

# Fourth Annual Lakewood History Walk

## ∞ Emerald Canyon ~ 5k ∞

1. Leaving the Main Branch of Lakewood Public Library, turn left, heading south on Arthur Avenue.

**Main Branch, Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave.**  
In 1913, Mrs. C. Lee Graber and Mrs. Arthur B. Pyke, Board of Education members, got a \$45,000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation to create a library. The site was purchased for \$9,728 and construction began in 1915. The library opened in May 1916 in a one-story building (pictured, right), except for a mezzanine extending across the front. It was promoted as fireproof; constructed of Indiana limestone. The back entrance of the library (pictured, below) had a terraced patio.



Miss Roena A. Ingham was the library's first director (and remained so until she passed away in 1938), with an initial \$10,000 budget and over 25,000 books. The first book checked out was "The White Linen Nurse," by Eleanor Hallowell Abbott (still in the collection). That first year, the library had 7,640 patrons. By 1921, the number of patrons had doubled, the Madison branch opened in a rented building, plus "stations" were at the high school, Cleveland Yacht Cadet School, National Carbon Co., and Marlowe telephone exchange.

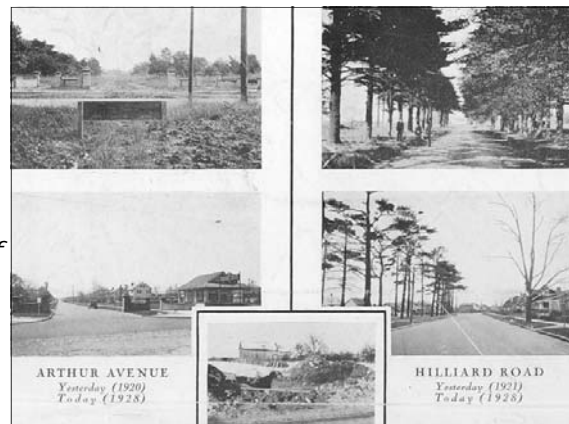


The next year, Roena was requesting more space — and so began the first of many renovations over the years, up to this latest and largest expansion. The current front design with the large windows came in 1958. In 1981, the front steps were replaced with a ground-level entrance. This current expansion will make the library a full block in length, from Arthur to Mars Ave.

For two years, Lakewood Public Library was ranked number one nationally among 523 libraries in its population category by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. The library currently has about 170,000 patrons; over 430,000 items owned; and last year circulated almost 1.9 million items. During the Arts Festival, in the lower level, is the Friends of Lakewood Public Library Booksale. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are available.

**Arthur Ave.** Named for Arthur Hall, son of early pioneer John Curtis Hall, this street was developed during the beginning of Lakewood's building and population boom. It took three years to develop, opening in 1906, and was proclaimed as "Lakewood's Arts and Crafts Street" — possibly for the new architectural style, or from the "finesse of the grade and dignified entrance." It was touted as "copied from the streets of St. Louis," site of the recent World's Fair.

Originally, the Arthur and Detroit Ave. entrance had large stone pillars and elegant walls (pictured, on the left), which were razed for the 1958 library expansion. Hilliard Blvd. is also pictured, in 1921 and 1928.)



2. At Hilliard Boulevard, turn right, heading southwest.



**The Hilliard Square, 16200 Hilliard Blvd.** This theater opened in 1927 and was touted as Lakewood's Most Beautiful Theater. An ad said it "embodies every modern advance in theater design [with] perfection of architecture, a magnificence of interior decoration and a luxuriousness of appointment that will appeal to the most discriminating. ... Selection of films, methods of presentation and service to patrons will always reflect the ultimate in good taste." It was the last new theater building to join the city's theater boom, which began in 1912.

At their peak in 1929, Lakewood had seven movie theaters. Saturday matinees cost a nickel — with extras like the latest episode of *Buck Rogers*, *21<sup>st</sup> century space traveler*, or *Captain Marvel*, plus cartoons with *Bugs Bunny*, *Mickey Mouse* or *Felix the Cat*. By the 1950s, the matinee cost ten cents, and by 1960, 25 cents. These were largely neighborhood theaters, but were still impressive and growing in seating with each successive theater opening — The Hilliard Square had 1,200 seats! It was also equipped for live theater, with catwalks, a greenroom and three basement levels.



**Northland Ave.** This street was developed in the early 1900s, during Lakewood's population boom. Pictured, left, is 1438 Northland, showing the newly built residence of Albert C. Orth — there were no driveways and garages, or even backyard fences! In those days, many residents formed street associations and held many activities, including their own holiday celebrations.

