

# ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

A Centennial City

1903-2003

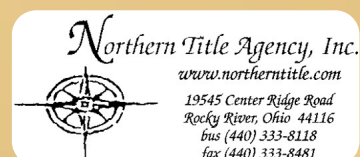
## November 2022 Newsletter



Newsletter Sponsored By:

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## THE BRIDGE CROSSINGS of the ROCKY RIVER – HOW THEY GOT to the OTHER SIDE

*Presented by Tom Barrett*

**Thursday,  
November 10, 2022  
at 7:00pm**

**at Beach School Auditorium  
1101 Morewood Parkway  
(Enter parking lot off Detroit Road)  
(Auditorium is handicapped accessible.)**

**Tom Barrett will take you on a journey through the Rocky River Valley, exploring the river crossings from the old Lorain Rd. bridge to the mouth of the river at Lake Erie. Using historical photos and maps, we'll see how early settlers, horse and wagons, early automobiles, and modern traffic got to the other side.**



OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

# **"ANY MAIL TODAY"**

Sage P. Deming, Veteran Postmaster

(Taken from "City of Rocky River Golden Jubilee  
and Ohio Sesqui-Centennial Celebration 1903-1953"

by Ralph D. Richards and Ron Gabel)

[Written in 1953]

Mr. Sage P. Deming recalls a trip as a boy to the post office in E.P. Thompson's dry goods store, and later to another location on Detroit Road a little west of Blount Street where Mrs. Harry Blackburn's father, Eddie Keyse, was postmaster. "Lockbox Number 8" was what the boy, Sage, had to open for his father's mail after a long walk.

Following Mr. Keyse as postmaster was Willis Coddling and then Lewis Dean.

In 1917 an examination was announced for the post-mastership, and, as a result, Mr. Deming was appointed as acting postmaster on April 16, 1918. Upon the consolidation of the Rocky River office in 1925 with that of Cleveland, he became superintendent of the Rocky River Branch, a position he holds today. The change was made to furnish house delivery to all residences of Rocky River.

Mr. Deming said that his father had to go to "Sixths" (what is now the corner of Lorain Avenue and Triskett Road) to get his mail, and later to Phinney's Corners. In 1903 rural free delivery was instituted and the daily trip to the post office was discontinued.

At first the "R.F.D. mail man" often had to travel Story and Clague Roads with "mud half an axle deep." Most of the other roads were like them in regard to mud with the exception of Lorain Road, Center Ridge, Wooster and Detroit, which were paved "one track wide." Lake Road was mostly of sand and many summer campers were to be found along the road out to Hahn's Grove, Stop 9.

In 1925, upon consolidation with the Cleveland Post Office, the local office was moved to 18624 Detroit Avenue and the branch served the west end of Lakewood, Fairview Village and Rocky River. The office was moved from Lakewood to the Dean block in Rocky River in 1936 and to the present site at 19955 Detroit Road in 1941.

Mr. Deming, the veteran postmaster, stated in closing that he finds it difficult to realize the startling growth of Rocky River in a few short years; that the population at his appointment as postmaster was 1861, while today it is about 13,000.

The family residence is at 1653 Wagar Road. He has two sons, Capt. Theodore L. of the local fire department, and S. Parks of Laramie, Wyoming.



