

View from The Overlook



THE PUBLICATION OF THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

No. 50 • FALL 2023

www.clevelandheightshistory.org



POTTER ESTATES

AND THE NEIGHBORING SEVERANCE MANSIONS

The Potter Estates (a neighborhood which incorporates North Taylor Road and Monticello Boulevard), the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Real Estate Company, our forgotten stream called Shaw Brook, and a brief resurrection of the "baronial estates" of Glen Allen, Ben Brae and Longwood in Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Compiled by KORBI ROBERTS | Edited by PETER ZICARI

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society



PO Box 18337
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
heightshistory@gmail.com

Board of Trustees, as of 2/23

Ken Goldberg, President
Charles Owen, Founder and Trustee
Michael Madorsky, Treasurer
Peter Zicari, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary
Marie-Rose Andriadi

Christine Heggie
Bill Hopkins
Korbi Roberts
John Wheeler

CHHS Journal Designer
Stephanie Antal

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...

As you can see this journal features Trustee Korbi Roberts' article on the history of Cleveland Heights' Potter Farm property and vicinity. Not well covered in our community's history publications to date, this extensive article will enlighten us as to how this local neighborhood many might take for granted, because of its blending in with its surroundings, has developed from the early 19th century and how many individuals have been involved in contributing to what one sees today.

Once again, our Historical Society is very late in requesting our annual membership dues, but we are doing so at this time for 2023. We realize some of you have already paid for this year, but for most of you, please make your annual contribution now. This will cover our general expenses, such as mailings and journal production, as well as special projects.

In 2023 we were fortunate to be invited by Apple Tree Books, located in our Cedar-Fairmount neighborhood, to create a display in two of its windows for the month of June. We keep up our website and Facebook page on a regular basis and know many enjoy following these and contact us through our e-mail with inquiries and comments.

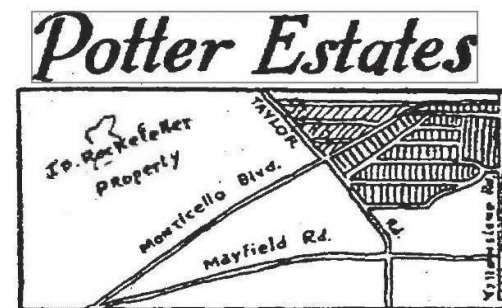
These are our regular responsibilities, but we always may come up with new ideas and projects and request your input. We could use volunteers from time to time. Thanks for your interest, and please help us out. You may pay through our website (clevelandheightshistory.org), on the form sent in this journal, or by sending us a check with your contact information. Your e-mail address is always appreciated. Thanks!

— Ken Goldberg, President, CHHS



You won't find Harry Potter or Hogwarts in this story, but instead a tale about a residential development called "Potter Estates" in one of the many areas of the Heights with an interesting past. Newly unearthed history about this section — the northeast quadrant of Mayfield Road and North Taylor Road — helps us understand the transformative journey the Heights experienced from the days of wilderness forest and gurgling streams, into family farms and stone quarries, and most recently into allotments of comfortable homes and commercial establishments. We will also revisit the history of three adjoining baronial estates of the Severance and related Millikin families which once grandly glistened with breathtaking wealth and influence but then vanished with little trace.

Today's Cleveland Heights neighborhood, called the Potter Estates, had its beginnings in the roaring twenties, when there was a promise of good times ahead and a shocking changeover in women's fashion. Modern ladies tossed out the long dresses, tight corsets, and petticoats of their grandmother's era and donned ankle-revealing and bosom-freeing attire. Women began to have more opportunities away from the cloistered homemaker role including the right to take their place behind the wheels of trendy automobiles. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the once remote eastside hinterlands of big city Cleveland had begun a metamorphosis from a patchwork of family farms and remaining dollops of woods into residential suburbs. A real estate outfit called the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company was looking at the Heights for their latest project. They chose a spot conveniently accessible from the Mayfield



An early version map to place the location of the Potter Estates in Cleveland Heights, created by the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company. The ad proudly brags that the neighborhood is adjacent to John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s estate. It's bounded on the west by Taylor Road, on the east by Yellowstone Road (sort of), and on the south by the Millikin and Elizabeth Allen Prentiss estates along Mayfield Road, and Monticello Boulevard, with a proposed rapid transit line, that passes through the middle (this transit line was never completed). Today, the thriving Potter Estates neighborhood, with comfortable, quality houses, manicured yards, and cheery flower beds, has lived up to the American Dream — the right to rule over your own private castle and lands, however scaled-down. (Map source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* May 10, 1925).

Road streetcar line. It was a new neighborhood to be named after a longtime Cleveland family — the Potters — and was promoted as "A residential park for people with refinement and taste." (*Cleveland Plain Dealer* November 17, 1920).

The burgeoning Knight-Norris-Gibbs Co. created developments along main routes of travel, furnishing the neighborhoods with civic improvements (utility, water, and sewer infrastructure), that would fit, hand in glove, to the growing class of families of "modest means" in need of homes after World War I. The com-

pany printed mail-in coupons to connect customers to more information, and promised they'd be assisted in the process of securing their own homes. The Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company was one of many competing real estate businesses fighting for a share of this market — they knew they'd have to sell twice as many home lots as the competition to make a profit. They also needed a huge sales force to push their vision.

Cleveland's biggest boosters

Incorporated in 1917, the Knight-Norris-Gibbs company formed from several smaller companies such as the Fortune Real Estate Company, the Continental Realty Co., and the Realty Underwriting Co. It was created by L.S. Knight, R.J. Norris, and C.F. Gibbs. The company would eventually be headed by successful businessmen such as J.H. Jones, Jr., W.O. Orr, and C.S. Dangler (of the Dangler Stove family). Eventually, Frank M. Potter (heir and last owner of the Potter farm) also became involved and took over management of the Potter Estates project.

FOR BEAUTIFUL ENTRANCES



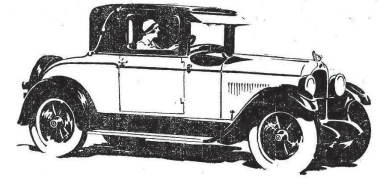
The one-time home of Clifford Scofield Dangler and his wife Margaret Murray Dangler can be seen today at 2942 Fontenay Rd. in Shaker Heights. Mr. Dangler headed the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Co. for a period of time. (Photo source: "Ancient Beauty for Modern Buildings," Canton, Ohio: The Union Metal Manufacturing Co., 1931.)

The Knight-Norris-Gibbs Co. left their imprint all over the vicinity including, in 1920, an innovative large-scale project in a very early downtown Cleveland residential neighborhood called "Lake and Rail Industrial Development." This project turned an aging section of Cleveland (between East 9th and East 30th Streets, and taking in the area north of Superior Avenue to the lake) into a new commercial and industrial area (but unfortunately razed some nice early settler homes).

The Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company not only started a school to train their salesmen, but they also opened a special Women's Division, helping to usher more women into the workforce. Despite its many successful allotments, the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company succumbed to bankruptcy in 1930. This once successful organization had been caught up in the boom and bust of the 1920s real estate market where the creation of the developments eventually outpaced the available buyers. (Source: "Memories of 1920s Failures Haunt Builders Here," by Marcus Gleisser, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* June 13, 1965).

An advertisement (large ad right page) for the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company shows their first office location in downtown Cleveland and two good reasons to become a new homeowner — to get away from crowded city life and to gain a private backyard where your children can play and grow. Their slogan, "Parked and Maintained," referred to their method of planting trees, bushes, flowers, and shrubs in their new neighborhoods for a greenery "park" feel. In this post-World War I recovery time many families were cash poor, but Knight-Norris-Gibbs Co. would accept Liberty Bonds in place of cash. Many citizens had purchased Liberty Bonds during WWI as an act of patriotism (a loan to the government during WWI to help finance the added expenses of war time, which the government would pay back with a bit of interest eventually).

Ambitious Women
 Read today in this paper Male Help wanted columns. See announcement opening of school and of our WOMEN'S DIVISION.
Knight-Norris-Gibbs
Company
 Cleveland's Biggest Boosters.
 Entire Sixth Floor Wurlitzer Bldg.
 1017 Euclid av. Superior 354.
 See Marguerite Smith Browning,
 Director, at once.



Above: A shiny automobile was handy for a thoroughly modern gal selling homes in the Heights (a 1927 Pontiac Six shown).

Left: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* ad February 21, 1926

Clip the Coupon in the corner of this ad now. Send it in to us without any obligation on your part and we will send you a booklet on this new section. Clip it today. Don't wait. It costs nothing to investigate.
Parked and Maintained.
The Knight-Norris-Gibbs Co.
 810 Leader-News Bldg.
 Ontario 1220 Central 5098

The Potter Estates takes shape

The Potter Estates was created in three sections coinciding with when the developer was able to purchase the land and then get the old farm fields graded and the roads and utilities installed (section 1 in 1920, section 2 in 1925 and section 3 in 1926).

The Potter Estates layout (map on page 7) was designed by the F.A. Pease Company, who created the plats of many other Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights neighborhoods. The previous farm field would be striated with carefully placed streets and subplot boundaries in harmony with the natural topography. The new roads and house lots of the Potter Estates were planned over what had been a

long-standing working farm of the settlers of the past who owned the land as follows: The Taintor family (1833-1854 — about 21 years), the Compton family (1854-1855 — only about 1 year), the German Bente family (1855-1889 — about 34 years) and lastly, the Potter family (1889-1920 — about 31 years). The Potter family heirs saw the last sunset on the farm's expansive meadows and small woods. Eventually, the remaining relatives would sell their land portions to Frank M. Potter (also an heir). It is notable that the acreage of just this one family farm of 56.84 acres (with 2 acres added in from A. M. Andrew's land) translated into the creation of 322 home lots (more or less). The new street layout would include a por-

THE GEM OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
LAKE ERIE

Potter Estates - No. 2

OPENING DAY -
Sunday, July 5th, 1925

In the Path of the Three Greatest Traffic Arteries in Cleveland
Surrounded by Great Business Centers—Schools—Churches—Theatres

➔ **MONTICELLO BOULEVARD** ➔

The Future De Luxe Boulevard Through Cleveland Heights
20 Minutes From Public Square

Own a Piece of Greater Cleveland
Values Increasing Daily in This District
Grow With Cleveland Heights

BUY TODAY BUY TODAY BUY TODAY

Take Advantage of Pre-Opening Selections—Act at Once!

THE KNIGHT-NORRIS-GIBBS CO.
Cleveland's Biggest Boosters.

Telephone Prospect 4140
Mail This Coupon Today
Wurlitzer Bldg., 1017 Euclid Ave.

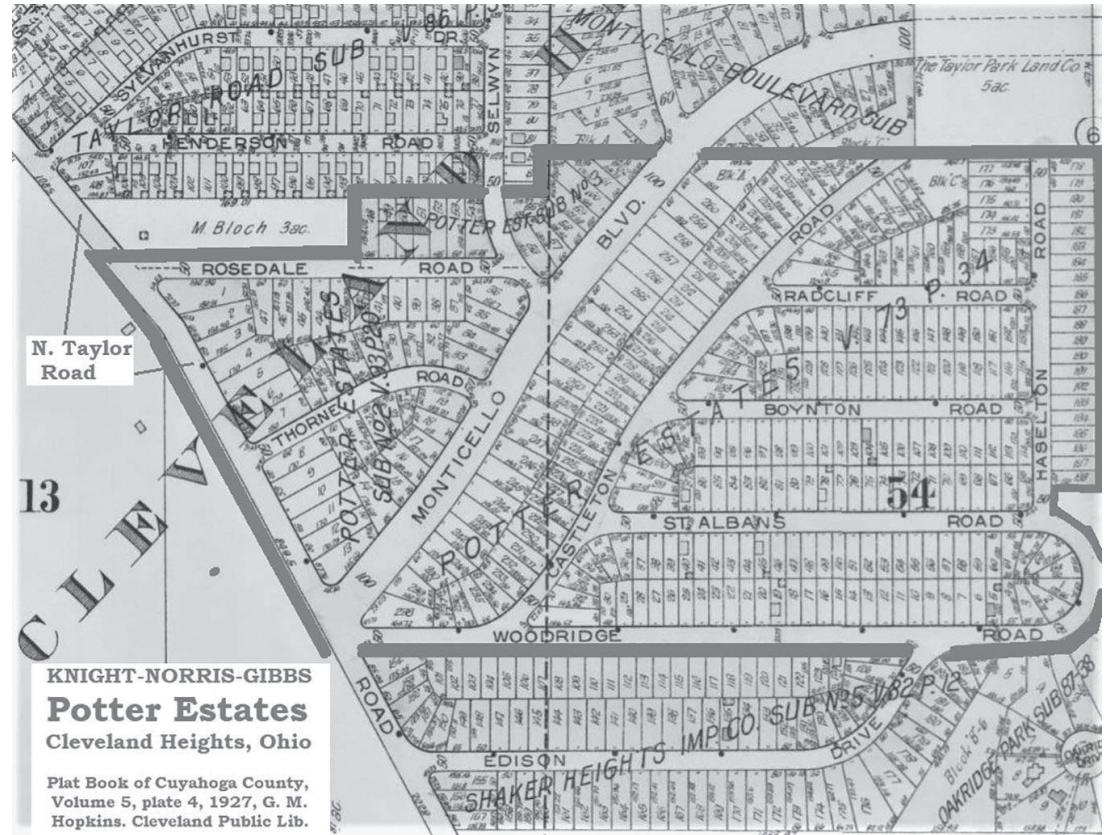
tion of the new Monticello Boulevard running somewhat through the middle, with side roads named Rosedale, Thorne, Castleton, Radcliff, Boynton, St. Albans, Woodridge, Haselton, and a small portion of Selwyn. The northern portions of Castleton and Haselton Roads are not included as they fall within the Taylor Park Land Co. allotment. By 1927, only about 10 houses were completed, but by the end of the 1940s the allotment was filled in. Interestingly,

the south side of Woodridge Road and both sides of Edison Drive are not officially part of the Potter Estates at all, but an allotment of The Shaker Heights Improvement Company created in 1923 (CC 82/12). This section, with its lovely houses, blends in seamlessly with the Potter Estates in appearance and ambiance.

