

# Delhi History

Volume 44, Issue 3

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Preserving the Past for the Future

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# DELHI



# HISTORY

Fall 2021

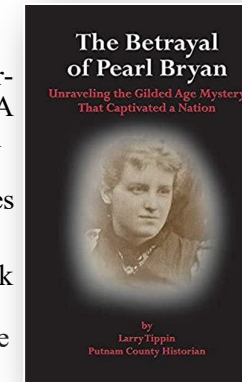
Volume 44, Issue 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

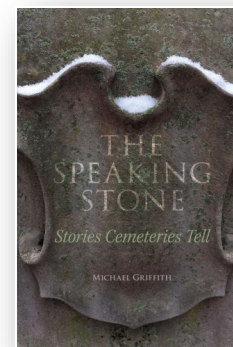
## Monthly Speaker Programs at Delhi Park Lodge

The Historical Society plans to present three more interesting programs at the Delhi Park Lodge before the end of the year.

On Sept. 13, we welcome Larry Tippin, historian from Putnam County, Ind., who has written a book about a murder that took place in Ft. Thomas, Ky., in the late 1800s. A headless body was found near the fort's grounds and with no way to identify the poor woman, investigators nearly gave up on the case. But a strange twist and a pair of shoes helped convict and condemn the culprits.



On Oct. 11, we welcome back JT Townsend, who will talk about his investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy in "JFK: Conspiracy or Coincidence." No crime in history has undergone a more intense and exhausting scrutiny than the killing of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Every shred of information about that horrifying November day in Dallas has been stirred, shaken and whipped into a lather. All this handling saddled the investigation with distortions, misconceptions, and blatant falsehoods that have stalked this tragedy from the outset.



Then on Nov. 8, we welcome Michael Griffith who will talk about his book, *The Speaking Stone: Stories Cemeteries Tell*. The author and longtime Cincinnati resident started visiting Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum, the nation's third-largest cemetery. Soon he was taking almost daily jaunts, following curiosity and accident wherever they lead. The result is this fascinating collection of essays that emerge from chance encounters with an interesting headstone, odd epitaph, unusual names, or quirk of memory. Researching obituaries, newspaper clippings, and family legacies, Griffith uncovers stories of race, feminism, art, and death.

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THESE PROGRAMS AS COVID PROTOCOLS MAY CANCEL OR REVISE HOW WE PRESENT!**

### Programs & Events

- Sept. 13, 7 p.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge: *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryan – Unraveling the Gilded Age Mystery That Captivated a Nation* with Larry Tippin
- Oct. 11, 7 p.m., at the Delhi Park Lodge: *JFK: Conspiracy or Coincidence?* With JT Townsend
- Nov. 8, 7 p.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge: *The Speaking Stone – Stories Cemeteries Tell* with Michael Griffith

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE COVID UPDATES**

### The Delhi Historical Society

**Farmhouse Museum is open to the public on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m. Number of guests might be limited. If you are coming to do research we suggest you call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.**



**Please remember to send in your Best of Delhi Raffle Tickets. Great prizes including \$500 in cash and a \$100 Bourbon Package! Your support helps keep the Farmhouse running during the summer and fall.**

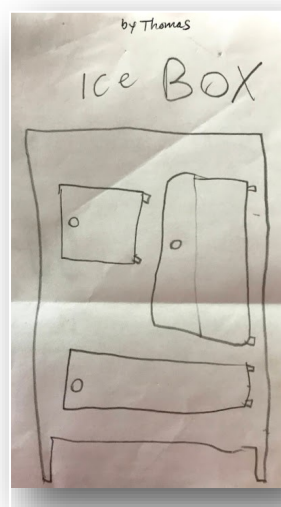


## Visitors At the Farmhouse

Recently, two young ladies visited Delhi Historical Society. One carried a camera to photograph her younger sister, who hand-made an 1860s-style dress for her 4-H club. These wonderful ladies brightened our Farmhouse Museum with their smiles and charm.



Early this summer, members of the Ezell family visited the Farmhouse to view the exhibits for their homeschool classes. A few days later we received a letter thanking us for hosting them along with artwork the children did depicting what they learned that day. Here is Thomas' rendering of the icebox in our kitchen.



