



ISSUE 51 - JULY 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

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## Historical Committee Members

Barb Bartczak  
Mark Chase  
Laura Hine  
Sandy Waldemarson

Willow House Times Editor:  
Laura Hine ([genealogygal2@juno.com](mailto:genealogygal2@juno.com))

### Website:

[sites.google.com/site/cuyahogahtshistorical](https://sites.google.com/site/cuyahogahtshistorical)

Webmaster: Laura Hine

### Facebook Group:

[facebook.com/groups/132447953512779](https://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 Aug. 5, 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.



## MARCY!

Cuyahoga Heights was once known as “MARCY.” I found this little blurb in the Cleveland Plain Dealer:

“The “new” route of the LE&P took it from a connection off of the NYC’s so called “short line,” itself connecting to the Central’s lakefront line, from a point near Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio, which in earlier times had been known as Marcy. At this location was a railroad yard, aptly called “Marcy Yard.”



Above is either a wedding or engagement photograph of John Kaminski and Josephine Ksiazkowski. John was 26 years of age and his bride was 17. The portrait was taken on Broadway Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, and it is the only known picture of John Kaminski without his characteristic mustache.

### *John and Josephine (Ksiazkowski) Kaminski.*

Way back in 1906, John and Josephine (nee Ksiazkowski) Kaminski decided to open a tavern. The location they picked was at the corner of E. 71<sup>st</sup> and Grant Avenue (the old Benjamin Moore Parking lot). There, they had a four family home adjacent to the tavern on Grant Avenue. Per great-grandson, Wesley Klir, John was known as the “Penny Millionaire,” because of John’s ability to make meager substrate into substantial profit. John and Josephine had eight children:

1. Gertrude - died in infancy.
2. Theodore – born 1894, served in World War I, and was the first in the family to get a higher education, later becoming a physician.
3. Viola – born 1896, married Charles Podolski.
4. Walter – born 1899, married Anna Szpeina.
5. Joseph – born 1902
6. Louis – born 1904
7. Theresa – born 1906, married Joseph Cebula
8. Florence – born 1909, married Walter Hazel

## 4390 E. 71st - The Old Tavern!



The above portrait was taken around 1912 in Cleveland, Ohio. It is the only known photograph of the entire Kaminski family although many copies circulate presently. From left to right is Joseph, Theresa, Walter, Viola, Josephine (seated), Theodore, Florence (3 yrs. old), John (seated), and Louis.

### *The Kaminski Family*

The 1910 census shows the family living in Newburgh Hamlet (which was what Cuyahoga Heights was called before it was incorporated). John was 46 years old and a saloon keeper. Josephine was 37, married 18 years, with eight children born and seven living. Those children were: Theodore, age 16, Viola 14, Walter 11, Joseph 9, Louis 7, Teresa 3, and Florence, age 6/12 of a year.



*Alongside the fence of Benjamin Moore*



*Front porch of the Kaminski Home*

The 1920 census shows the family in Cuyahoga Heights Village in Willow Township at 4390 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street. As industry encroached on Cuyahoga Heights, so came pollution. Josephine developed a medical problem which her doctor attributed to the pollution, and the family moved to a four acre farm in Brecksville to be in a healthier atmosphere.



## THE KAMINSKI FAMILY

John Kaminski died on May 7, 1926 at 4390 E. 71st. His death certificate shows he was married, born May 31, 1868 in Poland to Jacob Kaminski and Antoinette Skoniczka. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage due to high blood pressure. He was buried at St. Mary's Polish Cemetery on May 11, 1926. The informant on his death certificate was Charles Kaminski, 4396 E. 71st.

Daughter Viola kept the tavern going, while Josephine lived with her sister for a short time after John's death. But, Josephine returned to her home at the corner of E. 71<sup>st</sup> and Grant. She was well known for her baked Polish pastries and was well liked by the residents of the Village. Many stories have been told about this tavern during Prohibition – how there was plenty of bathtub gin and bootlegging going on, as was the case in most prior taverns and even homes.

The 1930 Census shows the following at 4390 E. 71<sup>st</sup> in Cuyahoga Heights:

Josephine, age 58, a widow; Joseph, age 28, a clerk for the railroad office; Florence, age 20, a telephone operator; Walter Kaminski, age 31, an electrician; Anna, his wife, age 30; and Adeline, age 7.

Finally, the 1940 census shows Josephine Kaminski, Viola Podolski, Charles Podolski (her son), Walter Attewell, age 41, a restaurant owner and bar keeper, Alice Attewell, age 35, a waitress, and Alice, George, James and William Attewell, their children.

