



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Spring 2011

The Druids of Green Lawn

By Kelli Bergheimer

In a quiet section of Green Lawn Cemetery, an unusual monument draws curiosity seekers from all corners. In Section S, Lot 100 is a monument to the United Ancient Order of the Druids, Columbus Grove No. 10. The location can even be found on Green Lawn's Visitor's Guide.

The Druids historically are known more for Stonehenge and solstices, but this United Ancient Order of the Druids in Columbus, Ohio, in the 1850s most likely was a fraternal organization built on a common German language and heritage and the founding American principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness inherent in a free nation. In 1771 a Grove or Lodge of Druidism was organized in London, England. The Grove in London was started purportedly to be a solution to a society that lacks good fellowship, hilarity, and brotherly love. This modern form of Druidism was intended to work on mind, harmony, temperance, energy, and virtue. The first Druid Grove in the United States began in New York City in 1830. The motto of the Druids is "United to Assist."

The local United Ancient Order of the Druids was founded in June 1857. The Columbus City Directory of 1858 lists their meeting hall on the south side of Town Street at the corner with Pearl, between High and Third. Regular meetings were held every Monday evening. Jacob Henry Studer writes in *Columbus, Ohio: its history, resources, and progress*, in 1873 that Columbus Grove No. 10 had 208 members. In May 1871, a state convention drew about 200 members. They formed a procession and marched to City Park where they held a picnic. An article in the *Ohio State Journal* from May 15, 1871, says that the day of festivities and speeches from the convention will end with a ball at Krauss Hall.

Not much is known about these men or why they were buried in one location with the Druid Monument. We can speculate that the fraternal organization wanted to have a burial plot for those wishing to be buried with their brothers. The plot was purchased in 1869 when members Wendelin Fischer and Peter Schwartz were buried in December. In 1871 John Odentahl was interred. Then in 1873, a father and young son, Frederick and Christian Bierley; in 1901 Christian Hagel; and finally in August 1930, John Henry Nimitz. On May 6, 1906, the monument was dedicated to the Columbus Grove No. 10 United Ancient Order of the Druids by George Janton, Fred Herbst, Otto Krauss, and George M Brand.

Mike Harden of *The Columbus Dispatch* wrote on Jan. 16, 2002, that the Columbus Grove members still gathered yearly to honor their dead as recently as the 1970s. Winter solstice, summer solstice, and Halloween are times that people are more likely to make a pilgrimage to touch the stone.

A photo of the Druids marker can be seen on Page 2



Puzzle

The figure at the left stands atop a monument in Section L of Green Lawn. I'm sure you've seen it if you've been on a tour with our Volunteer Coordinator Sandi Latimer. What is so unusual about this monument? See Page 5.

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President's Message



As I write this message, we are enjoying a long-awaited February thaw at Green Lawn Cemetery and looking forward to an early spring. And while there is an enormous amount of clean-up work to do in the coming weeks due to the harsh winter, our leadership has an even greater concern — the long-term economic and environmental impact of the proposed redevelopment of Cooper Stadium into a high-speed motor sports complex.

We are working diligently with other concerned community leaders to insure that the area is redeveloped responsibly and to deter uses which will adversely impact the cemetery and nearby neighborhoods. Green Lawn's Board of Trustees will continue to represent the thousands of families holding burial services and visiting loved ones at the cemetery when making decisions on what actions we take to protect our beautiful park. The current redevelopment proposal has momentum, and we will need everyone's help — every step of the way over the coming months — to preserve the heritage and natural environment of Green Lawn.

One thing is certain — spring will come to Green Lawn again this year! Our staff and volunteers will put in the long days necessary to prepare the grounds for hundreds of visitors. And we will soon be enjoying lovely walks and bike rides through this Very Special Park.

Thanks to all of you — the Friends of Green Lawn — for your time, expertise and financial contributions. Your investment in the future is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Christina Brown



*The Druids marker in Section S
See story on Page 1*

Have You Been to First Saturday?

The popular First Saturday program at Green Lawn continues to draw audiences of both returnees and newcomers to the Huntington Chapel. If you haven't attended one of our monthly programs, here is what you have missed.

In January, Green Lawn Volunteer Diana Mercer introduced us to William Coggeshall, a state librarian, friend of President Lincoln and an ambassador to South America.

The next month Melanie Pratt showed slides of different types of markers and talked about how to clean them.

In March, Jan Williams, a docent at the Thurber House, walked the audience through the home of the famed author and had them writing endings to Thurber's stories.

The monthly programs offer a look into the lives of people interred at Green Lawn. Mark your Green Lawn calendar for these exciting programs.

DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, OUR GATES ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

Cooper Stadium Update

Rezoning the former Cooper Stadium to planned commercial development to allow for the creation of a race track and entertainment center is facing another hurdle.

Despite pleas to turn down a zoning change request for the Cooper Stadium land, the Development Commission of the City of Columbus cast a 5-0 vote Feb. 10 to send the rezoning request to City Council.

The issue seemed to be on the fast track to turn the one-time baseball stadium into a race track, automotive technology and entertainment center. But one week later, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman came out in opposition to the plan, saying he doesn't think the developer has done enough to address the noise problem in the Franklinton area. The mayor said that until that issue is addressed, he will withhold his support.

The zoning request will head to City Council. A deadline of May 3 looms for the developer, Arshot Investment Corp., to purchase the 47-acre former stadium and parking area. Arshot proposes to invest between \$30 and \$40 million for a race track, testing center, restaurants, a small hotel, and an entertainment center.

