

Gone but not forgotten



IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE
OF

Those who perished in the
Collinwood School Fire
of 1908

A precious one from us has gone.
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.
God in His wisdom has recalled,
The boon his love had given,
And though the body slumbers here,
The soul is safe in Heaven.

H. F. Wendell Company, Leipsic, Ohio

Mourning Card, 1902 – ca. 1920

Gilt printing on white card stock; 4 ¼ x 6 ½ inches

The mourning, or memorial, card reprinted on the cover was used by the funeral industry from 1902 to around 1920. Mourning cards became popular during the Victorian era and were often kept as reminders of lost friends or family members. Cards for children were typically printed on white cardboard, whereas cards for older people were printed on black cardboard. In reprinting this original card, the Library made no changes except for the wording in the center box, which typically would have contained the name of the deceased along with his or her birth and death dates.

Reproduced courtesy of the Museum of Funeral Customs, Springfield, Illinois,
www.funeralmuseum.org



The last lesson.

“The Last Lesson”

Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6 March 1908

In Loving Remembrance: The Collinwood School Fire of 1908

*An exhibit prepared by the
History & Geography Department, Cleveland Public Library*

The Collinwood School Fire remains the worst school building fire in U.S. history. This is perhaps due to the heightened consciousness regarding fire safety following the disaster, but more concretely to the stricter building codes, better construction materials and lifesaving devices which came into use after the fire. A century-old myth holds that the students at Collinwood died because they were trapped behind doors that opened inward. This was quickly proven to be false, but the myth gained traction and is repeated to this day. It was the narrowness of the exit stairs and inner vestibule doorway, combined with the panic of the children as they rushed to escape, that led to their entrapment.

The Collinwood fire had a unique impact on the nation because all but three of the 175 victims were children-- innocents who could not be protected by the adults responsible for their safety. Every parent of a school-age child felt the news personally.

From Frogsville to Collinwood

The creation of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway¹ in 1869 introduced roundhouses into the operation of railroads. These circular buildings were designed to service locomotives at intermediate points in the expanding national railroad network. Cleveland was selected as the site of the roundhouse for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad in 1874 due to its location halfway between Buffalo and Toledo. The specific site chosen was in a sparsely populated area known as Frogsville, which occupied the first large stretch of level land to the east of Cleveland which was uninterrupted by steep ravines.

¹In 1848, the Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad Company was chartered to build a railroad from Cleveland to the Pennsylvania state line along the shoreline of Lake Erie. The first engine made a complete trip from Cleveland to Erie in 1852. The Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula Railroad connected with the Buffalo and State Line Railway, at Erie, and with the Cleveland and Toledo Line to the west. In 1868 the three were consolidated under the name Lake Shore Railway Company. In 1869, the Lake Shore Railway merged with the Michigan Southern & Northern Indiana Railroad and the Buffalo & Erie Railroad to form the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway.

Collinsville Station was established in Frogsville in 1874. The railroad settlement was named for John Collins, the first engineer of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern. As railroad operations grew and Collinsville Station matured into a village, its name was changed to Collinwood. By 1899, Collinwood was of sufficient size to have its own school system, newspaper (*The Collinwood News*), amusement park (Euclid Beach Park), six churches and an array of businesses that provided for the daily needs of a growing village of 3,600 people.¹ To accommodate the growing population, a second elementary school, Lake View School,² was built in 1901 at Collamer Street (East 152nd Street) in North Collinwood, just south of Lake Shore Boulevard.

In 1902, when Collinwood was made the home terminal for the freight cars on the New York Central Railroad, the population increased again as a wave of immigrants and native-born citizens came to find work at the rail yards. The village's population had doubled in size by February 1906 when the citizens of Collinwood passed a bond issue to pay for the enlargement of Lake View School. Four rooms were added to the rear (west) side of the building in 1907. Even with the addition, the school was crowded and it was necessary to use the third floor auditorium to house the 44 children in the fifth grade. Lake View School housed between 340-365 children in nine rooms at the time of the fire. The composition of the school blurred economic and ethnic boundaries and included children born in other countries as well as the descendants of pioneer families of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

The Fire

Classes started at Lake View School at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 1908, which happened to be Ash Wednesday. The weather was bright and brisk; the high was 37 degrees, the low 32. Between 8:00 and 8:30 that morning three girls had been found playing hide and seek in the closet below the front stairs, though nothing unusual was noted by janitor Fritz Hirter when he shoed them out. Around 9:30 fifth grader Emma Neibert, who was in the basement to use the washroom, saw smoke and alerted Hirter who, according to his testimony at the Coroner's Inquest, immediately rang the gong in Ruby Irwin's first floor room three times and opened the doors at both exits.

¹U.S. Census: the population of Collinwood in 1900 was 3,639.

²Lake View School is spelled as three separate words in the handwritten Record of the 1908 Collinwood Board of Health.



