



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 26

Medina, Ohio

May 2012



Photo courtesy of the Medina County Historical Society

Childhood memories of Miss Ella and the Parade

Traditionally, classes from Garfield Elementary School marched in the Decoration Day Parade, the kindergartners only going as far as the Old Town Cemetery where they placed flowers on the graves there while the other classes continued to Spring Grove Cemetery. Ella Canavan, beloved kindergarten teacher to generations of Medina children, is pictured here with her class as they march down East Liberty Street. Perhaps someone will recognize one of the children in this photo so we will be able to give it a date.

We asked a few people to share their memories of Miss Ella and of the Decoration Day Parade.

Charles Clark Griesinger:

Both my father (MHS '16) and I (MHS '43) had Miss Ella as our first teacher at the Lincoln Building (North east corner of East Smith Road and Broadway) and I believe that in 1904 when my father had Miss Ella the Lincoln Building was the Medina High

School. Of course we marched to the cemetery with flowers every Memorial Day; but Miss Ella had us march (in military manner starting with the left foot first) in and out of the Lincoln Building every day, up and down steep steps to the glorious sounds of John Philip Sousa marches which Miss Ella wound up on a Victrola she moved each day to the building entrance for our patriotic inspiration and improved cadence. When I was in Miss Tubbs' 3rd grade class, Miss Ella brought a color painting of John Philip Sousa to each class in the Lincoln Building to announce with sadness and dignity that her (and my) beloved John Philip Sousa had expired. So 82 years later when I hear John Philip Sousa marches (which is much more often than average) I think of Miss Ella and the monumental influence she had on many in Medina.

Upon High School graduation it appeared that 7 of us had gone all the way starting with Miss Ella: Craig Fenn, Mathew Medley,

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Friends of the Cemetery

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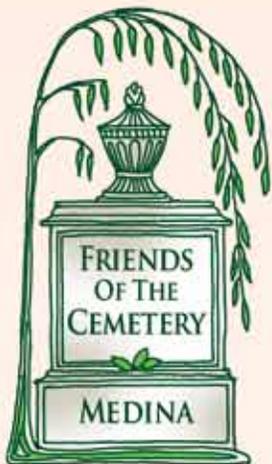
Photos

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

Donald Todd, Richard Wagner, John Culp and Carl Auble. We called it the "Dirty Seven." WWII limited the number of our meetings. Once we took Miss Ella to dinner and she named the 7 and Vernon Stouffer as pallbearers.

Alice Chester:

Alice's father, Rollie Hartman always played in the band for the Memorial Day parade. As soon as the band reached the archway leading into Spring Grove, they would stop, mid note, and begin the funeral march.

The Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day parade always rode a white horse. For many years, Warren Anderson, Alice's great uncle, rode the white horse, leading the parade. Once again, in May of 1948 he planned to do so. Then his nephew, Alice's father, died suddenly on May 29, 1948 at age 60.

The funeral was planned for Tuesday June 1, but Memorial Day, Monday May 31, came first and the parade. Alice remembers her uncle riding the horse in the parade slumped "like a sack of potatoes". At the finish he slid off the horse declaring that he would never again lead the parade. And he never did.

Mary Alice Gibbs-Fulton:

Sometimes it was so hot, someone in the band would pass out wearing their heavy wool uniforms. The band always marched behind the horse unit and would always joke and laugh about avoiding the inevitable droppings.

As a young girl, Mary Alice's mother would fix a bouquet of iris and peonies from their yard for her to carry. The young students (kindergarten through 3rd) always walked to the old Medina Cemetery (Old Town Graveyard). Then, when they were older they would make the longer trek all the way to Spring Grove

John Gill:

John remembers lining up in front of Garfield School and riding his tricycle in the parade with colored crepe paper in the wheels.

David Kellogg:

Like others who grew up in Medina, I remember Decoration Day as a beautiful and significant patriotic holiday celebrating our freedom and spring just before the end of the school year. Early in the morning, all the grade school students assembled on South Broadway Street, each student firmly clutching a bouquet of spring flowers from their own yard. In those pre-plastic-wrap days, the bouquets were held together by waxed paper wrapped around the roots of the flowers.

I also have a very personal and precious memory from my early years of my father's taking me with him every Memorial Day when he went to help place a small individual American Flag on each veteran's grave. I felt gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made by each of these men - a feeling which has increased over the years.

David's memories of Miss Ella: I can personally vouch for the veracity of the reports of others who recount Miss Ella's gentle discipline - as she lined us up and had us march out of the Lincoln Building upon dismissal of school each day, or as she lined us up for the parade each Memorial Day.

