



INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping Indian Hill's
Past and Present Alive
for Tomorrow*

E-Newsletter April, 2022 Vol. 14

What's Going On?

April 24th, Annual Meeting and Spring Fete Little Red Schoolhouse

*These Community events are **free of charge**,
and food and drinks will be provided.*

Please [RSVP](#) or call 513-891-1873 so we will know you are coming!

Annual Meeting
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Please come to elect new members to the Board of Trustees, to review the past year's projects and accomplishments, and to learn about future plans. All members are invited to attend.



Spring Fete
2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a fun-filled afternoon under a tent on the lawn of the Schoolhouse. Decorate flower pots, visit with miniature ponies, paint bugs on rocks, enjoy face painting, play games, and hop on the Tally-Ho Hayride. Bring your family and friends for an entertaining get-together! (Families and children are especially welcome!)



May 15th, John Ruthven: A True American Treasure



On **May 15th**, the Historical Society is proud to present the life and paintings of dear friend John Ruthven, given by local art expert, David Bowen.

A select group of storied original paintings will be featured as well as a display of items that speak to John's achievements and personal life. Dinner will be served following the program. Join us at Livingston Lodge for this extra special afternoon starting at 4:00 p.m. Please visit indianhill.org or call 513-891-1873 for reservations (members \$75, non-members \$85).



Member News: 1st Quarter, 2022 Updates

New Members this quarter:

Vicki & Peter Alpaugh
Karen Dinsmore

Zofeen & Khurran Khan
Marianne Meyers

Renewals this quarter:

Claire Ackerman
Cecile Allyn
Kathy Bernard
Tanu & Amar Bhati
Ester Binns
El Bourgraf
Mary & Bill Bramlage
Susan & Burton Closson
Renie Dohrmann
Donna & Karl Graf
Kathy Hamm
Don Harrison

Alicia & Jeffrey Heinichen
Pat & Don Hinkley
Dennis Janson
Ann & Jon Keeling
Cynthia & Gregory Kenny
Ann Kranbuhl
Leslie & John Krehbiel
Sandy Laney
Carol & Bill Lichtenberg
Ina & Eddie Loftspring
Simona & Esh Lunken
Marion & Hal Merten

Julie Myers
Kellie & Dan Peters
Linda & Ray Schilderink
Anne & Doug Schmidlin
Ellen & Clark Sole
Cedric Vogel
Bebe & Phil Vollmer
Rosemary & Frank Welsh
Polly Whittaker
Allison & Jim Zimmerman

Interested in becoming a member? [Click here](#)



Thanks to Our Business Members

<p>Core Strengths Management Dennis Schuler</p>			
	<p>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG Attorney At Law</p>	<p>ERIC HOLZAPFEL Attorney At Law</p>	
	 <p>Mariemont Inn</p>		
 <p>Judy Recker SIBCY CLINE REALTORS</p>	<p>SCOTT CONCRETE</p>		
		<p>Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC</p>	
			

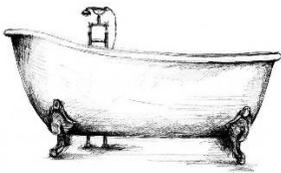


Featured History Topic:

The Indian Hill Water Tower

By Trish Krehbiel

Most of us are familiar with the famous tale about President William Howard Taft and a certain under-sized bathtub in the White House. But... there is another tale, of which I would guess, most of us have never heard, about a man and his bath that strikes closer to home in Indian Hill. This man and his bath provide the perfect segue into the history of Indian Hill's struggle to gain a reliable delivery of water to our homes. The major characters in the story of the establishment of Indian Hill's water supply are our iconic Water Tower, Messers Stanley Rowe & Robert Taft, the city of Cincinnati and an Ohio Supreme Court ruling.