We take it for granted when we drive through the streets in the Heights that the uniform appearance and orderly rows of houses happened just by chance. That was not the case. The harmonious appearance was due to building restrictions written into land deeds. Real estate developers carefully planned out these neighborhoods — designing family amenities (garages for automobiles, yards for romping children, and room to plant vegetable gardens) but smallish-sized lots that would fit a family's budget. As the case with the Potter Estates, the deeds mandated houses to be of quality building materials and over a certain

price ("no shacks," an ad boasted). An excited home buyer was glad for the single-family home restriction, and the fact no odiferous barns, smokehouses and privies were allowed. Another protection was that no spirituous liquors could be made or sold on the properties. Houses, garages, and fences had to be a certain distance from the street and property lines.

This was a new era of clean, modern living with "all electric" or "all gas" houses (versus smoky coal).



POTTER ESTATES—The heights of Cleveland—we have set a mark which we are striving for here in Potter Estates. We are building for the future. We are planning a Residence Park of rare beauty, of unusual attractiveness for the man of moderate means.

We have provided high class but appropriate protections that your home may be secure from unwelcome development. Every home built must conform to certain high standards of construction. Plans must be passed by our engineer before construction is started. Particular care is being exercised to see that the class of people to whom we sell will be in every way desirable.

Build your home in Potter Estates and you may set your mind at rest as to the safety and security of its future.

Cleveland Plain Dealer ad March 4, 1923

Appliances such as “iceless refrigeration,” were built-in and bookshelves, convenient laundry chutes built through the floors to transport clothes to washing machines in the basements, special doors along driveways for the milk and grocery deliveries added to the efficiency of the house.

The neighborhood was walking distance to schools, churches, small corner shops and hair salons. The “unwelcomed development” of the advertisements referred to keeping out smog and smut establishments (factories and bars) not conducive to healthy family living.

The land deeds were clear of any inexcusable “race restriction” clauses, a practice sometimes still employed in that era, but discrimination of certain buyers could still go on anyway. Banks could use unequal lending practices and real estate companies were at liberty to deny sales. Legal protections finally came in 1968 with the passing of the Fair Housing Act. The 1940 census shows that the Potter Estates neighborhood had only White homeowning residents (1940 US Fed. Census OH Cuyahoga County,

EIGHTEEN MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF STRATEGICALLY LOCATED HOMESITES
Offered to You Via Our
"SAVE THE DOWN PAYMENT" PLAN

How You Can Save the Down Payment
We have a plan and service that makes it possible for you to get started toward owning your own home. Experience shows that most of us want to own our own home but cannot get started because we do not have the down payment. Our "SAVE THE DOWN PAYMENT" plan and service eliminates this stumbling block and makes it easy and possible for you to get started.

SEND THIS COUPON
I WANT TO SAVE THE DOWN PAYMENT
This plan, which costs only \$100, will save you \$1000.00. It is the only plan that will save you \$1000.00. It is the only plan that will save you \$1000.00. It is the only plan that will save you \$1000.00.

KNIGHT-NORRIS-GIBBS
Cleveland's Biggest Boosters

Cleveland Heights, dist. 18-34), which was typical in the Heights at that time. Today, Potter Estates and all Cleveland Heights neighborhoods have inclusive and diverse populations.

ALANSON TAINTOR

Earliest Permanent Settler on what would become the Potter Estates

Let's travel back in history to this same landscape in the 1800s before it was the Potter Estates neighborhood. So far back that the City of Cleveland Heights was not yet created, and this region was known as “Euclid Township” (of the Connecticut Western Reserve), and then “East Cleveland Township.”

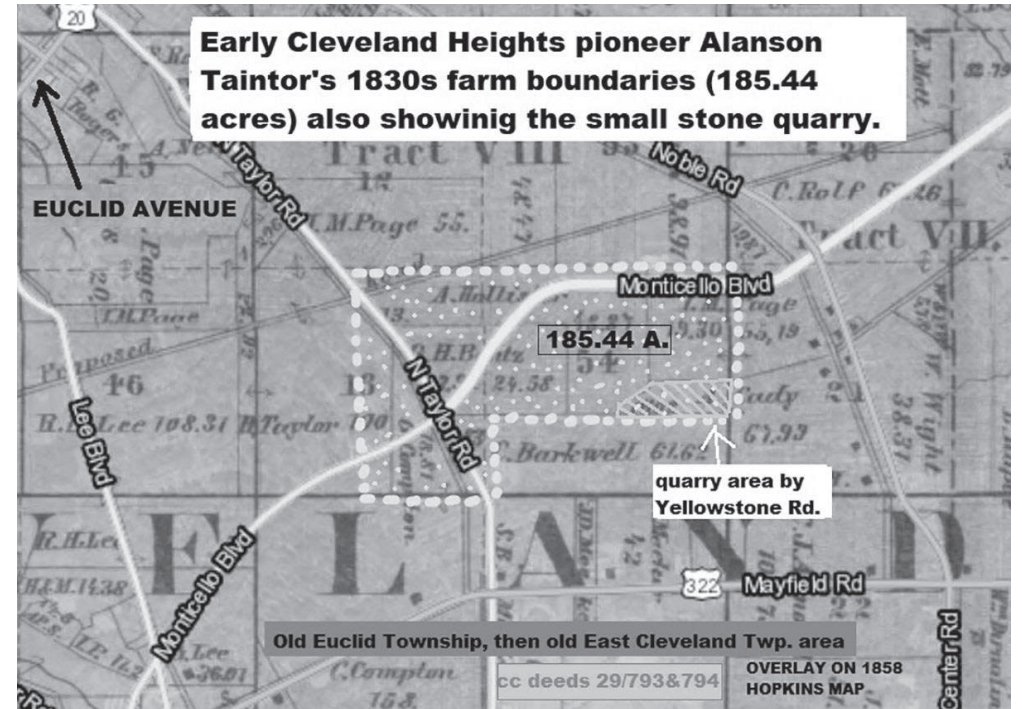
Pioneer Alanson Taintor purchased a large portion of wilderness land (below) in the Heights along the meandering Shaw Brook starting in 1833. Through hardships, and settler fortitude, he and his family fashioned their homestead there (he had other land in the vicinity as well). He piecemeal cleared enough huge original forest trees to do some farming and

raise livestock on a small scale. He took advantage of the water-powered sawmills along Shaw Brook and nearby Nine Mile Creek to turn the felled trees into lumber. Mr. Taintor's farm included a very small but valuable stone quarry that is unique because it exploited the north-facing exposure of the Berea sandstone layer, whereas other area quarries took advantage of east-west exposures along the ravines. (Source: Roy Larick, *Bluestone Conservation*). This little quarry would be passed along to some interesting settlers over time (see following map and story). Remnants of this rocky quarry still exist, landlocked within a ring of houses that now border it. Over time the huge Taintor farm got subdivided into smaller plots and sold on to other farmers such as the Hollisters, Comptons, Bentes and others. Today,

The splendid animal, Lady Sutton, raised by A. Taintor, of East Cleveland, which took the first premium at our Fair last fall, can be seen at Bennett's Stable, No. 88 Champlain Street. She is a fine animal, two years old; probably equal to any one in the State.

the original expansive Taintor farm has become not only the Potter Estates neighborhood but some of the Rockefeller “Forest Hill” subdivision, and other subdivisions as well.

A notice (above) appeared in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* dated May 14, 1855, that calls attention to Mr. Taintor's award-winning horse. As a historical sideline, Champlain Street used to be a bustling and interesting



old Cleveland downtown street bordering the southwest quadrant of Public Square. That southwest neighborhood was razed in the 1920s by the Van Sweringen brothers to make room for the Terminal Tower complex. Farmers were very proud of their farm produce and livestock, and the annual county and state fairs were a way to show off their hard work. It also gave them a chance to learn the latest gossip, and witness advances in farming and machinery (in a time long before computers made it easy to share ideas).

The Taintor kinfolk

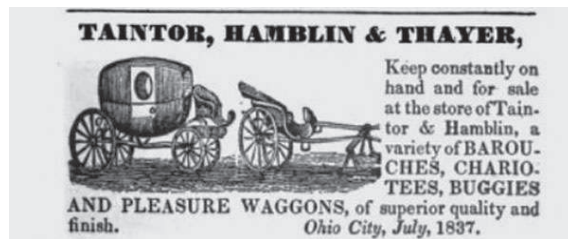
The Taintor name was not common in Cleveland. In the early 1800s, there were only two family groups by that name, and they were related. The Taintors were native of Connecticut, lived for a short while in Pennsylvania during their migration westward, and then made their way on to the developing town of Cleveland, Ohio. One Taintor family branch was led by Jesse Fox Taintor (of Ohio City and then Euclid Avenue in Cleveland), and the other was led by Alanson Taintor of Euclid Township (present day Cleveland Heights falls partly in old Euclid Township). Genealogists trace these gentlemen back to the same Taintor great-great-grandfather Micaiell Taintor – making them distant cousins. The Taintor ancestors had emigrated from Wales to the budding American colonies in 1643.

Jesse Taintor (1810-1881) had early businesses in Ohio City (lumber, general store and carriages) and moved to a modest home on Euclid Avenue near East 30th Street. Author Ella Grant Wilson included the quaint house photograph in her famous book of Euclid Avenue homes. Jesse Taintor worked his way up to become a well-liked businessman and social figure. Several of his children married into prominent Cleveland families. Two popular anecdotes friends told about him was that he could recognize more

peoples' faces than any other Clevelander alive at the time (because he worked in a bank and for the Post Office as well as other civic accomplishments), and that he had such a “green thumb” that if he poked a stick in the ground a rose would pop out.

In a real life version of the children’s tale, “City Mouse, Country Mouse,” Alanson Taintor, took the lifestyle of the quiet country compared with his cosmopolitan kin. Alanson Taintor settled on Euclid Avenue too, but eastward in the small town of “Collamer” on Euclid Avenue around Noble Road. (This town is basically the City of East Cleveland now). He arrived in the area with his mother, Desire Bunnell Taintor, and sisters Abigail, Lucretia and Lucy from New Haven, Connecticut in the 1820s. They were related to the local Loomis and Foote families. He bought up several parcels of land for their timber and stone resources, but did not buy up what would become the Potter Estates area until 1833). Lucy Taintor became the wife of Merrick Lindsley (aka Linsley), a well-to-do early quarry owner of the area. After Lucy passed away, Merrick Lindsley married her sister Abigail.

Alanson Taintor (born about 1805) married local girl Susan L. Doolittle (of Westmoreland, N. Y) in



Jesse Taintor, a distant cousin to Cleveland Heights' Alanson Taintor, had early business ventures in Ohio City, now a part of Cleveland (1837 MacCabe directory). He later became one of the founders for the Society of Savings bank.

