

# View from The Overlook

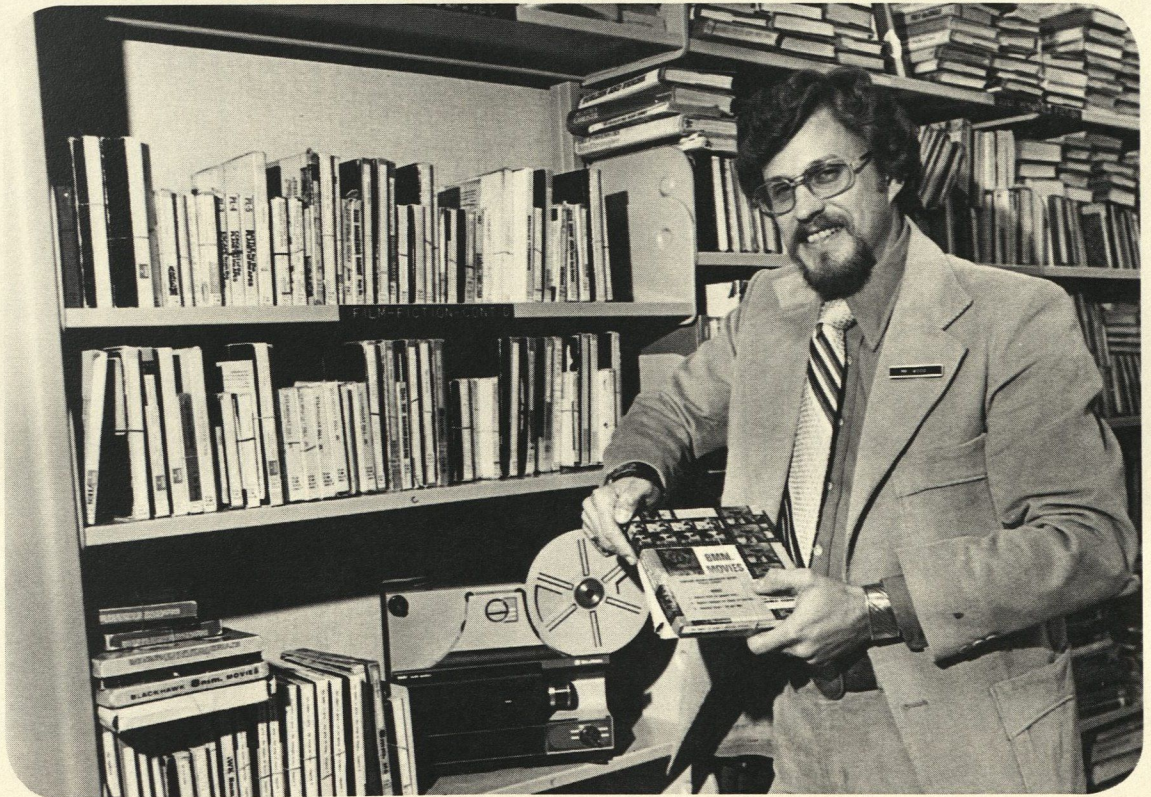


THE JOURNAL OF THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WWW.CHISTORY.ORG

## LOCAL HISTORY AT HEIGHTS LIBRARIES



*Former Heights Library Director Steve Wood with the film collection at the Lee Road branch of Heights Libraries, 1977*



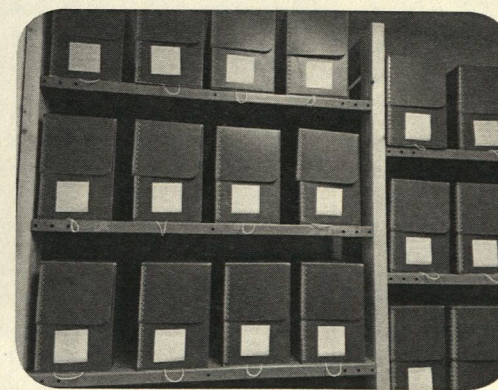


The new reference and circulating Local History section, located at the Lee Road branch on the second floor

