



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 40

Medina, Ohio

May 2019

Morgan Andrews, Jr.

By Kathy Petras

In the spring of 2018, Thomas Kreneck, an archivist in Texas, contacted the Medina Library about a Civil War diary that he believed to be written by a soldier from Medina County, Ohio, as it names several local villages. Mr. Kreneck believed the diary needed to be returned “home” and wanted to know if the Medina Library was interested in it. A Civil War artifact? The immediate answer was, “Yes!”

When the small white package arrived from Texas, it was carefully opened and inside was a very small unassuming little black folded booklet:



The cover is a very delicate cardboard with a little slot and flap to keep it closed. This type of diary was meant to be carried in the inside pocket of a man’s coat. And they were very popular with Civil War soldiers.

The diary never gives the owner’s name, but he mentions in several passages that his father was the sheriff of Medina County.

From entries in the diary and using multiple Library resources, the writer was quickly identified as Morgan Andrews Jr.

It covers the months January through July of 1862 and begins:

January 1 Wednesday *Happy new year to myself and the rest of mankind. Dull new year’s in this Town of Medina - nothing going on at home all day. Father went to Brunswick in morning: Firm got home from Chicago Friday. Gilmore & Firm came down going to Seville*

(All misspellings and punctuations are original.)

He goes on to talk about the work that he does for his father, Morgan Andrews Sr., as his clerk, delivering summons and cleaning the jail. He also writes about skating and sleighing with his good friend Bill Hayes. Morgan doesn’t mention the Civil War until April 10th:

April 10 Thursday *About home all day worked most of the time*

News Recd today of the Death of H. Canfield he was killed in the battle of Pittsburg Landing at the Head of the Regt. The combined forces of Grand & Buell have Defeated Beauregard with 100,000 men with terrible slaughter on both sides*
**Pittsburg Landing is also known as the Battle of Shiloh.*

(More information on Colonel Herman Canfield can be seen at his memorial on FindaGrave.com)

Morgan enlisted in the 84th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in May of 1862. He then writes about the basics of his army life; getting his equipment issued, learning to drill, his promotion to Corporal. The unit was not engaged in combat during this period, but was providing guard service in the Washington D.C. area. Then on July 7th & 8th :

July 7 Monday *Not very well today did not drill in the*

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Friends of the Cemetery

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Medina, Ohio 44256

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forenoon went out on dress Parade and felt so sick came pretty near dropping my Gun got better and drilled with the Cos. the Captain was either drunk or very cross on our drill

July 8 Tuesday Unwell all day did not drill any. laid on Lieut Manning's bed most all the time. took some medicine of my own. did not report to the surgeon at all as he is not fit to be surgeon of a Regt. slept in our mess tent in the night.

Then the diary entries stop.

In the **Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion**, we learn that Morgan died on July 30th 1862 in Cumberland Maryland.

But the entries pick up again on July 21st in someone else's handwriting. Again the writer doesn't identify himself, but as the diary was passed down through his brother Fairman's family, it was most likely Fairman Andrews writing:

July 27 Sunday Hoping a little change for the better

July 28 Monday A little better

July 29 Tuesday Growing worse

And then:

July 30 Wednesday Morgan died at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The disease that took Morgan's life is not named in the diary nor in official military documents. It was probably a waterborne disease because right before Morgan became ill, he brags about swimming across the Potomac River six times without touching the bottom. Even before thousands of soldiers descended on the area, the Potomac was a filthy, stinking river.

The official military records say that Morgan was buried in Antietam, Maryland.

But...

He has a gravestone in the Old Town Cemetery on East Liberty Street, as well as a stone in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Morgan's body could be in any of these places. We just hope he is at rest.