In the corner of the Kindergarten Room (the southwest corner room on the first floor of the Lincoln Building) stood a big fluffy long-handled dust mop. Miss Ella would stand in the middle of the room and run the dust mop around in circles until the shiny wood floor of the room gleamed. Then she would have all the members of the class sit in a big circle on the floor for activities and stories. The west (front) wall of the high-ceilinged room had big tall windows. One winter day big fluffy white snowflakes began to fall. Miss Ella explained to us that "Mother Nature is shaking her feather bed".

Jane Riegger:

Jane remembers walking in the parade when she was in 4th grade carrying lilacs from her grandmother's lilac tree. Jane started teaching kindergarten at Garfield School in 1962. Her kindergartners carried little American flags and were all excited to be in the parade. They went as far as the Old Cemetery. Even the naughty ones behaved.

Craig Fenn:

I always had a nice bouquet of peonies for the Memorial Day Parade. We grew them at the house on Prospect Street. They always came into full bloom just in time for the parade. We would form up by the school and march up to and around the Square, then down to the old cemetery. They had markers for the soldiers' graves and we would put our flowers where there were markers. Then we were free to go back to the Square and get some sherbet at Tony's.

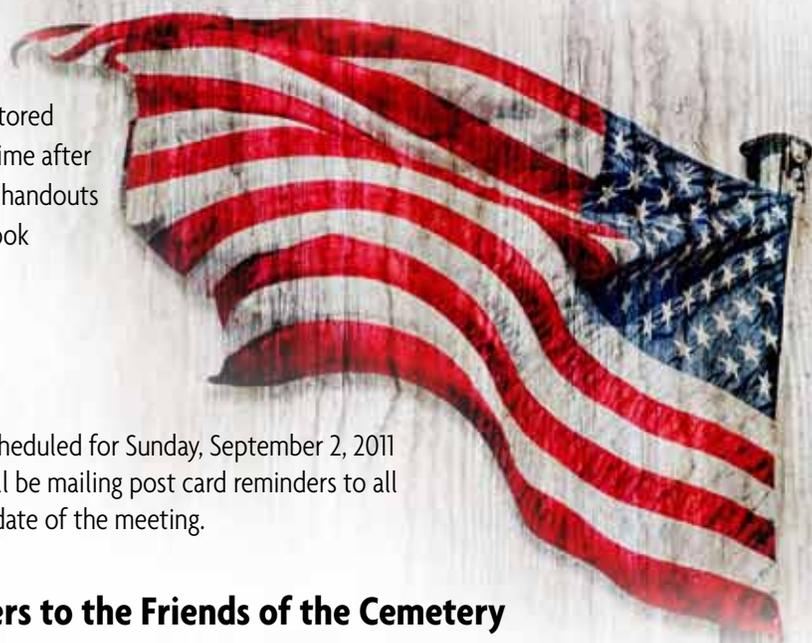
We would like to hear about your Memorial Day memories.

MEMORIAL DAY 2012



The Spring Grove chapel and the mausoleum will be open to the public from 9:30 a.m. until the end of the Memorial Day services around noon.

Please feel free to stop in to visit the lovely restored 1884 chapel and the mausoleum before and for a short time after the parade reaches the cemetery. The Friends will have handouts and informational boards on display in the chapel. We look forward to seeing you.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery is scheduled for Sunday, September 2, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the 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.

We welcome the following new members to the Friends of the Cemetery since our last newsletter in December 2011:

Margaret Krupa • David L. Bagley • S. Mosley • Dave & Pat Lehotan • Kathy Smith-Hudley

Annual Historical Walk

Saturday, September 8, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. is the date for our annual historical walk sponsored by the Friends of the Cemetery in conjunction with the Medina County District Library. This year the walk will take place in Old Town Cemetery, located on East Liberty Street between the Congregational and Episcopal churches. We would like to hear from anyone who has information or an ancestor buried in this cemetery. Since few were buried there after Spring Grove opened in 1883, there are not many people living now who can relate to those buried under these stones. If you have information, please contact Cynthia Szunyog at 330-722-5020 or cszunyog@msn.com.

