



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 30

Medina, Ohio

May 2014



Mausoleum Restoration

The bronze doors and stained glass windows of the Spring Grove mausoleum have been restored and reinstalled. Exterior masonry work was completed in mid-December. This brings to completion the mausoleum restoration project – the cost of which was funded in full by

the Friends of the Cemetery. As is customary, the mausoleum will be opened to the public on Memorial Day morning. Please make a point to stop by to see the restoration work that has been done.

Friends of the Cemetery

445 W. Liberty Street, Suite 219
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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



Story of the Mausoleum's stained glass windows and their restoration

By Janet Lipstreu

The stained glass windows in the c.1921 Spring Grove mausoleum are examples of typical early American opalescent glass. The design is simple geometric shapes with a medallion in the upper third of the panel. Two of the windows have painted medallions that had bad paint failure. The transom window over the door has a central medallion. All of the stained glass windows were engaged in the space between the interior marble and the exterior stone and so it became apparent that new frames needed to be created to properly hold the stained glass and the clear glass covering on the exterior. Brass was welded together to create the frame and brass bar was cut and drilled to be a stop to hold in the glass. A patina was then applied to darken the frames to match the mausoleum doors.

The windows were completely taken apart and rereaded. Almost all of the original glass was cleaned, repaired where needed and reglazed in its original location. Care was taken to match the new lead profile to the old lead. Each window was soldered at all the joints on each side. They then were cemented on both sides with a mixture of linseed oil, whiting and lamp black that acts as the main waterproofing of the window. Each window was final cleaned before installing and then cleaned again once in place.

Painting of the glass with glass paints (frit) or enamel paints allows for more detail and color variation. Enamel paints were used to recreate the medallions. The paint is kiln fired on in multiple steps. The two medallions were painted after two popular paintings of the period: Bernard Plockhorst's Good Shepherd and Heinrich Hofmann's Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Both are two of the most common images seen in American stained glass.

Opal or Opalescent glass is when a material has been introduced at the raw materials stage (usually fluorine or phosphorus) which causes a degree of crystallization to occur, and creates opacity in the glass. Reflected light is colorless, therefore, white. The degree of opacity (and "whiteness") is variable depending upon composition and temperatures used in the manufacturing process. White glass is commonly called "opal." Solid color opalescent glass is both colored and crystallized, creating a single color sheet, more opaque than a cathedral glass. Mixed opalescent glass is white glass (opal) mixed with one or more other colors to create a variegated, multi-colored sheet, sometimes called "streaky." The amount



of light transmission may vary with composition and textures are often added for depth and definition. This glass was originally created for Tiffany Studios and LaFarge Studios. Both men had patents on the making of opalescent and favrile iridescent glass.

Janet Lipstreu, a native and longtime resident of Medina, is the General Operations Director Whitney Glass Studio in Cleveland, the studio which recently restored the mausoleum windows. Janet, who has family members interred at Spring Grove, has always been interested in our cemetery and in the restoration of its historic structures, especially the windows of the mausoleum.

Stone Restoration by Steve Gaspar

The Grunwell-Cashero Company was pleased to perform the restoration of the stone at the mausoleum. We pressure-washed and cleaned the whole structure using a copper stain remover to extract the copper stains from the existing coping and patched and repaired over 19 spalls in the stone. We used an injection process to “glue” any hair line cracks in the stone and tuck-pointed the old mortar joints that needed repair using a sealant/caulk on all skyward joints.

Steve Gaspar, Cleveland Division Superintendent has worked for Grunwell-Cashero for 18 years. His company specializes in historic and high rise restoration.

