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# FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

MEDINA, OHIO

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## Edward C. Mears

In July the Trustees of the Friends of the Cemetery were pleased to announce to FOC members that the Friends of the Cemetery had been named as beneficiary under the Will of Edward C. Mears and beneficiary of a Trust established by Edward C. Mears.

Edward C. Mears lived in Medina in the 1950's and 1960's. He was responsible for the development of the Rustic Hills subdivision and its country club as well as the north complex of the Granger Lake Condos. He also worked with his father, Amos, in the industrial development of the west side of Medina. After leaving Medina, Mr. Mears began cattle ranching in Virginia, Florida, California and, finally, Marble Falls, Texas.

Mr. Mears was a member of the Friends of the Cemetery until his death in April, 2003. Soon after his death, the Friends of the Cemetery Trustees were informed of his desire to help implement the Spring Grove Master Plan through his Estate and Trust. This generous gift will certainly impact the future of the Medina City cemeteries in a most positive way.

The Friends of the Cemetery will receive the net profits from the sale of the Mears Ranch in Marble Falls, Texas. As beneficiary of the Mears Trust, FOC will receive the interest on the principal for thirty-five years at which time FOC will receive the funds in the Trust.

## Spring Grove Lake Project

Construction of the Lake Project at Spring Grove Cemetery began in July. The Letha E. House Foundation awarded a grant to the Friends of the Cemetery to re-create an historic lake located in the center of Spring Grove and to restore an adjacent existing lake. The Friends of the Cemetery thank the Trustees of the Letha E. House Foundation for their continued support of the Medina City cemeteries and their faith in the Friends of the Cemetery.

Behnke Associates is overseeing the project with Marks Construction of Valley City serving as the general contractor. The first phase of the lake project was to drain and dredge the old existing lake. This proved to be quite a job as the water was only about two and one-half feet deep with six feet of muck underneath! No one remembers this lake ever having been dredged before, so after 120 years, it was bound to be a

mess. The dredged fill was taken to the lake at the eastern edge of the cemetery and dumped there where it will eventually settle. This filled lake will be used for burials in the future. The dredged lake was repaired and the banks of the lake were graded and re-seeded and a new fence was installed. This phase of the lake project is complete and the full water level has already been reached.

Work then turned to re-creating the historic lake. This lake is a "hard-edged" lake which means that vertical concrete walls line the sides of the lake below the water level. Along the walkway surrounding the lake, columbarium walls will be constructed. Each wall will contain 120 niches for cremains. At the present time only one columbarium wall is being constructed, but plans are to erect more as needed.

Mr. Mears had a great interest in the Lake Project and requested that the first columbarium be constructed with funds from his estate. He also wanted a garden to be installed near the site of the new lake in memory of his wife, Pat, who passed away in 2001. We are honoring Mr. Mears' requests and have asked Behnke Associates to design this garden. Construction of the Pat Mears garden will begin next spring.

## Looking To the Future

The Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Cemetery has been meeting several times a month in order to keep up with the business involved in the Lake Project, settling the estate of Ed Mears and planning for the future. Our present schedule is to meet at the Munson House at 141 S. Prospect Street at 7:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Members are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Trustees, but should be aware that the meeting schedule is subject to change, especially during the holiday season. As soon as activity lessens, we will go back to a monthly meeting schedule. Those wishing to attend FOC Board meetings are advised to call (330) 725-8155 before the meeting to make sure that the meeting will take place as scheduled.

We will be holding our annual membership meeting in the near future. Watch for an announcement concerning the date, time and place.

Our members are very important to us. They provide FOC with the funds we use to fulfill our maintenance commitments in the cemetery - especially the perennial garden - and also

fund the publication of our newsletter and brochures and other projects as needed. In addition, our members give us encouragement in our mission to preserve and enhance the Medina City cemeteries and their numbers give us status in our dealings with the City. Fortunate as we are in the larger gifts that we have received, we still depend greatly on our members. We appreciate and thank you for your support!

As our organization grows in numbers and in responsibilities and becomes more active, we will need the participation of our members. In addition to the historical walk committee, we always need volunteers to help at Memorial Day. Other events are possible in the future and would require the formation of an events committee. Our informal budget committee will need to be expanded into a finance committee. It would be great to have a group of people dedicated to collecting the history of the cemetery. There is so much that people know and have not written down. Please contact us at (330) 722-5020 if you are interested in helping.

## New Trustee

We are pleased to announce that Helen Streett has been appointed to serve as Trustee on the Board of Friends of the Cemetery. Helen has been an active member of the Friends of the Cemetery for several years and will be a great asset to the Board as we look toward a bright future.

