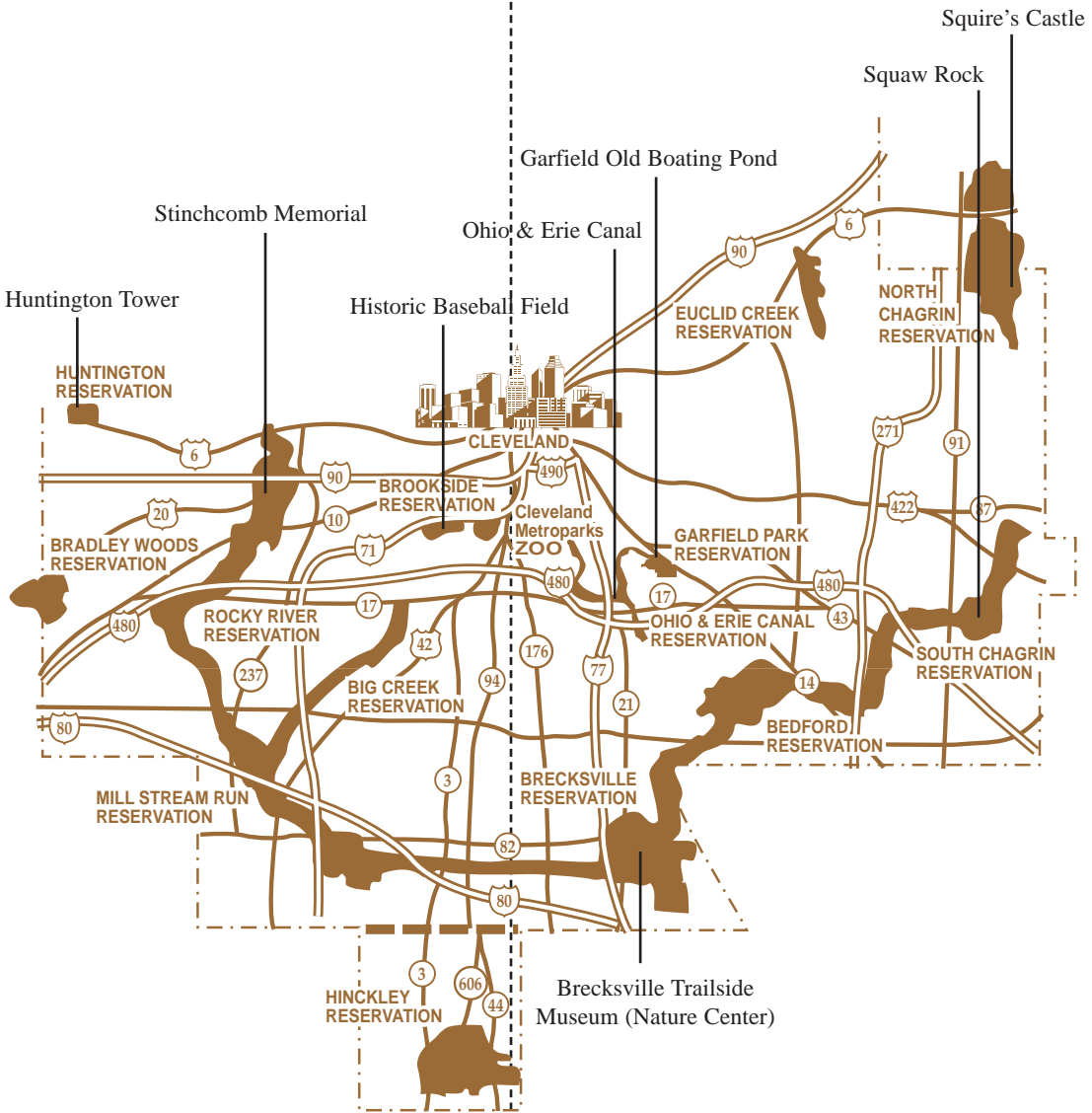




# Parkways to the Past

A Tour of  
Eight Points  
of Historical  
Interest






## Cleveland Metroparks Historic Tours

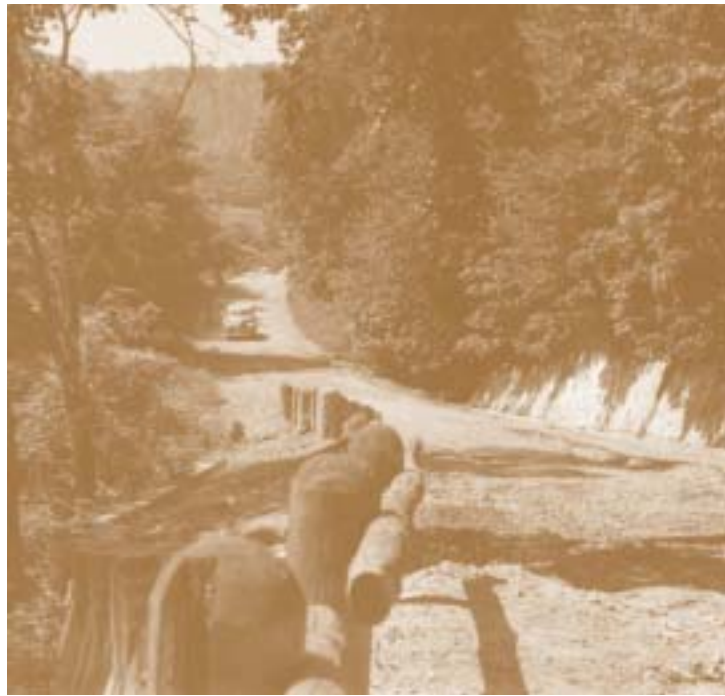
The Plain Dealer, July 11, 1920

*Take "Parkways to the Past" and explore the fascinating history of Cleveland Metroparks. This brochure highlights eight historic sites in the Park District: a 1930s era nature center, a turn-of-the-century castle, the summer estate of John Huntington on the shores of Lake Erie, the folk art carvings of Henry Church, an old boating pond, the Stinchcomb Memorial, one of Cleveland's original baseball fields, and part of the historic Ohio & Erie Canal.*

*Directions to each site are given from major highways. Visit the sites individually, or spend a day and tour all eight. The complete tour, beginning at Squire's Castle and ending at Huntington Reservation, is approximately 100 miles. Use a county map for travel between sites, and since many of the sites are picturesque, don't forget a camera!*

*"... Because a considerable part of this drive must be made over dirt roads (which however are generally excellent) it is advised that this jaunt be made in dry weather."  
"... The Plain Dealer party ... made the route in a Templar sport model ... The roads encountered in this drive vary from the smoothest brick, concrete and asphalt, to rough and rutty dirt. The Plain Dealer party traversed the route just after heavy rains early last week had converted some of the dirt stretches into sticky mud but the sturdy Templar never hesitated."*

Throughout this booklet  is used to denote special points of interest.



## DIRECTIONS: From I-271

Take the Wilson Mills Road exit. Go east on Wilson Mills Road to Chagrin River Road. Turn left onto Chagrin River Road. Travel 2.3 miles. Entrance to Squire's Castle will be on the left.

# NORTH CHAGRIN RESERVATION

## Squire's Castle

With its massive stone walls, arched doorways, and large tower, Squire's Castle has enchanted generations of park visitors. Built in the 1890s by Cleveland oil pioneer Feargus B. Squire (1850 - 1932), it was only intended to serve as a "gatekeeper's lodge." Squire planned to build a large country home behind it.

Although the larger building was never constructed, Squire used the gatekeeper's lodge as a weekend retreat in the early 1900s. Its design is reminiscent of English castles, and Squire was of English heritage.

