

FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 32

Medina, Ohio

May 2015



Spring Grove

By Terry Hart

Cemetery Cannons

Photo by Annette Miller

The Soldiers' Monument (installed 1888) has been a focal point of Spring Grove Cemetery for over 125 years. The two associated cannons were installed nine years later in 1897. Over intervening years, the history of the monument and cannons has been lost. John Gill, Friends of the Cemetery Trustee, asked me (Terry Hart), a member of the Medina County Genealogical Society with a particular interest in military research, if I could develop more information on these cannons. The Soldiers' Monument had its beginning, at least in thought

and partial funding, in 1865 when the Company A, 79th Battalion, Ohio National Guard was mustered out of the 166th Ohio Regiment. At the time, it had \$267 in the Company fund and they deposited it with the Medina County Treasurer with instruction to invest it and hold the funds until such time a monument was erected to the memory of the Civil War soldiers. Additional funds were raised by the H.G. Blake GAR Post and various fund raisers of concerned citizens.

Friends of the Cemetery

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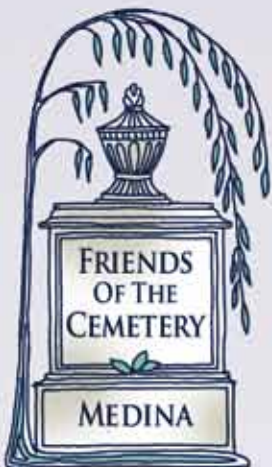
Photos

John Gill
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Board Meetings

First Thursday at 7 pm
FOC office-Liberty Row
445 W. Liberty Street
Conference Room
Please call first.

Designed by
Ron Bell/Advision



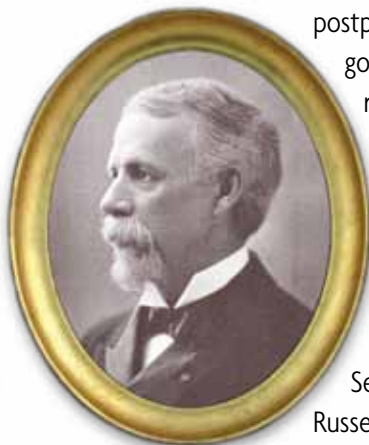
The Soldiers' Monument was designed, approved, carved, installed and even dedicated all in 1888 at an estimated total project cost of \$2,000. The local marble cutter, Daniel Hemmeter, proprietor of Medina Marble Works, was interviewed (March 1888) and accepted (April 1888) to design and arrange for the carving of the monument. (Note: Daniel Hemmeter is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, not far from Harrison G. Blake.) The statue of the Union soldier that tops the monument was carved in Quincy, Massachusetts and the base of the monument was made in Concord, New Hampshire.

The cannons have an interesting history, both from the lengthy procurement process, to the actual history of the cannons themselves. The initial request for the cannons was first started in 1882, when Ohio U.S. Congressman, Addison S. McClure, introduced a bill addressing the cannons in question. This was a period of history that literally thousands of cannons were being donated throughout the United States to service

organizations, cemeteries and towns/counties for use as monuments. The cannons were free, but the receiving organization had to arrange for and pay for transportation. Not a small amount considering the weight and size of the donated guns.

