

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 16445, Rocky River, Ohio 44116, Ph: 440-508-6510
<http://rockyriverhistoricalsociety.org/>

A Centennial City

1903-2003

November 2019 News Edition



Newsletter Sponsored By:

DUBICK FIXTURE & SUPPLY



♪ TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME ♪

SPONSORED BY the DEAN FAMILY

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 • 7:00 PM

ROCKY RIVER SENIOR CENTER
21014 Hilliard Blvd. (Behind Fire Station)

President
Jan Cipriani

Vice-President
John Going

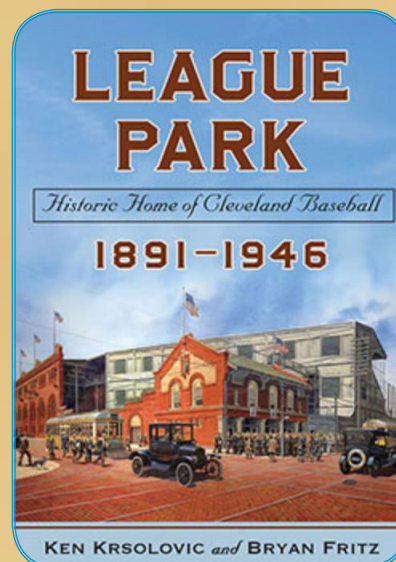
Secretary
Cheryl McCoy

Treasurer
Gay Christensen-Dean

Trustees
W. Philip Ardussi
Tom Barrett
Carol Benyo
Vic Erml
Ginni Going
Suzanne Lydrickson
Jack Nickels
Dottie O'Neill
Sandi Regula
Rachel Regula
Jay Rounds

Honorary Member
Dr. Michael Shoaf

Newsletter Editor
Gay Christensen-Dean



Presented by the ever-entertaining authors Ken Krsolovic and Bryan Fritz. Ken has worked as a coach, athletic director, in sports radio, etc. Bryan is a City of Cleveland prosecutor and a sports statistician. Both writers will present details from their recent book on the historic League Park stadium at East 66th Street and Lexington Avenue. Come and hear about where Babe Ruth hit his 500th home run.

OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

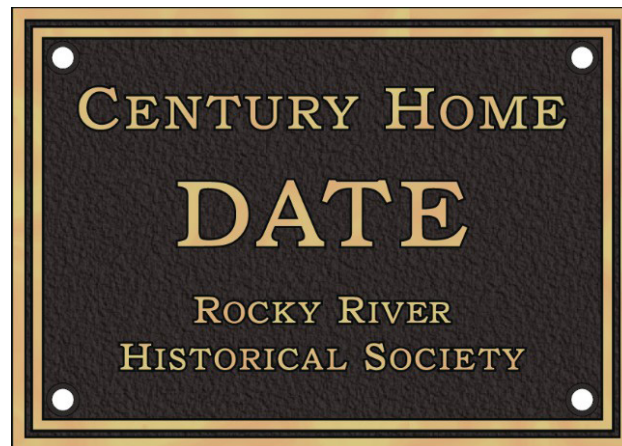
In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

(John McCrae, a Canadian doctor and teacher, served in the South African War in 1899, moved to England, served in World War I in Belgium, became chief of medical services in a French hospital, and died of natural causes in 1918.)

CENTURY HOME PLAQUE PROJECT



This was the second year of our Century Home Plaque Project, honoring Rocky River houses 100 years old and older, as recorded in the Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office, with a cast bronze plaque. Ten more owners signed up. If your house turns 100 in 2020, you will be receiving a letter about how to order a customized plaque featuring the year your house was built, to be attached to the outside of the house.

Drive around River and try to spot the Century Homes.

ARMISTICE DAY

by Gay A. Christensen-Dean

In World War I, Germany suffered many casualties. As war progressed, they knew they were outmatched. The U.S., Britain, and France still had more fresh troops to go against the Germans on the Western Front, but maybe not the inclination. At Germany's request both sides decided it was time to end the war. Thus, World War I ended, not with a surrender by the Germans, but by an armistice agreement in which both sides agreed to stop fighting (Germany agreed to harsh terms), which was considered the fastest way to stop all the bloodshed. The time was November 11, 1918 at 11:00 am at Compiègne, France. Officially, World War I (known as "The Great War") ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles at the Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France on June 28, 1919.