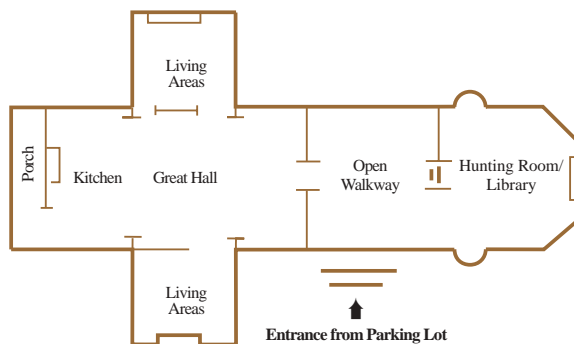
Born near Exeter, England, Squire came to America at the age of ten. An American success story, Squire started out as an office boy for an oil company, later he built and operated his own refinery. By 1885, he had joined Standard Oil of Ohio as a co-manager with Frank Rockefeller, the brother of John D. Rockefeller.

A quiet, somewhat aloof man, Squire enjoyed the solitude of his "castle." It had several bedrooms, living areas, a large kitchen, and a breakfast porch. All of the castle rooms had white plaster walls and elegant woodwork. Leaded glass windows looked out on the property.

One of the most beautiful rooms was Squire's library or "hunting room," located to the right of the driveway. The cozy room was filled with books, trophy cabinets, stuffed animal specimens, and paintings.

After his retirement from Standard Oil in 1909, Squire seldom visited the castle. He and his

family toured Europe, and they resided in a new country mansion called "Cobblestone Garth" on Wickliffe's Millionaire's Row. In 1925, Cleveland Metroparks purchased the property. A refreshment stand was operated at the castle in the 1920s.



Although only the outside walls of the castle remain today, try to imagine the building's former beauty. Look at the stonework on the inside and outside of the castle. Notice how the castle actually has "double" walls — the outside is stone and the inside is primarily brick. Touch one of the stones on the outside and notice how it feels "sandy" — the kind of rock which was used to construct the building is called "sandstone." If you look at the inside of the windows, you might see lines cut into the stone. Those are "chisel marks" made by the stonemason when he was shaping the stones.

If you look at the inside walls of the "great hall," can you spot the three doorways which have been filled in with brick? Those doorways once led to the upstairs bedrooms. There were two floors above the great hall. Can you tell that by looking at the walls?

Did the castle have a basement? Look on the outside of the building and see if you can tell where the basement windows were located.

## DIRECTIONS: From I-271

Take the Chagrin Boulevard exit. Follow Chagrin Boulevard east. At Lander Circle bear to the right and take Route 422 east. Take Route 422 to Route 91 (SOM Center Road). Make a right turn onto Route 91. Take Route 91 to Hawthorn Parkway (2.7 miles). Make a left onto Hawthorn Parkway and follow it until it ends (1.4 miles) at the Squaw Rock parking lot. The trail to Squaw Rock begins at the parking lot. The trail is hilly. It is a 1/4-mile walk to Squaw Rock.

# SOUTH CHAGRIN RESERVATION

## Squaw Rock

The Aurora branch of the Chagrin River may seem to be an unlikely place for a piece of sculpture, but a unique carving called “Squaw Rock” is located on the banks of this scenic river. Carved into a massive piece of Berea sandstone, the sculpture depicts a Native American woman surrounded by a serpent, a panther, a quiver of arrows — and several other images.

The artist who created this piece was Henry Church, Jr., a Chagrin Falls blacksmith in the late 1800s. The account book from his blacksmith shop indicates that not only did he shoe horses, he also pulled their teeth, trimmed wagon wheels, and sharpened tools.

Although blacksmithing was how Church made a living, his true interest lay in the arts. He was a talented musician, and played bass viol and horn in a local orchestra. He also enjoyed painting and sculpting: he painted in oils and sculpted images in metal and stone.



From the collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society

The second floor of his blacksmith shop was his art studio, and it was filled with his imaginative and unusual pieces: owls carved in stone, a greyhound sculpted in iron, and large, brightly colored paintings.

In his lifetime, Church was unsuccessful in his attempts to sell his artwork. In 1888, he even tried opening his own Art Museum in Geauga Lake Park and charged 10 cents admission to view his work.

Although people liked to look at his work, no one wanted to buy any of the unusual pieces.

