

## Lake County History Grab Bag – Part 3/3

# Wickliffe: The Millionaires' City

Wickliffe's earliest town records show that its first residents, the Jones and Tarbell families, traveled in two covered wagons from Connecticut to the Western Reserve in 1817. They settled at Cleveland's Public Square, but relocated shortly thereafter to land purchased on a knoll west of the intersection of Lloyd Road and Euclid Avenue. It was in a precinct of Willoughby Township now known as Wickliffe. The two families initially built a double log cabin to share until they could get established. Over the next century, the lovely little area attracted settlers of **quite a different sort**.

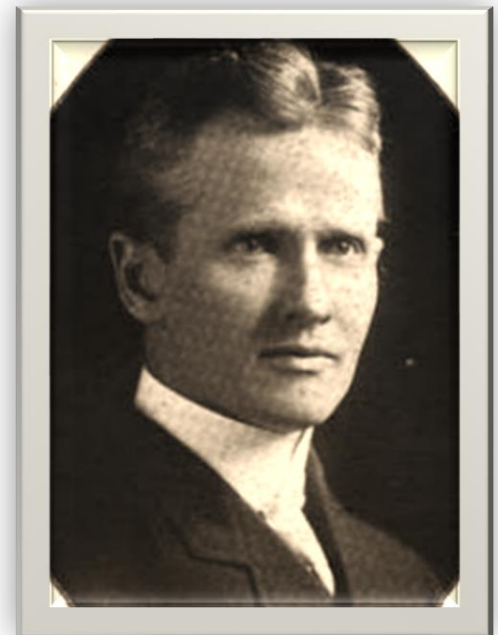


The years 1873-1930 were known as Cleveland's Gilded Age. Nearly half of the world's millionaires lived in Cleveland. More than 260 properties showcased the grandeur of this famous era in local history. "Millionaires' City" was the nickname for Wickliffe as it became the summer home destination of area industrialists. Four stories are shared here.

“Lakeland,” as it was known on Rockefeller Road, was the summer home of Franklin Rockefeller, one of the more famous gentleman farmers. Totalling 157 acres, the estate was built in the 1900s. Today the carriage house remains, some interurban tracks are located in Pete's Pond Reservation, and Wickliffe High School occupies the former estate site.



29940 Ridge Road is the Old Stocking Home. Part of the Stocking Family holdings from 1866-1936, the homestead at 30000 Ridge Road still stands.



Nearby to the south was a simpler farm, the property of Joseph R. Nutt (1868-1945). It was built in 1896. Nutt was the treasurer of the National Republican Committee for President Herbert Hoover. Nutt was also a prominent businessman and part owner of the soon to be Quaker Oats Company of Akron, Ohio.

