Gehring, Blythe R. *Vignettes of Clifton Park*. Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland State University 2017.


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In winter I loved to hitch sled rides around the Park. My father was my favorite driver. I treasure the walks around the little circle and sometime the "mile" which I enjoyed with Dad. He would point out the stars to me. I can still smell the snow of those wonderful winter nights. I miss them here in Louisiana.

I remember Christmas carols on Clifton Road. Our leader was Mr. Bill Forbes. I always felt we outdid Forest Road thanks to Mr. Forbes' lusty bass voice. We all sang to the top of our lungs to give him support. We knew we had a prize singer who deserved accompaniment. In our house the carols were always happily followed with an apple, a cup of hot chocolate and a bit of Dickens' Christmas Carol before the fire; then off to bed.

On Halloween we kids always made it a point to perch Henry Stecher's porch chairs on top of the road sign posts; Mrs. Bleil's windows were thoroughly soaped because she was such a "neat but neat" housekeeper. I recall that was Gene Frick's idea.

I have given you memories of a very happy childhood which I cherish deeply.

Mrs. Edwin Lehr (Muriel Hoffman) told us, "My twin sister, Carol, and I would paddle our canoe way out in the lake before sunset on summer evenings and we would drift slowly into shore as the sun set.

"I remember walking to the beach through moonlit Shady Lane one warm October and sitting out on the end of the rock pier just watching the moon on the water. One moonlight night we were sailing and got stuck on a sandbar in the river. We didn't get free of the sandbar until 3:00 a.m. I recall swimming out to the rock bar where the water was only knee deep - and on rough water days riding the waves off the bar into deep water. On our annual summer mile swim, Harvey Reynolds would row us out to the mile buoy off the river channel, and we would swim in to the beach with Harvey following in his boat.

"I remember pinch-hitting for my brother, Harry Hoffman, while he was in the ski troops in World War II. At this time girls were hired as lifeguards because the boys were all drafted. Mr. Paine and his fireworks at the point on the Fourth of July - he lit the 'crackers with a long stick and then ran like mad.

"I remember the night Jim Sprankle called for my twin sister to go to the Park One Hundred dance. Jim took one look at Carol's long white dress and he drove home to get a sheet to spread on the floor of his car before he would let her ride to the dance.

"We loved to walk to the beach through Shady Lane - we never drove down to the beach. And going down at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. on a hot night and then going right home to bed was a special treat."
Mrs. C. E. Kendel recalled that when her husband, C. E. Kendel, was a young man he was assistant Sunday School Superintendent at Plymouth Congregational Church at Prospect and East 22nd Street, Cleveland. The annual Sunday School picnic was always held in the picnic grove at the mouth of Rocky River (now Clifton Park). The school went out by boat which was docked under the Detroit, Rocky River Bridge or on a narrow gauge railroad which ran from East Cleveland to Rocky River (there were transfer points to the different little railroad companies.)

A corporation of westside men bought this section for the erection of summer homes. A high board fence was built around this area to prevent anymore picnic groups from entering. Mr. Kendel knew the head engineer who was directing the construction of the fence and upon request was given a pass which read, "Admit Mr. C. E. Kendel to Clifton Park." This slip was later framed and it always stood on the mantle shelf in the living room at 1109 Forest Road until the house was sold in 1962.

C. Edward Kendel was in the retail seed business which was established in 1839. Kendel's Seed Store was in the old cluster of buildings now occupied by the Terminal Tower and its group of buildings. Mr. Kendel was the first Secretary of the American Seed Trade Association. He held this position most of his business life.

Mr. Kendel was an enthusiastic hobbyist. He pursued his pastimes of sailing, gardening, beekeeping, hunting, fishing and hiking with great zest. It was only because of tolerant, understanding neighbors that beekeeping continued to be one of his hobbies.

Mr. Kendel was a gentle person, quiet, affectionate, appreciative. He had a strong faith in God. He was extremely conservative.

Clifton Beach was the special reason and attraction that made the Kendels choose Clifton Park. The three sons, Charles 12 years, William 8 years, and Edward 4 years, could enjoy the swimming and later the boating.

William and Edward went to the Beach every morning carrying bathing suits, towel and a lunch basket. It was a full day for the boys. Two swimming periods, rowing the boat, tennis, and baseball. On rainy days there were indoor games in the Bathhouse. When Harvey Reynolds, the lifeguard, left the Beach at the end of the day's work, the Kendel boys returned home.

Harvey used to fill the rowboat with little girls, 8 and 9 years old. He would then row out a short distance and at a signal the girls would jump in the water. Trailing from the boat were ropes, one for each girl. They could grasp their rope and float or swim the few strokes they knew in perfect safety. After the fun of this they were towed back to shore.

Mrs. Kendel remembers her neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Newell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Church, who urged the Kendels to build in the Park; and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Baker and their costly vegetable garden enjoyed by Park wildlife.
An interesting feature of the life of the children in Clifton Park was the informal gatherings at the triangle made by Forest and West Forest Roads. Baseball was a regular game and the boy who brought a ball or a catcher's mitt was the important person that night. Older as well as younger boys lined up to bat. Girls also joined in the games. Later when auto traffic made the triangle unsafe, the games were played at the Beach where a good diamond had been laid out. Much later an annual baseball game between fathers and children was played on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The players were the neighbors on Forest and West Forest Road. Following the game picnic dinners were served at either the Robert Hartford's or the William Folberth's.

Lloyd McCartney recalls that the streets in Clifton Park in 1903 had gas lamps and there were rough boards for sidewalks. The Stowe, Case, and Jennings families had horses with rigs and carriages. The streets of the Park were filled in with gravel and beach stones. Over many years there was trouble between the few auto owners and those who used horses as to which cut up the roads the most.

"My father was unable to drive his horse and carriage to his office because of the time involved. So for several years the horse was stabled in Rocky River. The Cases and Jennings had their barns next to the railroad.

"The Clifton Club was built around 1903. Clambakes were held each September. It was a small club with limited membership. I took dancing lessons from a Miss Root at the Club when I was a teenager. The Club had one tennis court. The Club featured Saturday night dances. Later membership included others and also included Clifton Beach privileges to non-residents.

