



FRIENDS OF THE CEMETERY

Issue 49

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SPRING GROVE MAUSOLEUM

Perspectus Architecture completed field work, construction drawings and technical specifications for the Spring Grove mausoleum and entry gate this past fall. During the initial stage of on-site observations of the mausoleum, a false ceiling created with aluminum siding panels was taken down. The reason and time of installation of this aluminum ceiling is unknown, but it is believed to have been put up several decades ago, possibly after World War II when aluminum siding became more popular. Regrettably,

the removal of the aluminum ceiling panels exposed multiple cracks in the original concrete ceiling causing water to leak through. Our plans for the second phase of the interior project have been put on hold due to this discovery and, instead, we are now focusing on replacing the mausoleum roof. We have been obtaining quotes from architects and roofing contractors to design and construct a new roof and anticipate completion by Spring/Summer 2024.



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Friends
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M E D I N A

Old & Recent History of the Mausoleum

by Teresa Merkle

There isn't much early recorded history about the Spring Grove mausoleum. However, newspapers from the early 1900's featured advertisements placed by the Ohio Mausoleum Co. and/or American Mausoleum Co. based in Galion, Ohio. These ads announced that the company's representatives would soon be visiting Medina "to explain the Medina Memorial Mausoleum" to the local residents. Before construction could commence on the mausoleum, the company needed to sell a certain number of crypts to "subscribers." The company's representatives, M.L. Cole and C.W. Bucey, could be reached at Medina's American House Hotel or you could "drop a card" to Box 53, Medina, Ohio, to get information. Ads stated that citizens of Medina had the opportunity to invest in "above-ground entombment" described as "a dry, permanent, sanitary and humane alternative which would provide protection from the elements and the ravages of desolation and decay." The advertisements claimed the mausoleum would be built to the same high standards as Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the tombs of notable American presidents. The mausoleum was to be a place where "windows shed rays of sunshine, much of the horror of the grave is taken away. Here fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers may rest



together protected when ground burials become desecrated and abandoned." The advertisements had the desired effect as the mausoleum was constructed and all 143 crypts were eventually sold. Historical records indicate that in 1923, two crypts sold for \$530, which would be equivalent to approximately \$9,500 in today's value. This was an impressive sum for accommodations that were comparable to those of European monarchs and American presidents. Some families valued being buried in the new mausoleum so much that they transferred their deceased loved ones there from other burial spots. When someone was interred in the mausoleum, their family would receive a personal key to the bronze front doors. This allowed loved ones to visit at any time. It's anyone's guess as to how many keys were given out and how many surviving relatives later stumbled upon strange-looking keys, wondering what they were for.

The mausoleum's recent history began in the mid-1990s when Mayor Jim Roberts re-established the City Cemetery Commission. At this time, the oversight of the cemeteries fell upon the City's Water Department because there was no sexton or full-time cemetery staff. Burials, grounds maintenance, and snow plowing were all contracted out by the City. When the newly appointed Commission members visited the mausoleum to assess its condition, it was clear that no one had been inside for a very long time. Upon entering the building, it felt like stepping back in time. Decades-old mementos and wax flowers adorned most of the crypt ledges, and the beautiful mosaic tile floor and marble walls were covered in cobwebs. A decision was made by the Commission to open the mausoleum to the public in time for Memorial Day. This would allow people to see and appreciate this special building and pay their respects. Prior to opening for Memorial Day, it was necessary to clean the mausoleum. Volunteers showed up on the set date with buckets, rags, and cleaning supplies to carry out the cleaning task. The first task was to label each flower arrangement and memento with the name matching its corresponding crypt. The volunteers gently moved the tagged items outdoors

and cleaned them, while inside, they washed years of dust and cobwebs off each of the 143 marble crypts. City janitorial staff washed and waxed the mosaic tile floors. Volunteers then carefully returned the old wax flowers and mementos to their rightful crypt ledge, where they remain to this day. Several newspaper reporters wrote about our extraordinary volunteer endeavor. It was an unusual place to clean, but the experience was memorable and fulfilling. The mausoleum was opened to the public for the first time on Memorial Day in 1996. Since then, it has been accessible to visitors every Memorial Day, except for the years affected by the pandemic and this year when the false ceiling was removed.

