



# Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery

Spring 2015

## *Henry Moore Neil*

*By Doreen Uhas Sauer*

This spring, the nation commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. A replica of the train used to carry President Abraham Lincoln's body from Washington, D.C. back to Springfield, Illinois travel through the stops that were on Lincoln's itinerary for inauguration, including a stop in Columbus. Re-enactors will be called upon at many occasions to help educate the public about the war's importance.

Green Lawn Cemetery has many graves and monuments associated with the Civil War, including the Franklin County War Memorial erected by the Franklin County Ex-Soldiers and Sailors Association and the County Commissioners, said to be very unusual in that it portrays a grieving child as part of the statue grouping, and a historical marker at the grave of Ovid Wellford Smith, a 16 year old who volunteered to be part of Andrews' Raiders, a bold move against Confederate supply lines, and became a Medal of Honor recipient in 1864. Other graves in family plots, like Oscar Kelton's resting place, are reminders that sometimes only the wealthy had the means to travel to bring home a fallen son or father.

Perhaps there are many veterans' graves that are not recognized, and their stories are unknown. Within the last few years, demographic historian, J. David Hacker, has done the most exhaustive research to date to obtain a more accurate count of those who died in the war. His work shows a 20% higher estimate of Americans who died (North and South), from 618,222 to 750,000, knowing a more accurate count from the Confederacy is almost impossible. This underscores, as historian Eric Foner says, that "the war was central to American history." Sometimes the memory of a Civil War experience is embedded so deeply in the fabric of the community, it is overlooked.

Henry Moore Neil, the second son of stagecoach king William Neil (of Neil House fame) and his wife Hannah, of philanthropic fame, was 29 years old when the war started. As the son of one of the city's richest businessmen and the brother-in-law of Ohio Governor William Dennison, Neil's future could have been ensured with a safe desk job and the rank of colonel.

However, Henry Neil enlisted as a private three days after Fort Sumter, and became the first man to enlist in Ohio. Within three days after enlisting, he raised a company. He served in a number of ways, earning the rank of lieutenant in the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Battery of Light Artillery. He participated in a number of battles, including battles at Fort Pillow, (continued on page 5)

### *Puzzle*

In the article above, it mentions that accurate counts of death tolls from the Confederacy are almost impossible to obtain. Why is this? Check on page 5 to see if you were right.

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## *President's Message*

The talent and energy of people pulling together - volunteers, board members, committees, community partners and staff - make it possible to meet the needs of our families, educate the next generation and build for the future at Green Lawn. It is a privilege to serve as your board president and I will do my best to honor the combined wishes of so many.

I will also keep you well informed, and it is my pleasure to announce the election of three new board members, each with strong ties to the community and to Green Lawn:

Kelly Casto	Asset Manager/Broker at Casto
Missy Ricksecker	Owner, Falling Ink
Kevin Schoedinger	Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Services

We appreciate their interest, time and talent. We also appreciate Peter Halliday, who retired from the board but will remain one of the cemetery's generous friends.

Finally, many of you know that board member Joel Chester passed away. Joel was a member of the Grounds and Historic Preservation Committee and enthusiastically supported many projects at Green Lawn during his term on the board. We are so grateful for his leadership and for the time we spent with him.

Green Lawn will soon welcome more than 2,000 friends and family members over Memorial Day weekend. It is one of the most beautiful times of the year to enjoy Green Lawn's 360 acres of architecture, history and nature. I hope that each of you will spend a morning or an afternoon walking or biking through the cemetery this spring.

As the Friends of Green Lawn, it is our privilege and responsibility to honor those we love by taking good care of this Very Special Park. My personal thanks to each of you for your continued investment!

Sincerely,

Yoci Vorys  
President



**February 7, 2015  
First Saturday Program  
Trees of Green Lawn**

Lisa Bowers of the ODNR Division of Forestry provided a talk on the "Trees of Green Lawn" on February 7. Green Lawn is home to over 160 species of trees, including several state champion trees. Over 60% of Ohio's native tree species reside at Green Lawn.



**April 4, 2015  
First Saturday Program  
Archaeology**

Dave Snyder of the Ohio History Connection presented "Stepping Outside of the Site to Build New Archaeological Interpretations" on April 4 at Green Lawn.

Snyder said, "Archaeologists are often buried under mountains of data. At times, it becomes difficult to see the bigger context when the focus is on the artifacts from a single site." Using Geographic Information System (GIS) programs, Snyder offers ideas to help better understand important changes that occurred during millennia of American Indian occupations.



## Calendar of Events

*First Saturday at Green Lawn, held the first Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. in the Huntington Chapel, takes a look at the lives of people interred here. Programs are free and open to the public.*

**May 2** – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Gravestone Restoration.*

**May 22** - Memorial Day Weekend The Governor Dennison Camp #1 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Noon - 4 p.m.

