum consultant with the Delhi Historical Society and 30-year-veteran with the Cincinnati Police Department. The Cincinnati Police Department's history traces back to the Night Watch created in 1803. The history of its police stations is nearly that old. Every day, you drive past police stations, current and past. "Cincinnati Police Stations" takes you back in time to discover the stories of the station houses which supported the public servants who wear the badge.



**Monday, February 8**

**A GUIDE TO DIGITAL GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES FROM THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF CINCINNATI ARCHIVES**  
Veronica Buchanan, archivist for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Buchanan will discuss and present the



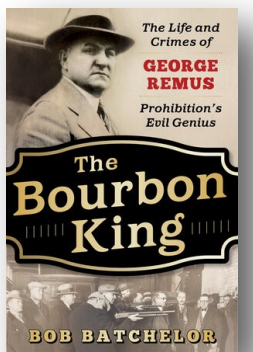
myriad of resources that have been digitized from the Mount St. Joseph Academy, Good Samaritan Hospital, Santa Maria Institute, and the College of

Mount St. Joseph. The materials have been digitized through Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board grants and are now freely available on the website Ohio Memory. The presentation will discuss how each collection can be mined for rare genealogical information and how to build tailored searches by name, institution, or time period.

**Monday, March 8**

### **THE BOURBON KING: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF GEORGE REMUS**

Author Bob Batchelor breathes life into the largest bootlegging operation in America--greater than that of Al Capone--and a man considered the best criminal defense lawyer of his era. Remus bought an empire of distilleries on "The Bourbon Trail" and used his other profession, as a pharmacist, to profit off legal loopholes. He spent millions bribing officials in the Harding Administration, and he created a roaring lifestyle that epitomized the Jazz Age over which he ruled.



*View these programs 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.. The link will take you to the Delhi Historical Society Facebook Live page.*

**The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is closed from Nov. 25 through March 8. However, we are open for research by appointment. Call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.**

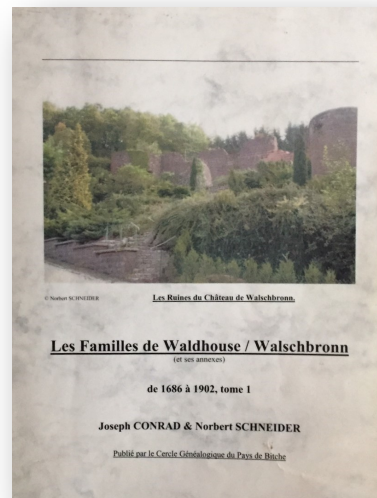
## Delhi Historical Society's World Impact

The Delhi Historical Society helps people across the country and around the world.

In mid-November 2020, the DHS received a letter from Whitewater, Wisconsin, in which the writer thanked us for helping with her genealogical research across the past two decades.

In her quest for information on her family's history, the writer contacted several organizations, including the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (the largest genealogical library in the world). She also contacted the Delhi Historical Society as her husband has roots in the Saylor Park-Delhi area. Our top historian provided information and resources which helped the writer learn about her husband's family. One of

the resources was a book titled, *The Families of Waldhouse-Walschbronn from 1686 to 1902*. The book provides details about two small towns in North Eastern France near Germany (among the Delhi families from that region are Martini, Backscheider, Kaiser, and Strassel). The researcher was so happy with what she learned, she informed the Family History Library about the book. That world-class library realized the value of the book and bought a copy for its own collection.



One of Delhi Historical Society's goals is to share the history of Delhi Township and its surrounding area. In this case, we shared our local history one family in Wisconsin, with Southwest Ohio roots. And through that family, DHS is now helping the world-wide community of genealogists.

**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

Our Ancestors Knew the Meaning of Social Distancing on Holidays



Anita Klawitter

The holiday season is upon us, offering a time of reflection and of giving thanks. For me, and many of you, the holidays will be different this year. Many are choosing to stay low key and forgo the larger gatherings due to the worsening pandemic. This shift caused me to reflect on my ancestors. For them, distance and lack of speedy transportation caused large holiday gatherings to be few and far between. Their primary source of communication was by mail, often waiting weeks or even months for mail and news to arrive to rural communities such as Delhi. Today we are relying on the telephone and online virtual apps like Facetime and Zoom to keep us connected - though nothing replaces a simple hug or sharing a cup of cider at Christmas.

As we end the year, our Annual Membership Meeting was held online on November 9. We have provided a recap in this newsletter for those who were unable to attend. As president, I am happy to report the Delhi Historical Society continues to serve the community and fulfill our mission: to discover, preserve, and share the history of Delhi Township and the surrounding areas. The majority of this work was completed due to the dedication of our volunteers and part-time consultant. Whether working from home, or at the farmhouse wearing masks and maintaining healthy distances, they have achieved successes such as researching and opening the "Schools of Delhi" exhibition, obtaining grants, enhancing our research library, increasing entries into our searchable database, as well as answering queries from the public. Our volunteers have also mentored student interns, teaching historical and museum methods enabling the next generation of historians and community servants.