First to the man and his simple desire for a bath! In the summer of 1930, one of the early estate holders in Indian Hill, William H. Albers got up one morning at his home, Alberly Manor, to take a bath. When Albers, the former president of the Kroger Grocery & Baking Company, turned on his faucet no water came out. What did Albers have to do? Realizing that someone down the line was watering his lawn, Mr. Albers had to call the neighbor to request he turn off his hoses and allow Mr. Albers some water for his bath. Now that is an inconvenience none of us can quite imagine! As the new year of 1931 arrived a group of residents from Indian Hill appeared before a meeting of the Hamilton County commissioners to plead their case for an adequate water supply & pressure.

The City of Cincinnati was searching out options in 1933-1934 on which to build a water tower to serve Cincinnati residents living in the eastern reaches of the city limits. Prior to the 1930s, Cincinnati provided water only through mains running along major roads. People relied upon wells and cisterns for their residential supply.

Stanley Rowe and Robert Taft had a real estate venture, Indian Hill Acres, Incorporated. [see [October 2021 Historical Society Newsletter](#)]. The land bordered by Indian Hill, Miami and DeMar Roads was populated in the late 1920s to early 1930s with "residences" that had no electricity, no water, and no serviceable septic tanks. At the height of their holdings, Indian Hill Acres totaled 240 acres.

It being the Depression, Rowe & Taft were having no luck in selling their land to prospective home builders. Fortunately, the acreage at the Foxgate Lane/Miami Road juncture is the highest point within the area. Rowe & Taft came to an agreement with city of Cincinnati representatives to sell nine acres of Indian Hill Acres land for the purpose of building a water tower to supply water to Madisonville and nearby homes.

The Hamilton County Sanitary Engineer appointed the notable architect Charles F. Cellarius to design our 500,000-gallon water tower. The design was to be in keeping with the architecture of homes in the area. Listening to an oral history in the Indian Historical Society archives; Mr. Rowe recalls that he and Taft were granted approval rights with respect to the design. As a result, the iconic Indian Hill Water Tower has stood as a notable landmark in the area since 1938. The water tower was built as a WPA project by The Cincinnati Water Works.



The Water Tower predates the incorporation of the Village of Indian Hill by a handful of years. Shortly after the Village incorporated in 1941, the City of Cincinnati began showing interest in annexation of townships and villages adjacent to the city limits. According to newspaper

accounts in the Historical Society's files, passions ran high in Cincinnati Council meetings indicating their strong desire to access taxes from Indian Hill residents.

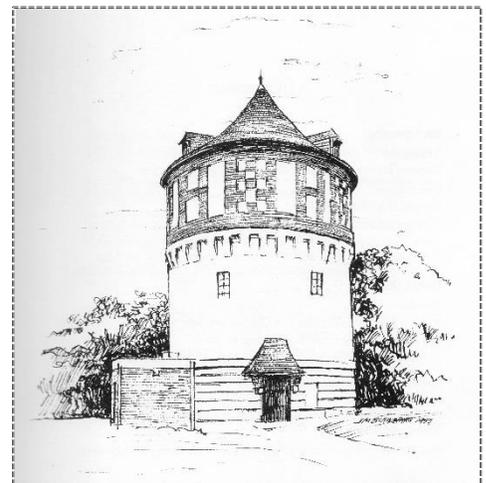
Cincinnati had passed an ordinance in May of 1940 requiring any county applicant for water to agree to annexation. Senator Taft and Mr. Rowe had spent a considerable amount of money to connect their Indian Hill Acres development to the city water system. In the preceding 20 years the city of Cincinnati had been supplying water to county residents. Attorneys for the Acres development argued Cincinnati was acting as a public utility and could not condition the supply of water on a promise to annex. Memories of the 1937 flood which saw a ten day pause in water flowing from the city pipes and a providential agreement with Milford to supply Indian Hill with water through the flood loomed large in the area. The newly elected Village Council and City Manager began floating the idea of establishing its own private Indian Hill Water Works system soon after incorporation in 1941. Land was purchased and test wells dug by the Little Miami River to explore the possibility of an alternate water supply. The creation of a proprietary water supply using the newly dug wells was put on hold as Cincinnati agreed to a contract extension to supply water to Indian Hill.

