



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 24

Medina, Ohio

May 2011

Restoration Planned for Old Town Graveyard

The Medina City Cemetery Commission and Friends of the Cemetery have begun a project to restore the Old Town Graveyard. The Cemetery Commission recently asked Joe Cutlip of Cutlip Construction & Restoration in Canal Fulton to assess the gravestones at Old Town Graveyard. Mr. Cutlip has worked for the City over the past two years straightening several of our oldest and largest gravestones at Spring Grove Cemetery. In 2009 and 2010 he was hired by Medina and Sharon Townships to work on the restoration of Hamilton Road Cemetery on Pearl Road, the Windfall Road Cemetery and the Sharon Township Cemetery on Route 94 and did an outstanding job. You may want to visit one of these cemeteries to see the restoration, bearing in mind that many of the stones had been broken, lying on the ground and, in some cases, under the ground.

Mr. Cutlip's assessment of Old Town lists 199 stones that are

leaning, cracked and, in the worst cases, broken in pieces. The repair of these stones would include excavation, new footers, cleaning, re-attachment, repair, resetting and leveling. The first phase of the project has been estimated at \$25,000 and the second phase at \$42,050, for a total cost of \$66,850.

Old Town Graveyard was established in 1818 and is the burying ground for Medina's village fathers and earliest settlers. There are at least three Revolutionary War soldiers buried there, along with veterans from the War of 1812, the Civil War and WWI. Preserving and protecting these burying grounds is an honorable undertaking. Certainly generations before us deemed the upkeep and protection of these graves of central importance, but as years pass and families die out or move away, cemeteries can fall into disrepair and neglect. This very trend was bemoaned over 100 years ago in a July 15, 1910 Medina County Gazette article regarding Old Town Graveyard:

"There are a few monuments in the old cemetery, the dates

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Don't forget to check us out on the web at: www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

Friends of the Cemetery

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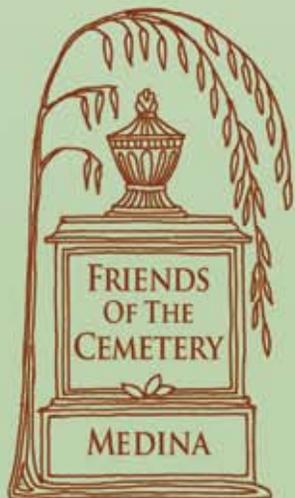
Teresa Merkle

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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 Advision/Ron Bell



Continued from cover

of which are obliterated by age, others which are so deeply sunken as to hide the dates, while still others have been broken and parts of the inscription can no longer be deciphered..."

There is good news! We have the opportunity at this time to step up to stave off the further decline and obliteration of our city's oldest historical monuments. The Friends of the Cemetery and the City of Medina are taking that first step! The City will hire Cutlip Construction to carry out the first phase of the Old Town Graveyard stone restoration project at a cost of \$25,000. In turn, the Friends of the Cemetery will match these funds at Spring Grove Cemetery by funding projects there. We commend the City of Medina for their commitment to this very important project!

The second phase of this project will cost nearly twice the amount of the first phase. The City of Medina and the Medina City Cemetery Commission are partnering with the Friends of the Cemetery, the Community Design Committee, the Medina County Historical Society, Main Street Medina, and the Medina County Genealogical Society to sponsor the full restoration of this historic burial ground. The Friends of the Cemetery is asking for donations from the public to go forward with the second phase of this work. Old Town is located in Medina's nine-block Historic District and, with Medina's bi-centennial celebration coming up in just seven years (2018), it is fitting that Old Town Graveyard be restored and looking great for that event! This is an opportunity for everyone to get involved. The Friends of the Cemetery are accepting donations for the second phase of this project. You may make your tax- exempt contribution to Friends of the Cemetery - Old Town Graveyard Restoration. With everyone's help, we will be able to reach our \$42,050 goal.

