

## A Lake County History Trifecta – Local Authors Celebrate 2021 Book Releases



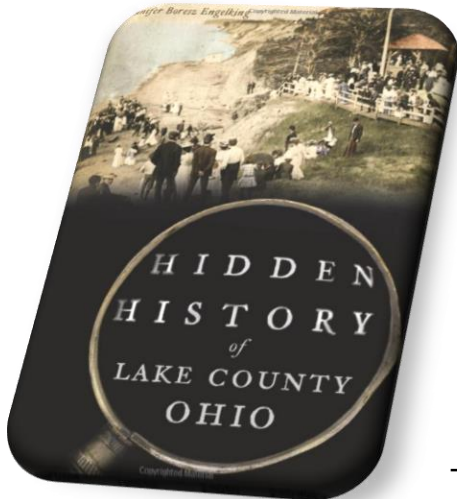
Three recent book releases celebrate the unique history and distinctive stories of Lake County, Ohio. Intrigued by local history, authors Jennifer Boresz Engelking, Daniel Maxson, Debra Esker and Dan Rager uncover a rich and captivating record spanning over 200 years in northeastern Ohio.

→ Engelking explored such forgotten stories as Great Lakes Czar Harry Coulby (Wickliffe City Hall), Willoughbeach, Tuskegee Airman Earl R. Lane, a local ghost cat and many other hidden accounts.

→ Maxson and Esker are Concord Township community residents who gathered archival photographs and family histories to examine the industrial,

farming, business and personal stories of the township from 1802 to the present day.

→ Rager chronicled the 185-year transportation history of the B&O railroad and its local connections to our county. Below you will find some of the highlights of each book which chronicle the history behind many well-known people, not so well-known people, and the landmarks hidden or otherwise. Enjoy the 'simple pleasure' of reading each of these three contributions to the history makers and preservers.



### *Hidden History of Lake County Ohio*

Engelking's book was released in April 2021 and is available everywhere. Her 'Zoom' book talks for local libraries and in-person book signings have

gained writer-journalist Jennifer an entire new readership.

She grew up in Lake County and has returned to her hometown. A fascination with county history has remained with her throughout the years.

This passion resulted in a book whose intent was to fill in the gaps of a region's

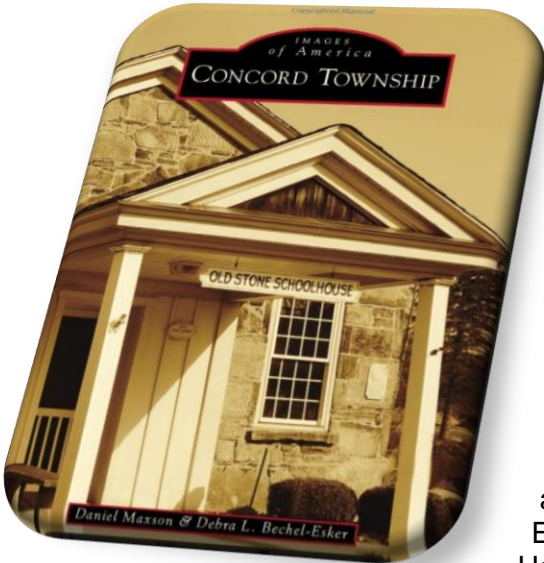
hidden history. The allure of Lake Erie may have great but her search for its hidden histories is apparent in the 196 pages. Her featured topics include legends, myths and discoveries, notable residents and things nearly lost or threatened. The maritime disaster of the G. P Griffith, a Girdled Road, Gravity Hill, two local lighthouses, Madison Seminary and the stories of Jack Casement and Cook Cleland are just a few hidden gems brought to the forefront of local history. A second book is underway with a 2022 mid-year target date for release.



## Concord Township

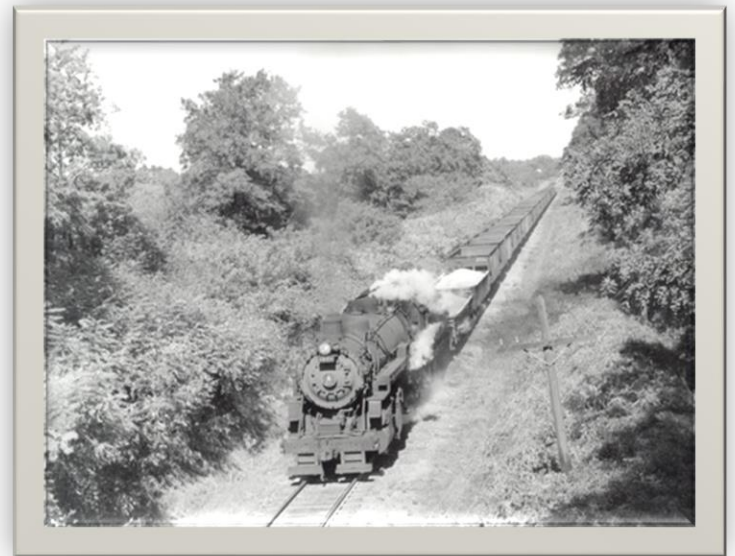
Released everywhere in August 2021, this local township history book spans nearly 200 years of Concord's story. Eight chapters chronicle the 1802 visit from the first settler Thomas Jordan to the early industries including Chair Factory Falls and Pease Mill. The nine one-room schools that dotted the roads and by-ways from 1840-1925 are examined. The 1900-1950s era, that featured more than 48 notable family farms and the stories of Elga Pomeroy, Eber Howe, Jay Adams, Miriam Leuty plus many

