

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



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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Friends of the Cemetery • 445 W. Liberty Street • Suite 219 • Medina, OH 44256



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 22

Medina, Ohio

May 2010

Observance in Medina, Ohio, of

Memorial Day

Saturday, May 30, 1931

NOTE—In case of rain
or very cold weather, the
program will be con-
ducted in the high
school auditorium.

Grand Army of the Republic
Spanish-American War Veterans
Soldiers and Sailors of All Wars
Patriotic Organizations, Public Schools
and
Citizens Generally Are Invited to Participate

Arrangements in charge of Courtney Lawrence
Post, No. 202, The American Legion

Memorial Day
Open House

We will hold an Open House at our newly restored chapel on Memorial Day 2010. The chapel will open just prior to the Memorial Day Ceremony that takes place annually at the Spring Grove Cemetery Soldiers' Mound and it will remain open for a short time after the service. We hope that you will make a point to stop by and come in to see the work that has been done. Friends of the Cemetery Trustees will be there to welcome you. The Spring Grove mausoleum will also be open to the public.

Friends of the Cemetery

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To reach us:

Teresa Merkle
330-722-1706
ctmerkle@earthlink.net

Cynthia Szunyog
330-722-5020
cszunyog@msn.com

Trustees

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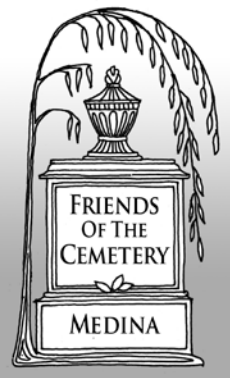
Teresa Merkle
Cynthia Szunyog

Photos

John Gill
Teresa Merkle
Cynthia Szunyog

Board Meetings

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



Fall Historical Walk

Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. has been selected as the date for our annual historical walk sponsored by the Friends of the Cemetery in conjunction with the Medina County District Library. This has been such a nice event and just seems to get better each year! The weather has been lovely every year and we are hoping for the same good luck in 2010. Mark your calendar now and come join us for a leisurely afternoon of strolling back in time and through beautiful Spring Grove. Cynthia Szunyog would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with this event or who has suggestions of folks buried at Spring Grove who might make interesting subjects for the tour. You may contact Cynthia at 330-722-5020 or cszunyog@msn.com.

WEBSITE

The Friends of the Cemetery have been thinking of launching a website for some time and finally made the decision to

advance into 21st century technology. We have hired Chad Allen Consulting LLC of Medina to design and develop a website for us! Some of our members have requested we keep in touch via the web instead of "snail mail" and we will now be able to honor these wishes as we will upload our bi-annual newsletter onto our website. We will also archive back issues of the newsletter on the website as well. The website will include pages about the cemeteries, the Friends' history, a photo gallery, newsletter archives, cemetery maps, and membership opportunities. By the way, if you would like to hear from us via the internet, please send us your e-mail address and we'll be happy to accommodate you.