Our Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Old Town Graveyard

By Terry Hart

*I*n the spring of 2009, the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) asked their county chapters to send in information concerning any Revolutionary War veterans that might be buried in their respective counties. My wife Marcia and I are members of the Medina County Genealogical Society (MCGS) and residents of Valley City. We stepped forward to conduct the search in Medina County. While we initially thought the effort would be short-lived, we soon learned that it would take over nine months of work, entailing hundreds of hours of research and cemetery visits.

We found that several traditionally reliable documents were in error and that early township burial records were basically non-existent. Considering that Medina County wasn't even established until 1812 and not organized until 1818, the lack of reliable records probably should not have been a surprise. At the end of the project, instead of simply sending the information to the



OGS, we decided to publish a book of our results. The book, *Veterans Buried in Medina County, Volume I: Revolutionary War*, is currently in the Medina Library and also several regional libraries. I have also developed a presentation concerning the patriots and the research process and have given it to several community organizations.

The project resulted in determining that there are 46 veterans documented as being buried in Medina County. Thirteen sites have no headstones and Marcia and I are working to obtain military tombstones for each one. Of the remaining 33 sites, 26 lack any kind of military markings. We have obtained bronze markers to place next to the tombstones and hope to finish the placements by Memorial Day 2011.

The great news for the Friends of the Cemetery is that three Revolutionary War veterans are buried in Old Town Graveyard. A brief synopsis of each patriot follows:

John Clark: was born in Milford, New Haven, Connecticut on 27 May 1765. Although his exact military service cannot be responsibly determined, his service is recognized in several databases such as DAR and SAR. He married Mary Munson, daughter of Herman [Harmon] Munson. Herman is also a Revolutionary War veteran and is buried near John Clark's final resting place. John died in Medina on 27 August 1838, age 73, and is buried along the fence near the church.

Herman [Harmon] Munson: was born 28 October 1738 in Wallingford, New Haven, Connecticut. Interestingly, he initially took his stand with the loyalists (British) and bore arms with the "red coats," but he received such harsh treatment that he

deserted the British and returned home to Wallingford. He was closely watched, but the animosity eventually subsided and he became a faithful adherent of the patriot cause. Subsequently, he enlisted 30 April 1777 in Captain David Smith's Company under Colonel Chandler's 8th Connecticut Battalion for three years. He was discharged April 1780. In 1781 he was called upon to recruit members and was called "captain," although this exact rank was not determined as being official. He married Anne Bronson. She is buried next to him and her tombstone indicates that she is the wife of "Herman" Munson. His exact first name is subject to some discussion. He died on 12 February 1829 at the age of 91 years and is buried near John Clark along the fence.

Frederick Jones: was born in the state of New York in 1751. He enlisted 5 May 1777 in Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., New York as a private in Lieutenant Cornelius Elmandorph's Company, commanded by John R. Livingston, the proprietor of the Powder Mill in Rhinebeck. Frederick served one month and 27 days and was discharged 30 June 1777. He died 20 August 1811, age about 60 years. His death was before the first pensions were authorized and his is the earliest known death in Medina County of a known Revolutionary War veteran. His tombstone is now broken and fallen over.

