



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Fall 2011

Bird B. Stith

Last Civil War Veteran in Franklin County

Editor's Note: The nation is observing the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Green Lawn is the final resting place of hundreds of those veterans and others who played a role in the war and reconstruction. Periodically, the Heritage will carry articles about the war and the veterans.

Bird B. Stith goes down in history as the last Civil War veteran in Franklin County. He died in January 1948 at the age of 102.

Stith was born in Catlettsburg, Ky., in November 1845. He entered the Union Army in late March 1865, just a couple of weeks before Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender. Stith's regiment was Company I of the Kentucky 53rd Infantry (Mounted).

His unit conducted operations against guerrillas at various points in Kentucky. He was mustered out in September of that year, serving only six months in the military. He was not yet twenty years old and had earned the rank of corporal.

Stith, whose name shows up both as Bird and Burd in records, was illiterate. Some of his military records only show an "X" for a signature.

He moved around quite a bit, having residences in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia, according to various records.

He moved to Columbus around 1937 after having worked as a farmer. He moved in with a niece and her husband, Mary and Joseph Smith, in Franklinton near Green Lawn. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) which is what the Union veterans organized into after the Civil War. In 1925, the name GAR was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Census records indicate Stith was single in the late 1800s, although the name was listed as Steff. In early 1900 census records he is listed as a widower. A distant relative believes he may have been divorced.

Stith passed away in January 1948. One other Civil War veteran from Ohio outlived him by about 15 months.

In the fall of 2009 the William Dennison Camp #1 of SUVCW recognized him as Franklin County's last Civil War veteran. A plaque on his military marker reads: "Here in honored glory rests the last Union Civil War veteran buried in Franklin County."

This plaque can be found on the back of his military-type marker in Section 71, Block 6, Space 72. This section is commonly known as the resting place of World War I veterans. However, many of those buried in this section served in the Spanish-American War as well as World War I.

Puzzle

Markers tell a lot about people buried there. Have you seen this one at Green Lawn? Check page 2 to see if you were correct.



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President's Message



In the autumn when the trees of Green Lawn Cemetery put on their spectacular show, we are reminded that preserving the beautiful landscape of Green Lawn is a never-ending challenge!

Green Lawn naturally loses about 40 trees annually, and some losses are more devastating than others. For example, the state champion Black Maple in Section D was severely damaged in a June storm, losing a substantial amount of its trunk. Fifteen other mature trees were damaged or uprooted at the same time. The magnificent oaks on Green Lawn's ridge are more than 200 years old and nearing the end of their life spans. As one of Ohio's most significant sites for old-growth trees, it is important to provide a chain of succession of trees so that Green Lawn functions as an urban forest far into the future.

Planting new trees is a high priority for the Friends of Green Lawn. Thanks to the contributions of our generous donors, many lost trees have been replaced with new specimens. We will continue to plant trees whenever funds are available. Please see the list of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Annual Campaign donors in this issue. My personal thanks to each of you for your generosity!

I want to assure you that Green Lawn's Board of Trustees will continue to work with community leaders to positively influence the long-term environmental impact of the proposed redevelopment of Cooper Stadium. We take seriously our responsibility to represent thousands of families holding burial services and visiting loved ones. We will do our best in the coming months to assure the least amount of interruption to our daily activities at Green Lawn.

Sincerely,
Christina Brown



Members of the Green Lawn Board of Trustees have planted a tree in honor of Nancy Duncan Porter's board service. From the left are Denise Clark, Porter, General Manager Linda Burkey, Rich Buchsieb, trustee Nancy Kelly, and Board President Christina Brown.

Answer to Puzzle

Cromwell Dixon learned to fly from associates of the Wright Brothers. He became the first person to fly over the Continental Divide. He was killed in a crash the day after that feat. He is in Section 66, Lot 150.



Green Lawn Cemetery Annual Campaign

We gratefully acknowledge donors to Green Lawn's 2010-2011 Annual Campaign.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year (July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011), Development Committee members helped in generating gifts in support of Green Lawn's historical, architectural, horticultural and avian projects. Many of you will receive a request this fall and others will be contacted in the spring. Wherever you are in the seasonal giving cycle, we want you to know that we really count on your annual support and appreciate each of you for your investment in this Very Special Park!

