



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery

Winter 2015

From the Yangzi River to Green Lawn Cemetery

By Doreen Uhas Sauer

There are thousands of stories in Green Lawn Cemetery, and Columbus Landmarks Foundation has been pleased to partner with Green Lawn over the years to tell many of them. Occasionally, a story comes to light in a most unusual manner, and so it is with this one – the story of Captain Thomas Wright Blakiston.

An Ohio State University student, Wyatt West, texted his mother, Becky West, while he was in Dr. Christopher Reed's class on modern Chinese history, saying Dr. Reed had just mentioned that Blakiston, a noted explorer, might be buried in Columbus – and possibly at Green Lawn. This might seem a bit unusual – since when do college students text their mother about such things? But Becky West is Associate Director of Landmarks (and Dr. Reed is a Landmarks member). She, in turn, sent out the all call to find out.

Within two hours and a trip to Green Lawn to check the card file, there he was: Thomas Blakiston – born in 1828 in Lymington, England, the son of a mayor/baronet and a minister's daughter. He died on October 15, 1891 of pneumonia in Cimarron, New Mexico (though an obituary states he died in California), and was buried in Columbus on October 23, 1891 in the plot owned by his father-in-law, James Dun. The Duns were also identified as having ties to Chillicothe.

Blakiston was a veteran of the Crimean War, an English explorer, a merchant and a banker, and an important naturalist who in 1861 traveled on the Yangtze River in China in the midst of the Taiping Rebellion. He traveled 1800 miles, further than any Westerner before him, and his book, *Five Months on the Yang-tze*, was the navigational standard for the river into the 20th century.

Previously he had explored western Canada from 1857-1859, having the highest point in the Wateron Lakes National Park named for him, Mount Blakison. After traveling from Europe through Siberia and into China, Blakiston spent several years in Japan where he noted that animals in the Hokkaido region (Japan's northern-most island) belonged to the Northern Asian family and differed from others in the southern Honshu region. Bears and wolves in Hokkaido resembled Siberian animals while those in southern Japan were different – leading to an observation the two areas had different geological origins. The narrow straits between the two regions became “Blakiston's Line” to mark the distinction of the animal's and the geography's origins.

Blakiston settled in Ohio, marrying Ohio Senator Thurman's niece, Ann Mary (sometimes listed as Anne) Dun in 1885. The Captain died in 1891, his father-in-law died the following year, and Mrs. Blakiston died in 1937. She is buried in England. Captain Blakiston's grave is in James Dun's Section M lot South ½ of 179.

Puzzle

This photo to the left is of a Fish Owl named for a naturalist buried at Green Lawn Cemetery. It's a sub-group of eagle owls who specialize in hunting in riparian areas. Do you know the naturalist that this owl is named for? Check on page 5 to see if you were right.



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President's Message

I am happy to report that a thoughtful transition is taking place on the Green Lawn Board. Having completed ten years as a board member - this past year as President - it is high-time and my pleasure to pass the gavel on to very capable hands.

Green Lawn's full agenda requires strong leadership, and the Board of Directors has unanimously elected the following Officers for 2015:

President	Yolanda C. Vorys	Huntington National Bank
Vice President	Joseph A. Sugar, III	Arshot Investment Corp.
Treasurer	OPEN	

Yoci Vorys and Joe Sugar bring expertise and energy to the leadership team. And we are pleased to welcome Lynne M. Jeffrey as a new member of the Board. Their dedication to Green Lawn is truly appreciated. We are especially grateful to my fellow retiring board members Carol J. Andreae (Foundation President) and Christina L. Brown (Past President and Community Partnership Committee Chair) for their many contributions during their terms on the Board.

Green Lawn is really a very special place, and I enjoyed my time on the Board. During my tenure, we went through lean times with little sales and tight cash flow to robust times with our partnership with Stonemor. The caliber of our Board members has always been top-notch; professionals who work tirelessly for a cemetery that we all love. My mother is buried in Green Lawn and, if she were alive today, she would be very happy with the condition of Green Lawn and all of the efforts that this Board puts into the welfare and continued success of the cemetery.

Thanks to each of you for your investment and your friendship. It has been an honor and my pleasure to serve as President of the Green Lawn Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey W. Arthur
President

Green Lawn 2015 Annual Campaign

We are grateful for the donations to the 2015 Annual Campaign, and want you to know that we appreciate each of you for your generous support!

