



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

# Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery  
Summer 2020

## Women’s Voices Still Speak in Green Lawn Cemetery!

By Doreen Uhas Sauer, Board of Trustees, Green Lawn Cemetery and Education/Outreach Coordinator, Columbus Landmarks

--In Paris, Columbus watercolor artist **Alice Schiller**, on hearing the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment had passed, said, “Congratulations, once you were on a pedestal, and now you are equal.”--

One hundred years have passed since Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Those who organized, strategized, and marched for that right – yes, and even those who organized against women’s suffrage – still speak to the issues of rights and power today.

Women’s - and men’s – voices in Ohio were growing from whispers into orations in the century before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Historians have noted that Ohio may have played a unique role in the history of women’s rights because those voices were heard so early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The campaign for women’s rights in Ohio began in earnest in the decades before the Civil War. As early as 1812, Catherine Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe (author of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*), founded a school of higher learning for women in Cincinnati. Oberlin College was revolutionary, admitting women and African Americans to higher learning in the 1840s and graduating three women, a first in U.S. and world history. In 1850, Dr. Norton Townshend, later president of the Ohio Mechanical and Agricultural College (The Ohio State University), introduced a bill into the Ohio legislature to permit women to vote. The bill was turned down then — and every time thereafter it was reintroduced.

The fight for women’s suffrage was deeply intertwined with the movement for abolition. Ohio’s location between the slave-holding states south of the Ohio River and the freedom of Canada north of the Great Lakes gave Ohio a vital importance in the national debates over slavery. For the first time, abolition gave women a voice. While not permitted to speak in public, women spoke in churches where abolition was strongly endorsed.

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Annie Norton Battelle

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## *President's Message*

### *Summer Greetings to the Green Lawn Family!*



Standing in front of one of our late bloomers: the catalpa tree.

With so many challenges in the world today, I am happy to report that although the cemetery has its own unique challenges, Green Lawn is doing well and making progress.

We continue to work on this year's restoration and beautification projects while our operator (Memorial Properties) works to hire, equip, and train a mowing crew. Bringing this work in-house will improve the products and services offered to our families.

Our endowed funds go up and down with the markets but are well invested and for 2020 have shown resiliency and strength. The generosity of our donors and the Friends group continues to build our financial underpinning for the long-term success of Green Lawn.

I hope this edition of Heritage finds you all well, and I especially hope that you can practice some social distancing by visiting and taking a long walk through our "very special park"!

Randy Rogers, President and Executive Director  
Green Lawn Cemetery Association

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## *Wildlife Stories*



An exciting find at Green Lawn—an adult female eastern box turtle! Once common in 50 out of 88 Ohio counties, it now resides in only 25. Out of 11 turtles native to Ohio, the box turtle is the only one that lives exclusively on land.

Another great find—the Northern Brown Snake, which uses its tongue to collect chemicals from the air that it can "smell." Hunting primarily underground, it uses this sense to find prey.



*Women's Voices Still Speak in Green Lawn Cemetery!*  
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After the Civil War, Columbus prospered economically as the capital of an important Northern state that had supplied materials, men, and generals to Union victories. Columbus businessmen profited from the federally built railroads and grew rich from banking, industrialization, and real estate.

By the 1890s, women's suffrage had entered mainstream politics, and women were advancing in the two areas where they had a voice: higher education and women's clubs. OSU faculty wives and women "firsts" in the professions were active in the movement. **Dora Sandoe Bachman** was the first woman to graduate from Ohio State's College of Law and eventually became the first woman to serve on the Columbus Board of Education. **Dr. Gillette Hayden** was the first woman to graduate from OSU in pediatric dentistry. Her sister **Florence Kenyon Hayden Rector**, the first woman architect to graduate from OSU, was chosen by President William Oxley to design Oxley Hall to house women students. During the same period, 19 women's clubs in Columbus joined together to form the City Federation to make in-roads into politics through civic engagement.

Education and prominence served **Annie Norton Battelle** well in her push for suffrage. It was said that while John Battelle could "work" President William McKinley, so too could Annie charm and out-manuever President Warren B. Harding. She supported women's rights, but it was her prominence in local, national, and international affairs that made the difference, allowing her to extract campaign promises from Ohio Republicans.



