

FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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



New Members since May 2012

Barbara Clark	Terry & Ann Gasser	Sandra Pilarski
Dan Coleman	Arnold & Cheri Ingraham	Charles & Patricia Ruffin
Mary Alice Fulton	Linda Limpert	Jay Smith

Don't forget to check us out on the web at:

www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

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 _____

Address _____

Membership enclosed _____

Please return to:

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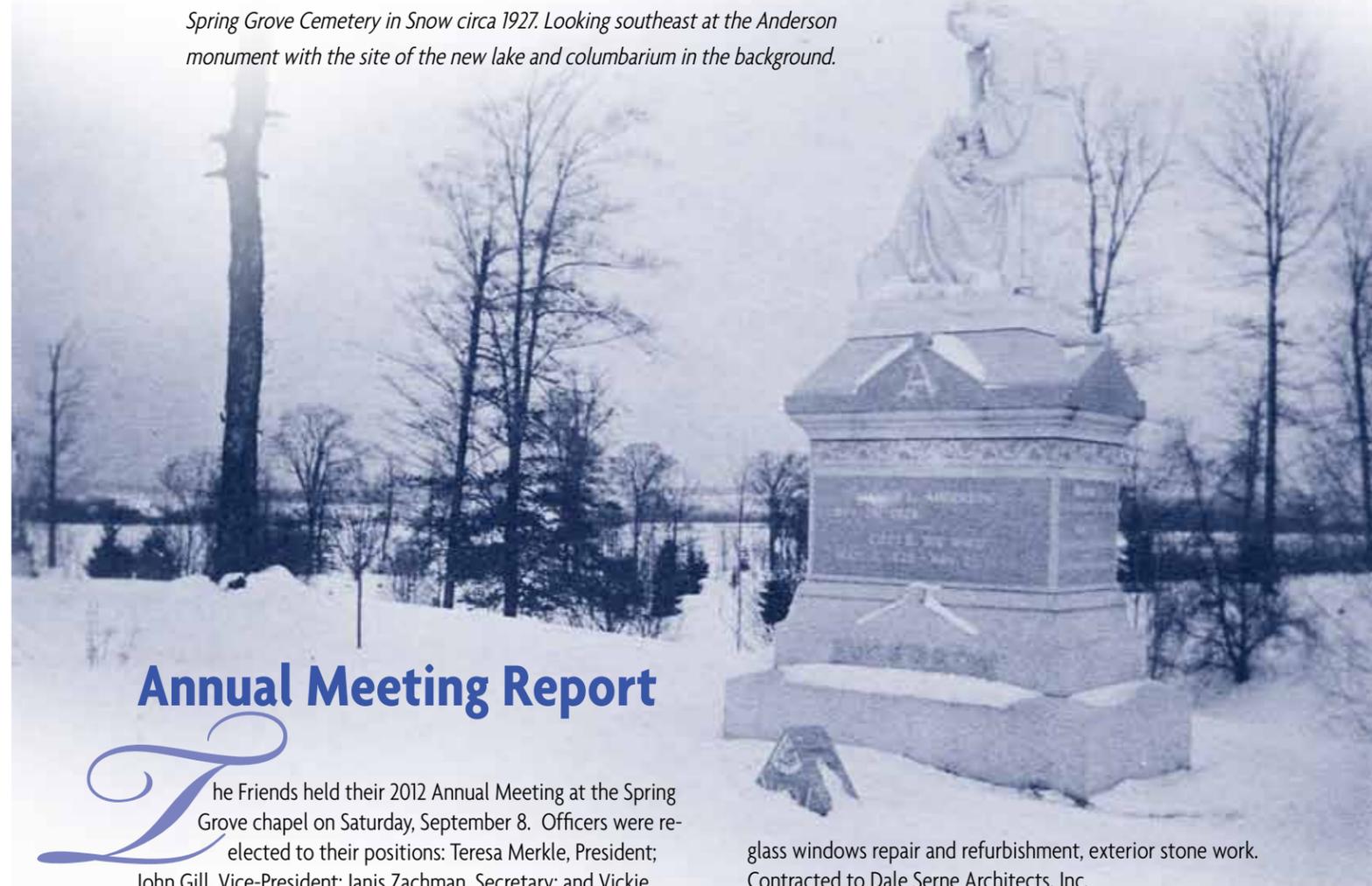
FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 27

Medina, Ohio

December 2012

Spring Grove Cemetery in Snow circa 1927. Looking southeast at the Anderson monument with the site of the new lake and columbarium in the background.