I also give thanks to our Board of Directors, who are becoming pros at online meetings, and who continue to provide intelligent, honest governance to our historical society. Our community has been wonderfully supportive. From the flower sale, which adopted online ordering and curb-side pick, to buying Best of Delhi raffle tickets, to membership renewals, gift shop purchases, and donations to our Capital Campaign **you** are making it possible for Delhi Historical Society to keep serving our community. We are thankful for our visitors, members, donors, interns, volunteers, governing board, and staff, past and present. Happy Holidays, Anita

Happy Holidays, Anita

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Happy Holidays, Anita

Become a Volunteer!

Do you want to become more involved in the Historical Society? You can volunteer for as little as three hours a month. Work from home or at the Farmhouse. Below are just a few of the tasks needed. Call the Historical Society at 513-451-4313 or Email: in-

- fo@delhihistoricalsociety.org Grant Researcher/Writer
Collections Assistants Museum Guide/Docent
Collections Committee Chair Farmhouse Facilities Assistant
Educational Outreach Garden/Grounds Programs / Presentations As-

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 Family (\$25) \_\_\_
Donor (\$50 or higher) \_\_\_
Business (\$50) \_\_\_

Member Benefits include 10%

Unknown Heroes of Delhi: Time Will Not Dim the Glory of Their

By Anita Klawitter

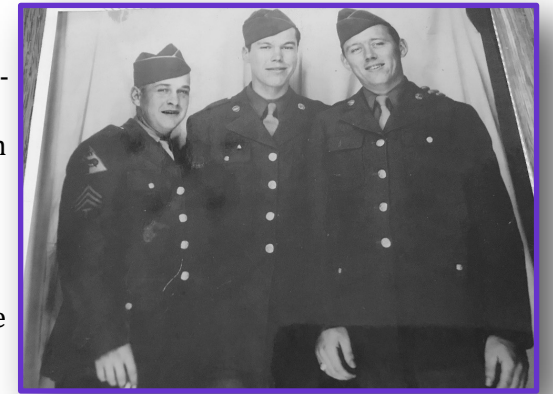
A week before Memorial Day, 2020, quite by happenstance, I stumbled upon one of my most gratifying research quests. I was pandemic bored and perusing Facebook when I noticed a posting by the Delhi Township Veteran's Association announcing their upcoming gathering to honor Delhi's KIA (Killed in Action) Veterans.

As I looked over the flyer I recognized one of the names - John Spieker. His name was mentioned in the WWII letters my dad, Florian Klawitter, sent home from the European front! The Spieker name stuck with me because of a letter written by my dad on Dec. 2, 1945, when he was stationed in Esslingen, Germany. It was to his sister Rosemary and details how Larry Spieker - who I now know to be John's father - wrote to my dad inquiring about his son's grave and requested my dad take a photo. Dad's letter to Rosemary reads in part: "... it took me almost a week to make the trip to Belgium. That is to get the picture of Jack Spieker's grave. I took two rolls of film with me to make sure I got some good pictures. The contacts are good, I am sure Larry will be satisfied with them. I put flowers on the grave for him."

This letter always stuck with me as they demonstrate that my dad - a larger than life figure who died when I was twelve - was quite a decent and compassionate man. I can only hope these photos helped a grieving father find a little closure over his son's untimely death. I posted a copy of my dad's letters on the Delhi Veteran's Facebook page later that day, and within a few hours the Veteran's posted their response and appreciation and said they had no information on Jack or three other of the KIA vets to be honored and the information from my dad's letters was appreciated, as at least now they knew where Jack was buried.

Well, amateur sleuth that I am, I couldn't let it go and using the skills learned through the Delhi Historical Society and my own genealogy research, I decided to see if I could find out more about Jack so he could have a proper biography like many of the other KIA veterans on the Delhi Township Veterans Associate website. Within a few hours of researching via Newspapers.com, the U.S. National Archives, Find A Grave and Ancestry.com I was able learn John, who went by the name "Jack" was born on March 14, 1924, to Lawrence and Bessie (Knapp) Spieker, and lived at Box 172 Foley Rd. Jack enlisted in the Army reserves on Dec. 3, 1942. Jack is the handsome young man in the center of this

photo. Sadly, Jack was killed in action on March 8, 1945, just outside of Liege, Belgium, by a German Burp Gun while jumping out of a disabled tank. I learned how Jack died from the daughter of another Delhi native, John "Mike" Kunnen, who served with Jack in WWII. Fortunately, Mike, pictured to the right of Jack, survived WWII to live a long life and just passed away in June of 2020.



