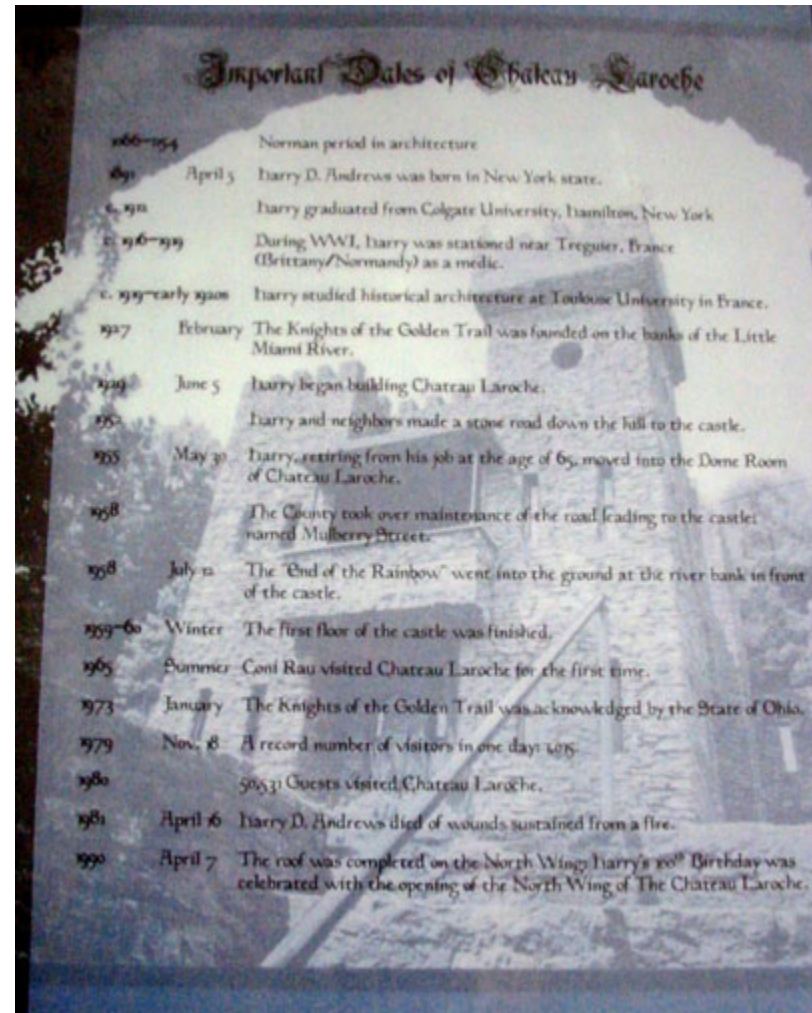


Multigenre Report Writing:
The Loveland Castle
Shauna Rau



Harry Andrews who spent many years of his life building a castle in Ohio.



Timeline of events related to the Harry's castle, now maintained by the Knights of the Golden Trail.

Medieval stone castle, here at home

By Shauna Rau

On the banks of the Little Miami River in Loveland, Ohio, sits an extraordinary castle. Built by Harry Andrews from 1929 until his death in 1981, Chateau Laroche is a historic landmark unique to the Cincinnati area. Built with his love for historical architecture, Harry hoped to capture the honor and chivalry once seen in the Medieval castles of Europe.

Born in 1891 in New York state, Harry grew up loving Arthurian legend and the castles of old. As a child, Harry and his friends would collect fieldstones and build igloos and fortresses.

Harry graduated from Colgate University in 1912 with a degree in civil engineering. Harry enlisted in World War I as a medic. The field hospital in which he was stationed was in the basement of a medieval castle near Treguier, France.

There, he fell in love with Norman architecture. After the war, Harry remained in France to attend Toulouse University, where he studied Roman, Greek, Egyptian, and Norman architecture.¹

When Harry returned to the United States in the 1920s, he was a Boy Scout leader and Sunday school teacher in his free time. On weekends, Harry would take his scouts camping at a property he owned along the Little Miami River. Harry eventually built two stone shacks to house their camping equipment and to sleep in. It was around these stone houses that Harry would tell the boys stories about King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

In 1927, in response to the stories of King Arthur, Harry and his Boy Scouts united in a group now known as The Knights of the Golden Trail, which followed the Ten Commandments as their code of honor. In 1929, it was the KOGT that decided that a castle should be built as a reminder of the gallantry and honor of the Knights of the Round Table. Harry said, "Well, if you help me collect rocks and mix mortar, then I will show you how to build a castle."²

Due to the Great Depression, however, the summer camping trips ceased and Harry made little progress on the castle in the 1930s. In 1955, Harry retired from his job as an editor at Standard Publishing Company in Cincinnati. After his retirement, Harry focussed on completing the castle. In May of the same year, he moved into the only completed part of the castle—the tower. At that time, the castle had few comforts, and no running water, electricity, or heat.