784						ROLL OF HONOR OF OHIO SOLDIERS.	
84th REGIMENT OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY—3 Months.							
Name.	Co.	Rank.	Died.	Place.	Remarks.		
Andrews, Morgan	9	Captain	July 30, 1862	Antietam, Md.	Died in hospital at Cumberland, Md., of disease.		
Wright, Willis	9	Private	Aug. 15, 1862	Antietam, Md.	Died in hospital at Cumberland, Md., of disease.		
Edwin C.	A	Private	Aug. 15, 1862	Antietam, Md.	Died in hospital at Cumberland, Md., of disease.		



Spring Grove



Old Town Graveyard

SOURCES:

Diary of Morgan Andrews Jr.

Findagrave.com

Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion

Editor's Note: We thank Kathy Petras, Library Associate-Medina County District Library, for sharing this article and giving permission for it to be printed in our newsletter. The Friends enjoy working with Kathy and the MCDL genealogy department staff from time to time. You may access Kathy's blog at mcdlgenealogyspot.blogspot.com for informative articles on local history and genealogy research.

Welcome new FOC Trustees

We are pleased to announce that Karen Thorn and Rob Wilder were added to our Board of Trustees this past February. Karen and Rob are life-long Medina residents and are both known for their years of civic involvement and service. We welcome them and know they will be great assets to the Friends Board as we continue our mission to beautify, preserve and maintain Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard.

Rob: "I decided to join the Friends Board because our past and our community mean so much to me. I can't remember ever not being in Spring Grove Cemetery on Memorial Day. As time marches on I value this connection even more and was recently thrilled to find I also have ancestors in Old Town Graveyard. It will be a privilege helping our cemeteries into the future as many others in the past have done for me."

Karen: "Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard are treasures within the Medina Community and it is important we maintain

them and preserve their history. Cemeteries are a place of rest, but also a place to gather and appreciate the beauty and stories that lie within. I joined Friends of the Cemetery because I believe in their mission of beautification, maintenance and historic preservation and I look forward to being able to help with that mission and to encourage more people to visit."



Karen Thorn



Rob Wilder



Memorial Day

The Spring Grove chapel and mausoleum will be open on Memorial Day from 10:00 a.m. to noon. A number of folks have expressed an interest to see inside the buildings and this is the perfect opportunity. Both buildings will be staffed by Friends volunteers. We look forward to seeing you!

Friends Members Meeting

Every year the Friends Trustees invite our members to join us at the Spring Grove chapel for a review of the past year's accomplishments and a look at what's planned for the future. This year's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Lakeview Cemetery Tour

The Friends are planning a chartered bus tour to visit Lakeview Cemetery on Saturday, October 5, 2019. We will enjoy a Lakeview docent-led 1-1/2 hour tour which will include President James A. Garfield's Memorial and the magnificent Wade Chapel, with visits to several of Lakeview's most famous burials, including John D. Rockefeller. Finishing the tour around noon, we will re-board our bus and stop for a Dutch-treat lunch on our way back to Medina. Stay tuned as details of the trip develop.

Historical Walk

Make sure to mark your calendars now for our annual Historical Walk that will take place at Spring Grove at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2019. This is a very popular event and there's always plenty of room for everyone as we stroll along the shade tree lined avenues of Spring Grove. This is a free event and open to the public.

Civil War Ancestor Picture

It doesn't seem possible that our wonderful Spring Grove Encampment took place a year ago. We are still basking in the afterglow of such a successful event. We have copies of the 8x10 ancestor photo taken at the Spring Grove Civil War Encampment available for purchase. You can choose between a color photo or Daguerreotype photo. Just send your \$10 (per photo) check or money order to Friends of the Cemetery, 775 East Washington Street, Medina, OH 44256. We will get your copy in the mail to you right away.