In 1997, the Cemetery Commission requested financial assistance from the Letha E. House Foundation to hire an architect who would evaluate the condition of the mausoleum's roof. The House Foundation granted \$7,500 to hire an architectural firm specializing in restoration to provide repair specifications for the mausoleum roof. The specifications called for the installation of a copper roof, which is known to last over 100 years with proper installation. After much discussion and debate, the city eventually agreed to install a copper roof on the mausoleum, even though the price tag was a concern. However, the city received a \$20,000 grant from the House Foundation, which helped the city move forward with the project. Unfortunately, due to improper installation, the 100-year roof lasted only 20 years.

Chapel Windows

The Friends have replaced a missing piece of wood glazing in the west-facing oculus window of the chapel. The replacement piece had to be custom-made and woodworker Jim Gaume was hired to mold the piece to fit perfectly into the window. While working on the west window, Jim noticed that the south and north-facing oculus windows also need repairs. Therefore, he will be returning soon to fix them. The Friends are grateful to Jim Cook, a Friends member, who has volunteered to paint the windows once the repairs are complete.



In 2006, the Friends of the Cemetery played a vital role in the placement of Spring Grove Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places. The chapel, entry gate, and mausoleum are three historic structures on the property that are distinguished by their architectural characteristics and construction. These factors greatly contributed to the cemetery's recognition as a historically significant property at the national level.

Friends of the Cemetery renovated the mausoleum in 2013-2014, restoring the exterior stone masonry, bronze doors, and stained-glass windows. The exterior stone walls were repaired by filling in spalls and cracks and tuck-pointing the mortar joints. The bronze doors were removed and sent to the Stuart Dean Company in Cleveland for refurbishment. The stained-glass windows were taken apart, cleaned, repaired, and reassembled at Whitney Glass Studio in Cleveland. In 2015, the Friends had electricity installed in the mausoleum to illuminate the stained-glass windows at night, enhancing their beauty. In 2019, the Friends hired Perspectus Architects to conduct a study on the maintenance needs of the mausoleum. This year, we funded architectural site observations and the preparation of construction drawings and specifications to carry out the necessary maintenance. Currently, we are preparing to replace the roof of the mausoleum.

In keeping with our mission, the preservation of the Spring Grove mausoleum is of utmost importance to the Friends of the Cemetery.

Arboretum Update

We are sorry to report the loss of one of our magnificent Northern Red Oak trees. During a recent summer storm, the tree was struck by lightning, causing the main trunk to split in half. This particular tree was located near the Spring Grove chapel and featured in our arboretum collection. Although it was a hard decision, the city had to remove the tree due to concerns for public safety and the potential damage it posed to the nearby chapel and historic gravestones.

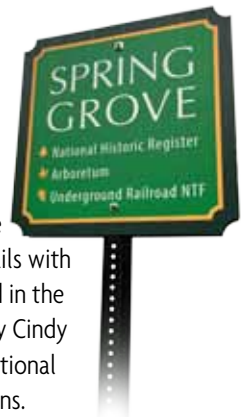
On a brighter note, this fall, the Friends contracted Bartlett Tree Experts for \$23,000 to complete Phase III maintenance pruning at Spring Grove as described in the 2020 Tree Inventory and Management Plan.

The Friends of the Cemetery are deeply committed to the Spring Grove Arboretum and its continuous development and upkeep. As part of our commitment, we have funded \$60,000 in 2023 for both tree maintenance and new tree plantings at Spring Grove. We've received inquiries regarding how to financially support the arboretum at Spring Grove, and we appreciate your interest. While your membership donations to the Friends of the Cemetery help in our ongoing beautification, historic preservation, and maintenance projects throughout Medina's historic cemeteries, we have now made it possible to make a direct contribution to the arboretum. If you wish to support the arboretum, kindly specify "arboretum" on the memo line of your check to Friends of the Cemetery and we will use that donation to maintain and plant new trees in the arboretum. We are grateful for your support!