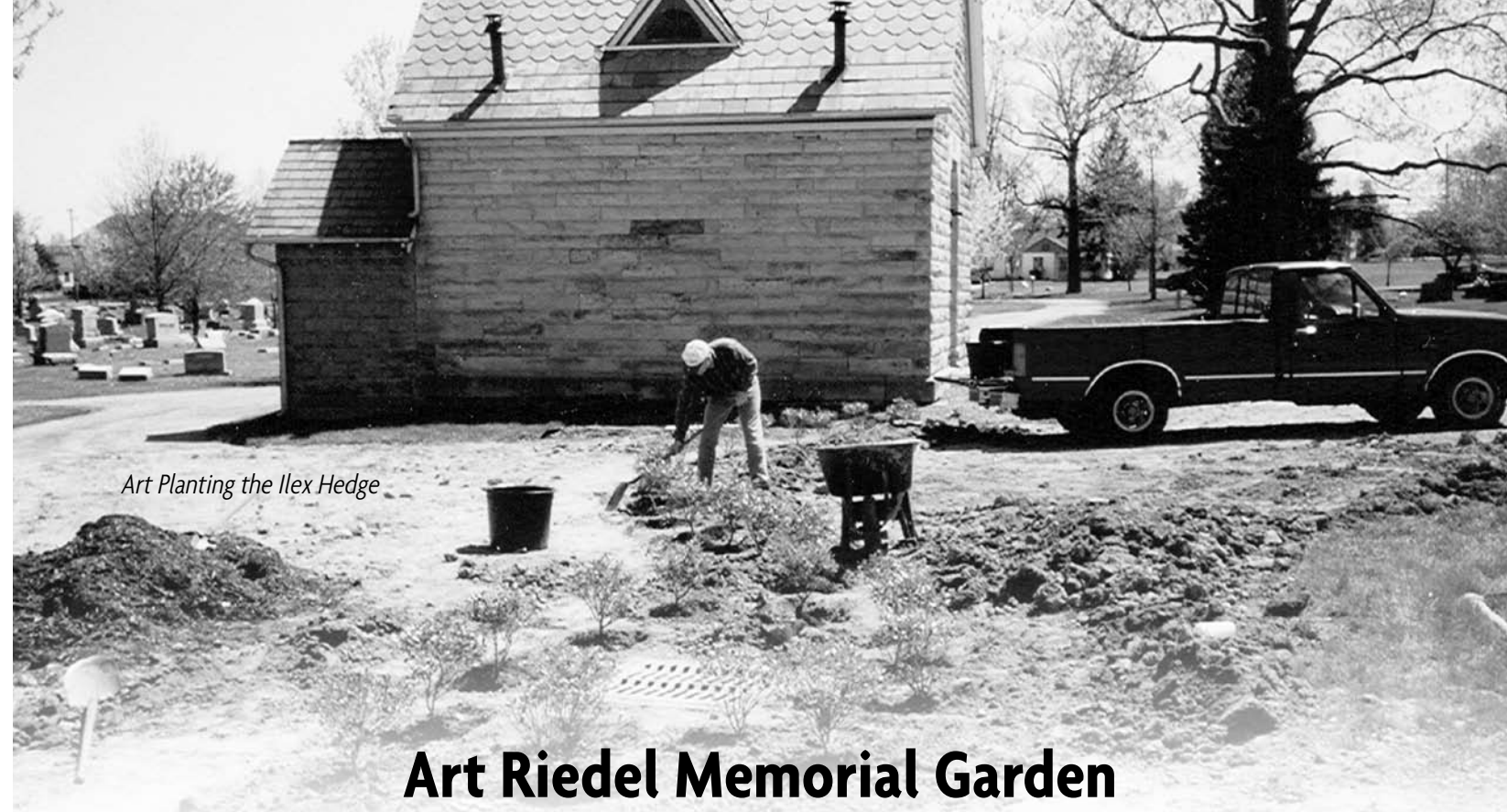
WINTER TREE WORK

The Friends of the Cemetery hired Treemasters Tree Service to do our winter tree work this year. Friends Trustee Dennis Leach, the City Forester and representatives from Treemasters did a walk-through of Spring Grove Cemetery and came up with a plan that divides the cemetery into five sections in which maintenance will be concentrated on the medium-growth to younger trees within that section.

The fertilization component of our tree maintenance will be done in-house this year by City crews since the City recently purchased deep-root fertilization application equipment. The Friends of the Cemetery purchased liquid fertilizer concentrate that will be used in the cemeteries as the Sexton and Forester see fit.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Cemetery Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the newly restored Spring Grove Chapel. We will be mailing post card reminders to all our FOC members at least two weeks in advance of the date of the meeting.



