

A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Spring 2019

The Extraordinary Lives of the Smith-Comey Families

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

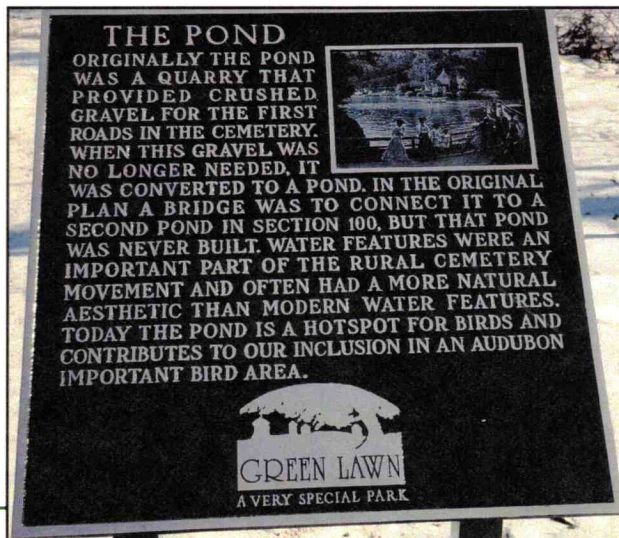
Dr. Sam Smith (section F, lot 12) **James W. Comly** (section F, lot 12)

Dr. Samuel M. Smith, M.D. (1816-1874) was a familiar figure in 19th century Columbus. His home was at the NE corner of State and Fourth Streets (where the Norwich stands). His office was at Rich and High Streets. He was known as an outspoken abolitionist who could attract money and political clout for the movement. His anti-slavery views were as passionate as his scientific mind was focused on caring for the mentally ill.



He arrived in Columbus in 1840, fresh from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in Philadelphia, to be an assistant physician at the Lunatic Asylum. Mentored by the well-known and highly influential Dr. William Awl, Chief Physician and Superintendent of the asylum, Smith was, within a few years, called to fill a position at Willoughby College (a forerunner of what would become the Starling Medical College) as professor of medical jurisprudence and insanity.

Ohio was a leader in reforms for treating the blind and deaf, but the path to help mental illness was less clear. Reform began in earnest in 1835 when a state medical convention urged the legislature to act. Efforts to define mental illness were clouded by terms—insane, feeble-minded, lunatic, criminally insane, depressed, antisocial, poor, alcoholic, homeless, traumatized, even “too independent” (referring to women). Poor houses



Our newly-dedicated plaque commemorating our revitalized pond

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President's Message



Greetings Green Lawn Family!

Winter has come to Green Lawn! I look forward to the snowy days I can walk through the cemetery and look for animal tracks, and this winter we have been treated with an abundance of red-breasted nuthatches at our bird feeders. It is also the time of year when we make grand plans for the return of warm weather, and our plans are certainly big this year! We hope to plant over 400 trees in 2019, and restore at least 3 historic monuments. We are continuing to work with families and sponsors to restore all of our stained glass, and develop additional stops on our Social Gospel to Social Justice tour of the cemetery. The other winter event that keeps me busy is a peak in our annual campaign as folks make end of the year donations. This is my first year of working closely with the annual campaign, and I am struck again at how lucky we are to have the support of our Founding Families – without their generosity many of our projects would stay on the planning board but thanks to all of you when warm weather returns they will become reality!

Randy Rogers, President and Executive Director
Green Lawn Cemetery Association



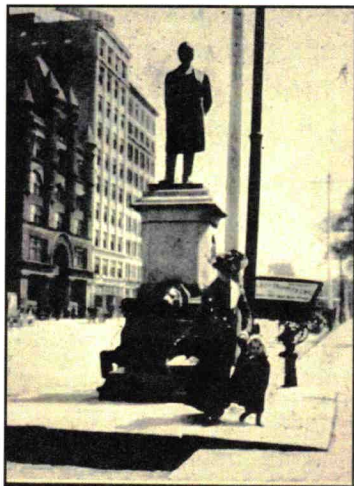
We are adding a copy of "*Landscape with Wooden Fence and Stream*" by Maurice Hague to our office decor. Hague (1862-1943) was a noted Columbus artist of the Barbizon school, traditionalists who resisted modern schools of art but themselves often exhibited pre-Impressionism tendencies.

Stop by our offices to view.

Maurice Hague is buried in section U, Lot 17 at Green Lawn.

