



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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Medina, Ohio

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HALL *of* FAME



The Friends of the Cemetery were inducted into the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame on June 8, 2018. We were honored to be included in such a distinguished group of people who over the years have made a lasting impact on the community. The Friends of the Cemetery were recognized for our dedication

to the beautification, historic preservation, maintenance and appreciation of Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard and for the significant projects we have accomplished within the cemeteries. We are just the sixth community organization to be inducted since the Hall of Fame's inception in 1979.



Friends of the Cemetery

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

To reach us:

info@friendsofmedinacemetery.org
330.725.8861 - Ext. 1055

Trustees

Teresa Merkle
President

Jerry Gunner
Vice-President

Vickie Fleming
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Linda Fenn
Debra Hallock
Dennis Leach
Cynthia Szunyog
Harold Waite
Paul Wood

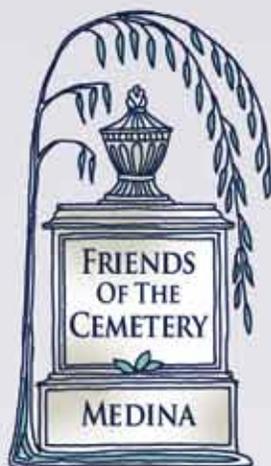
Editors

Teresa Merkle
Cynthia Szunyog

Photos

Bill Beuther
Linda Curtice Frost
Lisa Macino
Teresa Merkle
Dottie Nemeck

Designed by
Ron Bell/Advision Design



Material Storage Canopy

The material storage canopy is now complete. The Friends were pleased to fund this structure at a cost of \$29,773. It adds a very nice finishing touch to the Spring Grove maintenance area.

New Columbarium Wall Update

The City went out to bid this summer for construction of the new columbarium wall and, unfortunately, the only bid submitted was far above the Engineer's estimate and was rejected. The project was re-bid this fall. We were hoping the project would have been well underway before the winter months, but are now looking toward spring/summer of 2019.

Cemetery Trees

The City has removed six diseased and/or dying trees at Spring Grove and one large Norway Spruce at Old Town Graveyard. In an effort to continue maintenance of our cemetery trees, the Friends are funding the professional trimming of the low-hanging limbs of trees at Spring Grove. This work is slated for January. In the spring of next year, we will fund the professional deadwood trimming of Spring Grove trees. Also, in the spring of 2019, the Friends will fund the purchase and planting of new trees at Spring Grove.