1838. They had children: Olive (b. 1839), Mary (b. 1840) and Lucy (b. 1843). Olive married George Brainard, from a well known farming family, but was left a widow with three young children when George went off to fight in the Civil War and was killed in 1865. Alanson was a typical pioneer “Jack of all trades.” He not only raised blue ribbon livestock,

but also took advantage of all that his land could provide – including lumbering and stone quarrying. Census records show his personal wealth was higher than that of a typical farmer, and more comparable to other known small quarry operators of the times. His very large farm included a small stone quarry site (see following story).

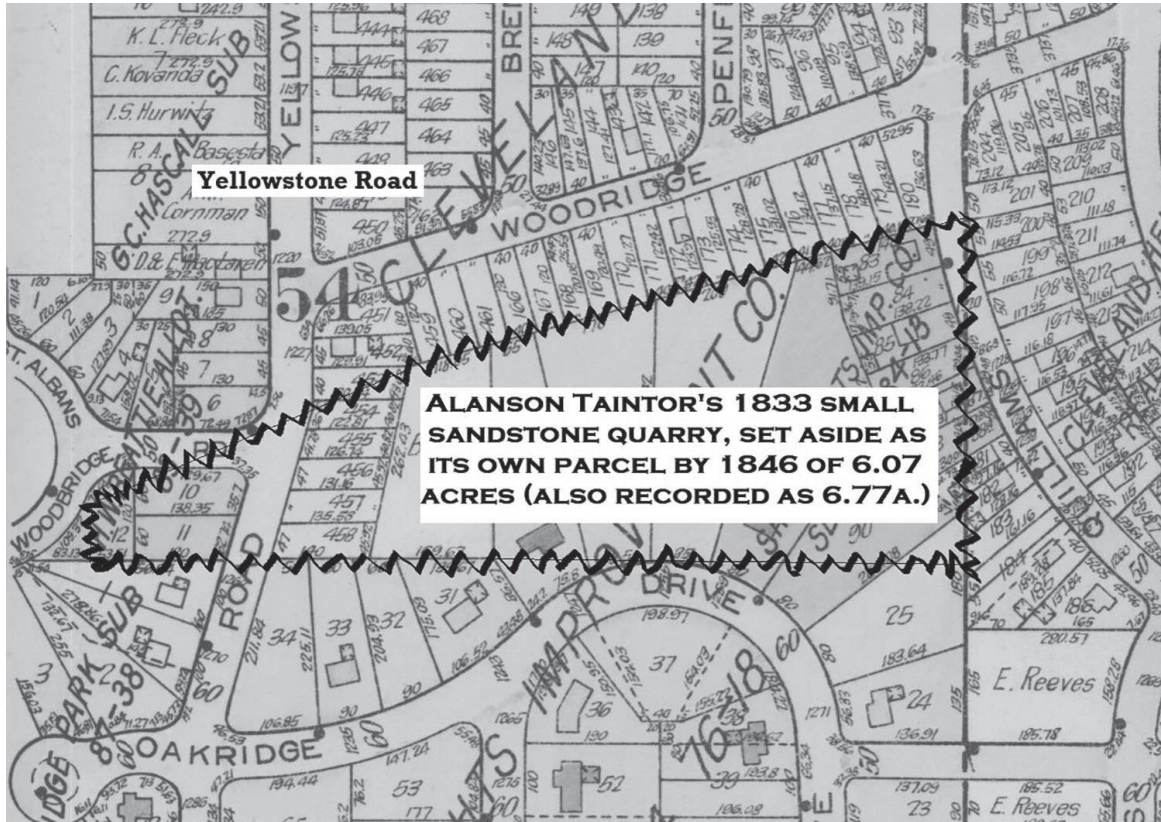


THE TAINTOR QUARRY ALONG PRESENT YELLOWSTONE ROAD

The remains of the small Yellowstone Road Quarry are one of several hidden-history places in the northeast quadrant of North Taylor and Mayfield Roads. It is somewhat circumscribed by the streets of Quilliams, Oakridge, Woodridge and Yellowstone. The little hidden quarry site is still picturesque and unique — one can imagine luminous fairies and fireflies flitting among the lush ferns, rocky crevices and the remnant of the old spring. During a history tour there, we disturbed a watchful owl who swooped about the tree canopy. This rare stone ledge was written about in a surveyor’s journal in 1797, when two of Moses Cleaveland’s surveyors, Charles Parker and Joseph Landon, were laying the

original boundary lines through the wilderness forest. These intrepid workers braved deplorable conditions as they dealt with soggy swamps, mosquito swarms, rattlesnakes, prowling wolves, and even occasional bears and panthers in order to catalog the soil types, timber, stone, and water-power resources for potential land buyers of the Connecticut Western Reserve (Northeast Ohio).

This ancient geological sandstone ridge (page 13) of the old quarry is a rare massif, created when a section of the earth’s crust, under great pressure, fractured and then pushed upward out of place, millions of years ago, revealing the stacked stone layers. (Source: “Shaw Brook Mini-gulch on the Portage



The long abandoned Taintor quarry area with approximate original boundaries shown here (jagged line). (Source: CC deed 44/259, 1848).

The quarry was part of Alanson Taintor's land starting in 1833. Parts of the old quarry were filled in when the residential neighborhood was created, and now it lies in the private backyards of homes in the northern stretch of Oakridge Drive. There is mention on various deeds that the main quarry road to this site entered through a gate off of today's Noble Road around where Bluestone Road comes in.

Escarpment, 5-12-2018, *Bluestone Heights*, by Roy Larick, which includes his research from original surveyor field notes, archived at the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio). This massive ridge allowed for easily reachable stone and is the reason why the 160-acre Euclid Township lot around it was named "the stone quarry lot" on land deeds (Euclid Township, Lot 54). Quarried stone from the vicinity creeks was used for foundations of area farmhouses, barns, and grist and sawmills. In general, the Berea sandstone and Euclid bluestone from even these local quarries could be chiseled into blocks or sawed into slabs, for window sills and caps, sidewalk flagging, piers, and for

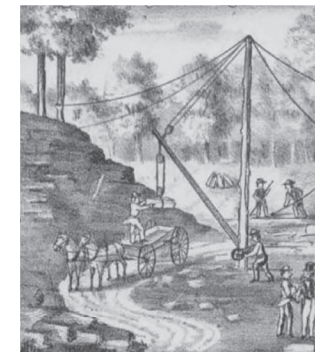
city buildings. This Taintor stone quarry was part of the larger Lot 54 that Thomas Sill et al. sold to Adoniram Peck in June of 1833 (CC 20/28), then a month later was sold on to Alanson Taintor as part of the farm parcel he purchased (CC 29/793). Mr. Taintor was probably the first to work the quarry, but later owners included: 1848 Henry Warner (CC 44/259), 1849 Jonathan C. Bowles (CC 44/258), 1850 Asa Cady (CC 54/445), 1858 C.F. Rolf and J.F. Linnert (CC 100/247). The usefulness of this private quarry waned in the last quarter of the 1800s.

The past owners of this small quarry each have their own notable life journeys: Mr. Bowles' sad "riches to rags story" is discussed in the Ambler Heights issue of *View from The Overlook* (Issue 48); local German immigrant Clamor F. Rolf will be featured in a future story on the Monticello Manor Allotment which is located next to Denison Park. Early settler Asa Cady (c.1793-1869) owned little quarries all over the area, and ran a sawmill at Bluestone Road and Noble Road. His landmark home is featured in "Discovering the 19th Century in Northern Cleveland Heights," (*View from The Overlook* Issue 16). Asa Cady was instrumental in the success of the pioneer "Church of Euclid" (old First Presbyterian Church of Collamer), and was a vice president of the Cuyahoga County Anti-Slavery Society formed in 1837. His historic house, still standing at 3921-3923 Bluestone Road (moved from the original spot nearby), was believed to have been a station on the Underground Railroad.

A clever ad (*next page*) from the January 26, 1855, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* mimicked a real railroad report but was really about the thriving Underground Railroad efforts in the Cleveland area. This was during the time in the U.S. when the Fugitive Slave Law made it a punishable crime to help runaway slaves. Our local farmer and quarry operator, Asa



Above: Photo of the Taintor quarry with added stairs.



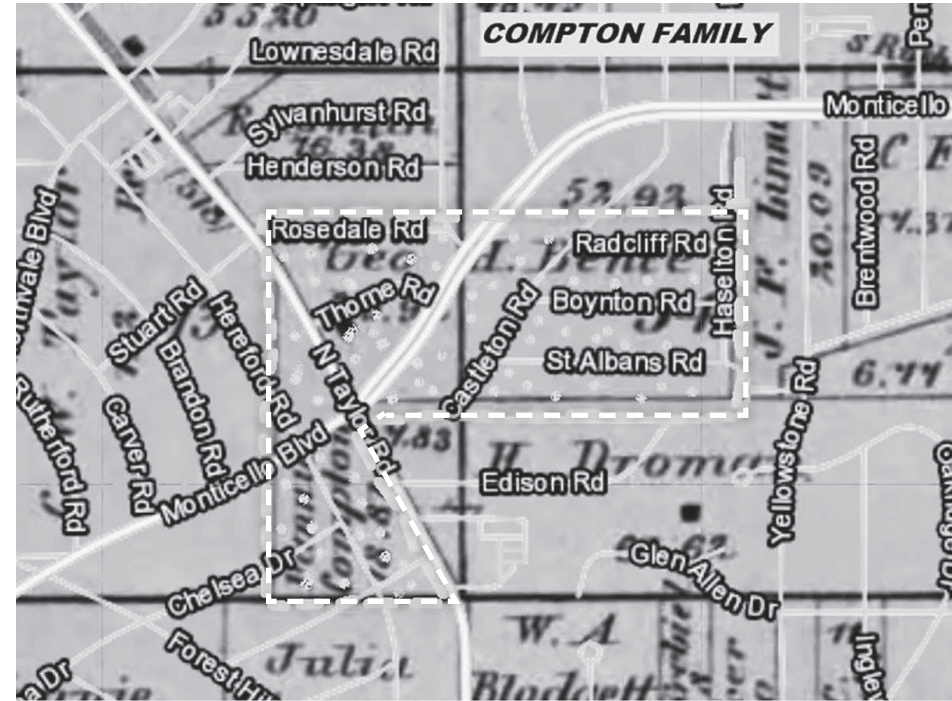
Left: Drawing of local quarrying from the 1874 Titus Atlas of Cuyahoga County.

Cady, helped organize the Anti-Slavery Society in Cleveland. In this advertisement, there is really no ribbon train track, billowing steam engine, or rolling stock (i. e. freight cars), just an update on the successful efforts and a laugh at the southern slave owners. The U.G.R.R. was the nickname for the connected network of transportation (horse, wagons, boats, ferries, and even train travel) arranged by the abolitionists, with safety stations like barns, home cellars, and back rooms of stores and taverns. The "engineers" and "conductors" were progressive civic leaders and everyday decent people fighting against the horrors of human bondage, at a time (pre Civil War) when slavery was tragically sanctioned by the government.



Image published by the Anti-Slavery Society. Quarry owner Asa Cady was the vice president of the Cuyahoga County chapter. (Source: "The Legion of Liberty...", by Benjamin Lundy and Julius Rubens Ames. 2nd Ed., N.Y. American Anti-Slavery Society. 1843.)

Under Ground Rail Road.
 We have been favored with the Annual Report by the President and Directors of the U. G. R. R. for 1854. It appears to be in a flourishing condition. Business for the last season has been large, notwithstanding the tightness of the times. Running freight on the increase, and large dividends payable in wool, deliverable in the Canada market. Expenses of the road trifling, as the rolling stock furnishes its own grease, avoids collisions by running in but one direction, and the engineers and conductors work for nothing and board themselves. Great inquiry for its stock-holders down South.



Cleveland Heights pioneers Alanson Taintor and his wife Susan, sold a large portion of their farm to George and Charles Compton, sons of pioneer Jacob Compton (1779-1853). The boundaries are shown here with dashed lines (CC 79/469). Modern streets are shown for comparison.

THE COMPTONS

Getting back to the Potter Estates story — in 1854, Cleveland Heights pioneers Alanson Taintor and his wife Susan, sold a large portion of their farm to George and Charles Compton, sons of pioneer Jacob Compton (1779-1853). The boundaries are shown on the map (*see next page*) with dashed lines (CC 79/469). Modern streets are shown for comparison.