"Few autos were in evidence until 1908. The Clifton Boulevard trolley cars entered the picture about the time my father moved to Clifton Park (1902.) Friends of the family who came to visit were told to get off at the first entrance at Clifton Boulevard or at the second entrance on Sloane Avenue and walk north over the planks adjoining the dirt road and cross over the single track of the railroad.

"Mr. Finch moved into the old house at the railroad tracks in 1908. The house was a wreck for many years. He did a splendid job of clearing the Park roads with horse and snow plow.

"The C. H. Church house on West Clifton Road (18131) was originally one-third the size it is today. The Hoehn's had horses and a large barn. Mr. Hoehn made a new handle for flat irons. This was before electric irons were in use.

"My father sold the rear end of his lot to F. C. Case to make room for his four car garage. Mr. and Mrs. Case owned the lot west of my father's lot and house and for many years we had a beautiful flower garden and vegetable garden beside us. The gardens were expertly maintained by the Case family.

"We had gas lights in the house which we used frequently as the electric current and the water had a way of going off. Groceries were not a problem as Chandler and Rudd had a salesman who came out and took our order for once a week delivery. We had two telephones, Bell and Cuyahoga Telephone."
Warren Root, Gaylord Stowe, Horace Newell and the Clarke boys were a few of the boys in the early days. Later Johnnie Woods, the Hunkin boy, Krause boys, Gresham boy and Paul Matthews arrived.

Mr. George Fish was one of the early home owners. Mr. Fish operated a clothing store on Euclid Avenue just east of the Williamson Building.

In 1913 when you drove an auto you used four tire chains on many days in the winter and you followed the ruts.

The Lake Shore Electric Interurban was one of the popular means of transportation for many years. The men could smoke and play cards in the front smoker. Mr. Rodier, Mr. Ranney, Mr. L. A. Reed and others had many pleasant rides to town. Later, about 1910, Mr. Rodier bought an auto and he picked up my father each morning. Mr. Rodier's auto had two bodies. The one for summer had an open top. The one for winter was closed.

In 1913 my father bought his first car. The sales mechanic came out to install the electric starter. This was the end of the horse and wagon days and the old times.

The break up of Clifton Park began when the east side of Cleveland offered more entertainment. By 1930 the lake was too dirty for swimming.

When the Root family came to Clifton Park in 1904, the pumping station on the beach still had machinery in it. Mr. Root remembers seeing all the gears and wheels. It was an interesting place to explore. Mr. Root also remembers the wooden pilings of the old pier going far out into the lake. This ties in with Mr. Singleton's remark at the beginning of the story . . . "We came to the old pier in a small pleasure boat."

Mr. Root remembers Mr. A. B. Smythe who was a realtor and lived at 18144 Clifton Road. Mr. Smythe was a dynamic person; a marvelous individual. Mr. Betz lived at 18147 Clifton Road and taught Sunday School at Lakewood Congregational Church. Mr. Clarke lived at 18149 Clifton Road and he was in the woolen cloth business.

George Gerlach comes to Mr. Root's thoughts. George kept his shack in tip top shape. The beds were bunk beds and all the necessary equipment was put away in cupboards and closets. The little shack was sea worthy and neat.

Another Park person Mr. Root remembers is Mr. Hoehn. Mr. Hoehn had an invention of interchangeable flat iron handles. The removable handle idea speeded the ironing chore. Often times the assembling of these handles would be done in the barn on the Hoehn property and as a child Mr. Root would often watch this procedure. Mr. Hoehn had a six cylinder Winton auto. It had a compressed air starter. Mr. Hoehn announced he wanted to sell the auto for $2000; he also announced that the price would be reduced $100 a day. So everybody waited!
Years ago the present footbridge was originally a grade crossing over the old Nickel Plate tracks. This arrangement permitted wagons and carriages to pass over. After the footbridge was built there was no passageway for wagons anymore. This problem was eventually solved by creating the underpass under the old Nickel Plate trestle. The underpass, curiously, is officially known as Scenic Subway. This road was engineered by Mr. Charles W. Root, father of Warren J. The original road was paved with cobblestones. This material helped the horses keep their footing when going up and down the hill. (Too bad the pass is paved with asphalt, it is not picturesque anymore. The cobblestones gave an old world touch especially on rainy nights when they glistened in the half light.)

Mr. Root tells how early Clifton Park roads were lighted with gas lamps. A lamplighter came at dusk in a dog cart style wagon drawn by a pony or small horse. The lamps would be cleaned and lighted by the lamplighter.

When Mr. Root was of high school age he built a wireless telegraph transmitter. A friend and neighbor, Mr. Walter Baker, heard strange noises on his receiving set. Mr. Baker found that Warren Root's sending set was causing the strange noises. Mr. Baker asked many questions about the set as he was interested in all useful mechanical devices. At times Mr. Baker would bring home experimental models of his electric car and show them to the neighbors, and sometimes demonstrate them.

Mrs. Donald Harbaugh (Margaret Newell) in an interview said that long before she was born at the Forest Road house her parents would rent the old Pumphrey farmhouse for summer vacations. The farmhouse still stands on the inner elbow of Arlington Road, 1270, adjacent to the Park.

The whole section of Arlington and Overlook Roads was once a fruit farm. The two small houses tucked into the corner near the railroad were tenant farm dwellings.

The Newell home at 1113 Forest Road was built in 1901. While the house was being built the Newells rented the house at 1116 Forest (now the Frank Gormans). Margaret's parents were eastside people and when it became positive that the Newells would be country folk in Clifton Park, the problem of church arose. There were other eastside people coming to the Park and to Rockport Township. A group of Plymouth Congregational Church members were made welcome at the Newell home for prayer meetings many times. The Newell home was the place where the new Lakewood Congregational Church charter was signed.

Margaret remembers her brother Ken and his pal Phil Ranney making water bicycles. These were made from old bike frames and empty syrup drums for floats. The boys would pedal up and down the lake and over to the Yacht Club.