Town officials even refused to allow Church to put the tombstone he had carved for himself in the local Chagrin Falls cemetery. So, Church vowed to live forever. Eventually, town officials relented, and Church's tombstone, a huge lion with glass eyes was allowed into the Evergreen Hill Cemetery where it still remains today. Henry Church died in 1908 at the age of 72.

Today, Church's folk art is nationally recognized. One of his paintings is on exhibition at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art gallery in Williamsburg, Virginia. His work has been shown in the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Nine examples of his work are also part of the permanent collection at Cleveland's Western Reserve Historical Society.



As you look at Squaw Rock, can you find Church's signature and the date of the sculpture's completion? Notice how the images in the rock are three-dimensional — this is called “bas-relief” carving. Can you find the quiver of arrows, the skeleton, the American flag, and the papoose? What do you think the images symbolize? There have been many interpretations of Church's sculpture, but it seems likely that Church was trying to depict the oppression of Native Americans. Inspiration for some of Church's art might have come from his childhood. Church's parents were strong abolitionists, and their house served as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

On the other side of the rock, can you find the log cabin and Capitol building which legend says, Church did not finish?

## DIRECTIONS: From I-480

Take the Broadway-Garfield Heights exit. Turn right (west) onto Broadway Avenue. Take Broadway Avenue for 1-mile. Entrance to Garfield Park Reservation will be on your left. After turning, make another immediate left turn onto Mill Creek Lane. You will pass Garfield Park Nature Center (left side). Look for the stone bridge on the right. Park in spaces across the road from the bridge. Walk across the bridge to the old boating pond area.

# GARFIELD PARK RESERVATION

## Old Boating Pond

Garfield Park was established nearly a century ago as a city of Cleveland park. In 1895, city planners purchased three farms, totaling about 150 acres, and envisioned Garfield Park as a place where city dwellers could come out and enjoy the country. In 1915, a Cleveland Railway streetcar line was extended to Garfield Park where it made a loop through the park - called the Scenic Loop - and then returned downtown.




Those who came to the park in the early years enjoyed many activities. The park had clay tennis courts, five ball diamonds, a municipal swimming pool, two man-made lakes for boating and fishing, and a natural iron spring which provided medicinal "iron water." It was one of the most popular parks in the area.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Garfield Park experienced a period of decline, and many of the original features disappeared. However, Cleveland Metroparks leased the park from the city of Cleveland in 1986 and began restoring its former natural beauty.

At this historical stop, explore the old lake bed area, which was the former location of Garfield Park's boating pond. Early park visitors remember that this was the area where, for a quarter, "a boy could rent a rowboat and take his favorite girl out on the lake for an hour." In 1989, Cleveland Metroparks restored much of the stonework around the boating pond and recovered a number of interesting artifacts from those early years.



 Cross the sandstone bridge and discover the wet meadow area, formerly the boating pond, straight ahead. The grassy area to your left was the site of the old boathouse. Can you see the low stone platform nearby where the boats were launched?

To walk around the edge of the old lake, cross the arched bridge on your right and follow the gravel path. You will notice the ruins of an old dam at the back of the lake. A second lake was located on the other side of the dam! If you continue following the gravel path, it will end at a black-topped drive. This was part of the old streetcar "Scenic Loop." If you turn right, the road will take you back to Garfield Park Nature Center. Before you leave the reservation, visit the nature center for more information on the history of Garfield Park.

## Directions: from I-77

Take the Grant Avenue exit. Go west on Grant Avenue to East 49th Street. Turn left onto East 49th Street.

Travel .25 miles. Entrance to Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation will be on the right.

# OHIO & ERIE CANAL RESERVATION

## The Canal: A Catalyst to Prosperity

The Cuyahoga River is a magnet which has drawn human activity for hundreds, maybe thousands of years to this valley.

Ancient native peoples used this water corridor for travel. The remnants of villages and fort sites have also been discovered along the river banks. Small mounds were once found along the bluffs of the Cuyahoga River, but unfortunately, all of these have been destroyed by urban expansion. The road you traveled down to the CanalWay Center, "Whittlesey Way," is named after a 19th-century geologist and first president of the Western Reserve Historical Society, who studied and documented the historic sites of these native Americans.