During his retirement years, Harry made a great deal of progress on his castle. In the 1960s and 1970s, however, Harry was victim to vandalism. Most of the vandalism took place in the unfinished parts of the castle, since it was easiest to destroy. However, after these attacks, Harry would



Chateau Laroche exhibits many features unique to Norman architecture portrayed in European castles built in the Middle Ages. The castle also houses collections of games, antiques, and photographs of Harry

continue to construct his castle, not allowing what he saw as minor threats from troublesome teens to stand in the way of building his dream.³

While primarily 15th century Norman in style, Chateau Laroche displays many architectural details that are present in castles throughout Germany, France, and England, including the game room, arches, and battlements.⁴ The dungeon of the castle, originally built as a root cellar, now houses a chained skeleton in shredded clothing.

The main door of the castle was constructed to withstand siege attempts. 238 pieces of wood make up three layers. The grain of the wood pieces is laid out in opposing directions, which provides strength against a battering ram. The door has 2530 nails hammered into it to dull a cutting weapon and to absorb the heat of a fire set to burn through it.⁵

Chateau Laroche, while initially built as a retirement home for Harry and headquarters for the Knights of the Golden Trail, is now a museum. Every year, Chateau Laroche draws between twenty and thirty thousand eager visitors, August and September being the busiest time of year.

Harry Andrews never married. He had no children to carry on his name. Yet his heart and soul lives on in the walls of his beloved castle, Chateau Laroche.

Chateau Laroche hosts many seasonal events, including:

- Children's Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday
- Adult Event Party (canoe trip, live band), Labor Day
- Scary Knight Tours: Haunted Castle, Fridays and Saturdays in October

The castle is open daily, April through October, weekends November through March, and is available for weddings and scout overnights. Visit www.lovelandcastle.com for more information.

Shauna's informative news article about a castle located in Loveland

July 1969

Dear diary,


Today, Peggy, Michelle, and I went to take milk cartons to the castle down on the Little Miami River (we haven't been since last summer, because the road down is too dangerous in the fall and winter). When we got to the river, Mr. Andrews was working, forming the bricks out of milk-carton solids like usual. While he was rather quiet most of the day, he was very happy to see us, and gracious for the milk cartons. We carried some bricks up the hill from the riverbank to the castle for him, and he followed us up. We asked if we could put the bricks into place, but he wouldn't let us. If we could have—then we could say we helped build the castle! Oh well.

We gave us a tour around the outside of the castle again. He has not made much progress since the last time we visited (it has to be a very slow process building a castle all by yourself). I had hoped to go inside, but Mr. Andrews did not offer to take us, so we didn't bother to ask. After he showed us around, Mr. Andrews told us about his dreams for the castle. He said that the castle is a replica of the French castle, Le Chateau de La Roche, where he was stationed in World War I as a medic.

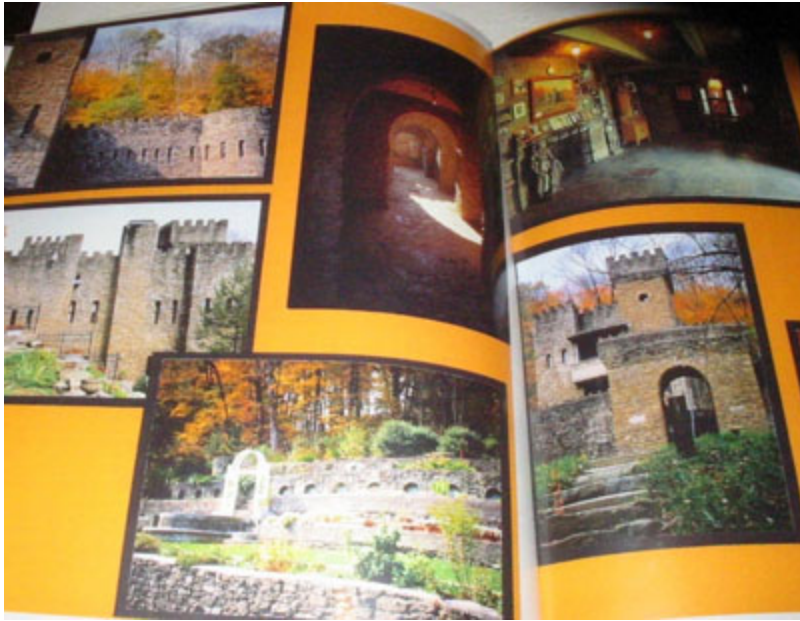
Mr. Andrews told us stories about the castles he had visited while he was in France during and after WWI. (I would love to go to Europe and see all the medieval architecture that Mr. Andrews described! It sounds so pretty!) As we were walking up the stone steps to the castle, Peggy asked, "Sir, why did you make the steps uneven?" And he explained that they were uneven because, when enemy troops would attack a medieval castle, uneven steps would make them trip and slow them down. I thought that made sense for a historic castle, but I wasn't sure why, in Loveland, Ohio, he had to worry about the threat of a medieval battle. But I guess that just means the castle architecture is historically accurate.

