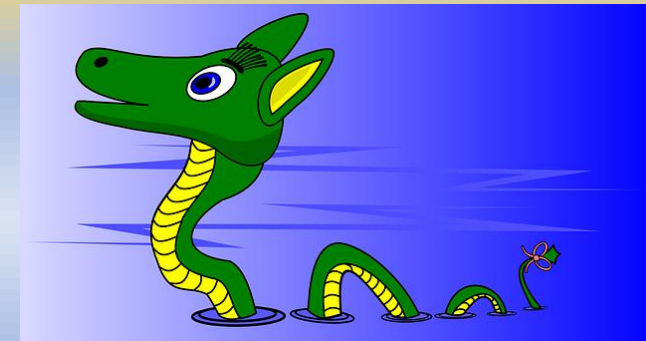




# Captain Quiggley's Quest and Conneaut Sea Serpent Squiggly Wiggly



Tiny Tales from the Conneaut Area Historical  
Society





Captain Quentin Quiggley dropped anchor  
splashing

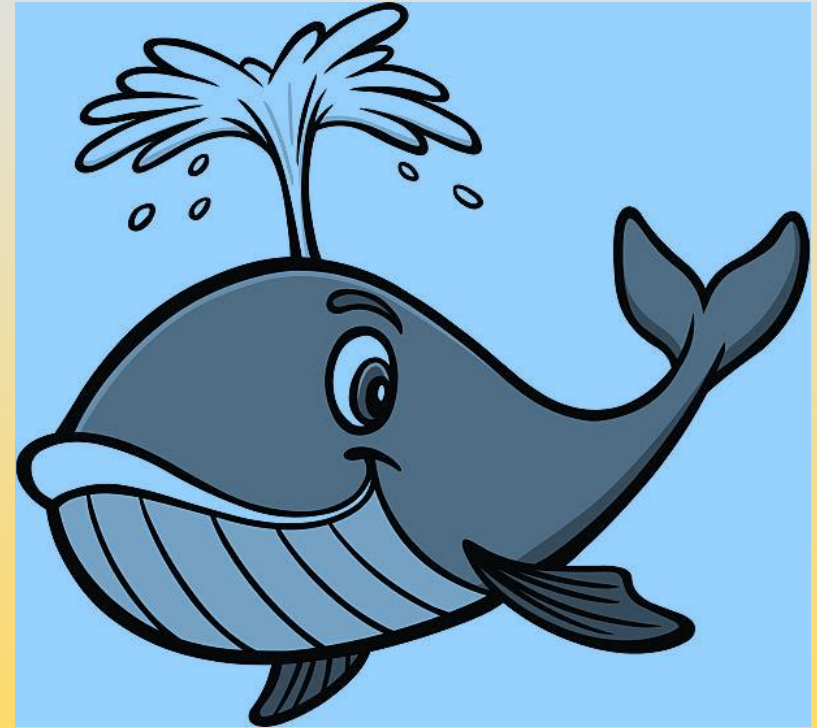
With Lake Erie waves jumping and dashing,  
He guided his sailing ship Nevermore,  
To Conneaut harbor on Lake Erie shore.





The sun glared hot, and the Captain sighed,  
“Oh me,  
I must find my snack of popcorn and iced tea.”  
When the anchor rested shaking in the sand,  
Captain Quentin Quiggley prepared to land.

He ran down the gangplank hoppity hop,  
And he fell into Lake Erie kerplop!  
Up he arose spluttering and shouting,  
Gushing water like a whale spouting,



Peering through the foamy lake wave tops,  
Peering through the water curtain drops,  
No whale! The captain spotted HIM,  
A sea serpent green with yellow trim!