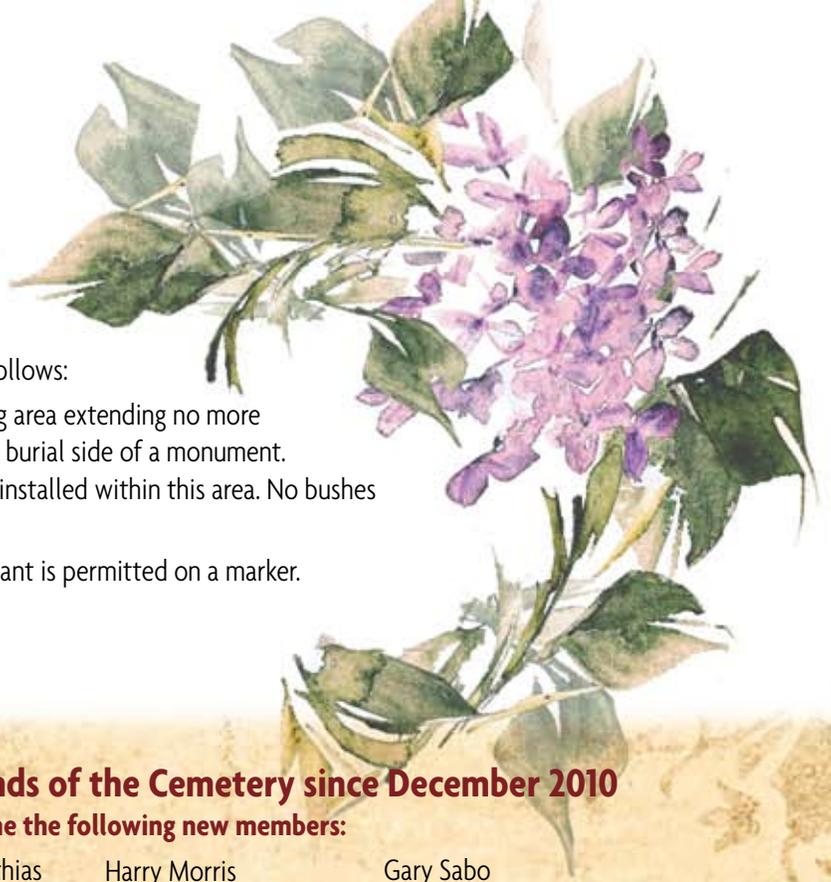
The Friends wish to thank Terry Hart for this informative article and for his and Marcia's hard work and research of Medina County's Revolutionary War soldiers. Their book was published by the Medina County Genealogical Society and may be found in the Genealogy Room at the Medina District Library.



Memorial Day 2011

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. You may want to visit the chapel and the mausoleum before the parade reaches the cemetery. The Friends will have handouts and informational boards on display in the chapel. You will also be able to see the brand new benches as well. We look forward to seeing you.

Planting Regulations



Regulations for planting at the cemetery read as follows:

- 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.

New members of The Friends of the Cemetery since December 2010

We welcome the following new members:

The Blackburn Family	Knights of Pythias	Harry Morris	Gary Sabo
Judy Delahoyde	Annette Miller	Brad & Kathryn Root	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Yates