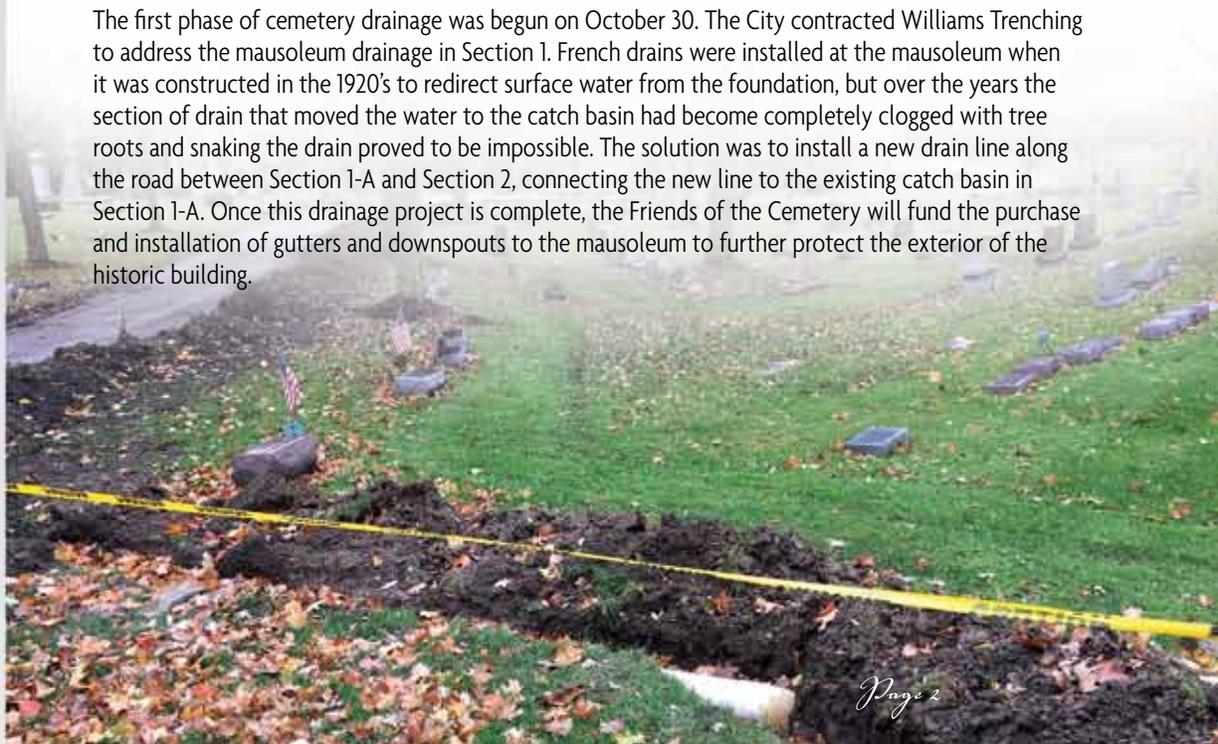
Friends Of The Cemetery Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Cemetery held their Annual Meeting on September 9, 2018. This year's agenda included a review of the Friends projects over the 2017-2018 year as well as election of Officers and Trustees. The slate of Officers elected were Teresa Merkle, President, Jerry Gunner, Vice-President and Vickie Fleming, Secretary-Treasurer. Jerry Gunner was re-elected to a 3-year term as Trustee and Paul Wood and Debra Hallock were elected to 3-year terms. We were pleased to present the final version of updated Friends of the Cemetery By-Laws to our membership at the Annual Meeting along with updated Articles of Incorporation. Those members in attendance unanimously voted to accept the new By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation. Thank you to all who attended.

Future Planning

With the 2018 Master Plan for the cemeteries in hand, we have budgeted for, over the next three years, a number of significant projects that include cemetery drainage, electrical service update to the Spring Grove chapel, entry gate and chapel preventative maintenance, accessible database for cemetery records and addressing uneven terrain issues.

The first phase of cemetery drainage was begun on October 30. The City contracted Williams Trenching to address the mausoleum drainage in Section 1. French drains were installed at the mausoleum when it was constructed in the 1920's to redirect surface water from the foundation, but over the years the section of drain that moved the water to the catch basin had become completely clogged with tree roots and snaking the drain proved to be impossible. The solution was to install a new drain line along the road between Section 1-A and Section 2, connecting the new line to the existing catch basin in Section 1-A. Once this drainage project is complete, the Friends of the Cemetery will fund the purchase and installation of gutters and downspouts to the mausoleum to further protect the exterior of the historic building.





Civil War Soldiers' Graves ID Project

To honor and pay tribute to our Spring Grove Civil War veterans at the Spring Grove Civil War Encampment, it was important to identify and mark each and every Civil War soldier's grave so that our Encampment visitors would know where each Civil War grave was by just looking out over a section of the cemetery and seeing the sea of red, white and blue markers. To this end, the week before the Encampment, we had a group of 30+ volunteers turn out armed with maps and lists of names and plot numbers. Marking these graves, however, was not an easy task. Our cemetery record cards do not record military service and although there has been very diligent research done and excellent lists published in the past with names and grave plot numbers of our Civil War soldiers, we found a few discrepancies. In fact, by scouring the grounds looking for soldiers' graves, volunteers found we have several more than our listed 163 Civil War soldiers buried at Spring Grove. Our volunteers found gravestones with names and military service of soldiers who had not made it on our lists and also discovered, sadly, that some of our Civil War soldiers do not have gravestones. Volunteers placed the special markers on each grave whether that soldier was on our list or whether or not there