In 1917, for example, the Northland Avenue Residents' Association (pictured, right) had a Fourth of July Celebration, complete with a printed program. The day included an automobile parade, baseball game (east side vs. west side), flag raising exercises, kite flying, a break for "dinner at home," a children's costume parade, and athletic sports, including:

"potatoe race for ladies, thread and needle race for ladies & gentlemen, sack race for men, badger pull for boys 12 & 14 years, tug of war for ladies then men, fat ladies race, fat mens race, ladies naildriving contest, egg race for girls"

Followed by a social hour, "supper at home," a band concert, patriotic exercises, an address by Law Director Mr. R.G. Curran, a "balloon ascension," and finally fire works at 9:00 p.m. What a day!



**Calvary United Methodist Church, 16305 Hilliard Blvd.** This congregation was first formed in 1912, when Rev. W.W. Williamson was sent to Lakewood by the Home Mission Board of the United Brethren Church. Initial membership was 14 people. By 1919, they had 155 members. At first, they met in a temporary, rented meeting place until their first church was built at Detroit and Virginia Ave. A Sunday school building was added in 1915.

When Rev. B.S. Arnold took over in 1921, church and school memberships were at a standstill — many nearby churches were "restricting the field." The congregation was heavily in debt, and members were discouraged. The reverend and leading members recommended selling the property and relocating. In 1926, this second church (pictured) was built in "the latest residential section to be opened up" — land formerly owned by Olive M. Wagar, a descendent of Mars Wagar. Olive Ave. is named for her.

**Faith Lutheran Church, 16511 Hilliard Blvd.** This church began as a mission congregation during the summer of 1924. Services were first held in a storeroom next to Scherzer's Bakery on Madison Ave. The congregation quickly grew, and in October they resolved to adopt a constitution and chose the name Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. The following summer they purchased several lots at this corner, and the first unit, a basement, was dedicated in February 1926. The upper section was dedicated in 1932. The educational unit and chapel were added in 1957.



Then came Harding Junior High three years later, and Taft Elementary, on Lake Ave., in 1927.

**Harding Middle School, 16600 Hilliard Blvd.** Built in 1925, Harding was the last and largest junior high school built in Lakewood. The city's population boom had taxed the school system — reaching 60,000 people that year. The building boom started in 1919 with Lakewood High School, at the corner of Franklin and Bunts Ave. Wilson School on Warren Rd. (formerly the high school) became an elementary and junior high school. In 1922, Roosevelt Elementary opened on Athens Ave., as well as Emerson Junior High, on Clifton Blvd., and Horace Mann

**Private Residence, 16807 Hilliard Blvd.** Jeremiah and Catherine Gleason had a small cottage built here in 1852. They'd first come to Rockport Township in 1831, bringing their own cattle and settling on land around the Hilliard and Madison Ave. area. Their daughter, Ann Eliza Warren, sold the property in 1871 to Captain Erastus Day. He was born in 1834 in Ogdensburg, New York, and came here with his wife Sarah in 1869. He was captain of sailing vessels on the lake until retiring, then was superintendent of ore docks in Cleveland, and later supervised construction of docks in Conneaut. He invented hoisting and conveying systems to ship ore, and died in 1917 at 83 years old.



The captain spent a small fortune enlarging and renovating the farmhouse with Italianate and Gothic details for his wife. Delightful elements include the windows cutting into the roofline, decorative hoods over the windows, beautiful double-doors under a transom-window, and round windows in the gable peaks. The second floor had a ballroom. The surrounding iron fence is not original, but of the same era. Former owner Cliff Murphy noted a secret trap door to the basement and wondered if it had been an Underground Railroad 'station,' en route from Oberlin to Canada.



**Sears Home, 2208 Glenbury Ave.** At the end of this street, built in 1923, the home pictured at left is of the "Whitehall" plan, straight from the Sears catalog (right).



With their affordability, probably hundreds — possibly thousands — of homes in Lakewood are also Sears houses. The company had a catalog office in Cleveland, and offered complete house kits by mail order, priced between \$600 and \$6,000. As Rosemary Thornton wrote in her book, "The Houses that Sears Built":

"Sears kit homes contained 30,000 pieces, including 750 pounds of nails, 27 gallons of paint and a 75-page instruction book. Sears estimated that the average carpenter would charge \$450 to assemble those 30,000 pieces of house. The painter's fee: \$34.50. Sears estimated that other skilled labor would cost \$1 an hour."

Other known Sears houses in Lakewood include the Irish Cottage at 18828 Sloane Ave., which is of the "Crescent" plan; 1560 Belle Ave., probably the "Glendale"; 1524 St. Charles Ave., the "Honor"; and 2196 Clarence Ave., the "Starlight."

3. At Riverside Drive, turn right — at the stoplight just before the Hilliard Bridge. Follow this to West Clifton Boulevard.