The patriarch, Jacob Compton, owned his own nearby farm of 245.5 acres, purchased in 1821, which connected to this new farm but was located south of Mayfield Road (in lots 14 and 15, CC 6/155). Today's Compton Road lies within this original farm. The Compton family migrated to Cleveland in 1815 from New Jersey. Jacob Compton brought his family here

when the area was covered in dense and dark forest, and when families had to manufacture almost everything they needed.

Scattered small groups of Native Americans still camped here and there at their ancient sites near creeks and natural water springs. To supplement his work as a farmer, Jacob Compton kept a grove of hard maple trees and set up a maple sugar camp each year. He also quarried sandstone along the creek ledges on his property.

His wife, Mary Johnson (1788-1871), who was also from New Jersey, shared in the pioneer hardships and raised their family of children – James, Ezekiel, Hugh G., Eliza Ann, Charles, Sarah A., and twins George and Mary. Son James, married local gal Eliza

Nutting (1810-1898) and in 1834 they moved westward to Indiana by ox team and wagon through the roadless and bridgeless wilderness.

They set up a new log cabin with mud and stick chimney, and a broad fireplace (useful to burn large logs). Native Americans visited them frequently at their new home. (Source: "A Standard History of Elkhart Co., Indiana," Vol. 2, Abraham E. Weaver. 1916)



their own use and to augment their farming income.

The pioneers collected maple tree sap in the late winter, by scoring the bark of the trees, hammering in spouts, collecting drippings in wooden buckets (or other vessels), and then boiling down the sap until it thickened into syrup in an iron pot over an open fire. A bit of added animal fat kept it all from boiling over.

Handcrafted watertight oak barrels and tubs were used for storage.

Local Native Americans made yearly treks to their traditional maple groves (while they still could) in the

The Comptons and locals make syrup

Many pioneers here produced maple syrup (vital for a sweetener — as sugar was hard to come by) for



days before encroaching settlers were everywhere. They made the syrup without the convenience of iron pots using supplies gathered from the forest: stones, wood, dried gourds, animal skins and fire. Spouts were hollowed willow branches (and other woods), buckets were made of animal skins, dried gourds were used as dippers, hollowed out tree trunks were fashioned into cooking troughs. The cooking was done by placing heated stones repeatedly into the syrup to create a boil. Some unfinished syrup was stirred until crystallized, and then patted into cakes for “candy” and long term storage. (Source: “Indians Gathered Maple Sirip [sic] Years Ago.” *Cleveland Press*, 3-17-1975 by Julian Griffin, as once told by pioneer Sidney Woodruff living south of Ashtabula, Ohio).



back in the 1830s, to escape their war-torn homeland and to seek religious freedom. A church was formed here in Cleveland about 1835 called “Schifflein Christi” (“Little Boat of Christ”). The name was chosen by German sailors who built the church in hopes of receiving deliverance from the fierce storms on Lake Erie. By 1837, about 400 German immigrants were living around the Lorain and Superior Avenues area. In 1843 the Lutherans divided from this early church, forming their own Zion Church. In 1847, this group joined the growing German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri. In 1851, a new pastor, Reverend Henrich C. Schwan, was called to Cleveland to set up new congregations, one of them up in the Heights for the growing German population centered around Mayfield and Green Roads. In 1853, he installed Rev. Herman Kuehn as the first permanent pastor there. Other pastors would follow and contribute to the growth and long success of their organized church and school.

The German community expanded eastward into the Heights area for settlement, around the mid-1840s. The huge land parcels of the pioneers of the past became subdivided into more manageable smaller farms as time went on. Many German families became involved in grape growing and wine making, having brought traditions and skills with them from the old country. This region had the perfect climate and soil to support vineyards. The community also took advantage of other industries and professions such as mercantile, basketmaking, inn-keeping, stock raising and quarrying. Area German family names included Schaefer, Rolf, Detering, Linnert (aka Linnett), Meier, Melcher, Dremann, Detering, Wischmeyer, OBrock, Wierspecker, Klostermeyer, Prasse, Leppelmeyer, Schwentker, Brueggemeier, Herbkesmann, and many more. A desperately needed church site was needed near the intersection of Mayfield and Green Roads. Local histories tell us this



The Kirschner tavern and inn once stood near the NE corner of Mayfield Road and Sheffield Road, catty-corner to the St. John Lutheran Church. (Source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* July 16, 1906, “Slayer’s Victim Loses Life Race”). This is now the site of Clean Express Auto Wash.

was once known as the crossroads of two Chippewa Native American trails. Here, the settlement grew into a hamlet with general stores, blacksmith shops, schools, and two taverns (inns) by owners Rathbun/Rathburn and Kirchner. Mayfield Road, was known as “the State Road” for a long time, and then became planked with periodic toll booths in the 1870s. Green Road, had been previously known as both “Ruple Road” and “Rush Road” — named after area farmers.

The Creation of St. John Church

Under Reverend Schwan, church members first conducted services in private homes. In 1855 a new church building and parsonage were built on Mayfield Road at their current address 4386 Mayfield Rd., South Euclid.

By 1860 the settlers gained enough families to officially become the “German Evangelical Lutheran Saint John Congregation of the town of Euclid” (that area being part of original Euclid Township), (Source: CC deed 74/601 1854, 11.41 acres), or “*Deutsche Evangelisch St. Johannes Gemeinde zu Euclid, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.*” “They created a long-run-

THE GERMAN SETTLEMENT AND THE BENTE STOCK FARM

After the Taintors and Comptons, this section of Cleveland Heights, became the homestead and stock farm of a local German family. The land transfer took place In 1855 when George and Charles Compton (CC deed 79/511) sold 48 and a half

acres from the original Taintor farm to Herr Gerhardt H. Bente and Herr Ernst F. Detering. Ernst Detering (from a family related by marriage) soon sold his portion to G. H. Bente.

German families began immigrating to Cleveland

ning school with lessons taught in both German and English, and in 1877 officially opened the cemetery on the back property. The present steepled building was put up in 1894, at which time the previous 1855 church building was moved to 1272 South Green Rd. where it stands today (see photo below). It is interesting to note that it is believed a wing of the school was built over part of the old cemetery where burials lacked stones, perhaps being a “potters field” section.

Our German settler of this story, Gerhardt Henrich Bente (1803-1877), was enumerated on the census records as being from Hanover, Germany (family trees have origins listed more specifically as Wimmer, Bad Essen, Osnabruck), He also went by names “George” and “Henry” in the records. The 1860 Federal census shows the Bente family on their land living near farmer Henry Taylor (name-sake of Taylor Road). G.H. Bente was married to Catherine Clara Elisabeth Maria Detering (1805-1842). After her passing, he was married to Maria “Mary” Elsabein Walter (1819-1888) and together had children Henry (1845), Friedrich (1848), Ernst (1849), William (1852) and Catherine (1856). Some of Gerhardt’s older children, such as son Johann

Heinrich Bente (1833-1887) and his wife Clara Maria Dremann (1840-1924) lived in the vicinity as well. (Source: *Batig-Urban Family Tree, Ancestry.com*).

It is a lucky happenstance for understanding this story that Ernst Bente (son of patriarch Gerhardt H. Bente) was included on the 1880 U.S. Non-population census for East Cleveland Township (which is a counting of the products of agriculture and industry and land use) giving us rare details of his prosperous farm during the year 1879 (the portion now within Cleveland Heights). Ernst Bente was living on the property with his mother Maria Walter Bente (who had been on the farm since 1855). The Bentes had some vineyards, but focused on their forty tree apple orchard, and also grew acres of hay, oats, wheat, Indian corn, and potatoes. They owned 4 horses, 4 milch cows, 10 other assorted livestock (likely including oxen), 30 chickens, and 18 pigs and 38 sheep (producing wool fleeces for profit). But the main business at hand that year was a beef and mutton operation.

In that census year, they purchased 150 cattles, and slaughtered 135; they purchased 400 sheep, and slaughtered 396. Perhaps the livestock was herded down to one of Cleveland’s slaughterhouses

near the meatpacking establishments, or perhaps the slaughtering was done on the premises. For eleven weeks of the year the Bentes hired outside labor for the farm. The 1880 Population census shows two German “butchers” — Christian Winters and John Krabel — just a short walk across the fields in a shop on Bluestone Road near the corner of Noble Road. (Source: *U.S. Non-population census East Cleveland Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio District 6, district 62, 1880. Ancestry.com*).

After the death of Gerhardt Henrich Bente in 1877, his sons Fred and Ernst purchased the land rights from the other siblings and heirs (the many complex transactions will not be covered here), with the mother being provided for as part of the arrangement. The brothers then divided the farm horizontally across the middle between them (CC 459/267 and CC 259/268).

Right: A Bente family stone in the Saint John Lutheran Cemetery at 4386 Mayfield Rd., South Euclid, Ohio, with a monument that reads, “Hier Ruht In Gott” (Here Rests In God). The Dremann, Detering, Linnert, Rolf and other early German settlers of Cleveland Heights are well represented in this cemetery. As the burials attest, the settlers were no strangers to hardships and disease – such as the Ernst Melcher family where four of his children died of diphtheria within two weeks in 1861.



St. John Lutheran Church in the 1950s before the front stairs were added (photo source: ClevelandMemory.org)

An early version of St. John Lutheran Church was built in 1855 (pictured left). In 1894 this small structure was moved to 1272 South Green Rd. and turned into a home to make room for the new church built that year (pictured right). According to the church’s website, interments began in the original churchyard as early as 1854.

(Source: “Centennial History of St. John Lutheran Church,” by Edythe M. Westenhaber, published by the church congregation at South Euclid, Ohio. 1953).

The 1877 “Ohio Farmer,” published in Cleveland, shows the prevalence of stock farms at the time.

THE OHIO PRACTICAL FARMER

CLEVELAND, OHIO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1877. [Price - Five Cents. \$2.00 per Year.]

STOCK SALE DEPARTMENT.
Parties writing to advertisers will please mention that they saw their advertisement in THE FARMER.

Short-Horn Cattle
AND
BERKSHIRE PIGS
FOR SALE BY
K. PERFECT, Chemist, Delaware Co., Ohio.

R. PERINE,
Fatenen's Mills, Washington Co., Pa., breeds and improves the

Spanish Merino Sheep

WING & THOMPSON,
Breeder of thoroughbred

Short-Horn Cattle,
At BREMENT, Platt Co., Ill. Aristocrat 7500 (by 18th Duke of Thorsdale) at the head of the herd. Young Bulls for sale at moderate prices.

L. B. WINS,
Newark, O.

Short-Horn Cattle!
AND
Berkshire Pigs
Of choice Wood and Quality, for sale by
T. C. JONES, Delaware, O.

Pure Ayrshire Cattle,
SUFFOLK HOGS with Good Pedigrees, imported, bred and for sale by
A. J. WILSON,
Laporte, Lorain Co., Ohio.

ALFRED BROOKE,
Mariboro, Stark County, Ohio.

BREEDER OF
Thoroughbred Short-Horn Cattle.
Duke Wiley 1860 at head of herd. Stock for sale at reasonable rates. Also Berkshire Swine.

WALNUT GROVE STOCK FARM.
C. R. C. DYE, Troy, Ohio,
Breeder of Gentlemen's Driving and Clydesdale Draft Horses, registered Jersey Cattle, Poland China and Yorkshire Pigs, and Cotswold Sheep.

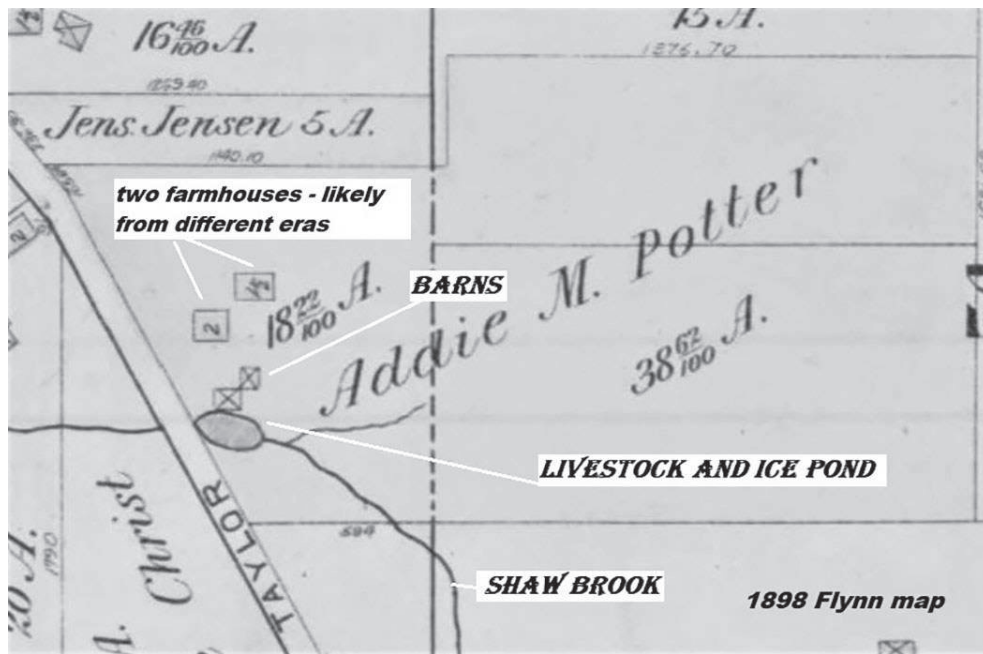
SHEEP
Of pure American Merino blood, bred and for sale by
E. J. HATT & BROS.,
Chester Hill, Morgan Co., O.
Also, pure-bred Poultry. Eggs for hatching.

