



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 34

Medina, Ohio

May 2016



Nicholas Van Epp

By Murray Van Epp

Nicholas Van Epp was born February 23, 1844 in Amsterdam, NY, son of William and Emeline Van Epp, a scion of the old and honored Holland Dutch families of the Empire State. He came to Medina County with his mother in 1851 where he was raised and educated in Westfield Township. Shortly after the beginning of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 86th O.V.I. at Wooster, OH, subsequently joined the 10th Ohio Cavalry and remained in its ranks until 1865 when he was wounded in an engagement near Fayetteville, NC. A bullet struck his pocket watch, deflected upward and lodged in his right shoulder. The bullet was presumed to have exited his body, but after it was found and removed shortly before he passed away on August 10, 1893, it was determined to be the cause of his death and a lifetime of pain and suffering. One can only imagine what it was like to go to war at the tender age of 16, survive the next five years engaged in innumerable battles in Sherman's great "March to the Sea" and then, unknowingly, succumb to a rebel bullet years later.

After his injuries, Nicholas remained in a military hospital in Providence, RI until his discharge from the army. He returned to Medina and on March 22, 1869 married Maria Owen, daughter

of Gibson Owen, a well-known farmer of Westfield Township. Nicholas went on to become the lighthouse keeper at Green Island, Ottawa Township, on Lake Erie where he and Maria later produced five children – Lucian, Arthur, Owen, Eugenia and Paul. Nicholas somehow still managed to find time to earn his law degree from the University of Michigan. In 1877 the Van Epp family returned to Seville, OH and two years later moved to Medina where Nicholas became Medina County's Clerk of Courts until his untimely death in 1893. His son, Arthur, became mayor of Medina serving three terms beginning in the mid-1890's and subsequently became a noted Medina County prosecutor and attorney trying several high profile murder cases.

Nicholas was obviously proud of his service as his modest headstone at Spring Grove Cemetery is boldly engraved with the symbol for the Grand Army of the Republic, the symbol of an interesting life seemingly well led and lived to the fullest. I often wonder at the stories he could have told...

Editor's Note: Murray Van Epp is the great-grandson of Nicholas Van Epp. We thank Murray for writing this article and for presenting the story of his great-grandfather at last August's Spring Grove Historical Walk.

Friends of the Cemetery

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

To reach us:

info@friendsofmedinacemetery.org
330.725.8861 - Ext. 1055

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Van Epp Family
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Board Meetings

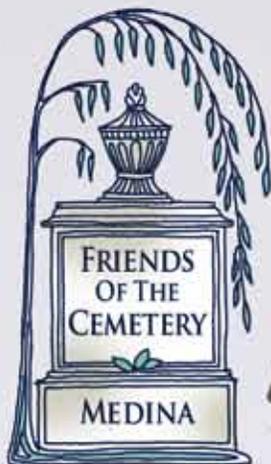
First Thursday at 7 pm
FOC office

775 East Washington Street
Conference Room

Please call first.

Designed by

Ron Bell/Advision Design



MEMORIAL DAY 2016

"When you go Home, tell them of us and say, 'For your Tomorrow, we gave our Today'" – John Maxwell Edmunds 1916

The Spring Grove chapel and mausoleum will be open to the public Memorial Day morning, May 30, before and after the Memorial Day services at the Soldiers' Mound. Please feel free to stop in.