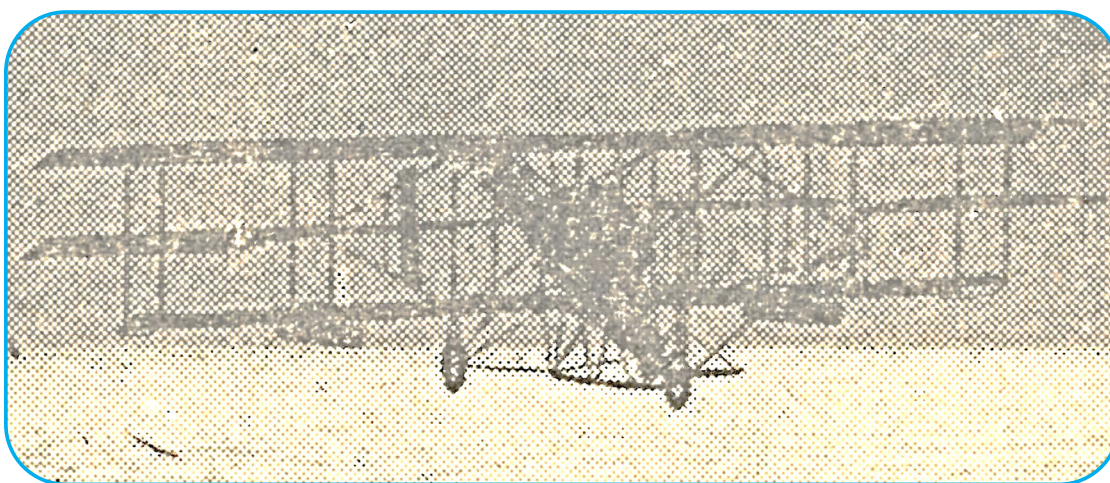
The following was taken from the book Incidents & Episodes, Tales of Rocky River and Rockport Township, Ohio. It has been re-printed. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact Gay Christensen-Dean at 440-356-0095, or Ginni Going at 440-331-4614.

## 1910 – OCTOBER (MAYBE AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER)

By George A. "Sunny" Christensen

Glenn H. Curtiss flew his airplane from Euclid Beach Park in Cleveland, taking off from the sandy beach, and he flew westerly all the way to Cedar Point, non-stop, and landed on the beach. In doing so he traveled over the water at a very low altitude and he passed by the Village of Rocky River.

There were many people standing along the top of the cliff on private property on the west side of the river in the vicinity of Oakwood Beach (Eells' property) to watch when Curtiss flew past. My mother, Laura N. Christensen (nee Primett), was 17 years old and was there at the time with a girlfriend.



1910 over Lake Erie



Rocky River High School (1910)

Front row: Frederick Gilles(1), William Johnson(2), John Hansen(3), John Sweet(4), Olive Ewing(5), Gertrude Sweet(6);  
Back row: Paul Green, principal(1), Georgia Ingham(2), Ida Petersen(3), Lucille Beck(4), Carrie Anderson(5), Laura Primett(6), Amelia Spencer(7), Nellie Asplin(8).



## LUCY SMITH DEAN AND CHESTER DEAN

Chester Dean moved from New York, to what is now Rocky River, with his sister Sarah, and new brother-in-law, Datus Kelley. Around 1812, the first big wedding took place in the township, when Chester Dean married Lucy Smith of Dover. It was hosted at the cabin of Datus and Sarah Kelley, and in spite of a big snowstorm, the entire township showed up. A fiddler, with dancing, continued late into the night. From then on, events in the township were dated as before the Dean wedding or after the Dean wedding.

It was the time of the War of 1812; the Deans found the Indians friendly when they came to hunt and fish at an area about 1/2 mile west of the Dean cabin. In 1813, Datus Kelley was drafted, but hired his brother-in-law Chester to take his place, as was done in those days.

Chester came back and became a township trustee in 1819, and clerk of the school board around 1910. When Datus Kelley moved to what is now Kelley's Island, around 1834, he sold the southern part of his farm to Chester and his brother Samuel Dean, and they with their father Joseph, built a tannery in the area. (The rest of the farm was sold to Governor Reuben Wood.)

### **\*\*FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION\*\***

Send your name(s), address, and optional phone number and email address, with your check to The Rocky River Historical Society, P.O. Box 16445; Rocky River, Oh 44116.  
(Individual = \$30.00, Family = \$45.00)

**For \$250.00 you can become a Corporate Sponsor.**

Contact Gay Christensen-Dean, rockyriverhistsoc@gmail.com, for more information.