Margaret's mother conducted dancing classes in their ballroom and Margaret's father, C. E. Newell, was one of Lakewood's first councilmen.
Walter Gehring remembers the great baseball games played in the Park. The teams were Clifton Road and Lake Road against Forest Road. The status rivalry of those days was that Forest Road felt that they were the heart of the Park and that the Clifton-Lake was considered the fringe group. It was like two separate little towns. Forest Road had a home field at the Forest-West Forest fork and the Clifton-Lake home field was the site of the Philip Astry house at 18104 Clifton Road.

In the 1930's the young men in the Park would have a baseball game on Sunday mornings throughout the summer and early fall at the Beach diamond.

Walter established a pocket billiards league which originated on the third floor of his home at 18167 Clifton Road. Thirty-three boys were in the league. The finalists played at the Clifton Club. From a notebook dated 1925 are the billiard champs - Fred Squires, Stanley Jones, Glenwood Tammen, Walter Gehring, Ellis Minner, Platt Frick, Richard Marrow, Willard Foster. These boys were all Lakewood High School athletes and so was one whose name is not among the billiard finalists. He was a star in any game but billiards. His name? (the needle from Gehring) Frank Jontzen!

The Clifton Club had dances at Christmas and all animosity of baseball games, etc. was forgotten. There were caroling groups in the Park. They always caroled on Christmas Eve. After the caroling all would meet at the Clifton Club for hot chocolate.

Walter remembers the diving platform in the water at the Beach. The big adventure was to swim to the rock bar and further out was the sandbar. Another memory was swimming to the Yacht Club from Gerlach's pier.

Dances on the upper deck of the Bathhouse were always open to all the residents of the Park.

For a time during the 1930's Guy Lombardo held forth at the Yacht Club. His music wafted across the channel and up the hill. Some liked it and some complained about the rowdy music.

Who could forget the Cherry boys? They had their own orchestra and one, Babe, played in Charlie Barnett's orchestra.

For 20 years during the 1920's and 1930's Mr. Donald Paine was the Beach guard. He was the head of the Spanish department at Lakewood High. There was also a Clifton Park policeman who wore a police uniform and carried a billy club. Even though he was crippled he walked all through the Park as many times as he could at night.

There is the memory of hockey games and ice skating meets on the frozen Lagoon. An empty boathouse was used to change into skates. There was tobogganing down Beach Road and skiing down the slopes of Beach Road hill onto Lagoon property.

54.
Mrs. Edwin K. Wright (Bet Fish) remembers that the Bernice Pyke political meeting held in the Republican stronghold of Clifton Park caused mischief among the Park children. The night the meeting was held was Halloween. The meeting place was at the Berry home (18117 Clifton Road). Mrs. Pyke was the Democratic choice for mayor of Lakewood and Mr. Louis Hill was the Republican choice for mayor. The kids of the Park whooped and screamed for Mr. Hill while the meeting was being held; and Republican placards were put on the cars parked in the area.

Clifton Park in her girlhood abounded with violets and wildflowers, which made quite professional looking corsages for Mother's Day. The Park had many fine hiding places when the game of hide and seek was played. Fireworks on the Fourth of July brought everyone to the Beach to watch the display. Older boys were thrilled to help the men set the fireworks off. This was done at the Beach point. There was always a large group of spectators at the Clifton Club on this occasion.

Mr. E. E. Adams was always interested in children and he was kept busy organizing gay parties for them at the Clifton Club. There were dances for adults on every holiday at the Club. Twilight musicales were offered every Sunday afternoon. All the young people attended as it was the place to meet everyone.

Miss Helene Steinbach's piano recitals were held at the Kendel home (now Larsen, 1109 Forest) and at Wilson's (now Hartford, 1103 West Forest). Walter Gehring's boxing match for the little kids of the Park was a summer highlight one year. Ike Metcalf was the first in the lake in the early spring and the last out of the lake in the late fall. Now Ike's nephew, Henry Metcalf, carries on the tradition.

The yacht Mahapa was a beautiful boat and the largest. The name came from the first two letters of the owner's name, Mabel Hanna Parsons. The Kettering yacht was another large craft. It would anchor off shore. The Kettering family lived at 18180 Clifton Road (J. M. Byrns) and later at 17897 Lake Road (Dr. C. E. Mulligan). Now the Ketterings live in Dayton, Ohio. He is the son of "Boss" Kettering, the inventor.

The memory of Clifton Beach always brings George Gerlach to mind. George was an old sailor who was the caretaker of the Beach. He taught the kids to swim and to sail a boat. In the winter George taught ice skating at the Elysium.

Other Park memories . . . Harvey Reynolds was a long distance swimmer and lifeguard at the Beach; coasting on the Beach hill before everyone had an auto; ice skating on the Lagoon and on the lake one year near the rock bar; swimming out to the rock bar; the ropes for guiding swimmers stretched from posts out to a diving platform. They were put out every year.

More memories . . . the long slide with the big jump at the end; singing around driftwood fires on the Beach at night. We built our own fireplaces with the beach stones and we gathered our own firewood. One never had to reserve a table, except on July 4th. We just went down early and put our name on a table. The Beach Road originally went past the Bathhouse on the right side, and it was always called the "bathhouse."

A sensational Halloween prank one year was to let out the air from all the tires of the autos parked at the Clifton Club. It was later discovered that the fire department was called to help pump up the many tires!
THE BOXING MATCH

CLIFTON PARK BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP
Tuesday, August 18, 1931
8 p.m. 10¢ Admission
Gehring's Backyard

THE CARD

FLYWEIGHTS  PEE WEE (JIM) REDDY, The SLASHING HORNET of Upper West Clifton Road
            vs
            MIDGET (DICK) SMITH, The Lower Clifton Road WASP

LIGHTWEIGHTS  BATTLING (BOB) McDONOUGH, The Lightweight TERROR from the "Flats"
              vs
              SNARLING (DICK) WINKLER, The DEADEYE SLAPPER of the "Eastside"

MIDDLEWEIGHTS MICKEY (BILL) himself McDonough, That TERRIFIC BONE BASHER
              vs
              TWO FISTED (WES) WINKLER, Forest Road's PULVERIZING UPRISER

HEAVYWEIGHTS  DYNAMITE (GEORGE) FRY, The Lake Avenue EXPLOSION
              vs
              LEFT JAB (JIM) WINKLER, The "Westside" LION TAMER.