Sadly, again this year we lost several of our most unforgettable and devoted donors, so please encourage friends and family members to help us continue the legacy of giving at Green Lawn.

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Calendar Celebrates 200 Years

The city of Columbus reaches a great milestone in 2012 — its bicentennial. Many people who played a role in developing the city and its businesses are at rest in Green Lawn.

To pay tribute to the city and its history, the 2012 calendar features information each month about someone buried at Green Lawn who played an important role in Columbus.

Calendars are available at the Green Lawn office, from the Green Lawn Volunteers, or through the website at www.greenlawncolumbus.org.

Photos featured on the calendar are from the collection entered in last year's photo contest. This year's contest closes Dec. 31, so there is still time for you to submit wonderful photos of autumn and winter.

Information on the photo contest and other volunteer opportunities is available through the Volunteer Coordinator at 614-266-5218 or sandlot17@juno.com.



For questions about making an Annual Campaign donation, a gift to the Endowment Fund or a Planned Gift for Green Lawn Cemetery, please contact Linda Burkey, General Manager, at 614-444-1123 or lburkey@greenlawncolumbus.org.

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

October 1 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. The Rev. Tim Ahrens, pastor of the First Congregational Church, will present a program about one of his predecessors, the Rev. Washington Gladden.

October 22 — Make a Difference Day. Numerous projects can be done to help prepare Green Lawn for the winter. Volunteer projects can be done from 9 a.m. to noon. Call 614-266-5218.

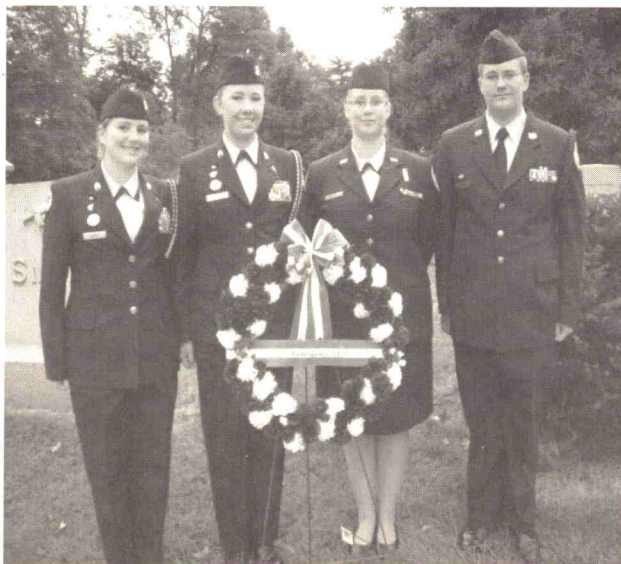
November 5 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Former social studies teacher Mike Schoenfeld talks about World War I.

November 6 — Return to Eastern Standard Time. Gates will close at 5 p.m.

November 11 — Veterans Day.

December 3 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Barbara Powers of the Ohio Historical Society speaks on architect Frank L. Packard.

December 31 — Entries due in the photo contest.



Westland High School Junior Air Force ROTC squadron members remember World War I veteran Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. This squadron has placed a wreath at Rickenbackers grave for nearly 30 years.



Lest We Forget — a 9/11 Tribute

Eighty people associated with the Ohio Association of Second Harvest and Service Corps performed community service Sept. 12 as part of a national service day. Three years ago Sept. 11 was designated Patriot Day, a day of community service. The group chose to work at painting the fence at Green Lawn. They did this in memory of Eamon McEneaney, a senior vice president at Cantor Fitzgerald who lost his life in the attack on the World Trade Center in New York Sept. 11, 2001.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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Fax: (614)444-9815
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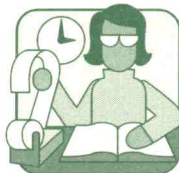
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OFFICE
Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday
Noon to 4:00 PM



CHAPEL
Monday - Friday
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