The threat of annexation was underscored when Cincinnati's Utilities Committee denied water to Indian Hill Acres, Winding Hills [on Given Road], and homes on DeMar Road. In May of 1947, the Court of Appeals issued a "writ of mandamus" [an order from a higher court to a public authority to perform a public duty] to Cincinnati to connect their water mains to the Indian Hill Acres development.

The Ohio Supreme Court handed down a ruling in the Spring of 1948 in favor of Cincinnati's right to refuse water to communities that would not agree to be annexed to the city. Taft & Rowe felt the Acres were part of Indian Hill and as such would not remove the Acres from the Village limits. In August of 1948 Village Council passed Resolution 8-48 "Expressing The Intent To Construct And Operate A Water Works For The Village Of Indian Hill".

The 1949 Appropriation Budget included the funds for the building of Indian Hill's water works system. Agreement was reached in November of 1949 to purchase the Water Tower on Miami Road along with Kugler Mill and Given Road water lines for the price of \$86,861.94 from the City of Cincinnati. In relatively short order the December 12th, 1949, Village Bulletin announced the availability of "a delightful combination of sparkling, soft water" for its residents.

Of the early players in the development of the Indian Hill Water Works, only our treasured Water Tower remains. On September 22, 1988, the Indian Hill Water Tower was named An American Water Landmark, "Significant In The History Of Public Water Supply", designated by the American Water Works Association. To this day the Indian Hill Water Tower adds to the unique charm and enduring character of Indian Hill. Standing as a representative of the character, the passion, and the forethought of our Village founders the Water Tower serves us reliably in providing the water coming out of our faucets when we would like a bath!



Water Tower drawing from
Treasured Landmarks of Indian Hill



From the President:

Ulysses S. Grant's Bicentennial

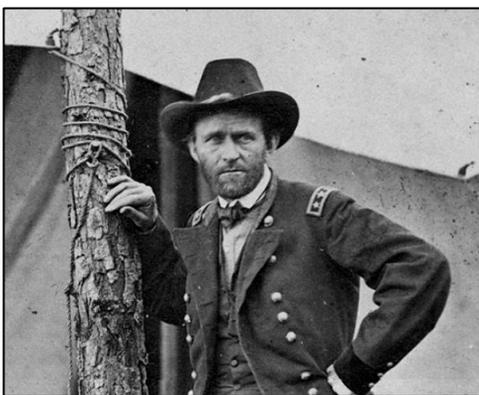
Ulysses S. Grant's 200th birthday is April 27, 2022, and celebrations have already begun. Grant is revered as a commanding general during the Civil War, as the 18th President of the United States, and as a leader who sought to reunite the country after the divisive War Between the States.

An Ohio native, Grant was born in Point Pleasant in Clermont County in 1822. The following year the family moved 20 miles to Georgetown in Brown County. Grant's father owned a tannery where all five of his children were raised. Even at a young age, Ulysses showed a remarkable talent for working with horses. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1842, ranking 21st in a class of 39 cadets. After graduation, Grant was stationed in St. Louis where he met and courted his West Point roommate's sister, Julia Dent. The couple became engaged in 1844.



Grant's home in Point Pleasant, OH

The Mexican War started in 1846 after the United States annexed Texas. Grant served first as regimental quartermaster and then as captain, winning two citations for gallantry and one for meritorious conduct. He studied the tactics and strategies of his commanding officers and learned how to provision a large mobile army operating in hostile territory, a skill which he used later. After the Mexican War ended in 1848, he and Julia were married and started a family. Grant's post-war assignments took him to Michigan, California, Florida, and Oregon. Separated from his loved ones, he turned to drink. Historians still disagree about his alcohol intake and whether it affected his later battlefield performance. In 1854 he resigned from the Army and went home to his family in the Midwest. For seven years, he struggled financially.