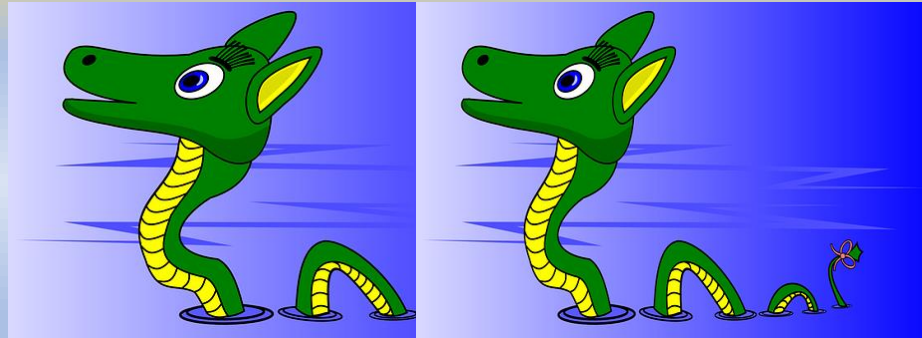


“I see a sea serpent!” the Captain cried,  
“I’ll find me a safe place where I can hide!”  
Three seagulls screeched and flew around in  
rings,  
“Captain Quiggley” you are seeing things!





The captain buttoned the buttons on his vest,  
He folded his pea coat over his chest,  
He peered through his glasses over his nose,  
The sea serpent had two heads and ten toes,  
Brave Captain Quiggley buried his head in the  
sand,  
“I can’t see you, catch me if you can!”



From his seat on the sandy Conneaut beach,  
Captain Quiggley sat just out of reach  
From the launching party on the steamer  
Lafayette,  
“I won’t look, I’ll make you go away yet!”





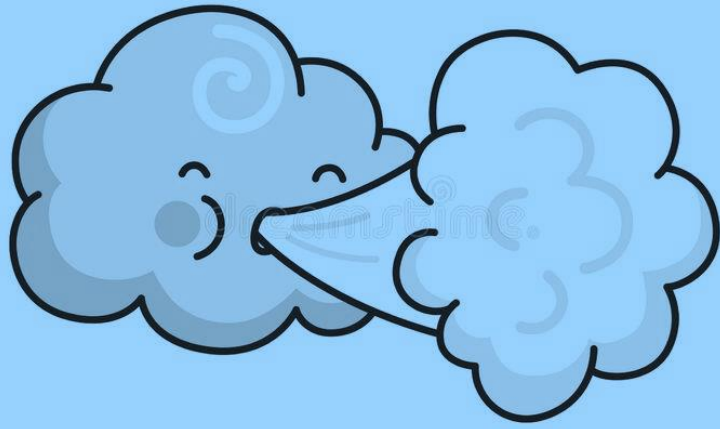
He watched the launching of the steamer,  
He listened to the plans of steel dreamers,  
To build a fleet to carry iron ore  
Shipping thousands of tons or even more.



*Photo Credit: BGSU - greatlakes.bgsu.edu*

From the iron mines of Lake Superior  
To the Pittsburgh steel mills interiors.  
The captain decided to haul some ore,  
Back and forth on his sailing ship Nevermore,





Squiggly Wiggly could act like a tug,  
When the wind was just calm enough to hug  
Captain Quiggley felt giggly and giddy  
“I’ll name my sea serpent Squiggly Wiggly!”



He will be mascot on my sailing ship,  
He will sail with me on every trip,  
Squiggly Wiggly can swim alongside and fill in,  
When Nevermore sails can't find any wind!"





