

Suggested Marker Text

Side 1

Title: Garrett Morgan's Wakeman Country Club (1924-1940's)

In 1923, Cleveland inventor and entrepreneur Garrett Morgan sold his patent for the Traffic Signal for \$40,000.¹ This was instrumental in Morgan establishing the Wakeman Country Club, one of the earliest African-American recreation clubs in Ohio.^{2 3} Advertised as "a village of our own," the club offered African Americans the freedom to enjoy safe outdoor recreation.⁴ Located 1 mile south of Wakeman near the intersection of State Route 60 and Chenango Road, the country club consisted of 121 acres on the Vermilion River.^{5 6 7} Club membership was obtained by purchasing one of the 247 lots.^{8 9} Activities included hunting, fishing, swimming and horseback riding.¹⁰ A restaurant, dance hall and amphitheater provided space for cultural activities and boxing events.^{11 12 13} Activities waned during WWII and there are no remaining buildings from the country club era.¹⁴

Side 1- 130 words

¹ Case Western Reserve University. "Garrett A. Morgan." *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Accessed April 1, 2022. <https://case.edu/ech/articles/m/morgan-garrett>

² Smith, Jessie Carney. "Garrett A. Morgan." In *Notable Black American Men*. Edited by Jessie Carney Smith, 830. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Research Inc, 1999.

³ Statement with list of early African-American recreation clubs in Ohio and USA.

⁴ Promotional Material, Box 1, Folder 6, MS 3534 Garrett A. Morgan Papers, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

⁵ Huron County, Ohio, Deed Book 106:54-55.

⁶ Huron County, Ohio, Deed Book 107:11-12.

⁷ Huron County Map Department. [Map Showing Wakeman Community Park and Wakeman Country Club], 2022, Norwalk, Ohio, <https://huronoh-auditor-classic.ddti.net/Map.aspx>

⁸ Promotional Material, Box 1, Folder 6, MS 3534 Garrett A. Morgan Papers, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

⁹ Huron County, Ohio, Deed Book 117:103-104.

¹⁰ "Society." *Pittsburgh Courier*, September 27, 1924, page 14.

¹¹ Morgan, Garrett, III. Interviewed by Marilyn Wainio. Personal Interview. Wakeman, Ohio, July 9, 2019.

¹² "Society." *Pittsburgh Courier*, September 27, 1924, page 14.

¹³ "Boxing." *Baltimore Afro American*, July 9, 1927, page 14.

¹⁴ Morgan, Garrett, III. Interviewed by Marilyn Wainio. Personal Interview. Wakeman, Ohio, July 9, 2019.

Suggested Marker Text

Side 2

Title: Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877 – 1963)

Born in Kentucky, Morgan moved to Cleveland in 1895 where he blazed a trail for African Americans with his inventions and social activism.¹⁵ Frustrated by the local race climate, Morgan joined other Black businessmen in 1908 to form the Cleveland Association of Colored Men which merged with the NAACP.¹⁶ In 1920, Morgan founded the African-American newspaper, the *Call*.¹⁷ Morgan used his patented Breathing Device to save lives in the 1916 Cleveland Waterworks Tunnel Disaster.¹⁸ The US Military and fire departments purchased version of this invention which later became the modern gas mask.¹⁹ ²⁰ General Electric bought Morgan's traffic signal patent in 1923.²¹ After establishing the Wakeman Country Club in 1924, Garrett and his wife Mary Hasek Morgan spent the remainder of their lives enjoying weekends and vacations in Wakeman.²²

Side 2 – 128 words

¹⁵Ohio History Connection. "Garrett A. Morgan." *Ohio History Central*. Accessed March 31, 2022. https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Garrett_A._Morgan

¹⁶Case Western Reserve University. "Cleveland Association of Colored Men." *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Accessed March 31, 2022. <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-association-colored-men>

¹⁷Case Western Reserve University. "Cleveland Call & Post." *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Accessed March 31, 2022. <https://case.edu/ech/articles/c/cleveland-call-post>

¹⁸Case Western Reserve University. "Garrett A. Morgan." *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Accessed April 1, 2022. <https://case.edu/ech/articles/m/morgan-garrett>

¹⁹"Interesting News Concerning the Race. Cleveland, OH," *Denver Star*, March 9, 1918.

²⁰"Colored Inventor Instructs N.Y. Firemen," *Topeka Plaindealer*, December 26, 1913.

²¹Smith, Jessie Carney. "Garrett A. Morgan." In *Notable Black American Men*. Edited by Jessie Carney Smith, 830. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Research Inc, 1999.

²²Morgan, Garrett, III. Interviewed by Marilyn Wainio. Personal Interview. Wakeman, Ohio, July 9, 2019.