This Cuyahoga River Valley was also home and through-way for many Woodland Indian groups throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. It is told that fur trappers established a temporary trading post along the river. Moravian missionaries even built a short-term settlement near the river bank.




However, in 1825, this valley was about to change forever. The State of Ohio hired thousands of Irish and German men to dig the Ohio & Erie Canal near the river from Cleveland to Akron; and ultimately to Portsmouth. This would allow farmers to transport their grains and goods to bigger markets in the South and East. Along with the opening of the O&E Canal from Cleveland to Akron in 1827, people began to buy up land along the Cuyahoga River. The fertile soil of the floodplain was perfect for growing grains and produce.

Prior to the canal opening, stories are told of farmers making flat boats to transport their grains to faraway markets, but portaging made this journey arduous and less than profitable. The O&E Canal brought prosperity to the Cuyahoga Valley by creating an inexpensive and profitable means of commerce all along its path. Immigrants and settlers from out east flooded into the valley after the canal came through. Within 50 years, this valley supported brickyards, blasting powder mills, sulfuric acid chemical plants, flouring mills, sandstone quarries, taverns, and hotels.

With the movement of commerce on the canal, coal was transported into Cleveland from Pennsylvania, and the steel industry flourished. The Civil War and the booming Railroad Era demanded great amounts of iron ore from Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Cuyahoga Valley became an industrial mecca as immigrants jumped at this opportune time to live out their dreams.

The Cuyahoga River Valley also was the site of the most oil refineries in the world at that time. John D. Rockefeller and many other entrepreneurs made their fortunes here. However, along with great fortune, came one of the most marring events in Cleveland's history, nearly a century later: The Cuyahoga River actually caught on fire regularly, due to flammable waste that was being dumped directly into the waterway. It wasn't until the infamous fire of 1969 that environmental standards were set in place to clean up the river.

 As you make your way down to the old canal from the CanalWay Center, stop along the bridge and look in both directions. Do you notice how the canal stretches on like a ribbon of water towards Cleveland and then to Akron? This canal was the catalyst that brought thousands of people to this valley and to many towns along its banks. Because of this canal, farmers and craftsmen could finally make a living. It produced a market that attracted hopeful entrepreneurs and afforded a better life for their children. Are you the child of a parent or grandparent who immigrated to this area because of a job in the steel mills, railroads, petroleum industry, sandstone quarries or shipping trade?

## Directions: From I-71

**Take the Fulton Road exit. Go south on Fulton Road to Memphis Avenue. Turn right onto Memphis Avenue. Go west on Memphis Avenue to Ridge Road. Turn right onto Ridge Road. Travel .5 miles. Entrance to Brookside Reservation will be on the right.**

# *B*ROOKSIDE RESERVATION

## *Historic Baseball Field*

As you turn off Ridge Road onto John Nagy Boulevard into Brookside Reservation, you are entering one of Cleveland's oldest municipal parks. Originally called Brooklyn Park, it was established by the city of Cleveland in 1894 to provide a recreational area for urban dwellers in and around the city. In 1897, its name was changed to Brookside Park.

Cleveland Metroparks own William Stinchcomb helped develop this park both during its infancy, and throughout Stinchcomb's early years as a chief engineer for Cleveland Municipal Parks. John Nagy, Cleveland's nationally known Recreation Director and Cleveland Baseball Federation Commissioner from 1930 to 1939 was also instrumental in the development of this popular park.

Brookside Park boasted picnic areas, tennis courts, and baseball diamonds nestled along the wooded valley of Big Creek. The sight of children swimming and wading in the creek was a common occurrence during the dog days of summer. A pond was dug to provide fishing and rowboating for its visitors. Today, the old pond now comprises the lagoon area encompassed by Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Like many other parks around Cleveland (Edgewater, Gordon, Lincoln and Wade), Brookside offered family affairs, such as band concerts, dances,


festivals, ice skating races and sporting events that drew thousands of people.