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@greenlawncemetery.org



**December 6, 2014
First Saturday Program
Ice Age Mammals**

David Dyer, Curator of Natural History from the Ohio History Connection, provided a specimen-based talk on the Ice Age Mammals from Ohio. Dyer shared mastodon and mammoth teeth, a mastodon rib, giant beaver skull cast, stag-moose leg bone, saber-tooth cast and more with those in attendance.

Wreaths Across America

On a cold December day, Green Lawn staff, board members, volunteers and community members gathered at Section 104 to pay tribute to our veterans. After a short but moving ceremony that included accomplishments of World Wars I and II and the Korean War veterans, those in attendance placed 600 wreaths in Section 104. Green Lawn was pleased to work with the Franklin County Veterans Services Commission to participate in this annual event for the fifth year.



Boy Scout Troop #76 volunteers at Green Lawn for "Wreaths Across America".

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.

February 7 – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Trees of Green Lawn and Ohio.* Lisa Bowers of ODNR Division of Forestry

March 7 – First Saturday at Green Lawn. *Genealogy.* Franklin County Genealogical Society

April 4 – First Saturday at Green Lawn.

May 2 – First Saturday at Green Lawn.

June 6 – First Saturday at Green Lawn.

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

Heritage

“Conestoga Tour” at Green Lawn Cemetery

On an extremely cold day in mid-November, members of Conestoga, a part of The Ohio History Connection, visited Green Lawn Cemetery. The group gathered in the Huntington Chapel and were welcomed by Jack Lee-Harris, General Manager of Green Lawn Cemetery.

Board Trustee Randy Rogers shared highlights of the cemetery’s natural environment, including the trees and wildlife that make Green Lawn Cemetery a beloved 360-acre park.

Then everyone headed outdoors to experience Green Lawn’s architecture and natural beauty first-hand. Doreen Uhas Sauer, Director for Education and Outreach at Columbus Landmarks, led a walking tour around the Family mausoleums and our Pond focusing on Green Lawn’s heritage. She shared histories of our city’s founders along Sections 85 and 100 including notable women and other unforgettable characters buried at Green Lawn. Between stories, Randy Rogers identified native trees for the group and pointed out many of our feathered friends.

Thank you, Geoff !!

In 2004, Geoffrey W. Arthur was nominated to the Board of Trustees of Green Lawn Cemetery and during the past ten years he has generously donated considerable time and talent to benefit this very special park. As President in 2014, Geoff provided the team leadership and professional expertise needed to manage development at the cemetery while building upon Green Lawn’s community partnerships.

Geoff’s commitment to Green Lawn is clearly based upon his respect for our Founders and families. His contributions over ten years will help keep Columbus history alive to meet the community’s research and educational needs for years to come. Though his time on the Board has ended (for now!), we know that our friend Geoff Arthur will always be a very special Friend of Green Lawn.

Thank you, Geoff!



Following the visit, Laura Eckler, Chair of Conestoga, commented, “I think we succeeded in educating (over 50) members about the historic figures and nature that is Green Lawn Cemetery. We all appreciated your time and hospitality.” Other sincere thank you’s came from various Conestoga members as well.

Please feel free to call our Administration Office at 614-444-1123 about tour information.

2014 Photo Contest Winners

There were over a dozen different entries submitted by area residents in 2014 for Green Lawn’s annual photo contest. Photos taken of Central Ohio’s largest cemetery throughout the year were submitted by the end of December. Entries were judged and the top three winners were notified of their awards.

Our first place entry this year is by Karen Wells. Robert Wells entered the winning second place photo. Third place went to Sue Pascual. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in the photo contest.

Winning photos are also used in our annual calendar that Green Lawn volunteers sell as a fund-raising project and have often been used in cemetery promotions.

The photos will be on display throughout Columbus in 2015. Contact the office at contactus@greenlawncemetery.org for the schedule details.

We thank all of our entrants from this year’s contest, and we look forward to and expect another fine class for the 2015 Photo Contest.

Sincerely,

Jack Lee-Harris



Above is the first place winning photo taken by Karen Wells titled "Bridge Perspective".



Above is third place winning photo taken by Sue Pascual titled "Majestic".



Second place winning photo above taken by Robert Wells titled "A Little Color".

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 to order your calendar.

Answer to the Puzzle

The Fish Owl in the photo on page 1 is named for Captain Thomas Wright Blakiston, the Blakiston's Fish Owl. Henry Seebohm named this bird after Blakiston, who collected the original specimen in Japan in 1883.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Email: contactus@greenlawncemetery.org
www.greenlawncemetery.org



CEMETERY GATES

Open 7 Days/Week
November-March
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
April – October
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM



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



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Green Lawn Heritage Newsletter

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