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cynthia Allman | John & Marianne Clevidence | Florence Hollenbaugh | Annette Miller* | Dean & Margaret Snider |
| Charles & Margaret Anderson | Leland Coddling | Dee Huddilston | Jane Abell Miller | Nancy Sprowls |
| Steve & Jane Anderson | Jim & Maureen Cook | Bert & Carole Humpal | Bill & Sylvia Mollohan | David & Linda Stallard |
| Sandy Argenio | Jane Corbus | Howard Hunter | Pat Morgan | Linda Stekelenburg |
| Paul Aylard | John & Peggy Dague | Robert & Shirley Hyde | Harry Morris* | Helen Streett |
| Paul Ayres | Eric Daiber | Ann Ignacio | Kathleen Murray | Steve & Tena Strine |
| Jim & Darla Bachtell | Mike & Judy Davanzo | Sarah Jane Ingraham | Jim & Hildy Navratil | William Stuchal |
| Betty Bagley | Homer C. Davis | John & Virginia Jeandrevin | Kenneth Oleksiak | Kathleen Sullivan |
| Donald Baker | Gary & Patricia DeHass | Vernon & Marlene Jividen | Sally Otterbacher | Carol Szakovits |
| Paula Banks | Judy Delahoyde* | Harold & JoAnn Johnson | James & Annette Patneau ** | Paul & Susan Szanislo ** |
| Ken & Kathleen Barco | Lou & Kathy Deloss | Irene Johnson | Robert Pennington | Al & Cynthia Szunyog |
| Bill & Alice Batchelder | Dick & Joyce Dirham | Randi L. Jones | William & Jane Pierce | Ray & Alberta Taylor |
| Carter & Elizabeth Bennett | Mr. & Mrs. Don Dusbiber | Jeff & Jackie Kehnle ** | Brigitte Popelars | Ruth Tubbs |
| Elby A. Bennett** | Gwendolyn Eagleson | David Kellogg | Jean Post | Gloria Van Steenburg |
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| Ruth Beshire | Robert & Patricia Farkas | Mary Kay Klein | William & Paulette Randall | Ron & Maude Vorhees |
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| Dean Bowman | Gary & Elaine Fernwood | Richard & Joyce Komjati | Betty Riegger | Ralph & Helen Waite |
| Ruth Brenner | Audrey Filous | Bill & Elaine Lamb | Jane Riegger | Lyle West |
| Nancy Brintnall | Vickie Fleming | Robert D. Law | Dean Riggenbach | John Wetzell |
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| David & Bea Bryenton | Sharon Fuller | Dennis & Bonnie Leach | Robert & JoAnn Robson | Don Wilder |
| Sue Bryenton | Raymond & Maryellen Furse | Lila Lehrer | George & Ruth Rodgers ** | Rob & Chris Wilder |
| Reg Campbell | John Gill ** | Charles Lons | Brad & Kathryn Root* | Joyce Woosteen |
| Edy Campbell | Cheryl Grey | Ann McClaning | John & Elisabeth Root | Kim Wuescher |
| Don & Marilyn Canfield | Charles C. Griesinger ** | Thomas W. & Kay McFadden ** | Jan Rusak | Mr. & Mrs. Donald Yates* |
| Ron & Catherine Carmany | Jerry & Sally Gunner | Jim & Nancy McKee | Gary Sabo* | Gloria Yeager |
| Beth Streott Cassella | Macy & Clare Hallock | Susan McKiernan | Beckie Seeley | Ross & Dolly Yowler |
| Jim & Mary Casto | Irwin (Bud) Herrle | Lyle McQueeney | Lucy Sekerka | Jay & Janis Zachman |
| Ted Chandler | Gary M. Hetrick | Medina County District Library | Jim Shields | Betty Zarney |
| Alice Chester | Tom Hilberg | Charles & Teresa Merkle | Clay & Judy Smith | |
| John & Kathleen Clark | Jack & Patricia Hofstetter | Sarah Meyer | Jeanne Smith | |

* designates new member
 **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 have not sent in your membership in a while, please take time today to do so by using the enclosed envelope. If you are not sure if your membership is current, please call or email us.

Annual Historical Walk

Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. has been selected as the date for our annual historical walk sponsored by the Friends of the Cemetery in conjunction with the Medina County District Library. This has been such a nice event and just seems to get better each year! The weather has been lovely every year and we are hoping for the same good luck in 2011. Mark your calendar now and come join us for a leisurely

afternoon of strolling back in time and through beautiful Spring Grove. Cynthia Szunyog would love to hear from anyone who would like to help with this event or who has suggestions of folks buried at Spring Grove who might make interesting subjects for the tour. You may contact Cynthia at **330-722-5020** or **cszunyog@msn.com**.

Remembering Eli Zivan

By: Bob Dague

Eli Zivan was a familiar “town” figure who lived at 340 East Union Street across the street from the then high school, now Howard E. Claggett Middle School. Eli emigrated from Yugoslavia to the United States in 1920 and moved to Medina twenty years later in 1940. He became a familiar face on the town square, strolling about and chatting with the passersby.

He was particularly fond of and, in turn, loved by the students at the high school. He was a self-appointed guardian of the students, stationing himself near the crosswalks every afternoon to insure their safety. They always knew him as a friend with a kind word.

When thieves broke into his home and stole his life savings, the people of Medina came to his aid. The Fire Department looked after the upkeep of his house. Until he moved to the Medina County Home in the last years of his life, members of the high school Student Council brought him hot meals at noon from the school cafeteria.