100 GRADE EWES
OF THE
BEST MERINO BLOOD
in this country for sale. Will sell them in numbers to suit buyers. Will breed them to raise that have won six first prizes in Ohio. Also thoroughbred Merino Rams and Ewes bred and for sale. Write for particulars, or come and see.
Also Partridge Cochins Chickens a specialty.
H. A. BIRNEY,
Rowleson, Harr. Co., O.

WHO WERE THE POTTERS?

In 1889, the Bente Brothers sold the farm to Adaline “Addie” M. Potter which was still subject to a lease to one Alfred Holly until 1893, and also subject to several outstanding mortgages (CC 459/267-268). The Potter family would occupy the farm until 1920, at which time it would begin a modern jump into the Potter Estates suburban allotment.

By the 1920s Addie Potter passed on the land to her heirs — her children and their spouses — who then transferred their shares to Frank M. Potter and his wife Carrie Vaughan Potter (CC 3374/122, 1925). Frank M. Potter developed the Potter Estates through his management position with the Knight-Norris-Gibbs Company, and eventually got the rights



POTTER FARM – The 1898 Flynn map included footprints of the pond and farm buildings, clearly showing two barns (the buildings with an “x”) and two houses – one house with two stories and the other with one-and-a-half stories (possibly an older house). Perhaps some farm buildings on this site even went back to the Taintor family ownership. Shaw Brook was named after early Euclid Township pioneers John Shaw (1774-1835) and his wife Sarah McIlrath Shaw (1777-1851).

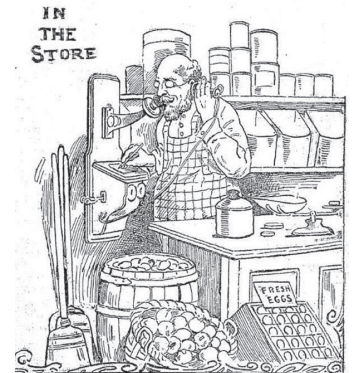
for the remaining assets of the failing real estate company when it went bankrupt in 1930.

The Potter family had early pioneer roots in the Connecticut Western Reserve. Ephraim Quinby, Esq. (1766-1850) was the first settler and founder of Warren, Ohio. His daughter, Abrilla Quinby (1798-1880), married a well known doctor named Horace Potter (1781-1841) and together they had son Ephraim Quinby Potter (1838-1913). Ephraim Quinby Potter ran a general store at an old well-known Cleveland crossroads called “the Station” located at Euclid Avenue and East 55th Street (see

insert story). He married Adaline “Addie” Miller from Lisbon, Ohio (1842-1920), and they had children Frank M. (1864-1936), Ralph (1865-1930), George (1868-1932), Caroline (1869-1959), and Horace E. (1873-1948).

Besides the old family home on Willson Avenue just north of the general store, E.Q. Potter had an approximately 30-acres homestead site in the northwest corner of Superior Street and Lake View Road (at about East 114th Street) along Dugway Brook. He was a resident of Cleveland for 50 years, having worked as an oil refiner and grocer.

“THE STATION” AT THE CROSSINGS OF EAST 55TH, EUCLID AVE. AND THE C&P RR LINE



Starting in about 1852, the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad line was put into Cleveland, crossing the sandy and curbless Euclid Avenue at Willson Avenue (later East 55th Street). Not long after, a settlement grew up around the crossings and became a popular stop-over for travelers. It was known as “the Station” for many decades. E. Q. Potter’s general store was there, as well as

Ben Mead’s blacksmith shop, a carriage shop, the wooden train depot (the same depot where in 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln alighted when he had visited Cleveland), car barns and stables for the East Cleveland horse car street railway, Hammond’s coal yard and James F. Douttiel’s barber shop. Ephraim Quinby Potter’s store was a double-doored, white-framed building with several steps going up. It



The Potter family's white-framed general store was at "the Station" crossroads on Euclid Avenue by East 55th Street and the RR line. By the 1930s this area had developed into a busy district with brick buildings walling in Euclid Avenue. It is now all razed and with empty lots of grass awaiting urban renewal.

was on the north side of Euclid Avenue diagonal from the depot. The Potter general store was well-stocked with stick candy, crackers, bread and sugar in wooden barrels, as well as coffee and tea in canisters. Horses and wagons coming from distant farms sometimes waited in a long line with loads of apples, plums, and grapes. Mr. E. Q. Potter had a short black beard and would do his best bookkeeping wearing a felt hat and spectacles. Sons George and Frank M. were almost always hanging around the store, and son Horace E. was an occasional visitor.

Frank M. went on to acquire radio station WJAY in 1930 and to also create and manage the Potter

Estates, and Horace E. went on to influence the local and national art world. (*per S. J. Kelley's historical articles in the Cleveland Plain Dealer*).

Horace Potter influences the art world

Horace Ephraim Potter (1873-1948), mentioned in the story above as the lad visiting his father's general store at the Station, grew up to be an important national craftsman and artist. His biography was featured in a *Cleveland Plain Dealer* article of August 19, 1915. He graduated from the Cleveland School of Art, was a teacher there, and then went on to further his education abroad. He ran his own studio, taught,

and mentored area artists. He was influential not only in the Arts and Crafts Movement, but he also influenced Cowan Pottery artists through his holloware. He was elected president of the Cleveland Society of Artists, and was the founder of the Cleveland Arts and Crafts Metalworkers.

Mr. Potter opened a Jewelry store on Carnegie Avenue with partner Louis Mellon. Mr. Potter's exquisite, one-of-a-kind creations can be found in museums and auction houses all over. Hugo Robus (1885-1964), the internationally known Cubist painter and lyrical sculptor, worked as Mr. Potter's designer during the summers while he was attending the Cleveland School of Art. (*Cleveland Plain Dealer April 19, 1891*). Horace would have been about 16 years old when his mother Addie purchased the Potter farm on Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights.

Modernized homes come to the Potter Estates

In 1937, The Metropolitan Homes, Inc. (Metropolitan Home Builders, Inc.) built 35 new brick homes in the Potter Estates. Twenty-five homes were to have all electric kitchens, and ten homes were to be built under the East Ohio Gas Company specifications (even with gas refrigerators). Costing \$8000-\$13,000 dollars when built, these homes in today's prices range between \$140,000 and \$220,000 (current estimates on Redfin and Zillow real estate sites). An early ad (*see next page*) boasts that residents of the Potter Estates were employed at reputable companies such as Nela Park, Ohio Bell Telephone, the Illuminating Co., and Standard Oil.

These comfortable and lovely Metropolitan Homes can be recognized by dominant overlapping "triangular" design themes, and mostly "crenelated" stonework decorations around windows and doors, or overall rectangular shaped house with a classy



Above: Horace Ephraim Potter

Right: Cleveland Plain Dealer ad September 28, 1947



Exquisite Floral Brooch, hand-wrought in gold, with sparkling green tourmalines as leaves, and rich, deep pink tourmalines as the center setting of each flower. An exclusive Potter and Mellon creation. \$375. (Federal Tax Included)

Potter and Mellon, Inc.
10405 Carnegie Avenue
JEWELERS-SILVERSMITHS


POTTER ESTATES.



TAYLOR RD.

The Potter farm buildings are actually shown in the background of this unclear ad with Taylor Road still a narrow lane. Here we come full circle to the Potter Estates allotment, where woods, stream, farm fields, sheep and cattle are long gone but now sits a neighborhood of homes.

Potter Estates Homes



Open Today
10 A. M. to 9 P. M.
3554 St. Albans Ave.
off Taylor Road
Offices Rockefeller Estate at Monticello Blvd. and Taylor Rd.

Can Be Purchased **\$65** PER MONTH
for as Little as

METROPOLITAN'S NEWEST HOME

Equipped With a Modern "All Electric"—GENERAL ELECTRIC KITCHEN

Due to our large building program and quantity purchases of quality merchandise we are able to offer to you Cleveland's best buy in home construction. In this new home the housewife will find only the most modern electrical devices that will lighten her work and make the kitchen her palace. The G. E. Disposal Unit—the G. E. Dishwasher and G. E. Range all tend to make the home more livable, comfortable and salable. This home also has the added advantages of rock wool insulation and Niagara heating and air conditioning.

—Drive Out Today—

THE METROPOLITAN HOMES, INC.
629 Society for Savings Bldg.—CHerry 2061—CLearwater 0567
Other Homes Now Under Construction
1134-1262-1138 Castleton—1219-1171 Hazelton



Well-dressed men and women in the 1920s did not forget their hats.

colonial-themed door. Hardwood floors, recreation rooms, and small fireplaces add a final touch to these comfortable abodes.

Three innovations were air conditioning, kitchen garbage disposals, and lavatories on the first floor. Many early suburban homes did not include first floor lavatories as the memories of foul-odor outhouses were all too recent. As other builders came in to fill more lots with new homes, the neighborhood followed quaint and uniform, rather than elaborate and eclectic in its architectural designs. The Fairmount Housing Corp. built 20 houses in the Potter Estate per a news article. (*Source: "Unusual Homes in Suburbs Sold," Cleveland Plain Dealer October 12, 1934.*)

In the first decades of the new Potter Estates, there would not have been television, computers, or cell phones. Instead, families gathered around the radio to hear entertainment and news, and played phonograph records or their own musical instruments. Most homes in the development were built



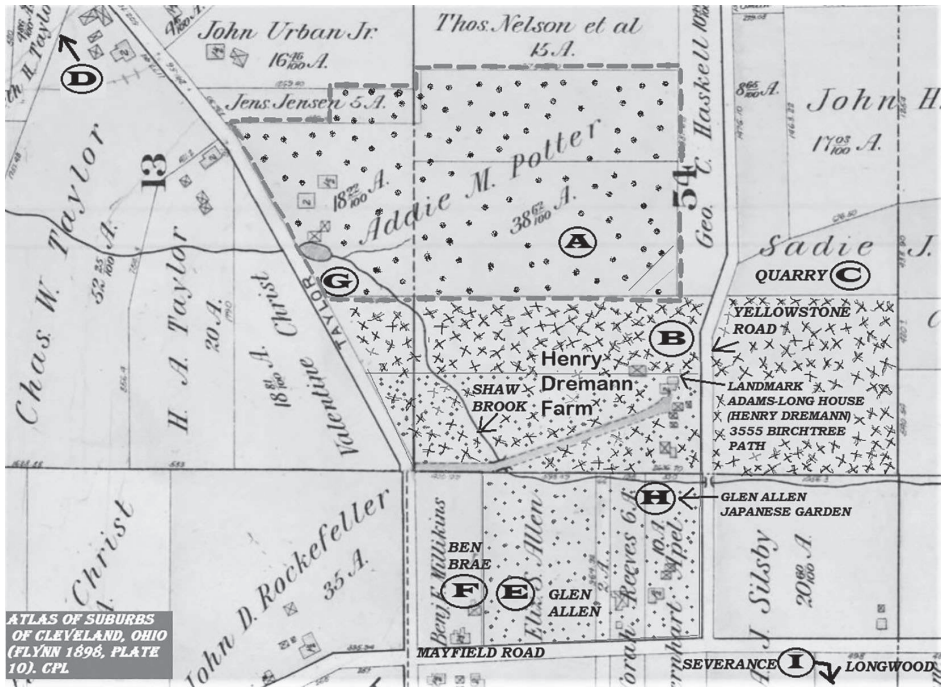
Interiors and women's fashions in the 1920s when Potter Estates was being developed.

during the 1930s and 1940s. By the 1950s, the boxy, cutting edge "black and white" television set became a centerpiece (and one waited all week for a favorite show to air). Home computers weren't common until the 1980s.

