

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 16445, Rocky River, Ohio 44116, Ph: 440-895-0983
<http://rockyriverhistoricalsociety.org/>

A Centennial City

1903-2003

January 2015 News Edition



WHAT MAKE OLD COINS VALUABLE PRESENTED BY TOM JERPBAK

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**THURSDAY, January 8, 2015
AT 7:00 PM
ROCKY RIVER SENIOR CENTER**



Tom Jerpbak of Ye Olde Oaken Bucket will give a presentation on old coins and what makes them valuable as well as why they are collectible. He will also answer questions about your own old coins. You don't want to miss this informational and enjoyable evening.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE ROCKY RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S LATEST PUBLICATION:
INCIDENTS & EPISODES**

BY GEORGE A. "SUNNY" CHRISTENSEN

EDITED BY GAY A. CHRISTENSEN-DEAN

STENGER – CHRIS MILLER

Patrolman Stenger on the Rocky River police force lived on Mitchell Avenue when he was a policeman. He enjoyed an alcoholic drink from time to time and even during his working hours.

A family who lived along the alley just south of Mitchell Ave. consisted of a couple with 3 daughters and the wife's father, Mr. Miller, who also liked refreshment.

One night, the wife's father, who usually tied one on daily, got too much, and when she couldn't put up with his arrogance, loud mouth, etc., in front of her children, telephoned the Rocky River Village police. They sent out Police Officer Stenger to handle the situation. When he got to the house of his buddy, they then had a drink or two. Now, when it was time for Stenger to transport Chris Miller to the Village police office, he couldn't drive the police car, so Mr. Miller had to drive the car back to City Hall with the police officer in the back seat, because he was too drunk to drive.

**ROCKY RIVER SCHOOL
BOARD INSANITY
CONCERNING ATHLETICS**

In the early 1930's, the Rocky River school board, at an athletic conference, formed the Lake Erie League, along with Cleveland Heights, Elyria, Lorain, Lakewood and Shaw high schools (a six school group).

In 1931, Rocky River High only had 175 students, while all the other schools had between 1000 and

2000 pupils. Out of Rocky River's enrollment of 175, more than 100 were girls, leaving less than 75 boys in three classes (sophomores, junior and senior). We were truly out classed by numbers alone.

However, in 1932, the Rocky River High School light weight basketball team, who hadn't won any game up to that time, played Lorain High School light weight. In the first 12 minutes of the game, a Bradley Slack (co-captain with Sunny Christensen of the Rocky River team) dumped 5 straight single-handed shots into the hoop (10 points) and along with one score by Louis P. Christensen (2 points) and one score by Richard Zeager (2nd cousin) (2 points) made a total of 14 points, to 10 points by Lorain High at half-time.

During the second half, Rocky River High School scored no points and Slack was taken out of the game on fouls, which did not add to the Lorain team. Lorain got 2 more points just before the end of the game and so it ended:

Rocky River 14, Lorain 12

Thus, the Rocky River High School lightweight team won the first and only game of the season, as unbelievable as that can be.

Next morning in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, front page, it reported "Rocky River trounces Lorain 14-to-12". It was the only game won by Rocky River in 3 seasons.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STORM OF 1956

BY JENNIFER DIERINGER

As reported in the Cleveland Press on the Monday following the storm, "Residents of storm-ravaged Rocky River, a community of well-kept homes, took its first major disaster—the blow of Saturday night—like seasoned veterans of such things." Winds of tornado proportions hit Rocky River at 9:49 pm on May 12, 1956 leaving a trail of destruction. The extents of the damages suffered by Rocky River in the May 12 disaster are re-counted from Mayor Frank Gibson's disaster report. Six people were injured (none seriously), over 3,000 trees destroyed, 100 houses, 50 garages and 50 businesses suffered serious damages. In addition, a large chimney from Beach School was toppled as well as revered Rocky River landmark, the Clock Tower.