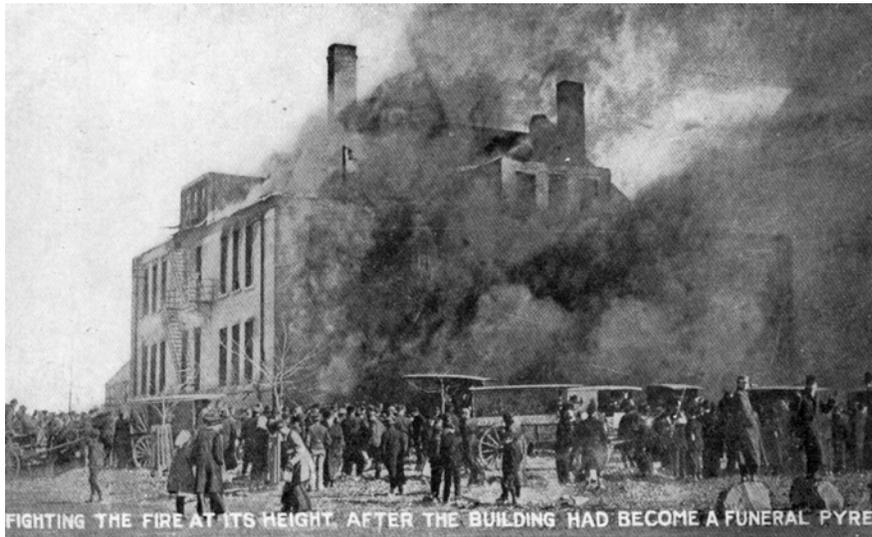
B&W Postcard, Private Collection

Lake View School, Collinwood, Ohio, ca. 1907 (East Façade)

Lake View School Room Assignments and Enrollment, 1908

Location	Teacher	Grade	Number of Pupils
<i>First Floor</i>			
NW	Grace Fiske	Second	44
SW	Pearl Lynn	First	33-40
NE	Ruby Irwin	First	38
SE	Ethel Rose	K	31-37
<i>Second Floor</i>			
NW	Katherine Gollmar	Fourth	44
SW	Katherine Weiler	Second	39
NE	Anna Moran	Sixth	41
SE	Lula Rowley	Third	35
<i>Third Floor</i>	Laura Bodey	Fifth	41-44

This table is based on the numbers found in various news accounts and in Marshall Everett's book *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster*. Accordingly, there were approximately 346 to 362 students enrolled in Lake View School at the time of the fire. The total number of children present in the building at the time of the fire would have been less as some students were out sick that day. The students who died ranged in age from six to fifteen years old.



FIGHTING THE FIRE AT ITS HEIGHT. AFTER THE BUILDING HAD BECOME A FUNERAL PYRE

B&W Postcard, Private Collection

The Fire at its Height (North and West Façades)



Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection, CPO5164

Fighting the Fire (East Façade)

A fire had started in the closet below the front stairs where lime (for whitewashing walls), wood and tools were stored. Lake View School had conducted regular fire drills since its opening in 1901 and had had at least one drill in the two-month period before the fire. Using the front and rear exits, the building could be safely evacuated in less than two minutes.

When the fire gong sounded on March 4th, the students immediately lined up and prepared to exit as they would during a fire drill. Teacher Ethel Rose was able to get nearly all of her class of kindergarteners out of the front door before it became blocked by smoke and fire. Laura Bodey, who taught forty-four fifth graders on the third floor, broke open a window that led to the exterior fire escape and guided nearly all of her students to safety below.

The Children are Trapped

When the front door became impassable, the students who were heading toward it then rushed to the rear stairs. It was in the narrow quarters of the rear stairway and vestibule that the older students rushing down from the second floor ran into the younger students who were rushing out from the first floor. The smaller students fell and were crushed as the mass of panicked older children pushed forward and then tried to climb over the bodies of their fallen schoolmates, leading to a tangled mass from which few could escape. At the Coroner's Inquest, fourth grade teacher Katherine Gollmar testified that the children were all trapped—their fate was sealed—within a span of two and a half minutes. Fellow teacher Ethel Rose placed the time at three minutes.

Fighting the Fire

Collinwood Fire Department's only team of horses was dragging a road scraper over a dirt road more than a mile away when the fire was discovered. The clock ticked as the 20 volunteer firemen raced from their day jobs to the Collinwood firehouse to hitch the fire equipment to the available horses. The equipment consisted of one gas-powered engine, one small ladder truck and one hose company. Contemporary accounts said that it took between ten and twenty minutes for the fire department to arrive on the scene. To make matters worse, water pressure was poor and the hoses leaked when the equipment was finally assembled.

Chief George A. Wallace of the Cleveland Fire Department received an urgent call for help and immediately ordered Engine Company 30 (East 105th and St. Clair) and a truck company, under the command of Battalion Chief Michael Fallon, to respond to the alarm. The first equipment to arrive from Cleveland included a 1904 American Steamer fire engine, an 1895 ladder truck and a hose cart. Firefighter John O'Brien, leaving from Fire Department Headquarters at West Fourth and St. Clair, raced to the scene in

a borrowed automobile with the Cleveland Fire Department's fire net, which was used to rescue people who jumped from the windows of burning buildings. As the net was too large to fit inside the car, O'Brien had to ride with it on the roof of the automobile, holding it down as the car sped down the rough roads on a trip that took just under 19 minutes. All of these efforts were futile. Within an hour, which is approximately when the reinforcement from the Cleveland Fire Department arrived, the floors of the building collapsed in a burst of flame.