When the Civil War broke out, Grant volunteered for the Union cause. He started as a colonel in the 21st Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He rose quickly through the ranks after several victories in the western front, especially Ft. Donelson, Tennessee. At the end of the battle, he informed Confederate troops that "No terms except unconditional surrender can be accepted." From that time on, U. S. Grant's nickname was Unconditional Surrender Grant, which matched his initials. He advanced the northern cause in many battles and sieges in the west. His famous war horse was named Cincinnati.

In 1864 President Lincoln appointed him General in Chief of the Armies of the United States. Grant moved to the eastern theater of the war, and fierce battles between the Union and the Confederacy ensued. Grant was known for his valor in battle and aggressive strategies. In April 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Confederate Army to Grant at Appomattox Court House, VA. Grant, magnanimous in victory, allowed the Confederate soldiers to return home and keep their personal

pistols, swords, and horses. Union troops were instructed not to celebrate the victory over the South. Grant announced, "War is over; the rebels are our countrymen again."

After a few years in retirement, Grant ran for and won the Presidency in 1868. His campaign slogan was "Let there be peace." At age 46 he was the youngest president yet elected. After his inauguration, he faced the problems of Reconstruction. A highlight of his administration was the passage of the 15th Amendment which gave African Americans the right to vote in 1870. Grant opposed the Ku Klux Klan and attempted to develop better relations with Native Americans. During his term, Yellowstone, the first national park, was established, the transcontinental railroad was completed, and the Department of Justice was begun. Grant was inexperienced in politics and not a very good businessman, and members of his administration were involved in several major financial scandals. These shortcomings clouded his tenure in office. After two terms, Grant left the presidency and spent two years touring Europe with his wife.

Returning to New York, Grant invested in various businesses, most of which failed. He accumulated huge debts. At the advice of his friend Mark Twain, Grant wrote his memoirs and succeeded in earning enough money to provide adequate funds for his heirs. He had advanced throat cancer but worked hard on his autobiography, and it was published to great acclaim. Grant died in 1885 at age 63 in New York's Adirondacks. Over 1,500,000 people attended his funeral procession in New York City. Grant is buried in New York City in Grant's Tomb. His epitaph reads "Let Us Have Peace."

The Indian Hill Historical Society holds Ulysses S. Grant in high esteem. In 2008, the Society loaned its monumental five and one half foot high portrait of Grant to the Brown County Library to celebrate the American hero who spent his youth in that area. The painting is still on display. Grant has been called the "consummate American" as he led the army that preserved a nation, worked for civil rights, authored a military and literary masterpiece, and was the most popular American in the second half of the 19th century. Events honoring his Bicentennial will continue throughout the year – a fitting tribute to our 18th President.



Portrait of U. S. Grant hanging in the Brown County Library

Rosemary D. Welsh

To join the "U.S. Grant Bicentennial Celebration" on the weekend of April 23rd & 24th, visit the Ohio History Connection website to learn about the details: [U.S. Grant's Birthday Event](#).

Office News:

While it's been fairly quiet in the office, we have kept very busy with work on the archives – adding to, researching with, and of course the on-going digitization project. We are excited about the upcoming programs in April and May and are looking forward to seeing everyone again.



Buckingham Lodge

The septic system replacement project at the Little Red Schoolhouse is gearing up to start, and we are hoping it will happen during the second quarter if supply chain issues and weather cooperate. This project has been in the works for about three years, but Covid had a major impact on the timeline. The current system at the Schoolhouse works well, but new regulations require commercial establishments to replace their system. Our fingers are crossed that the project will go smoothly and be completed in a timely fashion.

Your continued support and membership are truly appreciated and critical for keeping this organization a vital part of our community.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact us through email: history@indianhill.org or phone: 513-891-1873.

Happy Spring!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

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