



ISSUE 50 - APRIL 2017

WILLOW HOUSE TIMES

Cuyahoga Hts. Historical Archive

Kennedy House (picture above)
4651 E. 71st St.
Home of the Historical Committee
and Boy Scout Troop 28

Historical Committee Members

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Facebook Group:

facebook.com/groups/132447953512779

(Many have shared their own pictures to this Facebook group).

2017 Meetings at the Kennedy House:

10 a.m. - Noon

April 1

May 6

August 5

October 7

May 29th Memorial Day Open House 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stop by and visit! We'd love to see you! Our website shown above shows some of our holdings. Please consider bringing any photos or artifacts that you might have pertaining to the Village.. We have a scanner onsite and can scan and save them while you visit!

The Historical Committee's next meeting will be on May 6, 2017 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting or look at the displays in the Kennedy House. You can also schedule a special time to visit by contacting any committee member or the Village Hall. We welcome out-of-town families, seniors groups, school classes, or anyone interested in seeing our holdings.

THE HISTORIC WILLOW HOUSE (demolished 2015)



We hope you enjoy the newsletter - we are changing to a quarterly newsletter beginning this year, rather than a monthly one. They will be sent out in January, April, July, and October.

Howdy! It's Cuyahoga Heights.
 After separating from Newburgh Heights and forming the township of Willow, the secessionists have now organized the village of Cuyahoga Heights. They will elect officers March 16.

The Founding of Cuyahoga Heights

This March 5, 1918 article from the Cleveland Plain Dealer briefly explains the founding of Cuyahoga Heights. A special vote was taken because the residents of the area that is Cuyahoga Hts. today were upset that they were paying more in taxes, yet all the improvements were being made in the Washington Park area. At that time in 1918, E. 71st was half paved and E. 49th only had a narrow strip of pavement. According to Samuel Clapp, Clerk of Cuyahoga Hts. in 1918, the area looked like a slum, whereas "the lower part of Newburgh Hts. looked like an up-to-date metropolis."
 (Continued on last page)



William Baur - First Police Chief in Cuyahoga Hts.

William Baur was born June 30, 1895 at E. 49th and Harvard to Edward Baur and Fredericka Bucher. Edward came to this country in 1861, and Anna in 1877. Edward Baur was shown as an elector for the special election on 3/16/1918 that caused Cuyahoga Hts. to separate from Newburgh. At the time of that election, Edward and family were living at 4571 E. 71st, right across from the original town hall. Edward and family later moved to 5015 E. 71st. Before Fredericka married Edward Baur, she was married to Jacob Rausch. She had three children with him. The photos here were donated by Kenneth Strunk, a great-grandson of Fredericka through the Jacob Rausch line.

William Baur - First Police Chief in Cuyahoga Hts.



William Baur

William Baur worked as a machinist for the City of Cleveland Disposal Plant. Later he was a garage mechanic before being elected as the Village Marshal in 1932. He remained in that position until the State of Ohio eliminated the position of marshal, and it was at that time that he became Police Chief in 1944. The 1930 and 1940 census, as well as a newspaper article announcing his retirement in 1960 shows the family living at 4913 E. 71st. William held the record for the largest turtles caught in the Cuyahoga River and was famous for his homemade turtle soup.



William Baur



Fredericka Bucher-Rausch-Baur about 1925-1930



5015 E. 71st today - The home of Edward and Fredericka Baur and their children



4913 E. 71st - Home of William and Anna Baur from at least 1930-1956

THE BAUR HOMES



Fredericka Baur and her chicken coops at 5015 E. 71st (about 1900-1910)



Fredericka and Edward Baur with some family members at 5015 E. 71st (about 1909)



Fredericka and some family members at 5015 E. 71st (about 1910)



Edward and Fredericka Baur's headstone at Harvard Grove Cemetery. Edward died at the family homestead on 2/18/1930. Fredericka passed away a year later.

Turtle Soup, Sitting, Model-A Ford to Occupy Chief in His Retirement

William Baur, 63, who retires as Cuyahoga Heights police chief Monday, says, "I'm going to sit on the front porch and take it easy for awhile."

From that front porch on E. 71st St., he can see the moderate traffic passing by and frequently a village police car.

"Used to be traffic was so thick on this street it took 20 minutes to get out the driveway," he recalled. "The Willow Freeway was a life-saver for us. It took most of the traffic off E. 71st."

Baur first got into police work when he was elected marshal in 1932. "Traffic was our big problem then. But once in a while we'd have a strike at one of the plants. One time I even saw strikers using meat hammers, bricks, clubs and fists on each other."

Size Counted Then

"We broke it up though—with four or five policemen. A good bat on the spot quieted them down. In those days they chose policemen not for what he could do but for his size."

The chief fits the old-time standards: he's 5 ft., 11½, and weighs 280 lbs.

His theory of police work, he believes, has kept the village from having any major crime. "Just keep the police cars moving. We have three police cars cruising on the 9½ miles of road during the day. When a driver sees them he slows down. We haven't had any house jobs—that's because you can never tell when a police car will come by."

He added, "I don't believe in radar. I figure protecting life, limb and property is more important than just making arrests. I can't see arresting someone for going 31 in a 30-mile zone. When we give someone a ticket he deserves it."