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as "Armistice Day" to honor the World War I heroes that died in our country's service. The U.S. Congress officially proclaimed it on June 4, 1926. An Act on May 13, 1938 made November 11 each year an official legal holiday. In 1954, Congress (and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower) changed the day from "Armistice Day" to "Veterans Day", to honor American veterans of all the wars, both living and dead.

The Uniform Holiday Bill, signed on June 28, 1968, designated four national holidays (including Veterans Day) to be celebrated on Mondays. This was not liked or accepted by many American patriots. On September 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a law to return Veterans Day to November 11 beginning in 1978, preserving the historical significance of that date. November 11 is also a holiday in Belgium, France, the U.K., Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, and other countries.

The difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day is that Veterans Day celebrates all soldiers, living and dead, serving in war time and peace time, while Memorial Day honors those who died in service to our country.

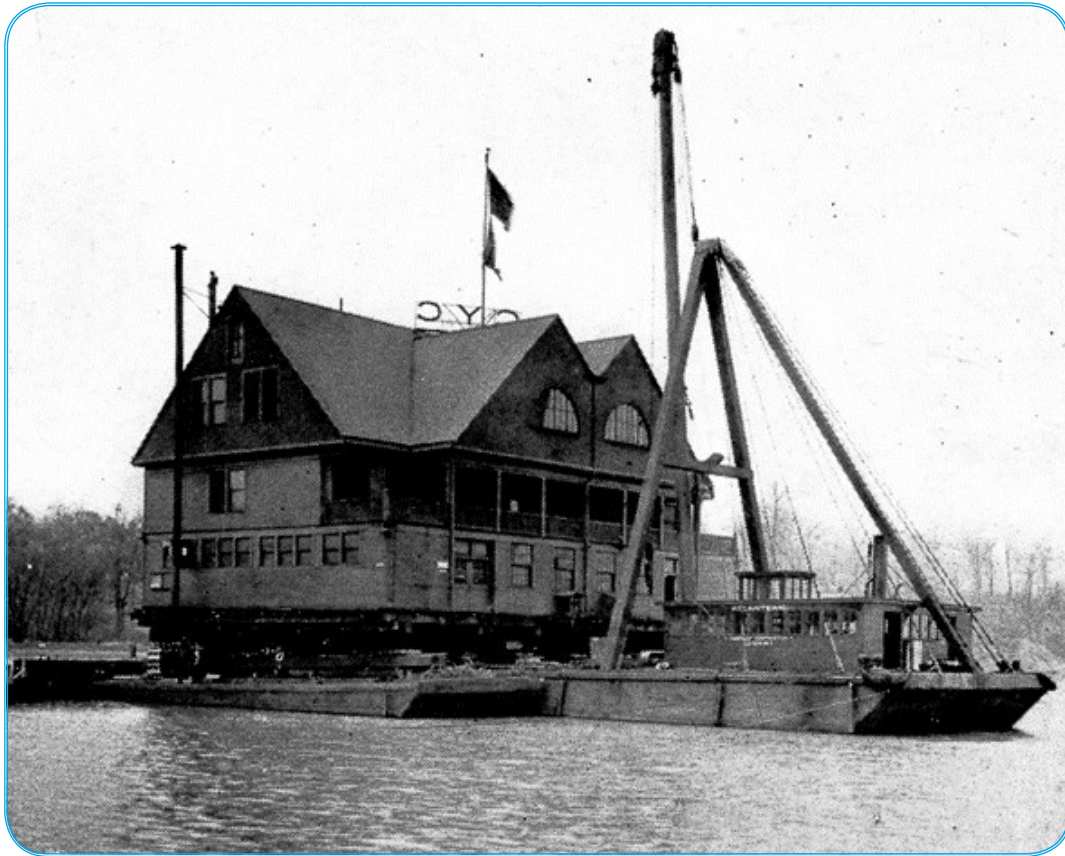
Sources: www.military.com, www.va.gov, www.history.com

IN MEMORIAM JANE BLAHOVEC

The Rocky River Historical Society and Rocky River community sadly lost a devoted, lifelong friend. Jane Blahovec (née Stenger), age 86, wife of Dominik, passed away August 7 after a brief illness. Jane was born, raised, attended school and lived most of her life in Rocky River. She was an active volunteer and member of St. Christopher parish and many Rocky River organizations. Jane shared with us her 1st hand knowledge of the past 80 plus years, witnessing the history, growth and change of Rocky River. She will be greatly missed.