Damages were estimated to be around 2.5 million dollars. The aftermath of the storm also resulted in a united effort to get the community back on its feet. Some teenagers helped policeman re-route traffic and warn motorists of dangerous areas while others helped clean up broken glass in the business district. Though over 50 years have passed since the wind storm, the event remains deeply engraved in the minds of many Rocky River residents.



Storm of 1956

JAMES A. GARFIELD

20TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

BY GAY A. CHRISTENSEN-DEAN



James Abram Garfield was born November 19, 1831 in Orange Township (now Moreland Hills), Cuyahoga County, Ohio. His father died when he was two and his mother raised him and the four older children, and managed the farm.

In 1856, he graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts and became a professor of Latin and Greek at Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College). After one year he was made president of the school. He also became an ordained minister, and studied law. In 1858 he married Lucretia Rudolph, also at the Eclectic Institute, and they had seven children.

In 1859, Garfield was elected to the Ohio Senate, as a Republican. In 1862, he was elected to the U.S.

House of Representatives, and was also fighting, with success, in the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Union Army. He saw action at the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Chickamauga, among other places. He resigned from the Army, having received the rank of major general, and served in the House of Representatives for 18 years, becoming the leading Republican in the House.

At the 1880 Republican Convention, he supported fellow Ohioan John Sherman for President of the U.S. On the 36th ballot, Garfield, the "dark horse", was nominated instead of Sherman, Ulysses S. Grant, or James Blaine. Chester A. Arthur was the Republican Vice-President nominee. Garfield then went on to defeat the Democrat Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock in the general election. He was inaugurated March 4, 1881.

As President, he strengthened authority over the New York Customs House, advocated civil rights for African-Americans, purged corruption in the post office, and proposed substantial civil service

reform, that is, government jobs should be awarded on the basis of merit and not on ties to politicians or political affiliation. In foreign affairs, he tried to befriend all the American republics, but his Presidency was cut short on July 2, 1881, when he was shot at a Washington railroad station by Charles Guiteau. He lingered for weeks and died September 19, 1881.

Garfield is buried in Lake View Cemetery, 12316 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. His monument stands 180 feet tall and overlooks Lake Erie. Featuring gold mosaics, colored marble, stained glass windows, and including 64 steps up to the outdoor balcony, it is open for tours, but phone ahead for hours of operation: 216-421-2665.

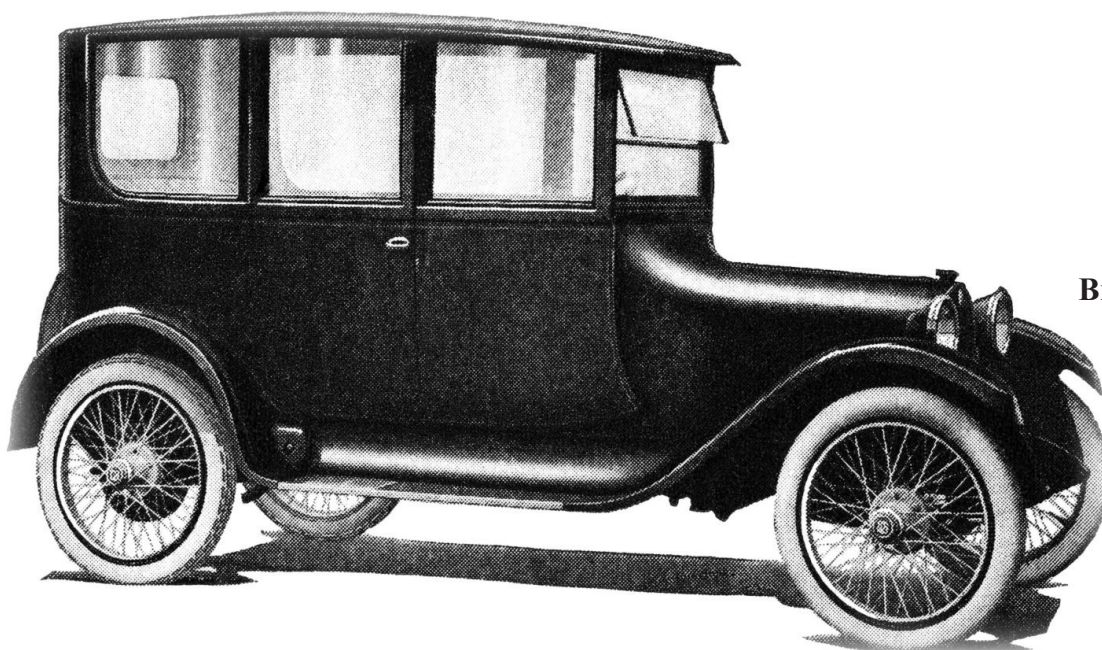
In 1876, Garfield purchased the house, later called Lawnfield, at 8095 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, Ohio for his growing family. His wife Lucretia lived in it at least part of every year until her death in 1918. This beautiful home is also open for tours, but phone ahead: 440-255-8722.

