

FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 29

Medina, Ohio

December 2013

THE FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY PRESENT

A Holiday Harp Recital



Featuring Harpists: Courtney Kania Young & Sydney Lynskey

Saturday, December 21st, 2pm

Spring Grove Chapel, Medina

Seating is limited, to reserve your seat call 330.722.1706 no later than December 18th.

This is a free concert. Freewill donations will be accepted at the door.

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Membership enclosed _____

Please return to:

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Photo by Annette Miller

Friends of the Cemetery

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Trustees

Teresa Merkle
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Editors

Teresa Merkle
Cynthia Szunyog

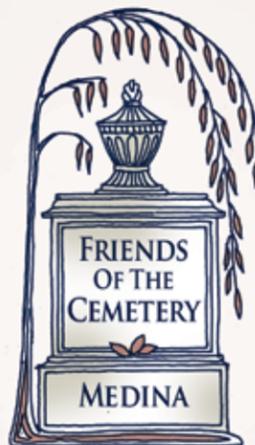
Photos

Teresa Merkle
Annette Miller

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



Chapel Stained Glass

After much anticipation the stained glass piece for the Spring Grove Chapel was installed

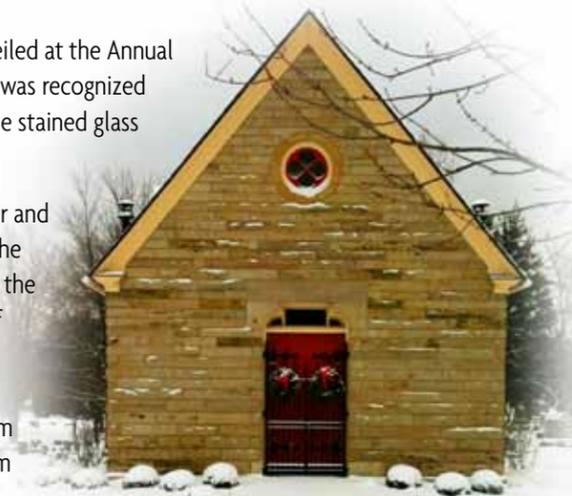
mid-September by Ascherl Studios of Hinckley, Ohio. It is a lovely addition to our charming little chapel. We thank all who had a hand in its conception from Kathy Kraus' original sketch to Ascherl Studios' creation, assemblage and installation of the piece. Special thanks goes to Jerry Gunner who had the vision and did the leg work to make it happen and to his stained glass committee – David Kellogg and Bonnie Leach.

Friends' Annual Meeting

The Friends held their Annual Meeting at the Spring Grove chapel on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Officers were unanimously re-elected: Teresa Merkle, President, John Gill, Vice-President, Janis Zachman, Secretary and Vickie Fleming, Treasurer. Trustees Linda Fenn, John Gill and Helen Streett were each re-elected to 3-year terms.

The chapel's lovely new stained glass piece was unveiled at the Annual Meeting. Artist, Kathy Kraus, was in attendance and was recognized for her original sketch that was the inspiration for the stained glass piece created by Ascherl Studios of Hinckley, Ohio.

Photographs by award-winning Medina photographer and Friends member, Annette Miller, were on display in the chapel for the Annual Meeting. At the conclusion of the business meeting, Annette presented a slide show of the beautiful and artistic photographs that she has taken at Spring Grove Cemetery over the years. We thank Annette for providing a very enjoyable program and for the use of her photos in this publication from time to time.



Cuyahoga Falls Oakwood Chapel Update

In our December 2010 newsletter we featured an article on The Ladies Cemetery Association of Oakwood Cemetery of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and how the Medina Friends of the Cemetery have been supporting and encouraging the efforts of this group. We recently received the following update from The Ladies' Cemetery Association of Oakwood Cemetery and are pleased to share it with our readers:

"In celebration of our 125th anniversary, The Ladies' Cemetery Association (LCA) is extending our corporation by organizing the Friends of Oakwood Chapel in an effort to draw attention to the Oakwood Cemetery's chapel – an historic treasure. The focus of the newly formed Friends group is to preserve Oakwood Chapel for present and future generations of the Cuyahoga Falls community. Plans are to grow membership, raise awareness and funds for a wide range of projects and to coordinate the "Adopt A Window" restoration program. (Editor's Note: *The 1898 Oakwood Cemetery Chapel is adorned with twelve magnificent stained glass windows. Two of which are believed to be works by Tiffany. The Association is in the process of confirming this.*)

Our official kick-off took place on Thursday, October 10, 2013 with a Quick Stop lunch tour. Our invited guests (local



government officials, city department heads and members of the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce) were treated to lunch and learned how they can help our City's beautiful historic treasure – Oakwood Chapel. These folks were also offered the opportunity to become part of the Friends group.

