

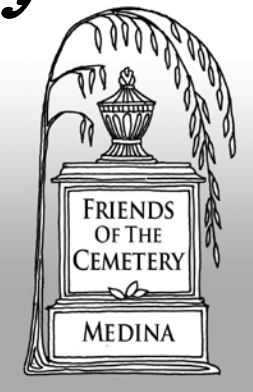
FRIENDS  
OF THE  
CEMETERY

445 W. Liberty Street,  
Suite 219  
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*



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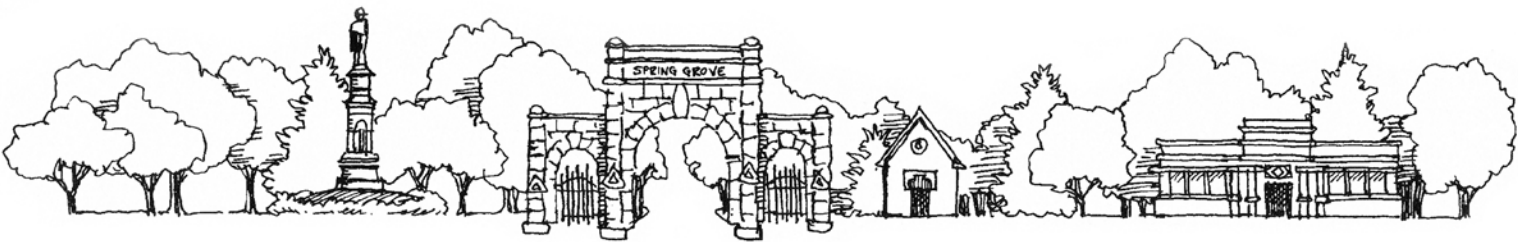
Senior _____	\$10.00	Supporting _____	\$100.00
Individual _____	\$15.00	Heritage _____	\$250.00
Family _____	\$25.00	Lifetime _____	\$500.00
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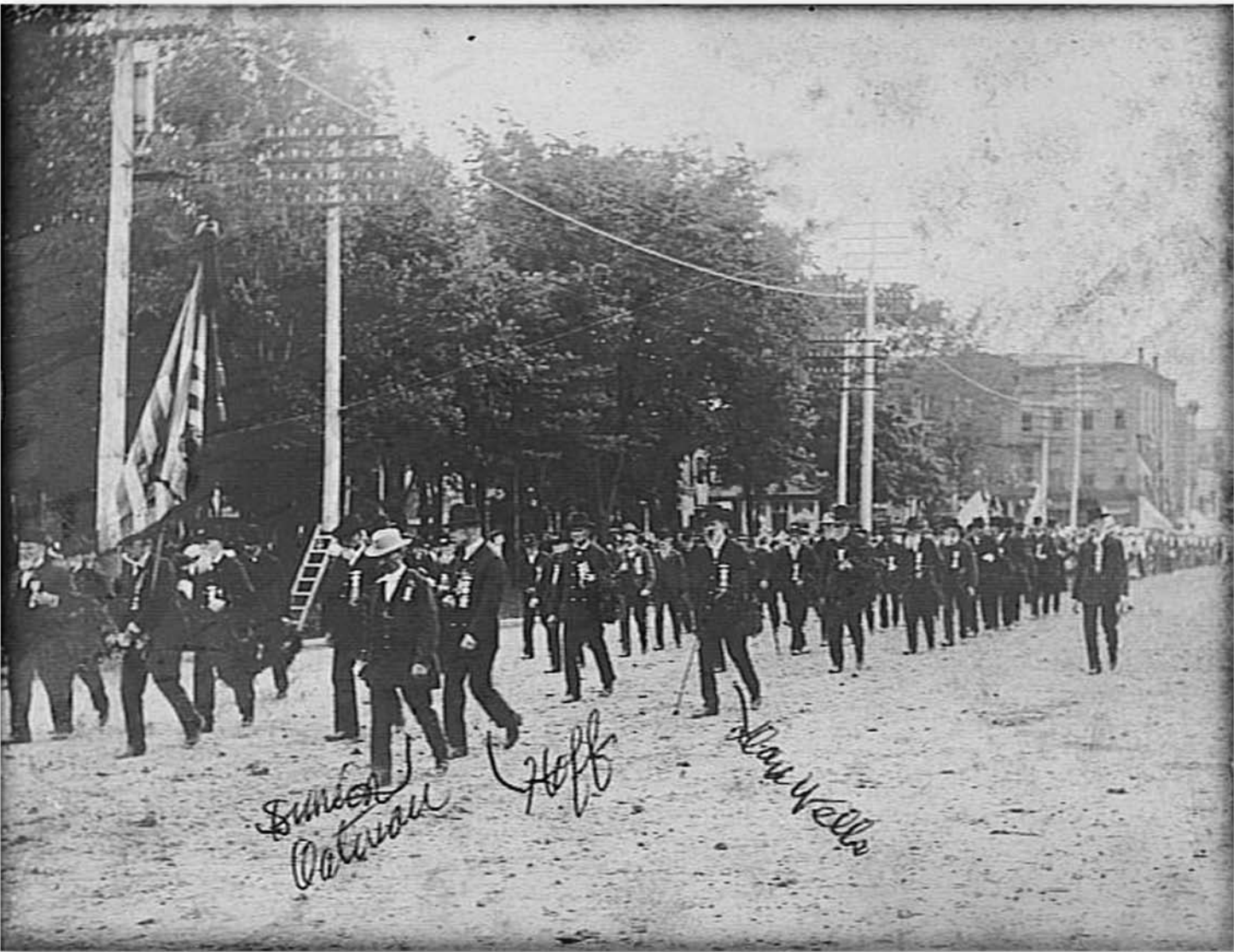


FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 20

Medina, Ohio

May 2009



Medina Civil War Veterans  
March in "Decoration Day" Parade

Photo Courtesy of the Medina County Historical Society



## Friends of the Cemetery

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

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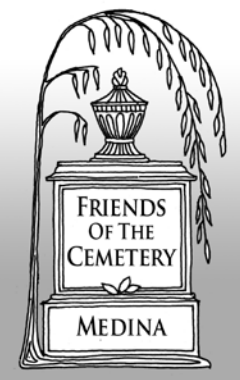
Teresa Merkle  
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### Photos

John Gill

### Board Meetings

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



## Memorial Day

By Theodosia Pickering Garrison (1874-1944)  
1921 collection: *As The Larks Rise*

A handful of old men walking down the village street  
In worn, brushed uniforms, their gray heads high;  
A faded flag above them, one drum to lift their feet –  
Look again, O heart of mine, and see what passes by!

There's a vast crowd swaying, there's a wild band playing,  
The streets are full of marching men, or tramping cavalry.  
Alive and young and straight again, they ride to greet a mate again –  
The gallant souls, the great souls that live eternally!

A handful of old men walking down the highways?  
Nay, we look on heroes that march among their peers,  
The great, glad Companions have swung from heaven's byways  
And come to join their own again across the dusty years.

There are strong hands meeting, there are staunch hearts greeting –  
A crying of remembered names, of deeds that shall not die.  
A handful of old men? – Nay, my heart, look well again;  
The spirit of America today is marching by!

## Ernest S. Gault WORLD WAR I HERO

With our thoughts on the upcoming Memorial Day, we look back at the story of a local hero of a bygone era. Ernest S. Gault of Company D, 103rd Infantry, moved with his family to the Chippewa Lake area from Wyandot County, Ohio at the age of 14. Ten years later, at the age of 24, he made the ultimate sacrifice on September 26, 1918, the first day of the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive – also known as the Battle of the Argonne Forest, but his fate was not known for certain until two and one half years later when his father, County Commissioner, J.E. Gault, received word from Washington that Ernest's remains were buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. Ernest had been listed as missing in action since September 26, 1918, but the Gault family had held on to hope that Ernest would some day return



ERNEST S. GAULT.

after they had received a report he had been seen alive after he was reported missing. But finally, in April, 1921, communication was received that Ernest's remains had been identified in the cemetery in France. The decision, then, had to be made as to whether to bring Ernest's remains home for burial or to leave them in the grave in France. It is hard to imagine, in our modern day of communication and transportation, the effort and time it would have taken to make these kind of arrangements from Medina County to Washington D.C. to France and back again, but finally in Tuesday's, October 25, 1921 edition, the Medina County Gazette reported, "With all the honors due to a hero who has laid down his life for his country and for his fellowman, Ernest S. Gault was laid to rest Sunday afternoon." Ernest's body arrived at the Gault home on Saturday,

October 22 and was taken on Sunday to the Methodist church at Chippewa Lake for the funeral. The funeral procession made its way from Chippewa Lake to Medina and was met as it came into town by the Courtney Lawrence American Legion Post and the Medina Band. The gathering then proceeded to Spring Grove Cemetery for the burial where full military honors were conferred with gun salute and the playing of taps. Present at the gathering was Roscoe Evans of Cincinnati, the young man who "was the last one