# Local History at Heights Libraries

By Amia Wheatley

In 2015, a local history task force was created at Heights Libraries after requests from the public, the Cleveland Heights Historical Society, and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission were made to the library to have more of a focus on preserving the history of the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. During the year 2015, the members of the task force, myself included, formed a plan to make local history a priority at Heights Libraries and for our community. Preservation of the city and library's history is so vital to our community, and having this information readily available and resources for those who are wanting to do historical research on their own is a service we are striving to provide.



The local history office archives shelves

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEIGHTS LIBRARIES



# The Cleveland Heights Historical Society



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Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
heightshistory@gmail.com

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The Cleveland Heights Historical Society, founded in 1983, is a state-chartered, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization.

## Our Mission

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the diverse character and traditions of Cleveland Heights. As a community-based historic organization, the Society encourages and facilitates greater knowledge, understanding and awareness of the heritage of Cleveland Heights.

## From the President:

Folks, I wish to thank all of you who participated in our last fundraiser at the Cleveland Heights Landmark John Hartness Brown house. We actually had to close reservations. With Cynthia Lundeen's colorful talk on our famous local murder mystery of 1910, and many coming in appropriate costumes with an emphasis on hats, I believe it was fun for all. Photos of the event remain in our Cleveland Heights Historical Society's Facebook collection.

The Society again staffed a booth at the Local History Fair, held in Bedford in April. We suggest you visit the Shaker Historical Society's current exhibit devoted to the servant way of life many households in the Heights area experienced in the earlier decades of the last century. We have another series of our annual Preservation Month programs in May, and we are also seeking ideas for our series around October. One of our May events this year involves a tour of the East Cleveland Township Cemetery on May 6 – within Cleveland's current borders but where many early settlers of the current Cleveland Heights are buried. Additionally, our Historical Society is a sponsor of a new monument in the Shaker Lakes district (and actually in Cleveland Heights) honoring the Freeway Fighters of the 1960s.

If you have ideas for another Historical Society event, or an event for us to jointly sponsor, you may contact me through our gmail account – heightshistory@gmail.com. I also relish responding to your research questions.

Expect changes on our website — chhistory.org — which will concentrate more on the blog. Our Board has been discussing the study of "remnants" (for lack of a better term) in Cleveland Heights — reminders from the past which are not exactly architectural but which lend history to a site and, in some cases, a whole neighborhood. These could be a brick post, an old stone wall, an old path, or a special garden. We are also interested in sites and buildings just outside our city's borders but related to our community, such as an historic — but currently decrepit — tannery on the Cleveland/Euclid/East Cleveland borders.

Featured in this issue of "View" are two articles on topics near and dear to the overall purposes of our Historical Society. Amia Wheatley's article describes a collection of resources devoted to local history she has recently set up at the Heights Main Library on Lee Road, while Steve Titchenal writes of maps available online which inform us much about Cleveland Heights' history.

**REQUEST:** Please send your e-mail address to heightshistory@gmail.com, our regular gmail account, such that we might use them to cut down on our mailing costs.

— Ken Goldberg



Close up of Local History materials, and reference copies of "View from The Overlook"

The most visible local history addition is that of the Local History section that was added at our main Lee Road branch. This section is located on the second floor, in our Reference section, and has both reference and circulating materials. These materials range from Cleveland Heights High School yearbooks, city and school reports, city directories, to books by local authors and historians such as Marian Morton. Since 2015, Heights Libraries has taken great strides to provide more local history services and has plans for even more.

In early 2016, I was appointed Local History Librarian for our system. With this appointment, I was assigned to the organization and digitization of our archival collection. The archives are held at the Lee Road branch and contain letters, newspaper articles, photographs, and various other paper memorabilia about

the library and the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. The digitized items are located on the Ohio Memory website.