A huge crowd gathered at the scene of the disaster as word of it spread throughout the city. The earliest people on the scene, those who lived closest to the school, were able to rescue several students, either by pulling them from the front of the pile of trapped students or catching students who were jumping from the windows and the fire escape. Women and men—mothers and fathers—worked equally in this effort, some having to be physically restrained from entering the burning building as the flames quickly crept forward.

The Aftermath

The fire was out by 1:30 p.m. and recovery of the bodies started almost immediately. By 4:00 p.m. 165 bodies had been brought to the temporary morgue that had been set up at the Lake Shore Railroad shops. All of the ambulances on the east side of Cleveland were put into service transporting the bodies first to the temporary morgue and then, after identification, to the homes of grieving parents.

At the temporary morgue men and women were brought in ten at a time. Identification was often made by a personal item or an article of clothing—a sweater, a fragment of cloth from a dress, a watch chain. Dale Clark was identified by a little pink-bordered handkerchief in which he had wrapped a new, bright green marble that morning.

The Cleveland Young Women's Christian Association sent 100 women volunteers to assist the bereaved in making funeral preparations. Nurses and doctors at the temporary morgue provided immediate medical attention to the parents overcome with grief and hysteria at the horrific scene inside the morgue. In the days following the disaster, teachers visited all of the homes in the neighborhood to provide sympathy to the grieving families.

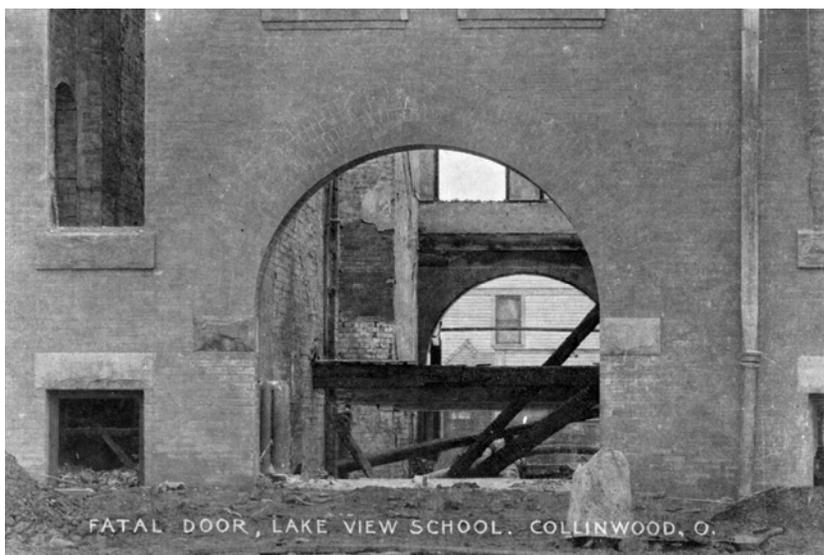
The Funerals

The procession of funerals began on Friday, March 6, and lasted for several days. Nineteen unidentified bodies were buried at Lake View Cemetery along with two teachers on Monday, March 9. Others were buried at other local cemeteries, such as Euclid Catholic Cemetery, or out of state.



Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection, CPO5166

After the Fire (North Façade)



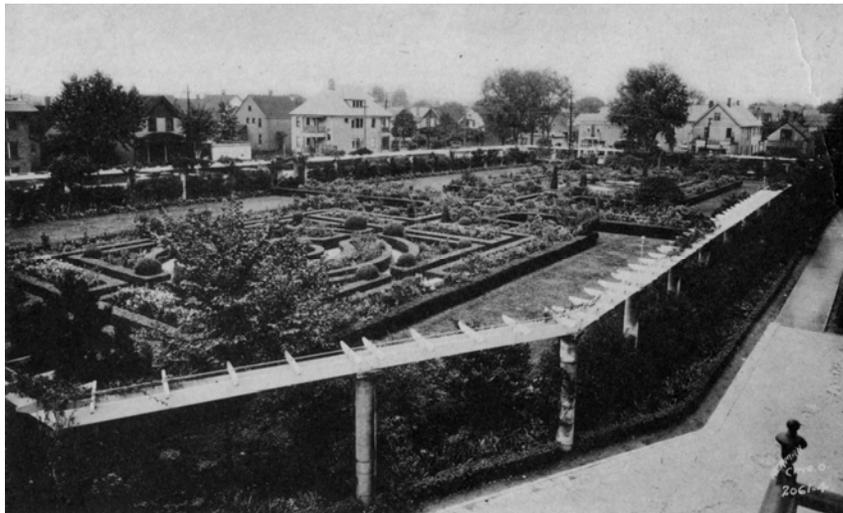
B&W Postcard, Private Collection

The rear door of the school, where most of the children were trapped (West Façade)



B&W Postcard, Private Collection

Burial of the 19 unidentified bodies at Lake View Cemetery, March 9, 1908



B&W Postcard, Private Collection

Memorial Garden, ca. 1920

A large United States flag hung above the entrance to St. Mary's Catholic Church (15519 Holmes Avenue) from which sixteen boys and girls were buried. Many of the people who lived in this parish were not yet naturalized citizens and those who had lost children thought that no one would help them. They were mistaken. The village of Collinwood paid for many of their children's burials, and the flag was hung to honor that gesture.

