



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

# Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery  
Winter 2020/2021

## What Was a Spruce Squadron?

By Randy Rogers

On a recent walk through Green Lawn, I found a veteran’s marker with an unusual inscription. It indicated that Michael J. Horgan in garden 80 served in WWI as a private in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Spruce Squadron.

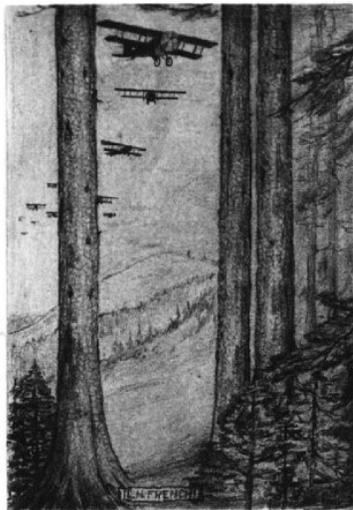
I often believe I know quite a lot about the military, but “spruce” squadrons were a new formation to me! Some research quickly turned up a little-remembered but interesting piece of WWI history.

The Army used planes during the Punitive Expedition to Mexico in 1916, but it wasn’t until our entry into WWI that aircraft were required in large numbers. Producing these aircraft required timber. In particular, the spruce, cedar, and fir that are often found in remote corners of the Pacific Northwest were needed for wing spars and other parts. With so many loggers being drafted or volunteering for military duty in Europe, timber supplies suddenly started to dry up just as they were needed the most!

To procure this timber, the Army Signal Corps (parent to the new Army Air Corps) established the spruce squadrons under the Spruce Production Division. The squadron designation (as opposed to “company” or “troop”) linked these units to the Air Corps. The Division was centered in Vancouver, Canada, but many squadrons also worked in Washington and Oregon.

The work was hard. In addition to logging and milling the timber, the men had to build roads and railroads to get to the timber stands, transport the logs, and in many cases construct the bases in which they worked and

*(Continued on page 3)*



**I**T is not a long step in time or the process of evolution between the growing spruce tree and the wing beam of an airplane hovering over the German lines or bombing their military bases. The man who in any capacity is helping to produce airplane spruce is fighting the Huns and helping to beat them as actually as is the man who is taking part in a bayonet charge in “No Man’s Land.”

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*Left: Postcard sold at the commissary of the Spruce Squadron camps. For most camps, mail was irregular at best.*

## *President's Message*

### *A Special Note for Our Spring Donors!*



As this issue of Heritage goes to print, winter is upon us, and we are in the midst of another successful Annual Campaign for the Friends of Green Lawn. As always, I must thank all of you who have so generously supported our efforts to preserve and beautify Green Lawn – we simply couldn't do so many things without you!

A few of our spring donors were concerned they were not listed in our last edition – have no fear, you were not forgotten! The last edition captured the short July-December 2019 Fiscal Year as we converted our system to one based on a Calendar Year. Spring 2020 donors will be listed in our Spring 2021 Heritage with the January-December 2020 list. The transition has been a little weird, but working on a calendar year is so much easier for a non-profit, and we are happy to be using that system now.

It may be cold, but as always Green Lawn is beautiful, so I hope many of you have the chance to visit! If I don't find you out on the grounds, please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Randy Rogers, President and Executive Director  
Green Lawn Cemetery Association

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## *Wildlife Stories*

One of our nighttime visitors. This red fox has been sending me about 20 pictures each night on our security cameras!



Deer also appear in our photos often, not all of them as large as this one!

## *What was a Spruce Squadron? (Continued from page 1)*



*89th Spruce Squadron—note the mixed military and civilian clothing. Instruments were also common in these camp photos.*

lived. If lucky, these men were stationed in a logging town with minimal outside contact, but more often they lived in remote tent cities or hastily constructed barracks far from any communication or comforts. Although the Vancouver units were organized with a strict military structure, most of the field units were more loosely organized. Soldiers worked side by side with civilian loggers and were often paid the higher civilian wage combined with Army benefits. The Army had to balance the mission against delicate organized labor issues, but by the end of the war about 28,000 soldiers were working with about 100,000 civilian loggers to maintain the supply of warplanes to the front.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Spruce formed at Vancouver Barracks in December of 1917, but soon moved to Washington where it ended up working for the Cherry Valley Logging Co. out of Stillwater. Additional troops resulted in eight geographically scattered groups in the squadron. One group, for example, worked at Sultan, Washington with the Sultan Railway and Timber Co. The unit had 11 officers and 206 enlisted men.