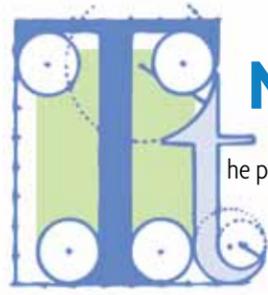
If you would like more information about our organization, would like to become a Friend of Oakwood Chapel or make a general, tax-deductible donation, please contact Kathy Taylor Jalm at 330-923-1833 or jim.sr@att.net.

Oakwood Chapel is located in Oakwood Cemetery, 2420 Oakwood Avenue, Cuyahoga Falls, OH.

Cemetery Staff Changes

Tim Swanson, Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Medina, resigned this past September to take a position with the Medina County Park District and due to his departure, several staff changes and adjustments have been made that affect the cemeteries. City Service Director, Nino Piccoli, has tapped Mike Wright, Director of the Medina Community Recreation Center, to oversee the two city cemeteries for the time being. Mike served as Sexton at

Spring Grove Cemetery from 2003 to 2008. He will continue in his role at MCRC. James Hjort, who has been Spring Grove Sexton since 2008, has taken a position in the Parks and Recreation Department. City Arborist, Jansen Wehrley, along with Bob Depew, a 22-year employee of the City of Medina, are overseeing the day to day cemetery operations. You can reach the Spring Grove cemetery office by calling 330-722-9056.



New Building Update

The proposed construction of a new office building at Spring Grove Cemetery funded by the Friends is moving forward. It will be Phase I of a three-phase collaboration between the Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina. Preliminary drawings and surveys have been completed and, at this writing, utility plans are being finalized. We look forward to breaking ground in the very near future and eagerly anticipate Phase II – the construction of a new maintenance building by the City of Medina, and Phase III - the demolition of the old maintenance building by the City and construction of parking lots for visitors and employees, funded by the Friends, to follow soon after.

WEST ELEVATION

Mallard duck nest at Spring Grove



Spring Grove Stone STRAIGHTENING Project

The Spring Grove stone straightening project continued this year with the City of Medina contracting with Cutlip Construction of Canal Fulton to straighten ten stones at Spring Grove at a cost of \$11,900 to the City. The straightening of these large upright gravestones is no small task and we are so appreciative of the skill and know-how of Joe Cutlip and his crew. The Friends applaud the City's continued commitment to the yearly stone straightening program at Spring Grove Cemetery.



Spring Grove Trees

City Arborist, Jansen Wehrley, met with the Cemetery Commission and representatives of the Friends to report on the City's plan to remove 38 ash trees at Spring Grove Cemetery due to the infestation of the emerald ash borer. Five other species of trees are safety hazards and must also be removed from Spring Grove. Due to these circumstances, the Friends put off our annual tree purchase program this fall and have cancelled our annual winter tree maintenance program for 2014. The Friends have funded the purchase of 34 new trees at Spring Grove since 2010. Additionally, every tree in Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard has been pruned within the last five years. We will resume this program in 2014 once Jansen identifies tree species and locations for them.

You may purchase memorial trees in memory of loved ones or friends at Spring Grove Cemetery any time by contacting Bob Depew at 330-722-9056. The cost of purchasing a 2" caliper tree and the customized plaque is \$250.00.

Planting Regulations

The regulations for Spring Grove Cemetery calls for fall decorations to be removed from graves by December 15 and winter decorations removed by March 15. On or after those dates, cemetery staff will remove any remaining and/or unsightly decorations. Thank you!

Old Town Graveyard Update

The Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina partnered to restore and straighten 199 historic old gravestones at Old Town Graveyard. The three-year, three-phase stone restoration project was completed this past May. A total of \$75,000 was spent since 2011 to accomplish this noble task. Old Town, located in Medina's nine-block historic district, is the burial ground for Medina's village fathers and earliest settlers – including Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and WWI veterans. Preserving and protecting this graveyard is of central importance to the Friends of the Cemetery.

Regrettably we must report that no less than 17 of the oldest stones at Old Town were knocked down and/or shattered in a rash of vandalism that took place over two weekends in September. There are currently no suspects in this case. The City is in the process of getting estimates for repair work. At this writing, one estimate for \$9,600 had been received.