The Coroner's Inquest

There was an immediate public demand for an investigation into the cause of the disaster: people wanted to know who was to blame. As the coroner was the only public official with the authority to compel testimony, he undertook a rapid investigation with the Deputy State Fire Marshal, the Chief of the Cleveland Fire Department and members of the Collinwood School Board.

In 1968, *Cleveland Press* reporter Fred McGunagle interviewed then-Coroner Samuel R. Gerber about the fire. Dr. Gerber located the 1908 Coroner's Inquest in his files. The February 21, 1968, *Cleveland Press* article related that the fire was probably caused by an overheated steam pipe which was in direct contact with wooden joists under the front stairs. The report further concluded that as a result of "the failure of the children to complete their exit in good order and the faulty construction of the inner partition at the rear door, the children became jammed and congested on the rear steps and thus unable to escape from the building." Many of the children were crushed to death or died of suffocation.

The Coroner's investigation was completed and the building demolished within a short time of the disaster. The exact cause of the fire could not be determined with absolute certainty and will never be known. While a modern fire investigation may have resulted in a similar conclusion, it would be unimaginable today for an investigation of similar magnitude to be concluded so quickly.

The Fire's Legacy

The Collinwood School Fire was reported internationally. News articles appeared in towns and cities across the United States, prompting immediate school inspections. In the longer term, the fire resulted in stricter building codes and in the installation of safety devices, such as panic bars on doors, in public buildings throughout the country. The first model of a panic bar exit device -- the Von Duprin device-- was released in 1908 and sold by the Vonnegut Hardware Company of Indianapolis. (Vonnegut Hardware was founded in 1858 by Clemens Vonnegut, the great grandfather of author Kurt Vonnegut.) The Von Duprin device was named for the firms that worked together to develop it: Vonnegut, DuPont and Prinzler.

Memorial School

Parents of the deceased children made it clear that they did not want a new school built on the ground where their children had perished. A new school, named Memorial School, was built on the adjoining property in 1909-10 and enlarged in 1917. Designed by architect Frank Barnum, the building was as fireproof as construction would permit at that time. Each room had its own fire exit. The centerpiece of the school was its round auditorium, a serene space that no doubt was intended to help heal the lasting emotional impact of the tragedy. Old Memorial School was closed in late 1970s as part of the federal desegregation order. The building stood vacant until its landmark status was revoked in 2004 and it was demolished to make way for a new school. It is a fitting tribute to the neighborhood's enduring strength that a new Memorial School was built on the same property in 2005. The new school was designed by the architectural firm Moody Nolan, Inc.

The Memorial Garden

In time, the land on which Lake View School stood was purchased by the state and deeded to the School Board for a fitting memorial. After Collinwood was annexed to the city of Cleveland in 1910, planning for a memorial garden was put into the hands of Louise Klein Miller, Curator of School Gardens and Grounds, Cleveland Public Schools. The resulting botanical garden, built on the site of the old school at East 152nd Street and Lucknow Road, was 140 feet wide and 500 feet deep, 250 feet of which was enclosed by a colonnade of 62 artificial stone columns which supported a trellis for roses and flowering vines. The centerpiece was a 30' x 50' water garden composed of a lily pond with goldfish and a fountain that emitted a gentle spray. The lily pond marked the spot where the greatest fatalities had occurred. Construction of the garden began in 1916 and was finished around 1918. The gardens gradually fell into neglect during the latter half of the 20th century. In 1993-1994 the garden was redesigned by Behnke Associates. The new design featured a raised planting bed filled with ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials, and was built on the site of the old lily pond.

Memorial-Nottingham Library Branch

Cleveland Public Library's Memorial-Nottingham Branch, opened in 1994 at 17109 Lake Shore Boulevard, honors the heritage of the neighborhood by including both the name of the former library branch named in honor of the Collinwood School Fire and the name of the former village of Nottingham.

The List of Names

The list of fire victims on the following pages was compiled in January 2008 from two sources: the Collinwood School Fire memorial plaque at Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio, and Marshall Everett's 1908 book, *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster and How Such Horrors Can Be Prevented* (Cleveland: N.G. Hamilton Publishing Company, 1908). The purpose of this list is to present a full accounting of the names as they appear in these period sources so that they can be compared to other lists that exist or may be found in the future.

As the official investigations into the fire were completed, news accounts reported the final fatality count as 172 children and two teachers. This information was supplied by Frank Whitney, superintendent of the Collinwood Schools, based on a door-to-door canvass completed by the school system. A third adult, a neighborhood man who was seen helping children to escape the fire and whose body was at first identified as that of teacher Katherine Weiler, was later counted among the dead when he turned up missing in the days following the fire. The spelling of his name used here (John Krajnyak) was taken from articles that appeared in newspapers including *The Evening Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), March 7, 1908, and *The Oakland Tribune* (Oakland, California), March 8, 1908. (An engraved paving brick in the Memorial Garden (as of 2008) spells his name as John Kralzaz.)