Remember the ring and arc lights? The kid brother (Don Gehring) built our extensive advertising and build up. The huge crowd and the sensational success of the show. The police raid prompted by "kind" neighbors who insisted the Gehring kid was actually promoting a brutal professional spectacle!

It is rumored the police stayed to watch.

56.
Miss Clara Benes remembers carrying a lantern from her home at 17881 Lake Road through the Park and over the old Nickel Plate tracks to the trolley stop on Sloane Avenue. This was standard equipment after dark for theatre goers and music lovers.

Just for a moment project yourself back to 1903-04 and picture the sight of a lantern floating knee high to someone whom the black night blots out. It must have been an eerie feeling, yet a picturesque sight after the fear wore off.

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Mr. Hans Penndorf recalls what his mother, Charlotte Knoll Penndorf told him - how cows were lead down to the Beach each day to be watered at the Lake’s edge.

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Muriel Hoffman Lehr remembers the tennis court was once right in back of the old Bathhouse. The tennis court was moved because one year the lake washed some footings on the Bathhouse and the water stayed too near the building. The Bathhouse was moved back which meant the loss of the tennis court at that location.

Muriel helped decorate the old Clifton Club ballroom for the Park One Hundred dances. Muriel mentions a dance which had an Easter theme of huge bunnies.

When Muriel was of high school age she and other Clifton Park girls were asked to serve at a lawn party given by Mr. and Mrs. Wigmore. This was a social highlight for that summer.

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Jim Sprankle tells about a Halloween prank when he was a boy. A wagon (horse drawn) was hauled up to H. W. Stecher's house at 18139 West Clifton Road and the wagon was wedged between the pillars on the front porch. Mr. Stecher was always a quiet and composed man, but not after seeing that prank. It took some hard work to get the wagon free.

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The Donald Harbaughs tend a garden through the summer and garland a tree at Christmas on the remaining portion of their Clifton Park lot. This is in memory of their house and their life in the Park - 61 years of memories.
Certainly a big part of the charm of Clifton Park lies in the wide range of architecture used in the homes of its people. The size runs from small converted coach houses to mansions of many rooms. Some of the largest homes have now been razed, reflecting the modern servantless way of life. Nearly all of the older homes were built to be operated by servants, and contain special quarters for domestics as well as call bells and signals.

In many cases, the houses reflect the tastes of their original owners. Some of them have been altered to conform to the needs of later owners, others retain their original lines.

These homes and the people who lived in them made history in the Greater Cleveland scene. We have assembled some descriptions and pictures of a few of the houses, put them together in a random assortment with brief sketches of some of the people who built not only the houses but the reputation of Clifton Park as an outstanding place for living.

Although much of the information gathered here represents the people and the activities of the past, leaders in industry, the professions and civic affairs continue to make their homes here, raise their families, and participate in the community life of Clifton Park.

In the house descriptions we have listed the name of the original owner and the owner as of 1970. By poring over the old, dusty plat books we have compiled a list of the known owners of these homes.

17802 Lake Road
Timothy F. McDonald

17818 Lake Road
Otto and Nelle P. Leopold
Harry and Beatrice Kranz
Gregory DeVine
Leo Engasser
Alan J. Jr. and Barbara Diemer

17825 Lake Road
Stanley Kresge
Louis B. Seltzer
Anthony J. Celebreeze

17831 Lake Road
M. A. Gresham
Kent and Elinor E. Bacon
Lloyd and Kay Riegler

17834 Lake Road
James and Clara Woods
Charles and Evelyn Seelbach
William A. and Susan Minnich

17835 Lake Road
Frank B. Anderson
Clarence and Frances Seaman

17836 Lake Road
Robert B. Wallace
James and Elizabeth Mathers
Thomas and Agnes Nevison
Ralph and Bonnie Walton
Clement T. and Marie Loshing

17840 Lake Road
Frederick A. Glidden
Edwin I. Heinsohn
Roy B. Robinette
William and Barbara Thewes
James Groth

58.
17840 Lake Road, continued
Wade Canfield
William and Elizabeth LaRiche
Arthur Bates

17844 Lake Road
F. G. Fish
James R. and Josephine H. Sprankle
Frederick A. and Consuelo Glidden
Chester and Laura Newcomb
Richard Mueller

17848 Lake Road
Paul and Margaret North
Catherine Komarek
H. Clay and Margaret Stier
William H. Stanley

17852 Lake Road
Charles H. Reed

17853 Lake Road
Charles and Flora L. Root
Vern and Lillian Smith
W. B. and F. R. Smith
Stephen J. and R. A. Burgyan

17855 Lake Road
Alfred A. Horr
Lucy J. Roberts
F. W. and W. K. Roberts
James T. Collins
Ruth E. Tisdall
Eleanor Pearce
George E. Ewing
James Loughran

17856 Lake Road
Stephen and Kitty Peirce
Werner and Frances Smith

17859 Lake Road
Frank and Alice McCartney
Augusta Force

17859 Lake Road, continued
R. M. and Helen Fowler
J. B. and Leila Faxon
J. Kenneth Wasley

17860 Lake Road
Frank C. Case
George S. Case
Albert Case
Martha Gentsch
Adolph Mellar
Theodore and Virginia Brooks
Richard R. and J. Endress

17862 Lake Road
John G. Jennings
Elizabeth Born Irwin
Margaret D. Lawrence
Hilda L. Smith
John and Ethel Bibbs

17863 Lake Road
Jesse Roberts
Rosella Lewis Judd
Elma B. Pyke
Henry and Ruth Hunczak

17864 Lake Road
Lucien B. Hall
Amy H. Case
Katherine Laub
Richard and Marion Bell
Charles W. York

17866 Lake Road
Leafie Starkweather
T. R. Morgan
Charles Arter
A. B. Smythe
Esther Kling
Anna C. Cunningham
John R. Raible
Frank and Esther Gilbert
Freeland Realty Co. (Lake Point Drive allotment)
17869 Lake Road
Francis H. Glidden
Joy, Emily and Gertrude Glidden
Eugene and Beatrice Quigley
George and Virginia Foley