As if all of these recreational opportunities weren't enough, Brookside Park added animals in 1908 and 1909, which were transferred from Cleveland Zoo at Wade Park. In 1913 and 1914, improvements were made to the small zoo with deer runs and bear caves. Visitors in the early years of the zoo could drive their cars through Brookside and gaze at the animals in cages. The zoo changed managers in 1940 with Cleveland Museum of Natural History taking the helm. The zoo changed its name from Cleveland Zoo to Cleveland Zoological Gardens in 1945, until it was finally assumed by Cleveland Metroparks in 1975.



1935 school outing to the Cleveland Zoo

During the years of the Great Depression, Brookside Park and the Zoo benefited greatly by the work of the WPA and the CCC. Sandstone was quarried from the park and used to form the walls, lining portions of Big Creek, Zoo exhibits (seal area) and bridges throughout the park. Look for the sandstone blocks as you explore this reservation.

 Follow John Nagy Boulevard until it ends. Walk along the old road under the train tressel and veer left as it curves near the Fulton Road Bridge. Just below the bluffs where Fulton Road and Denison intersect, lies the historic baseball field where 115,000 people gathered in 1915 to watch the soon-to-become World Amateur Baseball Champions (Cleveland White Autos). If you search a little behind the present day backstop on the hill, you will find pieces of the old cement bleachers. Take a look across the ball diamond and imagine thousands of people standing and sitting for hours along the bluffs without assigned seats, restrooms, hot dogs, drinks, or air conditioned loges. Now, take a look behind you on top of the bluff on West 46th. Fans there had one of the best views of all!



## DIRECTIONS: From I-77

Take the Route 82 east (Brecksville) exit. Travel 1.3 miles. Cross through the intersection of Routes 82 and 21. Go approximately 2,000-feet. Watch for entrance, called Chippewa Creek Drive, on right. Turn right onto Chippewa Creek Drive. Follow drive 1/4-mile. Sign for nature center will be on right. Park in lots and the path between the lots leads to the nature center.

# BRECKSVILLE RESERVATION

## Trailside Museum


Opened on June 11, 1939, Brecksville Trailside Museum is the oldest nature center still standing in Cleveland Metroparks. From its rustic beams of American chestnut, to its intricate “leaf” carvings done in black walnut and cherry, the building reflects the craftsmanship of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers who constructed it. The WPA and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were two federal programs which provided work for unemployed men during the Depression. Both agencies completed many building projects throughout Cleveland Metroparks — not only nature centers, but also bridges, shelters and parkways. Many are still in existence today.



After the opening of Brecksville Trailside Museum in 1939, more than 17,000 visitors came to see it in its first year. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History provided the naturalists for the reservation, and Brecksville Trailside Museum became well-known for its Sunday afternoon programs during the winter. The programs included “a warm building with an open fire, a guided hike of about an hour through the winter woods, and a period of discussion toward the close of the afternoon.”



WPA worker

 Explore the unique features of this beautiful building. Can you find the Roman numerals marked on the beams, which were used by WPA workers to assemble the building? Look at one of the wooden pegs in the support posts — what was its function? Can you find the “ghost leaf” — the tulip leaf carving which was modified by its creator? The nature center’s benches have peculiar notches on the back supports - can you figure out where the benches were placed in the building, 50 years ago? Finally, notice how the chestnut panels are cut to fit around the fireplace - how did the WPA workers do that?

## DIRECTIONS : From I-90

Take the Warren Road exit. Go south on Warren Road .9 miles to Munn Road. Make a sharp right onto Munn Road. Munn Road will end at Rocky River Drive (Riverside Drive). Turn right. Watch carefully for Cleveland Metroparks entrance (Hogsback Lane) .7 miles on the left. Make a sharp left. The entrance to Stinchcomb Memorial will be down the hill on the right.