others, are shared. Local landmarks such as Lohisers, the Belvedere, Concord Airpark and Camp Klein are showcased. More than 200 images may be found in the 128 pages that are leading up to the March 8, 2022 bicentennial of Concord. In late 2021 another publication, a coloring book titled "You Might be from Concord If" was written and released locally by Maxson featuring sketches by Marie Kozan. Highlights of Concord's storied past are presented to the young children in the community, many sites which are still viewable today.

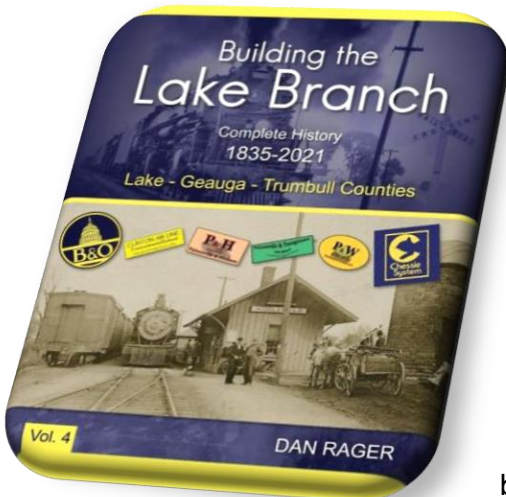


## Building the Lake Branch – Complete History 1835-2021

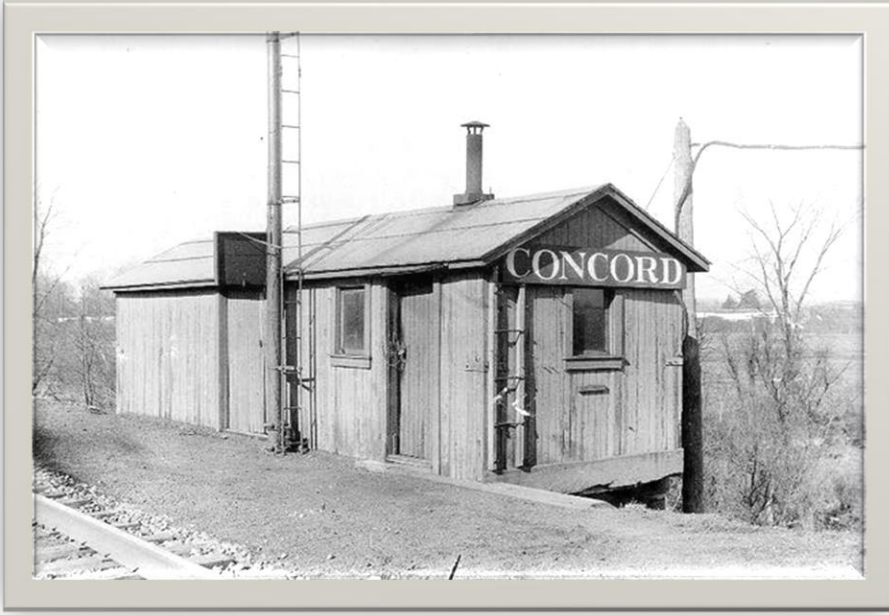
Dan Rager's book should be officially released at the time of this posting. The history of what became known as the B&O Lake Branch began as early as 1835. In its history more than a dozen different railroad company names blanketed the landscape between Painesville and



Youngstown, Ohio. Each company added to or reset the footprint of these routes between Lake, Geauga, and Trumbull Counties. The story of the railroad lines had more twists and meanders than the Grand River it was associated with. Long before the final connection to the epicenter of Fairport (Harbor) was even made,







rights-of-way had been built to Middlefield and beyond. Rager takes the reader through the various stages and seemingly insurmountable hardships that took a decade to resolve before the Painesville railyards to the harbor became operational. From the lost bridges, ice jams and other weather-related dock issues that affected the project, over 300 photos and comprehensive listing of 546 Ohio railroads and 930 docked vessels at Fairport are shared. They cover the 64.4-mile journey from the Painesville location to Youngstown. Dan Rager is currently speaking locally at many libraries and history sites on his journey through transportation lore.

**Submitted by Dan Maxson**

Local Lore by Max (2010-2016), News-Herald Community Media Lab - Trustee, Curator - FHHS / Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum - Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township