These Potter Estate homes were built in the days when children played outdoors in the sunshine, and most shops and businesses were closed on Sundays so families could worship and relax together.

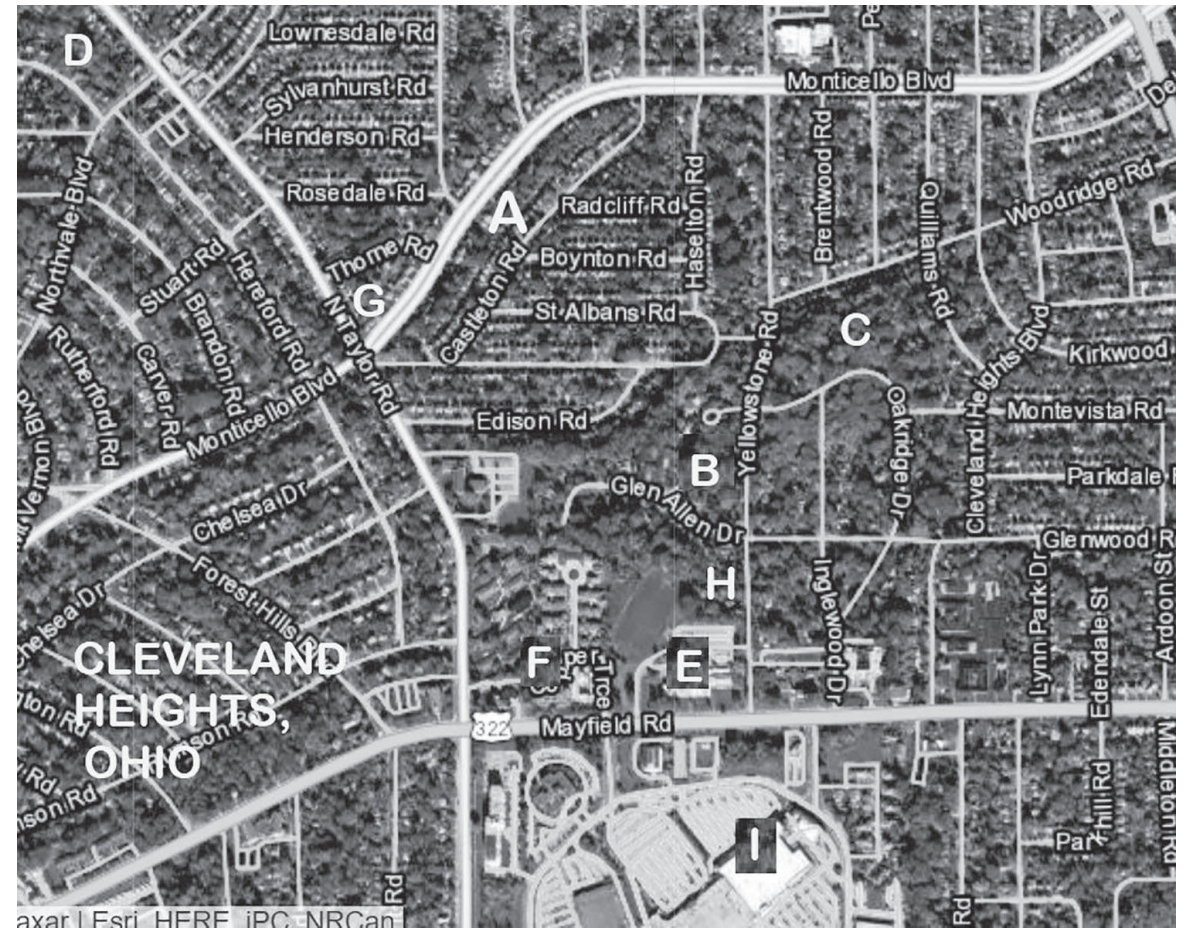


1. Potter Estate homes on Woodridge Road. **2.** Potter Estates homes on Haselton Road. **3.** Metropolitan Homes in the Potter Estates on Woodridge Road. **4.** A row of Metropolitan Homes at the Potter Estates on Castleton Road. **5.** Potter Estates homes on Boynton Road **6.** One of the "all gas" homes on Castleton Road. The allotment includes Colonials, ranches, Cape Cods, bungalows and more.



A view of the North Taylor Rd. and Mayfield Road area from the 1898 map with farm era structures (and not all of Glen Allen property was purchased yet). The dashed line is the boundaries of the modern Potter Estates. The small-dot area is the boundaries of the Glen Allen estate which took in a lower portion of the Dremann farm. The Dremann farm is covered with small "x"s.

Take a tour of the Potter Estates and interesting nearby places



Tourist version with points A through I. These sites are the same as the previous 1898 map but shown here on a current street map.

Longwood Spring Pond Remnant

The old spring pond for Longwood still exists. It is fed by a natural spring that supplies the water for a branch of Dugway Brook. John L. Severance had to purchase this eastern edge of the estate from the developers Van De Boe, Hager & Co. who had already allotted the new "Crestwood" neighborhood with roads called Glen, Crest, Wood and Maple (CC 31/17 1904). The Longwood estate absorbed all of Glen Road (which became an inner road of the estate), and most of the original Crestwood sublots on the west side of Crest Road.



A) THE POTTER ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD (*thriving and intact*) As we know from the above story, this previous farmland of Cleveland Heights was first settled in 1833 by the Taintors, then Comptons (1854), then Bentes (1855) and then the Potters (1889). It became the Potter Estates residential allotment starting in 1920 and with some of the houses now being nearly a hundred years old. The 1898 map shows the old farm buildings and Shaw Brook with farm pond. Shaw Brook now flows in stormwater pipes underground and out of sight.



Dremann farmhouse at 3555 Birchtree Path once overlooked its own huge farm. The land deeds mention the presence of “appurtenances” (likely a house and barn) by the time of the 1837 transfer, meaning that portions of this house may have already been present.

to an earlier structure already on site. The house has had additions and remodels over the years and now blends in with the other houses on the residential street. The farm driveway once entered from North Taylor Road. It is believed that the Dremann house was used as a caretaker’s cottage when the land was purchased for the Glen Allen estate (*story to follow*).

C) YELLOWSTONE ROAD “TAINTOR QUARRY” REMNANT (*It is hidden behind houses in the SE corner of Yellowstone Road and Woodridge Road.*) This is the remains of a small Berea sandstone quarry just to the east of Yellowstone Road used by early settlers

B) JOHN HENRY DREMANN AND MARY ANN DREMANN FARMHOUSE (*house is still present, but the barns and out buildings have been demolished*). Mr. Dremann (likely Johann Henrich Dremann) arrived in the US in 1843 coming from Hanover Germany and joining the German settlement that was forming here in the Heights. The Dremann family was part of the St. John Lutheran Church congregation (see the Bente story). The farmhouse is a Cleveland Heights Landmark named the “Adams-Long House” at 3555 Birchtree Path. The Dremanns purchased the main portion of their large farm of 65.75 acres in 1863 (CC 126/318), which straddled both sides of current Yellowstone Road (at the time the road was not there). The farmhouse has been hard to date. It was likely added



The Dremann’s son, also named John Henry Dremann, owned this Fuller Carpet Cleaning Works once located at 291 & 293 Quincy Ave. This photo is from an advertisement that informs us he was also secretary of the Lutheran Benevolent Association.

Alanson Taintor (1833), Henry Warner (1848), Jonathan C. Bowles/Bolles (1849), Asa Cady (1850) and then business partners Clamor Rolf and J. F. Linnert (1858). See the insert story above for more history on the picturesque quarry (*pictured right during a history tour and visible only with owner permission of surrounding homes*). Most of this old quarry site is now within the Inglewood Historic District and it is divided amongst the back yards of homes located up on Oakridge Drive.

D) SHAW BROOK GORGE (*map page 30*) (with its waters buried) runs down the portage escarpment, i.e. hill, parallel to North Taylor Road). It can best be seen over the east edge of Oakhill Road around Hazel Road. Shaw Brook is a small, forgotten Cleveland Heights stream that has been relegated to underground stormwater pipes beneath the built-up cities along its path. It once flowed in a shallow ravine bed from the northwest section of Noble Road and Mayfield Road, down its wooded gorge to Euclid Avenue and then down to Lake Erie at Bratenahl (in the vicinity of the Shoreby property), just west of the Nine Mile Creek outlet. Shaw Brook was once indispensable to settlers, as its waters were used to run grist mills and sawmills, and to “water” the farms along its path. As the area became more settled, the creeks and their ravines became dumping sites for garbage, sewage, and industrial waste. When the suburbs were being created, the developers and cities decided to bury the streams rather than clean and protect them. Superimposed on this past map are the approximate main channels of Shaw Brook going down to Lake Erie (the many smaller side branches not shown).

E) GLEN ALLEN ESTATE (*also goes by Glenallen*) (*demolished*) A glorious manor house once at the NW corner of Yellowstone Road and Mayfield Road with an address of 3505 Mayfield Rd. It once had extensive formal gardens near the house, and a “Japanese” garden way in the back featuring lovely ponds and scaled-down stone bridges over Shaw Brook. It was the estate of Elisabeth Severance Allen Prentiss (1865-

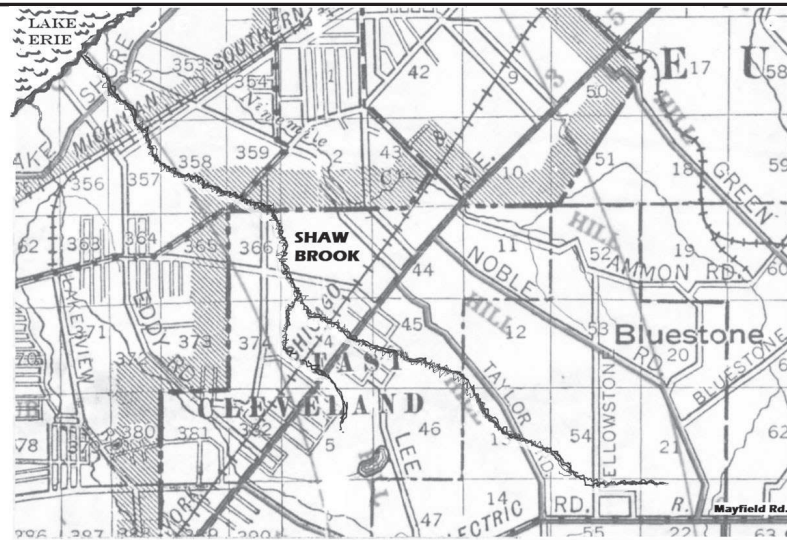


History tour by Roy Larick in the Taintor Quarry remnant.



Glen Allen

1944) and her first husband, a distinguished surgeon, Dr. Dudley Peter Allen (1852-1915). After his passing, Elisabeth married industrialist Francis Fleury Prentiss. The mansion was designed by Charles F. Schweinfurth and built in 1913 (date provided by architectural



A fireplace at Glen Allen.

historian Craig Bobby, based on tax duplicate records, Book 47, Cuyahoga County Archives). The mansion was sadly demolished in 1945 (pieces were salvaged at a crowded public sale where about 50,000 people showed up unexpectedly to compete for relics and trample the bushes.)

The interior was graced with a grand, spindled mahogany staircase, with the best imported hardwoods used throughout the house. The windows and doors were of bronze, with marble, brass, and other fine materials inside and out (such as copper gutters). Each of the many fireplaces were unique, and handiwork by the best craftsmen was showcased everywhere. Glen Allen was furnished with lush tapestries and oriental antiques and fine artworks. It took many staff members to keep the mansion in running order with the 1940 census for the area recording that Glen Allen had eight servants of Swedish, Irish, and German nativity. The estate land was pieced together from several land parcels starting in 1897 (CC 668/412, 754/99, 753/30) which eventually covered ~46 acres. Wonderful photos of Glen Allen were featured in national garden magazines of the times.

The old Glen Allen grounds are presently the site of The Blue Stone Community (condos), the Lutheran East High School, and the Imani Temple Ministries (in



One of the Glen Allen estate gardens and greenhouse from A. D. Taylor's book. The original layout was done by Warren H. Manning of Boston, and then M. H. Horvath of Cleveland.

the old St. Louis Catholic School building on the North Taylor Road portion of the estate). After the mansion was demolished, the Jewish Community Center (c. 1960) was built fronting Mayfield Road (now also demolished). Remnants of the estate include - the Dremann house (aka the Adams-Long house), the stone garden bridge (see letter H on page 32), some stone wall sections, and a north boundary stone wall with inset garden shed.

