



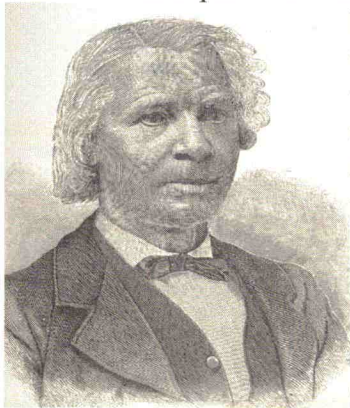
Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Fall 2013

James Poindexter left his mark on Columbus

James Poindexter was one of the early residents of Columbus and an ambitious man who scored numerous firsts for the black man.

Poindexter, whose father was a Richmond, Virginia, newspaperman, and mother part African-American and part Cherokee, came to Columbus in 1838 at the age of 19 from Richmond. He was a barber and opened a shop downtown across from the Statehouse. He joined the Second Baptist Church, a small black church, and conducted services until an ordained minister could be found. When Poindexter learned some new members were slave holders in their native Virginia, he led a delegation to another church. Ten years later, Poindexter, now an ordained Baptist minister, merged the two churches, where he preached for 40 years, resigning in 1898, when he was 79 years old.



Poindexter was always active in the Columbus community. During the Civil War, he and his wife Adelia formed the Colored Soldiers Relief Society to help the black soldiers and their families. He was also a conductor on the Underground Railroad, often supplying wagons and horses to help the slaves on their way to Canada.

Blacks were not allowed to vote until 1870, but Poindexter used his Indian heritage to register as an Indian to vote.

In 1880 he was elected to the Columbus City Council and served for four years. The year after his election, he worked to close some schools where black children attended because the schools were in such poor condition. That brought both white and black students together in the same classroom.

Read more on James Poindexter on Page 3



Puzzle

Some families remember their loved ones in special ways. In your visits to Green Lawn, have you seen this one, a helmet on the grave of a veteran.

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President's Message

Long before our city leaders had ever dreamed of a Bicentennial Park, Columbus Commons or Scioto Mile, Green Lawn Cemetery provided not only the final resting place for our founders and forebears, but also a park-like setting for family picnics and horse-drawn carriage rides. Today, Green Lawn is a 360-acre symphony of art, architecture, history and nature, continuing to offer a peaceful escape from city life complete with a view of Columbus' modern skyline!

With your support Green Lawn is able to fulfill its mission of caring for our families and friends while preserving the heritage and natural environment of the cemetery. The Friends of Green Lawn have helped with restoration of the Huntington Chapel and other significant monuments, replacement of ancient trees and native plants that attract our feathered friends, re-binding the generations-old Plat Books, and meeting the community's future needs with a state-of-the-art Webcemeteries database.

We depend on you, and we need more friends like you! The commitment of our Volunteers, Donors, Board and Staff is helping to keep 164 years of Columbus history alive for the entire community while we care for all those in our trust.

Green Lawn is a beloved community asset and your investment keeps this very special park beautiful. Please note the list of Fiscal Year 2012-13 Annual Campaign donors in this issue and congratulate yourselves on a very successful year. Thank you so much!

And not to be left out, as if to show their appreciation, the trees of Green Lawn are putting on a spectacular show for you this fall! I hope that you will have the opportunity to visit.

Sincerely,

Christina Brown
President

Shirley Sloan Retires

Family Service Advisor Shirley Sloan has closed out a 36-year career in cemetery sales and is heading to Florida while she can still to carry her own golf clubs. She laughs as she says she'll be riding in a golf cart.

Shirley began her career in cemetery sales in 1977 in Sidney when a job opened up while she was waiting to start another job. She never looked back to that other job. A couple years later her boss moved to Columbus and persuaded her to do the same. She got on with Green Lawn in the fall of 1979.

She called it a good move.

"I enjoy helping families," she said of her work of the past 34 years at Green Lawn.

She's helped many families, both at their time of need and well in advance.

"I talked a lot of people into buying when they wouldn't have," she recalled. "And many of them thanked me later."

Shirley and her son will be moving to Florida to be near another son, and of course, numerous golf courses.

Green Lawn wishes her a long life in retirement as well as improving golf scores. She and her infectious laugh will be missed.

Calendars are for sale

The 2014 calendars pay tribute to veterans. Each page contains a couple of sentences about veterans at Green Lawn, including those of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, National Guard, and the Medal of Honor recipients.

Photos in the calendar come from entries in the recent Green Lawn Photo Contest.

These calendars are available at the Green Lawn office or through the Green Lawn Volunteers for \$10. You can also order a calendar through the website at www.greenlawncemetery.org or through the mail. Please add an extra \$2 for postage.

Answer to the Puzzle

An army helmet decorates the marker of Herbert C. McCarty at Section 94, Lot 3692. It's a loving testimony to a military veteran



Jack Gets Gubernatorial Appointment

Jack Lee-Harris, Green Lawn General Manager, was appointed by Gov. John Kasich to the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission this past Aug. 20.

The Commission reviews and assists with complaints and resolution for families and cemeteries. The Commission is guided by The Ohio Revised Code Cemetery laws.

Jack was elected to the Cremation Review Board by the Commission during his first meeting.