# ROCKY RIVER RESERVATION

## Stinchcomb Memorial

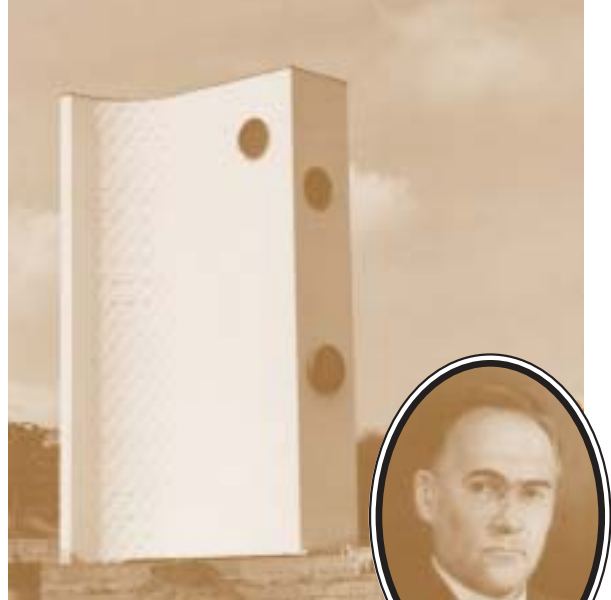
Born in Cleveland in 1878, William A. Stinchcomb dedicated his life to public service. At the age of 17, he began work as a “chain man” on a city surveying team for \$45 a month. In just a few years, he had advanced to the position of chief engineer of the Cleveland Parks Department.

He helped to develop several city parks—including Brookside Park and the Zoo, but it was the beautiful land outside the city which interested him most. He felt that if the valleys outside the city were not preserved, they would be lost to commercial development.



In 1916, Stinchcomb assisted in designing a park plan which included several large reservations connected by scenic parkways. A year later, the Ohio Legislature passed the law which established the Metropolitan Park District.

William Stinchcomb became the Park District's first director in 1921. A determined and energetic man, Stinchcomb made land acquisition his top priority. In his first decade as director, the Park District grew from a few hundred acres to more than 9,000 acres.



Then came the Great Depression and two world wars. Even in such difficult times, Stinchcomb refused to lose sight of his vision. In the 1930s, he employed thousands of men in public relief programs. Under his leadership, nature programs were established and the number of children's camps increased during the 1940s.

When Stinchcomb turned 70 and was required to retire under Ohio's compulsory retirement law, the Ohio Legislature paid tribute to his dedication — they wrote a new law! Stinchcomb continued working until age 79.

In 1957, Stinchcomb resigned for health reasons. He had served Cleveland Metroparks as director through four decades.

Nearly \$8,000 was contributed by Cleveland citizens to a Stinchcomb Memorial Fund. The memorial, a 30-foot tower, was designed by architect Ernest Payer and sculptor William McVey. The tower is made of cinder block and rests on a sandstone base. A public address system and carillon bells were once located inside the tower. An

outdoor auditorium “suitable for singing, music festivals, and outings,” was planned to serve this area. The memorial was unveiled in November 1958, but Stinchcomb was too ill to see it. He died a few months later in January of 1959.



Follow the path along the bluff to get a beautiful view of the Rocky River Valley — you can see for yourself why Stinchcomb felt it was so important to preserve these natural valleys in Cuyahoga County. The bluff also overlooks the site of the first land purchase — a 3.8-acre parcel purchased in April 1919 by the Park District.

## **DIRECTIONS: From I-90**

**Take the Crocker-Bassett exit. Go north on Crocker Road until it ends at Lake Road. Turn right onto Lake Road. Travel .8 miles. Watch for Huntington Reservation on your left. Park in Huntington Reservation parking lots on the left. Water tower is on the bluff beside the parking lots.**

# *H*UNTINGTON RESERVATION *1890s Water Tower*

At the turn of the century, many wealthy Clevelanders had homes in the city and beautiful estates in the country. Huntington Reservation, on the shores of Lake Erie, was the former country estate of John Huntington (1832-1893), a prominent Cleveland industrialist and philanthropist.