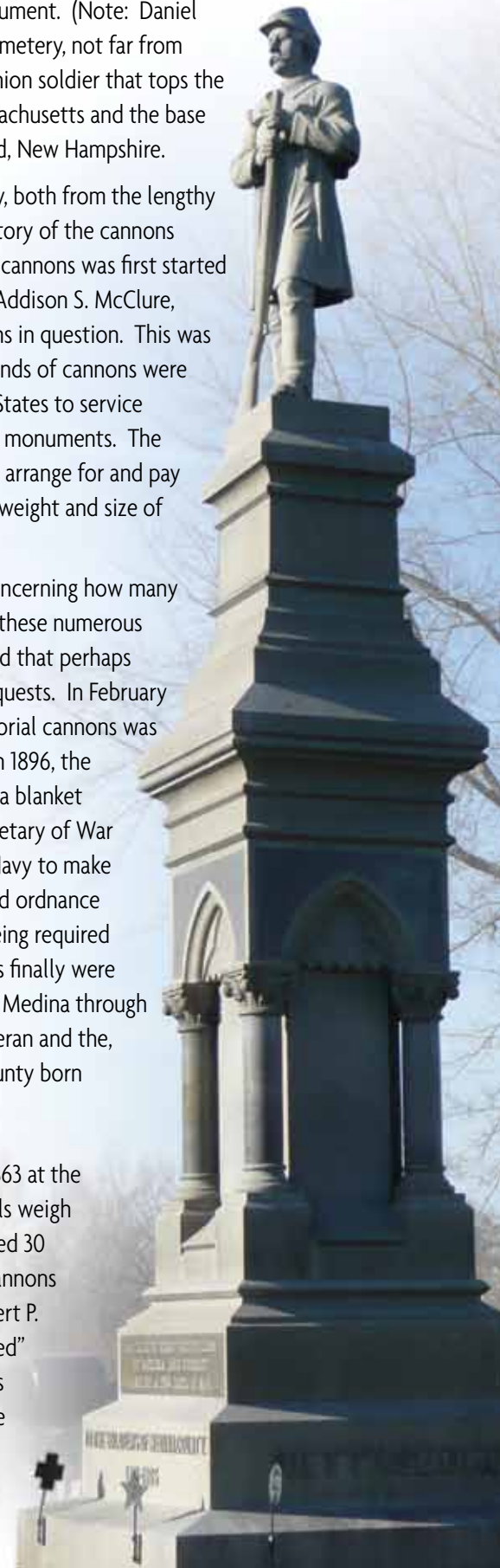
At the time, there was extensive debate in the Senate concerning how many "condemned" cannons were available and in what order these numerous requests were going to be fulfilled. It was even suggested that perhaps cannons were "being manufactured" just to fulfill the requests. In February 1883, the entire set of bills concerning requests for memorial cannons was

postponed indefinitely. Finally, in 1896, the government decided to make a blanket resolution allowing the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy to make disposition of condemned ordnance without separate bills being required in Congress. The cannons finally were approved for donation to Medina through the efforts of Civil War veteran and the, Secretary of War, Medina County born Russell A. Alger.



Russell A. Alger

It was learned that the cannons were manufactured in 1863 at the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, New York. The barrels weigh about 4,200 pounds each. The cannons are actually called 30 Pounders because that is the size of the projectile the cannons shot, Parrott because the name of the designer was Robert P. Parrott and Rifles because the inside of the barrel is "rifled" and not a smooth bore cannon. This type of cannon was most often used in siege and fort defense because of the size and difficulty of moving them in the field.



The two Spring Grove cannons were used at Fort Monroe, Virginia by the Union Army. Fort Monroe was built between 1819 and 1834 in response to the War of 1812. Known as the “Gibraltar of the Chesapeake,” the fort protects the bay’s inland water from attack from the sea. In what would shortly be a twist of fate, a young West Point engineer named Robert E. Lee also played a role in the construction of the fort from 1831 to 1834.

Less than three decades after Fort Monroe was completed, the Civil War was underway. When Virginia citizens ratified the state’s secession ordinance on May 23, 1861, Fort Monroe became a Union stronghold within Confederate territory. It remained under Union control for the entire length of the War of the Rebellion. The same day that Virginia ratified secession, three slaves fled to Fort Monroe seeking refuge. The following day, rebel Major John B. Cary requested their return under the U.S. Constitution and the Fugitive Slave Act as misappropriated “property.”

Fort Monroe Commander Union Major General Benjamin Butler felt that the U.S. Constitution and Fugitive Slave Act did not apply to another country, which Virginia claimed to be. General Butler resolved to hold the slaves as he would any property that was about to be used against the United States. Butler was a shrewd military leader and lawyer. His decision,

which became known as the “Contraband Decision,” enabled thousands of slaves to seek refuge behind Union lines. Just over a month after the first three slaves found refuge, over nine hundred freedom-seekers – men, women and children – had arrived at the fort. The fort became known as “Freedom’s Fortress.” When the freedom seekers grew too numerous to be accommodated at the fort, the “Grand Contraband Camp” was established in the burned-out remains of the nearby city of Hampton. This was the first self-contained African-American community in the United States.

In the fall of 1861, Mary Smith Peake, the first African-American teacher hired by the American Missionary Association, began teaching the “contrabands” to read and write. Just five years later, the American Missionary Association founded what would become Hampton University on the site of Peake’s outdoor classroom.

The Spring Grove cannons barely survived World War II. In September 1942, they (along with the iron fence around Old Town Graveyard) were destined to be donated to the National Scrap Metal Drive. There were numerous letters to the editor protesting such a donation and, ultimately, they were not donated for scrap. Fortunately, they remain today as an important part of the Soldiers’ Monument lawn of Spring Grove Cemetery.