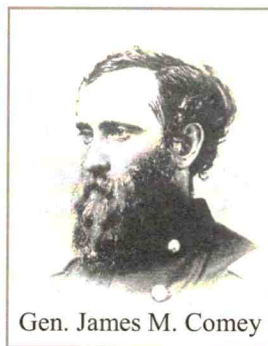
Feature article...

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and orphanages were viewed as asylums. A belief in the “cult of curability,” especially promoted by Dr. William Awl blamed pressures of urban life, frequent economic downturns, close living, disease, and filth. To advocates who believed mental illness could be cured--a safe, orderly, architecturally pleasing building in a rural setting was the answer.

Smith’s unique position as a Willoughby lecturer established his reputation. He is the first medical



Gen. James M. Comey

school professor of psychiatry in the United States; his lectures were the first comprehensive approach to the topic of mental illness. Ohio Governor Salmon Chase appointed him as a trustee for the asylum, an

office he held for almost 20 years, and he maintained a private practice. His patients included impoverished farmers, Civil War veterans with post battle stress, and homeless women and children.

Smith and his wife, Susan Anthony Smith, did not see their two sons grow into adulthood, but their two daughters survived and flourished. Having been raised in a home where art and music thrived, one daughter became an opera singer in Europe. Francis (Fannie Manetti) is credited with the first translations of German composer Wagner’s operas into English for the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Smith’s other daughter, Elizabeth, married James M. Comey (1832-1887), a journalist who distinguished

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Review our *Events Calendar*, look through current and historic pictures and videos, read lots of other fun announcements, and “Like Us” and “Share Us” on our *Facebook page*:

facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus



Tribute to a Friend

For generations, the Jeffrey family has played a significant role in making our community a special place. Joseph Andrew Jeffrey, founder of the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company, and Celia, his wife, are buried at Green Lawn, as are all six of their children and many of their descendants.

Our friend, Anne “Nancy” Kittredge Jeffrey, died peacefully at home on November 8, 2018, while still in the midst of her decades-long transformative work on behalf of the homeless and those living with mental illness. She was a founder of the ADAMH Board and the Community Shelter Board, President of United Way of Central Ohio, and provided leadership in many other Columbus organizations to create and improve social systems. Nancy’s most recent community project was the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park, dedicated October 28th in memory of her husband Tad with their four children, many grandchildren and a great grandchild in attendance. She underwrote a biographical plaque commemorating Rev. Gladden and his work which was dedicated on October 6th at Green Lawn. Active to her last days, Emily Dickinson’s beautiful Victorian-era poem could have been written for Nancy, who continued working tirelessly on behalf of others until her death... “Because I could not stop for Death - He kindly stopped for me.”

Nancy’s contributions to the Friends of Green Lawn have spanned over two decades. She advised the development committee, established the Founders Society and underwrote “Heritage Day” events to build the endowment, and hosted community groups as well as family occasions – including scavenger hunts! – beneath the trees of Green Lawn. She frequently rode her bike and walked with Tad through this very special park. Green Lawn has received gifts in Nancy’s memory from many who have called her Friend. She would be so pleased to know of your gifts to help keep Green Lawn beautiful! The Board plans to honor Nancy’s commitment to future generations by making a significant contribution to Green Lawn’s endowment from the following memorial gifts.

We thank you all for your generosity.

Gifts to Green Lawn in Nancy’s Memory

Action for Children
 Mr. and Mrs. James T. Argo
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Bolon
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 Mr. and Mrs. David F. Cheesebrough
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 Mr. and Mrs. John O’Meara
 Ann and Ron Pizzuti
 Mr. and Mrs. William G. Porter, II
 Rick and Margy Richardson
 J. Randall Schoedinger
 Dewey Stokes
 Mr. and Mrs. Norton R. Webster
 David F. Williams
 William and Celeste Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Wolfe, Jr.
 Tanya and Rich Yepsen

