

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 16445, Rocky River, Ohio 44116, Ph:440-331-4614
http://rockyriverhistoricalsociety.org/

A Centennial City

1903-2003

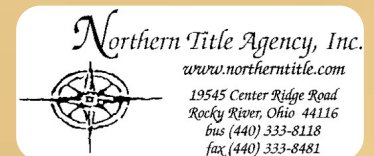
May 2022 Newsletter



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A BOATER'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE WATERS OF THE ROCKY RIVER

Presented by Ed Neal and Joseph Ptak

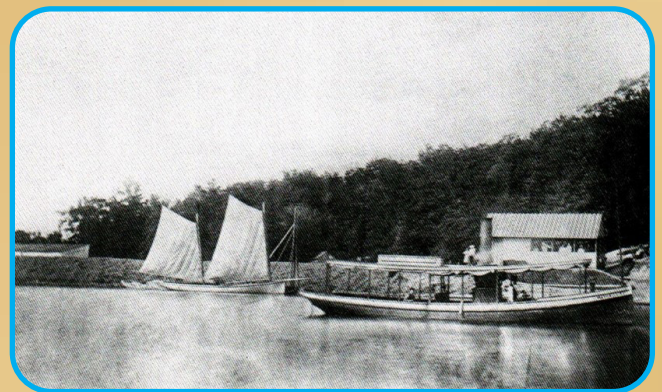
May 5, 2022 at 7:00pm

at Beach School Auditorium

1101 Morewood Parkway

(Enter parking lot off Detroit Road)

Ed Neal and Joe Ptak will talk on the history of the Rocky River, from its mouth to the Detroit Street Bridge. Come and learn about the historic places and happenings along our river. Also included will be information on the Schooner Lotus, built at the Rocky River Dry Dock Company, and additional information on the famous Rocky River landmark, Bradstreet's Landing. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Rocky River, circa 1890

We look forward to seeing you there!

LAKE ERIE SALT

By Gay A. Christensen-Dean

In the Paleozoic Era, 544-245 million years ago, we here in Rocky River were in a shallow, salty sea basin. The main part was the Michigan Basin, a circular, bowl-like structure centering near Saginaw Bay. Here in Ohio we were connected to it via the Chatham Sag, through Ontario. The water evaporated leaving salt deposits (sodium chloride) behind. Over millions of years, a very thick layer of salt developed, named the Salina Formation, now found approximately 1500 feet below a bed of limestone. It was discovered in 1863 by people drilling for natural gas, oil, and coal. These salt beds vary anywhere from 50 feet to more than 100 feet thick.

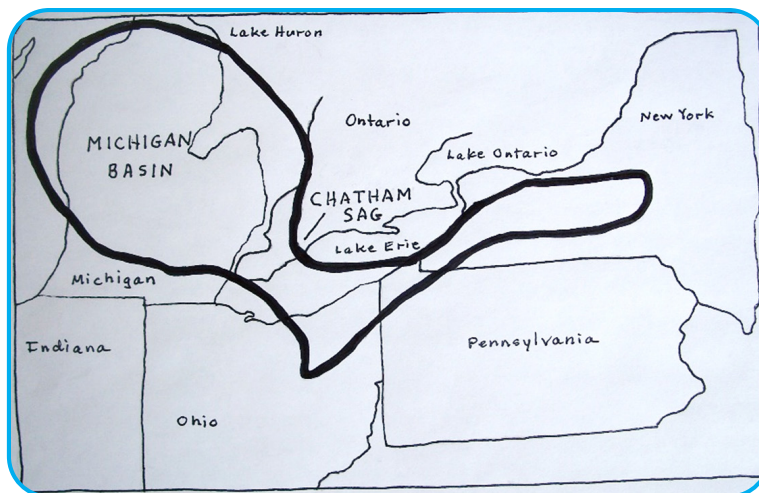
The salt is found under Lake Erie and also under the land in Ohio. Since 1889, salt was harvested using brine wells, i.e., salt was obtained by injecting water into the formation and pumping out the brine.