Friends of the Cemetery Annual Meeting

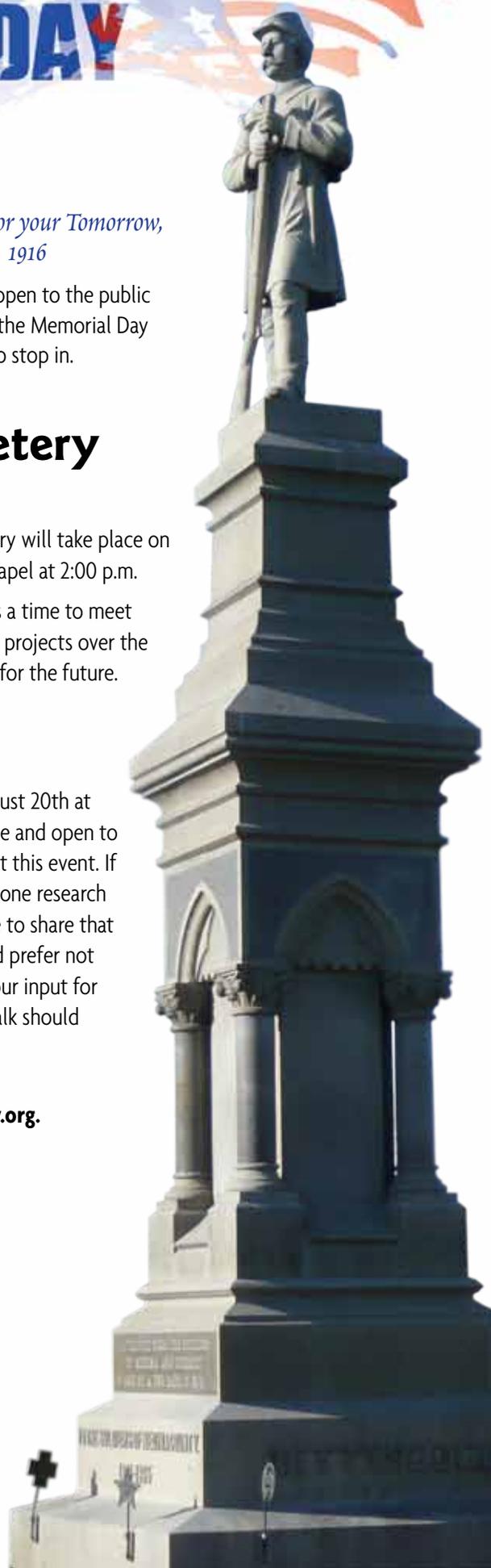
The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at the Spring Grove chapel at 2:00 p.m.

We always look forward to the Annual Meeting as a time to meet with our membership to review the organization's projects over the year that has passed and to share ideas and plans for the future.

Historical Walk

This year's historical walk will be on Saturday, August 20th at 1:00 p.m. Please plan to attend. The program is free and open to the public. We are always looking for presenters at this event. If you have a relative, family acquaintance or have done research on a person buried in Spring Grove and would like to share that information, please let us know. Even if you would prefer not to present publicly, we would still love to have your input for someone else to do the talk. The subject of the talk should have been born at least 100 years ago.

Contact us as **330-725-8861 – Ext. 1055**,
or email us at **info@FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org**.



Preserving memories for the families we serve.

The **AMOS MEARS
MEMORIAL COMPLEX**
at Spring Grove Cemetery



Come see our newly-built facility at Spring Grove Cemetery. Celebrate with us and tour the new Offices and Maintenance Garage. Refreshments served.

OPEN HOUSE & TOUR

Saturday, June 4

2 to 4 p.m.

775 East Washington Street, Medina

For more information, please contact us at 330-725-8861, ext. 1055
or email info@FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org

www.FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org

Spring & Summer Planting Regulations

All monuments are permitted a seasonal planting area extending no more than ten inches (10") from the foundation on the burial side of a monument. All decorations, ornaments and flowers must be installed within this area. No bushes or large plants are permitted. Only one (1) shepherd's hook or one (1) potted plant is permitted on a marker. Bulbs make a lovely display in the spring. You might consider planting them at your graves this fall.



Historical Registry Plaques

In April 2006 Spring Grove Cemetery was placed on the National Register of Historic Places following research and the professional preparation of an application consisting of pages of reports and documents required by the United States Department of the Interior. It is not common for cemeteries to receive this distinction and it required a lot of patience and

determination to see the process through. Spring Grove received this honor because of its Rural Cemetery Movement design, its historic structures and the community effort that created it. To memorialize the importance of the National Registry listing, the Friends of the Cemetery recently purchased two 16x10 bronze plaques (pictured) and the City of Medina mounted each plaque on to barn stones placed at the front and back entrances to Spring Grove. The following is an excerpt from the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board's 2006 recommendation of Spring Grove Cemetery's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places:



SPRING GROVE
CIRCA 1883
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

"Established in 1883 to replace the Old Town Cemetery, a simple graveyard with markers set in rows that had been in use since Medina was platted in 1818, Medina's Spring Grove Cemetery is recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the influence of the 19th century Rural Cemetery Movement. Characteristic of the style, it features a carefully designed pastoral setting with trees, lakes, meandering roads, chapel and entrance gates, and private burial plots, planned as a place to be enjoyed by the living as well as to bury the dead."