Annual Meeting Report

The Friends held their 2012 Annual Meeting at the Spring Grove chapel on Saturday, September 8. Officers were re-elected to their positions: Teresa Merkle, President; John Gill, Vice-President; Janis Zachman, Secretary; and Vickie Fleming, Treasurer. Bonnie Leach, Jerry Gunner and David Kellogg were voted in for another 3-year term as Trustees.

Review of 2012 Projects

At this time of year, we like to provide our membership with a look back at what the Friends have undertaken over the past year. 2012 was packed full of projects. Some of these projects have been completed and others are in progress at this writing.

- Old Town Graveyard Stone Restoration Project - Phase II completed! Phase III slated for summer 2013.
- Mausoleum Restoration - Bronze doors refurbishment, stained

glass windows repair and refurbishment, exterior stone work. Contracted to Dale Serne Architects, Inc.

- Architectural Drawings - Concept plans for office/maintenance building at Spring Grove.
- Entry Gate Uplighting - A lovely touch to our beautiful stone entry gate!
- Cemetery Signage - 29 new section signs and poles.
- Park Benches - 10 new benches placed at Spring Grove.
- Water Spigots - 22 decorative water spigots for Spring Grove to replace unsightly water pipes.
- Chapel Furnishings - Custom built oak podium, table and two side chairs.

Continued on page 2

Friends of the Cemetery

445 W. Liberty Street, Suite 219
Medina, Ohio 44256
www.FriendsOfMedinaCemetery.org

To reach us:
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Trustees

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Editors

Teresa Merkle
Cynthia Szunyog

Photos

John Gill
Cynthia Szunyog

Board Meetings

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

Designed by Ron Bell/Advision



Continued from Cover

- Lake & Perennial Garden Maintenance - Soldiers' Mound, Pat Mears Memorial Garden, Art Riedel Memorial Garden (chapel grounds), Entry Gate Garden, Columbarium Garden, Lake Treatment Program, Goose Dropping Clean-Up.
- Friends/City of Medina Tree Acquisition/Planting Program - Fund purchase and planting of eleven trees at Spring Grove.
- Winter Tree Maintenance Funding - Friends fund yearly the pruning, cabling and fertilizing of trees at Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard.
- Luncheons for Cemetery Staff - Twice yearly.



Stained Glass

The Friends have contracted with Ascherl Studios in Hinckley, Ohio to craft a stained glass window for the interior front wall of the Spring Grove chapel. The piece will be lit from the back and stand 6'8" high and 6' wide. It will be framed in oak to match the existing furnishings in the chapel. The Friends are pleased to fund this project as we continue to encourage the use of the chapel for funerals and memorial services.

Chapel Cleaning

Mark's Cleaning in Medina was hired by the Friends to do a thorough "fall cleaning" of the Spring Grove chapel. The windows and light fixtures were among the targeted items on the cleaning list. We want the chapel to look its best for services and meetings year round.

Phase II - Old Town Graveyard

The second phase of gravestone restoration and straightening at Old Town Graveyard was completed this past summer. Cutlip Construction of Canal Fulton was contracted again this year by the City of Medina. One hundred and nine stones were worked on in Phase II at a cost of \$25,000. Phase III is slated for the summer of 2013 and will complete the stone restoration at Old Town Graveyard. We are so very pleased that the City of Medina has been amenable to the cost sharing agreement with the Friends so that this very important project could be undertaken!

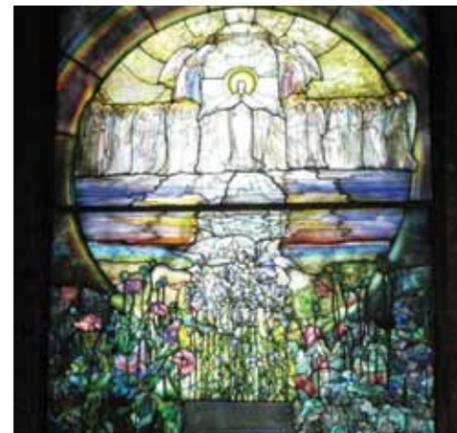
Lake View Tour

Saturday, June 23, was a perfect day to tour Cleveland's Lake View Cemetery. Sixty-seven people came out for the Friends' sponsored trip. We enjoyed three tours at Lake View that featured three different aspects of the cemetery. An architectural tour of many of Lake View's monuments and structures was led by restoration architect, Dale Serne. Lake View is the burial spot of some of the world's most wealthy individuals at the turn of the 20th century. It is a little known fact that in the year 1900, **75% of all the millionaires in the United States and 50% of all the millionaires in the world called Cleveland home!** The monuments these people erected reflected their great wealth and prominence. Italian stonecutters and masons were favored by Cleveland's affluent and were dispatched to Cleveland from Italy for the purpose of creating the grand monuments and mausoleums at Lake View. Cleveland's "Little Italy" was established just outside the gates of Lake View to provide residence for these workers.

