

## The "Romantic" Origins of Green Lawn Cemetery

(part 2: continued from Summer edition)

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

Green Lawn's origins can be explained by seeing what was happening at another prominent (and nearby) Victorian rural cemetery—Spring Grove in Ohio.

Cincinnati already had begun a rural cemetery to be far from the city. Like Columbus, Cincinnati had issues accommodating both the living and the dead in an urban area. Cincinnati had two dozen abandoned or full graveyards. Columbus had the North Grave Yard, the East Precinct Graveyard, and many church graveyards.

The population in Columbus qualified the infant settlement to be an official "borough" by the 1840s, as defined by state law. But in the same decade, Cincinnati became America's sixth largest city. As the older city, Cincinnati had established resources to contribute to their vision—wealthy founding families and an Horticultural Society (founded 1843); a typography of hills and ravines suitable for a Romantic inspired resting place; citizens who visited examples of rural cemeteries in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia; a well -known statesman, Salmon Chase, who lobbied the Ohio Legislature for this new "type" of cemetery; AND-an architect and engineer--Howard Daniels, who would save the day when their original plans went awry.

By contrast, Columbus had Salmon Chase, who maintained a downtown and a summer home in Columbus. Chase presented a charter for a nondenominational and nonprofit corporation to the legislature in 1845. This work set the precedent for Green Lawn's establishment. Columbus would also secure Howard Daniels.

Cincinnati wanted a location to match the picturesque aesthetics described in the poems of Wordsworth and Bryant, looking for gentle elevations to be groomed in the English tradition of landscaping—ravines, ponds, marshy areas, and elevations for imported tree and plant species. Eventually, they settled on land in a valley

(Continued on page 3)



Our new gates!

What's Inside	
Feature article	Page 1
President's Letter	Page 2
Washington Gladden	Page 2
Donor List	Page 4
Planting Policy	Page 6
Decorating Policy	Page 7
2018 Calendar of Events	Page 7

# President's Message



### Greetings Green Lawn Family!

Enjoying summer walks through our very special park allows me to reflect of the many projects we are currently working to complete. One that I find especially exciting is that we are working to improve the water quality of the pond, and soon will have an underwater diffusion aeration system in place. Increasing the oxygen level will lessen the 18" of muck in the bottom and also the duckweed and algae growth. It will also improve the water for our birds and wildlife.

We are also adding some new historical signs replacing the current pond sign and adding a sign near the prairie, at the oldest oak, and on the lot of Rev. Washington Gladden which we will dedicate on October 6th.

Other new signs going up will update our decorations policy and will start the process of better enforcing decoration and planting rules. Look for a copy of the revised rules in this edition.

As always, I want to thank our donors and our *Friends* group – it appears they have again exceeded their goals for the annual campaign! – without whom we could not do all of these exciting projects.

Randy Rogers, President and Executive Director Green Lawn Cemetery Association

## Washington Gladden

"You are not so good a Christian as when you are neglecting a plain duty as when you are performing it..."

Gladden's words were ones he lived every day of his life. When Washington Gladden arrived in Columbus in 1882, he became one of the most remarkable and articulate Christian leaders in the United States. For almost four decades, he was known nationally for his views, which have come to be known as the Social Gospel Movement. Christianity was not just for the salvation of an individual soul but for the transformation of society. While his sermons and writings reached many, it was his life that personally touched more. He advocated for those who needed a champion, preferring not to turn his back on his nearest neighbors—those who lived in the "Badlands" along Cleveland Avenue, the immigrants of Flytown, the new arrivals of the Great African American Migration, or the "Bottoms" of Franklinton.

His remarkable life and legacy will be celebrated on October 6<sup>th</sup>, in Green Lawn where he is buried, with a special marker.

#### Feature article...

(Continued from page 1)

adjacent to what was becoming Cincinnati's new suburb of Clinton where prominent families were beginning to settle. The new Spring Grove board rejected a proposal from the Philadelphian who had laid out Laurel Hill—much to his anger—because he preferred geometric shapes to the natural contours of the land and left burials in swampy places. Howard Daniels was invited to submit his plans and sent him on a month-long trip to Mt, Auburn and other rural cemeteries; he returned with not only plans for lay out, but he had ideas for monuments, fences, and mausoleums. Her also worked with a civil engineer, Thomas Earnshaw, to use a new method of triangulation that created a feeling of well-planned but informal lots.

However well received, Daniels's vision began to change dramatically with others' visions. He lamented the loss of the feeling of a rural countryside landscape with the many trees and shrub plantings preferred by Victorians. Trees were imported from other parts of America, from Asia and Europe, and

even Siberia, in landscapes to provide dramatic changes of seasonal colors and dramatic backdrops. The Cincinnati Horticultural Society took an active role in decisions.

When Daniels took charge of overseeing Green Lawn's development, he was faced with dramatically different circumstances—but ones that allowed his vision of a true rural cemetery to take root. Green Lawn was to be laid out on a virgin woodland that once was part of the Isaac Minor cattle and horse farm. Donated in large part by Mary Minor Wharton, the land had centuries old trees and gentle ridges. There was no need to level ridges too steep for carriages. Natural contours of the land were enhanced with the use of triangulation used in Spring Grove. Victorian love of nature could be celebrated by a landscape as it might have been seen by those who saw it in the late 1700s.