Mrs. H. Hubbard, Miss Elizabeth Parsons, and Mrs. Joseph Jeffrey



Belle Coit Kelton

The activism of **Belle Coit (Mrs. Frank) Kelton** spanned a lifetime, from the Civil War to the 1950s. Belle's mother **Mrs. Elizabeth (Coit) Harvey** had taught in a female seminary in Worthington. As president of a local women's rights organization, she entertained notable advocates in her home – Jane Addams, Carrie Chapman Catt, and English suffragette Mrs. Pankhurst – all of whom influenced young Belle.

In 1874, Belle entered OSU with "pull" from President Townshend, the same man who had put a women's suffrage bill into the Ohio Legislature 24 years earlier. His daughter **Alice Townshend** and Belle were the first women to attend OSU.

Always active in women's rights, Belle's leadership role reached its zenith when she organized the 1912 march for women's rights as part of the Columbus Centennial celebrations. Over 5,000 women and supporters marched and hosted national dignitaries in a crucial year

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## New Memorial Display!

An area that Memorial Properties identified as an opportunity for improvement is being turned into a strength! Monument sales are up considerably. Working with our main supplier, Salem Stone, Memorial Properties has installed a new display in front of the office. The first phase of the display has been delivered; more markers will be added to better represent the full spectrum of monuments that can be purchased at the cemetery.

There are many advantages to purchasing a monument at the cemetery. One is the fact that monument sales benefit Green Lawn and provide for its upkeep. Another is that monuments purchased here are bought with the assurance they will be permitted in the intended garden and properly installed.

On your next visit, be sure to check out the new display!



## Pond Spreading Balcony Opens

The spreading balcony has been completed on the west side of the pond, allowing families to register and spread the cremated remains of their loved ones there. (It is illegal to spread remains anywhere on the grounds without going through the office, and unauthorized cremated remains are collected.)

From the balcony, ashes are spread over a bed of native blue flag iris and then washed into the pond. A series of granite monuments will allow the departed to be memorialized with their names and dates on a beautiful bronze butterfly memorial.

The pond is the middle option being developed for spreading; a value option is in the works for the prairie and a more exclusive option for the ravine. The cost of spreading is the same in all three areas, the difference being the type and cost of memorialization.



Cremations continue to be a growing trend. Although at first they resulted in few burials, we are finding more families eventually want someplace to permanently place their loved one. Even if the spreading occurs elsewhere, they want someplace to memorialize their life. By providing three sublime options, we hope to increase the number of families that identify Green Lawn as their family resting place.

Please stop by the office and ask to see your NEW options. Green Lawn is offering an 80% off certificate for permanent placement from our new scattering balcony through August.

## Welcome Kelin Wilkins!

For the first time in over a quarter century, Green Lawn has a horticulturalist on staff! Kelin Wilkins has joined the Memorial Properties crew as a working supervisor in charge of gardening, tree care, landscape management, and many other things that we are slowly telling him about so as not to scare him off!

Kelin is a 2015 graduate of the OSU horticulture program with a special affinity for trees and native plants. He has been an ISA certified arborist since 2017 and working in the lawn care industry.

Kelin is excited at the opportunity to make Green Lawn an even more beautiful place. In his spare time, Kelin is interested in birds and travel. We are looking forward to seeing Kelin develop his position and move us forward in a role that has been greatly missed for many years.



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for Ohio reform legislation. Eight years later, with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Belle worked in the newly formed Franklin County League of Women Voters. Just before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1955, she wryly reflected on those years: "We all played the game well."

White Ohioans were not alone in advocating for women's rights. According to the memoirs of women who attended the 1851 Ohio Constitutional Convention, many in the audience, including women, began hissing when the plainly dressed, nearly six-foot-tall Sojourner Truth rose from her seat. One by one, she refuted the objections raised to the proposed passage of reforms, ending with her now famous statement, "Ain't I a woman?" The audience erupted into applause and, it was noted, "...she left us with streaming eyes and hearts of gratitude."

Within four decades, African American women were organizing for suffrage. In the 1890s, Doris Sandoe Bachman invited **Mrs. Minnie Jamison** to join the Franklin County Woman's Suffrage Association (FCWSA), making her the first African American woman in Franklin County to join.