There is a portrait of Eli hanging in the lobby of the Community Performing Arts Center at the high school today. The artist, Greta Kempton Walker, resided in Hinckley. When asked why she chose to paint Eli, she replied, “I was looking for character and Eli is what you would call a lovable character.” She later chose to make a gift of the portrait to the senior high school. When asked why she chose to make a gift of this valuable portrait to the school, she expressed the desire to have the painting kept locally. “After all,” she said, “Eli Zivan belongs to Medina.”

Mrs. Walker was born in Vienna, Austria in 1901. She studied at Vienna Academy of Fine Art before emigrating from Austria to the United States in 1926. She soon became commissioned as a portrait painter reminiscent of Rembrandt, Rubens and other European artists. In 1947, she painted a portrait of Margaret Truman and was also commissioned to paint some portraits



of President Truman, one of which became the official White House portrait of President Truman and was widely used in his 1948 re-election campaign. In 1963, she was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London. She remained active as a painter into her eighties. She died in New York City in 1991 at the age of 90.

The portrait of Eli Zivan was presented to the high school by Mrs. Walker during a January, 1966 assembly attended by students and then Principal, James Loughridge. The presentation generated a standing ovation to Eli, who did not attend due to being reluctant to journey outside in that day's cold weather.

Eli died on November 23, 1971 at the age of 84 and is buried in Row One of Section 16 of Spring Grove Cemetery.

Bob Dague is a retired teacher and administrator of Medina City Schools and a lifelong resident of Medina.



The Friends of the Cemetery contracted with Treemasters Tree Service again this year for the winter tree maintenance at Spring Grove Cemetery. There were 131 deciduous trees pruned in Sections 10, 14 and 17. Attention was given this year to pruning the younger trees and to removing deadwood, suckers and broken limbs from the mature trees. This winter's work is in keeping with the City's plan to have the entire cemetery pruned in five years. Trees at Old Town did not require pruning this year.

In keeping with our ongoing tree maintenance, the Friends purchased Arbor Green fertilizer and the City applied it, in-house, with the oversight of City Arborist, Jansen Wehrley and Sexton, James Hjort.