In November of 1918, the 33<sup>rd</sup> returned to Vancouver Barracks and was demobilized in January of 1919.

From our records, we know Michael Joseph Horgan was born to Patrick and Mary Hogan in County Cork, Ireland, on August 1, 1891. When he died of a heart attack on May 18, 1958, he was living at 538 Hawkes Avenue, not much more than a stone's throw from the cemetery. He is buried with his wife Murtis on a lot belonging to his step-daughter.

It is fun to speculate that timber Michael harvested might have turned into a part on the plane of Green Lawn's most famous ace, Eddie Rickenbacker, but all of Rickenbacker's planes during the war were French-built Nieuports or Spads, so this is unlikely!



## “Departed Denizens”



One of the reasons Green Lawn exists was the city’s desire in the 1840s to close the problematic North Cemetery. This closure was largely accomplished by the late 1880s.

These early residents had been buried for decades and, in most cases, markers that might once have existed were long gone. Over the years, new construction resulted in additional remains being brought to Green Lawn, and each time a discussion was held about a memorial. However, discussions were never followed by funding, so these early residents rested unmarked.

The estate gift from Dorothy Howard Flynn, in addition to funding several repairs around the cemetery, finally made possible a memorial for these early Columbusites!

Central Ohio sculptor Mike Major was selected to create a “heroic-sized bronze wolf, to be placed facing the downtown”, and local historians, politicians, and journalists attended an unveiling on October 16. The inscription sums up the memorial:

*“Our pioneer ancestors called the high banks on the east side of the Scioto “Wolf Ridge” - today we simply call it “downtown”. In driving the wolf from his home, they left us ours. In death, many of these pioneers were moved to Green Lawn when the older city cemeteries were closed. Often they came without marker or name. Here they are as anonymous as the wolves they displaced, but just as they told stories and left remembrances of the wolves, we have their stories and remember their presence.*

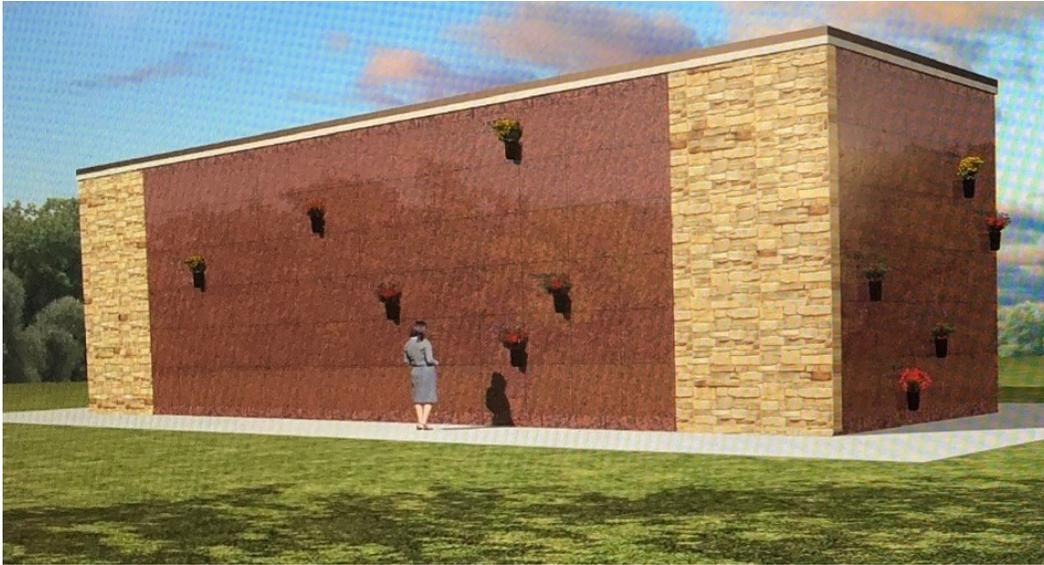
*Dedicated to the pioneers of Franklinton and Columbus buried here in anonymity but not forgotten.”*