17873 Lake Road
Julius H. D. Rodier
Clyde T. Foster

17877 Lake Road
Mrs. Herman Mueller
Carl Mueller
Mrs. Emily L. Mueller
Neville C. and Mary Foster
Edward R. and Elvira Sharp

17879 Lake Road
Leafie Starkweather
Anna S. Lucas
Genevieve Rickenbach
Margaret F. Smith
S. W. and Frances Reeder
Georgianna R. Fredrichs
James Carter

17880 Lake Road
George P. McKay
Bertha K. Cherna
Leonard C. Fisher
Merrill and Marydell Wood
Olga Kold
Marian R. Shell

17893 Lake Road
Cleaveland R. Cross
Roy and Josephine Ossman
John and Barbara Linn

17895 Lake Road
Charles A. Myers
Edythe Ebright
Glenn and Priscilla Barth

17896 Lake Road
Jane Eliza Coulby
Harry Coulby
E. E. Stone
James Easly
Frank J. Jontzen
Joseph H. Dearborn
Robert Vitt (Coulby Square reallocation)

18093 Clifton Road
Frank A. and Gertrude Mehling
Dual L. Simmons
D. Rusk and Ruth Haverfield
Arthur F. Young

18096 Clifton Road
Fred W. Roberts
Elsie H. Seager
Charles and Rhode Holden
F. and Helena McDonald
Rev. L. Wilson Kilgore (Lakewood Presbyterian Church)
Robert Walker

18102 Clifton Road
Alexander Winton
Mary G. McIntyre
Clark C. and Grace Kimball

18121 Clifton Road
James P. McKinstry
Katherine Parke
Milton Jay Parke
Jean A. Atack
H. B. and Emmy Wentz
Robert and Shirley Bowers

17830 Beach Road
Alexander Winton
George Codrington
Wilma Gleitz
Vernon Stouffer
17855 Beach Road
Franc C. Stowe
Robert Gardner
Orlin Anderson
Frances Wright

17886 Beach Road
Fred C. Dorn
Margaret G. Ranney
Carl and Dorothea Smalheer
Joseph C. and Patricia Avellone

17890 Beach Road
Harry and Mabel Hanna Parsons
Mary Kershaw
Bern and Marie Mueller
Conrad B. Mueller
Rene J. and Anne Morel

18127 West Clifton Road
John H. Anderson

18131 West Clifton Road
Julia W. Church
Olive G. Wills Wigmore
Fannie W. Baker
George and Barbara Guthery
Edward and Ruth Skiba
Robert and Beverly Scott

18139 West Clifton Road
Henry W. Stecher
James and Marion Covey
Henry Mc. Haserot
Bonnie Haserot
E. L. and Jane Conry
Leonard and Jane Bills
This house is the inspiration of Mrs. McDonald and technically carried out by Mr. Robert Groth, builder. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have lived many years in older homes in Clifton Park. This gem of a house is the lump sum of all the good details of the earlier McDonald homes and all the seasoned ideas of Mrs. McDonald.

The front entry outer wall is of bottle glass. The floor of the inner entry is random slate. No problem with wet feet here. The living room has the wide open simple lines of the contemporary thought, yet warmth is maintained with the use of a beamed ceiling. At the far end of the living room is a large window that spans from floor to ceiling. This lifts the room out of itself because beyond is the lake. The ceiling at this end of the room follows the shed roof line of the exterior.

The fireplace is on a large rough sandstone wall. The hearth is raised on a smooth sandstone slab. The library has a view of the lake. The woodwork here and throughout the house is mahogany. The quiet side of the house is all on one wing and the busy living room is on the other side or wing. It is a wonderful floor plan.

The kitchen is the latest word in ideas. It is a good working kitchen. The breakfast room looks out on a rear garden and the moody lake. All that is necessary for vital living is on the first floor with two bedrooms, laundry room, incinerator and water heater. There is no opportunity for clutter in this house. Mr. Groth, the builder, has used sliding doors on cupboard openings and closet doors. He has used all available recesses for storage. Storage space has all been finished off, no raw building "innards" are showing.

The second floor has two bedrooms, a full bath and storage space. The ceiling line again follows the shed roof line.

To quote Mr. McDonald, "the house has been designed and built for convenience and ease."
The exterior eye catcher is the two story window of leaded glass. The window is one of the highlights of the living room. Balancing the beautiful window is a stone carved fireplace with a breasted chimney piece. The wall treatment in the room is stucco rendered in large upward scoops which draws attention to the vaulted ceiling. A second floor gallery runs above the fireplace wall and along one side of the room. There is a window seat under the great window and the eye also sees the graceful tudor arches and their glass doors to match. Off the living room is the solarium. It has a handmade tile floor. The windows are really doors going from floor to ceiling. These are leaded glass. The ceiling is vaulted like the living room and there is a fountain which works.

At the rear of the living room is the library in the traditional sense; with hand carved paneling in Circassian walnut. The ceiling has entwining medallions in relief. The fireplace is simple but elegant and stands between book shelves. It is said that all the woodwork in the library is registered millwork from London.

The dining room and morning room have views of the lake. The morning room has oak paneling, casement windows and a built-in open breakfront.

Up the circular staircase, which has fine hand carved detail and a lovely leaded window on the first landing. From the gallery hallway there is a view of the living room, solarium, and a glimpse of the library.

The architectural charm of the house is in the windows. The master bedroom and one other bedroom have the tudor arch spanning at least three windows and beneath them a window seat. The bedrooms including the third floor number eight. Detail and material has not wearied or lessened even to the servants' rooms. The same fine workmanship is found in every room.

The master bedroom has a marble fireplace, two large window units, dressing room and bath.

The house boasts a billiard room on the second floor with a fireplace and a skylight.

In spite of the massive "out of reach" feeling the house is amazingly cozy and warm in its atmosphere.
Here is a most surprising house. The exterior is extremely interesting as it is as pure in architectural style as possible, which is English Tudor. The surprise of the house is its interior warmth; something large is rarely labeled cozy, but this house is just that.

Through the massive front door which is treated with deep moldings in squares and at each of the molding joints are "spiked heads" of the same wood which is oak. At each side of the front door are floor to ceiling glass panels which are protected and decorated with wrought iron grills.