*Gault Family Gravestone*

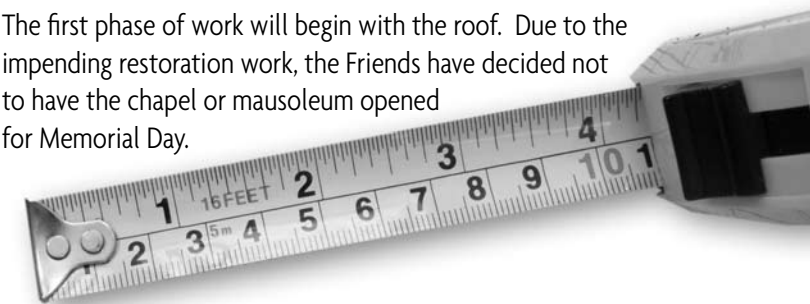
to see him alive before being separated during the action." The report continued, "Ernest was a runner and was delivering a message to the front lines in Marcheville when he was last seen. His running mate reports that as they advanced and

reached the top of a hill, they saw on the other side a body of Prussian guards facing them. They separated and ran in either direction and from September 26, 1918, nothing was heard from him until a telegram came in April 1921, stating his body was found at Marcheville."

## Chapel Restoration Underway

Bids for the Chapel restoration were received by the architect Dale Serne of Gaede Serne Architects on April 2, 2009. Of the five contractors invited to bid, four responded. The Friends of the Cemetery awarded the contract for the restoration to Simmons Brothers Construction of Medina. Work started in early May and should be completed by the end of June.

The first phase of work will begin with the roof. Due to the impending restoration work, the Friends have decided not to have the chapel or mausoleum opened for Memorial Day.



## Winter Tree Work

The Friends contracted with the Davey Tree Expert Company to do the annual winter pruning, cabling and fertilizing of Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard trees. Davey pruned fourteen trees and cabled two at Spring Grove. Twenty-eight trees received deep root fertilization there as well. All

3" to 8" trees along with twenty mature trees were fertilized at Old Town.

We are dedicated to preserving and maintaining the urban forest in both cemeteries.

## Fall Historical Walk

Remember the annual Historical Walk that is sponsored by the Friends of the Cemetery in conjunction with the Medina County Library. A date has not yet been set for this year, but the walk is always held on a Saturday afternoon in September. Stay tuned to the Medina County Library's Fall '09 schedule of

events when it becomes available. This program is a great way to learn about the lives of some of Medina's more notable, as well as less notable, citizens who are buried at Spring Grove and, at the same time, get a bit of exercise strolling through the lovely 34-acre fall landscape.

## Annual Meeting to be Held in September

The Friends will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the chapel at Spring Grove. Mark your calendar now – the chapel restoration should be complete by then and this will make an excellent opportunity to come and see the results!





# #1 Landscaping Receives Award for the Pat Mears Garden

by: Juli Kovacs

**#1** Landscaping was recently honored by the Ohio Landscape Association with two merit awards in the 2008 Landscape Ohio! Landscape Enhancement Awards Program. This program was created in 1997 by the Ohio Landscape Association to recognize and applaud excellence in design and craftsmanship. One of these awards this year was for the Pat Mears Memorial Garden at Spring Grove Cemetery. The Landscape Ohio! Awards Program is open to all landscape professionals in the state of Ohio. Each November, landscapers are invited to submit project entries in 19 different categories to be judged by a panel of industry professionals. To ensure objectivity, the entrants' identity is kept secret during the judging process and it is not until late March that winners are announced at an "Academy Awards" style dinner. This is the same program in which #1 Landscaping won an award for the flower plantings on the four corners at the Uptown Park in 2004.

We submitted the Pat Mears project under the category of "Specialty Garden." In the past, this category had included gardens created for public display at shows like the Cleveland

Home and Garden show. This is the first year that those entries had their own category since they are not created for permanent use. Submission of a project for one of these awards involves providing up to ten digital photographs showing the before and after shots of the project, an extensive entry form with details about the project and description of the photographs, a drawing/plan of the area with markings to show where each photograph was taken and a plant list. We had been documenting the progress in the Pat Mears Garden since the day the proposed area was surveyed up until the finished garden's peak color last season with photographs. Friends of the Cemetery, Trustee, John Gill, was diligently documenting the process with photographs himself – we greatly appreciate his help in providing us with numerous shots that we missed. What was once an unused parched land in the heart of Spring Grove has evolved and matured into a beautiful, colorful and inviting destination for walkers and cemetery visitors.