Squiggly Wiggly had a mind of his own,

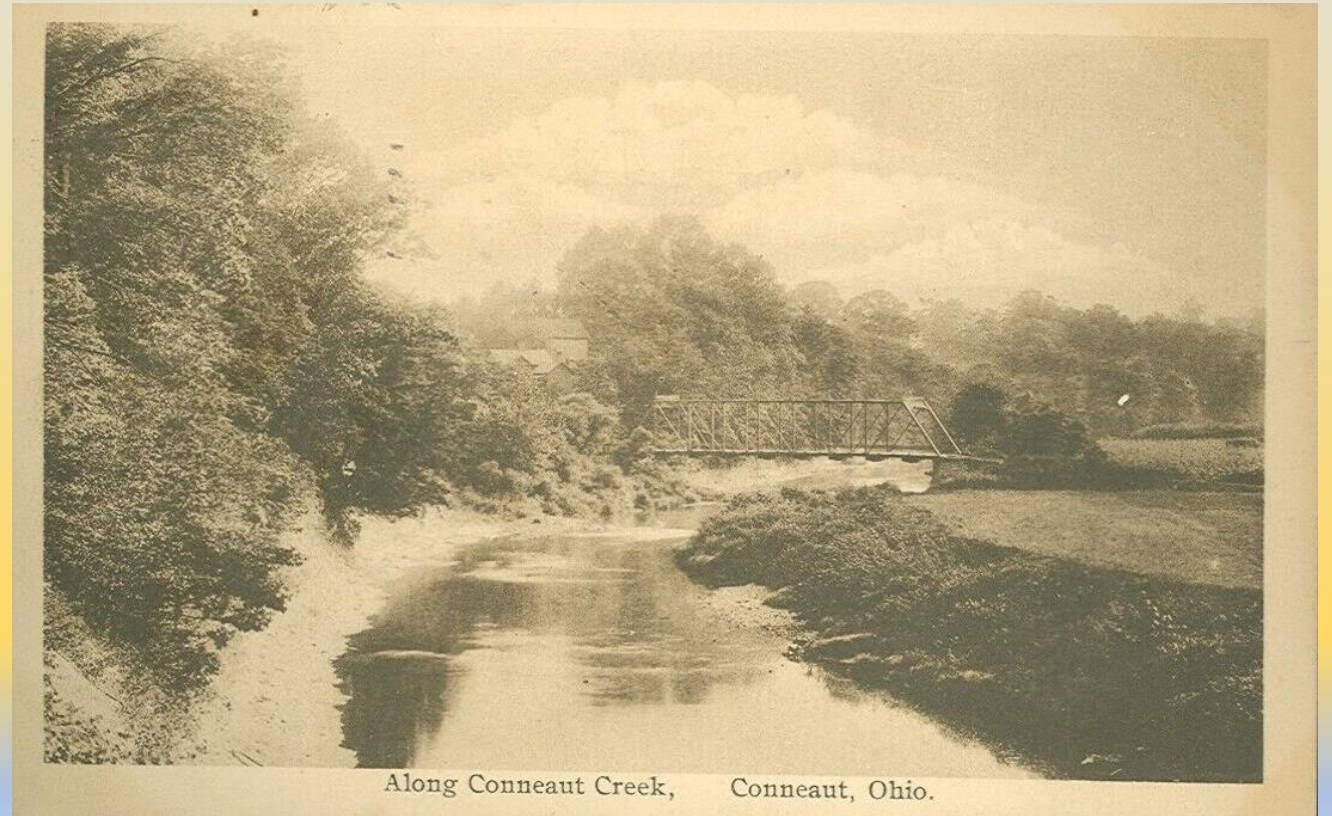
He wanted to choose the place he called home.

Twitching his two tails and four cheeks,

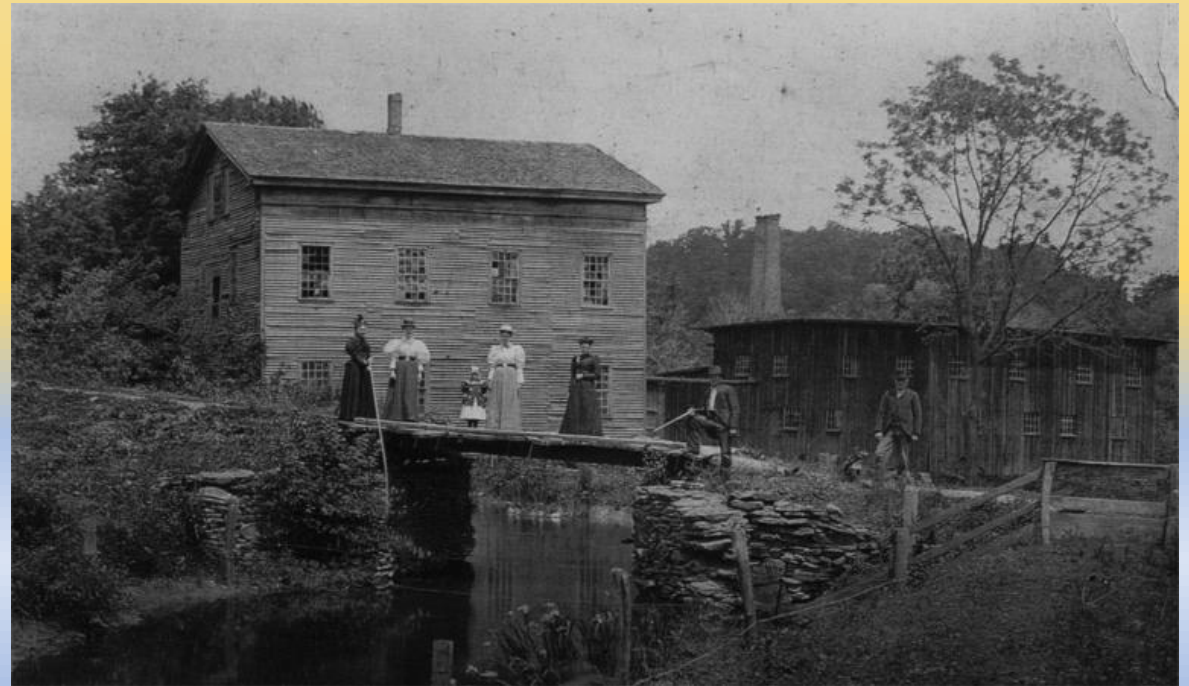
Squiggly Wiggly swam clear up Conneaut Creek.