was a gravestone. After the Encampment, it was decided more work needed to be done to ensure that each and every Spring Grove Civil War soldier is identified. On July 19, the Friends hosted another Civil War soldier grave canvassing at Spring Grove. Again, a wonderful group of volunteers descended on Spring Grove to go through each section and "leave no stone unturned," so to speak. We finished off this volunteer session with a time of fellowship with pizza and soda. The information gleaned from these two canvassings is currently being processed by Friends Trustee Paul Wood. American Legion Post 292 and the VFW are in support of this project as we work together toward securing military markers from the Veterans Administration so that each and every Spring Grove Civil War veteran will be recognized and receive a flag on future Memorial Days. Subsequently, our goal is to implement this project at Old Town Graveyard once we finish at Spring Grove and, after the Civil War soldiers at both cemeteries are identified, we plan to broaden the scope of the project to include identifying all military veterans from all wars buried at both Spring Grove and Old Town. We once again thank our dedicated volunteers and Paul Wood for leading this effort.

Fall and Winter Decorations

The regulations for Spring Grove Cemetery call for fall decorations to be removed by December 15 and Winter Decorations removed by March 15. On or after those dates, Cemetery staff will remove any remaining and/or unsightly decorations.



Jim Curtice, A Medina Legend

by Teresa Merkle

Many of our “more seasoned” readers will fondly remember Jim Curtice as a daily fixture in and around Medina’s neighborhoods for many decades.

James Franklin Curtice was born September 3, 1916 in Elyria, OH. At a young age, his family moved to a 210-acre farm on Lafayette Road south of the railroad tracks between Columbia Road and Carsten Road. Jim’s first job, at 10-years old, was weeding onions in Lodi for .08/ hour. After a year, his pay was increased to .10/hour. In 1935, the family moved to 910 Baxter Street in Medina. Jim went to work for Farmers Exchange to pay the \$5 per week room and board charge his parents required “whether he had a job or not.” Evidently, Jim was quite motivated to pay that room and board as he also worked as a painter during the summer and in the winter at Old Mill Gas Station near A.I. Root Company.

In 1938, Jim heard Elm Farm Dairy was looking to add a milk route, so he interviewed with Henry Abell and got the job. On October 25, 1938 Jim started out on what was to be a 40-year milk delivery career. Bill, a dapple-grey Belgian, started on that journey with

Jim, pulling the milk wagon. Milk wagon horses were changed out about every four years and new horses would be trained to learn the route. It only took 2-3 days of training before the horses instinctively followed the route, however, it seemed some were more willing learners than others. The horses were kept at the

Abell’s farm at the corner of Lake Road and Lafayette Road at first and then later they were kept at the Abell farm located at Lake Road and Rt. 162. Blacksmith John Indoe, from Granger Blacksmith Shop in Granger, came out to the Abell farm to shoe the horses.

Jim’s milk route started each day at 7:30 a.m.

after a stop at Tebbits for ice. The length of the daily route varied, depending on how much time it took to chat with customers and solicit business which was important since Jim was paid by commission. Milk, dairy products, and later, ice cream, were delivered door to door as there were very few stores that carried dairy products. Often Jim would give the neighborhood kids a ride on the route, that included Bob Fenn who rode with him down Smith Road. Jim fed and watered his horse each day at

It seems Medina has had more than its share of notable citizenry throughout the years.





lunchtime at Joe Kauffman's Sohio gas station at the corner of N. Huntington and W. Liberty. While the horse fed, Jim went inside the station to eat his lunch too. After lunch, the route continued on N. Huntington to West Friendship. Normally the horse would need to answer nature's call about 15 minutes after departing the Sohio station and often this would happen in front of Mrs. Jacobs' house on West Friendship. One day while Mrs. Jacobs retrieved her delivered milk off the porch, her white poodle squeezed between the doors and ran into the street and rolled into the horse droppings. The following day, Mrs. Jacobs was waiting for Jim and his horse with a request that the horse not be allowed to do that anymore in front of her home. Jim told Mrs. Jacobs that he'd try his best and ended up changing his route to go past her house to the end of the street before turning around and delivering her milk on the way back.