In 1914, a change in strategy created a separate but federated organization with FCWSA. The newly-formed Sojourner Truth Woman's Suffrage Association focused on convincing African American men to vote for the cause. In 1917, Ida B. Wells, known for her work to end lynching, and Harriet Upton Taylor, president of the Ohio Woman's Suffrage Association, met with Minnie Jamison's mother **Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Goode**. At 83 years of age, "Mother Goode" was the oldest known African American suffragette. Both women are buried in Green Lawn with their suffragette pins.

In 1912, when it became apparent women's suffrage might be placed on the ballot, local women opposed to suffrage took notice and organized. The first meeting was held at the home of **Mrs. Hermon H. Hubbard**, and among those who gathered were **Mrs. Joseph Jeffrey** and **Miss Elizabeth Parsons**, a niece of President Taft. Members of several prominent families—the Kilbournes, Neils, and Sullivants—weighed in on the side of the anti-suffragettes. Their group later joined a statewide opposition effort.

Suddenly it seemed *all* Columbus women were involved in politics. When the suffragettes took office space in the Chamber of Commerce Building on Broad Street in downtown Columbus, the anti-suffragettes rented space above them. The two groups were well aware of each other's leafleting, lectures, and tactics.

Anti-suffrage views had deep roots. Many Virginia and Kentucky families had lived for decades in Columbus but identified with and were proud of their Southern roots. In the wake of the Confederacy's defeat, white Southern women were greatly influenced by the Lost Cause movement, which recast the Civil War as a



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## Upcoming 2020 Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

*Most Events are Free, and All are Family-Friendly*

**Due to the coronavirus, First Saturday programming has been discontinued until further notice. However, Green Lawn is offering several tours incorporating social distancing and other safety precautions. A portion of the \$25 registration fee will support Green Lawn's preservation efforts.**

**July 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27: 5:00pm-6:30pm: "Civil War Ghosts of Green Lawn Cemetery":** Columbus Ghost Tours is partnering with Green Lawn Cemetery to offer a new series of historical walking tours. Recommended for those age 16 and over. For more information and to register, please visit <https://columbusghosttours.com/merchandise/ols/categories/civil-war-ghosts-of-green-lawn-cemetery>

**July 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 15, Aug. 29, Sept. 6, Sept. 20, Oct. 24: Times Vary: "Green Lawn Cemetery Historical Bike Tour":** Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is partnering with Green Lawn to offer guided tours narrated by historian and naturalist Randy Rogers. Tours begin and end at Green Lawn Abbey at 700 Greenlawn Ave. Columbus Outdoor Pursuits can provide cruiser style bikes and helmets, or you may bring your own. Tours are limited to 10 riders. To obtain a full list of available times and to register, please visit <https://outdoor-pursuits.org/events-calendar-op/>

**July 26: 2:00pm-4:00pm: "Summer Walk Through Green Lawn":** Columbus Landmarks Foundation is partnering with Green Lawn to present a live interactive virtual tour, which will be shown on the Columbus Landmarks' Facebook page. Participants will have the opportunity to donate to Green Lawn's preservation efforts.

### *Women's Voices Still Speak in Green Lawn Cemetery!* (Continued from page 6)

struggle for states' rights with no mention of slavery. The Lost Cause narrative glorified traditional roles and sought to protect the status quo.

Secondly, these early socially prominent families were wealthy, with the bride often bringing money and social connections with her. It was not unreasonable to think of the marriage contract as a partnership with one vote meaning one vote per household, although in reality the husband's control over the finances and children made it difficult for the wife to disagree. Finally, conservatives feared progressive reforms and worked to persuade voters that suffrage was a "red tide" leading to anarchism. Once the 19th Amendment passed, the anti-suffragettes faded, though some later joined the non-partisan League of Women Voters.

With the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed, was the work over? In 1923, **Florence Kenyon Hayden Rector** noted the following: Father or husbands had sole power over their children, finances and equity, their wives' properties, and their daughters' marriage contracts. Columbus women did not see their work as finished. Many activists continued empowering women through voter registration and citizen education. Others went on to run for office at the local, state, and national levels. And they continued to work on women's issues that are still relevant today.

\*Individuals with names in bold are buried in Green Lawn Cemetery.

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