

WALTER BATES RINGS THE BELL

Ohio Bicentennial
Bell Casting and Dedication
held at the Fulton County Fair
on August 30/31



The Bell Casting was a 2 day event starting Saturday August 30 with the molding & casting of the bell. Then on Sunday, August 31, 2003, at Noon the ceremony opening the mold and then the Bell Ringing Ceremony was held at 5 PM during which Walter Phillips Bates rang the Bicentennial Bell for the first time at this years Fulton County Fair. This was a great event for Fulton County as well as for Walter. Walter is very knowledgable historian, former teacher and educator in our County.

Walter Bates is age 92 and lives in Oakshade, a retired farmer who also taught in the Evergreen School for 33 years, Walter is described as "kind of like", Mr. Fulton County. He has been involved in the Fulton County Historical Society for more than 30 years and headed up the county's celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. Walter is also a member of the Fulton County Agricultural Hall of Fame.

- Walter's ancestors came over on the Mayflower and three of them signed the Mayflower Compact.....
- Walter has also been very active with the Fulton County Fair and was instrumental with getting the [log cabin](#) to the fair, the organ, and many other things....
- Walter also wrote and had published a history of Chesterfield schools-

"Chesterfield Township Schools"

Fulton County, Ohio

1838 - 1982

by Walter P. Bates

**Walter is an exceptional person
that everyone should meet!!!!**



**Walter Bates and his wife
Mary Jane (Willson) Bates**



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**Walter Phillips Bates giving his
Bicentennial Bell Dedication speech**



Walter Phillips Bates ringing the Bicentennial Bell the first time



Walter Bates returning to be seated with his wife Mary Jane (Willson) Bates