Josephine Kaminski died March 9, 1956.

Her obit reads as follows:

Josephine Kaminski, residence, 7008 Grant Ave. (nee Ksiazkowski), beloved wife of the late John, mother of Dr. Theodore, Viola Podolski, Walter (deceased), Joseph Kamm, Louis, Theresa Cebula, Florence Hazel, sister of Ignatius (deceased), Frances Grabski (deceased), August Ksiazkowski, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Monday, Mar., 12, from Komorowski Funeral Home, 4105 E. 71 St., at 8:30 a. m. to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (E. 71 St.), at 9 a. m. Burial St. Mary's Cemetery (E. 71 St.).

We see in the 1940 census above that the Attewell family were also living at this address. They were the next operators of the tavern! Danny Schoeffler stated that his Great-Grandfather, Walter Attewell, operated the tavern during World War II. Walter owned five other taverns over the years – but only this one in Cuyahoga Heights. The others were Trucker's Tavern, Ohio Raceway, Cherrio Club, Wander INN, and Venetian Gardens.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer shows that in 1948, Mike Ginino's Tavern at 4390 E. 71<sup>st</sup> was robbed. The last mention of the address 4390 E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street was in 1966, when a young man there won a photo contest. Wesley Klir thinks the house and tavern were torn down about 1958.



Front of the Kaminski Home



Side Driveway on Grant Avenue





Front yard looking toward Grant



Dr. Theodore Kaminski and Ted Jr.



E. 71st from War looking South



Josephine Kaminski far right



Walter Hazel



Patty Hazel Klir



Viola Kaminski

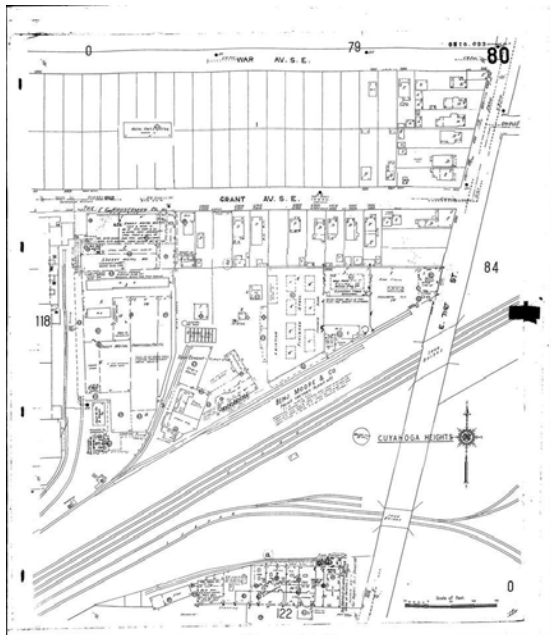


Florence Hazel, Marilyn Duszynski, Stanley Schab Jr.





Late 1920's - George and Alice Attewell (siblings) in front of the Tavern - (picture from Danny Schoeffler)

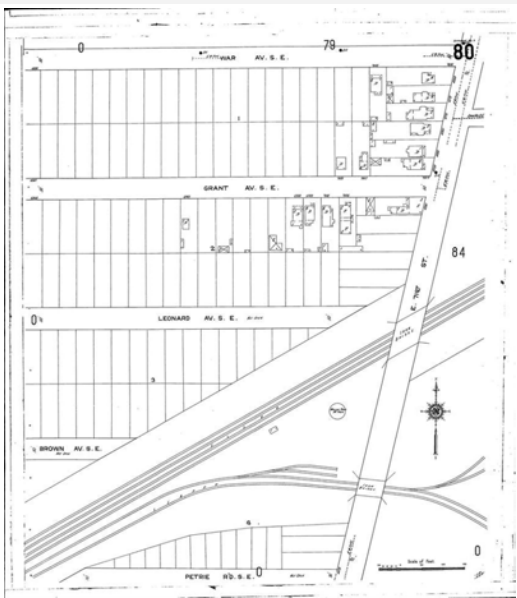


1950 Sanborn Map showing the corner of Grant and E. 71st.

**Special thanks to Wesley Klir and Danny Schoeffler for the pictures appearing in this newsletter!!!**



Walter Hazel



1913 Sanborn Map showing the corner of Grant and E. 71st.

## WINE FACT!

During Prohibition, a product referred to as the 'Grape Brick' was sold to wine-starved households across the U.S. by wineries looking to recoup their losses. Attached to the 'brick' of dried and pressed winegrape concentrate was a packet of yeast, and the stern warning: *"Do not add yeast or fermentation will result!"*