*Editor's Note: We congratulate Juli Kovacs and the #1 Landscaping staff on their award and we thank Juli and #1 for their loving care of our gardens at Spring Grove.*

## Service Area Refurbishment

Tim Swanson, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Medina, announced at a recent Cemetery Commission meeting that the City is planning a spruce up of the maintenance building service area in the near future. The area north of the maintenance building will

be graded and then gravel will be laid to accommodate parking of cemetery maintenance vehicles and equipment as well as employee and visitor parking. New storage bins will be built for spoil piles and drainage issues in this area will be addressed.

## City Roadwork Plans

The City will continue their yearly roadwork improvement plan during the warmer weather months. The City Service Director and Director of Parks and Recreation are committed to the Spring Grove roadwork improvement project for Spring Grove Cemetery. It is great to have nice roads on which to drive and we look forward to the next improvement phase.

## Tree Planted in Memory of Art Riedel

The Davey Tree Expert Company donated and planted a Burr Oak in memory of Art Riedel. It was planted on the chapel grounds where Art spent many hours tending the Ilex hedge and perennial gardens. The City of Medina donated a plaque set in granite in Art's memory.

## Trees Saved and Replanted at Spring Grove

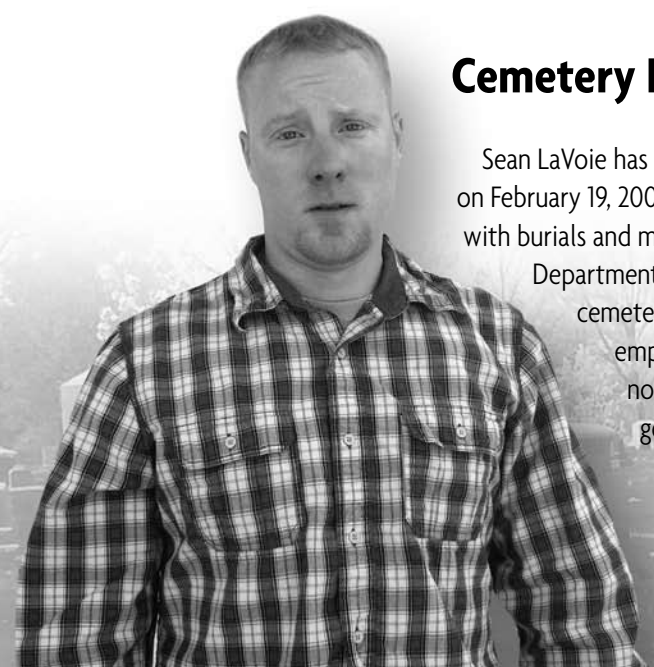
We are pleased to announce that the City planted eight trees at Spring Grove that were slated to be destroyed because of the construction of the new parking deck behind the Medina County Courthouse. City Arborist, Jansen Wehrley, spearheaded this effort along with the help of Sean LaVoie and the City Parks Department. Five Serviceberry, two Honey

Locust and one Paperbark Maple were brought to Spring Grove – the five Serviceberry and the Paperbark Maple were planted on the mausoleum grounds and the two Honey Locusts were planted near the end of Section 16. An excellent job of replanting was done – the trees look as though they have always been at Spring Grove! We applaud the City for saving these trees and bringing them to Spring Grove.



Serviceberries blooming in front of the Mausoleum

## Cemetery Employee - Shawn LaVoie



Sean LaVoie has worked for the cemetery for over a year since he was hired in on February 19, 2008 as a part-time laborer. Sean's job duties include helping with burials and maintaining the cemetery grounds. He also helps the Forestry Department as needed with tree care work. He enjoys working at the cemetery. One of Sean's goals is to one day become a full time employee at the cemetery. He lives in Medina Township and when not at work, he enjoys working around the house, working out, going fishing and boating in the summer. Sean was in the Army from 1997 until 2001 during which time he was stationed in Germany from 1997 to 1999. He was in the National Guard from 2002 until 2004 and was stationed in Italy and Turkey.