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

**Collections Corner**

**Volunteers Complete Organization of Paollelo Storage Shelves 1**

Just this month, two of Delhi Historical Society's dedicated and reliable volunteers, JoAnne Fischesser and Joann Verville-Long (we call them the Two JoAnn(e)s), finished reorganizing a large shelving unit filled with boxes which hold some of our collected historical items. This large project has improved our ability to keep track of items in our collections, such as artifacts, photographs, and documents.

The storage boxes hold a great variety of items. One box holds newspaper articles, photographs, and other items related to the "King of the Bootleggers," George Remus who ran his national bootlegging empire from Cincinnati's West Side. Another box has items from the old Delhi Chili Restaurant, including photographs, an original artist's concept drawing of the restaurant's sign, a stainless steel ladle used to serve chili, and two different menus (in 1971, a 3-way cost only \$1.10!). Several boxes hold an extensive collection of Delhi Township official documents and ledgers which tell the day to day story of Delhi Township operations back to the early 20th century.

JoAnne Fischesser has been with Delhi Historical Socie-

ty for more than 10 years. Like many volunteers, she started by visiting the Delhi Historical Society's research center seeking information on her ancestors. She found the Society a friendly and welcoming place and decided to help out. Though she specializes in collections management (a skill she learned by volunteering at Delhi Historical Society) JoAnne is one of our key researchers and has helped design and build exhibitions. JoAnne is a retired grade school teacher and principal and is developing an outreach program to bring local history into Delhi's grade school rooms.

Joann Verville-Long is also a retired elementary school educator, who specialized in counseling young students. She has been volunteering with Delhi His-

torical Society for about five years. Joann specializes in collections management and collections research, though her background in elementary education and her creativity were extremely important in creating our exhibition, SCHOOLS of DELHI.

Joann's partnership with JoAnne Fischesser

has created a dynamic duo which is helping to keep Delhi Historical Society a strong, healthy organiza-



*Before and after images of reorganized Paollelo Storage 1*

**Farmhouse Maintenance Update**

**Wrap-Around Porch and Parking Lot Rehab**

The maintenance committee reports that the South side of the signature wrap around porch was rehabbed. Steve Meyer and Phil Ohntrup, two native Delhi residents removed all the decking and damaged floor joists were replaced and new mahogany tongue and groove wood decking was installed to replicate the original porch floor. Priming and painting was completed in early August.



Our rear gravel parking lot has been overgrown by weeds for quite some time now. Brett Bartling, another Delhi native, of Bartling Enterprises, graciously volunteered his time and heavy equipment and regraded the parking lot which in turn removed the large expanse of weeds. The parking lot is now weed free and more conducive to parking.



*From the President Anita Klawitter*

**1000s of photos with No Names**



Back in 1999 on my very first visit to the Delhi Historical Society I was delighted to discover a photo of my great grandfather Eduard Klawitter. In that photo Eduard stood with several other men during the 1908 demolition of the original St. Stephens/OLV church on Neeb Road. This lone photo made my great grandfather real and for a

single moment in time I knew exactly where he was, what he was doing, and what he looked like, bushy mustache and all – and now I wanted... more. I craved more photos and more connections with these ancestors who paved the way for my very existence.

I contacted my cousin Art who became the keeper of his mother's photographs. His mother was my aunt Helen Klawitter Hahn who was long interested family history and was the first to encourage my interest in family genealogy. Art found boxes upon boxes of photos and allowed me and several cousins to peruse the photos. We were thrilled! So many photos, so many relatives to meet! But our glee quickly faded. We had thousands of photos and after the first hour not one person could be identified. Another hour went by and I remember thinking these could be Eleanor Roosevelt's family for all we knew. We left feeling let down, knowing we were leaving so many ancestors behind with no way to identify them.

This experience brought to mind the day my youngest sister Mary found an old Klawitter photo album. Of course NONE of these photos were marked either but we were able to identify several photos of my father and his siblings from the 1920s and 1930's. One photo is multi-

generational of my father as a baby with his mother, grandmother and great grandmother – truly priceless.

