VIGNETTES OF CLIFTON PARK II

Blythe R. Gehring

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Vignettes of

CLIFTON PARK II

Limited Edition

by

Blythe R. Gehring
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DEDICATED TO AND COMPILED FOR
MARY-BLYTHE GEHRING FERL
AND
CARL W. GEHRING III, ESQ.
AND TO ALL THE CHILDREN OF CLIFTON PARK
At the time Vignettes of Clifton Park, 1970 was printed there was some unhappiness because not every house in the Park was included in that first effort. People misunderstood. It was not the author's intention to list and "interview" every house. Now, here is recognition of the houses in Clifton Park and the Lagoon.

* * *

Research of this second project started in 1971-1972 and again in 1983 to December 31, 1995. All photographs were taken in 1985. This explains missing house additions and landscape changes.

The purpose of this book is to simply list owners of the properties, a genealogy of the homes so to speak.

* * *

**NOTE:** The information contained here was obtained from research of the public records. The author makes no warranty, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of any of the enclosed. This book is not intended to be used as a legal reference or title abstract.

**Also note:** There were found in the County plat book entry listings of banks and other financial institutions. These were omitted because the author wanted to list only the names of the families.
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WAITING HOUSE for PARK RESIDENTS
for public transportation
1899 to the 1920’s

Photo courtesy of George Cherry
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE WHO HELPED

Betty Baldwin, early typing and naming the book.
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Sources of Information

City of Lakewood: Building Department, Engineering Department,
Fire Department and Water Department.
Cleveland Main Library, Fine Arts Department
Cuyahoga County Administration Building, Map room.
Cuyahoga County Archives.

* * *

The roads of the Park and Lagoon are listed in alphabetical order. Homes are then in numerical order. Stars on maps indicate the area which is being talked about. Parcel numbers and pages numbers were obtained from the County plat book #311, Lakewood.
Beginnings

Clifton Park is in the northwest corner of the City of Lakewood, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. It is a residential section bounded by Lake Erie, Rocky River, the Norfolk Western Railroad* and Webb Road.

Early owners of Clifton Park lands were — Judson Canfield, Nathaniel Church, David Waterman, James Johnson, Timothy Chittenden, Penuel Cheney and two branches of Wrights. Through their heirs most of the land was bought by Ezra Nicholson. Nicholson offered his acreage to the City of Cleveland but was turned down as being too far out in the country.

Eventually the land was bought by the Clifton Park Association whose members were — Daniel P. Rhodes, Elias Sims, George W. Jones, John H. Sargent, George Hartnell, Ezra Nicholson, Josiah Barber, John Spalding and Thomas Dixon.

Articles of Incorporation were written in 1866/69. The Association had the idea of a huge resort. They created picnic areas, built two hotels — Lake House and Murch House. Also built was a narrow gauge railway, The Rocky River Railroad nicknamed “The Dummy.” A stone rubble pier was constructed by The Army Engineer Corps.** Paralleling this was a wooden pier for mooring pleasure yachts. The wooden pier may have preceded the stone pier.

On the Beach was a water works. An intake pipe in the Lake took water into the Pumphouse which still stands on the Beach. There was a water tower at Clifton Road and Arlington Road. The Pumphouse is now the oldest building within Clifton Park.

The heyday of Clifton Park under the Association was from 1869 to about 1881. The Dummy Railroad right of way was bought by the Nickel Plate Railroad and the idyllic sense of Clifton Park was dissolving. The Association turned to the plan of a residential area. A landscape engineer was engaged in 1894 and the Park roads were laid out as we know them today with the exception of Clifton Boulevard extending through the Park which created the cul-de-sacs.

* now Norfolk Southern Corp Rwy.
** Should read, Army Corps of Engineers.
Ninety-four house lots of an acre more or less became the new Clifton Park.

In 1899 the Clifton Park Association was sold to another group of men to be known as the Clifton Park Land and Improvement Company. The members were — Arthur L. Stone, Harry L. Vail, E. C. Pope, Howard H. Burgess, Charles E. Ferrell, John G. Jennings, Elmer E. Robbins, Frank C. Case and Clark T. Hasbrouck. In 1902 another allotment was made and the 94 lots were cut into about 227 smaller lots. This arrangement stayed until 1962.

THIS TEXT AS BEEN TAKEN FROM
VIGNETTES OF CLIFTON PARK, 1970
The Roads of Clifton Park

Beach Road and Lagoon
Captain's Cove
Clifton Boulevard
Clifton Park Lane
Clifton Road
Forest Road
Lake Point Drive
Lake Road
Webb Road
West Clifton Boulevard
West Clifton Road
West Forest Road

Why is there one house on Webb Road, two on Clifton Boulevard, and three on West Clifton Boulevard which are all in Clifton Park?

When the reallocation was made some lots, the above six, ended up on these outside streets.
Original House which stood at 17884 Beach Road

RESIDENCE OF JUDGE COFFINBERRY, ROCKY RIVER — Chas W. Hopkinson, Architect