There were two Elm Farm milk wagons in Medina. When Ken West, the other milk delivery man, got Elm Farm's first motorized wagon, he advised Jim to keep his horse as long as he could. That was because the horse moved along the route and "did the driving" while the milkman did his paperwork and prepared for the next delivery. With a motorized truck, that was an impossibility. In 1958, twenty years after Jim started his horse-drawn route, he was issued a motorized delivery truck.

Jim continued to deliver dairy products for Elm Farm until the dairy closed in 1978, but that was not the end of his employment with the Abells. In 1979, Jim started a 10-year stint as a supervisor with the Stop-n-Go stores. Jim finally retired at the age of 72. He later reflected that his favorite part of his milk delivery job was being his own boss and that only he was responsible for his paycheck.

Jim lived a long and full life. His 90th birthday was celebrated at the Elm Farm Dairy Ice Cream Museum in 2006. As a gift Jim received a commissioned watercolor painting by local artist, Fred Graff, that depicted Jim and his horse. The original painting was donated to the Medina County Library and is on display in the library's 1907 Room. Jim passed away on August 14, 2013 at the age of 96 and was buried at Spring Grove Cemetery in Section 15B.

Editor's Note: We thank Jim's daughter, Linda Curtice Frost, for supplying a copy of the 2007 interview Dr. Nancy Deucker did with Jim and from which much of the above article was derived.

The original photograph from which Fred Graff made the watercolor was taken of Jim Curtice and, Tom, his milk wagon horse, in 1957 just prior to Elm Farm's retiring the milk wagon. Note the Abell's house in the background and the infamous elm tree (Elm Farm Dairy) behind the wagon.





Civil War Encampment a Success

The May 26th Spring Grove Civil War Encampment was a wonderful success! Holding the event on the front lawns of Spring Grove on Memorial Day weekend was fitting since more than 160 of Medina's Civil War veterans are buried in Spring Grove. The Friends of the Cemetery thank all the visitors who attended the Encampment. There was great community spirit felt throughout the day with folks visiting and enjoying one another's company. We thank our wonderful Civil War re-enactors and presenters, the City administration, City Council, Medina City Cemetery Commission and, especially, the Spring Grove Cemetery staff for doing such a beautiful job preparing the grounds. We thank our many partners

who provided services that promoted and enhanced the event including Medina City Schools, Medina County District Library, Marc Milinkovich (Underground Railroad house tours), American Legion Post 292, Oddfellows, Medina Breakfast Kiwanis, St. Francis Xavier Church, Main Street Medina, Medina County Historical Society, Medina Bicentennial Celebration Committee, Icandi Graphics, Friends of Medina Memorial Park & Pool, Bill Beuther Photography, Waite and Sons Funeral Homes, and Marketing with Integrity. Our biggest thanks and gratitude go out to our 100+ volunteers who are the reason the day turned out to be the huge success it was! Thank you so much!

2018 Historical Walk by Cynthia Szunyog

Our 2018 Historical Walk followed a new format. Since it was a Bicentennial Walk, we presented many of the people buried in Old Town Graveyard who had lived in Medina in 1818. The individual talks were a lot shorter but this allowed us to present a picture of Medina's inhabitants in the early days, both some well-known individuals and others forgotten by history, who were everyday people pursuing the usual frontier occupations.