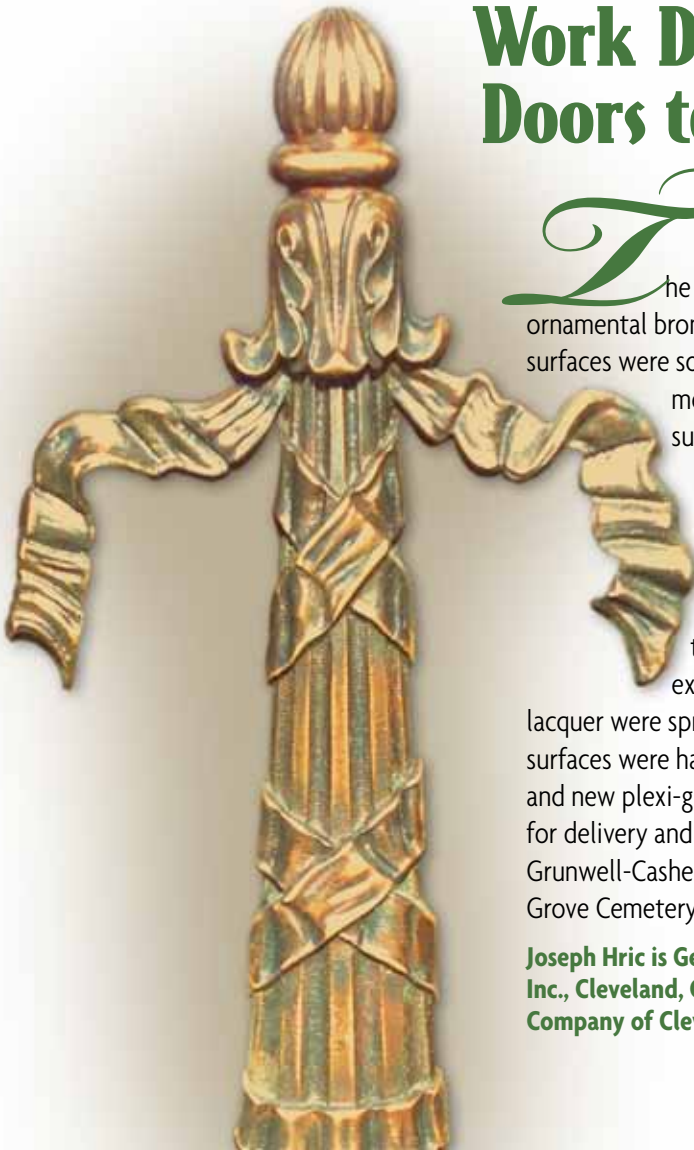


Work Done to Restore the Bronze Doors to the Mausoleum By Joseph Hric

The refinishing process of the bronze doors began with removal of the affixed ornamental bronze castings and the dismantling of the damaged plexi-glass panels. The surfaces were solvent wiped to remove oily contamination. The patina was chemically and mechanically stripped to expose the natural bronze substrate. The bronze surfaces were then abraded by hand to a uniform satin linear finish, using a series of abrasives. Surfaces were then chemically swabbed and hand relieved with alternating oxidizing solution and cotton towels saturated with water.

Once the statuaried surfaces were deemed aesthetically consistent by the Stuart Dean craftsmen, the doors were staged for application of an exterior acrylic clear, gloss sheen, architectural lacquer. Three (3) coats of lacquer were spray- applied and left to thoroughly dry. Before final assembly, the door surfaces were hand buffed with carnauba wax. Finally, ornamental fixtures were installed and new plexi-glass was fitted to the moveable door frames. Final product was packaged for delivery and picked up from Stuart Dean Company's Cleveland, Ohio facility by Grunwell-Cashero staff and delivered and re-hung on the mausoleum at Spring Grove Cemetery.

Joseph Hric is General Manager of the Eastern Great Lakes Offices of Stuart Dean Company, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. Stuart Dean Company was subcontracted by Grunwell-Cashero Company of Cleveland, Ohio to restore the mausoleum doors.



MEMORIAL DAY

"For the love of country they accepted death." — James A. Garfield

The Spring Grove chapel and mausoleum will both be opened to the public Memorial Day morning. This would be a great opportunity to stop in to see the lovely stained glass piece installed in the chapel this past fall and to view the restored bronze doors and stained glass windows at the mausoleum.