Memorial Day 2015

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”

Joseph Campbell

The Spring Grove chapel and mausoleum will both be open to the public Memorial Day morning, May 25, before and after the Memorial Day services at the Soldiers’ Mound. Please feel free to stop in.



2015 Spring Grove Tree Maintenance Program

This year's tree maintenance will be concentrated in Sections 8 and 9 of Spring Grove Cemetery. The City will remove diseased ash trees in both these sections. The Friends will purchase 2-1/2" caliper trees to replace the ash trees removed by the City in Section 9. In Section 8, however, due to the close proximity of gravestones to the ash trees being removed, no replacement trees will be planted.

2015 Historical Walk

The annual historical walk date will move this year to Saturday, August 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a relaxing stroll through our beautiful cemetery and,

along the way, learn about some of Medina's gone - but not forgotten - residents. This is a free program and open to everyone.

Friends Of The Cemetery Annual Meeting

The Friends will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Spring Grove chapel. We will mail reminders to all our members at least two weeks in

advance of this date. This is a great time for members to meet to hear about the projects the Friends have undertaken in the past year and to learn of future plans.

Amos Mears Memorial Office Building and Maintenance Center

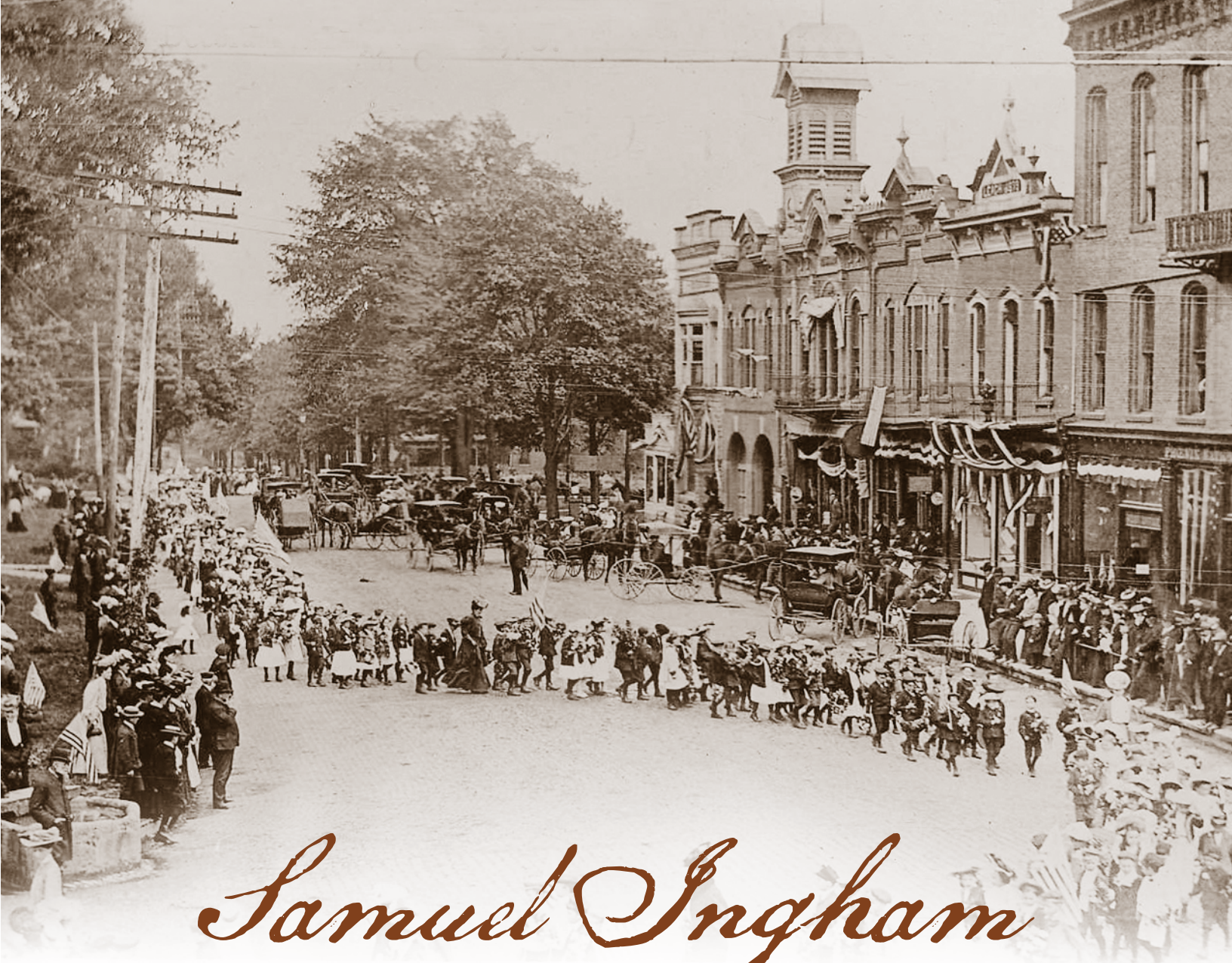
The long anticipated construction of the Amos Mears Memorial office building and maintenance center is finally set to begin soon after Memorial Day! The Friends of the Cemetery have awarded their portion of the construction contract that includes the office building and parking lots to Medina based