2016 Spring Grove Tree Maintenance Program

By: Jansen Wehrley, Parks & Recreation Director

The Friends of the Cemetery in cooperation with the City of Medina has strived to install a wide variety and quantity of trees over the past several years at Spring Grove Cemetery. Current plans are centered around the management of the exotic invasive pest, Emerald Ash Borer. The Emerald Ash Borer has affected all of the young and mature Ash trees at both Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard. This tiny little beetle is the size of a penny and multiplies rapidly. The Emerald Ash Borer feeding patterns, as larva, affect the cambium and restricts the flow of nutrients throughout the tree, leading to rapid decline. Because of this, the tree planting efforts have changed for the next few years. Efforts for 2016-2017 will be

geared toward the replacement of approximately thirty-five Ash trees. The City will be removing all Ash trees at Spring Grove (sections 4, 8, 9 and 14) and Old Town throughout the summer of 2016. The Friends of the Cemetery will then focus tree planting efforts on replacements in the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. When planting replacement trees, the plan is to increase diversity to avoid any future issues with species specific insects.

During the spring of 2016, the City installed twenty-two trees around the new maintenance building and Amos Mears Memorial building. These trees included nine White Pines, four Colorado Blue Spruce, seven Norway Spruce and two Swamp White Oaks.

Christmas Luncheon

Prior to the Christmas holidays, the Friends provided a luncheon for cemetery and forestry staff. We host this luncheon every year in December and one in early August before the seasonal

employees head back to school. We appreciate the great job the City staff does in managing and maintaining Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard.

New Contact Information for the Friends Of The Cemetery

Our address and phone number are new, our email has not changed

775 East Washington Street

Medina, Ohio 44256

330.725.8861 Extension 1055

info@FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org

Parks and Recreation Department now located at the Mears Building

After construction of the Mears Building was completed in December 2015, the City made the decision to move its Parks and Recreation Department's offices to Spring Grove Cemetery. The Mears Building holds three offices, a conference room, lobby/hallway, storage room and two restrooms. Originally the offices were built and intended for the Spring Grove Sexton, City Arborist and the Friends of the Cemetery, but the City thought that by bringing the Parks and Recreation Department office to the Mears Building, it would be better able to serve the community. This change allows

for the building to be opened and staffed each week day and allows greater access to the public. The Parks and Recreation administrative assistant is now located at the Mears Building and, besides her duties with the Parks and Recreation Department, she is assisting the Sexton and answering telephone calls for the cemetery. Since the Parks and Recreation Department oversees cemetery operations as well as the Forestry Department, this will streamline administration and oversight. To accommodate this change, the Arborist's office has been relocated to the new maintenance building.



Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - MAY 2016

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Bill & Alice Batchelder	Sandy Frommeyer	Christine Flowers LoGuidice *	Clay & Judy Smith
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David & Bea Bryenton	Nicole Hettinger	Pat Morgan	James & Jean Thornburg
Sue Bryenton	Thomas Hilberg	Elwood & Doris Naragon	Mary R. Tucker *
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Robert Dague	David Kellogg	Dean Riggenbach	Betty Zarney
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Homer C. Davis	Bob & Betty Kiley	George & Ruth Rodgers **	
Gary & Patricia DeHass	Peter & Joann King	Brad & Kathryn Root	

* designates new member
 ** designates life-time member

New Members since December 2015:

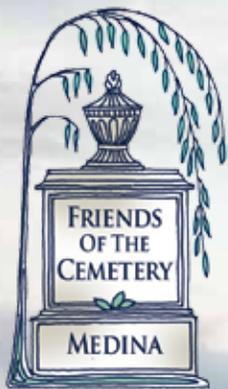
Christine Flowers LoGuidice
 John & Lisa Macino
 Matthew Merkle & Katherine Hall

Kathryn Simmons
 Mary R. Tucker

In Memory Donations:

Emmett, Catherine & Vincent Grishaber – by Margaret Krupa
 Ed Mears – by Ron & Catherine Carmany

*I*f you have not yet joined the Friends of the Cemetery, please do so today. For your convenience, we have provided a self-addressed envelope in this newsletter. Our membership schedule is included on the envelope flap. If you have been a member in the past, but do not see your name listed above, please take time today to renew your membership using the enclosed envelope.



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256



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 _____

Please return to:

Friends of the Cemetery • 775 East Washington Street • Medina, OH 44256