



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 38

Medina, Ohio

May 2018

The Spring Grove Encampment

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday, May 26th, 2018 • 9:30am - 5pm

- 9:30 a.m. Opening ceremony/ Abraham Lincoln/ Civil War ancestor recognition
- 10:00 a.m. Civil War era reenactment 8th O.V.I.
- 11:00 a.m. General George Armstrong Custer
- 11:30 a.m. Lt. Frederick Phisterer
- 12:00 p.m. Celtic Union Trio
- 1:30 p.m. Buffalo Bill Cody
- 2:00 p.m. Lt. Frederick Phisterer
- 2:30 p.m. General George Armstrong Custer
- 3:00 p.m. Buffalo Bill Cody
- 3:45 p.m. Civil War era reenactment 8th O.V.I.
- 4:45 p.m. Closing ceremony/ Abraham Lincoln

(Schedule is subject to change)

All day experiences:

- Soldiers' Encampment
- President Lincoln & Mary Todd Lincoln • General George Armstrong Custer
- Lt. Frederick Phisterer and Buffalo Bill Cody • Civil War Nurse/Surgeon's Wife
- Quilters • Tinsmith • Whittler
- Living Civil War Collection & Museum
- Medina County District Library Genealogy Research Team
- Phillips-McDowell restored carriage • 1800's horse-drawn hearse
- Tin-type photographs taken in Civil War era costumes
 - Celtic Union Trio performances throughout cemetery
 - Civil War soldiers' gravesite tours
 - Underground Railroad house tours
 - Kids' Activities
 - Parking/Shuttle Service at MHS & Sidney Fenn School & More



Hosted by Friends of the Cemetery
friendsofmedinacemetery.com



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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Photos

Teresa Merkle

Board Meetings

First Thursday at 7 pm

FOC office

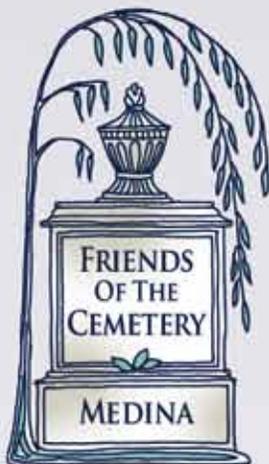
775 East Washington Street

Conference Room

Please call first.

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Civil War Memories of Ellen Sylvester

Local Writer and Poet

By: Cynthia Szunyog

Ellen Sylvester was a "Hinckley Poetess" according to her obituary in the Medina Sentinel. She was born on Hinckley Ridge, lived to the age of 86 and died on August 9, 1930 at the age of 86 and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery next to her Civil War veteran husband, Edward Sylvester, the brother of Franklin Sylvester who, in 1905, donated funds to build the original Medina library which bears his name. She was one of the many women who volunteered to support the troops during the Civil War by joining Soldiers' Aid Societies. A teacher, Ellen became a writer and a poet in her later years. The Sentinel writes that she "became a familiar figure to many ...[Medina] people when she was here for several days at a time offering for sale poems of her own composition, in which she displayed talent of no mean order." She would have been 15 at the start of the Civil War and remembered vividly her experiences of that time. She wrote an essay entitled "Women's Part in the Civil War" and many poems including "Burial of Grant" and "Welcome GAR" which is addressed to aging Civil War veterans in the Memorial Day parade and includes these lines:

Then welcome to our city, Boys
Thrice welcome here we say,
Fling out the Starry stripes again,
Be soldiers while ye may.
You come not with elastic step,
You're not as young today,
As when you donned the Loyal Blue
And now you wear the grey.

Ellen had no children but fortunately carbon copies of her poems were saved by my aunt, Helen Leggett, and came down to me. I used to think that they were old-fashioned but now I value them as first person accounts by a woman who lived through that war.

Excerpts from "Women's Part in the Civil War"

Our first duty was to send the boys away....it requires courage in a woman with steady voice and brave tearless eyes to bid husband, son, brother, father or lover farewell, knowing full well the dangers of war.

It has ever been woman's part in war to watch and wait, but while we watched and waited we were not idle.