F) "BEN BRAE" ESTATE (*demolished*) used to be in the NE corner of North Taylor Road and Mayfield Road next door to Glen Allen and just south of the Potter farm. Its address was 3463 Mayfield Rd. and was the home of Benjamin Love Millikin and his wife Julia Severance Millikin. Dr. B. L. Millikin was a professor of Ophthalmology and a Dean of Case Western Reserve University. Ben Brae was built starting in 1901 (per the 1944 building card in the Cuyahoga County Archives). In the "Builder's Gossip" column of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* August 17, 1902, it mentioned that mason contractors had the work well underway for the manor, and revealed that the architectural firm was F. S. Barnum and Company (news article provided by architectural historian Craig Bobby).

Their son, Severance A. Millikin, somewhat confirmed this build date by telling reporters the mansion was about 50 years old at the time of razing. He had stated earlier, "the empty house served no further usefulness." (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, "Millikin Mansion Wrecking Starts." July 17, 1953). It was remarked by observers at the salvage sale, that it was still in pristine condition. It had 20 rooms in all, five baths and two extra lavatories. It took about three staff to care for it. The mansion had extensive formal gardens on its 9.195 acres which



A view of the Ben Brae gardens (WRHS). The Potter Estates allotment is in the far distance in the photo.



Front view of Ben Brae



Back view of Ben Brae



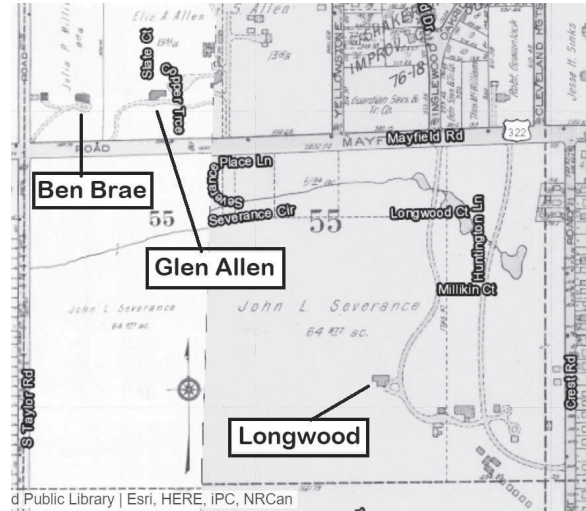
Farm of Wolcott Blodgett (formerly the farm of S. B. Meeker) called "Sunnyside" at NE corner of N. Taylor Road and Mayfield Road (dirt Mayfield Road is shown on the lower right). This house was used by the Millikin family for a country summer home before their Ben Brae estate was built there. (WRHS Cleveland, Ohio). The three baronial estates (Longwood, Ben Brae, and Glen Allen) were created over the early farmland of Heights pioneer families such as the Meeker, Minor and Silsby families.



The Glen Allen estate's Korean pavilion on Shaw Brook was once just a short tiptoe across stepping-stones from Yellowstone Road. Shown is the authentic Korean pavilion with its 500-year-old tiles. The exquisite formal gardens of all three Mayfield Road baronial estates were a place of imagination and dreams, and rivaled prestigious botanical gardens in both quantity and colorful plant varieties.

had been purchased from farmer Wolcott Blodget (CC 668/411) in 1897. Wolcott's farmhouse became the Millikin summer home before the mansion was built (see photo). Today, the old estate site is home to the Cleveland Heights Fire Station and the Council Gardens senior apartments. The only remnant is a front stone wall along Mayfield Road.

G) POTTER FARM POND (*removed*) made from Shaw Brook on the Potter farm. Farm ponds were indispensable as water for livestock (horses, cattle, sheep, oxen, etc.), and were usually located near the main dirt road. These ponds were often used for ice harvesting (for refrigeration) and were kept stocked with fish. No remnants remain but the stream now flows in underground pipes slightly rerouted nearby. For a rare surviving farm pond see the Severance Longwood spring pond located on Huntington Lane near Millikin Court.



Placement of the former baronial estates in the NE and SE corners of Mayfield Road and Taylor Road (North Taylor and South Taylor) in Cleveland Heights.



Stone garden bridge of Glen Allen

H) STONE GARDEN BRIDGE OF GLEN ALLEN ESTATE OVER SHAW BROOK (*still there*) Once part of a grand landscaped Japanese-styled garden for the Glen Allen estate (story above). It's a sturdy, narrow, and scaled-down Romanesque stone bridge with rounded capped end pillars, and with three lovely



The estate's namesake is John Long Severance's ancestor – and early Cleveland physician – Dr. David Long who had a home on Woodland Avenue. (Photo source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* archive photo.)

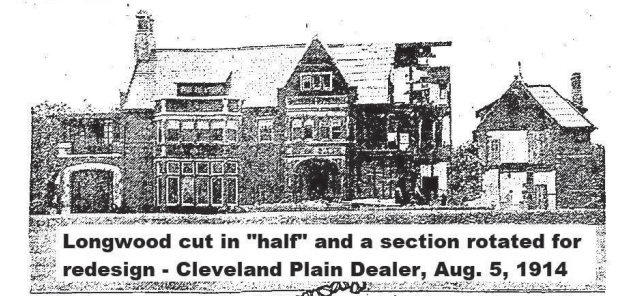


One of the many fireplaces at Longwood. Before demolition, architectural fixtures and relics from the home were salvaged or sold at a public sale.

archways below for Shaw brook to flow through. It is now on private property but can be viewed in wintertime from the back property line of the Lutheran East High School peeking out beneath climbing Hydrangea vines. Also pictured here is the former Glen Allen Korean Pavilion reflecting in one of the several garden ponds made from Shaw Brook (no longer there). (Source: *WRHS, Cleveland, Ohio*). Many photos of Glen Allen are available at ClevelandMemory.org.

I) SEVERANCE LONGWOOD ESTATE (*demolished*) The majestic and dignified Longwood estate, once with the address 3616 Mayfield Rd., was built by Standard Oil secretary, art collector and philanthropist John Long Severance and wife Elisabeth Huntington DeWitt Severance ("Bessie"). Mr. Severance was a creator and organizer of not only businesses and educational institutions, but also of cultural institutions (involved

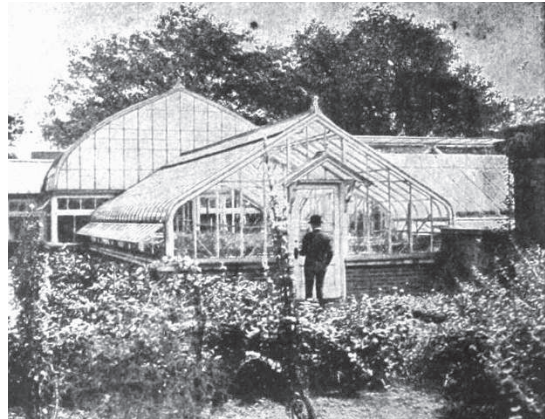
SEVERANCE HOME 'CUT' IN ALTERATION WORK



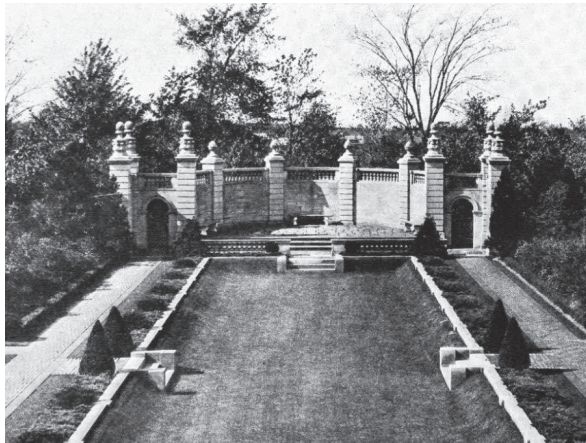
in the Cleveland Museum of Art and benefactor of Severance Hall). Longwood was the largest and grandest of the three Mayfield Road estates. The Longwood land was pieced together from many parcels starting in 1899, by Louis H. Severance, his son John L. Severance, and to a small degree the Millikins. John L. Severance eventually acquired all the parcels.



Living room at Longwood with floor to ceiling works of art from the *Architecture of the United States* book.



Greenhouses at Longwood from Sweet's Architectural Catalog.



A sunken garden at Longwood, photo from I. T. Frary's article. M. H. Horvath was one of the landscape designers.

When the Longwood estate was resurveyed in 1929, it had grown to 182.523 acres and included the northside of Severn Road (From S. Taylor over to Maple Road), and a west portion of the Crestwood allotment (all of Glen Road and the west side of Crest Road). In 1936, Severance Allen Millikin (son of John L. Severance's cousin Julia Severance Millikin), was the executor of the estate.

The original manor house is listed as being built in 1907 per the Cuyahoga County Archives 1944 building card. It was completed by 1909 (*Cleveland Plain Dealer* May 23, 1909, "Home building is breaking records..."). J. Milton Dyer was the original architect, who designed the estate in the style of a dignified English manor house. After living in the house for a while, the Severance family decided the mansion was not big enough for their needs, and so they had it enlarged and remodeled in 1914 (Cleveland Heights building application 1281, provided by architectural historian Craig Bobby). For the redesign they enlisted architect Charles F. Schweinfurth who redid the interiors with a Gothic-style appearance (I. T. Frary). The estate property had extensive formal gardens, but also had a whole farm section with a granary, corn crib, smokehouse, hog barn, and milk house. There were staff cottages, chauffeur's house, greenhouses, stables, and a seven-car garage with an automobile turntable. The mansion interior was elaborately decorated with historic furniture, oriental carpeting,

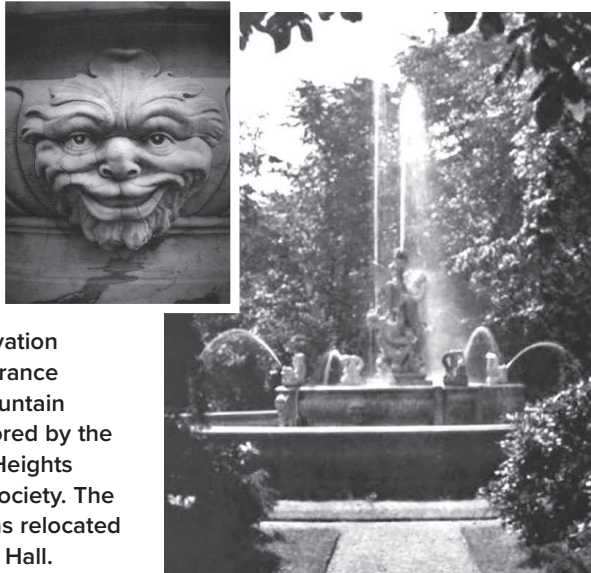


Aerial view of the Severance's English-style brick barn with two wings and cement floor is shown above with a closeup of the decorative brick (Source: gis.cuyahogacounty.us 2017, and author's photo). The three roof ventilators have since been removed (unfortunately). Severance A. Millikin (heir to most of Longwood) gave the barn along with four acres to the Cleveland Heights Board of Education for a recreation facility in 1954. (Source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer* "Heights School Board Announces Millikin Gift.") It sits boarded up now. The Cuyahoga County Archive building card had 1914 as its approximate build date. There is another "mystery" structure, possibly of the Longwood era, in the backyard of the home at 1604 Crest Rd. just east of the brick barn. It is a partially submerged structure the length of the backyard with what appears to be three covered vents or chimneys on top and a defunct door opening going down into what looks like a basement level. There are also several homes along Crest Road that predate the allotment, and so could be farmhouses that were "moved out of the way" from Mayfield Road, or other locations.

tapestry, sculpture, master paintings, porcelains from China and Japan, and other artifacts.