Ohio Memory is a collaborative digital library website that is run by the Ohio History Connection and the State Library of Ohio. Our library's images along with those of many other institutions can be found on this site. The link to get the library's Ohio Memory homepage is as follows: <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16007coll50>.

There are also library- and city-related photographs located on the Cleveland Memory website, which were scanned and uploaded by volunteers a few years ago. Cleveland Memory is run through Cleveland State University by Head of Special Collections Bill Barrow. Those images can be found here: <http://www.clevelandmemory.org/chuh/>. When the Heights Library's archives

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIGHTS LIBRARIES





*Friends of the Library President  
Walter Smoyer, 1973*

Steven Wood and Rachel Wayne Nelson (two previous Heights Libraries Directors), to name a few, and these interviews focused more specifically on their library experiences and how they felt the library impacted the community and vice versa. These types of interviews will be expanding in range and scope in the spring of this year.

Interviews of longtime residents were conducted in early April and will eventually be available on the Heights Libraries website as well as Ohio Memory. I am also working with our Nepali refugee population on interviewing some of them about their experiences from the refugee camps to their lives here in Cleveland Heights.

Oral histories give a different perspective on events and life by giving the listener a unique and personal look into the thoughts and

memories of the interviewee. The experiences shared can be preserved for future generations to understand what life was like here in Cleveland Heights and University Heights during these times.

Something we have continued is our community partnerships on local history programming. Each May, National Preservation Month, and October we work together with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and

are fully digitized or close to it, we would like to work with other organizations such as the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Heights High Alumni Association to digitize some of their items as well.

Another ongoing project that we are working on is collecting oral histories, which will be made available through Ohio Memory as well as the library's website. We began with interviewing former employees and directors,

PHOTO COURTESY OF HEIGHTS LIBRARIES



**Above:** *Friends of the Library Board Meeting, 1973* **Right:** *Women in the fiction area at Noble Library (date unknown)*



*Oral histories give a different perspective on events and life by giving the listener a unique and personal look into the thoughts and memories of the interviewee.*

the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission to bring the residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, as well as others, informative and interesting historical programming. These include lectures, walking tours, and workshops.

With our local history initiative here, we hope to not only become more involved with community organizations, but the public as well.

In the future, we are planning to make available more resources for the public to preserve their own history, and learn more about how to do research on their own family and home history. Currently, there is a Genealogy class taught by

the Tech Trainers in the Heights Knowledge and Innovation Center (HKIC) at Lee Road, which is used to teach the ins and outs of Ancestry.com, but we hope to add more classes and programs that will branch out into other sources.

*Amia Wheatley is Local History Librarian Heights Libraries/ Noble Branch. For more information or links to the library's history pages, go to: <http://heightslibrary.org/about-the-library/>, call the library at (216) 932-3600, or email me at [awheatle@heightslibrary.org](mailto:awheatle@heightslibrary.org).*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HEIGHTS LIBRARIES