*Riverside Drive and Hogsback Road.* These routes were part of the first postal route through this area — a walking route, traversed alone — established in 1809 by the federal government, from Cleveland to Detroit. Three men took a segment, walking about 30 miles a day with only five to seven pounds of mail in a leather satchel. The carrier through Rockport was Edward McCartney.

After the War of 1812 began, pony express was used. In 1820, stagecoaches took over, then in 1852, railroads carried the mail. The postmaster and ‘post office’ in the early days changed often from 1827 until the 1880s, starting with Mr. Goodwin who had an office on the stage route near the mouth of Rocky River, and changing to others who had houses, taverns or stores along the route.

*Hilliard Bridge.* Imagine crossing the river on a rickety wood and rope bridge, nicknamed the “Grape Vine Bridge” (pictured). Such was the case in the early days, before Rockport became Lakewood and Rocky River. Mrs. Alva B. (Nettie) Greenley, a granddaughter of the first residents here, recalled:

“The Grape Vine Bridge ... was swung between and from the George and Phian Mason farm, east end of it-- zig-zagged across the river to the west side of [the] bank and then up a narrow path to the top of the hill. When the wind blew hard, it would swing as a grape vine would in the wind. The old Grape Vine bridge was used by the children to go to school [at Phinney’s Corners], and also grown ups to cross the river. Mr. Mason built a bridge of his own later, wide and safe enough for his team to cross.”



*Phian (Herrington) and Edmund Hathaway* married around 1831 and first purchased this land, which extended to both sides of the river, with a barn for livestock in the valley and their log house on the hilltop. Their first child was born here in 1837. Around 1845, Edmund left for Cleveland with his ox team and a load of produce, but never returned. His oxen were found, with no trace of him. Phian later married George H. Mason. Their granddaughter Nettie Greenley was born in 1877.

*Phian was the daughter of Sarah (Gardiner) and Elijah Herrington.* In 1820, they left New York for Middleburg Township, but a flaw in their land title brought them to Rockport about 1824. They bought land where what is now Lorain Ave., Triskett and Warren Rd. The old road they used became West 150<sup>th</sup> St. In 1843, they built a home as a tavern, with three fireplaces and a huge chimney. Their three ‘neighbors’ were Joseph Triskett, Mr. Stranahan, and Nathan Alger. The small shed in the Little Met golf course on Old Lorain Rd. in the Metroparks was from Mr. Stranahan’s farm.

On June 23, 1926, the first concrete and steel Hilliard Bridge — the same one existing today — opened with much fanfare. The mayors of Lakewood, Rocky River and even Cleveland made speeches, with fireworks, music and dancing, and a 14-mile-long parade from W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Ave., to the bridge, up Wooster Rd., across Detroit bridge and back.

Designed by Albert M. Felgate, county bridge engineer, the bridge has three arch spans, with the roadway 135 feet above the water, stretching 896 feet long. It was and still is notable for having a center span of 220 feet — the longest remaining arch span in Ohio. It also was unique in having concrete shelters, resembling guard houses, that are still the originals — whereby people may look out over the river and valley.

Pictured, right, is the desolate east-bound entrance shortly after it was built.

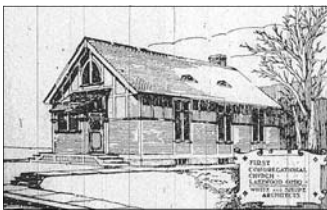


4. At West Clifton Boulevard, turn right, heading north, to Detroit Avenue.
5. At Detroit Avenue, turn right, heading east, back to the library.

*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, southeast corner of West Clifton and Detroit Ave. Built in 1925, this was the second church building of this congregation. Rev. W. Rix Attwood founded the group as a mission in 1907 while he was rector of All Saints' Church at Scranton and Mentor Ave. They first met in a church building they bought and moved to Edanola and Riverside. Rev. Daniel Goodwin took over charge in 1918 and helped design the new church building, which along with the rectory cost \$120,000 to build.*



*Lakewood Congregational Church, northeast corner of West Clifton Blvd. and Detroit Ave. In December 1905, this church was organized by seven families and Rev. B.A. Williams through the Congregational City Missionary Society of Cleveland. Originally First Congregational Church of Lakewood, charter membership was 27 and met in homes. The next year, they erected a 25- by 50-foot portable chapel for \$3,500 (pictured). It was made in sections bolted together.*



*In 1915, 200 members dedicated their new brick church (existing). It had two parlors, a sanctuary, several bowling alleys and a recreation hall. In 1955, they added an education wing, chapel and social halls.*

*McKinley Elementary School, behind Lakewood Congregational. This school began in a log cabin on what is now Cannon Ave., two blocks north. It was originally designated School No. 8, but later renamed West School when East Rockport township formed. In 1849, Lura Wagar began attending at age six. After going to the 'higher school' on Warren Rd., she returned to teach here in 1861. Her sister Adah also taught about this time, each receiving \$20 a month salary.*



