

Around the Reserve

William Jenkins

Youngstown, Ohio, grew rapidly in the late nineteenth century from a sleepy village to one of the fifty largest American cities. The industry on which that growth depended, the iron and steel, produced a social and economic elite remarkable uniform in ethnic background, level of education, area of residence, membership in social clubs, religion and rate of intermarriage. The wealth of the Wicks, the Tods, the Butlers, the Stambaughs and the Campbells enabled these leading citizens to assist the city of Youngstown in building its cultural and educational facilities, but not nearly as much as the Cleveland elite. Some of the prime monuments in the area included Wick Park, the Butler Museum of American Art, Stambaugh Auditorium, Mill Creek Park and the YMCA/Youngstown State University. Although these families usually lived in close proximity on the north side of Youngstown, there were never planned developments, such as occurred in Shaker Heights.