Fast forward to about four weeks ago when Ray Grothaus, a DHS volunteer and cousin by marriage,



*Unidentified Klawitter photos*



*Man standing in the middle of wheelbarrows in*

asked to meet regarding some found old photos. Guess what? None of these were marked – which seems to be a widespread family trait. I ended up bringing the photos to my cousin Janet Wittich Broz. Luckily Janet was able to identify several of our Tuchfarber and Wittich ancestors in what appeared to be a family reunion photo from the early 1920's. Should you have this same family defect (saving photos without identifying who is in the picture) here are a few things you can do to identify old photos:

- Check with aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. See if they recognize anyone.
- Ask everybody, including old neighbors or members of the church that your relatives belonged to.
- Post photos on Facebook tagging relatives or friends who you know are in the photo.
- Check on genealogy sites like Ancestry.com for photos other have shared in their trees. There are also multiple sites such as Ancient Faces, Dead-Fred, Family Search.org, Flickr, etc. Each offers some way to either upload your photo with keywords and/or to search their database of photos that others have previously uploaded.
- When successful, appropriately document the photo! My aunt Helen often listed how the person was related. Example: "Uncle Henry Reimerink, grandma Kate Klawitter's half-brother." Be very careful writing on the backs of photos. Use the proper pen or pencil or risk damaging the very thing you are trying to improve and protect.

It is sad to have literally 1000s of photos and no idea who these people are. These people mattered and I'd like to know where certain hairlines or cheekbones came from. **The moral is:** *Photographs are among some of the most treasured family heirlooms – treat them kindly and work to identify who is in the photo.* Readers can learn more about photo preservation on our website at: <https://>

# Uncovering the Past in a Tear-down

Recently, Delhi Township acquired 24 properties on the south side of Rapid Run Road west of Anderson Ferry Road. These houses are in the process of being razed. Money for the project is being provided through a nearly \$3 million pre-disaster grant for flood mitigation.

One house in particular may have a historical connection to Delhi Township. Located at 5361 Rapid Run, it has long been thought to be the old Allen/Hazard District School 8, which was in existence from 1851 to 1920.

The school was located at what was then known as Allen's Corner, but was also called the Hazard School for teachers Ebenezer and Margaret Hazard.

We can't completely verify that the house is the actual Allen/Hazard School, but we did trace the deed of the property that shows a school building was on that site.

The property originally belonged to Daniel Vincent. In 1851 he deeded a lot containing 34 square rods (about one-fifth acre) to Shipley Davis and James Anderson, trustees of Delhi District School No. 8, "on the north side of the north fork of the Rapid Run Creek between said creek and the County Road."

There was a school on that site until the early 1920s when Delhi consolidated its schools into one building at Anderson Ferry and Foley roads.

In 1923 Ernst Rutenschroer purchased the property. His son Stanley sold it to Charles Meyer in 1946. That same year, the property passed to Anna Lipps, and for the last 75 years it has remained in the Lipps family.

Recently DHS consultant Alan March and board member



*Ebenezer Hazard (back right) and Margaret in front of window with students at the school circa 1880s.*

Pete Pritchard were invited to do a complete walk through of the house to try to determine if it is indeed the old school. The owners of the home had long said there was a chalkboard on the north wall (closest to the street), hidden behind some plaster. Layers of wall paper were scraped off revealing a black surface painted on the wall but similar to a chalkboard. It had some writing on it Further investigation will be made in coordination with the Township, which now owns the property . We will let you know what we discover as the investigation continues!



*5361 Rapid Run Road*

## New Members

Welcome the following new members:

- Mary Jo Russell
- Helen Ludwig
- Suzanne Bird
- Travis Curd
- Molly Wellmann
- Mark Hensler
- Laura Vogel
- Robert Curd
- Jim Klawitter

## Board News

Carole Williams, of Mount St. Joseph, had to rescind her acceptance to serve on the Board as she was simply overextended. However, she recommended Scott Lloyd as an excellent fit for DHS and after vetting and speaking with Scott we agreed! Scott accepted a position on our board as our Recording Secretary. He has lived in Delhi since 1984 and attended Cincinnati Christian Academy where he met his wife. He is the Director of Library Services at Mount St. Joseph University. A lover of local history, he also serves on the Price Hill Historical Society Board.

We are currently searching for a new Treasurer. Steve Schott left the board due to business commitments. Frankie Sahnd, former long-term Treasurer, will serve as Acting Treasurer until a replacement is found. We wish Steve all the best and appreciate his support over the past two years!

# Support Those Who Support the DHS

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