620 Construction Company. The City opened bids for their portion of the project on May 6 and is working through the process of the next steps with the construction company that was awarded the contract to build the City's maintenance center. December 15, 2015 is the date slated for the entire project to be completed.

2014 Spring Grove Burial Statistics

There were 44 (53%) full in-ground interments, 39 (47%) cremains interments and 3 baby burials last year at Spring

Grove for a total of 86, up by 14 from 2013. The percentage of traditional burials versus cremains remains about the same as last year.



Samuel Ingham

Medina's Famous Fife and Drum Corps Leader

*I*f you lived in Medina in the latter part of the 1800's and into the 1930's, you would have surely known of Samuel Ingham, Medina's famed fife player and drum corps leader. A "Decoration Day" did not go by that Samuel Ingham was not in front leading the military band as part of the celebration.

When Samuel Ingham was born, neither recorded sound nor radio existed. Most people enjoyed music through live performances. This made Samuel Ingham a familiar and important man to residents of Medina County.

Born January 9, 1849 in a log cabin southeast of Medina, Samuel

was the only son of Oliver and Mary Buchanan Ingham. Oliver's forefathers had come to Medina County from Connecticut. Mary, Samuel's mother, was a second cousin to the 15th president of the United States – James Buchanan.

Samuel attended a country school in Montville Township and, later, Chase Brook school. He attended Baldwin College, now Baldwin Wallace University, in Berea, Ohio. After college, he clerked at a store in Ada, Ohio for one year, but returned to Medina and became a farmer – his life-long occupation. On September 8, 1872, he married Miss Martha Jones of Sharon, Ohio and they set up housekeeping on River Road, not far from his birthplace.