## New Members

We welcome the following who have become Friends of the Cemetery since May, 2003:

Elwood & Doris Naragon Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dusbiber

Lisa M. Kerr Mr. & Mrs. John Dague

Henry & Marjorie Ritz Paul & Susan Szaniszlo

James H. Patneau The Sulenski Family

Alice Chester Thomas Hilberg

John C. Oberholtzer David & Nancy Crone

Enclosed in this newsletter is a current listing of all Friends of the Cemetery members.

## Winter Tree Work

The Friends of the Cemetery have contracted with Davey Tree Expert Company to do winter pruning and cabling of many of the old tall trees at Spring Grove. Deep-root fertilization will be done for the maple trees that line the Memorial Lane

entrance to Spring Grove. Twenty trees at Old Town Graveyard will also be receiving deep-root fertilization.

FOC is committed to preserving and protecting the old trees as well as nurturing the younger trees in both cemeteries. We thank our Cemetery Advocate, Art Riedel, for his watchful eye and care and concern for the trees and the cemeteries in general. We appreciate his lead in working with Davey Tree.

## Spring Grove Historical Walk

On September 20 Friends of the Cemetery trustees and volunteers conducted an historical walk through Spring Grove Cemetery. This was in conjunction with the Medina County Library's Ohio bi-centennial celebrations. It was a perfect day, weather-wise, and seventeen people participated in the walking tour. Cynthia Szunyog, John Gill, Jennifer Sacher, Helen Streett, Teresa Merkle and Joann King researched and prepared historical data and anecdotes. Cynthia Szunyog, Janis Zachman, Jerry Gunner, John Gill and Helen Streett narrated the walk. We thank all who donated their time and knowledge to make the walk a success!

We hope to make the historical walking tour an annual event. We would welcome more volunteers to help plan, research and conduct a walk next summer. Please contact Cynthia Szunyog at 300-722-5020 if you are interested.

## Memorial Day 2003 Wrap-Up

A number of volunteers worked to prepare Spring Grove Cemetery for the Memorial Day festivities. Due to the City's budget crisis, the volunteers helped "save the day." Donations were also made by local businesses. In listing the volunteers and donations, we want to recognize and thank those who lent a hand.

Welcome Wagon, Brownie Troop #386, Sharon Marshall – Court Referral Program (United Way), Katherine Postlethwaite – Court Referral Program (Juvenile Court), Jeff Marshall's Youth Group, Kelly & Mike Kanitsky, Dick Dirham, Art Riedel, members of the Friends of the Cemetery, City Workers Who Donated Time: Tim Swanson, Mike Wright, James Hjort, Dawn Conwill, Dar Jacobs, Nino Piccoli, Keith Dirham.

**Buehler's** – donuts, **Home Depot** – miscellaneous materials for clean-up, **Smith Brothers** – 20 yds. of mulch, **Davis Tree Farm** – 10 yds. of mulch, **anonymous donor**.

We continue to be grateful to the **Oddfellows** for their tender care of the Baby Section not only at Memorial Day, but the whole year round.

The flag pole at Spring Grove and the cannon bases on the Soldiers' Mound were sanded and painted by **Jim Cook**. We thank Jim for always going the extra-mile to help in the cemeteries.

**Juli Kovacs, The Traveling Gardner**, did a spectacular job preparing the Perennial Garden for Memorial Day. The garden was lovely all summer long as well as during the autumn months. We are glad for Juli's expertise and look forward to a great 2004 season.

## Spring Grove's Celtic Cross (The Story of Carrie Eva Hawthorne)

By: Teresa Merkle

The Celtic cross, also known as "The Irish Cross" or "Irish High Cross," came into being between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century, A.D. in the British Isles. It is thought the Celtic cross was used in the beginning to mark meeting places. The Celtic cross symbol has endured through the ages as a popular art form and became a common symbol of Christianity in the British Isles. In the mid-to-late 1800's, the Celtic cross became fashionable as a cemetery monument in the British Isles and soon the fad spread to cemeteries in other parts of the world where Irish and/or Scottish immigrants were laid to rest.

There are various interpretations of what the Celtic cross symbolizes. The most popular is that the circle in the cross represents God's never-ending love through Christ's death on the cross. Another common interpretation is that the horizontal arms represent the physical world and the vertical arms represent the spiritual realm. When brought together in the center, a wholeness is achieved which represents completeness. One other theory, a quite practical one, is that while attempting to convert the Druids of the British Isles – a people who worshipped nature, particularly the sun – Christian missionaries used symbols and ideas that were common to the Druids to help lead them to Christianity. The Druids' heritage, influenced their art, thus the circle in the cross symbolized the sun – a throwback to their pagan heritage - and the cross symbolized their new found Christian faith. Whatever the Celtic cross' origins, it continues to stand today as a symbol of faith and heritage to many of Irish, Scottish and Welsh descent.