Upon further research, I learned two years after Jack's death his remains were returned from Belgium and a funeral was held for him at the B.J. Meyer Colonial Funeral Home with a Requim Mass held at Our Lady of Victory on Nov.17, 1947. In April 1948 his father requested a headstone from the military to mark Jack's final resting place at St. Joseph's Cemetery located at 8th and Enright.

I posted what I had learned about Jack to the Veteran's Association Facebook page and within a few hours, was again thanked, and this time a request was made: Could I discover any information on the three additional Delhi KIA soldiers that the Delhi Veterans had no information on - William L. Reiter, William Schnicke and Clifford Story? I felt it was my duty to at least try and spent the next several hours researching and learning of these men's short lives. They say, "life is like a box of chocolates and you never no what you're going to get." While researching these three men, I found two additional Delhi men - George Schnicke and Mike Huwel - who were also KIA. On one hand, it made me sad to think of their untimely deaths in a time of war, on the other - I was pleased they would now be remembered. Each of the KIA men either lived in or were originally from Delhi. Therefore, they would earn an engraved brick at the Delhi Veteran's Memorial on Neeb Road next to the police/administration building - their names and sacrifice now known for generations to come.

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



# A Review of 2020

The year 2020 has been a challenging one. Covid-19 and actions to mitigate the disease have disrupted the Delhi Historical Society's plans for the year. Volunteers and visitors stayed away for several months. By May, volunteers returned and in July visitors began to return. Despite the disruptions, we still have accomplished much.

Some of our monthly programs were cancelled, until the Society began "virtual" programs, making them accessible online. We brought you "The Ghosts of Eden Park," by author Karen Abbott and "Cincinnati Goetta," by historian and author Dann Woellert. Online attendance to these programs has been very good. More online programs will follow.

Our annual Flower Sale included online ordering and "curb-side" pick-up at our greenhouse. Delhi and the entire west side responded wonderfully and we had one of our largest flower sales ever.

The Society opened its new exhibition, "The Schools of Delhi," which tells the story of education in Delhi Township using a variety of displays including school desks from throughout the 20th century; a matching game to challenges visitors' knowledge of school mascots; artifacts, documents, and photos which illuminate the school experience going back into the 19th century, and much more. Please come and visit the Schools of Delhi!

The DHS received a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board which allowed us to replace an old, dilapidated "flat file," and improve storage and protection of large documents such maps, drawings, and large photos. These collections are vital to researchers and understanding Delhi history.

Cincinnati Museum Center Audio-Visual Curator Jim Damico visited the DHS Research Center and praised the work the Society has begun in organizing the large photo and video collection DHS received from Oak Hills Local School District. Now all we need is a small grant to purchase proper containers so the cataloging, organizing, and storing of this great research resource can be completed.

The capital campaign which began in 2019 is about 60% complete; we still need to repair and rehab our

Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum January 1 - November 30, 2020	
<b>Ordinary Income</b>	
Direct Public Grants	3,234.00
Individual Donations, Annual Fund Appeal, Capital Campaign, Raffles, etc.	5,843.60
Investments, Dividend, Interest	957.98
Sales: Ads, Gift Shop, Greenhouse	4,965.49
Membership Dues	3,716.49
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>18,717.56</u>
Cost of Sales - Inventory Sales	275.00
<b>Gross Income</b>	<u>18,442.56</u>
<b>Ordinary Expense</b>	
Business Expenses & Contract Services	13357.56
Facilities and Equipment	
Maintenance	9,073.84
Utilities Gas & Electric, Water	<u>2,677.40</u>
<b>Total Facilities and Equipment</b>	<u>11,751.24</u>
Operations	
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	382.99
Postage, Mailing Service	246.18
Exhibits	1,085.03
Supplies	1,041.14
Telephone, Telecommunications	1,179.90
Archives	3,126.70
Program Speaker fees	150.00
Paypal Service Fees	54.87
<b>Total Operations</b>	<u>7,266.81</u>
Gift Shop Inventory	225.00
Other Types of Expenses	
Marketing/Development	852.04
Insurance - Liability, D and O	2,064.00
Memberships and Dues	361.54
Printing & Reproduction	515.28
<b>Total Other Types of Expenses</b>	<u>3,795.86</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>36,396.47</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-17,953.91</u>
Other Income: Changes In Net Assets	783.82
Other Expense: Payments to Affiliates	37.34
<b>Net Other Income/Expense</b>	<u>746.48</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>* -17,207.43</u>

\* The income deficit necessitated withdrawals from our investment account.

signature wrap-around porch. Other work to maintain our 150+ year old historic farmhouse includes replacing exterior doors, reglazing and repainting our greenhouse, and rehabbing our gravel parking lot.

Your membership in the Delhi Historical Society is a vital element in making the Society a success as it discovers, preserves, and shares the history of Delhi Township and its surrounding areas.

## DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY BRICK PAVERS: A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS PRESENT



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

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.

Names on Brick (3 lines of 14 letters each)

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### Support Those Who Support the DHS

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