The James A. Garfield Memorial was another stop on the tour. Our guide shared a wealth of

information on the life and untimely death of President Garfield as well as facts and figures on the erection of the grand structure. Many folks were amazed to see the caskets of President Garfield and his wife, Lucretia, on display in the lower level of the building. Those spirited enough, climbed several flights of very narrow, winding staircases to enjoy a fantastic view of Lake Erie and downtown Cleveland from the memorial's balcony.

After a relaxing lunch on the lawn of the Garfield Memorial, the group headed to the Jephtha H. Wade Memorial Chapel for the final leg of the tour. Built in 1901 by the Wade family of Western Union Telegraph fame, the beauty and magnificence of this wonderful structure is breathtaking with its Louis Comfort Tiffany walls, floor, ceiling,



light fixtures, cedars of Lebanon hewn pews, four-ton bronze doors, and, of course, Tiffany's glorious Resurrection stained glass window. Our energetic docent kept us on the edge of our seats as he chronicled the meanings of the wall, floor and ceiling mosaics throughout the structure and each piece's significance. What a way to top off a wonderful day!

We returned to Medina shortly after 3:00 p.m. All agreed the trip to Lake View had been a great success!

Friends of the Cemetery/City of Medina Tree Planting Program & Annual Tree Maintenance

In our on-going tree planting project with the City of Medina, eleven trees were planted at Spring Grove Cemetery in early November by Anderson Landscaping and Tree Farm of Medina. For three years the Friends have funded the purchase and planting of trees each fall at Spring Grove. The species chosen this year include four red maples, four oaks, two pear trees, and one Hackberry. Most of these new plantings are replacements for trees that have unfortunately had to be removed.

These new trees are available to be purchased as memorial trees. The maple, oak and pear trees are all 2-1/2" caliper and the Hackberry tree is 1-1/2" caliper. Memorial trees cost \$250 and include a lovely bronze plaque engraved with the name of your loved one. You may contact Sexton James Hjort at 330-722-9056 to purchase a memorial tree or for further information.

The Friends will continue our annual winter tree work with focus on the trees at Old Town Graveyard. This will wrap up the five-year pruning/maintenance plan that was put into place in 2008.

Cost-Sharing Funds Report

In accordance with the cost-sharing agreement between the Friends and the City of Medina for Phase I (2011) and Phase II (2012) of the stone restoration at Old Town Graveyard, the Friends have, to date, reimbursed \$50,000 to the City of Medina. The City, in turn, has used a portion of these funds at Spring Grove for roadway improvements, engineering services for proposed Sections 19 and

20, stone straightening, repairs to the fountain, old lake fence extension and rehabilitation, electrical service to the entry gate, new waterline and waterline upgrade to the entry gate. Future projects are planned for the balance of these funds that include the purchase and installation of material bin coverings.