The front hall has hand hewn beams and a thick sandstone flag floor. The main stairway is very lovely, all in natural oak with a large stylized onion motif on the newel post. Mrs. Kresge advises that it is a typical tudor design. The same design is used on the stairway drops.

The living room is entered through a tudor arch doorway with two steps down to the sunken room. At each side of the steps are wrought iron railings. Into the interesting room - the floor is of wide oak boards which are wooden pegged. On the opposite wall of the entrance is the fireplace. The chimney piece has an outward slope shaped like a large triangle. It could be in the breasted chimney category. There is no mantel shelf but in its place is a hand hewn beam set into the facing of the fireplace. The beam has the faint suggestion of the tudor arch and this in turn blends with the tudor arched shelves on each side of the fireplace. The ceiling has hand hewn wooden beams. This ties the room together with eye running from the window unit at the street side to the window unit at the rear garden side. The unit on the street side has stained glass inserts at intervals in the shape of shields and sun bursts. On the living room walls near the four corners are unusual wall lights. The shades of the wall lights are of hand made Venetian glass depicting the four elements of the universe - earth, air, fire, and water. These were made for the Louis Seltzer family, former owners of the house.

Across the front entry hall is the dining room. The doorway here too is the tudor arch. Instead of a door of the usual materials of wood, or glass, or no door at all, it is a gate of wrought iron. It is an unusual door treatment and it is quite intriguing, as one can see into the dining room, yet the room is secluded; like a veil on a woman's hat. The dining room has one whole wall paneled in oak. The fireplace is on this wall and the fireplace facing is of sandstone with a design of the tudor rose carved in the top corners. The windows in the room are again the lovely floor to ceiling leaded glass style. The chandelier looks like a large wedding band of filigree bronze with five lights each with etched venetian glass shades.
The kitchen and butler's pantry are all up to date in modern decor and conveniences. The kitchen paneling and cabinets are French Provincial style. It must be said here that the outstanding feature of every room is the window treatment. Every window is leaded glass and the windows are placed in the most attractive location.

To the rear of the front entry is the morning room. This room has a view of the garden. The floor material is varied colored slate and placed in the floor are hand made decorative tiles. The walls are a rough plaster with a molding finishing off the wall. The molding is painted in the typical Williamsburg colors and Mrs. Kresge was the painter. Each owner since Mrs. Kresge has appreciated the molding and have kept it intact. In three corners of the room are built-in cupboards with open shelves. In the fourth corner is the window; this arrangement of cupboards and window makes the room octagon shaped. It is a very attractive room which would lift one's spirit at any time of day.

Going up the main staircase the treat at the landing is the view of the garden at the rear of the house. There is a pool or a pond with fish in it at the left of the yard. Going straight back to the brick wall is a lovely shrine in honor of Saint Anthony, patron saint of the Celebrezze household. Even though the rear yard is a vast expanse of lawn and garden areas there is a secluded feeling there. At the right of the yard is a fountain in a wall and the water is captured in shallow baths at different levels.

From the garden the attention is taken to the second floor. All bedrooms have the lovely window units with window seats, and every bedroom has a view of the garden. The master bedroom's outstanding feature is a knotty pine paneled wall with a fireplace. It is a large pleasant room. An upstairs sitting room offers an informal place for relaxing. In the sitting room there is a marble faced fireplace.

Another room serves as a library and a den. Some of the memorabilia from Judge Celebrezze's years when he was Mayor of Cleveland and from his years of service with the Federal Government as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare are displayed in the room. There are pens used by President Johnson to sign the H.E.W. bills into law; commemorative medals, keys to cities, gavels, awards and citations. One citation is especially interesting - an illuminated parchment hand printed in Italian from the people and the Mayor of Rome to Secretary Celebrezze.

Now down the interesting main staircase to the recreation room. The whole area is paneled. The eye interest here is the mural painted by Shirley Seltzer. It is a hunt scene going the three sides of the large room. Cleverly and humorously the fox can be found asleep under the mantel shelf of the fireplace!

The Celebrezze home is alive with interesting objects and interesting people, but the house has a very definite atmosphere of peacefulness.
Beautiful rose gardens were once the highlight of this property. A newspaper article in 1965 in the Plain Dealer bears this out. The cultivation of roses was a hobby of Mr. Gresham and the garden ran the depth of the rear lot. But this is no more as the seedling trees of 1907 are now forest size.

Mrs. Riegler mentions the front entry window panels which have stained glass inserts of the shield design; the colors are especially lovely. All the rooms are large and this lends to privacy and gracious living. This was one of the early homes on this side of Lake Road. It must have been an impressive sight in 1907.

Mr. Gresham was born in Sheffield, England in 1867. He was educated in the commercial and private schools of Sheffield. At the age of thirteen, Mr. Gresham was employed in the firm of Nealthy and Son, makers of cutlery. At nineteen years of age he was made manager of the pocket knife department. Mr. Gresham came to the States in 1886. He was employed by the J. H. Wade Realty Company and was also private secretary to Mr. J. H. Wade.

Mr. Gresham was a trustee for the Village of Lakewood and also served on the Lakewood City Council from 1910 to 1921. In 1909, Mr. Gresham was appointed British Vice Consul to the Port of Cleveland. He served in this appointment until some years after World War I.

Mr. Gresham enjoyed writing poetry, reading, playing cricket and cultivating roses. He was a tall straight backed, reserved Englishman with a delectable sense of humor to those who knew him.

Mr. Gresham's Clifton Park home was at 17831 Lake Road.

From Mrs. Jack LaFever, daughter of H. E. Gresham and from The Book of Clevelanders of 1914, by the Burrows Bros. Company.
If you mentally reduce the size of the house for a moment it will have the attitude of a cottage. The roof line is rolled and low slung which is a cottage trademark.

For a house designed and built in 1907 it is surprisingly free of fussiness. The interior detail of woodwork and fireplaces are simple colonial designs which have become classic.

The reception hall is large and light with windows at the rear of the house and at the staircase landing; bringing in the light. The staircase is lovely and it has a graceful turn at the landing.