Esther E. Indoe

-1889-1987 by Paula Banks



I met Esther E. Indoe when we rented the upstairs of her lovely Victorian home on South Court Street in Medina from January 1963 until August 1966. My husband and I were newly married and moved to Medina to begin our teaching careers. My husband's teaching position started in January and I would start teaching in September.

We were new to the state of Ohio and to Medina. Esther was very kind in giving us information about doctors, churches, and shopping. The first winter was long, cold and snowy. Before I started working, Esther frequently invited me downstairs for tea and we often played Parcheesi.

I learned that Esther had taught elementary school. She started teaching right out of high school. She then attended Normal School to earn her teaching certificate. Esther taught in Granger, York and Medina schools. She and Ella Canavan were contemporaries. I don't know if they taught together or if Ella Canavan was her principal.

Esther was a kind landlady. She never complained or commented about noise – even when we purchased an old upright player

piano and sang at parties with the piano rolls. Esther was tall, thin and stood ramrod straight. She wore her white hair up in a twist. She had her hair "done" every week. She was always properly dressed and fit the stereotype of a spinster school teacher. She had a quiet authority about her. "Prim and proper" is the phrase that her great-niece, Lois Indoe Bangert and, former neighbor, John Dague, used when describing her.

Esther was an avid gardener and dressed as a very proper gardener, complete with large straw hat, gardening gloves and basket and clippers. She grew beautiful roses – many varieties and colors. She encouraged me to cut the flowers to have in our apartment. Esther E. Indoe was born in 1889 in Granger and lived all her life in Medina County. She died in February 1987 at 97 years old and was laid to rest in Spring Grove Cemetery. She was our landlady for three and a half years and I now wish I had gotten to know more about the details of her life. As a twenty-something I was busy with my life and career. But I do remember her as a kindly and helpful gentlewoman.

(We appreciate articles such as this and encourage our readers to share memories of folks buried in Spring Grove or Old Town. If this article sparked more memories of Esther or others, will you please share those with us?)

2013 Cemetery Walk

by Cynthia Szunyog

On a rainy September 21st a dedicated group of people interested in the history of Old Medina gathered in Old Town Cemetery to learn more about its pioneer residents. Pat Morgan, president of the Genealogical Society, Bob Fenn and Cynthia Szunyog had done quite a bit of research to bring the lives of these early residents back to light. Old Town Cemetery presents a puzzle because most of the people buried there arrived in Medina so early that there are not a lot of written sources chronicling their lives. Many of the more prominent and wealthy people originally buried there had been moved to Spring Grove Cemetery in the late 1800's or early 1900's. Many families moved further West in search of land and wealth, abandoning the graves of their loved ones.

Among those remembered during the walk were Captain Seth Walker who served in the War of 1812 and James Newens, a veteran of the Civil War, George Sillett who was a sexton of the combined Congregational and Methodist Churches, the Olney Bradway family after whom a Medina street is named, Ebenezer and Sally Sanford who farmed on Granger Road and whose descendants still live in Medina, Linas and Mary Thayer and and Ara and Sophia Fenn of that important Medina Family.

It had rained all morning, but with the customary cemetery walk luck still in force, the sun came out minutes before the walk began with only some water still dripping from the tree canopy. Thirteen

stalwart walkers, equipped with raincoats and umbrellas assembled along with our presenters and Allison Wood whose article and photos appeared in the Medina Post. We all enjoyed the afternoon, the smaller number of participants allowing for a more relaxed and informal atmosphere. We thank Cindy Allman for updating our Walk poster.

Seth Walker, Veteran of the War of 1812

Captain Seth Walker, a Massachusetts Yankee and veteran of the War of 1812, learned the trade of brick maker as a young man in New England. He settled on a farm on Hamilton Road in Medina Township near the W. Branch of the Rocky River in 1835. Several of his grown sons came with him to Ohio and one, William, lived a mile down the road.

While deciding who to research for this year's cemetery walk, the Walker name drew my attention because a William Walker and his wife were the first people to live in my house, which has had only three owners since it was built in 1854. I knew that his wife was a Kennedy, a niece of the family who farmed at the corner of Hamilton and Pearl roads. It's clear now that my William was the son of Seth Walker and that probably also explains why my home was one of three old houses in my neighborhood which were built of brick in the 1850's.

If anyone reading this article is interested in doing research about people buried in Spring Grove or Old Town, please let us know. We are especially interested in family members who are willing to be presenters or provide us with information about their families.

Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - DECEMBER 2013

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cynthia Allman | Richard & Sally Eaken | Margaret Krupa ** | Gary Sabo |
| Charles & Margaret Anderson | Robert & Patricia Farkas | Dennis & Bonnie Leach | Rod & Sandy Sampsel * |
| Steve & Jane Anderson | Bob & Linda Fenn | Dave & Pat Lehotan | Dorothy A. Seamon |
| Jim & Darla Bachtell | Gary & Elaine Fernwood | Lila Lehrer | Beckie Seeley |
| Betty Bagley | Audrey Filous | Linda Limpert | Lucy Sekerka |
| Donald Baker | Vickie Fleming | Richard Lark * | Jim Shields |
| Paula Banks | Fred Fri | Charles Lons | Clay & Judy Smith |
| Ken & Kathleen Barco | Sandy Frommeyer | Mary Joyce Lunn * | Jay Smith |
| Carter & Elizabeth Bennett | Sharon Fuller | Ann McClaning | Jeanne Smith |
| Elby A. Bennett ** | Mary Alice Fulton | Jim & Pat McDermott * | Kathy Smith-Hudley |
| Peter & Sydney Sue Benson | Raymond & Maryellen Furse | Mary McDowell | Dean & Margaret Snider |
| Ruth Beshire | Lauretta Gerspacher | Thomas W. & Kay McFadden ** | Nancy Sprowls |
| Blackburn Family | Terry & Ann Gasser | Pat McIntire | Elizabeth Stadden |
| Carey & Karen Blair | John Gill ** | Jim & Nancy McKee | Linda Stekelenburg |
| Linda Bostwick * | Charles C. Griesinger ** | Susan McKiernan | Helen Streett |
| Mary Jane Brewer | Jerry & Sally Gunner | Lyle McQueeney | Steve & Tena Strine |
| Nancy Brintnall | Judy Hamer | Charles & Teresa Merkle | William Stuchal |
| David & Bea Bryenton | Barbara M. Harrington | Sarah Meyer | Kathleen Sullivan |
| Sue Bryenton | Irwin (Bud) Herrle | Annette Miller | Carol Szakovits |
| Edy Campbell | Gary M. Hetrick | Jane Abel Miller | Paul & Susan Szanislo ** |
| Reg Campbell | Nicole Hettinger * | Jane Moos | Cynthia Szunyog |
| Don & Marilyn Canfield | Tom Hilberg | Pat Morgan | Ray & Alberta Taylor |
| Ron & Catherine Carmany | Jack & Patricia Hofstetter | Naples Family * | Joseph Thompson |
| Beth Streett Cassella | Dee Huddilston | Jim & Hildy Navratil | Ruth Tubbs |
| Casto Family | Bert & Carole Humpal | Sally Otterbacher | John & Pat Van Hoose |
| Ted Chandler | Howard Hunter | Alan Parkhurst * | Gloria Van Steenberg |
| Susan Chmelik | Robert & Shirley Hyde | James & Annette Patneau ** | Brian Vereb Family |
| Citizens Charitable Foundation * | Ann Ignacio | Robert Pennington | Harold & Nanette Waite |
| Barbara Clark | Sarah Jane Ingraham | William & Jane Pierce | Ralph & Helen Waite |
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| Dan Coleman | Vernon & Marlene Jividen | Jean Post | John Wetzel |
| Jim & Maureen Cook | Harold & JoAnn Johnson | William Randall | Jerry & Marsha Whitnable |
| John & Peggy Dague | Irene Johnson | Ed & Pat Rickard | Donald & Hope Wilder |
| Robert Dague | Randi L. Jones | Betty Riegger | Rob & Chris Wilder |
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| Mike & Judy Davanzo | David Kellogg | Dean Rigggenbach | Ross & Dolly Yowler |
| Homer C. Davis | Lisa Kerr Family | Robert & JoAnn Robson | Jay & Janis Zachman |
| Gary & Patricia DeHass | Bob & Betty Kiley | George & Ruth Rodgers ** | Betty Zarney |
| Judy Delahoyde | Peter & Joann King | Brad & Kathryn Root | Stephen Zetts-Neves |
| Dick & Joyce Dirham ** | Mary Kay Klein | John & Elisabeth Root | |
| Carole Dusbiber | Richard & Joyce Komjati | Chuck & Pat Ruffin | |

* designates new member
** designates Life-Time member

*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.