*In 1871, a one-room wooden schoolhouse was built on an acre along West Clifton Blvd., between Detroit and Northwood Ave. (approximately the present location). The land was bought from Archer Webb, an early settler, for \$1,300. In 1872 or 1873, a brick one-room school was built (pictured, left), and the board sold the old frame one for \$100.*



*Around 1879, the brick schoolhouse was expanded with a frame addition. Pictured, right, is Miss Mary Hutchins and her first four grades; photo taken by her brother, around 1891. That was all torn down in 1899, and the present McKinley School was built as a brick four-room structure. President William McKinley was then in his third term. In 1905, six rooms were added; in 1915, eight rooms; then another four in 1921. In 1969, the west wing was replaced.*

*Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. Around 1900-30, the Guild of the Masques theater group roamed Lakewood giving performances at clubs, schools and churches. In 1933, the guild became Lakewood Little Theater. Five years later, they rented the old Lucier Theater, which originally stood here. In 1943, they purchased the entire block (pictured), and in 1976, tore it all down and moved into the newly built Beck Center for the Arts.*



*Named for Lakewood businessman and artist Kenneth Beck, the building cost \$1.6 million — \$600,000 provided by him. The Beck Center has two stage performance theaters, and provides classes in acting, art, dance, music and creative arts therapies for children through adults. Galleries showcase local artists' works.*

**Webb Avenue.** This street was named for Archer Webb, who came from Hitchens, England, in the mid-1800s. He first settled in Geauga County, then in Avon, and finally purchased 45 acres along what is now Webb Ave. He and his wife Rhoda had a daughter and son, J.W.S. Webb, who became a well-known real estate dealer.

In 1876, Mr. and Mrs. Archer Webb, his two brothers (John and Daniel) and their wives, and Mr. and Mrs. Hutchins all loaned money (\$500-\$1,000 each) to found what became the Lakewood United Methodist Church — in the midst of a panic. Pictured is John Webb, Sr., father to the three brothers.



**Rockway Avenue.** This street was developed into residential lots by P. Andrew Bechler from 1915 to 1917. In a Plain Dealer advertisement (pictured), he stated: "Would you not rather buy a lot on this complete street and have me build for you a house to your own taste than buy a lot on a piece of ground that MAY some time be a street?"

One of the corner houses shown was still for sale.

**Castlewood Apartments, 17600 Detroit Ave.** In 1917, this site was home to the Overland-Roth Co. — "said to contain the largest garage on the West Side." It could accommodate 60 cars.

**Lakewood Christian Church, southwest corner of Roycroft and Detroit.** This church began as a Sunday School held in West School, in 1872 by Mr. and Mrs. James Cannon, members of the Franklin Circle Disciple Church. It formally began with a chapel built in 1878 at Park Row and Detroit (pictured, right). And



was incorporated in 1881 as Rocky River Church of Christ, with 14 charter members. In the summer of 1895, the chapel was destroyed by fire, so they held services in a nearby orchard. Two years later, a new chapel was built for \$4,500. Membership grew to 130, so a larger church was built in 1906, at this location (pictured, left), costing \$12,000. In 1912, they enlarged the church. By 1919, membership was 1,122. The current building was dedicated in 1953.



**St. James Church, 17514 Detroit Ave.** In 1908, St. James Parish began with about 60 families under newly appointed pastor, Father Michael D. Leahy. They held services in store rooms until 1912, when this property was purchased, with three existing houses becoming the rectory, chapel and first school (starting with 104 students). In 1913, a basement auditorium was dedicated, followed by a four-room school. In 1915, they added 16 rooms to the school. The congregation had grown to over 350 families.



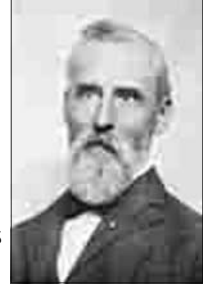
The present church — a beautiful example of Sicilian Romanesque architecture (pictured) — was Father Leahy's dream. After years of pondering, he traveled to Italy and discovered the medieval Monreale Cathedral. Work started in April 1924, with Father Leahy scrutinizing all the work. The 16 huge 30-foot tall by 3-foot thick marble pillars were quarried from the Carrara mountain region in northern Italy that also served Michelangelo. It was dedicated in 1935. The total cost, including labor, came to \$569,000.

James Cannon, who formerly owned the St. James property, was born on the Isle of Man. Excelling with languages, he traveled extensively on foot throughout Europe — language barriers made him an advocate of Esperanto, once thought a possible common language. After coming to the U.S., he became secretary of the United States Esperanto Society. Later, he worked in ship building.