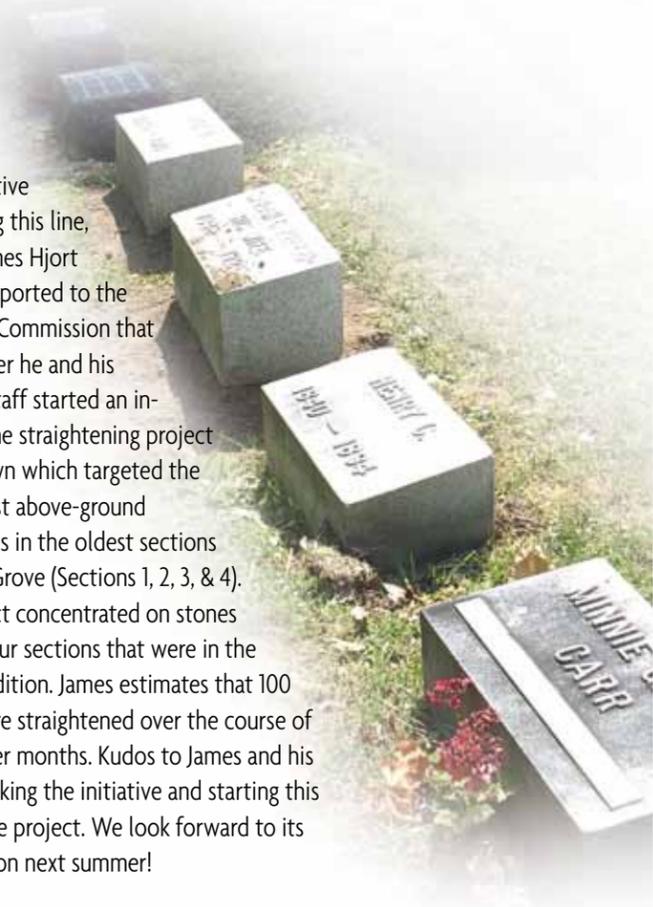
Spring Grove

Stone STRAIGHTENING Project

We commend the City of Medina for continuing the Spring Grove stone straightening project this year! Cutlip

Construction was contracted again this fall by the City to straighten 15 large stones at Spring Grove at a cost of \$13,100. The Spring Grove stone straightening project has been in place since 2000. Between the years 2000 - 2008, the stone straightening project was sporadic due to contractor availability. The City would engage a contractor one year, but due to the labor intensiveness of the work, the contractor would disappear the next year. Roughly, two dozen stones were straightened during this period at a cost just under \$15,000. Since 2009 to the present, the City has hired Cutlip Construction and the stone straightening project has been running consistently. Since the project's inception in 2000, there have been 49 large stones straightened at Spring Grove at a total cost of \$45,950. Back in 2000, the idea of straightening all of the large old monuments at Spring Grove seemed a monumental task, but with persistence, the City has been able to chip away at the number of stones yearly so that now, happily, the most hazardous and most severely leaning monuments have been taken care of.

More positive news along this line, Sexton James Hjort recently reported to the Cemetery Commission that this summer he and his seasonal staff started an in-house stone straightening project of their own which targeted the smaller, just above-ground gravestones in the oldest sections of Spring Grove (Sections 1, 2, 3, & 4). This project concentrated on stones in these four sections that were in the worst condition. James estimates that 100 stones were straightened over the course of the summer months. Kudos to James and his staff for taking the initiative and starting this worthwhile project. We look forward to its continuation next summer!



Baby Section Facts

The Oddfellows recently reported to the Friends that since 2002 to 2012, they have invested approximately \$36,000 in maintenance and improvements to our precious Baby Section. In addition, the Oddfellows

have posted over 1,520 work hours over the years mowing, trimming, planting, shoveling, digging and caring for this beloved little section of Spring Grove Cemetery. Those of us who have children and/or grandchildren resting there are grateful to the Oddfellows and comforted by their efforts.



2012 Historical Walk by Cynthia Szunyog

The first historical walk in Old Town Cemetery took place on September 8 and was a great success thanks to speakers Pat Morgan, John Gill and Don Canfield. Sponsored by the library in the past, the FOC volunteers managed to do the advertising on their own this year with around 30 people attending. We thank Cindy Allman for designing the poster and flyers, Matt Wiederhold of Main Street Medina for placing our posters in the display cases around the Square and Sarah Jane Ingraham for taking our flyers and posters to many businesses.

Before I started researching the Old Town Cemetery in preparation for the tour, I had not thought much about that cemetery. It had been there between the two churches all my life and not much seemed to go on there. People didn't visit much, there were no funerals, no places to sit, no grave decorations, no great stone structures and children didn't place flowers on the graves as they had until a few decades ago. What I found was that, although there are several sources, no totally accurate record exists of who is buried there, due partly to the development of Spring Grove Cemetery and its effect on Old Town. The reason is this: in the last decade of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th, Spring Grove was the prestigious place to be buried. People bought large family lots and moved their ancestors from Old Town and other smaller cemeteries and had them re-interred in Spring Grove. Sometimes they moved the stones, sometimes they bought new stones and disposed of the old ones and sometimes they just left the old stones at Old Town. An example of this is the grave of H. G. Blake, which was moved to a new family plot at Spring Grove.

Another interesting phenomenon is that most of the stones at Old Town are those of Medina people who were here so early in the 19th century that public memory has forgotten them. Many were prominent citizens in the 1820's up to the 1880's. No family is left in the area and relatively little is known about them. Many opportunities for research present themselves.