Soldiers aid societies were formed in each neighborhood, a fee of, I think, twenty-five cents to join. Each society worked independent of the others, except that we worked under orders from headquarters in Cleveland where Mrs. Rouse was president, that noble woman of whom you have read. We had officers, met regularly to do work, and also took work home. The lady of the house furnished our supper free.

Where did we get our supplies? We bought some new goods, but our most valued came from the old stock of well-worn table linen, sheets and other goods that had been retired from active service before the war was thought of.

Not so much was known of the antiseptic cotton and other devices for surgeons' use. There was always great rejoicing when an old time table cloth was brought forth from the stores, sent in to us by the aged ones. It was quickly spread out upon a table, (this was the girls' work) while some held it tight and smooth. Others would scrape with case knives, piling up the light fluffy lint that looked so simple, yet meant so much to the surgeon after a battle when the wounded were being cared for. And sheets we tore into strips of different widths for bandages. The ends must be lapped and sewn together in such a way there could be no seam to sink into the poor torn flesh. Of other white goods we made small sheets for hospital cots and small pieces we cut fifteen to twenty inches square, placed a few folds of batting between, sewed it carefully around the edges and it was ready to place under the stump of a leg or arm.

Of new goods we made underwear and quilts, those were in great demand. Often an order would come, "There has been a battle, send supplies." naming how many needed.

Continued on page 3

We spun yarn on an old wheel and knit socks. As our supply of cotton goods came chiefly from the South, the supply became short.

Calico, fifty cents per yard. We sent jells, dried fruits. Canned fruit was just coming into use. Once there was great indignation when the wife of a surgeon wrote home, they were feasting on the delicacies we sent for the boys.

At last there was an order from Mrs. Rouse, "Take all your worn dresses and aprons, have them perfectly clean, make into quilts. We must have them.

This, I think, was the last order received. The war closed. Our last meeting was with Mrs. Calvin Green. Mrs. Caroline Searles divided the stock on hand among the members. It was not large.

My mother received for her share a set of steel knitting needles and four pants buttons. And after a sumptuous supper, the little array disbanded.

How strange it seemed, all the Boys home. No, not all. To tell you what the women did, they gave the men.



Friends Losses

Sadly, the Friends of the Cemetery Board has lost two Board members since February.

David Kellogg passed away February 16, 2018. His memorial service was held in the Spring Grove Chapel on February 28, 2018. Dave served as a member of the Friends Board of Trustees from 2001 until his resignation from the Board in December 2017 just as his health began to fail.

He cared deeply for Spring Grove Cemetery where all his family was laid to rest, and had a wealth of knowledge of "all things Medina." He was meticulous and quite analytical in decision making and took time to thoroughly study and consider matters brought before the Board. We will miss his kind, gentlemanly manner, as well as his wise counsel.



Bonnie Leach passed away unexpectedly on March 17, 2018. Bonnie was a charter member of the Friends of the Cemetery and an original Trustee. Her interest in the preservation and beautification of Spring Grove Cemetery stemmed from the tragic loss of her

19 year old son, Fred, in 1991.

In 1997 when the idea of organizing a Friends of the Cemetery was put forward, Bonnie and her husband, Dennis, jumped right on board. Bonnie offered her home as a meeting place for the newly-formed Friends group and rarely missed a monthly Trustees meeting in the past 20 years. Bonnie was always willing to help and often shared her gardening and

baking talents by bringing flowers and baked goods for FOC annual meetings and events. We will miss Bonnie so very much and extend our deepest sympathy to Dennis and the family.



Friends Emeritus Board

The Friends Board of Trustees has established the Friends of the Cemetery Emeritus Board to honor former key members of the Friends Board of Trustees who have served the Friends with distinction and excellence and who have made significant contributions to the organization. Although the members of this Board are no longer active, they will continue with the Friends

Board as non-voting members in an advisory capacity. The Friends Trustees have extended membership to the newly created Friends Emeritus Board to John Gill who served the Friends Board for fifteen years before his retirement in 2017, due to health concerns. It is fitting that John be the first Friends Emeritus Board member as he served the Friends as vice-president for many years with distinction and excellence.

Friends Advisory Board

The Friends Board of Trustees has established the Friends Advisory Board. This Board will be made up of folks who have an interest

in our organization and who are willing to advise and volunteer services to the organization.