In 1872, as members of the Franklin Circle Disciple Church, James and his wife Rhoda organized a Sunday School here that grew into Lakewood Christian Church. James served as elder, trustee and minister until 1882. From 1874-81, James served on the Lakewood Board of Education. In 1877, a



Mrs. J.C. Cannon was the teacher at West School, at \$35 a month. In 1878, Alice A. Cannon served as teacher there (at \$40 a month), followed the next two years by Miss Myra Cannon (\$33.33 a month). In 1910, James (pictured) was a charter member of the Lakewood Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons. According to Rev. Roy Bowers, in his Lakewood Semicentennial Sermon, 1939:



“As late as 1902, there were no stores between [West] 117th and ... Riverside. Oddly enough, the first ice-cream parlor was opened by a minister, the Rev. James Cannon, and his wife ... [to] counteract the evil influences of taverns and saloons at Rocky River.”

**Granger Ave.** In 1815, Gideon Granger owned about 80,000 acres of land on both sides of the Rocky River. He and associates laid out plans for Granger City; the eastern boundary now being Granger Ave. With much advertising, a real estate boom raised hopes that Granger City, rather than Cleveland, would be the metropolis; largely because a sandbar obstructed the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. But the federal government dredged a channel through it, dashing Granger City hopes.

President Jefferson had appointed Gideon the seventh U.S. Postmaster General. As an original purchaser in the Connecticut Land Co., his extensive property also included parts of Berea and Jefferson, Ohio. He came to Cleveland in 1805 for a conference with Native American chiefs about relinquishing the land west of the Cuyahoga River. Allegedly, he watched a breath-taking sunset, and said: “Within 50 years an extensive city will occupy these grounds and vessels will sail directly from this port into the Atlantic Ocean.” He was 100 years off, and that city was Lakewood.

**Corner of Larchmont and Detroit Ave.** In 1905, Arthur E. Kellogg built an auto repair shop here. Soon after, he realized rats were living under the floor. In 1910, he caught one of them, dipped it in kerosene and lit it on fire. The rat ran under the shop and burned down the building.

In meeting people at this shop, Arthur joined Harry Turnbull in opening the first Ford car dealership in Lakewood. Arthur also worked in real estate and as a building contractor. In 1918, he opened *The Shanty*, an auto parts store on Detroit between St. Charles and Belle Ave., which his son Oscar ran until closing it in 1970.

**YMCA, 16915 Detroit Ave.** John Curtis Hall, youngest and most prosperous son of Joseph and Sarah Hall, had this house (pictured) built here in 1875. It was the talk of the town with floor-to-ceiling windows, curved arches, triple bay window, front portico with Corinthian pillars, and an elaborate balcony above the porch. Inside were marble fireplaces, parquet floors, scrolled ceilings, brocaded wallpaper, velvet drapes, European treasures, and immense, intricately carved furniture. According to Margaret Butler, the grounds were “a floral paradise with winding paths, a sunken garden, hundreds of unusual trees, shrubs and flowers.”



Joseph and Sarah came from St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, England, around 1837-40 (Sarah pictured left, Joseph at right with son Mathew). They had five children; a sixth was born two weeks after arrival and a seventh a year later. One time they got lost coming back from Cleveland in the dense forest of what is now West 25<sup>th</sup> St. They had to retrace their steps to the old Indian trail, now Detroit Ave.

Joseph became one of the largest landowners of the time. He gifted each child upon marriage with 80 acres — four sons (Joseph, Curtis, Mathew and John) received land in what became Lakewood, while three daughters (Anna, Sarah and Mary) received land in Dover and Strongsville.





John (pictured, left) received acreage south from Detroit, between Lauderdale and Larchmont. He married Elizabeth Maile and they had two children, Arthur and Laura, who married Herbert Mathews. John made his fortune through fruit farms (pictured, right), dairy products, wise investments and realty allotments. He also was president of Rocky River Bank. He and Elizabeth traveled extensively.



John and Herbert worked together in developing John's fruit farm, including Winton and Cordova Ave.

In 1902, two lots were advertised at \$480 in "Beautiful, Smokeless Lakewood ... a land investment that defies the world!" Their realty company also developed Hall, Mathews, Maile and Arthur Ave.

John died in 1921. Laura and Herbert moved away in 1938, followed by Arthur and his wife, May French, in the early 1940s. In 1946, Lakewood bought the property, renting the first floor to Margaret McClure Holtkamp, granddaughter of Mathew Hall. The land became a playground, until the house was torn down in 1956 for the new (now gone) YMCA building.