The morning of the tour began as windy and rainy but miraculously by 1:00 p.m., the sun came out and it got warmer. The tour began on the north end of the cemetery at the graves of several important early settlers. Pat Morgan, president of the Medina County Genealogical Society and Friends member, spoke about Rufus Ferris and Austin Badger (FOC newsletter May 2012). Rufus Ferris was born in Vermont in 1780 and came with his family to Medina County in June of 1818 where he began his career as land agent for Elijah Boardman. He held several public offices including Township Trustee and Postmaster and helped to establish St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was known for his hospitality and his home was always open to potential land buyers. He

died suddenly at the age of 53 from cholera.

I spoke about the Reverend Anson Clark who came to Medina in 1818, studied divinity at Kenyon College and came back to Medina in 1869 to serve as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We then moved on to the southern portion of the cemetery where I told about Frederick Jones and Henry Pond. Jones was a veteran of the Revolutionary War (FOC newsletter May 2011). His stone appeared to indicate that he died in 1811, too early for the settlement of Medina, but if you look carefully at the numbers, the death date is 1841 and the age could be 80, making him 16 when he enlisted, one of many young boys who volunteered in that war.

The next grave was that of Henry Pond, killed by a falling tree at age 28-it says so on his stone. His baby son became the pastor of the First Congregational Church in 1866.

Friends member, Don Canfield spoke at the large Canfield family plot, marked by a stone in each corner. The ancestors that he spoke about, William and Herman Canfield and Herman's wife Sarah Jane Martha Canfield (FOC newsletter Dec. 2005), are now all buried in Spring Grove and not a single gravestone remains.

The Peak family was prominent in Medina in the 1830's to the end of the century. They served many offices, including physician and postmaster, in the town and had a dry goods store. The only Peak stones remaining in Old Town are those of a couple who died early, Lewis and Sarah in 1841 and 1839, and of Parthenia in 1831. Others were buried there and probably moved to Spring Grove after 1910.

I spoke about little Harriet Peak who died in 1844 at age 5. I have Harriet's doll, which came down to me through her mother, Harriet N. Peak, Mrs. R. M. McDowell, her daughter known as Dea and my mother, Evelyn Wildman. The doll was brought to her from New York City by her father when he went there to buy goods for his dry goods store. Harriet would have been buried in Old Town near other family members but her stone (a newer one) and that of her father and sister are in a family plot at Spring Grove. We don't know when (or if) their bodies were moved.

Lots of stories and history have been hidden in Old Town Cemetery for generations. Opportunities are there for some fascinating research and future walks.



Friends of the Cemetery contributions to Medina City Cemeteries 1999-2012

The Medina City Cemetery Commission requested the Friends of the Cemetery to chronicle contributions made to the City in the thirteen years of its existence (1999-2012). The subsequent report was made available to City Council members and City administration earlier this year. The Friends are happy to share this report with our membership and friends. In so doing, we

acknowledge the contributions of our loyal members and the legacy Mr. Edward C. Mears left to the citizens of Medina by the bequest of his Estate to the Friends of the Cemetery in 2003. We also acknowledge contributions from the Letha E. House Foundation of \$387,000 toward the funding of various projects listed below

Restoration of old lake, creation of new lake & columbarium	\$394,667
Chapel restoration, furnishings & chapel garden	188,620
Pat Mears memorial gardens	84,543
Yearly tree care & maintenance	63,459
Yearly garden maintenance	60,069
In-Kind Matching Funds-Phase I & II Old Town Stone Straightening	50,000
Cemetery Advocate compensation	45,370
Baby Section improvements	36,050
Letha House memorial monument	18,477
Entryway garden	13,373
Litter receptacles	13,286
Mausoleum restoration	10,572
Park benches	7,449
Yearly lakes maintenance	6,361
Spring Grove Master Plan update	6,000
Water hose bibs	5,170
Tree acquisition	4,698
Goose control & clean-up	4,443
Cemetery signage	3,941
National Historic Registry	2,613
Memorial plaques	1,959
Spring Grove maintenance building	1,827
Fencing	1,400
Holiday decorations	941
Old Town plantings, trees	767
Flagpole lighting & Memorial Day buntings	697
Luncheons for cemetery staff	585
Watering cans	220
Chapel Cleaning	140

TOTAL: \$1,027,697

Removal of Seasonal Decorations

According to the Rules and Regulations of Spring Grove Cemetery, all fall decorations must be removed by December 15 and winter decorations by March 15. On or after these dates cemetery staff will remove any remaining decorations.