## News For Our Donors....

The CARES Act has changed some of the rules for charitable donations for 2020. Even taxpayers who don't itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying organizations between January 1 and December 31, 2020. The Green Lawn Cemetery Foundation is listed by the IRS as an approved organization. As always, see your financial advisor with any questions.

***For information about making an Annual Campaign donation, a gift to the Endowment Fund, or a Planned Gift for Green Lawn Cemetery, please contact Randy Rogers at 614-271-8600 or by email at: [greenlawncemeteryassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greenlawncemeteryassoc@gmail.com).***

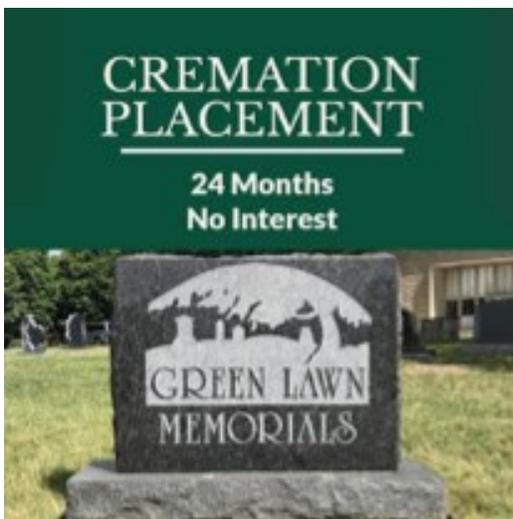
## New Mausoleum Space Available!



Memorial Properties will be expanding New Garden Mausoleum, eventually doubling it by adding four new buildings. Currently they are selling pre-need spaces in the first expansion building, and once a sufficient number are sold construction will begin. These buildings will complement the existing buildings, but being closer to the road they will receive some higher-end finish details so that they both blend in with the older buildings and enhance the overall image of New Garden.

The picture above is a generic image as we are not quite far enough along to have actual renderings. It does suggest, however, that the building will be of the same style but with a darker, richer colored granite and details. Above ground crypts are very popular, and we are excited that Green Lawn can offer new opportunities for this type of placement.

If you are interested, please call the sales team at 614.444.1123.



## Halloween Photoshop Fun!



*The Gay Mausoleum under the full moon on Halloween, and after some creative effects have been applied with Photoshop!*



## Upcoming 2020-2021 Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

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

**Due to COVID-19, First Saturday programming has been discontinued until further notice.**

**December 15: “Holiday Service”:** The Family Service Staff at Green Lawn Cemetery will lead a virtual memorial service to remember loved ones as we move into the holiday season. The service will be shared via Facebook live. Please contact the office at 614.444.1123 for the specific time of the event.

**December 19: 11:00am-12:00pm: “Wreaths Across America”:** Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery as well as 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Join us to honor veterans by placing wreaths in Section 105. This year’s program will be shortened, masks will be required, and boxes of wreaths will be spaced to allow social distancing. Learn more about the national event at <https://www.facebook.com/WAAHQ/>.

**January 31: 2:00pm-4:00pm: “Winter Walk Through Green Lawn”:** Columbus Landmarks Foundation is partnering with Green Lawn to present a live 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.



1000 Greenlawn Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43223

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

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PERMIT NO. 1561

### CEMETERY GATES

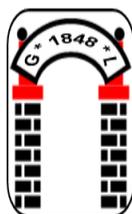
Open 7 Days/Week

During Daylight Saving Time:

7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Starting October 19th:

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM



### OFFICE

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday

By appointment



### CHAPEL

Visit Office for Access



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### Special Thanks to our Green Lawn Trustees and Volunteers

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