Art Planting the Ilex Hedge

Art Riedel Memorial Garden

This fall the installation of a memorial garden on the Spring Grove Chapel grounds, dedicated to Art Riedel, our cemetery advocate who passed away in May 2007, was begun. This location was chosen because Art dedicated so much time and energy to making the area around the chapel beautiful. On the chapel lawn he planted a hedge that he had saved and transplanted from the Baby Section as well as new lilacs and a serviceberry tree. He tended the perennial beds at the chapel and saw to the mulching of those beds as well as the fertilizing of the chapel lawn. Art could be seen working around the chapel any time of the day (and sometimes into the night) – digging, weeding, mulching, watering, fertilizing or just leaning on his shovel contemplating his next landscaping idea for the cemetery. He was a hard worker, even though he suffered considerable pain from neuropathy in his feet and legs caused by diabetes. He never missed an opportunity to advocate for the cemeteries. He kept Friends of the Cemetery newsletters and brochures in his truck to pass out to folks who happened by and he never missed a Friends of the Cemetery meeting or Cemetery Commission meeting. His knowledge of trees, plants and landscaping was respected by all. He had a special knack for communicating his thoughts and advice. Everyone who worked with Art knew that his only interest was in doing the very best job possible even if the job took longer and might be done in the "old-fashioned" way. Many could attest to his unrelenting desire to do the job well and a job that would last!

We miss Art very much. He left a lasting impression on so many of us!

The people who contributed to the creation of his memorial garden were folks who worked with Art for many years and who appreciated him and his work. Juli Kovacs, of **#1 Landscaping**, designed the garden with Art in mind by using much of the plant and flower material that Art was fond of including: Winterberry hollies, President Grey Old Fashioned French lilacs and Green Velvet boxwoods. Autumn Joy sedums, lavender, Purple Palace coral-bells, Blue False Indigo and Lady's Mantle are among the number of perennials planted. Before the recent restoration of the chapel, Juli dug up the lilacs that Art had planted at the chapel several years ago and moved them to her own home for safe-keeping while the restoration work at the chapel was going on. **Davis Tree Farm** and Nursery of Valley City provided and donated all the plant material used in the garden. Art was the "founding father" of Davis Tree Farm and Nursery. The **City of Medina** - Service Director, Nino Piccoli; Director of Parks & Recreation, Tim Swanson, Sexton James Hjort, Former Sexton and Current Director of the Medina Recreation Center Mike Wright; and City Arborist Jansen Wehrley - donated and planted a Tricolor Beech tree in Art's memory. The City also furnished the mulch for the garden. The **Friends of the Cemetery** funded the installation of the garden and will fund its future maintenance. We will also provide a memorial plaque that will be installed in the garden area and a bench that will be put around the base of the Beech tree.

Memorial Trees

The Memorial Tree program at Spring Grove has been a great success over the years and we want to remind folks that a tree is a living, lasting memorial to your friend or loved one and a wonderful way to add to the beauty of the cemetery for years and years to come. The Friends of the Cemetery have funded ongoing tree maintenance at Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard for the past ten years or so, but unfortunately, before our time, many of our largest trees suffered from lack of maintenance and have had to be removed. We want to continue repopulating our urban forest at Spring Grove and the Memorial Tree program is a great way to help in accomplishing that.

You may purchase a brand new tree to be planted at the cemetery. The tree, along with memorial plaque, will cost approximately \$250. The Sexton will help you select the type of tree and the location for planting it. The City typically plants memorial trees twice a year – in the spring (April) and fall (October). If you are interested, please contact James Hjort, Sexton, by phone at 330-722-9056 or by e-mail at spring.grove.cemeter@verizon.net.

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.

Jansen Wehrley ~ City Forester

by Jansen Wehrley

I began working for the City of Medina in 2001 as a seasonal laborer at Spring Grove Cemetery. As I worked at the cemetery, I developed a strong passion toward caring for landscape. My interest in trees was sparked when Tim Swanson-City Forester at that time- approached me in 2002 to help with the City of Medina Forestry Department. Later, after graduation from Medina Senior High School in 2003, I was without a job at the City because of budget cuts. I was hired by Treemasters Tree Service as a general laborer then, but in 2004, came back to the City to work as a part-time laborer during the summer season. In 2005, I went back to Treemasters Tree Service and continued working there, seasonally, for four years. It was during this time that I developed a strong

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passion for the care of trees and became a skilled climber, sawyer, and crew leader.

I attended Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio from 2003-2007 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Upon my graduation from Wittenberg, I decided to pursue my passion for trees. I attended Hocking College from 2007-2008 and received an Associates Degree in technical studies in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture, graduating at the top of my class. After graduation I applied for the City Forester position at the City of Medina and have held that position since 2008.