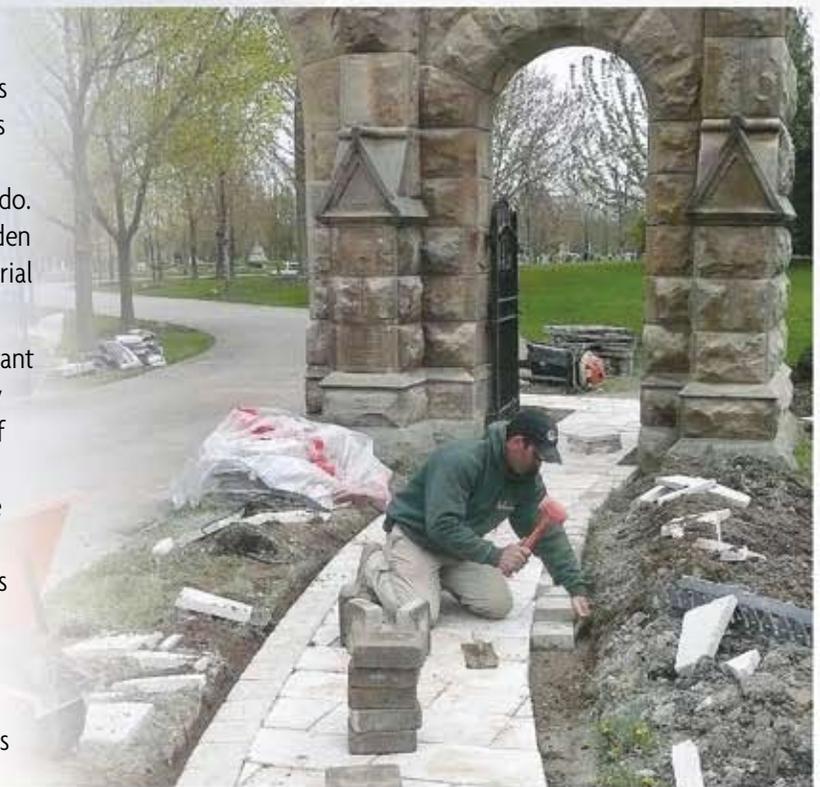
Winter Tree Work and Fertilization

Entry Way Garden Project

The Friends are pleased with the lovely new entry way garden at Spring Grove Cemetery. We hired Juli Kovacs of #1 Landscaping to design and construct this garden. Juli has supervised the planting and maintenance of all the gardens at Spring Grove for over a decade and we are always quite pleased with the work she and the crew at #1 Landscaping do. Included in the project was irrigation to the entry way garden and irrigation for the chapel grounds and Art Riedel memorial garden located around the chapel.

The list of perennials for the new garden are deer resistant varieties that include "Morning Light" Maiden Grasses, "My Monet" Weigelia, False Indigo, "Caramel" Coral Bells, Dwarf Goats Beard, Carex "Ice Dance" "Dropmore" Catmint and "Visions in Pink" Astilbe. The other gardens at Spring Grove display many of these same perennials. Since the new perennials are young and small, annuals will be planted this first year.

A new paver walkway was also installed to replace the cracked and crumbled original sidewalk. The Friends are dedicated to the beautification of our lovely burial grounds at Spring Grove Cemetery.



New Benches for Spring Grove Chapel

The Friends of the Cemetery have hired Eastwood Furniture to build two oak benches which are replicas of the benches that have been in the chapel for many years. They will provide

more seating in the chapel and will eliminate the need for folding chairs for most services. Thanks to Friends Trustee Jerry Gunner for overseeing this project.

Very Special Birthday Gift

by Jane Effinger-Corbus

My Mother, Velma Margaret Kelsner-Effinger-McFadden "Babe", and her best friend Alice Hartman-Chester always speculated that their Montville Township ancestors knew each other and were probably friends as well as neighbors. After all, Medina County of the 1830's-1840's was a very small community. In any case, by the turn of the century, the Kelsers and the Hartmans were practically one family. There are photo albums filled with images of the four friends, John and Velmah Kelsner and Rolie and Clara Hartman. Life revolved around their neighboring farms located south of Medina on Wadsworth Road, the grange and the school and church at Poe.

The youngest daughters of the four friends, Velma Margaret Kelsner and Alice Hartman, were born just one day and one year apart - March 12, 1917 and March 13, 1918, respectively. They exchanged birthday gifts for over eighty years and were always pushed to the front as the cute little girls in the early pictures. As adults they spoke on the phone several times a week and met for dinner every Tuesday night with others, often as many as 15-20 individuals, all connected by a Montville farm heritage and Poe School.

The arrival of Memorial Day meant a trip to Spring Grove to place flowers. Mother and Alice usually coordinated the purchase of summer planters for their family plots and would often help each other place them. At the Fairfax Smith monument in Section 4, they would note that the statue of Fairfax appears to gaze directly into the eyes of Prudence Anderson seated atop the William Anderson monument across the road and lawns to the south in Section 6. Fairfax Smith - 1788-1847 - was the distant patriarch of Mother's and my family. William Anderson - 1784-1867 - and his wife, Prudence L. -1797-1875 - were the ancestors of Alice's Father. Fairfax, the rugged

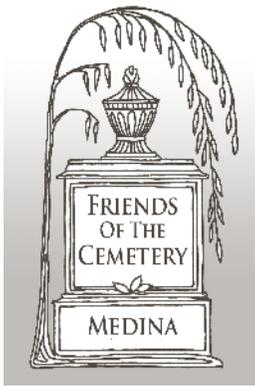
pioneer, ax in one hand, his hat held humbly at his side, seems to be speaking to Prudence, the seated, thoughtful Greek style muse. Family connected to family across several generations, still friends, still neighbors.

Velma McFadden passed away in March 2005, just a few days shy of her 88th birthday. I have stepped in to take her place as friend to Alice or maybe Alice has become Mother to me. On my last birthday Alice surprised me with a membership to The Friends of the Cemetery. In this way we continue the journey and connections of our past.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 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.



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

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

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