



History Buffs - Roam the County...

Did you have the summer you wanted? Summer is coming to a close, so it is a good time to repeat my question and ask, “Did you have the summer you wanted to have?” America250 events dotted the summer landscape. A few come to mind - a county-wide picnic in June, a historic July 4 baseball game at Classic Park, the Lake County Fair in late July, patriotic themed programs at Lakeland Community College and local libraries, community day festivals in Leroy, Concord Township and Willoughby, the annual Party in the Park in Painesville, Union Pacific’s Big Day for train lovers and too many summer concerts to mention. Were you a participant or spectator? Not your cup of tea? If this summer has not exactly been what you expected, time still exists to make it better. Here are ‘five’ county history sites for your remaining summer 2026 bucket list - hidden gems or off the beaten path but definitely a one tank trip!



Millionaire’s Mile - Coulby Mansion

Many people have heard of Cleveland’s Millionaire’s Row and many local books celebrate this era when Cleveland was the sixth largest industrial city in the United States and unfathomable wealth and Gilded Age homes lined Euclid Avenue and downtown Cleveland. In 1885, Cleveland was home to an estimated 70 millionaires. Lake County was not excluded from this historic period as by 1918 these millionaire industrialists sought refuge from the pollution found downtown east of Cleveland. With the rise of the Interurban line, Lake County went from zero summer country estates to over

30 millionaire estates. The names Corrigan, Nutt, Rockefeller, McKinney, Squire, French, Dangler and others were widely known in Lake County as they built their summer estates in Wickliffe. A visit to Wickliffe City Hall offers a glimpse into the former 16-room mansion of Great Lakes shipping tycoon Harry Coulby. Built between 1913-1915, hand carved woodwork, white terracotta glazed exteriors from Italy and Tiffany Chandeliers remain. Purchased by the City of Wickliffe in 1954, the former Couallenby and Catholic Girls School / convent was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Ohio Historic Marker 11-43 followed. Stop by and walk the halls of the current City Hall and experience a glimpse of the Gilded Age of Cleveland. Watch for Wickliffe Historical Society programming during the year.

Lake Erie College Women's Rights Walkway

The 2026 Lake County Fair used their 1914 History Hall Log Cabin site to not only honor our county's earliest pioneers / patriots but to distribute their second America250 bobble head featuring Francis Jennings-Casement. While General Edward Paine was so honored in 2025, Casement's bobble head recognition is very much warranted. The evolving story of Casement and other leading county suffragettes may be found on an outdoor path in front of College Hall at Lake Erie College. It features informational signs highlighting local suffrage history. This Women's Rights Walkway is a free, self-guided tour and honors the pivotal role Lake Erie



College and Northeastern Ohio had in advancing women's rights. LEC alum Casement, college president Mary Evans, Cornelia Sweeney and other famous local women are prominently featured. Even the story of Susan B. Anthony's visit to Painesville is shared as well as stories of Elizabeth Cady-Stanton.

Lake County Visitor's Bureau 'Vault'

Stop by and pay a visit to 105 Main Street in Painesville, home to the Lake County Administration Offices. On the main floor is the Lake County Visitors Bureau, the site of a former bank where \$51800 or more of our national currency was minted. Inside, the main vault remains and the tourism staff can provide a short talk and viewing opportunity. The bank history dates back to 1831 when it was the Bank of Geauga. After the Civil War, its name changed to the First National Bank of Painesville. It became a member of the Federal Bank in 1914 and this former Federal Reserve Bank enjoyed a brief but important history before it burned down in 1925. You may find its history online, at the Morley Library archives and in local county newspaper print history circa 1926.



A Quarry at Chapin Forest, A Temple and Migration

An easy 1.1-mile loop self-guided tour awaits you at the Chillicothe Road entrance to Chapin Forest in Kirtland. While two quarries may be visited at this location, it is the Stannard Quarry to the right immediately upon entering that garners the most historic impact. It tells the story and offers excellent views of the former stone quarry. Joseph Smith served as the foreman and his oversight led to the 1830 build of the Kirtland Temple. The former LDS / Mormon site history from 1831-1836 is a direct part of pre-county history. The Kirtland Temple, its visitor center and the nearby Historic Kirtland Village with its ashery, sawmill and Newell and Elizabeth Whitney's home and store are just a few of the important buildings and stories to be shared.



Pheasant Run Airport & Museum

If you missed the recent Union Pacific Big Boy train experience at the Lake County Historical Society, fret not as aviation transportation history is abundant in Ohio's smallest county. Female aviator's stories are well documented in our county. An Airpark in Concord Township still exists. Painesville and Willoughby have important aviatrix stories and Gretchen Reed's story is worth sharing. Located at 5782 Trask Road spanning the border of Leroy Township and Madison is a 128-acre former site of a working airport and important county museum. At one time more than twenty plus vintage aircraft were on site, many of which were restored by her

husband Charles and a majority flight capable. Four hangers and a Control Tower were on the grounds. The museum was the passion of Charles and Gretchen Reed. From humble beginnings in 1977, the airport history grew. Gretchen was a Riverside teacher from 1967-1995 who introduced the love of flying / aviation to many of her students. An early student Chris Joles eventually joined her staff in 2009 as a museum docent and valued restoration expert. Open for visits most Sundays thru 2020, financial concerns and the pandemic have caused severe hardships for Gretchen and the museum holdings. Gretchen brokered a life estate arrangement and donated the property and artifacts to Lake Erie College in late 2010 with her gift acceptance occurring in January 2011. Lake Erie College suffered some monetary concerns by 2015 and their official association is unknown as of this writing. What is certain is that you can still view the site on Trask Road. Programs still occur and share the history. Watch local social media postings or visit pheasantrunairport.org to check out this important gem and the life / contributions of Gretchen Reed in our county history.

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