My goal, as City Forester, is to provide proper maintenance to establish a healthy, diverse urban forest for the City of Medina. My responsibilities at the City go beyond street trees. I am responsible for the care of both street trees and trees on public property, including parks. I look at our City trees as the only piece of City infrastructure that appreciates in value annually.

Since the passing of Cemetery Advocate, Art Riedel, I have become actively involved with the Friends of the Cemetery in overseeing the work that is provided to the trees at Spring Grove Cemetery. I am currently developing a five-year pruning cycle for the cemetery in which we will divide the cemetery

into five sections. My goal is to perform pruning to each section on a five-year rotation, making sure we pay more attention to our younger trees. The cemetery tree fertilization program is now done in-house and will save a lot of money that can be re-invested into pruning. We are currently on a two-year fertilization program. Every tree that is in need of fertilization will be receiving a two-year feeding.

I would hope, through my time working for the City, I can provide maintenance to establish good structure and healthy trees to minimize complaints and maximize benefits for our community. The City of Medina has been a proud recipient of the Tree City USA award for the past 28 years and is dedicated to preserving and maintaining our urban forest through proper arboriculture practices. Our street trees help save energy, reduce storm water run off, improve air quality, add property value, enhance our communities' growth and beautify our City.

Editor's Note: The Friends appreciate Jansen and his willingness to help us in our tree and shrub maintenance efforts and the planting of new trees at the cemeteries. If you need to contact Jansen regarding City trees, you can call him at 330-722-9031

Spring Grove's Newest Residents

This spring twenty-five ten inch goldfish were introduced into the Letha House lake. In years past, a school of large pond goldfish resided in the old lake at Spring Grove. They grew to be of substantial size and lived many years. Quite a number of folks recall how enjoyable it was to see the bright orange and white pond dwellers swim about. The Friends of the Cemetery fund the maintenance of the lakes at Spring Grove by Pond

Control Services. FOC Trustee Jerry Gunner contacted Pond Control Services to inquire as to whether the introduction of goldfish in to the hard-edged Letha House lake would be feasible and we were pleased to hear that the fish should settle in just fine. We look forward to following our new residents through the summer months and hope that they'll be around next spring after the winter thaw and for many years to come.

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Veterans of World War I

Remembered

by David Kellogg

In this issue of our news letter, the Friends of the Cemetery remembers a few men from Medina County who gave their lives for our country in World War I. This will remind us and our readers of all those who, in all wars, have given their time, had their life circumstances permanently altered or lost their lives in the defense of our country. This will renew our feelings of gratitude toward those who have preserved our freedom, and have enabled us to live in relative prosperity.

World War I started in Europe on June 28, 1914. The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917. The fighting stopped with the declaration of an armistice on November 11, 1918.

We begin by honoring the first man from Medina County to be killed in World War I. His name is Courtney Lawrence. He was born in Plymouth, England on June 16, 1893. He immigrated to the United States through the port of New York on May 10, 1913. Mr. Lawrence's older brother, Charles Lawrence, had preceded Courtney to the United States. Charles had settled in Medina, Ohio and was employed as a stonecutter and as manager of the Medina Granite and Marble Works. Courtney also settled in Medina and began working at the same firm as a letter cutter.

On April 3, 1917, Courtney signed a Declaration of Intent to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. On May 2, 1917 he enlisted in the United States Army. He was soon sent to Europe.

On April 7, 1918 Charles Lawrence received a telegram informing him that "Private Lawrence was wounded by a shell fragment on the night of April 1, 1918, while in the execution of his duties. Death occurred from these wounds the following day after he had been removed to a hospital. Signed: Amel Frey, Captain, N.A. 26th Inf., Commanding Company A."

A front page article in the April 12, 1918 issue of the Medina

County Gazette stated "No single event in the war has brought the terrible realities of the struggle so closely home to the people of Medina or stirred their feelings to such a depth. The young man is spoken of everywhere as possessing a n admirable character and his passing is felt as a personal loss by everyone, whether known to him or not".