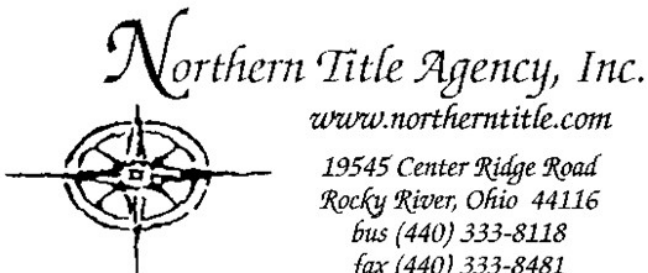
The following was printed previously in the Rocky River Historical Society newsletter, but is being re-printed here due to the current interest in the Hilliard Road Bridge:

Excerpt from  
ROMANCE IN LAKEWOOD STREETS  
By Margaret Manor Butler

## HILLIARD ROAD

New York lost a keen teacher but Cleveland gained an enterprising business executive when Richard Hilliard came to the Western Reserve in 1820. Starting in the wholesale dry goods and grocery business, he expanded his interests to land speculation. Among his purchases was one hundred acres in the vicinity of Hilliard Road at Madison. Although we have no record of his having lived in Lakewood, the street was named in his honor. He became one of Cleveland's most outstanding citizens, serving as Mayor of the Village in 1830, and as an organizer or trustee in many civic ventures. He built a mansion on the present site of Cleveland Public Auditorium, where he resided until his death in 1856.

### \*VISIT OUR SPONSORS\*



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## HOLIDAY WREATHS SALE

Society will be selling Christmas wreaths, sprays, arrangements and small table top live trees again this holiday season. We will be offering hands-free ordering online. In addition to the beautiful wreaths, we are able to offer holiday sprays for your door as well as LED lights to accent purchase.

**Purchasing these items provides direct support to our organization.**

Order your Holiday greens on-line to support the Rocky River Historical Society.

Use the website **GIFTITFORWARD.COM** and use fundraising code: **ROCKYROH002**.

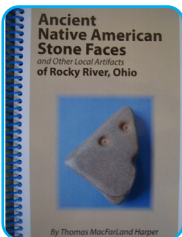
The name of the referring member can be **your name** or **RRHS**.

Deadline for ordering is **November 14, 2022**.

## \*\*SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY\*\*

### ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN STONE FACES OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

\$25.00



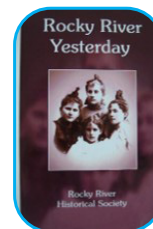
Sold at:

Pier Beverage and Deli, 22474 Lake Rd.  
Ace Hardware, 20200 Detroit Rd.  
Ford's Clothier, 19821 Detroit Rd.  
Lake Road Market, 20267 Lake Rd.

### \*\*BOOK SALE\*\*



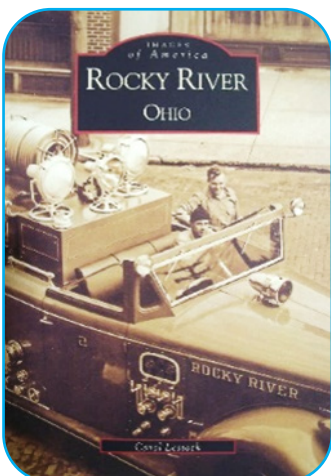
ROCKY RIVER, OHIO:  
WHERE THE RIVER ENDS  
\$25.00



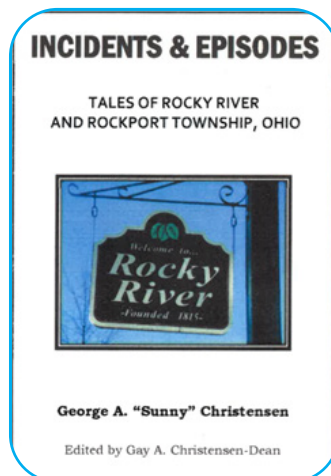
ROCKY RIVER,  
YESTERDAY  
\$15.00



KESWICK GOLF  
the MISSING LINKS  
\$20.00



ROCKY RIVER, OHIO  
\$20.00



INCIDENTS & EPISODES  
\$25.00

# CONTACT 440-331-4614 TO ORDER.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 4-5, 9am – 4pm  
RR SENIOR CENTER CRAFT and QUILT SHOW