Columbarium Wall Construction

The City of Medina contracted with HSH Construction of Valley City to build a new columbarium wall at a cost of \$78,410. The new wall will be located at the southeast corner of the Letha E. House lake on the edge of the Pat Mears memorial garden. It will contain 120 niches and each niche will accommodate up to two cremains. All 120 niches in the existing wall, built by the Friends and donated to the City in 2004, have been sold and the Spring Grove Sexton is compiling a waiting list of niche buyers for the new wall. If you have an interest in purchasing a niche in the new wall, we suggest

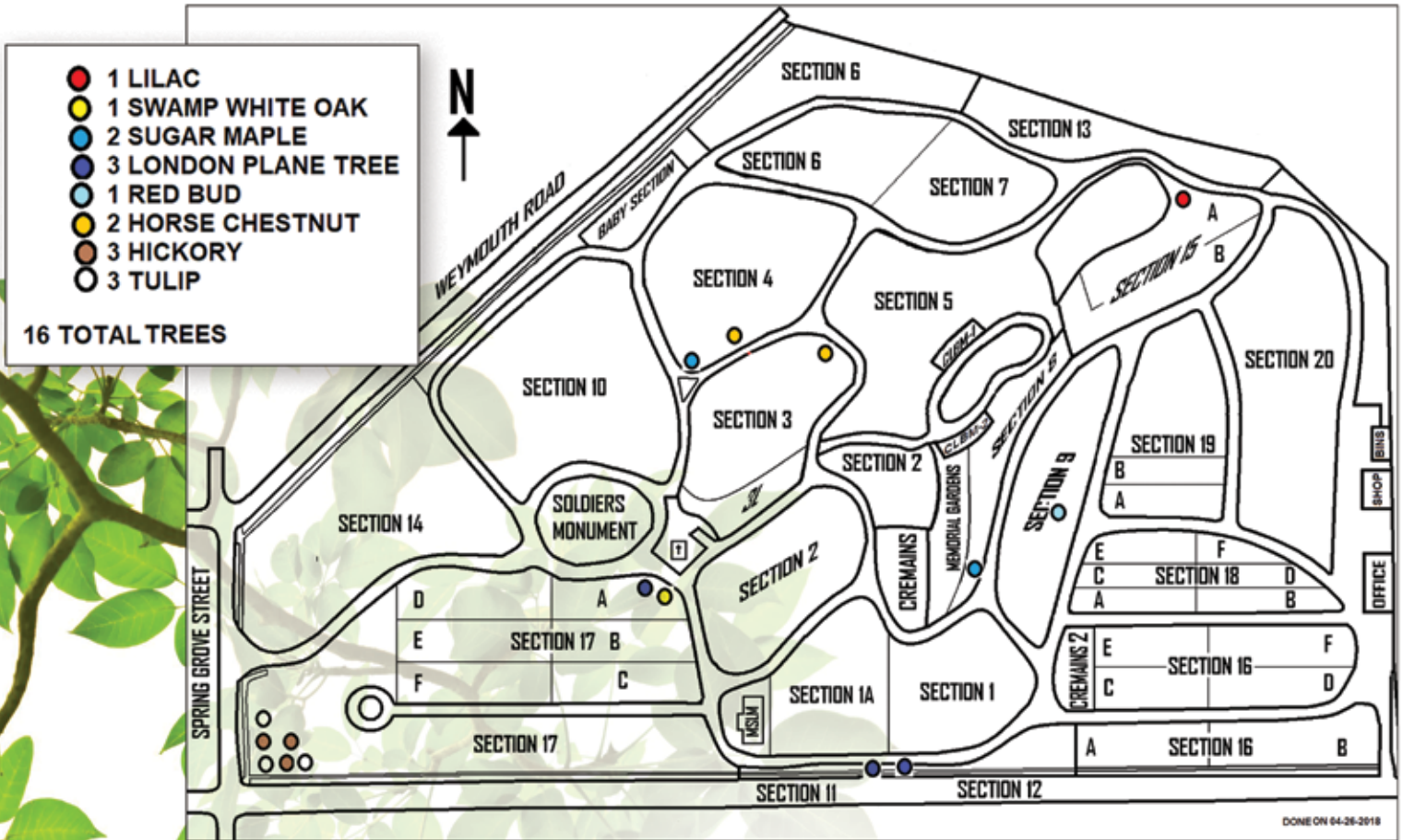
contacting Sexton James Hjort at 330-722-9056. The cost is \$1,350 per niche in the top row, \$1,250 per niche in the middle row and \$1,150 per niche on the bottom row. Opening and closing per each interment is \$250. Niche face engraving is actual cost determined by monument company.