# Spring Grove Garden Update

by: Juli Kovacs



Catherine Frey and I will be working at the gardens again this year. We are looking forward to a great season working at both the Soldier's Monument and Pat Mears gardens. Since the chapel is getting some work done that will affect the plant material around it, we will be digging out several things originally planted by Cemetery Advocate, Art Riedel, which will then be saved and replanted once the chapel work is complete. The perennials around the chapel will get a new home in a new perennial planting area behind the columbarium wall. Many perennials in the Pat Mears garden will also be re-located there as some of them will do better in a drier location. The Fairy Roses that have struggled behind the columbarium wall until now will be replaced with coneflowers, salvia, sedum, Russian sage and lavender.

This will allow for planting some newer, more deer resistant varieties of plant material at the Pat Mears Garden. Deer browsing has become a significant problem at both gardens in the past few years and we predict it will only worsen as the deer population continues to expand. Some perennials will need replaced simply because the deer will not leave them alone even with heavy deer repellent usage. The hostas and daylilies are some of their favorites. Some of you may have noticed the Irish Spring soap on sticks last season. That worked pretty well, but wasn't entirely effective and wasn't very attractive. We hope to find a better balance of plants that tolerate the soil conditions with ones deer won't bother – and will try hard to keep existing plants that need only moderate preventative repellent. It is our hope to keep the roses in both gardens as they are such a substantial part of the Soldier Monument planting -- and were loved so by Pat Mears.

## Symbolism At Spring Grove Cemetery

Many of the Victorian gravestones in our cemetery are designed to speak to the observer through a language of symbols. Al Loew has researched the meaning of some the symbols.



The hand pointing up represents righteousness, and the ascension into heaven.

The hand holding a broken link of chain – Symbolizes the loss of a family member.

A broken column represents a life cut short, and therefore is used as a marker for a child or young person.

The inverted torch signifies death.

A draped urn is a common cemetery sculptural detail. Its use as a symbol can be traced back to ancient Greek and Egyptian funerary practices. The urn represents mourning, and in a sense represents the body being a repository for the soul.

Five-pointed stars represent the spirit going to heaven. Stars also represent the spirit shining brightly against the darkness of oblivion.

The Victorians were fascinated by Egyptian design motifs, and the obelisk can be found quite often in cemeteries. Obelisks are stately, and graceful, symbolizing eternal life.

Treestones: Evidence of the Victorian rustic movement, treestones are certainly distinctive grave markers. Trees typically symbolize life; the tree stump then carries the exact opposite message.

Special markers were developed for war veterans. For example, an organization of Civil War veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) has many markers in Spring Grove. Similar markers may be found to indicate a person was a veteran of the War of Independence, the War of 1812, the Spanish American War, and the two World Wars.

# Sadie Green- Veteran, Nurse, Teacher, Social Worker, Artist !

By David Kellogg



Sadie Green

Since our Medina Memorial Day Ceremonies are conducted at Spring Grove Cemetery, articles about war veterans are always appropriate for our spring newsletter. While searching for such a story for this issue, I ran across a fascinating article from the November 28, 1998 issue of the Medina County Gazette, which I will summarize here.

Sadie Green was born in Medina County on March 4, 1885. When the United States entered World War I, she joined the army as a nurse. She, together with about 200 other nurses, was shipped to England to care for wounded soldiers. During the Atlantic crossing the ship was on guard against German torpedo boats. The ship arrived safely in England, and Green spent about two years in England nursing war casualties.

After her return to the United States, she became Medina County's first public nurse in the early 1920s. She visited schools to examine students for bad tonsils and teeth. She held health education classes, which included warnings against the dangers of smoking. She arranged for underprivileged children to attend YMCA and YWCA summer camps.

In those days many children were put in foster homes. She worked with the county probation officer, Frank Eastwood, to

help place children in foster homes. They helped some families to adopt children who needed homes. She held classes in local jails to teach prisoners to read and write.

Eventually, Ms. Green moved to Columbus to work at University Hospital. She also nursed at the penitentiary in Columbus.

She retired to the VA Nursing Home in Dayton. In retirement she continued to help care for other residents of the home. She also engaged in artistic endeavors. She produced paintings, which graced a number of private homes. She used a hammer and punch to render a copper version of "The Last Supper".

Sadie Green died at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Dayton on January 11, 1986 – a scant three months short of age 101. Graveside services were held in Medina before interment in Spring Grove Cemetery in Section 4.

Sadie Green exemplifies the long life well lived serving others.

## Planting Regulations

Regulations for planting at the cemetery read as follows:

- 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.

## New Members since December '08

*We welcome the following:*

Reg Campbell • Kathleen Murray • Robert Pennington • Anita Robertson-Szucs • Linda Stekelenburg