MACY HALLOCK NARRATIVE

It is fitting to remember Friends member, Macy Hallock, as we look forward to the Spring Grove Civil War Encampment. Macy was a Civil War buff and was known far and wide for his knowledge of the Civil War. In the months prior to his passing on November 3, 2017, he had enjoyed being involved in the planning of the Spring Grove Civil War Encampment and was looking forward to participating in the event. Following is a talk Macy gave at our 2005 Historical Walk on his memories of family and friends buried in and around Spring Grove's Section 10.

My View of Section 10 of Spring Grove Cemetery

by Macy Hallock

My view of section 10 of Medina Spring Grove Cemetery is that of a resting place of the town's people born before 1900 and served in or lived through both WWI and WWII. Their children served in or lived through WWII. These parents brought Medina from a rural farmer's town into a sophisticated city.

Their parents, my grandparents and kin, are buried in sight just across the roadway in an earlier section. Looking over them is the Smith Statue of the Woodman which was moved to this location from atop a private crypt built on their farm on Wadsworth Road near the present fire station.

My father, Macy Orsen Hallock, came to Ohio to build his design of a chemical fire truck because Cleveland was the center of the whole automobile building industry. Even Fords were made in Cleveland and he used 1911, 12 and 13 Ford chassis for his fire truck. He ended up building them in the Bishop Carriage Shop in Medina and shipped them from the old fairgrounds behind the Root Company.

He built and sold to the City of Medina its first motorized fire engine. Its most famous success was putting out the fire in the attic of the Odd Fellows' building on the north side of the Medina Square. Their business had to cease for inability to obtain sufficient brass during WWI.

He married my mother, Clara Ulmer, who was clerk and cashier in the Medina County Bank on the west side of the square. They were married in 1916 and went on a honeymoon by delivering an open fire engine to someplace near Watkins Falls, N.Y.

Clara Ulmer was the daughter of William Ulmer and Clara Louise Gardner Ulmer of West Liberty Street in Medina. She was born in Abbeyville on the Ulmer family farm, now owned and occupied by Mrs. Gunkleman at the corner of Wolff Road and Abbeyville Road. She graduated from high school in what was called the Lincoln Building in Medina.

My father's brother, Thomas Hallock, was a salesman and his partner in the fire engine business. He came to Medina first and

was sales manager of the Root Company. He married Lucille Kimmel of Medina whose parents are buried here in Spring Grove. Roy Kimmel owned a music store and sold it to the Hallocks. Clara played the piano and Macy was absolutely tone deaf but could repair pianos, organs and musical instruments. This business prospered mostly because of the popularity of the phonograph. Roy Kimmel started the Ford dealership in town and later sold it to Frank Feckley of Akron. Macy rebuilt a house for him at 332 North Court Street in about 1930.

Lucille Ziegler, wife of Harold Ziegler, was a cousin of Lucille Kimmel.

Macy and Clara were first longtime friends of Fred and Freda Snyder who, with Albert Snyder, owned and operated the Farmers Exchange. Albert's daughter married Dwight Tubbs. Freda Snyder was a noted benefactor of the hospital and her church and a philanthropist in the community. She was largely responsible for her friend Letha House setting up a trust to benefit the city.