A distinguished group of history-oriented people were our presenters, Brian Feron and Farrell McHugh from the Board of the Medina County Historical Society, Paul Wood and Cynthia Szunyog from the Friends of the Cemetery Board and Pat Morgan from the Medina County Genealogical Society Board. Around 100 people were in attendance due to the efforts of our publicity expert, Dottie Nemec.

Briefly, we presented three Revolutionary War veterans, Harmon Munson, John Clark and Frederick Jones, War of 1812 veteran, Seth Walker, and two Civil War soldiers, Walter Manning, who died in the battle of Winchester, and James Welch who was wounded at

Gettysburg and died three days later. We spoke about several men who were prominent in Medina history, Rufus Ferris and Austin Badger as well as William Granville, an early rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, merchants David King, and Uriah Peake, (the King mansion stood on the site of the Medina Library and was moved north to N. Broadway Street), farmers whose descendants still live in Medina, Ara Fenn, ancestor of the Fenn family and Ebenezer Clark, ancestor of the Medina Clark's including Helen Waite and her family. We paused at the graves of the children and wife of James Thomas. James, 11 months, and Peter, two years, died in July, 1840 within ten days of each other. Joseph, 3 weeks, and his mother Jane, 29, died in 1848. We can assume that the father left Medina later on. We noted the many children who died very young and the number of young women who died very young, possibly in childbirth. It was an exciting time but a dangerous one.

We thank our presenters and all of the people who attended the cemetery walk. We enjoy doing this and hope others enjoy the program we offer.



Friends of the Cemetery

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In Memory Donations:

In Memory of Bonnie Leach
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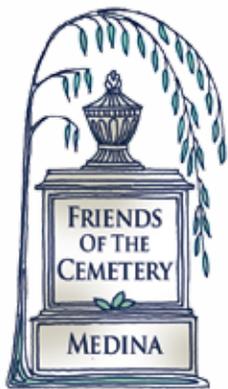
New Members since May 2018:

Bruce & Sally Bauer	Gary & Christine Hallock	Wyatt Lemasters
Nancy Chizmar	Brian & Susan Rooy Harr	Marie Nauth
Terry Gerspacher	Angie Kovacs	Dolores Ziegler

New Lifetime Members since May 2018:

Dr. Jack D. Arters	Bob & Colleen Leedy
Debra L. Hallock	William & Jane Pierce

*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.



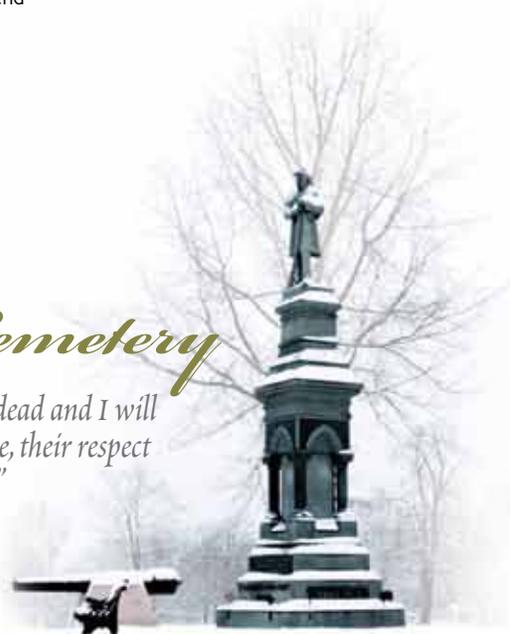
FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256



An 8 x 10 Spring Grove Civil War ancestor photograph is available for \$10. If you'd like to purchase a copy, please send your check or money order to Friends of the Cemetery, 775 East Washington Street, Medina, OH 44256.

You may view Photographer Bill Beuther's collection of Encampment photos by going to:
www.FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org
and clicking on **Events**, and then **Encampment Pictures**.



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
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Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
Contributing _____	\$50.00	Corporate _____	\$1,000.00

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