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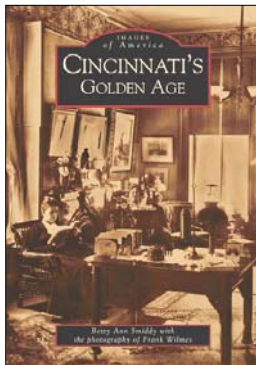
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

January 5, 2007

***Cincinnati's Golden Age* with Local Author Betty Ann Smiddy at Sharonville Branch Library January 20**



In its golden age, Cincinnati was a leader in industry and culture. Europeans immigrated into the city to fill jobs, and the rural landscape was developing into suburbs. Local author Betty Ann Smiddy will discuss Cincinnati during its heyday of meat packing plants, inclines and soap products at the Sharonville Branch Library, 10980 Thornview Drive, on Saturday, January 20, 2:00 p.m. Copies of Ms. Smiddy's recent book, *Cincinnati's Golden Age*, will also be available for purchase, and a book signing will follow.

Incline railways provided access to hilltop neighborhoods, and for the first time, the middle class could afford to move to outlying areas, commuting to work in the city. Breweries, soap manufacturers, meat packing plants, and other industries flourished, as supplies and products were distributed throughout Cincinnati along the Miami-Erie Canal -- steamboats crowded the Ohio River wharves. The city thrived during the decades surrounding the turn of the 19th century.

During this time, photographer Frank Wilmes studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy under artist Frank Duveneck. His photographs of Cincinnati were forgotten until William H. Deak purchased the negatives in 1947. Deak developed the pictures that are featured in the book, revealing the people, streets, homes and business of life during Cincinnati's golden age.

Native Cincinnati Betty Ann Smiddy is president of the College Hill Historical Society and has received outstanding achievement awards in local history from the Ohio Historical Society and the Hamilton County Recorder's Office. Her award-winning newsletters for the College Hill Historical Society culminated in *A Little Piece of Paradise... College Hill, Ohio*. She is a *Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year* and was given a key to the City of Cincinnati for her volunteer activities. Smiddy is also the author of *The Church of Our Saviour: Cincinnati, Ohio, 1876-2001*.

For additional information contact the branch at (513) 369-6049.

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**

✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**