The Friends of the Cemetery hosted the first ever harp recital at Spring Grove Cemetery chapel on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Courtney Kania Young and her cousin, Sydney Lynskey, performed holiday and classic selections for a capacity crowd. This is the first time that we know of that music has filled our lovely chapel and everyone in attendance was astounded at the glorious sound! The acoustics in the chapel are amazing! Thank you to Courtney and Sydney for sharing their talents with us and thanks to all who attended.



Friends of the Cemetery Turns 15

2014 marks the Friends' 15th year of existence. We are proud of our many accomplishments through the years as we continue our mission of preservation and beautification of Spring Grove Cemetery and Old Town Graveyard.

Mears Anniversary Bouquet

Ed Mears moved away from Medina in the 1960's, but kept close ties here. When his beloved wife, Pat, passed away and was interred at the Mears family plot at Spring Grove, Ed contracted with a local florist to have a bouquet of yellow roses placed on Pat's grave each December 15th to commemorate their wedding anniversary. Since Ed's death in 2003 and his gift of his large estate to the Friends of the Cemetery, the Trustees of the Friends of the Cemetery have carried on that tradition. Trustee Bonnie Leach has taken the lead on this for the past 10 years. Thanks, Bonnie!

Historical Walk

The annual historical walk will take place in Spring Grove Cemetery on September 13, 2014.

Christmas Luncheon

Every December the Friends of the Cemetery provide a Christmas luncheon for Spring Grove cemetery staff. This is always a welcomed event and we look forward to it. Special thanks to Jerry Gunner for organizing it and to Helen Streett for baking her famous and much anticipated cookies!

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Spring Grove Chapel. We will be mailing reminders to all our FOC members at least two weeks in advance of the date of the meeting.

Spring Grove Office Building Update

Much progress has been made over the past six months in moving this project through approval of various City boards and committees. The Friends will fund construction of the office building and the two parking lots associated with the office

building. The building will house offices for the Friends of the Cemetery, the Spring Grove Sexton and Forestry Department and include a conference room and facilities for joint use of the Friends and the City. We expect to break ground this year.

Old Town Graveyard Repairs

The City of Medina contracted with Gravestone Guardians of Mansfield, Ohio to repair the historic Old Town gravestones that were vandalized in September 2013. The contract also includes work to be done to upright several stones that are lying flat

in gravel beds. We appreciate the City's promptness in hiring a contractor and their diligence in seeking out a contractor like Gravestone Guardians who is experienced in gravestone preservation

2013 Spring Grove Burial Summary

There were a total of 72 burials at Spring Grove in 2013. Of these burials, 53% were full in-ground interments and 47% were cremains. This reflects a growing trend in America of people opting for cremation over traditional burial. Just 15 years ago in 1999, percentages of full-in ground burials at Spring Grove were

81% vs. 18% cremains. Burials at Spring Grove, as a whole, are down almost 30% from 15 years ago. In 1999, there were a total of 99 burials at Spring Grove compared to just 72 in 2013. This trend is largely due to the opening of the Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman in 2000.

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.

City Parks Department Restructured

The day-to-day operations of the City cemeteries is now under the direction and management of the Parks and Recreation Department headed up by Jansen Wehrley, who was named Director of Parks and Recreation this past January. We are happy to report that James Hjort has returned as Sexton for Spring Grove after a short stint in another position with the Parks Department. Matt Hartman has joined the cemetery staff at Spring Grove and we welcome him.



Jansen Wehrley



James Hjort



Matt Hartman

Private Stephen J. Harrington

1841-1864

The Harrington family headstone, located in Section 2 at Spring Grove Cemetery, lists Harrington family members who are – presumably - buried in that plot – but is everyone listed on the gravestone actually buried there? That was the question after Nancy (a local history buff who prefers to remain anonymous) viewed an episode of “Who Do You Think You Are?” an NBC genealogy documentary series, that featured the Civil War military prison at Andersonville, Georgia. Nancy knew that Private Stephen J. Harrington had been a POW at Andersonville and that he had died there in June, 1864 of bronchitis due to exposure and that the Harrington family headstone includes his name and service in the 8th and 103rd OVI, but was Stephen’s body actually returned to Medina for burial or was he buried at Andersonville?