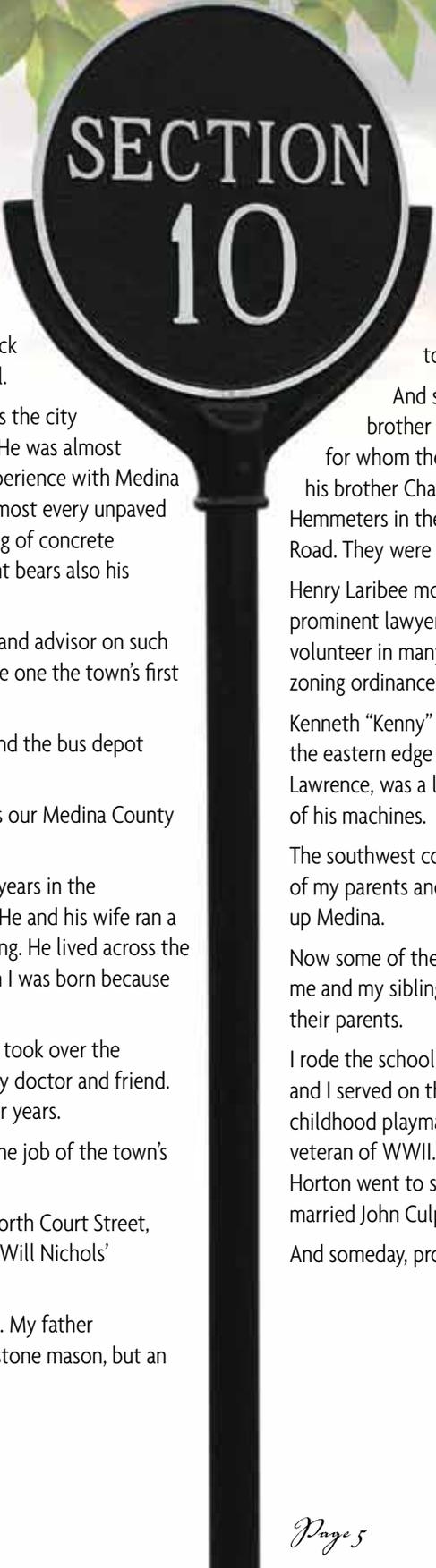
When section 10 was first opened in the 50's, Freda Snyder gathered my mother and some of their friends to go to City Hall and buy the first lots together. That's why they are together now.

Clara Hallock came from the Abbeyville area and so did the Fenn family. Their early progenitor was a revolutionary war veteran, now buried in the little known Wolff Road cemetery. Clara went to school with the Fenn boys.

Florence and Harry Davenport were Hallock's next door neighbors on North Street in the 40's and 50's. Harry owned a school bus and drove for Medina Schools when I was there. They retired from farming.

Merle Auker augmented his income and had fun too by putting on a show as a bat wing parachute jumper. Otherwise, he had about the only large track driven shovel in town. He dug hundreds of basements.

Vernon and Sadie Horton ran "Horton's Buckeye Diner" on the Square.



SECTION 10

Frank Mabry was a local well-known veterinarian.

Clare Davenport was a local insurance agent.

Harold Johnson ran a busy towing and truck repair business near our house in Windfall.

George "Handy" Miner was for many years the city engineer and public works administrator. He was almost like a city manager and because of his experience with Medina Supply Concrete, was able to concrete almost every unpaved street in Medina. He also caused the laying of concrete sidewalks at the same time. His monument bears also his nickname.

John Culp was my dad's favorite plumber and advisor on such structural matters. Helen, his wife, became one the town's first leading real estate sales women.

Mark and Ardis Borsic ran the town taxi and the bus depot when Greyhound came to town.

Dr. Vaughn L. Hartman was for many years our Medina County Health Department Commissioner.

Jim Harrington, a rural mailman for many years in the Depression, lived on West Liberty Street. He and his wife ran a restaurant in the lower floor of the building. He lived across the street from us and told me he knew when I was born because he could smell the antiseptic.

And who could forget Dr. John Jones who took over the practice of Dr. H. P. H. Robinson, our family doctor and friend. His wife ran the County Welfare Office for years.

Clare House succeeded "Ollie" Hange in the job of the town's only policeman and traffic cop.

Jennie Snyder, our 1960-70 neighbor on North Court Street, ran the town's last tourist home. She was Will Nichols' grandmother.

Owen Crofoot built many houses in town. My father considered him not only the town's best stone mason, but an

artist at his trade. His stonework still stands out today as unique.

And speaking of stone... Louis "Louie" Lawrence, brother of Courtney Lawrence, the fallen WWI veteran for whom the American Legion Post is named. Louis and his brother Charles "Charlie" succeeded the Coddings and the Hemmeters in the stone monument business in Medina on Smith Road. They were close and helpful friends of my father and me.

Henry Larabee moved here from Spencer and became a very prominent lawyer and citizen in Medina as he served as a volunteer in many capacities. I worked with him on the new zoning ordinances.