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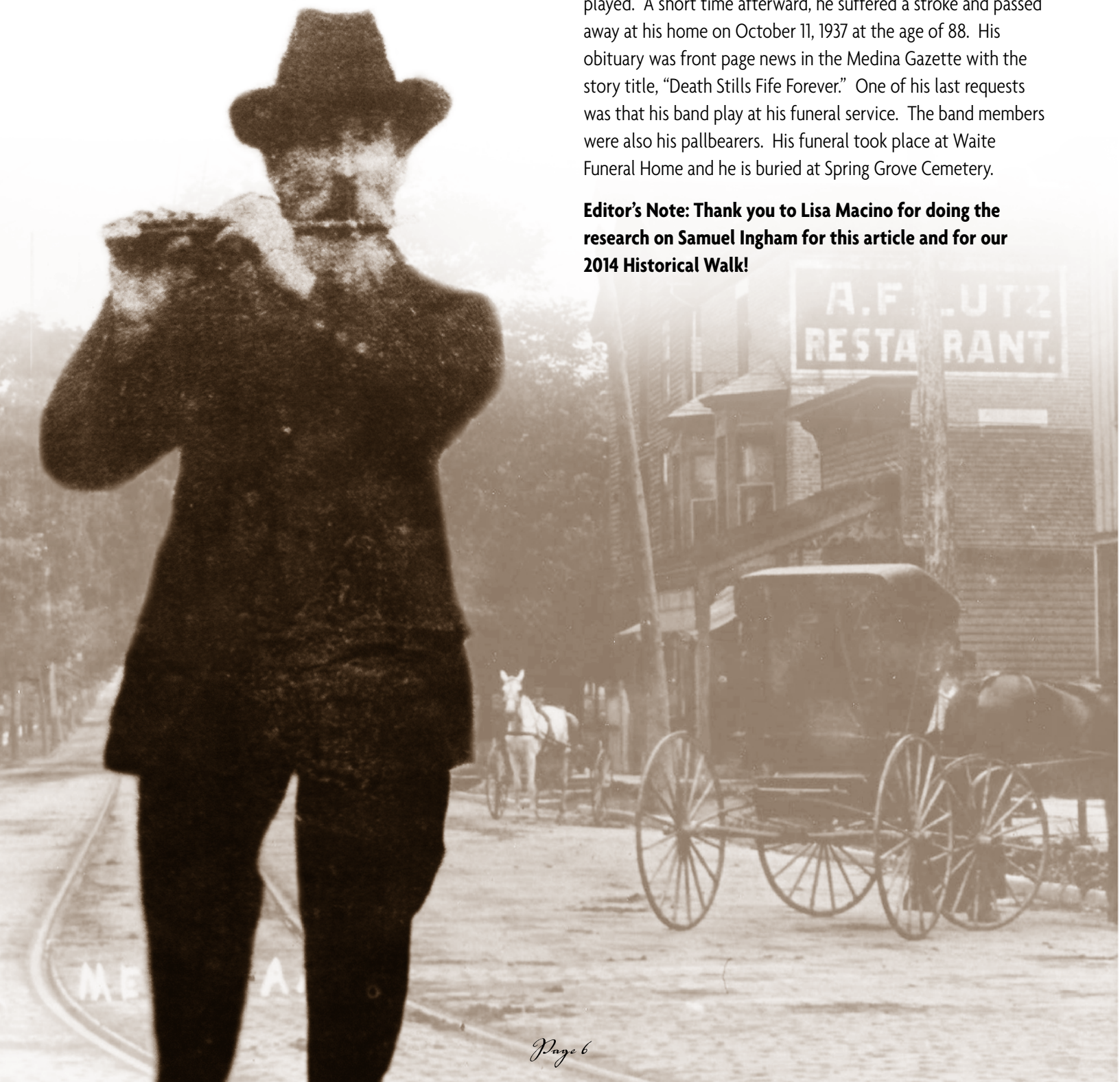
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As a boy, Samuel Ingham played the drum, but, as a young man, a doctor advised him to take up the flute to correct a lung disorder. He took this advice and joined the 8th regiment band. He was eager to participate in the Civil War, but was disappointed when his parents refused to give the necessary consent. He did, however, later see military action with the state militia when his company was sent to Silver Creek to put an end to a labor dispute. Samuel was a member of Ganyards'

Band in Granger and the Sharon Band. In 1884, at the age of 45, he organized his own band with family and neighbors. His band played at hundreds of public functions and was always a feature at the Medina County Fair. One of the band's last performances was at a parade in 1932 celebrating the opening of the "new pavement" on Route 42 to Cleveland.

In failing health, Samuel's last public performance was at the 1937 Medina County Fair. Friends literally held him up while he played. A short time afterward, he suffered a stroke and passed away at his home on October 11, 1937 at the age of 88. His obituary was front page news in the Medina Gazette with the story title, "Death Stills Fife Forever." One of his last requests was that his band play at his funeral service. The band members were also his pallbearers. His funeral took place at Waite Funeral Home and he is buried at Spring Grove Cemetery.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Lisa Macino for doing the research on Samuel Ingham for this article and for our 2014 Historical Walk!



Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - MAY 2015

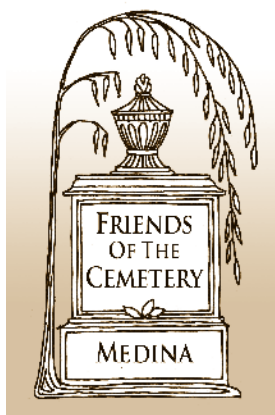
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* designates new member
 ** designates life-time member

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 Carlson Funeral Home Linda Woolsteen

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FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

445 W. Liberty Street,
Suite 219
Medina, Ohio 44256



Photo by John Gill

Become a Friend of the Cemetery

"Show me the manner in which a nation or community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the law of the land, and their loyalty to high ideals."

William Gladstone

Don't forget to check us out on the web at: www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

Memberships are available as follows:

Senior _____	\$10.00	Supporting _____	\$100.00
Individual _____	\$15.00	Heritage _____	\$250.00
Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
Contributing _____	\$50.00	Corporate _____	\$1,000.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Membership enclosed _____

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