Stephen J. Harrington was born in 1841 in Arlington, Vermont. His parents, Jesse and Lydia (Burnett) Harrington, moved with Stephen and his sister, Charlotte, to Lafayette, Ohio in 1844. An infant sister, Sarah, had previously died. Jesse was a farmer and beekeeper. Two other children were born to the family in Lafayette – Henry B., who married Mary Hall, and was a farmer and “queen breeder” and “rearer of bees” for A.I. Root; and Elias who was a superintendent for the Valley Railroad. Stephen J. Harrington helped his brother, Henry B., plant trees in the public square in Medina under the direction of the Honorable H.G. Blake. Henry remembered the last work Stephen did before his enlistment for the Civil War was to set a large elm tree at the northwest corner of Medina’s public square.



Stephen enlisted in the Union army at the age of 20 in 1861 for three months service in Co H 8th OVI serving his time and then coming back home to Medina for one year. He re-enlisted on August 14, 1862 as a Private in Co I 103rd OVI. He saw action in the battles of Stone River, Stago’s Ferry, Rhea Town, Blue Springs, Leesburg and in the seventeen day fight between Holston and Loudon rivers. Stephen was taken prisoner at Dandridge, Tennessee on January 18, 1864 and imprisoned at Andersonville until his death the following June.

But, the question for Nancy still remained, was Stephen interred in Medina with his parents, siblings and cousin, Emerson Rood, as stated on the headstone? After the “Who Do You Think You Are?” episode aired, Nancy’s curiosity was peaked. She had previously thought that due to the deplorable conditions at Andersonville that there would be no records of the prisoners there, but through her research, Nancy was able to locate a copy of Stephen’s interment card and the book with the entries of burials at Andersonville National Cemetery. The interment card and book list Stephen J. Harrington as being buried in Grave 2597 at Andersonville. From this information, one must conclude that Stephen J. Harrington was laid to rest in Andersonville and is not with the family here at Spring Grove in Medina as stated on the headstone.

We thank Nancy for sharing this fascinating information with us and allowing us to print her notes and findings.

125. Record of Interments, Andersonville, Georgia, National Cemetery.

NAMES	RANK	CO.	REGIMENT			DATE OF DEATH			NUMBER	REMARKS
			NUMBER	STATE	ACH.	MONTH	DAY	YEAR		
Hardy, John,	Sgt. I		5	N.Y.	Cav.	Sept.	20	1864	9363.	
Hardy, John D.	Pvt. E		4	Mich.	Inf.	July	7	1864	3015.	
Hardy, Lucius C.	Cpl. E		92	Ohio	Inf.	June	28	1864	2607.	
Harrington, Stephen J.	Pvt. I		103	Ohio	Inf.	June.	28	1864	2597.	
Harenstein, Heinrich,	Pvt. E		46	N.Y.	Inf. Brigade	May	31	1864	1504.	
	Cpl. G		----	Miss.		Sept.	14	1864	8756.	
						Sept.	2	1864	10225.	

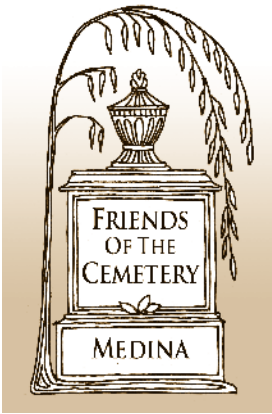
Friends of the Cemetery

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Dick & Joyce Dirham **	Richard & Joyce Komjati	Rod & Sandy Sampsel	

* 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.



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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



New Members since December 2013:

Audrey E. Auman	Mr. & Mrs. David Hyde	James & Jean Thornburg
Larry & Linda Beer	John & Anna Marie Kelly	Glenn Whitam
Sandra Miller Dudas	Tim Swanson	Katie Woodcock

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:

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