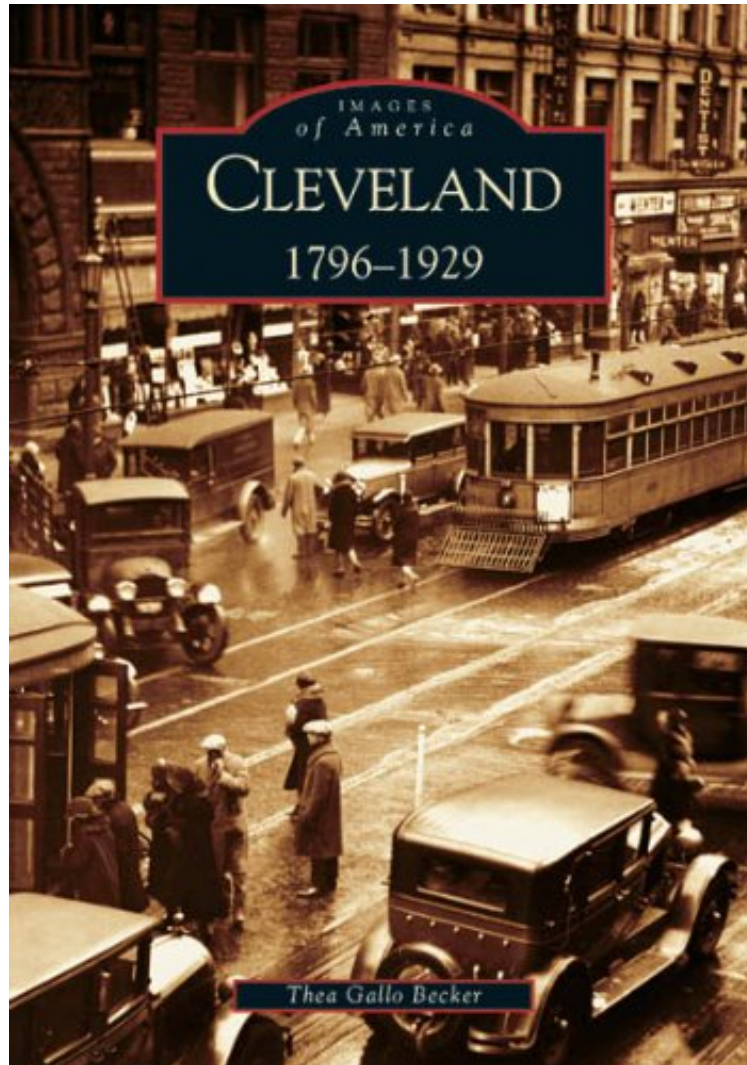


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Thea Gallo Becker

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context.

Located on the southern shores of Lake Erie, Cleveland was founded in 1796 by General Moses Cleaveland, an agent of the Connecticut Land Company surveying the Western Reserve. The modest frontier settlement became a village in 1815 and an incorporated city in 1836. By 1896, Cleveland boasted the Cuyahoga Building, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Arcade, and the stately mansions of Euclid Avenue. Also known as "Millionaire's Row," it was home to Cleveland's industrial, commercial, cultural, and political elite, including Tom L. Johnson, a streetcar magnate and arguably Cleveland's finest mayor, and John D. Rockefeller, the founder of the Standard Oil Company and the nation's first billionaire. In the history of Ohio, no city has been more populous, prosperous, and influential. Cleveland can credit its growth and strength as a city to its wealth of diversity.

About the Author
Thea Gallo Becker is a native Clevelander, local historian, and author of *Images of America: Lakewood*. The vintage photographs presented here come from Cleveland State University Library's Special Collections.