In attempting to locate a complete list of the dead, it was discovered that neither the memorial plaque nor the "List of the Dead" on pages 263-268 of Everett's book contained a complete listing of the 172 children, two teachers and one neighborhood resident who perished in the fire. The memorial plaque contains 164 names. Everett's list contains 156 names, five of which, based on ages, addresses and spellings, appear to be duplicates within the same list. These are as follows: Florence Evald/Florence Enala, Lucy Fingleman/Lucy Zingleman, Mary Jupudiza/Mary Kapudjya, Mary Segal/Maria Segal and Ferdinand Scribirtzer/Ferdinand Leibinitzer.

Through indexing the names found in the text of Everett's book and then comparing these names to the "List of the Dead" and the memorial plaque, the final list was prepared. The names included in the final list were taken from the memorial plaque and Everett's book exactly as they were written, including what may be misspellings based on variations in the Americanization of foreign names. The resulting list is believed to be at least 95% accurate.



Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection

Herman N. Matzen (1861-1938)
Bronze Relief, Collinwood School Fire Memorial, Lake View Cemetery

KEY TO SYMBOLS USED IN THE LIST OF NAMES

Names in Plain Type = This exact name appears on the memorial plaque at Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio.

Names in Italics = This exact name appears within the text of Marshall Everett's *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster* (1908).

Superscript numbers ⁽¹²³⁾ are the page numbers in *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster* where this person's name appears.

§ = This exact name appears in the "List of the Dead," pages 263-268, in *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster*.

‡ = A photograph of this person appears on one of the photographic pages in *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster*.

¶ = This exact name appears on the memorial plaque at Lake View Cemetery but not in *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster*.

The One Hundred Seventy-Five Who Perished

*Sleep, sleep, happy one;
Thy night is just begun.
Sleep in peace; still angels keep
Holy watches o'er thy sleep.*

*Sleep, sleep; what quietness
After the world's noise is this!
Sleep on, where the hush and shade
Like a veil are round thee laid.*

--Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), *Sleep, Sleep Happy Child*

Teachers

Grace Fiske §‡^{65,155-156}
Katherine Weiler §‡^{65,155-156}

Neighborhood Resident

John Krajnyak

Students

Ila Adams (*Iba Adams*) §
Irene Apari ¶
Adelbert Baldwin (*Albert Baldwin*) §
Lauretta Baldwin §
Glenn Barber ‡¹⁷⁹
Clayton Bell §‡
George Bluhm §
Floy Bravo (*Flora Bravo*) §
Mary Burroughs (*Mary Burrows*) §
Amelia Burrow (*Armelia Burrows*) §
Erma Buschman (*Alma Buschman*) §‡
Rose Buschman §‡
Margaret Caravona (*Margaret Cervana*) §‡¹⁵²
Nellie Carlson §¹⁸⁵
George Centner ‡¹¹³
Lester Centner §‡
Dale Clark (*Dale Clarke*) §‡^{70,106}
Florence Clayton §¹⁰⁶
Mildred Cunningham §¹⁰⁶
Irene Davis §^{59,70,100,116}
Percy Day §‡
Meda Depner §
Arnold Depner §
Gretchen Dorn §‡^{76,180-181}
Mary Dresick (*Mary Dresick*) §¹⁰⁸

Matilda Dresick (*Matilda Drescick*) §¹⁰⁸
Catherine Duffy (*Katherine Duffy*) §
Albert Eichelberger §
Florence Ewald (*Florence Ewald, Florence Enala*) §
Emma Gerbic (*Emily Gerbic*) §‡
Alma Gilbert §¹⁹²
Katherine Glassmeier (*Catherine Glassmeir*) §
Tony Golop (*Tony Galop*) §
Ruth Gordon ‡^{151,182}
Albert Gould §‡^{107,117}
Raymond Gould §^{107,117}
Earla Grant ‡¹⁰¹
Mary Greshauge (*Mary Gresshaug*) §
Dorothy Hart §‡
Claude Harvey¹¹³
Edna Hebler (*Edna Heckler*) §¹⁵⁰
Helene Hefferle (*Lena Hofferle*) §
Emma Hennicke¹⁸⁶
Peter Hennicke (*Peter Henicke*) §¹⁸⁷
Allen Hinsdale ‡¹⁰¹
Helena Hirter §‡^{154,193-194}
Ida Hirter (*Eda Hirter*) §‡^{151,154,193-194}
Walter Hirter §‡^{151,154,193-194}
Wilfred Hook (*Wilford Hook*) §^{106,158}
Esther Hummel §
Herbert Hunter §‡
Francis Intihar (*Francis Intchar*) §
Emma Janke §
Edward Kanowski (*William Konowski*) §‡¹⁰⁶
Fannie Kapudjija (*Fannie Kapudjya*) §
Mary Kapudjija (*Mary Kapudjya, Mary Jupudiza*) §
Edward Kehl §
Richard Kelly §^{64,188}
Walter Kelly §^{64,188}
Annie Kern (*Anna Kern*) §‡^{106,199,201}
Karoline Kern (*Caroline Kern*) §‡¹⁰⁶
Rudolph Kern, Jr. (*Rudolph Kern*) §‡^{106,199}
John Klisuric (*John Klishwish*) §‡