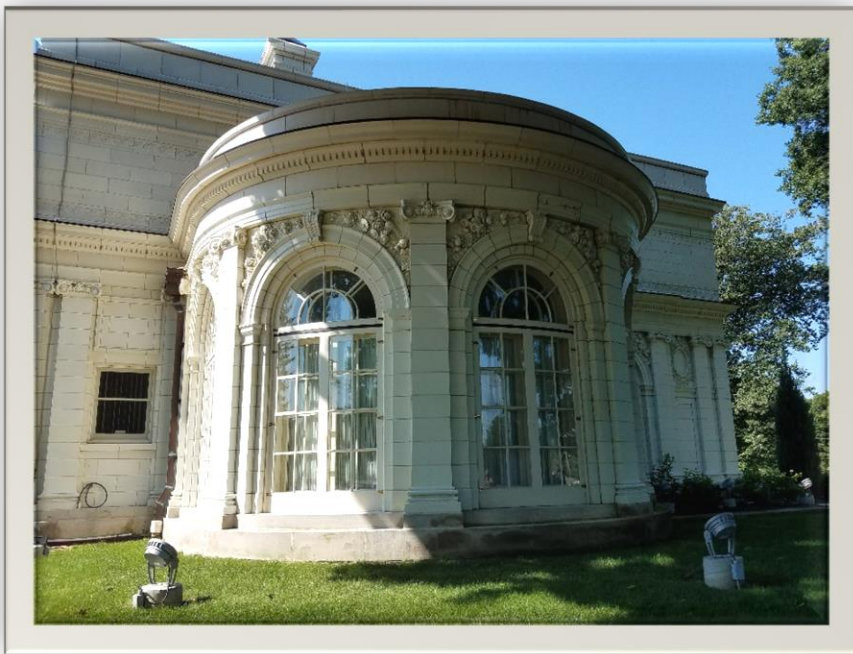
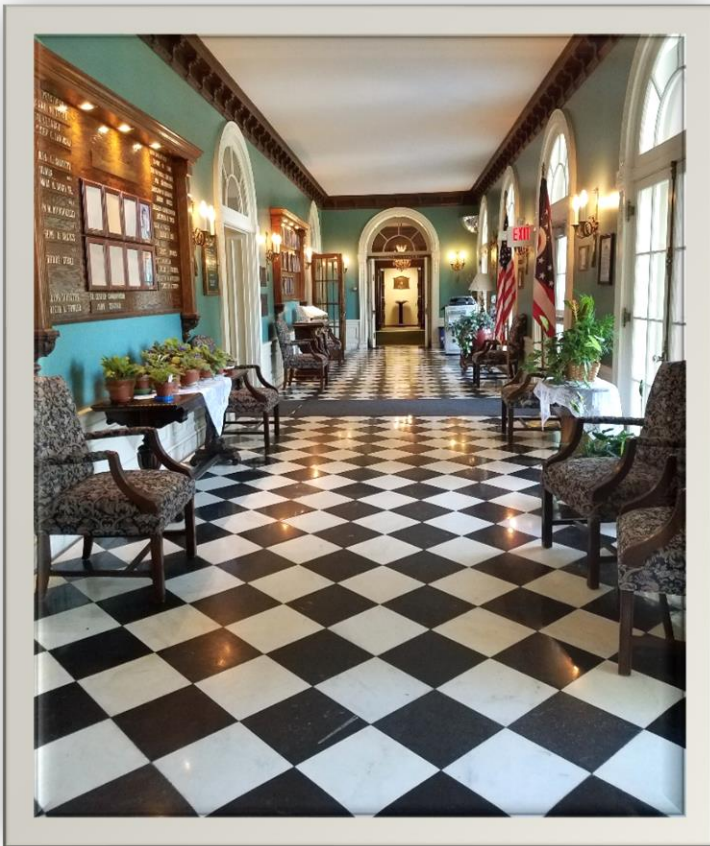
"**Nagirroc**" (Corrigan spelled backward) was the home of James Corrigan. Corrigan and Price McKinney were independent steel partners. Their company in time became known as Republic Steel. Both men's estates were on the current site of Pine Ridge Golf Club. Corrigan's "Nagirroc" sits on Ridge Road. McKinney's estate "**Ridgemere**" sat on Bishop Road. Borromeo Seminary at 28700 Euclid Avenue was also part of this summer home.



"**Couallenby**" is perhaps the most famous estate in the city. Today it is the site of Wickliffe City Hall. Completed in 1913, it was home to British-born Harry Coulby (1865-1929). Coulby was the "Czar of the Great Lakes." He left school at age 11, and from humble beginnings as a telegraph operator and deckhand on a Great Lakes freighter, he rose to become a shipping magnate of his day. Pickands Mather & Co. and the Cleveland Foundation are intertwined in his life story.

In July 1911, Coulby began construction of a luxurious residence at 28730 Ridge Road in Wickliffe, Ohio. The acclaimed Cleveland architect Frederic Striebinger designed the Renaissance Revival building, which sat on 54 acres of land. The exterior of the sixteen-room mansion was covered in terra cotta, imported from Italy and glazed bright white. Its high windows allowed abundant natural light in every ground floor room. The entrance featured a skylight designed by Louis Tiffany. The home had seven fireplaces (with carved Italian marble mantels).





Formal gardens surrounded the residence; and Coulby kept the trees on the north side of his property trimmed down so he could see ships sailing on Lake Erie from his second-floor master bedroom. The estate's name Couallenby, was a combination of Coulby's surname and the maiden name of his second wife, May Allen Scott. Coulby had no children. Upon his death, the bulk of his estate went to Cleveland's Lakeside Hospital (University Hospitals Case Medical Center) and the Cleveland Foundation.

Harry Coulby is buried in St. Peter's churchyard in his birthplace of Claypole, England.



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