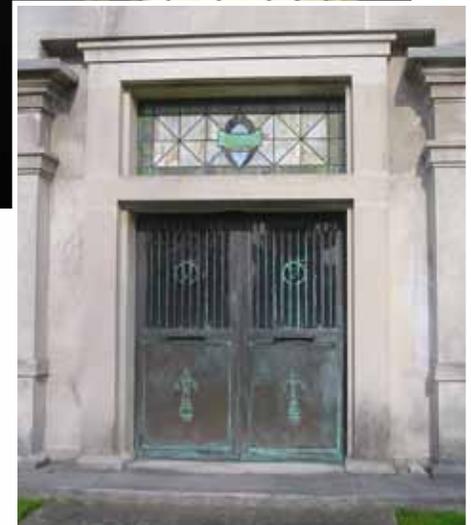
Spring Grove Mausoleum Restoration



The Friends of the Cemetery have contracted with Dale Serne Architects of Cleveland to complete the restoration of the Spring Grove mausoleum. In February, the Medina City Council passed a resolution supporting this project and accepting this donation from the Friends of the Cemetery.

The project will include the restoration of the beautiful bronze-coated entryway doors, and the stained glass windows, including protective covering for the windows, and restoration or replacement and re-pointing of the stone around the doors.

The work is expected to take just over six months with an initial cost estimate of \$64,550. The Friends of the Cemetery are pleased to continue our mission of the preservation and beautification of the structures at Spring Grove.



After

Before



Old Town Stone Restoration • Phase II

Friends of the Cemetery proposed another cost sharing arrangement to the City of Medina for Phase II of the stone restoration at Old Town Graveyard. Originally, the restoration work was broken down into two parts – Phase I (which was completed in the summer of 2011) and Phase II. But, after the success of Phase I and due to our desire to continue this very important project, Phase II has been split and there is now a Phase III slated for 2013.

Phase II encompasses restoration of 109 stones at a cost of \$25,000. All of the stones will be cleaned. Seventy-six (76) of these stones will be reset, leveled and plumbed, 8 of which will also require footer repair. Fifteen (15) stones are in pieces and will be put back together with epoxy. Eight stones cannot be repaired and each stone will be placed in its own wooden box on a bed of stones.

City Council has approved \$25,000 for this project and it is currently underway. As with Phase I, the Friends will, in-turn, fund \$25,000 worth of projects at Spring Grove over the next year.

Planting Regulations

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. Bulbs make a lovely display in the spring. You might consider planting them at your graves this fall.

Section 19 & 20 Development



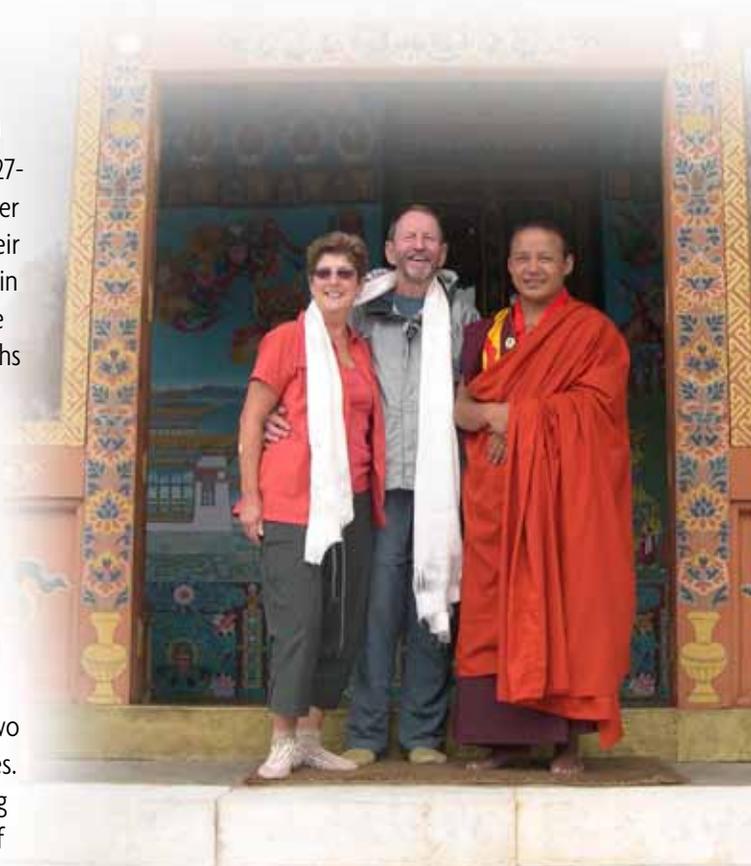
The City of Medina contracted with Cunningham and Associates to prepare a base plan and survey of proposed Sections 19 & 20 at Spring Grove Cemetery. These two new sections will be located on the far eastern side of the cemetery near the existing maintenance center. Development of these sections will greatly increase burial capacity and provide varied burial options, including a section for above ground crypts or mausoleums.

