



Sole Survivor from 'The Little Mountain Resort Era' of Lake County

Our county's best and continuing resource remains Lake Erie. While the lake served as the main impetus for early county industry and growth, its broad sands, lake sunsets, rock formations, caves and natural beauties became a lure as well. As early as 1870 the Lake Shore Resorts began to appear. 1896 saw the beginning of the Interurban Era and the area's fame continued its ascent. The Stocking House appeared on what is today Little Mountain Road in 1850. Over the next 25 years name changes saw it become known as the Little Mountain House and Lakeview House. Another resort of the era was The Little Mountain Eagle. Charles Avery bought a property in Concord Township and built the Pinecrest Hotel. Cleveland's elite came to our county. Their names are known to us - Rockefeller, Wade, Garfield, Corning, Mather, Bolton were among the many to visit these summer retreats.

Members of the Little Mountain Club felt a strong need for an Episcopal house of worship. The ladies spending their summers there spearheaded this movement. The Church of the Transfiguration was built in a forest of pines, beech and elm trees. Funding came from Reverend W.A. Leonard in 1892 and the chapel was designed and constructed by Wilber Hall and William Reynolds. Stained windows from Munich, Germany and a truly magnificent pipe organ were key additions to the design build. The Chapel opened in early 1894. Time was not kind to the resort era and by 1916 these sites stood vacant. The church was boarded up. Fate though had a new use for the church as it was moved seven miles down the road to become

part of the Holiday House grounds on Salida Beach in Mentor-on-the-Lake. Fate intervened again as the Salida youth / church camp site was shuttered in 1925. Again the church was closed up.

Salvation came for this great edifice when many of those who once visited the church now resided in private homes in Mentor. Residents from the Hollycroft-Garfield section of Mentor were holding services on a porch. The church was more than suitable for their needs and a site by the east branch of the Chagrin River was acquired. The church made its last move to Baldwin Road and was renamed St. Hubert's. Dedicated on June 2, 1929 by Bishop Leonard, it is the only remaining building to survive from the Little Mountain Era.

Submitted by Dan Maxson

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