“Come back here Squiggly,” the captain cried,

“I’ll find you, you have no place to hide!”



Squiggly Wiggly flipped his fourteen fins,  
The captain grabbed a life ring and swam after  
him,  
Squiggly swam so fast though the captain tried  
to follow,  
He didn't catch up until Tinker's Hollow.





Silas Tinker waved as they swam by on the  
double,

Squiggly Wiggly blew him Creek water  
bubbles,

Then Squiggly turned into a bend in the Creek,  
And he and the captain played hide and seek,





They ducked under the bridge on Creek Road,  
Upsetting a farmer and his wagon load,  
Of corn to grind at the mill and the dam,  
Near the double bridges at Farnham.



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The farmer stood up shouting in dismay,  
Watching the creek carry his corn away,  
“Dang it! Now look what you’ve done!”  
he cried,  
“It’s so hot my floating corn will be  
fried!”







The farmer grabbed the floating sack,  
The captain and serpent swam on their backs  
Swimming short strokes and swimming laps long  
Following the corn as it floated along,

Then they stopped in mid swimming stroke in  
shock,

The kernels of corn had begun to pop!

Squiggly open his two mouths car ferry wide,

Shoveling steaming popcorn inside,

He gobbled popcorn from Broad to Mill Street,

Following popcorn waves on Conneaut Creek!





They followed Conneaut Creek popcorn to the lake,

Then Captain Quiggley made a big mistake,  
He swallowed the very last piece of popcorn,  
Squiggly's front head drooped and his face  
sagged forlorn,

“I have to find popcorn! I eat it by the ton!”  
Each of his eyes searched the harbor horizon.



Squiggly quickly swam into Lake Erie,  
Seeking popcorn until all his eyes grew bleary,  
The captain swam after him huffing and  
hollering,  
“No matter where you swim, I will be  
following,”



“You ate the last popcorn. You’ve had your day.”

Then Squiggly turned his back and swam away.