**Victorian Cottage, 16906 Detroit Ave.** Built during the Civil War, this was Mathew Hall's first house (pictured, left). Upon marriage, he received 80 acres north from Detroit Ave., between what are now Edwards and Hall Ave.

**Edwards Park.** In 1879, Mathew Hall built his second home here (pictured, right), in what is now Edwards Park, where he and his second wife, Margaret, raised their two children, Ethel and Edward (also in picture). An interesting feature was a six-hole privy between the house and carriage house. In addition to his fruit farm income, Mathew also served as a superintendent of the Detroit Plank Road.



Mathew and Margaret traveled extensively, preferring the sunny west coast – and were in San Francisco when the great earthquake and fire of 1906 struck (pictured, left). They were lucky enough to have stayed in the Mason Hotel, one of the few steel buildings that did not collapse, but became twisted out of shape. Then they embarked on a two-hour trip to the ferry, while buildings tumbled all around them, fires blocked their paths, the wounded and dead lay all around, "live wires fell sizzling to the ground everywhere and great fissures in the earth opened up before us," he later said.

In 1901, Mathew sold 70 acres of his land to J.C. Lower, who developed it into what is now Ethel and Edwards Ave., named for the children, and built the row houses on them. Mathew died in 1913; his children occupied the house until their deaths. In 1939, the Lakewood YMCA purchased it; remaining here until the late 1950s, when the Y and the City of Lakewood essentially swapped properties. The Y moved into the former John C. Hall house, intending to construct a new building. In 1957, after the Y completed the structure, the City tore down Mathew's house and created this park. The original carriage house still stands (pictured, right).



**Former Hall-McClure House.** In 1896, Ethel Hall married Dr. Albert Edward McClure, a handsome young man who came here to take over Dr. Henry Sook's homeopathic practice. In 1902, they had this house (pictured) built next door to her parents' house. They had two children, Edward and Margaret, which they raised in both houses, but primarily this one.



*Lauderdale and Detroit Ave. In the early days of Rockport, Tom Jenks lived in a log cabin here. He was a hunter and, one time, had a young Jacob Tegardine with him. They were in the deep forest on Madison Ave. when they heard a weird noise. Tom told Jacob it must be the voice of the devil. Jacob ran home as scared as could be. It turned out to be the whistle of the first train to pass through Rockport, in 1867. Jacob later became mayor of the village of Lakewood, in 1902.*

*Tom's brother Ahab lived at the corner of Warren and Detroit, and worked for Francis Wagar. They emigrated from Pennsylvania and had little education, but Ahab was said to be a poet, philosopher and historian.*

*Hollywood Video, 16707 Detroit Ave. This was the site of Miller's Dining Room, a popular family restaurant famous for its "sticky buns," that opened in 1950. It all started when Doris Miller convinced her parents, John G. (Pop) and Ruby, to start up the business. They had been running a butter and egg stand at Cleveland's old Central Market until a fire destroyed it. Doris had always wanted to be a cook – having graduated in home economics from Western Reserve University's Flora Stone Mather College, then worked at Stouffer's and Marie Schrieber's airport catering.*

*The building had housed Palmer's Market and C.W. Duncan Grocery & Delicatessen first, then Kaase's Restaurant for 18 years. The Millers ran their restaurant for 40 years, until Doris and her husband Tom Urbansky sold it in 1989. It continued on until a fire damaged the building in 1995 (pictured).*



*United Dairy Farmers, east corner of Wagar. Abraham L. Hayes had a beautiful home built here in 1905 (pictured). It was described in the newspaper: "Solid comfort is suggested in every detail ... finished in hardwoods and contains fourteen rooms. A gymnasium and billiard room have been provided in the attic." Two years later, he advertised it for sale, "owing to my business requiring my living in California from November to June of each year..." The following year, 1908, it was advertised again for sale at \$13,000.*

*Detroit Theater, 16409 Detroit Ave. Built in 1924, during Lakewood's movie theater hey day, when the city had six movie theaters. Now it's the only cinema in town regularly showing movies.*

*Trinity Lutheran Church, northeast corner of Hall and Detroit Ave. This congregation began in January 1912, when Rev. Ralph White and 26 charter members formed the Lakewood English Evangelical Church. They met initially in a rented chapel then, in March 1913, bought this lot and erected a portable chapel. In 1921 they changed their name to Trinity Lutheran Church. The present main building was completed in January 1922, and the parish house, or annex, was built in 1953.*