In Section 1 of Spring Grove Cemetery, just across the drive from the new lake stands a Celtic cross monument. It is a beautiful, simple symbol and is unique in that there are no other monuments just like it at Spring Grove. At its front base

is carved the surname "Hawthorne." On the side is carved the name "Carrie Eva" and dates of 1866-1911.

Carrie Eva Hawthorne was born Carrie Eva Kimball in Montville Township in 1866 to Charles H. and Elizabeth G. (nee Rorke) Kimball. Carrie's father Charles was born in Benton, New Hampshire in 1834 and came to Medina when he was 21 years old. His brother, Francis D. Kimball, was already residing in Medina and served as county prosecutor and later as attorney general of Ohio. Carrie's mother, Elizabeth, was born in Montreal, Canada in 1833 and moved to York Township as a young child. She came into Medina for school and was taught by Aunt Sarah Carpenter who was known in those days as a "famous educator." Elizabeth even studied at Oberlin College as a young woman.

Before Carrie's birth in 1866, her father, Charles, had been discharged from the Union army's 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI on June 25, 1865, having attained the rank of sergeant. He had entered the service on August 11, 1862, not quite two years after his marriage to Elizabeth on December 24, 1860. Carrie was the second of three daughters born to the Kimball's. Her older sister was Addie M. and her younger sister was Mary Louise. When Carrie was one year old, the family moved to the "village" of Medina and purchased a house on East Washington Street in the 400 block.

Carrie graduated from Medina High School in 1884. Just before her graduation, she took the position of "lady clerk" at the Medina post office. She worked alongside her father who from 1880 to 1887 was assistant to the postmaster, Capt. J.H. Greene. The postmaster in those days was elected to his position and in 1887 when a Democrat became postmaster, Mr. Kimball left the post office and worked at A.I. Root Co. In 1891, Mr. Kimball returned to the post office as the new postmaster after being elected "by popular vote of the patrons of the office" and served as postmaster and then assistant postmaster for another thirteen years. Carrie's tenure at the post office lasted eleven years.

Carrie was involved in the Medina community as a member of the local Temperance Union and the Ladies' Aid Society. She was elected to the Executive Committee of the Medina Library Association in 1893.

William J. Hawthorne, a young graduate of Kenyon College Theological Seminary, arrived in Medina in 1893 to begin ministering to St. Paul's Episcopal Church on East Liberty Street. The Kimball's were dedicated members of St. Paul's parish. Carrie Kimball and William Hawthorne fell in love and on March 2, 1897 were married at St. Paul's. Soon after the marriage, their ministry took them away from Medina to Illinois, Indiana, Galion and Findlay, Ohio.

During the years after her marriage and her moves to distant places, Carrie was known to spend time each summer here in Medina to visit her girlhood home. It was during one of those visits in the summer of 1911 that she fell ill on the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. When her condition did not improve, Carrie was taken late in the week to Charity Hospital in Cleveland. Surgery was performed on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and she died shortly after the surgery. Carrie was 45 years old. The funeral service was held here in Medina at St. Paul's and burial took place at Spring Grove Cemetery on July 11 in the Kimball family plot. Besides her husband, parents and sisters, Carrie was survived by two young daughters, Elizabeth and Frances.

Carrie's mother followed her in death one year later in September of 1912. Her father died in November, 1915, sister, Mary Louise died in July, 1921 and sister, Addie (married name Byam) in October, 1941. The parents and sisters are buried east of Carrie with identifying headstones at each grave. According to cemetery maps, Carrie is buried at the side of the Celtic cross where her name appears. No one else is buried at the cross.

An obituary appeared in the April 28, 1950 edition of the Medina Gazette for Carrie's husband, William J. Hawthorne. He died at age 84 in Philadelphia. He had continued his ministry and had most recently served the St. Luke's church in Philadelphia. His funeral and burial took place in Philadelphia. The daughters, both of whom resided in Philadelphia at the time of his death, were listed as his only survivors.

The Hawthorne Celtic cross is just one example of the many unique and historic monuments at Spring Grove. Each one represents the memory of a person and/or family who played an important role in the history of Medina. Strolling through Spring Grove is like being in an outdoor museum. Each of the monuments was designed and chosen with care to leave a legacy for future generations. It is so important that we work together to ensure that these monuments, along with the grounds which surround them are preserved and protected.

**(Special thanks to John Gill for his help in researching for this article.)**