**May 22** - VFW #4044 West & VFW #3763 South - Setting Flags for Veterans - 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**May 23** – Memorial Day Weekend Ceremony - Circle M - 11 a.m.

**May 25** - Memorial Day Services VA Section 104 & 105 11:00 a.m. - Noon

**June 6** – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *War of 1812.* Cliff Eckle

**July 4** - Holiday

**August 1** – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Gravestone Restoration Workshop.* Misti Spillman provides a workshop on how to restore gravestones.

**September 5** – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Understanding Ice Age Relics and Climate Change.*

Tracy Bleim of Cedar Bog Nature Preserve shares information on the changes that have occurred at Cedar Bog.

**October 3** – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *World War I and II Gardens.* Lisa Wood of Ohio History Connection.

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At Green-Lawn-Cemetery



## Spring is in the Air!

*By Randel Rogers*

The excitement of spring is in the air at Green Lawn! Most dramatically, great horned owls have returned to their nesting tree after being missed for the last couple of years and have successfully fledged an owlet. Former board member Jim McCormac has shared some amazing photos of the baby owl as it has quickly grown. Our bluebird trail is likewise already producing a new generation of songbirds, with bluebirds and tree swallows in residence. This summer we are working to enhance breeding habitat in the park by installing additional bluebird boxes, a box for American kestrels, and planting new trees and shrubs.

Having completed a mapped inventory of 4,343 landscape trees, we are continuing to work on improving our tree collection. The Little Garden Club of Columbus is helping these efforts with a grant of \$2,500 which will allow us to label over 100 trees and establish an educational native tree trail. The tree trail is a major goal for this year, as not only will it provide more education opportunities, but it will also allow us to apply for Tier II status as an arboretum. The Little Garden Club of Columbus has been a great friend to our park, and their generous grant is greatly appreciated!

I hope everyone gets a chance to walk through the park this spring - and if you bring your pooch, you will find three stations along the main routes that dispense waste bags for your convenience. We added these stations as a service to our growing dog walking community. If you do come out, bring your binoculars for the birds and a camera to take pictures for the annual photography contest!

## Henry Moore Neil Article Cont'd

Fort Madrid, and Corinth. But in September 1862, Neil had more than a brush with death.

In Mississippi, he was severely wounded in three different parts of his body and his battery suffered a greater loss than any other battery during the war in a single engagement, losing 58 men out of 102. When the battle was over, only three horses survived.

It was at this battle, Neil was made a colonel of the United States Volunteers. He continued in his command for several weeks and was wounded a fourth time so severely he was sent home by General Rosecrans. By the following year, Neil was again in active battle, including a pursuit of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan, and the siege of Knoxville.

He survived to come home, taking residence in his brother Robert's mansion, took up the family's business and real estate affairs, and platted the land that surrounded the "residential suburb" of family lands north of downtown. His father's house was located in what would become The Ohio State University in the orchard that surrounded the spring (Mirror Lake). The other Neil house was located a short distance to the east on a hill. It still stands near the corner of Indianola and Fifteenth Avenues, though greatly altered, ironically, to look like a Southern mansion with pillars. It has been the Kappa Sigma fraternity house since the early 20th century.

Henry Neil named his new subdivision "Indianola" for the town near the battle of Iuka, where he had been so severely wounded and where he earned his rank as colonel. The winding drive to his house followed a ravine; he named them both Iuka. The subdivision of Indianola gave name to the Avenue and with it names for two schools, a number of churches, and countless businesses. The names of "Iuka" and "Indianola" in effect are a memorial to a defining moment in the Civil War.

Henry Neil died in 1929. He was buried in Section 43, lot 1, with sixteen other family members and where as late as 2006, he was joined by a granddaughter.

## 2015 Calendars are For Sale

The 2015 Green Lawn calendar that features outstanding photos from the annual photo contest is now available. The calendars are available at the Green Lawn office for \$10. If you wish to order a calendar through the mail, the cost is \$12, which includes postage to mail it to you. Please contact Green Lawn at [contactus@greenlawncemetery.org](mailto:contactus@greenlawncemetery.org) to order your calendar.

## Answer to the Puzzle

The destruction of the Confederate Army and many of its records limited investigators to partial counts. This made an accurate count from the Confederacy nearly impossible to obtain.

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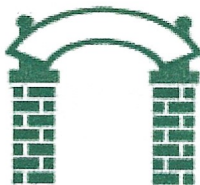
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April – October  
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM



**OFFICE**  
Monday – Friday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Saturday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Sunday  
Noon to 4:00 PM



**CHAPEL**  
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Saturday  
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Sunday  
Noon to 4 PM



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**Green Lawn Heritage Newsletter**

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