In 1957, the International Salt Company acquired Whiskey Island and the first large salt mine in Lake Erie was opened by them. Today, there are three salt mines in our area:

1. The Morton Salt mine, the deepest salt mine in North America, and five square miles, is near Fairport Harbor, Ohio on Lake Erie. It has been in operation since 1959. It is found around 2000 feet underground, requiring a 4-minute elevator ride down for the miners. The salt bed is 50'-80' thick.
2. The Rittman Morton Salt mine is also owned by Morton Salt and is found in Rittman, Ohio.
3. The Cargill company bought the Whiskey Island mine in 1997. They lease the land it is on from the state of Ohio. It is approximately 12 square miles, spreading from Edgewater Park to Burke Lakefront Airport. The elevator to access it, which can hold up to 30 people, takes four minutes to reach 1793 feet below the surface. It consists of an "A" bed (21' thick), then 6' of non-salt, and then the lower "B" bed (46' thick) which is being mined. 9000 acres have been mined there. To watch a video of the mine, go to rockthelake.com.

To mine the salt, miners use explosives to blast away at the walls of salt, leaving large pillars 105 feet square to still provide overhead support. Machines crush it and then conveyor belts take it to the surface to be further processed. All the salt in these mines is used for road salt.

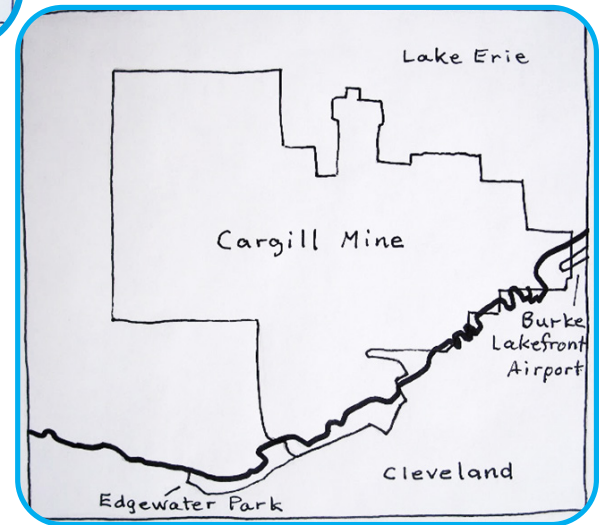
Sources: Morton Salt Ltd.; scienceworld.scholastic.com; rockthelake.com
Encyclopedia of Cleveland History; geologyontario.mndmf.gov.on.ca
industrialscenery.blogspot.com; kb.osu.edu; pubs.usgs.gov;
businessinsider.com; researchgate.net; geomsu.edu



Salina Formation




Salina Formation salt mine locations



Cargill Salt Mine at Cleveland

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For \$250.00 you can become a Corporate Sponsor. Contact Gay Christensen-Dean, rockyriverhistsoc@gmail.com, for more information.

ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH COMMUNITY: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Ginni Going



Original Rocky River Town Hall

On May 14 1922, Rocky River's original Town Hall was also the site of the first Mass of the newly established Catholic parish of St. Christopher. The name for the new church was selected by the new pastor, Fr. Patterson, for the Patron Saint of Travelers. At the time, commerce and travel was increasing to the west; largely due to the railroad, and the 1910 construction of the new "longest unreinforced concrete span in the world." The new Rocky River Bridge provided pedestrian, automobile and street car access into Rocky River, and increased traffic was most evident.

Later that same year, the diocese purchased 7 acres of farmland on Detroit Road, Rocky River, and on Palm Sunday, March 18, 1923, the first Mass was celebrated in the newly constructed frame church. July 25, 1925, the popular tradition of blessing motor vehicles at St. Christopher was begun and continued into the 1960s. Fr. Patterson's reminder to all was "St. Christopher jumps out after you hit 60 mph." The car blessing will return July 24, 2022 as part of the Centennial Celebration.



1923 frame Church

The congregation continued to grow, and in 1954 under the direction of Fr. Ahern, the need for a new, larger church was met with the construction of the present Romanesque building on Detroit Rd., Rocky River. The next 64 years has seen continued growth. Building of the multi-use



Present-day Church Photo Credit: Tom Harper

Community Center came to fruition in 1981 along with a major remodeling of the church, including large stained-glass windows, a new altar and other upgrades, which were accomplished in the mid '80s. In 2001, under Fr. Chlebo's leadership, the newly built Parish Center provided a large multi-purpose room, smaller meeting rooms, a library and computer lab, along with new education offices.

With the very dedicated efforts of parish members and the strong support of Fr. Chlebo, Centennial Park became a reality in July of 2020. The public is welcome to visit Centennial Park with its playground, Pavilion, Meditation Garden, outdoor amphitheater, picnic tables, walking paths and multiple seating areas.

Celebrations will be occurring throughout this year and a few highlights are:

May 14, 2022: (Anniversary of first Mass): There will be Mass in the church at 5:00 pm with Bishop Malesic, and a reception following.

OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH COMMUNITY: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION (CONTINUED)

July 24, 2022: There will be a blessing of cars and other modes of transportation, along with a car wash and ice cream social.

There are monthly activities planned including concerts, some outdoors. The annual Block Party will become a weekend event.

During this Centennial year, St. Christopher will install their Century Landmark Plaque on the Lakeview Avenue side, indicating the site of the original church.

The entire community is welcome to the Centennial Celebration, and further notice will be in local publications.

CARL A. STEIN



Carl A. Stein

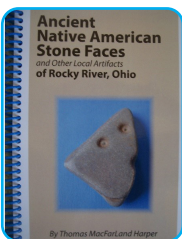
Carl Albert Stein was born October 14, 1875 in Cleveland. He quit school at age 15 and got a sales job in a dry goods company. In 1917, he became manager of the Cleveland office of Ely and Walker Dry Goods. He also joined the board of directors of Colonial Savings and Loan of Lakewood, and became vice-president of the First National Bank of Rocky River, which he helped found. After moving to Rocky River, he was a member of City Council for 9 years, and the Rocky River Board of Education for 4 years. He served as mayor of the Village of Rocky River from 1918–1923, and again as mayor of the then City of Rocky River, from 1932-1941. He was a thirty-second degree mason.

Carl married Eva Mastick and they had 2 sons: Sigmund F. Stein, a charter member and trustee of the Rocky River Historical Society, and Carl M. Stein.

Source: Cuyahoga County, OH Biographies

ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN STONE FACES OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

\$25.00



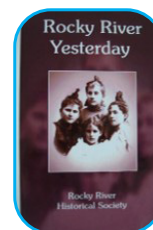
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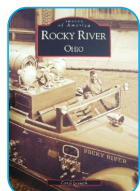
ROCKY RIVER, OHIO:
WHERE THE RIVER ENDS
\$25.00



ROCKY RIVER,
YESTERDAY
\$15.00

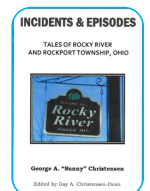


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OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

TONAWANDA DRIVE

In 1958, John Marquard Sons Co., based in Ohio, purchased from Dan Gardner 21 acres of land south of Hilliard Road near the west boundary of Rocky River, for the development of 44 home sites. The resulting engineering layout agreed upon by the City consisted of two streets – one due south off Hilliard for 800 feet, terminating at another in an east-west direction, 300 feet, parallel and north of Center Ridge Road.

The John Marquard Sons decided to build a community of authentic Early American houses under careful architectural restrictions. They decided that since there were once Indians living in northern Ohio they should have some kind of recognition in Rocky River. Although there were no Tonawanda Indians dwelling in the area, the name was chosen because one of the Marquard Sons, Roland G. Marquard, president of the corporation and the chief executive officer, had just returned to Rocky River from Niagara Falls, New York and had passed through the town Tonawanda, New York on his way home. Hence, the Indian name of “Tonawanda” was adopted for the main drive, with the approval of the City of Rocky River and the United States Post Office. It is the Iroquois name for swift water, which was much in evidence in the creek before the sewers were installed. The name “Laramie” was selected for the east-west road.

LARAMIE DRIVE

Laramie Drive was named after a television program called Ft. Laramie, by Roland G. Marquard, the president of the John Marquard Sons Corp. Board of Directors, home builders and contractors in the northwest shore area of Cuyahoga County.

After the company purchased the property, Roland G. Marquard was walking over the premises and he noticed several kids’ huts, wooden shacks, tree houses, sheds and forts in various styles and sizes and it reminded him of forts that he saw on a television show called “Ft. Laramie”. So Laramie Drive is named after a TV show and not a city in Wyoming.

Authenticated by Roland G. Marquard, Rocky River, Ohio.



On Laramie Drive, Rocky River, in 2021
Credit: Gay Christensen-Dean

HISTORY OF TURKEYS IN OHIO

Turkeys are native to the Americas. Originally, Ohio had more turkeys than most every other state. But, because of deforestation, over-hunting, and the chestnut tree blight, the trees having provided much food, the turkeys were extirpated from Ohio by 1904. In the 1920s, they were introduced into the wild from reared stock, but didn’t survive. It was thought that they had too much domestic turkey genes in them. For one thing, domestic turkeys are heavier. Wild turkeys can run 20 mph, and fly 55 mph. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, wild turkeys were captured in other states and released into the wild in Ohio. They have survived and thrived and are now probably in all 88 counties of Ohio.