Perhaps the best testimony to Green Lawn's interpretation of what a rural cemetery could be is that Howard Daniels is buried with a modest marker in Green Lawn.

— End of Feature Article —

Security camera image from the fall shows a handsome buck







Window depicting Moses in the Lazarus family mausoleum. Over 50 members of the Lazarus family recently visited Green Lawn during their family reunion.

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

facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus



#### Green Lawn 2017 - 2018 Annual Campaign

We gratefully acknowledge all donors to the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Annual Campaign

(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) and want you to know that we appreciate each of you for your Partnership. We really do count on your generous annual support in maintaining the architectural treasures and natural environment at Green Lawn. Thank you for your investment in this Very Special Park!

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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: randel rogers@hotmail.com.

## **Planting Policy**

Green Lawn Cemetery prides itself in preserving a remnant of Ohio's native mixed-oak forest and being both a registered arboretum and part of an Audubon Important Bird Area. Nature is truly part of what makes Green Lawn a special place, and our policies are designed to ensure that special beauty is maintained.

Please review the rules for decorating lots before you plant anything to make sure you know what type of plants, if any, are allowed on your lot.

If plants are allowed, we strongly encourage you to use native plants suitable for the amount of sunlight your lot receives and taking into consideration that many lots have fairly dry soil in the summer. Your nursery can recommend appropriate plants, and there are many online guides including suggestions for natives that take the place of many ornamentals.

If you are considering a shrub or tree, it is encouraged that you request a consult with the cemetery staff who are happy to review your lot and recommend some great choices.

Native or otherwise we want your plants to please you and be compatible with the cemetery.

Below is a list of plants that ARE NOT permitted at Green Lawn. These plants will be immediately removed if found on the grounds:

## Non-native Invasive Species (Banned from Planting on Property)

- 1. Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*
- 2. Japanese Knotweed *Polyonum cuspidatum*
- 3. Japanese Barberry Berberis thunbergii
- 4. Autumn Olive *Elaeagnus umbellate*
- 5. Buckthorns Rhamnus frangula, R. cathartica
- 6. Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria
- 7. Common Reed or Phragmites *Phragmites australix*
- 8. Reed Canary Grass Phalaris arundinaciea
- 9. Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolate

- 10.Multiflora Rose Rosa multiflora
- 11.Bush Honeysuckles *Lonicera maackii, L.*

tatrica, L. morrowii

12. Callery Pear – *Pyrus Calleryana* – includes

ALL varieties of pear trees

13. Tree of Heaven - Ailanthus altissima

14.Burning Bush - Euonymus alatus

15. Wintercreeper - Euonymus fortune

16.Bambo - Bambusoideae

## **Decorating Policy**

- \* Clean up dates will be January 31<sup>st</sup>, April 31<sup>st</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup>, and November 15<sup>th</sup> annually. The cemetery reserves the right to clean up anytime displays are unsightly or unsafe.
- Only grass may be on top of the grave.
- \* Glass vases, bottles, stone chips, fencing, edging materials, shepherd hooks, toys, ornaments, or other unsafe decorations are not permitted.
- Lighted or battery powered decorations are not permitted.
- \* Decorations will not be attached to or hung from trees.
- \* No balloons will be released or left on lots.
- \* Permanent adornments are not permitted on flush marker lots.
- \* Flower and shrub planting permitted only on monument lots and may not intrude onto another lot. See the full policy at the office before you plant, plantings that exceed policy will be removed.

The full decorating policy is available at the office. These rules are designed to assist in keeping the cemetery beautiful and safe for visitors and employees. Please contact the Cemetery Office if you have any questions regarding your lot.

Thank you for your cooperation!

## 2018 Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

Most Events are Free and open to the Public

- \*\*August 25<sup>th</sup>: "Introduction to Cemetery Preservation" Held in partnership with the Ohio History Connection, learn cemetery preservation practices with archaeologist, Krista Horrocks. This one day class will begin in the morning at the *Ohio History Connection* to discuss cemetery recordation, preservation practices, and research techniques, then move to Green Lawn Cemetery for a delicious box lunch and a handson gravestone cleaning workshop. Advance tickets required. Visit *OhioHistory.org* for details.
- \*September 1st: Pending. To Be Announced.
- \*October 6<sup>th</sup>: "Washington Gladden: Prophet of the Social Gospel" by Tim Ahrens from First Congregational Church. A short presentation in the chapel will be followed by an unveiling of a new sign and re-dedication of the Gladden lot in Section M.
- \*\*October 28, 2:00pm-4:00pm: "Fall 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 Rodgers, 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.columbuslandarks.org/event/or call Columbus Landmarks at 614-221-0227.
- \*November 3rd: Follow-up on "Stories in Stones from around the World" with Dale Gnidovec, Curator & Collections Manager-School of Earth Sciences at The Ohio State University. Dale's first presentation was so fascinating to those attending, he has agreed to do another talk. This time, he will be selecting a few stone monuments located in Green Lawn to give some insight into the type of stone used, and why they may have been chosen. Presentation held inside the Huntington Chapel.
- \*December 1st: Pending. To Be Announced.
- \*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.

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