Spring Grove Drainage Project

The first phase of our Spring Grove drainage project was completed in the fall of 2018 with the installation of a new drain line from the mausoleum. Much more drainage work is needed as Spring Grove Cemetery has long suffered from standing water and poor drainage, especially during the spring when the winter snow melts or during prolonged rainy periods. The Friends, in accordance with the Spring Grove Master Plan, have wanted to address these issues for several years, but have been challenged by where and exactly how to start such a large undertaking. Addressing drainage problems section by section seemed like a good approach, but not having complete storm/sewer drainage records for the entire property warrants concern that we'd miss opportunities to channel new drainage to existing pipelines. With this in mind, this spring the Friends contracted with Cunningham & Associates, Inc., Civil Engineering & Surveying, at a cost of \$8,350 to research existing historical records and perform a field survey to prepare a storm sewer survey and evaluate Spring Grove drainage issues and advise as to measures to address the drainage problems. From this surveying and engineering analysis, detailed construction plans addressing specific drainage remediation can be prepared for consideration in the future.





Spring Grove Spring Tree Project

The Friends of the Cemetery continue our commitment to the beautification of Spring Grove by paying for the maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees. In January, we funded the removal of low-hanging branches of Spring Grove trees by Tree Maintenance Services at a cost of \$2,000. We also contracted with First Choice Tree Work this spring, after the trees began to bloom, for two days of professional dead wood trimming throughout the cemetery at a cost up to \$5,200. We purchased 16 trees from Davis Tree Farm for \$3,108 (see map for planting locations and tree variety) and had those trees professionally dug and planted by Greenskeepers Tree Service & Landscaping at a cost of \$2,150.

Editor's Update

In our December 2018 newsletter, we featured a story on local legend, Jim Curtice, Elm Farm Dairy milkman. Much of the story was based on memories of Jim Curtice as recorded in an interview conducted later in his life. Mentioned in the article was that Jim recalled John Indoe of Granger Blacksmith Shop visiting the Abell farm from time to time to shoe the milk wagon horses. After reading this line, Granger historian, Bob Hummel, emailed us with his memories of John Indoe. Bob wrote, "Sam Grossenbacher was the blacksmith here in Granger. John Indoe was a cattleman who was a good friend of my grandfather both of whom lived in Granger. I grew up knowing Sam and John and never knew of John shoeing horses." Thanks to Bob Hummel for sharing his recollection of John Indoe!



Cemetery Data Base

Years ago, the City's burial records were painstakingly copied into a custom-built Access database which is still in use today by the Sexton. The 2018 Spring Grove Master Plan made recommendations for the update of that database, including mobile-friendly software so that the public can easily access public burial records to locate graves within Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard. The Friends urged the City to look into database programs that other municipalities may be using and are currently researching those possibilities in collaboration with the City.

Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - MAY 2019

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In Memory Donations: *In Memory of David Kellogg*

Century Homes Association
Traci A. Linn

* designates new member
† designates life-time member
◊ designates corporate member

New Members since December 2018:

Leonard & Linda Frost	Mary Jo Palmer	Andrea Spickler
Beth G. Girman	Patricia S. Robertson	Karen Thorn
Giselle Hornsby	Jeb & Julie Schubert	Tomlinson Family
Terry E. Indoe	Becky Shotwell	Shannon M. Turney
Billie L. Meyers	Roger Smalley	

New Lifetime Members since December 2018:

James & Paula Banks	Charles & Teresa Merkel
Vickie Fleming	Peter & Patricia Wood
Nancy McKee	Woolsteen/Willis Greene Family

New Corporate Member since December 2018:

Gowe Leasing

If 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 _____

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Membership enclosed _____

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