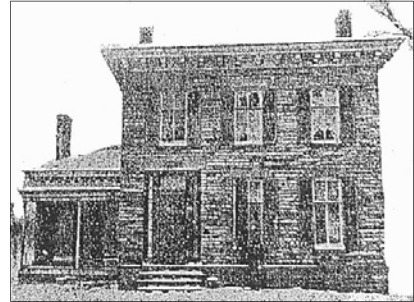


*In the late 1800s, Curtis Hall's oldest son Thomas built a house here (pictured, left). He and his wife, Ida May True (pictured, right), had four children. He was called Squire Hall and was the only judge in Lakewood for 18 years. He was one of the promoters for putting in the street car line. Ida and their daughter Helen lived in the house until 1914 (around the time the church bought the property). According to family history, the house was moved to 1382 Hall Ave. and modified extensively.*

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*Rite Aid, 16207 Detroit. On Tuesday night, January 24, 1905, during a tremendous blizzard, 52-year-old George Wagar shot his brother John in their house that once stood here (pictured, right). John was executor of their father Israel's estate; George felt unfairly treated. He asked his brother to read a letter he'd written, but John said he'd do it later. Apparently that was the last straw. George sent a fist flying; their sister Laura ran between them and got knocked out. George fired his Colt's revolver, hitting John in the forehead, who fell into a nearby room and closed the door. George continued firing, landing two more bullets in John's face.*



*George held three women hostage: his mother, sister and a neighbor, Mrs. Hall, who managed to call Dr. McClure about John. Not wanting to go in alone, the doctor called patrolman John Klaaymer (pictured, left). George was on the porch already, and shot Klaaymer in the abdomen, plus shot at Dr. McClure "who was in full retreat." The doctor later got Klaaymer to his house.*



*By now, people were gathering. George locked the door, lit all the gas lights and "showed himself at the windows, revolver in hand, as a warning to others..." Mayor Rowe (pictured, right) called the rest of the police force (four others), plus Sheriff Mulhern and several Cleveland police at 3:30 a.m. for a blizzard vigil. George allowed Ernest Hall to enter, who wrote up wills George dictated and tried to convince George to turn himself in. George also let in his favorite cousin, Mars E. Wagar, but kept his revolver pointed at him, until telling him to leave.*



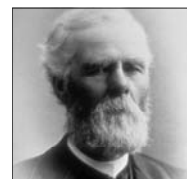
*Cleveland Sergeant Isaacs called George, who said he would turn himself in at 7:00 a.m. At that time, Ernest said George was not intending to comply. Isaacs asked if he could get the women out. Shortly after, Ernest came out with Mrs. Wagar, his own mother and George's sister. Newly deputized Tony Marshall began firing into the upper windows; two others shot the downstairs windows. Tony charged inside, kicking open doors, and found George upstairs, saying, "Don't come up, Tony. I don't want to kill you." But as he fumbled in the bedsheets for his revolver, Tony aimed his own and found George's. At 9:15 a.m., George was taken to jail.*



*George and John were two of three sons of Israel Dwelle Wagar, who himself was a son of early settler Mars Wagar, and built the house depicted at left in the late 1800s. The brothers had lived out West for years before their father died, about a year before this incident: John in the Dakotas and Montana, and George in Texas.*



*Former Curtis Hall House, west corner of Cranford, behind Gentle Touch—Sweet Designs. Curtis Hall, second son of Joseph and Sarah, built a brick house here (pictured, left, in late 1800s) that still stands — behind the shops. Upon his marriage to Emma Patchen, Curtis (pictured, right) received 80 acres north of Detroit, between Hall and Cranford Ave. He and Emma had four children, Thomas, Fred, Alfred and Clara,*



*who all grew up here. Like his father, Curtis gave 20-acre portions to his children. His eldest son Thomas built a home on the east corner of Hall and Detroit. Clara married Ira Canfield, who was mayor from 1889-91. They owned land where the library now stands. The shops were built in front of the house, and its entrance was changed to Cranford. But even that was heavily altered (pictured, right), and is now the Gingham Goose shop.*



*16010 Detroit Ave., northeast corner of Cranford. Built in 1924, this was the second home of The Detroit Avenue Savings and Loan Company – still etched in stone at the top of the building. They advertised “an outstanding record of safety and service.” The building, with two stories and a full basement, sheathed in Indiana limestone, cost \$100,000 to build. It was planned to also house stores, offices and “two living suites” in the rear upstairs. Lacy Paraphernalia occupies the main shop space.*



*Barry Buick, west corner of Brockley and Detroit Ave. A brother of Sarah Hall, William Maile also came from St. Ives, England, with his father, a brick maker, and settled in Cleveland on Lake Ave. (now Lakeside). They opened the first brick yard there, in the valley where the railroad terminal was built, near Public Square. After a few prosperous years, a tremendous storm washed out the brickyard, even forcing bricks from the kilns. This prompted William to buy his first 20 acres in East Rockport, shortly before the Civil War started. He later bought more, eventually owning land from Detroit to the lake, between Cranford and Brockley Ave. He built a house here (pictured, left).*