New Signage, Logo and Brochure

Artist Cindy Allman assisted in designing signs in Spring Grove Cemetery and updating the Friends logo, and brochure for a fresh look. If you've passed by Spring Grove recently, you may have noticed two new wayfinding signs on the tree lawns lining Route 3 and Route 18. These signs were funded by the Friends and designed to match the wayfinding signs uptown. We would like to express our gratitude to the City of Medina's Street Department for providing the poles for the signs and installing them. We enlisted

Cindy's help to design an entryway sign for Spring Grove. A temporary prototype of the sign has been in place just beyond the entry gate for a few months. We are still working on the design and manufacturing details with the goal of having a permanent entryway sign installed in the near future. Two interpretive markers were designed by Cindy to commemorate the Blakes and Canfields for their National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom designations. These signs will be placed at the Blake monument and Canfield monument in Section 5 at Spring Grove.



Revamped Website

The Friends enlisted Mark Hunter of Hunter Photo LLC to revamp our website. It was launched in July, and we are pleased with the refreshing new appearance. Don't forget to take a look! www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

Friends Membership Meeting

On Sunday, September 10, a full chapel of Friends members attended the annual Friends Membership Meeting. President Teresa Merkle welcomed the crowd and gave a summary of the past year's Friends projects and events. Featured speaker, Amanda Manahan of the Oberlin Heritage Center, presented "Ohio on the Eve of the Civil War." Amanda's presentation centered on the Underground Railroad in Ohio and the 1858 Oberlin-Wellington

Rescue, with specific Medina connections to the Underground Railroad and the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue, including Medina's H.G. and Elizabeth Blake and Lt. Col. Herman and Martha (Treat) Canfield. Attendees were treated to custom-made Spring Grove chapel cookies baked by Allie Welch of Golden by Design.



Spring Grove Annual Arboretum Walk

The Friends hosted the 4th annual Arboretum Walk at Spring Grove on October 21. Despite the chilly temperature and the Ohio State vs. Penn State game, a large number of people turned out for this fun event! The trees at Spring Grove were in full color, and the walk participants got to learn from Chad Clink, Master Arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts, who shared his knowledge and passion for trees with them. We thank Chad for supporting the Arboretum

Walk and for making himself available for any questions and plant advice. Bartlett Trees also offered seedlings to walk participants, which is much appreciated. Beth Girman, a Friends member, did another beautiful job on our tree map this year. Thanks to everyone who made this year's walk a success, especially the Friends Trustees who organized and worked at the event.

Public Properties Meeting Held at Spring Grove

The Public Properties Committee of Medina City Council conducted their meeting on July 12, 2023, at the Edward C. Mears conference room located in Spring Grove Cemetery. After the meeting, Friends Trustees were privileged to lead a walk-through

of Spring Grove, including visits to the chapel and mausoleum. This was done to update Council and City Administrators on our current projects and to showcase our past achievements. We express gratitude to Councilman Jim Shields, Chair of the Public Properties Committee, for arranging the July meeting at the cemetery.





Ravine Daffodil Border

On a chilly and wet Saturday morning in October, volunteers gathered to plant over 600 daffodil bulbs along the perimeter of the wooded ravine at Spring Grove, which is located between the hard-edged lake and the old lake on the north side of the cemetery. We thought that a pop of color in this area would look lovely in early spring, and daffodils were chosen as they are low-maintenance perennial plants and deer-resistant (fingers crossed). The volunteer group included 30 enthusiastic and hard-working students from Medina High School, including members of the

National Honor Society, Student Council, and Key Club. All the volunteers worked diligently, and the 600+ bulbs were planted in just over an hour! We extend our gratitude to these students and appreciate each and every volunteer who helped out. Special shoutout to Jeanne Pritchard, a Friends member, and Medina School Board member, for collaborating with club advisors to make this happen!

"Daffodils are a symbol of hope and determination, blooming year after year despite any obstacles they may face."