Henry Kujat §¹⁹³
Rosie Lamson §
Lizzie Lange (*Lizzie Langes*) §¹⁸⁷
Ferdinand Leibnitzer (*Ferdinand Leibintzer, Ferdinand Scibiritzer*) §
Arline Leonard (*Arthur Leonard*) §
Herbert Leonard §
Louise Leonard §⁶⁵
Harry Lodge §¹¹⁶
Clara Lowery (*Clara Lowry*) §^{‡101,199}
Florence Lowery ‡^{101,199}
Hugh McIlrath §^{70,75-76}
Josephine Mahlic ¶
Mary Marea §
Catherine Marinshek (*Katherine Marinski*) §
Edwin Markushat (*Edward Markosbot*) §[‡]
Elsie Markushat (*Elsie Markosbot*) §^{‡201}
Edward Miert (*Eddie Myert*) §[‡]
Tracy Miller (*Tracey Miller*) §
Gladys Mills §
Jerca Morela (*Maria Morrelle?*)¹¹⁵
Leda Murphy (*Lydia Murphy*) §[‡]
Rosa Nagel ¶
Paul Neibecker (*Paul Neubaker*) §
John Neubert §¹¹¹
Olga Neubert §¹¹¹
Russell Newsbery (*Russell Newsberry*) §^{‡70}
John Oblak §^{103-104,114,178}
Joe Opalek (*Joe Opeleck*) §
Josephine Opalek (*Josephine Opeleck*) §
Edna Pahner §[‡]
John Papricky ¶
Harry Parr §¹¹⁴
Frederick Paul (*Fred W. Paul*) §[‡]
Ruth Paul §[‡]
Frank Perat (*Frank Paral*) §
Mary Perat (*Mary Parrit*) §
Jennie Phillis §^{‡31,70}
Victor Polomsky (*Victor Polonski*) §¹¹³

John Popovic (*John Popovoci*) §¹⁰³
Gretchen Puppel (*Gretchen Poppel*) §‡
Louis Quirk §
Harvey Reeves §
Adam Rehan §
Mary Ridgeway^{61,89}
Clara Ritzi^{106,115}
Helen Ritzi^{106,115}
Fern Robinson §^{94,178}
Wanita Robinson (*Waneta Robinson*) §^{94,178}
Lily Rommelfanger (*Lillie Rommelfanger*) §¹⁹⁹
Emil Rostock¹⁰⁸
Lillian Rostock §^{108,193}
John Roschinsky §
Ann Roth^{61,89}
Don Rush §^{94,106}
Mary Samsa (*Mary Samson*) §
Rose Samsa ¶
Tony Samsa (*Tony Samson*) §
Glenn Sanderson (*Glen Sanderson*) §^{71,116}
Harold Sanderson §¹¹⁶
George Schaefer (*George Schaffer*) §¹⁸²⁻¹⁸⁵
Mildred Schmitt §^{71,186}
Edward Scholl §‡
Verna Schubert §¹⁵²⁻¹⁵³
Henry Schultz §‡^{58,69,116}
Mary Sega (*Maria Segal, Mary Sager*) §
Norman Shepherd (*Norman Shepard*) §‡
Morris Sheppard (*Morris Shepard*) §‡¹⁹³
Norris Sherman §‡
Mabel Sigler §^{106,189}
Gilbert Skelley (*Bert Skelley*) §
Madge Skelley (*Madge Skelley*) §
Pauline Skerl (*Pauline Skiel*) §
Willie Smith §‡¹⁰⁶
Elizabeth Sodoma (*Elizabeth Sodma*)^{113,129,143}
Erma Sodoma (*Erma Sodma*)^{113,114}
Julius Sodoma (*Julius Sodona*) §

Eugene Southwell §
 Alvin Sprung (*Elvin Sprung*) §^{54,149}
 Rosella Stewart (*Ella Stewart*) §
 Edwin Swanson (*Edward Swanson*) §‡^{107,114}
 Fred Swanson §‡^{107,114}
 Hulda Swanson §‡^{107,114}
 Nils Thompson §‡^{58,69,115}
 Thomas Thompson (*Tommy Thompson*) §‡¹¹⁵
 James Turner §‡^{150,157,194-195}
 Maxwell Turner (*Max Turner*) §‡^{150,157,194-195}
 Norman Turner §‡^{150,157,194-195}
 Josephine Urbancic (*Josephine Urbancie*) §
 Anna Vidmar (*Anna Widmar*) §^{143,152}
 Sophia Vidmar (*S. Widmar*) §¹⁵²
 Eva Wackhaus (*Eva Wachhaus*) §
 Ida Wackhaus (*Ida Wachhaus*) §
 Mary Wackhaus §
 Lula Walden (*Luella Waldon*) §‡
 Willie Weisberg ‡
 Worthington Wells §‡
 Clara Wendorff (*Clara Wendorf*) §
 Henry Wickert (*Henry Weichert*) §
 Robbie Wickert (*Robert Wicker*) §¹⁹³
 Annie Willick (*Anna Wellick*) §‡
 Edgar Woodhouse (*Annie Woodhouse*) §‡²⁰¹
 Arnold Woodrich (*Arnold Woodrick*) §
 Meta Woodrich (*Meta Woodrick*) §
 John Zimmerman §
 Louise Zimmerman §²⁰⁰
 Harry Zingelman (*Henry Zingleman*) §¹⁹⁵
 Lucy Zingelman (*Lucy Zingleman, Lucy Fingleman*) §¹⁹⁵
 Mary Zitnik ¶
 Angela Zupan (*Marguerite Zupan*) §

Resources Used in this Exhibit

All of the resources listed here are available at the Main Library of the Cleveland Public Library unless otherwise noted.