Opponents said the noise from the area would interrupt graveside services, disturb the serenity visitors have come to expect when they visit their loved ones, possibly threaten the number of birds that seek food and shelter at Green Lawn, even disrupt life at a nearby nursing center. Opponents said they didn't think the planned 35-foot sound barrier that would separate the complex from the cemeteries next door would do the job.

Proponents cited the creation of jobs and revitalization of the area as their reasons for supporting the zoning change that has the support of the South West Area Commission. Coleman said he supports the concept of new jobs for the Franklinton area, but won't lend his support to the proposal until he is satisfied the noise problem is solved.

The Development Commission meeting drew a standing-room-only crowd that saw several Green Lawn staff, board members, and volunteers in the audience. Because of the nature of the topic, Development Commission suspended the regular three-speaker, three-minute each rules and let each side have a half an hour to present its testimony.

Thanks from the Development Committee

The 2010-11 Annual Campaign is moving in the right direction, and as we work to reach our goal, we remind you that it is not too late to make your fall contribution. If you misplaced your request letter and envelope during the holidays, please use the return envelope conveniently enclosed with this copy of the *Heritage*. Every dollar counts and we appreciate your generous support!

Molly Morris, Chair
Development Committee

Volunteer News

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

April 2— First Saturday at Green Lawn. Jeane Candido, a Civil War researcher and author, will share “Letters from the Battlefield,” as Green Lawn observes the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — Civil War-related tours at 2 p.m., starting at the Huntington Chapel.

April 16 — National Volunteer Day projects, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 614-266-5218.

April 16 — Columbus Audubon Birding, 9:30 a.m.

April 22 — Earth Day volunteer projects 9 a.m. to noon. Call 614-266-5218,

April 23 — Columbus Audubon Young Birders, 8:30 a.m.

April 24 — Easter services at the Huntington Chapel, 7 a.m. The public is welcome.

May 7 — First Saturday at Green Lawn, Author Elise Walker will talk about her book “Historic Columbus Crimes” and its connection to people at Green Lawn.

May 7— Join Hands Day, a day of multigenerational volunteering. Tasks can be done between 9 a.m. and noon.

May 7 — Birders Breakfast, starting at 7 a.m. near The Pond.

May 28 — Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War program at 11 a.m. starting at Circle M and marching to Section 28.

May 30 — American Legion Memorial Day program at Section 104 at 11 a.m.

Placemats Available

Green Lawn Volunteers are practicing recycling. They are recycling calendars that were not sold into placemats.

Photos from previous calendars have been laminated for placemats. Each placemat has two gorgeous photos that carry the photographer’s name.

You can purchase these placemats in a package of four for \$5. They are available at the Green Lawn office, at First Saturday programs, and from volunteers as they take the story of Green Lawn into the community.

A New Job

Ohio National Guard Col. Deborah A. Ashenurst, who spoke at the 2009 Veterans’ Day program at Green Lawn, has a new position. She was nominated by Gov. John Kasich to be adjutant general. She is the first woman to hold this position. She joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 1978. Congratulations to Col. Ashenurst!

Thank You Volunteers

Special thanks to some of our volunteers for their research and wonderful articles you’ve enjoyed in recent issues of *Heritage*. These researcher/writers include Leona Gustafson, Patricia Marie, Chuck Miller, Linda Castle, Diana Mercer and Kelly Berghimer. I hope you appreciate their work.

Answer to the Puzzle

The ‘pineapple plant’ on the monument in Section L tops a marker made primarily of zinc. Green Lawn has three such markers; others are in Section X and Section R. Sandi enjoys challenging children on her tours to tap on the markers and see if anyone taps back. Someone in each of her tours will tap on the marker. Monuments such as this were sold through the Sears Roebuck catalogue. If you’d like to see these monuments and more on one of Sandi’s popular tours, make arrangements through her at sandlot17@juno.com.



Enjoy a hobby with respect

If you have a GPS or its cousin Geomate Jr. and are getting involved with geocaching or letterboxing, you can pursue your hobby at Green Lawn.

Check with the appropriate Web sites for locations, set your navigational devices, and go in search of hidden treasures.

Green Lawn has several hidden treasures that draw visitors in search of an item left by another.

Gates are open daily at 7 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time, and at 7 p.m. during Daylight Saving Time.

Enjoy your trek through Green Lawn, but please respect the gravesites. Caches or letterbox items are generally hidden in accessible places.

We Have Winners!

Once again photographers submitted their awesome photos taken at Green Lawn. Rick Palsgrove, managing editor of the Columbus Messenger Newspapers had a difficult time picking a first-, second-, and third-place entries.

After perusing the photos, he chose Karen Wells’ photo of a blossoming magnolia tree in Section M as the first-place photo. “The flowers enhance the markers; the markers enhance the flowers,” he said.

Second place went to Robert Wells for his winter scene along Section 56 “with a splash of color.”

Samantha Hawkins took third place with a shot of the Hayden Mausoleum in winter. Palsgrove liked her use of a mound of snow, the dome on the mausoleum, and the sun off to the side.

Photos are being displayed throughout the community and will be used for the 2012 Green Lawn calendar that will carry a bicentennial theme.

The 2011 contest is now open with entries due Dec. 31.

Editor’s note: Because of space constraints, we were unable to show you the winning photos. However, they will appear in future issues and in the 2012 calendar.

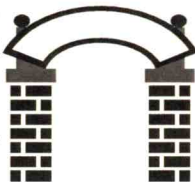
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