In addition to these removal dates, we would like to remind people to remove their grave decorations if they become unsightly.

Friends of the Cemetery MEMBERSHIP LISTING - DECEMBER 2012

Cynthia Allman	Mike & Judy Davanzo	Peter & Joann King	Charles & Patricia Ruffin *
Charles & Margaret Anderson	Homer C. Davis	Mary Kay Klein	Jan Rusak
Steve & Jane Anderson	Gary & Patricia DeHass	Richard & Joyce Komjati	Gary Sabo
Paul Aylard	Judy Delahoyde	Margaret Krupa **	Beckie Seeley
Jim & Darla Bachtell	Dick & Joyce Dirham	Robert D. Law	Lucy Sekerka
Betty Bagley	Richard & Sally Eaken	Dennis & Bonnie Leach	Jim Shields
David Bagley	Robert & Patricia Farkas	Dave & Pat Lehotan	Clay & Judy Smith
Donald Baker	Bob & Linda Fenn	Lila Lehrer	Jay Smith *
Paula Banks	Audrey Filous	Linda Limpert *	Jeanne Smith
Ken & Kathleen Barco	Vickie Fleming	Charles Lons	Kathy Smith-Hudley
Bill & Alice Batchelder	Fred Fri	Ann McClaning	Dean & Margaret Snider
Carter & Elizabeth Bennett	Don & Cindy Fuller	Mary McDowell	Nancy Sprowls
Elby A. Bennett **	Sharon Fuller	Thomas W. & Kay McFadden **	Linda Stekelenburg
Peter & Sydney Sue Benson	Mary Alice Fulton *	Pat McIntire	Helen Streett
Ruth Beshire	Raymond & Maryellen Furse	Lyle McQueeney	Steve & Tena Strine
Carey & Karen Blair	Lauretta Gerspacher	Charles & Teresa Merkle	William Stuchal
Dean Bowman	Terry & Ann Gasser *	Sarah Meyer	Kathleen Sullivan
Ruth Brenner	John Gill **	Annette Miller	Carol Szakovits
Mary Jane Brewer	Jim & Nancy Gowe	Jane Abel Miller	Paul & Susan Szanislo **
Nancy Brintnall	Charles C. Griesinger **	Pat Morgan	Cynthia Szunyog
David & Bea Bryenton	Jerry & Sally Gunner	S. Mosley	Ray & Alberta Taylor
Sue Bryenton	Barbara M. Harrington	Jim & Hildy Navratil	Ruth Tubbs
Edy Campbell	Irwin (Bud) Herrle	Kenneth Oleksiak	John & Pat Van Hoose
Reg Campbell	Gary M. Hetrick	Sally Otterbacher	Gloria Van Steenberg
Don & Marilyn Canfield	Tom Hilberg	James & Annette Patneau **	Harold & Nanette Waite
Ron & Catherine Carmany	Jack & Patricia Hofstetter	Robert Pennington	Ralph & Helen Waite
Beth Streett Cassella	Dee Huddilston	William & Jane Pierce	Lyle West **
Casto Family	Bert & Carole Humpal	Sandra Pilarski *	John Wetzel
Ted Chandler	Howard Hunter	Brigitte Popelars	Jerry & Marsha Whitnoble
Susan Chmelik	Robert & Shirley Hyde	Jean Post	Arline Westfahl
Barbara Clark *	Ann Ignacio	William Randall	Donald & Hope Wilder
John & Kathleen Clark	Arnold & Cheri Ingraham *	Ed & Pat Rickard	Rob & Chris Wilder
John & Marianne Clevidence	Sarah Jane Ingraham	Betty Riegger	Joyce Woolsteen
Leland Coddling	Vernon & Marlene Jividen	Jane Riegger	Kim Wuescher
Dan Coleman *	Harold & JoAnn Johnson	Dean Riggerbach	Gloria Yeager
Jim & Maureen Cook	Irene Johnson	Anita Robertson-Szucs	Ross & Dolly Yowler
Jane Corbus	Randi L. Jones	Robert & JoAnn Robson	Jay & Janis Zachman
John & Peggy Dague	Jeff & Jackie Kehnle **	George & Ruth Rodgers **	Betty Zarney
Robert Dague	David Kellogg	Brad & Kathryn Root	* designates new member
Eric Daiber	Bob & Betty Kiley	John & Elisabeth Root	** designates Life-Time member

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.