Books & Records

*Cleveland, Ohio, Department of Fire. *Cleveland Fire Department, 1863-1993*. Cleveland: The Department, 1995.

Collinwood (Cleveland, Ohio). Board of Health. *Record*. Collinwood: 1885-1909. *Handwritten records of the Collinwood Health Department*.

**Echoes of Jubilee: Ursuline Academy, Villa Angela*. Nottingham, Ohio: The Academy, 1903.

*Everett, Marshall. *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster and How Such Horrors Can Be Prevented*. Cleveland: N.G. Hamilton, 1908. (Also available electronically through www.cpl.org. Click on "Do Research" and then on "CPL Image Collections.")

In Memoriam: Katherine C. Weiler. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Printing Co., 1908.**

*Kern, Edward. *The Collinwood School Fire of 1908*. Cleveland: E. Kern, 1993.

The Official Directory of Collinwood. Collinwood, Ohio: C.W. Sheppard, 1899.

*Olson, Lois. "A study of the Collinwood locality as a geographic unit." MS Thesis, University of Chicago, 1927.

*Tittle, Diana. *A Place Apart : the History of Bratenahl, Ohio*. Cleveland, Ohio: Bratenahl Historical Society, 2007.

**Copies available for check-out*

***Available at Bowling Green State University Library*

Photographs & Postcards

Photographs of the disaster can be found in Marshall Everett's *Complete Story of the Collinwood School Disaster and How Such Horrors Can Be Prevented*. Cleveland Public Library's Photograph Collection has a small group of additional photographs of the disaster, as well as photographs of the Collinwood area, its industries and well-known spots. The Photograph Collection's postcard collection features hundreds of views of Cleveland subjects, including many views of Euclid Beach Park.

A selection of Cleveland photographs, including images of the Cleveland Fire Department, are available on the Library's Web site. To locate these images, go to www.cpl.org. Click on "Do Research" and then on "CPL Image Collections." Next, click on "Advanced Search" and enter the words "Cleveland Fire Department" (without the quotation marks) into the search box labeled "All of the Words." (See also: Web Sites)

Maps

- Maps of Cuyaboga County Outside of Cleveland.* Cleveland: H.B. Stranahan & Company, 1903.
- Flynn, Thomas. *Atlas of the Suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio: Embracing Glenville, Collinwood, East Cleveland, and South Brooklyn Villages; Newburgh, etc.* Philadelphia: A.H. Mueller & Co., 1898.
- Lake, D.J. *Atlas of Cuyaboga County, Ohio, From Actual Surveys By and Under the Directions of D. J. Lake. Assisted by B. N. Griffing.* Philadelphia: Titus, Simmons & Titus, 1874.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Ohio* (Microfilm). 1903 & 1913.

Magazine Articles

- Miller, Louise Klein. "The Collinwood Memorial Garden."
Cleveland Women 1, no. 4 (28 July 1917): 1.
- Prinzler, Carl. "Where did it all begin? (The Perfect Exit Device)."
Doors and Hardware 58, no.1 (January 1994): 12-13.
- "School Fires." *Quarterly of the National Fire Protection Association* 21, no.2 (October 1927): 144-192. *Histories of school fires to 1927.*
- "The Collinwood Disaster." *Outlook* 88 (3 March 1908): 579-580.

Newspapers

Cleveland

Cleveland Public Library's Microform Center offers a comprehensive collection of Cleveland newspapers, as well as a selection of international newspapers such as *The Times* (London). All of the Cleveland newspapers featured extensive coverage of the fire from March 4 to March 11, 1908. Front pages, articles, photographs and drawings from the following newspapers are featured in this exhibit: *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *The Cleveland Press*, *The Cleveland Leader* and *The Cleveland News*.

The Collinwood Citizen (early issues are titled *The Citizen*), a newspaper published in Collinwood, is available on microfilm for the period covering 1903 to 1918. Although the issues for March 1908 are missing, several articles in April 1908 and later report on topics relating to the fire.

Outside of Cleveland

All of the newspaper articles featured in this exhibit from outside of Cleveland were found either in the "ACCESS Newspaper Archive" or "New York Times Historical (1851-2003)" online databases, both of which are available at all Cleveland Public Library locations and remotely to Cleveland Public Library cardholders who reside within the city of Cleveland (due to licensing restrictions).