Reared in the Village

Baur, who has been chief since 1944, was born and reared in the village. His son, William Baur Jr., is a patrolman on the village's 14-man force. His nephew, Allen Baur Jr., is chief of the Independence force.

Now Chief Baur plans to hunt rabbit and pheasant and catch turtles in the Ohio Canal. For 30 years his turtle soup, cooked for 10 hours in a 30-gallon cast-iron kettle

RETIRING CHIEF William Baur of Cuyahoga Heights checks the engine of his 1930 Model A Ford. "I bought the car for \$20 nine years ago," he said. "And I've been offered \$500 for it more than once." The chief uses the car for hunting and fishing trips. "I get 20 miles to the gallon and she starts every time," he says.

He also makes doll furniture in his basement workshop for his five grandchildren. He lives with his wife, Anna, at 4913 E. 71st St. "Yes," he says, "I'm going to hunt and fish when I feel like it and when I don't, I'm just going to sit on the porch."

has been in demand locally.

ers this was the highest weight ever caught for 4 turtles in a single catch. Staff photographer Chester Gorczyk got shot, while Bill was getting ready to slaughter and them up.

1960
A photograph of World War I, 2011

Baur retires - 1960

Police Chief Gets Record Catch

Chief of Police William Baur of Cuyahoga Heights made a record catch of turtles in the old Ohio Canal this week. Bill bagged four big boys, which tipped the scale at some 80 pounds. According to old timers this was the highest weight ever caught for 4 turtles in a single catch. Staff photographer Chester Gorczyk got shot, while Bill was getting ready to slaughter and them up.

William and his turtle catch!

THE FOUNDING OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS (continued from page 1)

Mayor Anton Linek of Newburgh Heights was confronted time and again to correct the problems facing the residents of East 71st and East 49th, but the situation was not altered. Finally, led by Jesse W. Hammersley, who had lived at 4940 E. 71st St. for 55 years, 25 citizens met one night in a shed and voted to form the township of Willow, which was the first step necessary before a village could be organized. An election was held on February 2, 1918, and 59 persons - a large number for that section - turned out in the bitter cold weather to vote for secession. Four trustees were elected, including Clinton Gordon, Mr. Clapp, Joseph F. Schmit, and R.D. Kerr. After a few more meetings required by statute, the Village was legally organized and at a final election, March 16, 1918, Mr. Schmit, bachelor and son of a pioneer family which had lived on the same homestead for 60 years, was chosen first mayor. He remained in office 12 years.

In addition to establishing the Village of Cuyahoga Heights and choosing its officers, the election gave four out of the five square miles which comprised Newburgh Heights to Cuyahoga Heights - including the former's city hall, which was in the seceding area. Naturally, it found itself involved in a lawsuit over the possession of the city hall, yet it not only won the suit, but in a later one was given 86 percent of Newburgh Heights cash on hand in the bargain. In tax duplicate valuation this represented \$10,674,360. Also included in the court order were all office equipment, a Ford car and a garbage collection outfit.

Mayor Linek of Newburgh, perhaps, was not particularly concerned over the money value of his official residence, for it was a rather unpretentious place, no larger than a good-sized garage. But there was a principal involved. No new and upstart Village could be permitted to get away with that sort of thing, and so suit was filed that went clear to the Supreme Court of Ohio and lasted more than a year. The decision as has been stated, was quite a blow to Newburgh Heights, especially that tax business. The Cuyahoga Heights tax duplicate amounted to \$12,396,630, and after Cuyahoga Heights was granted its 86 percent, there was only \$1,772,270 left for poor Newburgh Heights. Frederick W. Green, the solicitor of Cuyahoga Heights was credited with acquiring the tax money for the Village.

But in acquiring such a handsome percentage of the parental taxes the offspring likewise was compelled to assume 83 percent of Newburgh Heights debts, which amounted to \$270,515.21. It was a load, and after 18 years (1936), there was still an unpaid balance of \$105,000. Despite the heavy bonded debt, however, none of the 800 residents seem to regret its secessionist action. During Mayor Schmit's administration East 72st and East 49th streets were given new pavements and better sidewalks, and the \$250,000 trunk line sewer on East 71st was finally installed.



The Village built a \$75,000 two-story Georgian town hall during the Depression which replaced the rickety old building over which the two towns fought so hard. The structure was designed to serve a double purpose. It was to serve as a city hall and community center, with a shiny combination dance hall and auditorium with a seating capacity of 800 - the exact population of the town. Included in the new structure was a club and lodge room and a community kitchen capable of serving 300 guests. There was also a children's playroom and a two-room apartment for the custodian. In the basement was a bowling alley and billiard tables - and two cells, usually vacant.

Cuyahoga Heights in 1936 had no troublesome tax problems like some of its somewhat distracted sister communities. Residents paid only a small fraction of the total value of taxable property. The \$17,000,000 tax duplicate of which Cuyahoga Heights was so proud, and justly, too, since no other Village in the United States at the time could equal it, came mostly from the manufacturing plants that had established legal residence. (Information from the 75th Anniversary pamphlet of Cuyahoga Heights 1918-1993)