"IT'S MOVING DAY"

by Gay A. Christensen-Dean



The Alexander Construction Company, building movers and street widening engineers, founded by Mr. Orion Alexander (1877–1929), with offices in Cleveland, Detroit, and Toledo, was at the forefront of the building moving business. They were responsible for moving the Cleveland Yacht Club building from its location at the East 9th Street Pier to the Rocky River, a distance of 7 miles, and did it via Lake Erie.

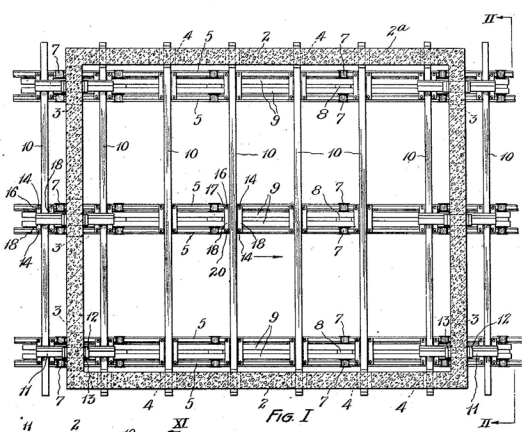
Competitors were using the same old, slow system of moving buildings. But, Orion Alexander designed and patented a new system that increased the speed of the job and decreased the cost, and allowed occupants to remain in the building throughout the operation. (Mr. Alexander moved the train station at Euclid Avenue and East 55th Street with ONE horse.)

Information for this article was provided by Don Southam, great nephew of Orion Alexander, and with special thanks to Lia Staaf.

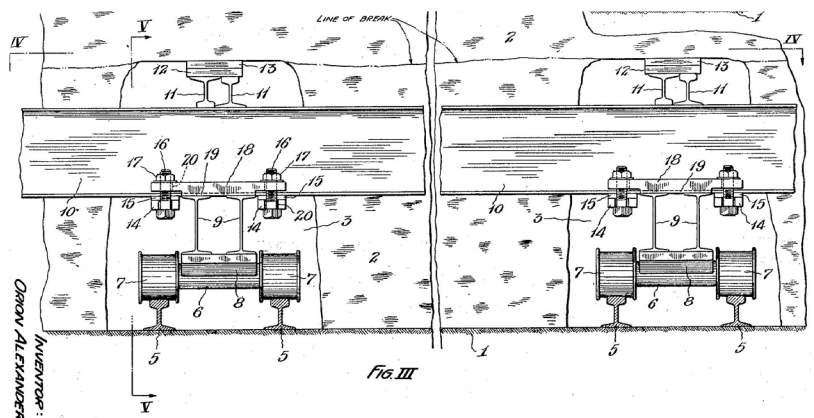
Below is a summary of one of the patents:

U.S. PATENT No. 1,562,430, patented Nov. 24, 1925
Orion Alexander
"Means for and Method of Moving Buildings"

"... an improved method of transferring the weight of the building from the previous foundation, first, to a structure adapted to travel and then after removal to a new site ... it has heretofore been the practice to build up a maze of cribbing under the building, place jacks on the cribbing, longitudinal beams on the jacks, cross beams on the longitudinal beams ... Then after the weight of the building had been transferred to the assembled structure following lifting action of the jacks, tracks were placed on the cribbing, loose roller bars placed across parallel tracks and the load in turn assumed by the rollers. That meant a double operation ... One object of my invention is to avoid the first or temporary support for the building and also the employment of the lifting jacks ... Tracks are first laid under the building so as to extend through holes broken out of opposite ends of its foundation, ... next [to] the longitudinal beams, cross beams ... Designed to travel upon the tracks are truck units each of which ... comprises ... a pair of flanged rollers. ... In order to effect the line of break in the foundation close to the horizontal plane, ... I employ adjustable ... units ... located along opposite sides of the longitudinal beams and extending underneath the crossbeams ... [having] four bolts ... and each bolt carries a nut. ... a turning of the nuts gradually effected and uniformly over the entire structure, ... is calculated to part the building foundation along the line of break ... The weight of the building has in consequence become transferred to the loading structure, which is adapted to travel in a prescribed direction on the series of tracks and which travel may then be steadily effected by suitable cables drawn forward in any desired manner, as by winding about a windlass."