# Exploring the History of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights Using Historic Maps

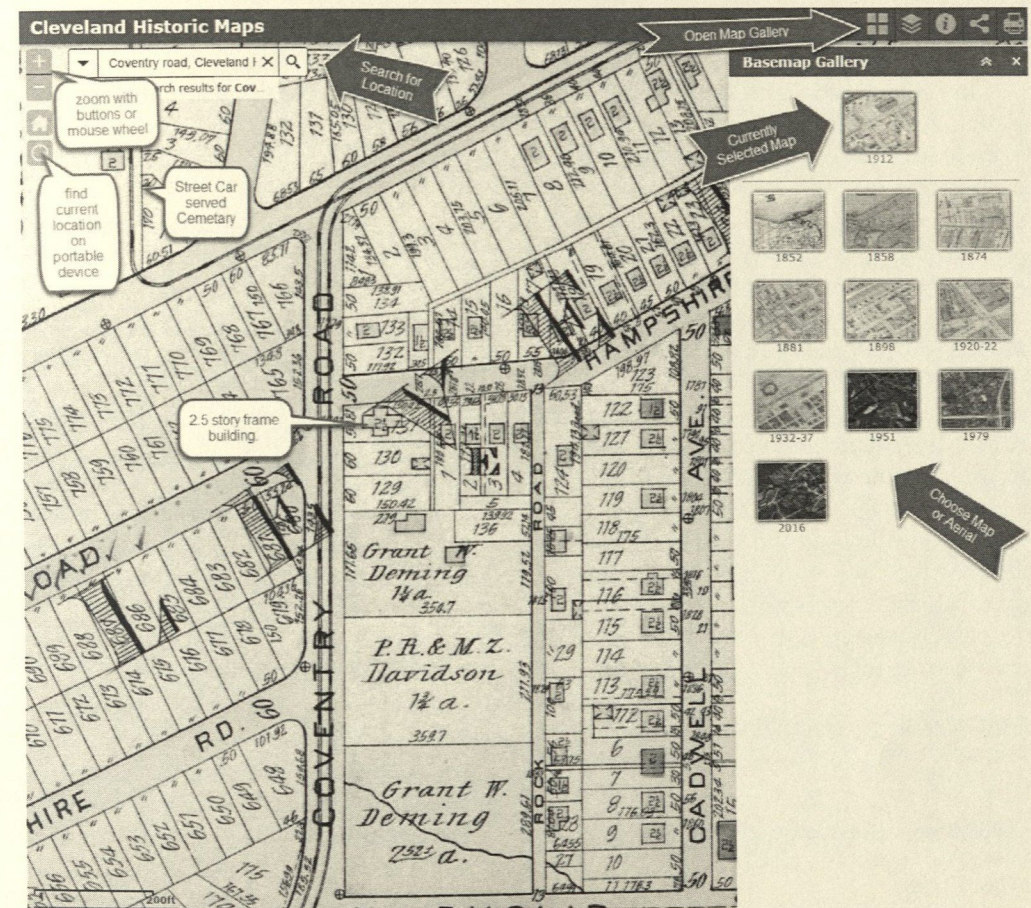
By Stephen Titchenal

Between the 1852 and the 1950s, a number of wall maps and atlases of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County were published. They illustrate the changes to streets, waterways, property, housing developments and buildings during that time. Between them, Cleveland Public Library and Cleveland State University Special Collections have an almost complete set of these maps and atlases and they have almost all been digitized.

To show building footprints and property lines in detail as the metropolitan area grew, the maps of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County were divided into sections and issued in bound atlases. Each volume in a series, contained 30 – 50 sheets of about 24 x 34 inches each, plus indexes. The

volumes were in a series issued over a number of years, so maps from adjacent volumes will have different dates. Between new series releases, updates to portions of individual sheets would be released that could be pasted over that section of the map sheet (plate). To more precisely date any part of a map, you would need to determine the date of any revision pasted onto the map. Sometimes the owner of an atlas also marked them up with additional information.

These maps are based on subdivision and land purchase agreements filed with the County. This historic information is preserved at the Cuyahoga County Archive, currently at 2905 Franklin Boulevard in Cleveland. Property (Parcel) deed searches can be done online from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer website.



Coventry area is displayed with 1912 basemap on [peoplemaps.esri.com/cleveland](http://peoplemaps.esri.com/cleveland). Labels explain more about the map and the display tools available.

The major issuer of detailed real estate and land ownership maps in the eastern United States was G M. Hopkins & Company. The company was started by two Hopkins brothers in 1865 in Philadelphia and continued until 1943 when it was purchased by Franklin Survey Company. Also historically

useful are detailed maps of built up areas showing building construction for insurance purposes done by the Sanborn Company.

