

Coming Tuesday, September 10 at 7:30,,,,
Delaware County's Pioneer Naval Aviator
by David Simmons

Visits to cemeteries can often lead one into a fascinating search through yesterday. Historian David Simmons will tell his tale at the September 10th program of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society in the Myers Inn Museum.

In the Dyer Family plot in the Galena Cemetery is a marker for Jay Norton Dyer who died in 1919 at the young age of 21. His name is followed with this inscription: "Chief Q. M. U.S.N. R.F." What can these official-looking abbreviations mean? The answer involves the tale of innovative turn-of-the century Galena-area farmers, the Galena school, agricultural schools in Mississippi, Ohio State University programming—including football, the far-ranging impact of World War I, and the early years of US naval aviation.



David Simmons

Simmons was named editor emeritus by the Ohio History Connection in 2019 after retiring from three-decades in the publications department and ten years with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, where he directed the process for listing properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The Darke County native received several writing awards from the Society for Industrial Archeology and serves as an officer with the Ohio Historic Bridge Association. Holding undergraduate and graduate degrees from Miami University, his first professional job was executive director of the Preble County Historical Society.