Veterans' Flags

We express our gratitude to the scout troops who, every year before Memorial Day, pay their respects by placing flags on the graves of veterans at Old Town Graveyard and Spring Grove Cemetery. We also acknowledge the significant number of

volunteers who, on the day after Veterans Day in November, respectfully remove those flags from both cemeteries. Our special thanks to Friends Trustee, Paul Wood, who oversees the removal and proper disposal of each and every flag.

Holiday Concert

As part of the Candlelight Walk weekend festivities in Medina, the Friends of the Cemetery organized a concert on November 19 at the Spring Grove Chapel. The North Coast Chamber Strings trio performed both classical and holiday pieces at the event. The

chapel was beautifully adorned and its stone walls and arched ceiling created a fantastic acoustic atmosphere. The concert was a huge success, and it is hoped that it will become an annual tradition.

Holiday Greenery and Lights

During the holiday season, the Friends are pleased to present festive greenery, including wreaths, swags, and pine roping at Spring Grove and Old Town Graveyard. Additionally, we provide

lighting for the entry gate area at Spring Grove. We believe that this brings a great deal of happiness to both passersby and visitors to Spring Grove during the holiday season.



Parents looking for the perfect name for their newborn, one off the beaten path and trends, might turn to the paths at Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum. Why not go back a few generations to select a formerly popular name? Another trend is selecting a formerly male name for a girl. Take a look at some names spotted on a recent walk in Spring Grove.

Here are a few girl names found: Alma, Alta, Agnes, Arlie, Augusta, Bathsheba, Beulah, Carpline, Celestia, Cordelia, Cornelia, Della, Ella,

Eloda, Eula, Fern, Gussie, Hattie, Henrietta, Minerva, Myrtle, Naoma, Nettie, Orpha, Perscilla, Philomena, Roxy, Tenny, Theodocia, Waite, Wealthy Anna and Zillah.

As for the male names, many uncommon options were found as well: Amos, Archibald, Burke, Chauncey, Claude, Cletus, Crosby, Danforth, Ebenezer, Elizur, Enoch, Granville, Harley, Hiram, Horatio, Marion, Marlin, Mortimer, Orlo, Orwill, Olney, Phineas, Ramsey, Ransom, Thorwell, Velmer, and Zelmer.

Some of these names are forever in the past, but many can be recycled and would resonate with the names of today's youth. Imagine a daughter named Danforth or a son named Ransom. These are just a few of the names of folks who have lived in Medina's past. Take a walk through the winding roads and search for names within the beauty of Spring Grove.

Historical Walk at Old Town



On August 19, a large crowd attended the Historical Walk held at Old Town Graveyard. The event included informative talks that were given at the graves of several of Medina's first family settlers. Attendees were welcomed by Paul Wood, a Trustee of Friends, who shared the history of Old Town Graveyard. Friends member and genealogist Pat Morgan presented talks about four families including the Nettleton family, the Fassett family, the Thomas family and Rufus Ferris.

Nathan Nettleton (1800-1884) came to Medina in 1830 from Connecticut. After finishing the construction of his home in Medina, he went back to Connecticut in 1832 to marry Serena Laura Logan. The couple then returned to Medina, where Nathan worked as a schoolteacher and cattle breeder. He also helped raise funds to build the original Congregational Church. The house Nathan built before his marriage remained in the Nettleton family for 115 years and still stands at 4582 Weymouth Road.

Lorenzo Fassett (1818-1905) and his wife Martha (1818-1865) arrived in Montville Township from Vermont in 1830. Their son, John (1855-1940), was the president of Cleveland Desk Company and spent most of his life in Lakewood, Ohio. John married Sarah Marsilliote, and together they had a son named John F. (1888-1946), who served in World War I and also worked at the Cleveland Desk Company. John F. and his wife, Zelda (nee Von Lancken), lived in a house on the corner of East Liberty and Harmony Streets in Medina.

Not much is known about the James and Jane Thomas family except what their gravestones reveal about the tragedy and loss that was so common in those days and times. Their two baby boys, Peter (aged two years) and John (eleven months), died within ten days of each other in 1840. Then, in 1848, Jane, their mother, passed away at the young age of 29 along with her three-week-old baby boy, Joseph. It's unfortunate that these gravestones are the only records that exist about this family.