You can find many of these maps in the Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery "Atlases, Maps and Park Plans" collection at <http://cplorg.cdmhost.com/>.

MAPS COURTESY OF HEIGHTS LIBRARIES



In collaboration with Chris Olsen at ESRI, many of the digitized maps have been located in a mapping program for easy display in a web browser, even on a smart phone. Using the ESRI map server at <http://peoplemaps.esri.com/cleveland/>, you can view many of these maps with the ability to overlay each map series with a modern day aerial image for comparison.

Because Hopkins began issuing a separate Atlas series for Cleveland and the rest of Cuyahoga County, the dates used to combine the volumes into one large basemap for the County are confusing.

Within the basemap structure, this list includes the date of the individual volume that included Cleveland Heights.

The Basemap Gallery of maps you can choose from include:

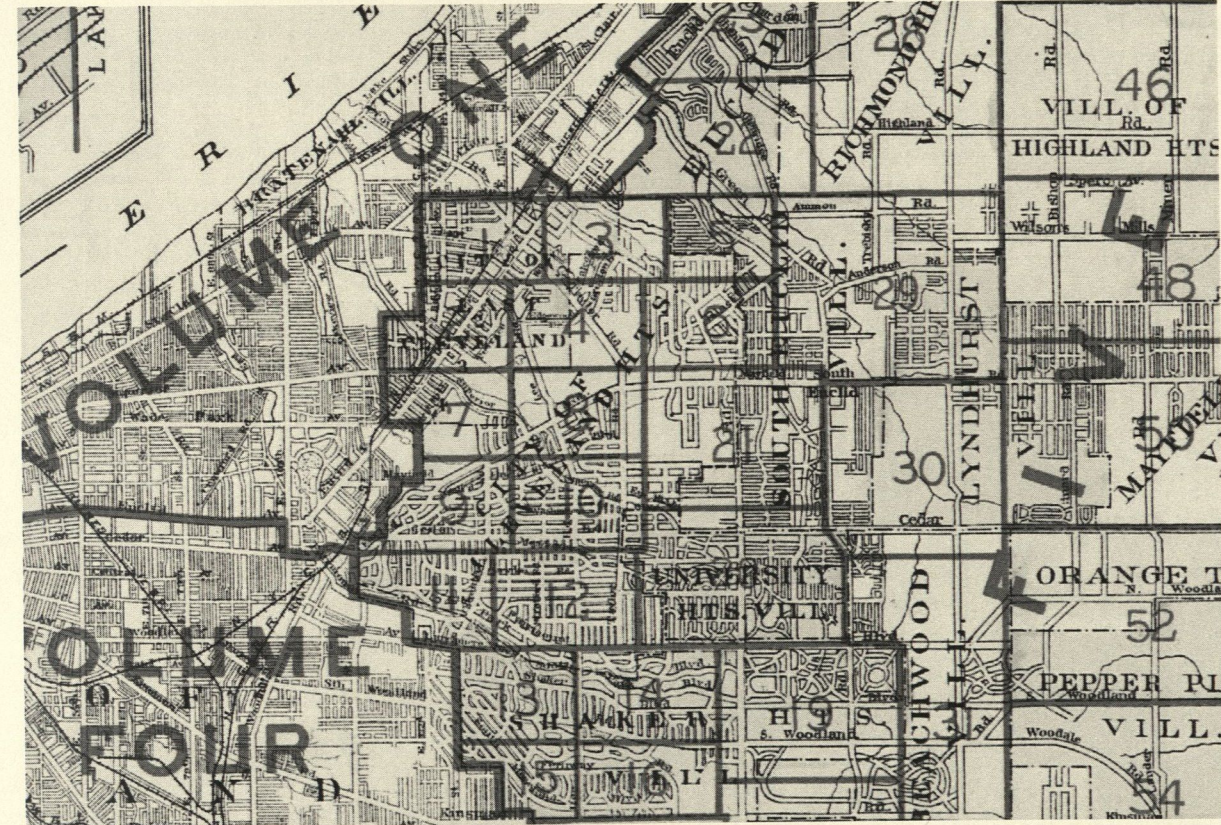
- **1852 Cuyahoga County wall map**  
(Harris Blackmore – published by Stoddard & Everett, Cleveland)
- **1858 Cuyahoga County wall map with city map insets** (G. M. Hopkins – published by S. H. Mathews, Philadelphia)
- **1874 Cuyahoga County Atlas** (D. J. Lake – published by Titus, Simmons & Titus)
- **1881 Cleveland Atlas** (G. M. Hopkins Company)  
*parts of East Cleveland Township that became Cleveland Heights are included*
- **1898 Cleveland & Suburban Atlases [2 volumes]**  
(A. H. Mueller & Company)