Top View,
 showing longitudinal
 and cross beams



Side/End View,
 showing holes containing tracks, rollers,
 beams, bolts, nuts, line of break

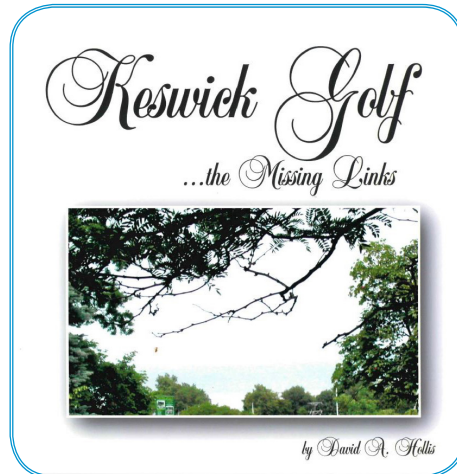
Legend: 2a = building, 3 = hole, 5 = track, 7 = rollers, 9 = longitudinal I-beams, 10 = cross beams, 16 = bolts, 17 = nuts

SEARS KIT HOMES



From 1908-1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold approximately 70,000-75,000 homes through mail-order. They had 447 different housing styles, from elaborate to simple. It was a home in a box – a kit – delivered to the local train depot. This Sears Kit Home, built in 1912, can be found at 22591 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River.

A GOLF COURSE in ROCKY RIVER in TANGLETOWN??



Yes, it's 1913, and tee times are available!

David A. Hollis has documented the fun and frolic in his new book Keswick Golf ... the Missing Links. Maybe your house is on the 5th hole!

To order a limited edition copy for \$20.00, phone 440-508-6510.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The DEAN Family

DUBICK FIXTURE & SUPPLY

Dubick Fixture and Supply, 6211 Euclid Avenue, a dealer in new and reconditioned/used food service equipment.



Minuteman Press, 24112 Lorain Road, a full-service Printing, Marketing, and Design company.

OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

NEED A CHRISTMAS PRESENT SUGGESTION?

What about a membership to the Rocky River Historical Society?

Just send the person(s) name, address, and optional phone number and email address, with your check payable to the Rocky River Historical Society, to:

Rocky River Historical Society
P.O. Box 16445
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Individual = \$25.00, Family = \$45.00

All donations are tax-deductible. Thanks for your support!

******CHRISTMAS SALE******

Notecards: 4 views/16 cards of early Rocky River
A good stocking stuffer! Only \$1.00 per box

Rocky River Historical Society monogrammed bag - \$5.00

Clock Tower poster, 15" x 18" – \$5.00
(actual picture excluding white border is 11" x 14")

Framed Clock Tower poster, 17.5"w x 21.5"h - \$25.00

Contact 440-508-6510.

GOLDWOOD DRIVE

Goldwood Drive, the most western street south of Hilliard Road, in Rocky River, was taken from the name of that area, which was once a part of "Goldwood Township", which extended from Dover Township (Westlake city boundary line today) on Center Ridge to the center line of Dale Avenue. The residents voted to be annexed to Rocky River instead of Fairview (now Fairview Park). Rocky River promised to build a school – hence, Goldwood School on Center Ridge Road where it is now on 4-18-88, fulfilling the promise. After one year it was closed (13 pupils in six grades). Pupils then went to Wooster School. During the school vacancy there was a lot of vandalism on the school building. It remained closed until way after World War II when it was restored and improved and enlarged from time to time, and the Rocky River school system moved their headquarters to Goldwood School. It was named by the developer who purchased the property, Barney Schwarzer.

Authenticated by George A. Christensen.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING FAST!

Don't forget to order your holiday wreaths!

By now, you should have received purchasing information for these live, already decorated wreaths shipped via FedEx right to your door. It's hassle-free! The order deadline is **OCTOBER 29**.

For more information, contact Sandi Regula at 440-508-6510, or Fundraising.rockyriverhistorical@gmail.com.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

To celebrate this special 50th year, the Society is offering discounted book prices of \$15.00 for the history of Rocky River book "ROCKY RIVER YESTERDAY", and \$25.00 for the Rocky River in pictures book "WHERE THE RIVER ENDS". To order, phone 440-508-6510.

← REMINDER →

If you haven't already done so, don't forget to send in your membership renewal (individual = \$25.00, family = \$45.00) to Rocky River Historical Society, P.O. Box 16445, Rocky River, Ohio 44116.

EMAIL OPTION:

If you would rather receive this newsletter via email, send your request to: christensenga@yahoo.com and put "Email Request" in the subject line.

Check out our new page!



<https://www.facebook.com/rockyriverhistory>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

January 9, 2020! – "The Story of Curtis Phillips, Last Civil War Vet in Cleveland", by Paul Siedel of Woodland Cemetery Foundation, 7:00 pm, Rocky River Senior Center