

'I didn't know that!' – More Hidden Gems from Lake County

Many of my followers know of my affinity for Sunday mornings and the *News-Herald's* column “*I didn't know that...Until I read my Snapple bottle cap.*” With all due credit to Jeff Schudel, here is another version of Lake County hidden gems that will never appear on a bottle cap. Enjoy your trip down history lane with some more local lore.



The Origins of Toothpick Hill -Toothpick Hill was located near Beatty Landing in Painesville. Charles Pratt ran a factory on Walnut Avenue that made wooden toothpicks. His factory was located on top of the hill, hence the name. Charles and Helen Pratt resided at 142 Bank Street. Grace Pratt married Allen Carpenter, a civil engineer. Their home was the former Morley homestead.

The Legend of The Big Water God - Fifty feet off the eastern shores of Fairport Harbor's Huntington Beach flows a bubbling gas that comes to the surface. Indians though unfamiliar with the scientific knowledge for this phenomenon did know of the plentiful fish that resided there. 1880s-90s fishermen were also quite familiar with the abundant harvests found there. A 1910 report mentioned the bubbling waters and plentiful bounty of fish. Remember Lake Erie provides more consumable fish than the other four lakes combined. Another 1946 article cemented the bubbling fishing hole in local lore providing documentation dating back to John Holley entry in 1796. A brief paddle east from FHLP on your next visit will allow you to witness a hidden county gem over 200 years in the making.

Howell Burr Treat - He is the only Civil War Veteran buried in Lake County to receive the Medal of Honor. Born in 1833, he died in 1912 and his grave marker may be found in Painesville's Evergreen Cemetery.

A Special Program about a Favorite Son - Founded in 1815 on .8 acres the **Blish Cemetery** (Nye Road, Painesville Township, Mentor Avenue Cemetery) is the final resting place of one of the Western Reserve's most famous men. He designed 30 homes in Painesville, a handful in other parts of Lake County including a bank and 1825 lighthouse as well as 10 other famous homes in Cleveland. This one-time cobbler apprentice was credited with inventing a multiple plow and lived on his 86 acres in his 1818 home known as Ingleside until his death. The house and 36 acres were eventually acquired in 1911 and became the county Fairgrounds. Unfortunately his home burned down in 1929. This famous man and architect was **Jonathan Goldsmith**. His Blish Cemetery gravesite is located on Mentor Avenue not too far from his former homestead. His life and contributions to our county will be shared on September 27, 2018, at 6:45pm at the Fairport Harbor Library. This free program is sponsored by the Fairport Harbor Historical Society and F.H.Friends of the Library.

Submitted by Dan Maxson

Local Lore by Max (2010-2016) - The News-Herald, under Community Media Lab

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