

Delaware Flood of 1913

"It had rained for almost a week during the latter part of that month of March. The ground was soaked; the Olentangy River and the Delaware Run were full with rapid currents -- and still the gray skies unloaded."

Robert C. Eichhorn began his memories of the 1913 flood with those words in a *Delaware Gazette* story Sept. 2, 1988. Eichhorn was a high school student at the time of the flood. He and his brother dragged out their canoe and floated up the Olentangy River to help save those stranded by the flood.

Powell, too, was flooded with homes and a shirt factory being partially underwater. (Wilhelm, 2013)

Today we have many safety procedures to keep us from having another flood disaster. For instance, the Delaware Dam, completed in 1951, helps control the amount of water that flows into the Olentangy River, the city of Delaware and farther south. Because of the dam, we are able to enjoy the Delaware Lake that was formed by the dam, along with the Delaware State Park. A special family day activity might be to explore the Delaware State Park—hike, walk along the water, and have a picnic.

Take a walk down William Street and Union Street. Keep an eye out for the blue and white circular markers. Once you spy your first marker, it will be easier to locate others. These markers have been placed on buildings and poles at the highest point of the Olentangy River flood. Here are two hints: 1. The telephone pole at Union St. and E. William Street and 2. the Huntington Bank.

Did you find one or more markers? Take a photo and post it on our Facebook page—*Learn at Home Virtual Summer Camp*.



People sitting on top of roofs along East Winter Street between North Union Street and North Henry Street during the flood of 1913. The P.H. Hults Livery Barn (left center of the picture), located at 64 East Winter Street, which is, across from where the District Library is now located was partially destroyed according to the March 29, 1913, Delaware Daily Gazette. In the same paper, Mrs. Mary Shaw's home, which is across the street (75 E. Winter St.) was moved off the foundation and everything inside was destroyed.

1913 Flood, East Winter Street looking east. The picture is on East Winter Street just east of Union Street. The crowd of people both on the near roof and in the street are watching one of many rescue attempts. Note the canoe (about mid picture) which has a rope attached. Men are holding the rope to keep the canoe from getting away.



This view was taken Tuesday morning on East Central Avenue. The water at the time was more than two blocks west of the river banks. Citizens turned out en-masse to witness the unparalleled sights, and thrilling rescues were made by means of block and tackle, pulleys, boats, etc. Students and many others risked their lives in attempts to rescue the unfortunate citizens. (Flood Photo Extra of the Delaware

Delaware County Historical Society.

https://delawareohio.pastperfectonline.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_criteria=1913+and+flood&searchButton=Search

Delaware State Park

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delaware_State_Park

Wilhelm, C. *1913 'great flood' was devastating in Delaware.* This Week Newspaper, February 20, 2013