Sources: www.whitehouse.gov, www.history.com,
www.lakeviewcemetery.com, www.nps.gov

CLEVELAND AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING

Over the years, Cleveland manufacturers produced 83 different automobiles

(Source = Crawford Auto Museum):



Abbot 1918-1919
American 1903-1905
Argonaut 1959
Baker 1899-1919
Ben-Hur 1914-1918
Berg 1903-1905
Blakeslee 1906-1907
Brew & Hatcher 1904-1915
Broc 1909-1915
Buckeye 1901
Byrider 1908-1909
Chandler 1913-1930
Clear & Dunham 1900
Cleveland 1900
Cleveland 1902-1909
Cleveland 1913-1914
Cleveland 1919-1927

Over the years, Cleveland manufacturers produced 83 different automobiles

Cleveland 1912-1913
Croxtton 1912-1913
DeMars 1905-1906
Denneen 1916
Derain 1910-1911
Disbow 1917-1918
Downing 1914-1915
Durable 1902
Eastman 1901-1902
Elwell-Parker 1908-1909
Euclid 1908
Ewing 1908-1910
Fedelia 1913-1914
Ferris 1920-1922
Gabriel 1912-1918
Gaeth 1902-1911
General 1903-1904
Geneva 1901-1906
Globe 1916-1919
Grant 1916-1922
H.A.L. 12 1916-1918
Hansen 1902
Harding 12 1912-1913
Hoffman 1903-1904
Ideal 1906
Jordan 1916-1931
Krastin 1902-1903
Kurtz Automatic 1920-1923
LaMarne 1919-1921
Leon Rubay 1922
Marsh 1919-1921
Master 1907
Merit 1919-1922
Monarch 1909
Moore 1902-1903
Mora 1910
Noble 1902

Owen 1903
Owen-Magnetic 1915-1922
Otto-Kar 1904-1905
Palmer 1905-1906
Parsons 1905-1906
Paxon 1911
Peerless 1900-1932
Peoples 1901
Phoenix 1900-1901
Pomeroy 1922
Rae 1905
Ranger 1916
Rauch & Lang 1905-1924
Richard 1914-1916
Rollin 1924-1927
Rogers & Hanford 1901
Rogers & Thatcher 9 1903
Royal Tourist 1903-1912
Russell 1903-1904
Star 1903-1904
Stearns 1897-1916
Stearns- Knight 1916-1930
Strong & Rogers 1900-1901
Stuyvessant 1911-1912
Templar 1918-1925
Unito 1908-1910
White 1901
Williams 1907-1908
Winton 1897-1925

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MEETING DATES FOR 2015

Meetings are at the Rocky River Senior Center Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.

2015 PROGRAM DATES

February 19 - Winter Social at Behind the Woods with Cowan Pottery Museum Associates

March 12, 2015

Railroad Program, Presented by Ralph Pfingsten

May 14, 2015

Restoring Your Antique Car, Presented by Tom Barrett and Jay Rounds