Rufus Ferris (1780-1833) worked as a land agent for the founder of Medina, Elijah Boardman. Rufus came to Medina around 1817. He held many titles in Medina, including clerk and vestryman of St. Paul's Parish, postmaster, and treasurer of Medina Village. In 1833, Rufus died of cholera in Wooster, Ohio, while returning to Medina after assisting victims of the disease in Columbus.

Following Pat's presentations, Rob Wilder, a Friends Trustee, shared the interesting story about his great-great-great uncle William Wallace (1838-1863). William joined the 42nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company K, led by Colonel James A. Garfield, who later became the President of the United States, as a private on November 22, 1861. Unfortunately, William's service was cut short due to his contracting "camp dysentery", which was most likely typhoid. As a result, he was discharged in Memphis on a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability and made it back home to Medina, but eventually succumbed to the disease on February 19, 1863. William was laid to rest at Old Town, and his father Robert (1807-1874) was buried next to him eleven years later. In addition, Rob brought along William's Civil War musket as part of his presentation, and he allowed it to be passed around the crowd so everyone could have a closer look.

The last presentation of the walk was on the Hewes family and was delivered by Karen Thorn, a Trustee of the Friends organization. John Hewes (1799-1872) and his wife, Lucy (née Thayer) (1800-1839), moved to Medina County from Madison County, New York, around 1829. They had six children, but unfortunately, Lucy passed away at the age of 39. John remarried and had two more children, but both of them died at a very young age. Out of the six children born to John and his first wife, only two survived to adulthood – a boy named Alanson (1837-1875) and a girl named Hannah (1827-1904).

Alanson married Mary French, and they had a daughter named Lillian, who was born in 1866. When Lillian was six years old, she and her grandfather John Hewes were thrown from a wagon that they were riding in when the horses pulling the wagon were startled. Although Lillian survived the accident, her grandfather did not.

Hannah Hewes became a teacher and went to Tennessee during the Civil War to teach children of freed slaves. She eventually returned to Medina and was known as a reformer and joined the Medina chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The Friends are delighted to host the Historical Walk every August! We are grateful to our presenters for their hard work in researching and planning the event. This year, the presenters were Pat Morgan, Karen Thorn, Rob Wilder, and Paul Wood. We also extend our thanks to Cynthia Szunyog for her help in organizing the walk. Moreover, we appreciate the more than 175 people who attended the walk!



Annual Photo Contest

Our second annual amateur Photo Contest was a huge success with great participation. We want to extend our gratitude to all the participants who entered and our congratulations to the three winners. We would also like to thank our distinguished panel of judges. You can view the winning photos from the contest on our Facebook page or website. www.friendsofmedinacemetery.org

Friends of the Cemetery

MEMBERSHIP LISTING - DECEMBER 2023

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* designates new members
◊ designates Lifetime members
8 designates President's Club members

New Members since May 2023

Jane Carver	Jeff & Mary Beth Esterburg	Dr. Bijay Jayaswal
Dina Chatelain	Janet Ferguson	James Barker Morehead
Judith Collens	Hysell Family	Christine Wheeler
	Emilie Illson	

New President's Club Member

Murray & Susan Van Epp

Gift to the Arboretum at Spring Grove
David & Joyce Hyde

In Memory of John and Virginia Jeandrevin
Sally Otterbacher

Friends of the Cemetery

M E D I N A

775 East Washington Street
Medina, Ohio 44256

Become a Friend of the Cemetery

If you have not yet joined the Friends of the Cemetery, we'd love to have you become a part! 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 on page 7, please take time today to renew your membership using the envelope.

"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	Heritage _____	\$250
Individual _____	\$15	Silver _____	\$500
Family _____	\$25	Gold _____	\$1,000
Contributing _____	\$50	Platinum _____	\$2,000
Supporting _____	\$100	President's Club _____	\$3,000+

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Membership enclosed _____

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