The captain searched weeks in Port Conneaut,

Some sailors helped him, and some did not,

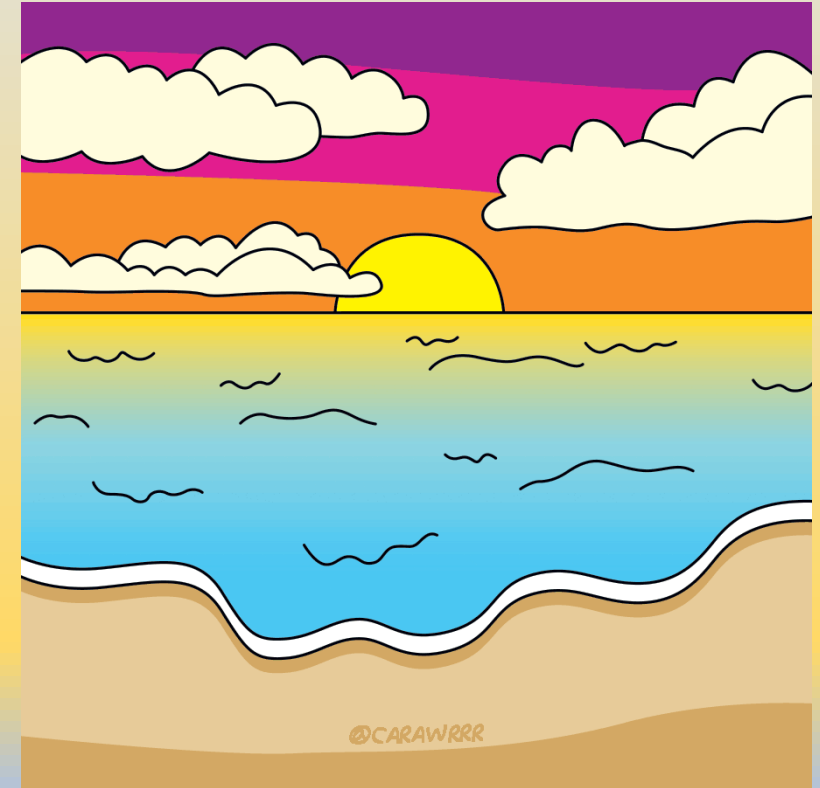






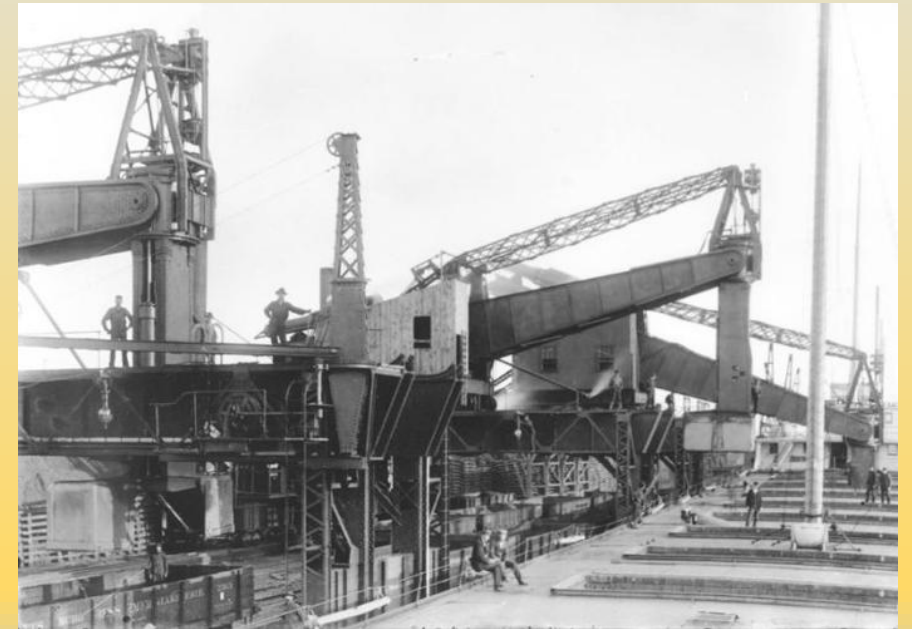
He searched by Creek Road Bridge and Harbor Street  
He found walleye and muskie in Conneaut Creek,  
He searched every Hulett one by one,  
Even as they loaded ore by the ton.

“By George, he could hide in Huletts the  
captain swore,  
Huletts could unload popcorn instead of iron  
ore,  
By George,” the Captain finally groaned,  
“I’ll tow you Nevermore so we can go home.”





Lake Erie legend still surrounds Sea Serpent  
Squiggly,  
He still swims and hides from Captain Quiggley  
On Conneaut Harbor nights when the wild gulls  
cry,  
When Hulett's cast skeleton shadows on the sky,



Squiggy's endless search broadcasts his quest,  
He wants history for the Hulets at its best,  
In Conneaut Harbor Squiggly swims forlorn,  
Searching for Hulett rescue and his lost  
popcorn!

