

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

A Centennial City

1903-2003

March 2020 News Edition



Newsletter Sponsored By:

DUBICK FIXTURE & SUPPLY



Katharine Wright Haskell

By Amanda Davidson

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Thursday, March 12, 2020 • 7:00 PM

ROCKY RIVER SENIOR CENTER

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Amanda Davidson, of the Lorain County Historical Society, will present "Katharine Wright Haskell (1874-1929)", younger sister of the Wright Brothers. A graduate of Oberlin College, Katharine became a high school Latin teacher, and then quit to support the family, manage the bicycle shop and represent the brothers in different endeavors, including their promotional tour to Europe. Come and hear about this extraordinary woman.



OUR PRESENT BECOMES THE PAST THAT SHAPES OUR FUTURE.

MORE NOTES ON THE ROCKY RIVER DRY DOCK CO. and WORLD WAR I

By Gay A. Christensen-Dean



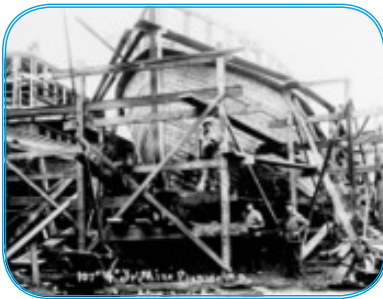
Ours is not the ordinary kind of dry dock. One of the distinct advantages that we have over others is the **marine railway**, which is 500 feet in length. This railway allows us to haul out craft and move them around so that we can take advantage of our 5 acres of property, thus giving us an immense capacity. We employ a force of 75 men who have at their disposal every modern convenience, including a complete mill for getting out material; a large up-to-the-minute, electric derrick; a great number of electric drills, etc. One of the boats on which we are now working, is the fuel lighter, Wm. G. Perry, owned by the Pittsburg Coal Co., length 175 feet; beam 34 feet.

**A New, Complete Dry Dock
at Your Service!**

We Build, Rebuild and Repair anything that floats, up to 200 feet in length, and with draft not exceeding 12 feet.

We specialize:
Large and small Vessels, Tugs, Power Boats and Yachts.
Put your proposition up to us and you will not be disappointed.

ROCKY RIVER DRY DOCK COMPANY
ROCKY RIVER - - - - OHIO



In 1914, Theodore R. Zickes incorporated the Rocky River Dry Dock Co., located 1/8 mile from the mouth of the Rocky River, across the river from what is now in 2020 Scenic Park. The Dry Dock repaired large barges used locally, and specialized in the construction and repair of dredges and scows, and yachts and racing boats for Cleveland's rich. It could accommodate vessels up to 200 feet in length.

In 1917, the U.S. was at a disadvantage when it came to ships available to confront the German fleet. Ten days after declaring war, the U.S. government established the Emergency Fleet Corporation, whose purpose was to oversee the construction and delivery of much-needed ships.

The Rocky River Dry Dock Co. submitted a bid and shortly thereafter signed a contract with the Emergency Fleet Corporation for the construction of a submarine chaser. The Dry Dock was in an advantageous position to be awarded the contract because of its modernized plant, with electricity, up-to-date machinery, a blacksmith shop, and experienced staff.

The sub chaser was delivered to the U.S. Navy in November 1917. It was followed by contracts for 7 additional sub chasers and 5 junior mine planters. The fast, maneuverable, wooden sub chasers were 110 feet long, with 3 gas-driven standard 6-cylinder engines (220 hp), underwater hydrophones, offensive fire power, and delivery systems for depth charges. The contracts allowed the Dry Dock Co. to go from 75 men in 1916 to nearly 200 by the end of World War I. It closed in 1921.

Sources: "The Rocky River Dry Dock Co." by Richard Raponi, clevelandhistorical.org.
For more detailed information: <http://greatlakes.bgsu.edu>
Special thanks to Lia Staaf.

The following is a partial list of vessels constructed at the RR Dry Dock Co.

