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Writing on the wall

Inscription from 1898 found on historic building in downtown Warren

January 5, 2012

By JOSHUA S. FLESHER - reporter (aferrise@tribtoday.com) , Tribune Chronicle | TribToday.com
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A piece of Warren history was uncovered by workers renovating one of the city's historic commercial buildings.

Behind a wall of the building at 147 W. Market St. on Courthouse Square, workers with the Chesler Group found a section of plaster containing a century-old inscription.

"On the ground level, we uncovered writing on the wall that's dated Jan. 5, 1898," said Lauren Swanson, marketing manager and project coordinator with the Chesler Group.

Ben Davis, construction supervisor with Chesler, said the section is about 4 feet long and 2 feet high. The name M. Delin is followed by the date Jan. 5, 1898. Then the initials L.S., A.T., L.D., M.C., D.D. and M.S. follow.

The workers cut around the sheet of plaster so it can be preserved, Davis said.

"What we try to do with things that are historically significant, we'll preserve it and frame it," he said. "We'll leave it there, frame it up and seal it so it'll be there for the next hundred years."

According to local historian Wendell Lauth, the buildings on Courthouse Square were built after the sweeping fire of 1860. It dates back to 1868.

Lauth said that a man with the last name Delin operated a confectionery shop that was not on the square at the time.

However, a dry goods store was located in that building in the late 1800s until its owner was elected county auditor in 1901, leaving the building vacant. Lauth said that by 1906, the directory listed the building as a F.W. Woolworth's Store.

Recently, the Market Block Building has been vacant for years. In April, the Raymond John Wean Foundation announced it would lease the building to use as its new headquarters.

"When they uncovered that (plaster), I thought it was the coolest thing ... an amazing and unexpected discovery," Jeffrey Glebocki, president of the Wean Foundation, said. "It makes that real personal connection with the people whose labor resulted in the

Warren, OH



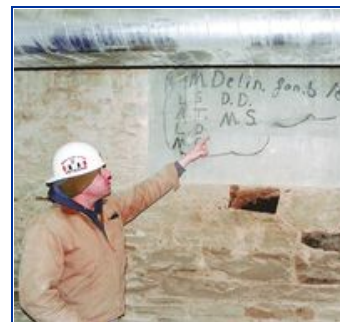
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personal connection with the people whose labor resulted in the

construction of that building."

Davis said that renovations remain on schedule.

"Everything is right on schedule for our turn-over date, May 1. All the exterior work is done, except for the painting," Davis said.

"We'll be moving into our finish phase in the next month."

"We are planning to move in May 2012," echoed Glebocki. "Our hope is to be over there before May 30."

The Chesler Group of Cleveland is a company that specializes in the renovation of historic buildings, having done more than 20 renovations like the Market Street building, which is their first in the Mahoning Valley.

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