After Mr. Andrews showed us around, some Boy Scouts showed up to help him, so we wandered down to the river. We sat there for a while, just chatting, until Michelle's mom came to pick us up. I cannot wait until we go back again! And keep collecting those milk cartons!

Yours truly,
Debra



A diary entry about how Harry made the bricks in milk cartons with



Photographs of the castle both inside and out.

tear it up in the night¹⁵

break his balls
 trample his plants
 tear down his dream
 don't let one thing stand untouched

old man old man don't try to stop us
 there's nothing you can do
 we're going to win
 and make hurt you too

knock it over, quick! pull down the wall!
 Whack, Whack, Crack, and Thump-Thump-Thump
 as the wall falls down.

write on that wall
 cut off that corn
 dump all the water
 do it fast!

Bang, Bang,
 don't think he heard it throw one at the window
 Bang, Bang, Bang,
 you keep missing let me try
 Bang, Bang, CRASH.

the old man must have heard that
 smash another one
 and tear up the plants while you're at it


Bang, Clatter, Bang,
 Bang, Bang, SMASH.

oh, here comes the old man, at last

break another window
 pull down another wall
 break his dream he doesn't deserve it at all

oh hear the siren! run, boys, run!

Hey, you Punks!
 Stop, you Drunks!




A poem about a late night vandalism attack.

Every Castle Needs a Ghost Ghosts of Chateau Laroche

Harry's Rocking Chair


During his life, Harry Andrews built a magnificent castle as a tribute to the honorable knights of the Middle Ages. Every evening, after a day's hard work, Harry would sit in his favorite spot: a rocking chair positioned just to the left of the fireplace in the Game Room of the castle. Here, on countless evenings, Harry would share stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table and stories of his travels in Europe. Boys and girls would gather around him, held utterly spellbound by his every word.

After Harry's death in 1951, Chateau Laroche was converted into a museum, a tribute to the life and dreams of Harry Andrews. An electronic security system, complete with motion detectors, was installed in the castle. During the first six months after Harry's death, the alarm went off in the middle of the night, sometimes as often as several times a week. The Symmes Township police would rush over to the castle to find nothing at all amiss. And during every false alarm, all the doors and windows were locked, with no evidence of foul play.



On a peculiar night, two officers never shouted through the darkness for his partner. As the officers slipped through a misty front window into the game room, they could see no one sitting in the rocking chair. The chair remain rocking steadily back and forth, like someone was sitting in it—yet no one was there. On many more nights, the motion detector was triggered, but when the police would show up, shine their lights in the Game Room, and see the rocking chair rocking, back and forth, back and forth—empty, of course—until one night, the police threatened not to come back again if another false alarm was set off. The next morning, the Knights reluctantly moved the rocking chair out of the Game Room and into the Dome Room, where there were no motion detectors. This apparently solved the problem, as the false alarms ceased immediately.

Even though it was moved away from its original location in the Game Room, the rocking chair continues to rock every night—back and forth, back and forth—just as Harry rocked every night of his life.



Many ghost stories told about the Laroche Castle.

GLOSSARY

Arche
The arches of Chateau Laroche are of Norman and German origin, and are low and wide, easy for many soldiers to rush through at one time.

Battens
The corner of castle towers. They were often dug under during sieges to collapse the tower and create an entry point.


Battering Ram
A chopped-down tree used to knock down doors in a siege.

Battlements
Of English origin, a stone wall encompassing the fighting deck of a castle to protect soldiers during a siege. Soldiers would lean over battlements to shoot at the enemy while keeping their heads behind the *Merkons* for protection. See *Crenels and Merlons*.

Castles
Rough stone or brick fortifications and homes built in the Middle Ages throughout Europe.

Crenels
The open spaces of the battlements that alternate with merlons.

Dungeons
Meaning "cold storage" in French, a dungeon was originally a place to store food and vegetables and was not used for prisoners. Rather, unfortunates found themselves incarcerated outside the main castle in the *Pin Prison* until it became too crowded, and the most obvious place to imprison them was in the confined food storage area.



South side of Castle exhibiting battlements


Guarderole
A primitive toilet in a castle, usually just a cruel hole in the stone floor.

Knights
A soldier who pledged his honor to a particular member of the nobility. Soldiers themselves were not necessarily members of the nobility.

Knights of the Golden Trail
A volunteer group founded by Harry Andrews in 1917, whose only vows are the Ten Commandments. The men and women now perform caretaking duties for the castle.

Loopholes
A thin upright window through which arrows were shot by soldiers within a castle. Provided shooters with protection from enemy arrows, as the slit was difficult to aim at from a far distance.

Merlons
Vertical stone divisions on the battlements. Merlons shielded shooters from enemy assaults while allowing them to discharge their weapons through the crenels.



Castle Laroche
Chateau Laroche

A glossary of twenty five medieval terms.