Newspapers

Outside of Cleveland, continued

A selection of newspaper articles:

- “Collinwood School Fire: 1000 Feet Motion Pictures, Alvin Theatre, Friday and Saturday Sept. 4 and 5.” *Mansfield News*, 4 September 1908, p. 10. *Advertisement for the 1908 film of the fire.*
- “Hero of School Fire Dies. W. W. Upton Rescued 18 in Blaze That Cost 175 Lives in 1908.” *New York Times*, 12 January 1932, p. 23.
- “In Frenzied Rush From Flames Against Doors Opening Inward Children Go To Terrible Death. Nearly Two Hundred Perish in Schoolhouse at North Collinwood, Suburb of Cleveland.” *The Anaconda Standard (Anaconda, Montana)*, 5 March 1908, p. 1. *Article and accompanying editorial cartoon illustrate how the myth that the doors of the school opened inward began.*
- Patterson, Clifford. “Venango County Resident Recalls His Rescue Work at Collinwood Disaster.” *The Titusville (Pa.) Herald*, 22 March 1937, p. 2. *This article features an interview with one of the firefighters who responded to the fire from Cleveland Fire Department’s Engine House 30 at East 105th and St. Clair.*
- “Rescuer Loses Life in Fire: Think Victim in Cleveland School Holocaust to be John Krajnyak.” *Oakland Tribune*, 8 March 1908, p. 24. *Identifies the neighborhood rescuer who died in the fire.*

Newspaper Clipping Files & Local History Index

Available in the History & Geography Department:

- Fire at Lakeview School, Collinwood, Ohio, March 4, 1908. Portfolio of News Clippings, 1933-1998.*
- Newspaper Clipping Files: Cleveland and Ohio* (Microfiche Cards)
- Index to Cleveland and Ohio Regional History* (Microfiche Cards)

Video Recordings

- The Collinwood School Tragedy: March 4, 1908.* Cleveland, Ohio: 1992.
Produced and directed by Saul S. Friedman, Youngstown State University.
- Bullock, William. *The Collinwood School Fire and Funeral Motion Picture Footage* (Cleveland, Ohio: William Bullock, 1908)
CPL’s copy of this motion picture was made from a 16mm negative from the collection of the Library of Congress’s Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, 2008.

Web Sites

www.cpl.org (*Cleveland Public Library*)

CPL's collection of digitized material features photographs, maps and documents on a wide variety of subjects. To access the collection once you are at the Library's Web site, click on "Do Research" and then on "CPL Image Collections."

www.clevelandmemory.org (*Cleveland Memory Project*)

Photographs and postcards of the Collinwood School Fire, as well as images and e-books covering the gamut of Cleveland history.

www.ohiosheritageneast.org (*Ohio's Heritage Northeast*)

Digital collections from universities, colleges and public libraries in northeast Ohio combined into one searchable database.

www.ohiomemory.org (*Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook*)

www.ohiohistorycentral.org (*Ohio History Central*)

Online encyclopedia that includes information about Ohio's natural history, prehistory and history.

memory.loc.gov (*Library of Congress, American Memory*)

A vast array of collections documenting American history. Enter the search term "Collinwood" to view images relating to the history of Collinwood. Enter "Cleveland Fire Department" to locate and view a motion picture of the Cleveland Fire Department in action in the year 1900.

Other Institutions

Martin Hauserman, Chief City Archivist, and Judith G. Cetina, Ph.D., Director, Cuyahoga County Archives, graciously provided the following materials for this exhibit:

Cleveland City Council Archives

Records of the Village of Collinwood before it was annexed to Cleveland, including council proceedings, ordinances, etc.

Cuyahoga County Archives

City of Cleveland, Records of Death (March 1908)

The following organizations and agencies were also consulted: Cleveland Landmarks Commission; Behnke Associates, Landscape Architects; Ohio Historical Society; Western Reserve Historical Society; State Fire Marshal's Office (Ohio). The Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office and the Fire Prevention Bureau of the City of Cleveland's Department of Public Safety were contacted in an effort to locate the 1908 Coroner's Inquest and related Cleveland Fire Department records, but these records could not be found.

***In Loving Remembrance:
The Collinwood School Fire of 1908***

**Exhibit Locations & Schedule
February-November 2008**

February 25-March

Memorial-Nottingham Branch Library
17109 Lake Shore Boulevard (216-623-7039)
Mon, Tues, Thurs (9:30-8:00) • Wed, Fri, Sat (9:30-6:00)

April-May

Collinwood Branch Library
856 East 152nd Street (216-623-6934)
Mon, Tues, Thurs (9:30-8:00) • Wed, Fri, Sat (9:30-6:00)

June-September

Main Library
325 Superior Avenue (216-623-2864)
(Two Blocks East of Public Square)
Mon-Sat, 9:00-6:00

October

West Park Branch Library
3805 West 157th Street (623-7102)
Mon, Tues, Thurs (9:30-8:00) • Wed, Fri, Sat (9:30-6:00)

November

South Brooklyn Branch Library
4303 Pearl Road (623-7067)
Mon, Tues, Thurs (9:30-8:00) • Wed, Fri, Sat (9:30-6:00)

**Cleveland Public Library
History & Geography Department
325 Superior Avenue, N.E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216-623-2864
www.cpl.org**