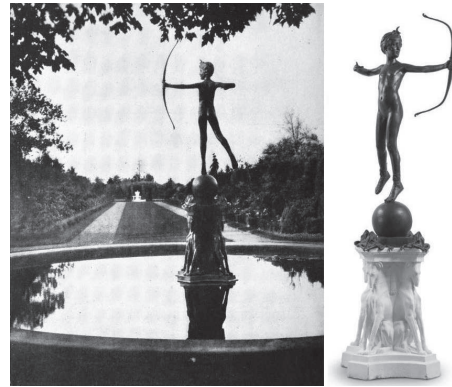
Much of this priceless artwork, along with medieval armor and historical artifacts was eventually donated to the Cleveland Museum of Art. There were seven fireplaces, and the ceilings were decorated plaster and everywhere was wainscoting, finest hardwood, marble, brass, and stained glass (and of course an elaborate organ). It took at least eight staff to keep the estate in working order. Sadly, this incredibly ornate mansion was demolished in 1961, and then replaced by a shopping mall. Remnants include the inner tier of a

fountain embellished with gargoyle faces (moved next to Cleveland Heights City Hall); rows of trees that lined a now defunct entrance from South Taylor Road north of Severn Road; a natural spring pond that can be seen from Huntington Lane, between the condo buildings there; stables (can be seen from back fence of Post Office at Severance Center). The Longwood site is now home to the second version of Severance Shopping Center and many other commercial businesses, apartments, fast food restaurants, medical facilities, City Hall, Police station, U.S. Post Office branch, and many other types of establishments.

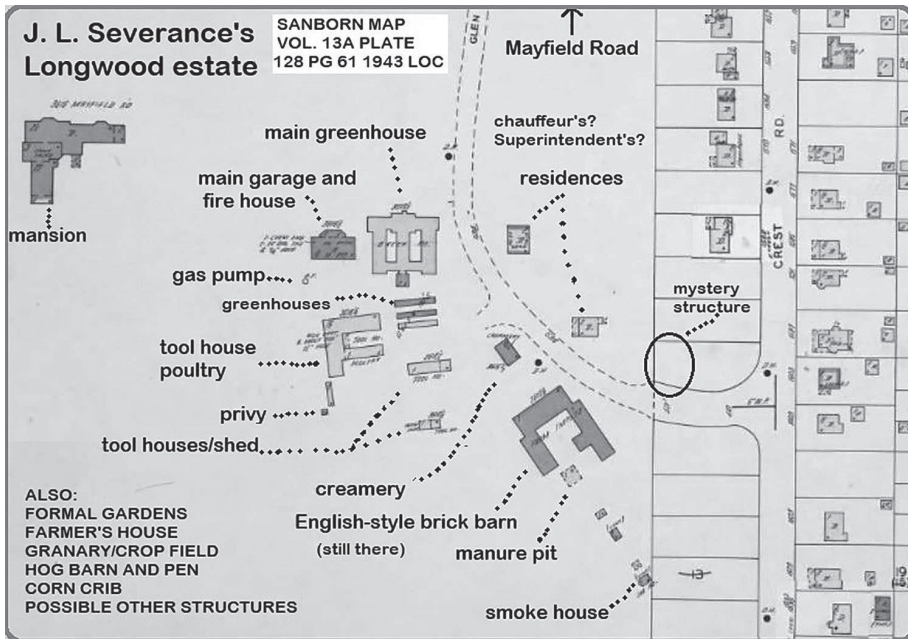


The preservation of the Severance gargoyles fountain was sponsored by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society. The fountain was relocated next to City Hall.

The Longwood fountain with the gargoyles faces from the Elwood article.



The "Young Diana" statue once at Longwood, created by renowned sculptor Janet Scudder (1869-1940), resold in 2021 at a Sotheby's auction. Another lovely fountain graced the estate's lily garden, and another was inside the mansion itself.



The Severance Longwood estate took in the whole SE corner of Mayfield and Taylor Roads (now the Severance Town Center), continuing eastward to include what is now Crest Road. Using the Severance brick barn for reference, one can get an idea on where the rest of the estate buildings once were (now demolished). South Taylor Road there was previously known as Minor Road.



Shovels and bulldozers removing the remaining woods and converting the former Longwood estate into Severance Center Mall (to be an area of about 151 acres). (Source: *Cleveland Press* photo, 1962.) The concept for this "mammoth central shopping district" was already in the works by 1949. (*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, May 26, 1949. "Give Heights Officials Plans of Severance Tract Center," by Adin C. Rider).

In closing

The stories about early indigenous inhabitants, the settlers and farming families, the grand baronial estates of the gilded age, and the planned modern suburbs are all reminders of the many layers of history that have shaped our city.

Aristocracy of Cleveland Heights



A) John Long Severance (1863- 1936) B) Elisabeth Huntington DeWitt Severance (1865-1929) (wife of John) C) Benjamin Love Millikin (1851-1916) D) Julia Walworth Severance Millikin (1862-1950) (wife of Benjamin), E) Elisabeth Sill Severance Allen Prentiss (1865-1944), F) Dr. Dudley Peter Allen (1852-1915), G) Francis Fleury Prentiss (1858-1937). Mr. Allen and Mr. Prentiss were first and second husbands of Elisabeth Sill Severance. Elisabeth Sill Severance and John Long Severance were siblings, and Julia was their first cousin. (photos A-E are from the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio). The Severance family, both the husbands and wives — contributed greatly to cultural, civic, and philanthropic causes (including colleges and hospitals) and left impressive legacies.

Other Sources:

A Directory of the City of Cleveland and Ohio City, 1837. Julius P. Bolivar MacCabe.

Ancestry.com (Family trees, census, court records, etc.)

Cleveland (Ohio). Second Presbyterian church. "Memorial Services, Dudley Peter Allen, January 24th, 1915." Cleveland, Ohio. (For photo of Dudley P. Allen).

Cleveland Plain Dealer Historical. Newsbank database. Cleveland Public Library.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "50,000 Jam Prentiss Mansion: Others, Kept Out, Pull Shrubs." October 8, 1945.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Millikin Mansion Wrecking Starts." July 17, 1953. (In this article, the son, Severance A. Millikin, remarks that Ben Brae was built over 50 years ago).

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Will Allot 68-A on Taylor Road: Knight-Norris-Gibbs Acquires High Property in Euclid Heights." *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 10-17-1920 (This is first mention of the Potter Estates. The first section

purchased for the allotment is 68 acres, but more land was added to it eventually.)

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "WJAY Acquired by Frank M. Potter." October 10, 1930.

Compton, C. V. Comptonology. Vol. 1-5. San Antonio, Texas. C.V. Compton, 1939.

Cuyahoga County Recorder Office deeds (Deeds here listed by book and then page number so CC 82/12 would be Cuyahoga County book 82/page 12 at site <https://cuyahoga.oh.publicsearch.us/>).

Ebel, Dorothy. "Glen Allen, a Picturesque Ohio Estate." *Gardeners' Chronicle of America*. Vol. 29 no. 11. 1925. Pages 287-290.

Ebel, Dorothy. "Longwood, Majestic and Dignified." *Gardeners' Chronicle of America*. Vol. 29 no. 12. 1925. Pages 311-314.

Elwood, Philip Homer. "American Landscape Architecture." New York: The Architectural publishing Co., Inc. 1924. (House plans)

Frary, I. T. "The Rebuilding of Longwood, Residence of John L. Severance, Esq., Cleveland, Ohio, Charles F. Schweinfurth, Architect." *The Architectural Record*. Vol. 41 no. 6 June 1917. Pages 483-503.

Gréber, Jacques. "L'Architecture Aux États-Unis." Payot & C ie, Paris, France. 1920. Plate 73, page 64. (Longwood living room from this *The Architecture of the United States* book).

Henry Dremann (aka Adams-Long) house land: Connecticut Land Co. investors and Eliphalet Austin CC 3/587 1818; Thomas Sill CC 3/586 1819; Adoniram Peck CC 20/28 1833; Herschel Foote CC 22/97 1837; Edmund P. Morgan CC 58/512 1852; Benjamin F. Bailey CC 69/491 1854; Charles Barkwell CC 86/471 1856; Henry Dremann CC 126/318 1863; William Rees CC 700/622 1899; Elisabeth Severance Allen (Prentiss) 1578/470 1914.

"Heritage on the Heights," Heights Heritage Tour Committee, Heights Heritage Congress. 1977. (CH-UH Library History Room).

Hathitrust.org (Incredible historic book source). Cleveland Historic Maps at arcgis.com

Kelly, S. J. "The Old Station at Fifty-Fifth Street." *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 12-30-1941.

Kelly, S. J. "James F. Doustiels Barber Shop." *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 8-16-1947 (about "the Station")

Kelly, S. J. "Wilson Brothers Butcher Shop." *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 5-21-1947 (about "the Station")

Lee, Holme, 1828-1900, Horace J Knowles, and Reginald L Knowles. "Legends From Fairy Land: Narrating the History of Prince Glee & Princess Trill..." London: Chatto & Windus, 1908.

McGraw-Hill Information Systems Company. Sweet's Construction Division, and Sweet's Catalog Service. "Architectural Catalog File." New York, N.Y. 1917. Page 1756. (Photo of greenhouses at J. L. Severance's Longwood estate.)

MacCabe, Julius P. Bolivar. "A Directory of the Cities of Cleveland & Ohio, for the Years 1837-38: Comprising Historical And Descriptive Sketches of Each Place..." Cleveland: Sanford & Lott, 1837.

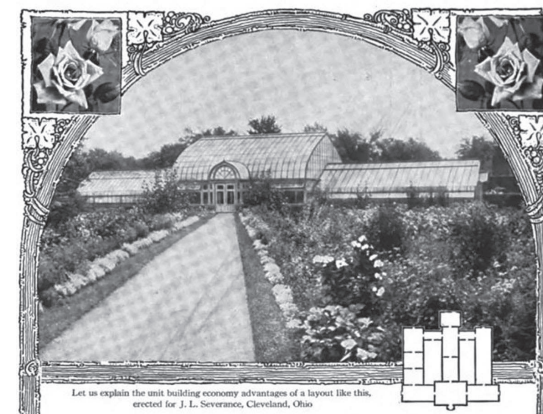
Norton, Christopher. "The Gardens at Glenallen — Home of Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Prentiss, Cleveland, Ohio." *Garden Magazine*, March 1922, Vol. 35. No. 1. Pages 32-22.

Orth, Samuel Peter, 1873-1922, and Clarke (S.J.) Publishing Company. "A History of Cleveland, Ohio." Chicago-Cleveland: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1910.

Potter Estates maps Cuyahoga County Recorder Office No. 1 1920 CC 73/34, No. 2 1925 CC 93/20, No. 3 1926 CC 102/15. Total of 58.84 acres which consists of the 56.84 acres of the Potter farm and 2 connected acres of A. M. Andrews.

"State Showcases Robus Sculpture," *Cleveland Plain Dealer* 11-1-1981.

Taintor, Charles M. "The Genealogy and History of the Taintor Family from the Period of Their Migration from Wales to the Present Time." Greenfield. 1847.



The front view of the Severance Longwood greenhouses with inset footprint. (Source: Hitching & Co. ad in the *New Country Life* magazine, Vol. 32. May 1917. Page 127.)

Taylor, Albert D. (Albert Davis), 1883-1951, and Gordon D Cooper. "The Complete Garden." Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1921 (Features Glen Allen in plates XI, XX, XLVII, LI, LII, LX, and possibly others).

The American Architect. "Glen Allen, Estate of Mrs. Dudley Allen, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Mr. Charles P. Schweinfurth, Architect." March 8, 1916. Vol. CIX No. 2098. (This source has architectural drawings and great interior pictures). <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924015271038&seq=304&q1=dudley&start=1>

University of Pennsylvania. General Alumni Society, and W. J Maxwell." General Alumni Catalogue of the University of Pennsylvania," 1917. Philadelphia, 1917. (B.L. Millikin)

Wickham, Gertrude Van Rensselaer, and The Women's Department of the Cleveland Centennial Commission. "Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve." 1896 Part I.

Yale University. "History of the Class of 1907 — Sheffield Scientific School." Vol. II. Edited by Stanley B. Ineson. New Haven, Conn. 1915. (Dangler history)

Special thanks to Kelly and Michael Small, and Patricia and Dan Jackson. Also special thanks to Roy Larick at Bluestone Conservation, Maureen Pergola at the Cuyahoga County Archives, Ann Sindelar at the Western Reserve Historical Society, and historical researcher Craig Bobby.

Correction/Clarification: "View from the Overlook," Number 49 • Winter 2023, "The Electric Transit Era in Cleveland Heights — From the Early Days to the Remaining Vestiges," page 4. The Shaker Heights Land Company, not John D. Rockefeller, donated the parkland encompassing the Shaker Lakes area (Shaker Heights Park). Rockefeller donated parkland farther downstream around Doan Brook. (Source: *Cuyahoga County deed 1895, book 630/page 346 of 278.85 acres*).

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:

- \$ 20.00 – The Marcus M. Brown Membership
- \$ 30.00 – 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*

Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

The Cleveland Heights Historical Society
PO Box 18337
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118