*Stephen Titchenal is a board member of the Cleveland Heights Historical Society. He retired from teaching in the Cleveland Heights – University Heights City School District in 2008. Steve works with many organizations to digitize maps and other historic documents. Some are available on his website, [www.railsandtrails.com](http://www.railsandtrails.com). You can reach him at [Stephen@Titchenal.com](mailto:Stephen@Titchenal.com)*

- **1912-14 Cleveland & Suburbs Atlases [2 volumes]** (G. M. Hopkins Company) *The eastern end of Cleveland Heights is included in Volume 1, issued in 1912*
- **1920-22 Cleveland & Suburbs [3 volumes]** (G. M. Hopkins Company) *Cleveland Heights is included in Volume 3, issued in 1920*
- **1932-37 Cleveland [5 volumes numbered 1-4,7]** (G. M. Hopkins Company) *Cleveland Heights is included in the County series, 2 volumes, numbered 5 and 6, issued in 1927*
- **1951 grayscale aerial images – not maps**

Expected to be available shortly as a basemap is the last Hopkins series for Cuyahoga County issued between 1941 and 1956. Cleveland Heights is included in Volume 1, issued in 1941.

Using the search feature or by zooming and panning, you can find a location on the basemaps. When searching for an address or feature, the search includes the entire world, even though the maps only cover Cuyahoga County, so be specific as to the address and city. The outline of each piece of property is shown with dimensions. and major subdivisions are named. For larger individual tracts, the owner's name is shown. In later atlases, buildings that existed at that time are shown colored for the type of construction. The roads are named and street car tracks are shown. See the map key for more details.



Index map for Hopkins Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Volume 5 (1927) show the boundaries of each plate and the Volume #s surrounding it. These plates were stitched together with ESRI software to display as a seamless map.

### EXPLANATIONS

BRICK BUILDINGS	ELECTRIC RAILWAYS
FRAME	STEAM RAILROADS
STONE OR CONCRETE	CITY LIMITS
STUCCO	ADJOINING PLATES
1ST STORY STONE, 2ND BRICK	ORIGINAL LOT NUMBERS
1ST STORY BRICK, 2ND FRAME	HOUSE NUMBERS
IRON AND IRON CLAD	STREET WIDTHS
GREEN HOUSES	APARTMENT HOUSES
GARAGES AND STABLES	<small>EACH ALLOTMENT IS GIVEN A SEPARATE COLOR</small>

Key from an index map illustrates the meaning of the colors, symbols and numbers used on the individual maps of that volume.



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## JOIN TODAY!

All members receive the benefit of knowing that their membership dues help advance historic preservation opportunities for Cleveland Heights. Memberships are tax deductible.

# The Cleveland Heights Historical Society

PO Box 18337 • Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

Please accept my yearly membership fee for:

- \$ 15.00 – The Marcus M. Brown Membership
- \$ 25.00 – The Patrick Calhoun Membership
- \$ 50.00 – The Barton and Grant Deming Membership
- \$100.00 – The John L. Severance Membership

Please make checks available to: *The Cleveland Heights Historical Society*

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