Sub Chasers delivered to U.S. Navy:

SC 143 - delivered Nov 10, 1917; sold in 1936.

SC 142 – delivered Mar 30, 1918 and sent to France.

SC 403, 404, 405, 406 – delivered Oct 24, 1918 and sent to France.

SC 437 – delivered Mar 1, 1919; used by US Coast Guard; sold 1947; scrapped 1964.

SC 438 – delivered 1919; used by US Coast Guard(Great Lakes); sold; scrap'd 1947.



SC 142



SC 405 at Brest, France

177 ton, 101-foot Junior Mine Planters delivered to U.S. Army in 1919:

Capt. Samuel C. Cardwell – used by U.S. Public Health Service; scrapped in 1934.

Lt. Harold B. Douglas – sold in 1924 to a tug co.; abandoned in 1956.

Capt. Edwin C. Long – used by U.S. Lighthouse Service; sold 1941; scrapped 1959.

Capt. Edward P. Nones – sold to Panamanian interests in 1932.

Capt. Fred L. Perry – on East Coast; sold 1934; barge consort 1943; scrap'd 1947.



Capt. Samuel C. Cardwell



Capt. Edward P. Nones

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY of ROCKY RIVER HISTORY

from "CITY of ROCKY RIVER GOLDEN JUBILEE

And OHIO SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1903-1953"

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

April 11, 1892 – Trustees of Rocky River hamlet were H.G. Dean, 3 years; J.W. Spencer, 2 years; W. Hickox, 1 year.

May 11, 1892 – Ordinance No. 1 passed to prevent disorderly conduct. Ordinance No. 2 passed to suppress gambling and other misdemeanors. Ordinance No. 3 passed to prevent stealing.

June 1, 1893-1894 – Hamlet mayor Lew [Lon] Zeager. Amount received was \$2477.93; expended, \$2448.27; balance in treasury, \$29.66.

March 6, 1897 – A fine of \$5.00 and not more than \$25.00 to be issued to any person plowing or cultivating over lot lines in any road within hamlet, except for improvement of roadway.

April 4, 1898 – Election. 180 votes were cast for hamlet trustees.

April 17, 1898 – J. Silverthorn was ordered by council to remove fence he placed across the road to the river in front of his hotel.

March 3, 1900 – Ordinance granting permission to Cuyahoga Telephone Company to erect poles and wires in hamlet.

January 5, 1901 – Contract let for 8 street lamps for one year at \$250.00.

January 7, 1903 – Rural Free Delivery established in Rocky River hamlet.



Lon Zeager

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DETROIT ROAD and OHIO STATE ROUTE 254

By Gay A. Christensen-Dean

Our Detroit Road in Rocky River starts at the Detroit/Superior Bridge (opened in 1918) over the Cuyahoga River, where it is called Detroit Avenue. Heading west, it crosses West 25th Street just south of St. Malachi's and the Superior Viaduct, and between West 32nd Street and West 38th Street, runs adjacent to the Cleveland Memorial Shoreway. It continues westerly, through the Gordon Square Arts District at West 65th Street.

In Lakewood, beginning at West 117th Street, it passes by St. Edwards High School at Nicholson Avenue, downtown Lakewood at the intersection of Warren Road, the Lakewood Masonic Temple, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood United Methodist Church, Lakewood YMCA, St. James Catholic Church, and Beck Center for the Arts, before making a sharp right turn and crossing over the Rocky River Bridge into Rocky River and the Old River Shopping Area.

As it heads west, the Rocky River Bridge is the start of Ohio State Route 254, and it is also where the road changes names from Detroit Avenue to Detroit Road. Ohio State Route 254 is only 17 miles long. It follows Detroit Road west through Rocky River, Westlake, Avon, and Sheffield, and ends at Route 57 in Sheffield Township. The westernmost part is named North Ridge Road, which was the original name of Detroit Road in Rocky River.

