

Mount Healthy Historical Society



July 2023

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Around the Society...

It's membership-renewal time. You can mail a check (still just \$10 per individual, \$25 per business) to 1546 McMakin Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45231, along with the membership form on the last page of this newsletter, or just include your name, address, email, and phone number. Or join through our website using PayPal at <http://www.mthealthyhistory.org/membership.html>.

The newest exhibit at the museum is Tea Time, a tea party from around 1900 complete with tea sets and beautiful dresses from that era. Please stop in and see it.

Our annual yard sale is coming up August 5 as part of the World's Longest Yard Sale. We're currently accepting donations, but please no clothing, large furniture, or outdated electronics. You can drop items off at the tollhouse Saturday mornings between 9 and 11 or call Penny at 513-931-6420 to arrange a drop-off time. And please come shop with us, or just stop by and say hello. Also, **we need helpers** for setting up that morning, 7:30 to 9, and cleaning up afterward, 1 to 2. Please call Penny if you can assist.

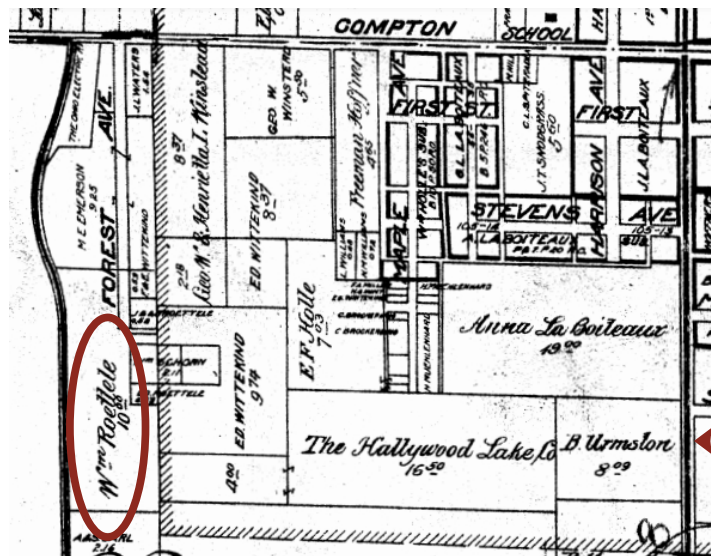
We're still accepting sponsorships for our upcoming Mt. Health-opoly game. Prices range from \$25 for a card to \$400 for the highest-value property space (or \$650 for three select spaces). Sponsors' names will go on the card or space, along with a company logo if desired. Sponsors can also pre-order games for a 20% discount. The games will be available in time for Christmas this year and will sell for \$25.

Thank you for supporting our various fundraisers. These efforts will help finish paying for the air conditioning we installed last year and support us in our continuing work to inventory our collection and improve the storage of our artifacts.

We are currently open Saturday mornings from 9 to 11 and by appointment. If you stop by on Saturday, try both the tollhouse (the smaller white building) and the free meeting house (the red brick building).

Mt. Healthy Brickyard

Frank Roettele founded the Mt. Healthy Brick Company in 1887 at what is now the south end of Forest Ave, near Arlington Memorial Gardens. This undated map shows the Roettele property on the west edge of the town:



Hamilton Ave.

As anyone who has ever tried to do any digging in Mt. Healthy knows, we have plenty of clay underfoot. It was the perfect place to produce the bricks for the homes and businesses being built in the growing community. The bricks are distinctive, having been stamped with "Mt. Healthy" when molded, with the style of the stamp changing over time. However, this feature is hidden in the walls they formed. The bricks must be removed in order to see the identification.

Frank Roettele's sons eventually took over the company. The brickyard remained in operation until 1942.



Workers (and others?) at the brickyard, probably around 1900.

Do you have any Mt. Healthy bricks? We'll happily take any in decent condition off your hands (only whole bricks, but banged up or with a bit of mortar around the edges is okay). We also offer them for sale at the museum for \$10 each. They make nice gifts.



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Brickyard Lake

Before the brickyard stopped making bricks, in March 1938, the lake on the property became a paid fishing spot. It also eventually had a tavern.



Ads appearing in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in 1940, above, and 1942, left. In 1941 the lake charged 50¢ for six hours of fishing.

In March of 1941 the *Enquirer* reported that workmen enlarging the lake had unearthed a giant mastodon tusk, but didn't say what became of it.

Young Man Is Accused Of Kidnaping Attempt; Under Bond Of \$5,000

Those of you longing for the quiet old Mt. Healthy of the past may surprised to learn that things got a bit wild here at times.

In January 1941 a young man was arrested for attempting to kidnap a three-year-old girl at the lake. The girl, Delree Ferdon, was waiting for her father, who was picking up a delivery at the lake's tavern. The would-be kidnapper hid the girl under his overcoat when he left the establishment, but the father missed her and chased the man, catching him at the corner of Stevens and Forest Avenues and holding him until police arrived. The man told the police that he "liked children and merely wanted to take the girl for a walk." The father dropped the charges against the man, who was a medically discharged soldier whose father told authorities that his son was mentally ill.

In 1945 a lake employee was robbed and his car stolen near the lake and in 1946 the tavern was burglarized, with the thieves taking \$360. Another car theft was reported in April 1947 when a man from Walnut Hills was accused of stealing the car of his fishing companion, and another car was stolen from the property in September of the same year.

In 1951 the Brickyard tavern was charged with having illegal gambling devices.

The tavern burned down in December 1967, the suspected cause faulty wiring.

Many long-time Mt. Healthy residents have fond memories of spending time at the lake in the warm weather or ice skating there in winter.

When the state was preparing to finish Cross-County (Ronald Reagan) Highway in the 1990s, part of the old brickyard property was set aside to make up a portion of the wetland park at the end of Forest Ave. The little nature preserve is a far cry from the bustling brick-making business, fishing lake, and tavern that once stood on the spot.

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Please join us

To become a member, please remit check or cash :

Mt. Healthy Historical Society

c/o Treasurer

1546 McMakin Avenue

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Or pay through our website (MtHealthyHistory.org)

Membership Form

Name: _____

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