Upcoming 2019 Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

Most Events are Free, and All are Family-Friendly

- ***March 2nd**: “**Anna Keagle and Godman House**”: presenter to be announced.
 - ***April 6th**: “**Franklinton--Where Columbus Began**”: by Leslie Blankenship of the Franklinton Historical Society.
 - ****April 28th: 2:00pm-4:00pm**: “**Spring Walk at Green Lawn Cemetery**”: Held in partnership with Columbus Landmarks Foundation, we will have a guided walking tour of historic Green Lawn Cemetery. Tour will be led by Randy Rogers, executive director and naturalist of Green Lawn, and Doreen Uhas-Sauer, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Columbus Landmarks Foundation. This two hour tour begins at the Huntington Chapel. Tickets required, available at the event, or visit Columbus Landmarks Foundation website: www.columbuslandmarks.org/event/ or call Columbus Landmarks at 614-221-0227.
 - ***May 4th**: “**Geocaching & Letterboxing at Green Lawn Cemetery**”: Back by popular demand, Larry Cunningham will once again tell us what “Geocaching” is, and take us out for a personal trek into the cemetery as we use our phone apps to find some for ourselves. Plus this year, he will introduce us to Letterboxing, which was around long before geocaching. It began in Victorian-era England. Green Lawn is the home of more than 31 “known” Letterboxes. This is a fun family event. Bring the kids and grandchildren.
 - ***June 1st**: “**Family Bicycle Tour & Picnic**”: Bring your family, your bicycles, a blanket and a picnic lunch, as we escape the hectic techno-world we all now live in, and learn how Columbus’ 19th century residents once escaped from their grueling smokestack-belching, manure-covered streets “City Life” with a peaceful picnic in Green Lawn Cemetery.
 - ***September 7th**: “**Intro to Genealogy Research**”: Interested in researching your ancestors? Curious what free resources are available? Back by popular demand, Russ Pollitt of the Columbus Metropolitan Library will introduce us to the services offered by the Local History & Genealogy division of the Main Library.
- ***First Saturday event; free and runs from 11:00am until noon inside the Huntington Chapel unless noted otherwise.**
- ****Partnering For Our Community event; free unless noted otherwise.**
- Submit event suggestions by email: contactus@greenlawncemetery.org, or phone: (614) 444-1123.**

Cemetery Mystery Solved!

Arlington National Cemetery recently asked our help in solving a mystery. While digging a new grave, they found a metal tag from cremated remains labeled “Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Ohio” and “1208”. They needed help to figure out who these remains belonged to, how they ended up in an unmarked space, and where they should be reburied. The tag indicated the person had been cremated at Huntington Chapel during the years that our crematorium was in operation (roughly the 1960s into the 1980s).



A week later an investigator arrived to sort through the crematorium records for number 1208.

The search identified Mrs. Margaret Klette, who died of throat cancer in Columbus in June of 1974 at the age of 54.

She was living here with her husband, Col. Immanuel Klette, a bomber pilot and WWII hero, who worked for Battelle Institute at the time.

Apparently Mrs. Klette was cremated and her urn was buried on Col. Klette’s space at Arlington. He was living in Virginia when he died in 1988, and his body was later interred on the space.

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Feature article...

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himself in the Civil War, once routing the enemy at the Battle of Antietam after a fourth of his own regiment had been lost. He rose to the office of Brigadier General. Comey fought alongside the future President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes who would later appoint Comey as Minister to Honolulu.

Smith and Comey shared their passionate abolitionist views. Comey purchased an old Whig newspaper, renaming it the Ohio State Journal. Smith was a co-editor with Comey. The newspaper also became Comey's "bully pulpit" for another passion—the new game of baseball. He was president of the first baseball club and popularized the game in Columbus by promoting announcements, scores, and accounts of the game.

Dr. Smith and his wife occasionally traveled to Europe where Francis studied music. They were charmed by the many German drinking fountains topped by a statue, generally a musician or poet. The fountain served as a focal point in a town center, democratically dispensing water for all. Smith reportedly declared he did not want a marker in a cemetery when he died but preferred to be remembered by a drinking fountain instead.

When Dr. Smith died, his widow and daughters sought out the skills of one of Columbus's most famous artists, William Walcutt (who did the statue of Oliver Hazard Perry on the Perry Monument at Lake Erie) to create a statue of Smith atop a drinking fountain. Dr. Smith's likeness--a man lost in thought, hands behind his back and dressed in a long great coat, loomed over a bubbling drinking fountain for 35 years at the SE corner of Broad and High Streets. Today it could best be described as having been placed on a traffic calming bump-out.

But in 1915, in the new municipal movement, seeking to modernize the downtown, dusted off the 1908 Plan that had declared the statute was badly

placed. In truth, he was a little defaced, and by 1915, the Great Columbus Water Experiment also cast suspicion upon public drinking fountains as cholera carriers.

