

# Falls history lays foundation for bright future

by Stephanie Fellenstein



*RPC File Photo*

Welcome to Cuyahoga Falls — a vibrant community founded in 1812 by William Wetmore. While the city has grown and changed over the years, the people — the backbone of the community — remain the same.

The story begins with the Cuyahoga River — and the falls — that runs through the city. Native Americans

used the river to travel from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, but often walked through Cuyahoga Falls because that portion of the river was too rough.

When Wetmore arrived in Ohio almost 200 years ago, his job was to develop land owned by Judge Joshua Stow of Middletown, Conn. In those days, the town was called Manchester. The name was later changed to Cuyahoga Falls, at the request of the Ohio Postmaster General.

## A brief look back

Once the town was founded, industry and recreational activities took shape around the river. Schools and churches sprouted up in town, and by 1834 there were 375 people living there.

The Chamber of Commerce, too, has a long and rich history. In the fall of 1926, a group of local businessmen and property owners got the ball rolling. A short time later, at the annual meeting of the Falls Civic Asso-