Spring Grove Chapel News

This past November, our chapel was the site of a very special wedding! As far as we know, this is the first wedding ever held at the chapel in its 127-year history! Katie Horn and Donald Woodcock were married on November 11, 2011 at 11:11 a.m. with eleven people in attendance. This was actually their second wedding ceremony. The first was on 9/11/11 at a Buddhist Temple in Bhutan. That wedding was not planned but was the result of a last minute inspiration. Great travelers, Katie and Donald have spent the last six months in Florida, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Peru and Ecuador and are off to Africa in August. Katie said that she chose the chapel for the second wedding ceremony because it is so beautiful following the restoration.

The Friends of the Cemetery hired Eastwood Furniture of Medina to design and make two oak side-armed chairs for the front of the chapel. These will provide seating for officiates at services held at the chapel. Eastwood also built an oak podium and a 6'x2' table to be placed at the front of the chapel. The table will be used to hold urns, flower arrangements, etc. These furnishings match the existing oak benches – two of which the Friends purchased last year to add to the existing six benches.

For some time we have been interested in commissioning or purchasing a stained glass window mounted in a light box and hanging at the front of the chapel interior. A committee composed of Jerry Gunner, Bonnie Leach, Cynthia Szunyog and David Kellogg will explore possibilities.



Katie, Donald & Buddhist lama after 1st wedding ceremony in Bhutan.

Benches, Signage and Water Spigots

Over the winter, the Friends purchased ten park benches for Spring Grove Cemetery. These replace old park benches that had been donated to the cemetery many years ago when the old uptown arcade was re-done. A few of the older benches that were in better condition have been placed at Old Town Graveyard. The brand new benches are now in place at Spring Grove.

Twenty-nine new section signs and poles were purchased by the Friends of the Cemetery for Spring Grove and are already

installed – thanks to the mild winter we all enjoyed.

The Friends also purchased twenty-two decorative water spigots to replace the current unsightly water spigots and pipes at Spring Grove. The new water spigots have been delivered, but not yet installed. We expect this to be done in the very near future. Friends Trustees wish to thank Trustee Jerry Gunner for taking the lead on these projects as well as the chapel furnishings. Jerry's had a very busy and productive winter!



Entry Gate Uplighting

The City of Medina contracted with #1 Landscaping to run electrical conduit under the entry drive and with Seiffert Electric to provide can lighting and wiring to uplight our lovely Spring Grove Entry Gate. Be sure to look for this lovely touch when you are out and about in the evening or very early morning hours.

Old Lake Fence Extension

Cemetery personnel recently cleaned out brambles and scrub brush that lined a section of the old lake at Spring Grove. This cleanup allowed the extension of the existing wooden fence that runs along the west side of the old lake. The City purchased the wooden railing and fencing materials from Lodi Lumber and cemetery personnel built the extension.

Cooperation between the City and Friends

The uplighting of the Entry Gate, the old lake fence extension and engineering work on proposed Sections 19 & 20 were funded by the City through a cost-sharing arrangement between Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina. The City agreed to fund \$25,000 for Phase I of the Old Town Graveyard stone restoration. In turn, the Friends of the Cemetery gave \$25,000 to the City for work at Spring Grove.

Winter Tree Work

The Friends paid \$4,600 to Treemasters Tree Service for annual winter tree maintenance in keeping with our ongoing commitment to the urban forests in both Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard.

Lakeview Cemetery Tour



The Friends of the Cemetery are sponsoring a trip to Lake View Cemetery – “Cleveland’s Outdoor Museum and Arboretum” on Saturday, June 23, 2012.

The outing will include an architectural tour of Lake View’s monuments and structures led by restoration architect, Dale Serne. Dale is an expert on Lake View’s monument and building design and, by the way, is the restoration architect who oversaw the restoration of our own Spring Grove chapel and who is currently overseeing the restoration of our Spring Grove mausoleum. We have engaged Lake View Cemetery docents to guide our tour through President James A. Garfield’s monument, where you will view where the caskets of President Garfield and his wife are on display and be able to view Lake Erie and downtown Cleveland, five-miles away, from the memorial’s second-story balcony.

A Lake View docent will conduct us through the magnificent Jephtha H. Wade Memorial Chapel which was designed exclusively by Louis Comfort Tiffany in 1901. We will also visit the gravesites of some of Cleveland’s (and the world’s) most famous people, including John D. Rockefeller and Eliot Ness.

We will leave Medina at 9:00 a.m. by motor coach and enjoy a Panera boxed lunch while at Lake View. We will return to Medina at approximately 3:00 p.m. The cost of the tour is just \$30. If you would like to go, please send your reservation to FOC 445 West Liberty Street, Suite 219, Medina, OH 44256 by May 30. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and number in your party. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Cemetery. We will go rain or shine.