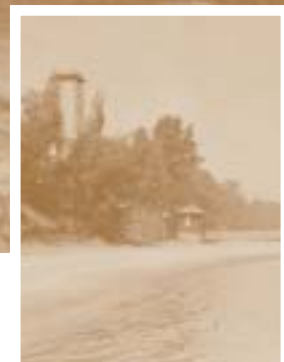
John Huntington had many interests — commercial, civic and cultural. He was involved in the oil business, mining, lake shipping, and quarrying. For 12 years, he served on Cleveland City Council and helped to initiate the construction of swing bridges on the Cuyahoga River, sewer systems throughout the city, and the Superior Street Viaduct. In 1873, he made an unsuccessful bid for mayor of Cleveland.

One of Huntington's biggest contributions to the city was the Art and Polytechnic Trust which he created in 1889 to fund the establishment of the Cleveland Museum of Art. His other major trust, the Huntington Benevolent Trust, supported 19 charitable institutions in the Cleveland area.

The tall tower on the bluff of Huntington Reservation is one of the few remaining features of Huntington's country estate. Although it looks like a lighthouse, it is actually a water tower built between 1880 and 1890. It was used to store the water once needed to irrigate the fields of Huntington's estate. Most country estates had fancy vineyards, orchards, and gardens with unusual European botanical specimens.

Cleveland Metroparks purchased the 98.76 acres of Huntington Property from the Union Trust Company in 1925 for \$500,000. The tower is made of cypress wood, but the outside has been covered with siding. The original water pipes, stairway and water tub enclosure still exist inside the building today.

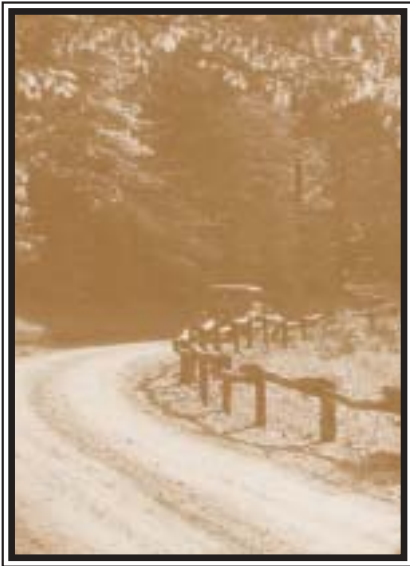
The Lake Picnic Area Shelterhouse nearby was built in the mid-1930s by Public Works Administration (PWA) federal relief program workers.



If you look down at the beach below the tower, you can see another original Huntington structure, a brick pump house, which contained the steam engines used to pump water from the lake to the tower. Can you find evidence on the outside of the pump house which indicates that it belonged to Mr. Huntington? On the lower level of the pump house, can you find the round port where the building's coal was placed?

As you look at the pump house, notice the pattern of the bricks — some are placed lengthwise and others are placed on end. This pattern is called "Dutch Bond."

As you leave the Huntington estate, stand on the bluff and look out at the Cleveland skyline. Although the view certainly looks a bit different than it did in Huntington's time, legend has it that Huntington used to enjoy sitting on the top of his water tower, surveying the city of Cleveland with his telescope.



Cleveland Metroparks is Cleveland's "Emerald Necklace," an open space of natural beauty and diversity. The Park District is dedicated to conservation, education and recreation. It offers an array of facilities and opportunities from picnicking, golfing and fishing to water and winter recreation areas, wildlife areas, and outdoor education and recreation programs.

Cleveland Metroparks was established on July 23, 1917 to provide open space for the people of Greater Cleveland, as well as to conserve and preserve the natural valleys of the area. Today, Cleveland Metroparks consists of over 20,000 acres of land in 14 reservations, over 100 miles of parkways, and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland Metroparks events are featured in the Emerald Necklace. This free monthly publication is available to residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township in Medina County. (There is an annual \$10 subscription fee for others.) To be placed on the mailing list, send your name and address to the address below.

Cleveland Metroparks does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in employment, services or access to programs or activities. Special assistance for Cleveland Metroparks programs or facilities is available by calling (216) 635-3264 in advance.

In case of accident or emergency, call Ranger Headquarters at (440) 243-0442.

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