*Since he never liked farming, William opened a brick yard on his property (pictured, right), near the railroad tracks, for years the only brick maker on the west side. He introduced strawberries to East Rockport; buying the plants from his friends, the Sells Brothers, who ran a circus. William kept only enough for his own family garden, and gave the rest away – helping others grow fortunes for years. As East Rockport organized into Lakewood hamlet, William was among three men chosen for the first Board of Trustees; with Orville Hotchkiss and Ira Canfield.*



*William had another sister, Harriet, who married Daniel Webb, another early settler. William married Alice Rose, who had also sailed from England the same year as he. They had four children: Nellie, Lillie, Hattie and Christopher. Nellie married Sydney Goss, Lillie married James A. Cannon, and Hattie married Urbane W. Hird (grandson of Thomas Hird, an early settler near W. 117<sup>th</sup> St.).*



*Christopher married Mary Kidd, who was born in Ireland in 1859, then lived with her family at Riverside and Munn Rd. Her daily chore was to get the mail from Johnson’s general store at Belle and Detroit, riding a large spirited white horse. Christopher would watch her ride by every day, vowing to marry her, even though he had not yet been properly introduced. He carried on his father’s business, opening another brickyard near Hilliard and Elmwood Ave. He also served several times as treasurer of Lakewood. He and Mary had two daughters, Alice and Lulu May (pictured inside the house?, at left).*

*Barry Buick Used Cars, 15905 Detroit Ave. In 1918, Drs. David W. Johnson and John Bracher had a chiropractic office here. The Lakewood Press wrote they had made “tremendous strides in the past ten years, and that the treatment is not only successful but entirely practical, is now admitted ... by most of the medical fraternity.” Dr. Bracher was the first to set up practice in Lakewood. He said, “Chiropractic is now an acknowledged fact and we are not laboring under the disadvantages of a few years ago when we had to practice without a license.”*

*Busch Funeral Home, 15800 Detroit Ave. This beautiful funeral home was built by Roy A. and William R. Daniels. Around 1905, the brothers came from Meadville, Pennsylvania, in their early twenties. William worked as a bookkeeper in Cleveland and Roy was an undertaker, living on St. Charles Ave. Around 1910, they built a house here and worked together.*



*In 1921, they had the east wing built in front of their home (which is still visible), expanding the front and side, plus adding six apartments above. The business was changing. With more people living in apartments, funerals and viewings in homes were not as*

conductive. The west wing was built in 1936. In 1970, 1987 and 1997, the Daniels Funeral Home merged with the Saxton, Parker and Busch families. In 1905, Gustav H. Busch opened the Rehburg-Busch Furniture and Hardware Store in Old Brooklyn. Along with crafting furniture, they built wooden caskets and had embalming facilities.

**Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave.** This congregation began around 1872-75, as Rev. Samuel Moyer made occasional trips to Rockport on Sunday afternoons. He led the Taylor Street Methodist Episcopal Church. They initially met in the old Baptist church building, at Warren and Franklin Blvd. (later used for town meetings), then they met in the little brick schoolhouse. In 1876, Dorcas Hutchins and Hattie Webb persuaded their husbands to borrow \$500 to “have a church of our own” – and the first building was erected (pictured, right). But the congregation remained a mission



outpost until 1885 when Rev. G.W. Houck became pastor of the newly formed “East Rockport and River Bank” charge. It was first called Lakewood Methodist Episcopal Church in 1889.



In 1901, under Rev. O. Badgley’s charge, the membership was 111. Four years later, when a second building was dedicated (pictured, left), membership was 185. The Mailes donated all the bricks for this building. But membership grew rapidly along with the new city of Lakewood, spurring a third church to be built between 1913-15 (present building). The new one was erected alongside the older one, which was dismantled and moved by train to Collinwood for the Collinwood M.E. church.

**Summit Ave.** From 1887-97, this street was merely a lane with a ditch on the western side. A creek ran along the other side, from the railroad tracks to the lake. The Mitchell family (pictured, right) ran a farm on the 40 acres purchased by John J. Stanley, Sr. He was the principal owner in the horse-car line that operated on Broadway from Newburgh to Public Square.



The Mitchell home (in background of picture, right) was built of flat stones, walls about 14 inches thick. The parents and eight children grew grapes – hauling them in a wagon (pictured, left) over the plank road to the Growers’ Market on Woodland Ave. in Cleveland. Mr. Stanley sold the acreage in 1897, and it was shortly thereafter allotted into Summit and Lakeland Ave.

## 6. FINAL CHECKPOINT: Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Avenue.

### SOURCES:

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 Compiled by Michelle Todd, Lakewood Public Library, with Mazie Adams, Lakewood Historical Society, & Jennifer Steirer, Rocky River Historical Society.