Austin Badger

by Pat Morgan

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and it seems most fitting to honor a veteran of that conflict. Austin Badger, who is buried in Old Town Cemetery, was one of the brave young men who answered the call to arms to fight in that war.

Austin was born in Green, Chenango County, New York on September 3, 1793. When the War of 1812 broke out, he and his family were living in Buffalo, New York where they operated a milling business. In the spring of 1812 Austin volunteered in the war for six months. He was also in the militia in 1813 when Buffalo was burned. In June 1814 he was drafted for another six months and went to Buffalo at the time of the American sortie on Fort Erie, opposite Buffalo, when our forces took 212 prisoners. He was sergeant of the guard that took the prisoners to Greenwich. He was discharged in the fall of 1814. A rifle company was formed in his county in 1816 and he was made Captain of this unit.

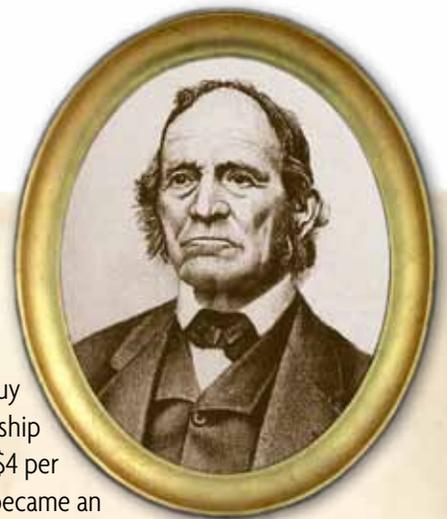
In 1818 Austin, together with his friend Alonzo Hickox, made his way to Medina by boat and on foot. Originally he and Alonzo were going to Wooster where Alonzo had family. But a local land agent, Rufus Ferris, told the men that if things did not work out when they went to Wooster to return to Medina and he would see what he could do for them. Luckily for the future of Medina, the two men decided Wooster did not offer the opportunities they were hoping for and they came back. Mr. Ferris put Austin in touch with a local land surveyor who offered him a job. He cleared the land around what is now Public Square and, with the assistance of Alonzo, built a public house which served as both a tavern and temporary court

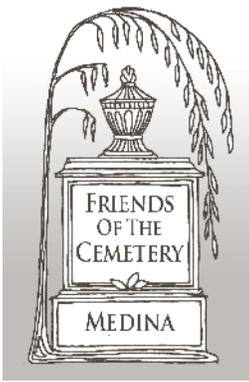
house. He was elected adjutant of a regiment that had been formed here and was made Captain. He began to buy land in Montville Township which at the time was \$4 per acre. When Montville became an official township in 1821 Austin was one of the 15 registered voters needed to complete the organizational process. He was elected Justice of the Peace and also served as a Montville Township trustee.

Austin was a successful farmer and by all accounts a well-respected member of the community throughout his life. Many of the fruit trees planted by early farmers came from Austin’s orchards.

Austin first married Catherine Ruple of Cuyahoga County in 1820 and brought her to Montville Township. Catherine died in 1821, the first death and burial in the township, leaving Austin to raise their infant daughter Lucia. Austin went on to marry three more times but there were no further children. Lucia married Charles Booth in 1844. They had one son Lester who died at age 6. Austin died on November 11, 1883 at the age of 90. He and his wives Catherine, Nancy Bell, Mary Wells and Elizabeth Loring are buried together in Old Town.

It has been my honor to research the life of Austin Badger and to recognize his service to our country and community. He was a remarkable man.





FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

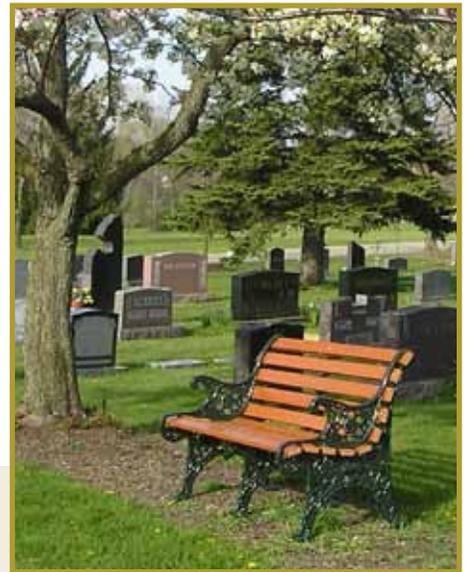
445 W. Liberty Street,
Suite 219
Medina, Ohio 44256

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:

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