

# 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"

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Fulton County, Ohio

1838 - 1982

*by Walter P. Bates*

***Walter*** is an  
**Exceptional Person**  
**that everyone**  
**should meet!!!!**



1803  2003



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





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





**Walter Phillips Bates  
ringing the Bicentennial  
Bell the first time**



1803  2003



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