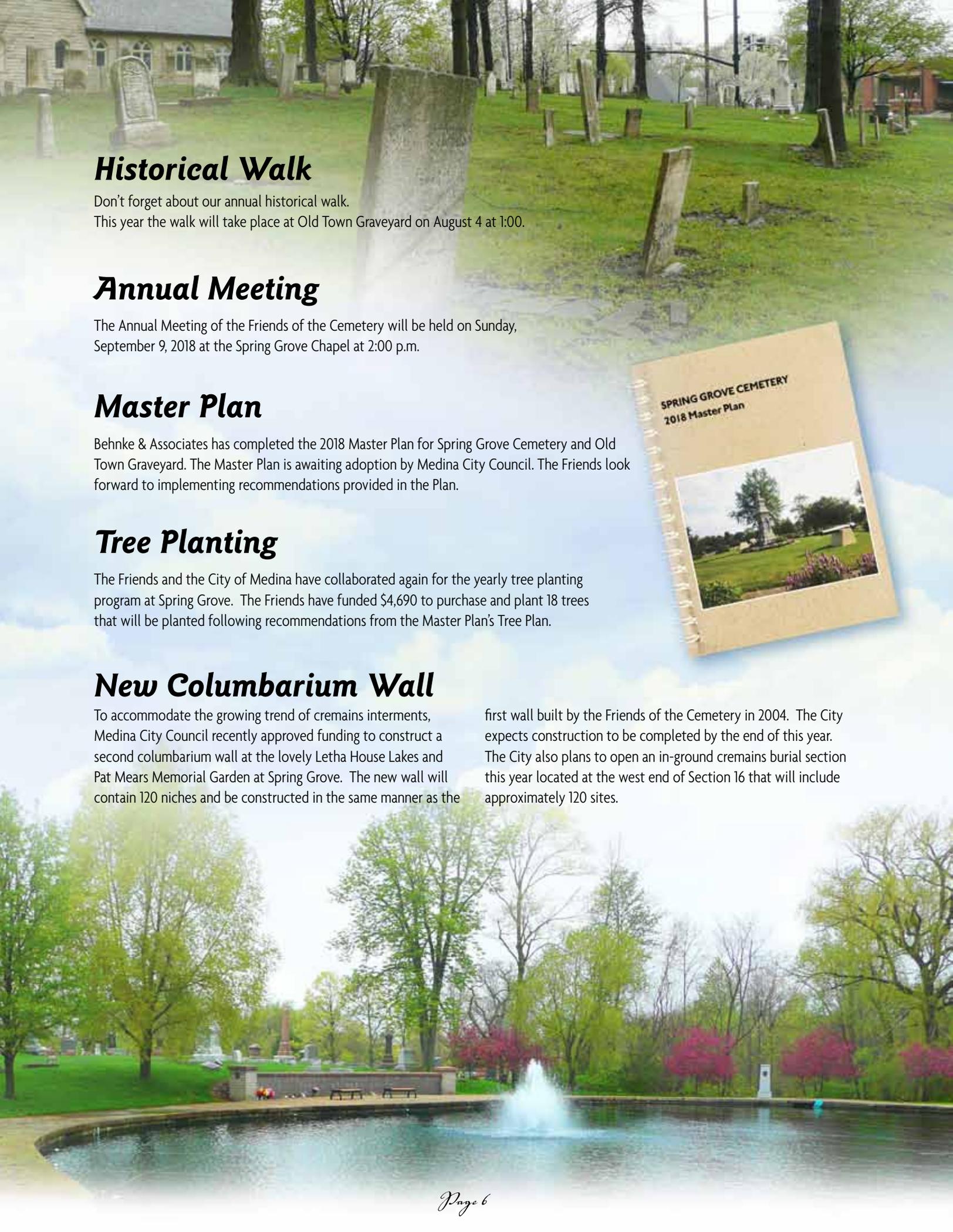
Kenneth "Kenny" Seibert, who lived next to the hospital on the eastern edge of the city and across the street from Charlie Lawrence, was a landscaper and contractor. He was killed by one of his machines.

The southwest corner of section 10 represents the generation of my parents and their friends that, in my memory, made up Medina.

Now some of their children, friends from the generation of me and my siblings, are beginning to fill in the spaces among their parents.