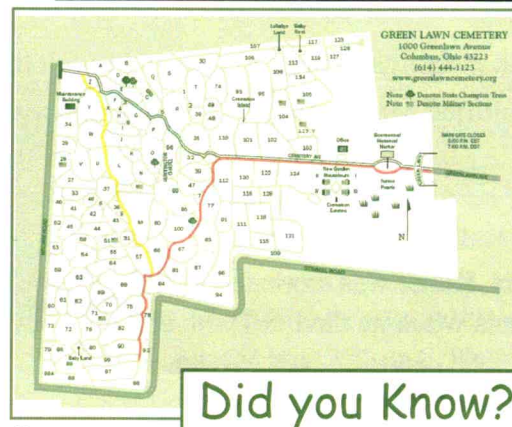
The adventures of Columbus's most traveled public art began.

Dr. Smith's statue was moved to East State Street and Chase Alley near St. Francis Hospital (both alley and hospital disappeared under Grant Hospital). In 1957, Dr. Smith moved again when the old hospital was torn down—to the basement of the city's health department at Washington Blvd. and West Rich Street—years later it was placed outside. One day, in 1994, city health employees on a smoke break, noticed Smith was missing—statue-napped and stolen. After two years, Smith was found in North Carolina by an observant antique dealer. Dr. Smith mistakenly was being sold as President Garfield. He was recovered and began the journey home. Slightly dented in his head and with a small hole in his foot, Dr. Smith was saved, refurbished, and offered an appropriate and lasting home.

Dr. Smith (the man) and James Comey repose with family at Green Lawn Cemetery; Dr. Smith (the statue) stands outside the Department of Psychiatry on Upham Drive on the campus of Ohio State University.

Thank you, Tom Joswick and the Joswick family, Smith-Comey descendants, and Jim Tootle, Columbus baseball historian, for contributing their research and insight to this article.

→ End of Feature Article ←



Green Lawn has 27 miles of roads. Beautiful for walking, jogging or a casual bicycle ride with your family!

Mystery Solved!...

(Continued from page 5)

The confusion occurred because in the 1970's it was not required that cremation urns be buried in a concrete vault. When the husband was buried, they tried to locate the wife's urn and ensure it was properly reburied, but as often happened the urn had been crushed or simply was not found during the second burial. In this case, the metal tag from the urn was dug up with the excess dirt, which was later used as fill in another part of the cemetery, leading to its discovery when a new grave was dug.



Connecting the tag to the family allowed for it to be replaced in the Klette grave and for the family to be notified that the remains had been recovered and returned to the rightful spot.

In reviewing the records, we also determined that Mrs. Klette was in fact 1LT Klette, an Army nurse, and entitled to a veteran marker at Arlington in her own right – which she will now receive!

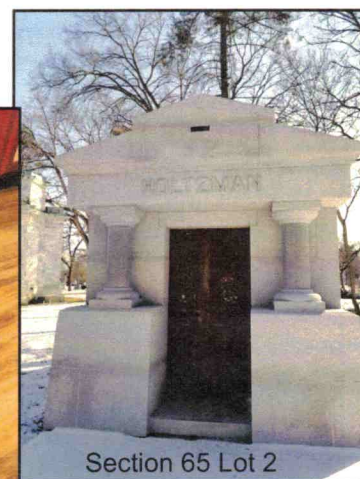
Several good lessons can be found in this story – the importance of old cemetery records, the importance of making sure all cremated remains are kept labeled with the identity of the deceased, and the value of vaults for urns buried outdoors.

It was interesting to work with Arlington National Cemetery, and to appreciate how mysteries can pop up even there! In this case the mystery was solved and we were happy to play a role.

Did you Know?

One thing missing in Huntington Chapel has been a stool for our organ, which is ironic considering one of the finest makers of piano stools is buried at Green Lawn!

Henry Holtzman founded H. Holtzman and Sons sometime in the 1860's and moved the business to Columbus in 1893. Henry passed away in 1904 and is interred in the Holtzman Mausoleum, but by that time the company was being run by his sons. The factory stood at 2121-2122 E. Main Street and was run by the family until it shut down in 1959, and the family recently sponsored some restoration work on their mausoleum.



Randy and Doreen Rogers located a circa 1900 Holtzman bench and have donated it to the cemetery, where it will soon be found at the chapel organ!

For information about making an Annual Campaign donation, a gift to the Endowment Fund, or a Planned Gift for Green Lawn Cemetery, please contact Randel Rogers, Executive Director, at 614-271-8600 or by email at: greenlawncemeteryassoc@gmail.com.

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

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