After passing Route 57, North Ridge Road continues west, winding around past Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain, and changing names as it passes through Amherst but re-emerging as North Ridge Road on the other side. South of Vermilion it becomes Mason Road. It has had a very busy journey!

SCHLATHER LANE

Leonard Schlather, owner-operator of the Schlather Brewing Company in Cleveland, Ohio, purchased over 100 acres on both sides of Wooster Road (then Mastick Road) as a site for his new residence in Rocky River, part of which bordered on the Rocky River valley. He built a fine home on the easterly parcel. Schlather was of German extraction, hence his interest in breweries.

On the Schlather estate they raised timothy hay for their main crop. This crop was taken across the Rocky River wooden and iron bridges by horse and wagon to the hay market in Cleveland (on Ontario Avenue) where it sometimes was sold by the wagon load and then delivered to the purchaser at his premises; sometimes the hay was sold in bundles at the market. The hay was purchased by business people using horses for deliveries, etc. and for private use for those who had horses for their personal transportation. The Oakwood Market, later known as Primett's Market, had a barn and stable for their business use in making deliveries.

Schlather had two daughters whose married names were Mrs. Dr. Parker and Mrs. Dr. Hobson. Count Hugo Von Eckener, the commander of the Graf Zeppelin and a German citizen and resident, made several Atlantic crossings between Friedrichshafen, Germany and Lakehurst, New Jersey, and one trip around the world. One widowed daughter of Leonard Schlather was his constant companion on most every Atlantic crossing but not on the world trip. Her father was also German and a friend of the Eckener family.

Later, the Schlather property was sold and a developer named one street "Schlather Lane" after Leonard Schlather and Anna Schlather, who had passed away many years before. Other streets were Purnell Avenue, Laurel Avenue, Riverwood Avenue and Hampton over to Lakeview, which was formerly called Pease Avenue.

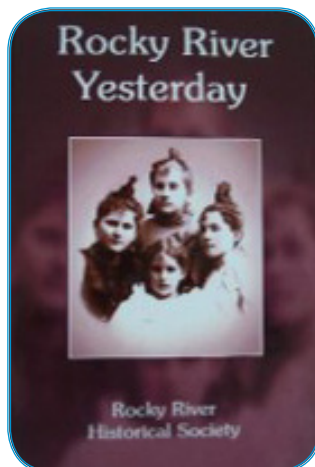
Authenticated by Sunny Christensen and Laura Christensen.

****BOOK SALE****

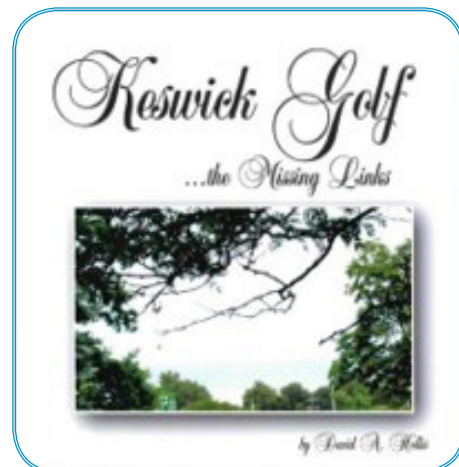
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**ROCKY RIVER, OHIO:
WHERE THE RIVER ENDS**
\$25.00



**ROCKY RIVER,
YESTERDAY**
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**KESWICK GOLF
the MISSING LINKS**
\$20.00

Check out our new page!



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

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION: Send your name(s), address, and optional phone number and email address, with your check to Rocky River Historical Society, P.O. Box 16445; Rocky River, Oh 44116. (Individual = \$25.00, Family = \$45.00)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

April 25, 2020: 2020 Cowan Pottery Symposium, 9:30am – 4:00pm at the RR Library

May 15, 2020: Member Appreciation Night - Beach School, Rocky River

May 16, 2020: RR Hist Soc Public Open House/Family Fun Day - Beach School, RR

August 1, 2020: Cowan Pottery 100 Years