I rode the school bus with Geraldine Johnson and Richard Larabee and I served on the Civil Service Board. Ralph Harrington, a childhood playmate, was killed in WWII. Bruce Hartman was a veteran of WWII. Bob Westland was a former schoolmate. Max Horton went to school with my brother Bruce. Marguerite Culp married John Culp, another playmate.

And someday, probably my wife and I will be in section 10 too.



Historical Walk

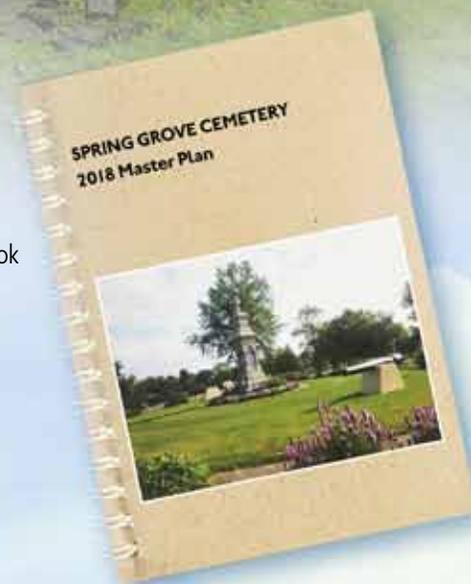
Don't forget about our annual historical walk. This year the walk will take place at Old Town Graveyard on August 4 at 1:00.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018 at the Spring Grove Chapel at 2:00 p.m.

Master Plan

Behnke & Associates has completed the 2018 Master Plan for Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard. The Master Plan is awaiting adoption by Medina City Council. The Friends look forward to implementing recommendations provided in the Plan.



Tree Planting

The Friends and the City of Medina have collaborated again for the yearly tree planting program at Spring Grove. The Friends have funded \$4,690 to purchase and plant 18 trees that will be planted following recommendations from the Master Plan's Tree Plan.

New Columbarium Wall

To accommodate the growing trend of cremains interments, Medina City Council recently approved funding to construct a second columbarium wall at the lovely Letha House Lakes and Pat Mears Memorial Garden at Spring Grove. The new wall will contain 120 niches and be constructed in the same manner as the

first wall built by the Friends of the Cemetery in 2004. The City expects construction to be completed by the end of this year. The City also plans to open an in-ground cremains burial section this year located at the west end of Section 16 that will include approximately 120 sites.

Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - MAY 2018

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 Charles & Margaret Anderson
 Steve & Jane Anderson
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 Jim Bachtell
 Betty Bagley
 Dr. and Mrs. David Bagley †
 Donald Baker
 James & Paula Banks
 Kathleen Barco
 Alan B. & Norma W. Batchelder
 Bill & Alice Batchelder
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 Elby A. Bennett †
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 Sue Bryenton
 Edy Campbell
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 Casto Family
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 Linda Kovach Clark *
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Robert & Patricia Farkas
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 Margaret Krupa †
 Ray & Madeline Larabee †
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 Betty Zarney †
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In Memory of David Kellogg

Ruth Beshire
 Donald & Marilyn Canfield
 Ron & Cathi Carmany
 Vickie Fleming
 Jerry & Sally Gunner
 Homestead Insurance
 Charles & Teresa Merkle
 George & Carol Ulrich
 Joan Weigel
 John Wilkinson
 Jay & Janis Zachman

In Memory of Bonnie Leach

Vickie Fleming
 Charles & Teresa Merkle
 Jay & Janis Zachman

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

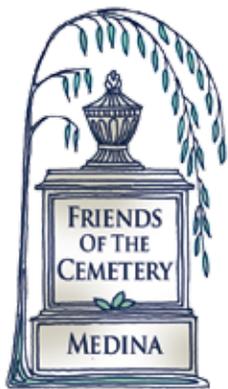
New Members since December 2017:

Linda Kovach Clark	Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Obermeier	Dennie & Phebe Simpson
Garth Davidson	Bill & Missie Pierce	Don & Alice Spickler
Becky Marshall	Jim & Pat Ramler	Darlene Suitor
Nancy Mishler	Don & Edith Simmons	Chris & Chesney Szanislo
		Peter & Patricia Wood

New Lifetime Members since December 2017:

Jim & Maureen Cook
 Chris & Chesney Szanislo

*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

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Membership enclosed _____

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