WE RETURN TO STANDARD TIME NOVEMBER 3. OUR GATES CLOSE AT 5 P.M. DAILY

More on James Poindexter, from Page 1

Poindexter left City Council to take a seat on the Columbus Board of Education, replacing his good friend Dr. Starling Loving (Section P, Lot 52) and was victorious in the ensuing elections. He thus became the first African-American to serve on both the City Council and the Board of Education. He was also a trustee of the Ohio School for the Blind.

Born Sept. 25, 1819, in Richmond, Poindexter became well known in Columbus before his death Feb. 7, 1907, of pneumonia. He is buried in Section 28, Lot 150.

Many years later when the federal government built public housing for low-income citizens – known as the projects – the first such unit was built in Columbus and given the name Poindexter Village. President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to Columbus to help dedicate this housing project. Today the 25-building complex is run down and buildings have been razed.

Wreaths Are Coming

Once again Green Lawn is proud to participate in Wreaths Across America on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Six hundred wreaths will be placed on graves in Section 71 after a short program at noon that pays tribute to World War I veterans.

The community is being asked to help with this project that will take less than a half an hour of your time. If you wish to volunteer, visit www.greenlawncemetery.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator by phone at 614-266-5218 or at sand-lot17@juno.com.

Monitoring the Nest Box Trail at Green Lawn

*By Warren I. Grody
Audubon Society*

It was March 2010. I had just finished filling the bird feeders at the Pit and I decided to stop to check the nesting Great Horned Owls. As I trained my spotting scope on the owlets, I heard someone call my name. I looked up and found Darlene Sillick, Ohio's Bluebird lady, waving at me. As I approached, Darlene said, "Warren, I've got a job that you are just going to love!! How would you like to monitor a nest box trail here in the cemetery?" I didn't know anything about monitoring nest boxes, but I did know that with Darlene resistance is futile, so I said yes. She taught me the basics about Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nests and set me loose.

I have just finished monitoring the trail for my fourth season. At Green Lawn, the trail consists of four nest boxes. Box one is located beside the butterfly garden and the other three are located in the prairie across the street from the office. In the last four years, 35 Eastern Bluebird chicks and 37 Tree Swallow chicks have fledged from those four boxes.

I monitor the boxes to make sure they are not overrun by non-native invasive species, such as House Sparrows, and to remove threats to the new chicks, such as wasp nests. I also count eggs and chicks. On my normal rounds, I have the box open for about a minute and then I move on. This happens about twice a week. To monitor the nests any more frequently might cause too much disturbance for the chicks. For the first time this year, my data was entered into a citizen science database at Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Nestwatch, where it will be used to monitor the health of bird populations.



You learn quite a bit about bird behavior when you monitor their nests. For instance, our two target species react differently when I check the boxes. I always try to make noise as I approach so the adults have time to leave the nest before I open the box. Bluebirds will fly for the trees and mostly disappear. They want nothing to do with a human at their nest. Not so with the Tree Swallows. They fly around, get a really good bead on me, and buzz right past my ears while clicking their beaks. And it isn't just the adults nesting in the box I am checking. It seems that all of the adults nesting in the area will form a flight and take turns. I have had as many of five of them make passes at me while I tried to count chicks in a nest. As the season progresses, they also seem to recognize me (it must be the hat) so they will start to harass me as I approach the edge of the prairie and they will continue until I have exited the area completely.

Just when you think you have everything figured out, you will run into an individual who acts differently. In one nest box this year, a female Bluebird simply refused to leave the nest when I opened the box. Instead, we would stare at each other. On a single occasion, she moved to the back of the nest so I could count four blue eggs. After the eggs hatched, she also became the first Bluebird to buzz past my head as I checked her chicks. It was all worth the hassle for me: on May 18, while Darlene and I were leading the monthly bird walk at the cemetery, we were able to band four healthy chicks: two males and two females. Darlene was even able to show us how she determines the hatch order. A little more than a week later, those four chicks fledged. As the breeding season came to a close, our modest trail saw a total of eight Eastern Bluebirds and 10 Tree Swallows take their first flights.

This winter I will maintain the boxes and get them ready for spring. We will start all over again. And that is a wonderful thing.

We gratefully acknowledge all donors to the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Annual Campaign (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) whose generous contributions are depended upon to maintain the architectural treasures and natural environment at Green Lawn. We appreciate each of you for your commitment.

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For questions about making an Annual Campaign donation, a gift to the Endowment Fund or a Planned Gift for Green Lawn Cemetery, please contact Jack Lee-Harris, General Manager, at 614-444-1123 or jleeharris.greenlawncolumbus@gmail.com.

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.

Nov. 2 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *War of 1812*. History re-enactor Leslie Blankenship shares insight into the War of 1812 as it pertained to central Ohio.

Dec. 7 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Birding at Green Lawn*. Warren Grody will share information about the Audubon Society and its work at Green Lawn.

Dec. 8 — Quarterly Sunday program. Children will make holiday decorations popular during the Civil War. Entertainment for adults. 1 p.m. Huntington Chapel.

Dec. 14 — Wreaths Across America. Wreaths will be placed on graves on Section 71. Noon.

Dec. 31 — Photo Contest 2013 closes.

Jan. 1 — Photo contest 2014 opens.

January — Photos on display at Green Lawn office.

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