The article concludes by saying that, at its last meeting, the Medina Board of Trade drew up resolutions on Lawrence's death as follows:

"Whereas, Courtney Lawrence, who enlisted from this village in the service of this country in the United States Army, has met his death from wounds received in action on the battlefields of liberty in Europe; and

Whereas, Courtney Lawrence had approved himself in this community not only as a patriot of the truest and best type but also a young man of the highest character and most lovable nature; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this community, for whose safety and liberty he made the supreme sacrifice, hold and cherish his memory through all time in grateful and loving remembrance;

By further resolution we would bear to his brother, our neighbor, and family, and to his aged parents and family in England, an expression of our sincere sorrow and sympathy in their sore bereavement; further be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the brother in this village and to his parents and family in England; and that these resolutions also be placed on public record here."

H. G. Rowe,

S. F. Ross,

C.C. Cheeny,

As further evidence of the depth and sincerity of these sentiments, be it noted that the American Legion post in Medina is named the "Courtney Lawrence Post".

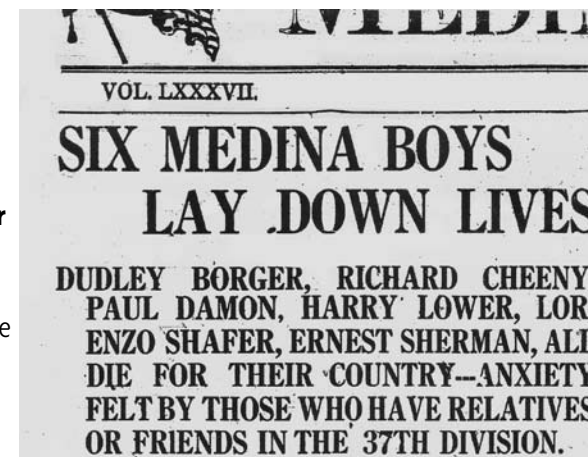
These headlines appeared on the front page of the Medina County Gazette on November 29, 1918.

These men died so near the end of the war that news of their deaths was not received until after the Armistice had been declared.

The article reported, despite the fact that Secretary of War Baker had recently calmed the long standing fears of families and friends of soldiers by saying that the casualty lists were nearing completion and "unless bad news regarding any of the boys overseas is received this week, there is no further probability of bad news coming", now there was breaking news from other sources that "not anywhere near half the casualties have been published and the worst is yet to come".

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Borger received news that Private Dudley M. Borger, medical department, died of pneumonia on November first or second. "He graduated from Medina High School in 1916 and enlisted in the 332nd ambulance corps, of which his cousin, Major John R. McDowell, was director, May 25 going overseas in September."

"On Tuesday came the news of the death of Richard C. Cheeny, only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Cheeny of LeRoy, and who had for several years been associated with his father in the automobile business in Medina ... 'Dick' was born in LeRoy



April 1, 1892 and graduated from Case School as an electrical engineer in 1914." He was stationed at Angers, France as an instructor on large guns and electrical work, but asked to be transferred to the front. The cause of his death was also pneumonia.

It is interesting to note that his father, C. C. Cheeny was one of the signers of "The Resolutions" by the

Medina Board of Trade upon the death of Courtney Lawrence in April 1918.

"Paul W. Damon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Damon, of Hinckley, was also a victim of pneumonia, having died in France Oct. 31st. He was 25 years old and had married Miss Ruth Aikman, of Granger, before going overseas.

"Ernest Sherman, 23, of Chippewa Lake, died Sunday of pneumonia at Camp Sherman."

"News has been received in Wadsworth of the death in France of Harry Lower and Lorenzo Shafer, killed in battle."

As one skims through the front pages of the Gazettes of late 1918, the headlines make it apparent that second only to the concern about the war was the concern about the flu epidemic. It is interesting to note that, of the six soldiers' deaths above, four were from pneumonia, most probably as a result of the devastating 1918 flu epidemic. The armistice could not stop the flu and its complications.



The soldier pictured in his World War I uniform is Ford Cannon. He survived the war and returned to Medina where he was a painting contractor. Ford Cannon was a brother to Ida Cannon who ran a grocery store for many years in the building where the the Grammercy Gallery is now located on South Court Street just off the Uptown Square.