The living room is large and has a view of the lake. The room flows into a library at the lake side of the house. There are more windows here which gives both rooms an "open" feeling. The fireplace in the living room has a simple mantelpiece and it has a white marble facing.

The dining room is large and it has a view of the lake through a glassed enclosed porch. The fireplace in the dining room is again of simple design. The scenic wallpaper in this room is the original paper. It is of French origin but at this moment its fate is being pondered.

The kitchen has been modernized. It is a large room and it has a butler's pantry.

The architect of the house believed in sturdy structural detail. Closets are cleverly placed in the steep slopes of the roof. The second floor hallway is long and it is securely braced with a tudor arch midway in the length of the hall. At one end of the hall there is a sewing room alcove. Along the lake side of the hallway is a long section of linen cupboards and drawers; which is easily reached to accommodate all bedrooms and baths. All bedrooms are pleasant with comfortable features of fireplaces, cheerful windows and good views.

The interior of the house is such that almost any mood of color and furniture design can be used and it would be fine with the house. It is a house that is adaptable to the person. It has no architectural idiosyncrasies to be endured.

The garden on the lake side is secluded and tranquil. There are fine old dogwood trees close to the house and a side screened porch which is always shaded and always cool.
This house is a center hall Georgian colonial, "in spite of the front porch," Mrs. Seaman said.

The reception hall has an open circular staircase. At the staircase landing is a large window. The stairway goes to the left and to the right from the landing. The entrance downstairs and up has a lovely spacious effect.

The highlight of the living room is the fireplace. The mantelpiece rises almost to the ceiling. It is a marvelous deep broken pediment with Ionic pilasters "holding up" the pediment. The fireplace facing is of light colored onyx. All woodwork in the living room is mahogany.

The sunroom has an unusual feature. It has the original wallpaper from 1908. Mrs. Seaman explained it is hand blocked and from the Louisiana Purchase collection. The paper covers the three walls and each section is a different scenic design but all harmonizing in colors.

A beamed ceiling and wall paneling are the features in the dining room. The woodwork is oak. Large windows are also in all the public rooms.

Mrs. Seaman is the daughter of F. B. Anderson and she mentioned that in the early days after the house had been built that the vineyards still sprouted up on their property. The trees that are on the property were planted by Mr. Anderson. In the early days there were no homes to the rear of the house, just open fields.

F. B. Anderson

Mr. Anderson was one of the first Clifton Park Trustees serving with Mr. F. C. Case, Mr. L. B. Hall, Mr. F. A. Glidden and Mr. E. E. Adams.

Mr. Anderson was very interested in Clifton Beach and he worked with Mr. Adams to promote this same interest among the Park residents. He gave personal financial help to keep the Beach and the Bathhouse in good working order, but Mr. Anderson's daughter, Mrs. Clarence Seaman, said most of the credit should go to Mr. Adams.

The possession of the Beach was often threatened to be taken away by the City of Lakewood. This meant a lot of hard work to fight off this disaster. Mrs. Seaman mentioned the fine work the young married residents are doing to keep the Beach in top condition and the interest they promote to bring the young people to the Beach. This is what her father and Mr. Adams worked hard to do.

Mr. Anderson was president of the V. D. Anderson Co. which manufactures and markets throughout the world the equipment for the extraction of oil from oil bearing seeds and nuts.
This house has large public rooms and large windows giving a good view of the lake. The living room has a large fireplace with a deep mantle shelf. Corbels are under the shelf in a scroll design. The fireplace facing is finished in stone ribbing.

The two front entry doors are of very heavy cherry wood, in keeping with the generous exterior woodwork and the gables.

The reception room is roomy and pleasant with the open staircase on the rear wall. Following up the staircase the eye can see windows of leaded glass. The upper windows on the same staircase wall are of "Tiffany" glass.

There is a "captain's" room off the dining room. This room gives the best view of the lake. There are six huge windows here that form a half circle. The narrow paneling between the windows is oak and it is carved in a medallion design. Mr. Loshing points out that the window arrangement is like the wheelhouse of a ship.

The dining room has a large built in server and has the original cut crystal knobs on the leaded glass cupboard doors. The theme of crystal is repeated in a large crystal chandelier. There is a large window unit which gives a view of the lake. An old plate rail runs the three sides of the room. This gives the answer to "problem" dishes. The kitchen has been remodeled and is now a handsome modern room, clean and crisp.

The fine old house is heavily gabled and has a luxurious tiled roof. The roof was half blown away in the 1956 windstorm. It took six months to locate a tile maker who made the same tile. He was found in Philadelphia.

It is good to know that the same pride and interest of 1903 still exists today in keeping Clifton Park homes in good repair, and attractive.

Mr. Wallace was a native of Cleveland. He earned the degree in naval architecture at M.I.T. in 1899. All his active work was in shipbuilding. He was head of the designing department of the American Shipbuilding Co. in 1901. Later he served as General Manager of the company.

Mr. Wallace was Director and Vice President of the Kinney Steamship Company and President of the Shore Acre Land Company.

He was a member of the Union Club, Country Club, Clifton Club, Hermit Club, and Westwood Country Club.

From Cleveland and Its Environs, by E. M. Avery, and the kindness of Mrs. F. U. S. Gilbert.
Mr. Glidden called his home "Franklyn Villa."

A former owner said of the house, "17840 Lake Road is a house beloved by all who ever lived there."

The front door is a massive one of fumed oak and wrought iron. The whole house is spacious and when moving from room to room one gets a feeling of warmth. The reception room is large and has a fine staircase with a large window at the landing. The floor of the reception room is walnut parquet.

The living room is large and has a very large fireplace. There are comfortable window seats toward the lake side of the room. The ceiling in the room is beamed.

The library is most interesting, and color has to be mentioned. The woodwork, wood paneling and bookshelves have eight coats of black paint; each coat was handrubbed with oil and pumice to create the effect of teakwood. The windows in the library are leaded glass casement style. The eye interest here is a painting of a royal gentleman of old China. The painting is an original and is at least 225 years old; and it once belonged to Mrs. Groth's paternal grandmother. Mrs. Groth is a former owner of the house. The painting is now part of the house as it is fastened to the library wall.

