

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

A Centennial City

1903-2003

Summer 2020 News Letter



Newsletter Sponsored By:

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Due to the coronavirus there will be no summer picnic.

Cleveland Metroparks is a great way to still enjoy the summer. We wish everyone the best. Be on the lookout for our September newsletter for info on future activities.

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HISTORIC SITES IN CLEVELAND METROPARKS ROCKY RIVER RESERVATION

by Gay Christensen-Dean

(Starting at Scenic Park and heading south)

1. ROCKCLIFF/STEIN'S SPRINGS



Rockcliff Spring, once owned by the Stein family, originates high up on the valley slope on the Hilliard Boulevard side of Rockcliff Drive, west of the Hilliard Bridge. As kids, we played in the Metropolitan Park. We drank out of the spring near the top of the road to Rockcliff Drive many times and when we didn't feel like walking up the hill we just drank out of the clear water in the river, as late as 1924

(taking a chance with typhoid fever perhaps). When parking to get free water along Rockcliff Drive became a hazard for drivers and pedestrians alike, the water was piped to the valley floor and a parking lot provided. The spring runs about 5 gallons per minute all the time and empties into the Rocky River stream which carries it out to the lake. Carl A. Stein, my neighbor, told me when I was young that it was his spring that kept Lake Erie full of water. Note – Water is brought through four pipe lines to a 500 gallon vault through which one pipe outlet drains to the fountain.
–Sunny Christensen circa 1960

2. MEMORIAL FIELD



“Dedicated to All Who Served With Honor In the Armed Forces Of the United States of America”

3. SMOKY YORKIE DOODLE DANDY and DOGS of ALL WARS MEMORIAL

By Susan Bahary 2005



“Smoky, a four pound Yorkshire Terrier became an ‘Unofficial War Dog’ in WWII after transporting communication cable under an air strip through a drain pipe. This act saved days of labor and safeguarded 40 planes. Smoky is considered one of the first therapy dogs of record and spent her final years in the Cleveland area. Dogs have been an important part of the U.S. military efforts since WWI serving as scouts, sentinels and trackers along with providing immeasurable companionship.”

4. STINCHCOMB-GROTH MEMORIAL

(On Hogsback Lane)



“William A. Stinchcomb
Conservationist,
Public Servant,
Humanitarian and Builder
First Director of the
Metropolitan Park System
From 1921 to 1957”

“The importance of conserving
our natural resources is now

well recognized. Can not it be truly said that these natural wild beautiful valleys and glens which lie adjacent to our rapidly growing urban centers are a kind of ‘natural resource’ of ever increasing value to the public?” –William A. Stinchcomb 1909.

The committee to create the monument said it should be “consistent with the rugged simplicity of Mr. Stinchcomb’s personality.”

5. TYLER BARN



Washington S. Tyler was the founder of the Tyler Company, (formerly Cleveland Wire Works) in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1872, a leader in woven wire cloth and mesh materials. The Tyler Barn was a part of the family’s summer residence, which overlooked the Rocky River.

6. FORT HILL

(The 155 Steps)

Fort Hill, on the National Register of Historic Places, is the site of Native American earthworks. Three human-made mounds were built 90 feet up on the top of the shale cliff, with views of the east and west branches of the Rocky River. Some stone tools were found. It is not a burial site but perhaps was used for ceremonial purposes.



7. LAWRENCE GRIST MILL



(Tunnel as seen from Maple Grove Picnic Area)

Joel Lawrence built a mill for grinding grain in 1832. He dammed the Rocky River and diverted the water through a 50 foot tunnel under Cedar Point Road to the mill. A tremendous flood in 1913 damaged the mill and it was never used again. It was demolished in 1917. Only the sandstone foundation of the mill remains.

8. PRECHTEL HOUSE

(Part of Frostville Museum)



Prechtel House, 1876, is the oldest house in the Cedar Point Valley and the only house on its original site at Frostville Museum, which was named after Elias Frost, the first postmaster in the area. The house was built by Adam Poe and soon sold to Martin and Margaret Prechtel, from Germany. Martin was a farmer and had a cobbler shop at Kamm's Corner

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From "CITY of ROCKY RIVER GOLDEN JUBILEE And OHIO SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1903-1953"

By Ralph D. Richards, and contributor Mayor J. Frank Gibson

May 4, 1903 – Last meeting of Rocky River hamlet trustees. Mark Mitchell sworn in as Mayor of Village of Rocky River. Council: A. Garritty, H. Hessert, E.M. Spencer, A.E. Stein, W.M. Dean, D.C. Reed, R.M. Bassett (clerk), E.E. Johnson (appointed street commissioner at \$2.00 per day each day employed), D.F. Miller (appointed city solicitor, salary \$240.00 per year).

May 25, 1903 – Ordinance prohibiting sale of liquor on Sunday and opening of saloons on Sunday passed.

June 2, 1903 – Ordinance establishing a jail in building now used as mayor's office. Mayor to supply plans and specifications for building and furnishing jail. Contract let to Van Dorn Iron Company for sum of \$312.00.

June 6, 1903 – Created job of sexton to have charge of village cemetery. Salary \$84.00 per year. John Elton appointed.

August 13, 1903 – Dr. K.K. Hastings appointed village health officer.

September 10, 1903 – Entered into contract to grade, drain and pave North Ridge Road with brick (Detroit Road). 15% of the cost \$498.75 for 20 years – Wooster Road westerly to Lake Shore Electric right-of-way.

September 5, 1907 – Ordinance granting Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company right to erect poles and wires to transmit electricity through and along streets, alleys and ways of Rocky River village.

June 24, 1909 – An ordinance to prohibit the firing of high explosives in annual celebration of Declaration of Independence passed.

February 4, 1910 – Petition presented to Council to withdraw southern portion of village into a township. Committee appointed to investigate names of petitioners and report.

March 4, 1910 – Ordinance assenting to detachment of south portion to be formed into a new township by the name of Goldwood introduced.

March 18, 1910 – Resolution by Mr. Stein to county commissioners requesting steps be taken to place a bridge between Hilliard Avenue and west bank of Rocky River to open up Madison Avenue with Wooster Road passed.

EAST SURREY COURT/WEST SURREY COURT

In 1962, the third development of John Marquard Sons was purchased from John Wind, which consisted of 12 acres of dahlia farms. It was John Marquard Sons' first venture in high-priced land, and it was decided that the proposed homes be designed for the "carriage trade", as the more affluent class was called in the early sixties. Hence, the names East Surrey and West Surrey were selected for the two streets. Time has proven that these names were most fitting for this development. -Roland G. Marquard.

MAGNOLIA DRIVE

Magnolia Drive was named by Margaret Roemer, a financial backer of the developer of the allotment, who chose the name of "Magnolia" after the hometown of her father, Magnolia, Ohio. He was a doctor in that community.

Magnolia Drive was developed by a Lakewood city fireman by the name of James Hausler, a lad who had married a descendant of the Kingsbury family of Cuyahoga County, who was an early settler.

Authenticated by Margaret Roemer.

****BOOK SALE****

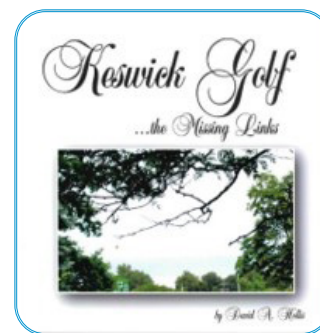
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KESWICK GOLF
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