The dining room is a gem. It is an authentic English dining room. The whole room is paneled in oak. There is hand carved detail over the mantelpiece, over the doorways and windows in an oak leaf and acorn motif. Famed sculptor Frank L. Jirouch designed and executed the carvings himself. He also designed and hand carved the stone fireplace. The ceiling of the dining room is decorated in large wooden medallions, designed by Mr. Jirouch. The unusual feature behind the ceiling treatment was the use of buttermilk. The buttermilk seasoned the plaster and kept it from cracking. The wall at the lake side of the dining room is a half circle.

The family room is on the lake side, is all glassed in and runs the width of the house. In this room there is a bas-relief plaque made by Mr. Jirouch. It is a copy of the Music Makers by Andrea del Sarto. Beyond the glass sliding doors of the family room is a stone terrace (Berea sandstone). This also gives a view of the lake and garden.
All bedrooms are large and pleasant, and the bathrooms are the latest in modern decor and comfort. The master bedroom is exceptional. At one end of the room is a fireplace from an 18th Century chateau in France. The marble is called Rouge Ronce, a soft toned pink marble. The opposite end of the room has a row of windows on the same circle as the dining room below. Adjoining the master bedroom is a very large sitting room. The view from the master bedroom is upon the lake, the terrace below and the garden beyond.

The house has a beautiful kitchen. It is all new and the cabinet work is Italian provincial design. It is a cheerful room and there is a pleasant breakfast room beyond the kitchen.

A fireplace mantel in another bedroom is made from Travertino from Mt. Vesuvius where it is commonplace, but rarely found or seen here. Travertine is the soft flaky limestone residue that flows from hot springs. Under the heat and pressure within the earth this substance sometimes changes to marble. The famous Spanish Steps in Rome are paved entirely of Travertine or Travertino.

The basement houses a Swiss village and a tropical trading post. The rooms are painted with oil paints and highlighted with fluorescent paint and is lighted with a black light for great effect.

The three attached garages are finished inside with large glazed tile which makes it easy to clean, and automatically fireproofs the garage.

The authentic oriental garden is a composite of Chinese and Japanese. A few highlights or stations in the garden are given here: the red gates are the gates of the Northern Lights and the Chinese characters on the gates say, "Happy Welcome - Enter, Look and Enjoy;" the River Wu and Pond of the Dragon are found inside the gates.

In planning the garden care was taken to plant the correct tree, bush and flower. There are three weeping flowering cherry trees. Water flows continually; winding its way through the garden and finding release in the pond. There is a stone tea table and seat beside a gentle "natural" fountain. This quiet peaceful garden was created by Mrs. Groth who remembers her childhood visits to an oriental tea garden in San Francisco.

Architect was Arthur N. Oviatt.

Another owner of this home was Roy B. Robinette. Mr. Robinette was born on his parents' farm in Bedford, Ohio; he was educated in the Cleveland schools. His business was with the Tropical Paint and Oil Company serving
as Secretary and Treasurer. This was his own business, in partnership with Mr. George C. Hascall. Mr. Robinette was also Treasurer of the Hascall Paint Company and a Director of the Industrial Discount Company.

Mr. Robinette served as President of the Cleveland Paint, Oil and Varnish Club and Vice President of the National Paint, Oil and Varnish Industry Association. The City Club; Civic League; Cleveland Athletic Club, Cleveland Yacht Club and the Hermit Club were the memberships held by Mr. Robinette.*

*From Cleveland and Its Environ, by E. M. Avery, and the kindness of Mrs. F. U. S. Gilbert.

F. G. Fish/Dr. Richard Mueller - 17844 Lake Road - Built in 1901

Mrs. Mueller has said, "It is a wonderful home for children."

All rooms are large. There are plenty of indoor and outdoor play spots. A former owner added a first floor family room and the Muellers added a breezeway with a terrazzo floor. This matches the family room, shower room and basement floors. The basement has been paneled in knotty pine.

The windstorm of 1956 felled nine trees from the lakefront yard. Three trees hit the house and did window damage. Upon making repairs a picture window was installed in the master bedroom. Once most of the windows were the storybook type, small diamond shape lights set in lead. With the problem of a sun drenched yard, circumstances were mastered by building a swimming pool. The driveway was enlarged to the size of a tennis court, and one winter a portable ice rink was seen in action. At least one Mueller offspring should make an Olympic team someday.

There are four fireplaces in the house, all are a large size. The living room length is the width of the house. At the end of the living room on the lake side is a bay window with the diamond shape lights. To complete the setting, one can watch the sunsets over the lake.

The kitchen has been modernized and the window unit improved from two windows to three.

Mr. F. G. Fish called his home "Innerleiften."

(Architect - George Hammond)
The house is one of the earlier homes in the Park, a large home with good size rooms. The rooms to the rear of the house have a good view of the lake.

The front entrance has a warm friendly welcome feeling. There is a large fireplace and at each side there are deep nooks with windows seats and bookshelves in one nook. These windows look out over the lake. Picture the scene and feel the glow - step in the door from a raw damp day and be drawn to the fire. With fires laid in the fireplaces of adjoining rooms it is a very welcome experience. The Norths and Stanleys must have difficulty closing the door on the last guest with a scene like this to leave.

The main staircase is a handsome one and at the first landing are windows which shaft down light to the fireplace in the front entrance. There is a handsome crystal chandelier which was once in the living room.

Other public rooms are cheerful and roomy. The living room has a fine breasted fireplace and is seen directly upon entering the room. The dining room has the original wall covering of hand painted design in oil on canvas. The colors have mellowed and blend with the creamy woodwork. The fireplace in the dining room is a corner one so all diners benefit.

At one time the house boasted a central vacuum cleaner device, all residue being sucked into a master bag. The same idea is used in public buildings and even in newer homes today. The old intercommunication system box is still in the kitchen holding its own among the modern kitchen aids.

Mr. North was President of his own company, The Chamberlin Cartridge and Target Company. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. For many years he was in charge of the local laws which governed hunting and fishing. Mr. North was a good companion and a very likeable person.

Mr. North's daughter, Mrs. Carl Narten tells about the time she was a guest at West Point in her college years. She saw her father's target equipment in use there.