



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Spring 2013

Green Lawn was hit by flooding 100 years ago

The year 1913 dawned warmer than usual in many parts of the country as well as central Ohio. Heavy rain fell in January, causing some minor flooding and leaving the ground saturated.

As central Ohioans began looking forward to Easter and wearing their spring finery, cold winds swept through the Ohio Valley from the Upper Midwest, plunging temperatures from a balmy 60 to below freezing.

Then came the rain on Easter Sunday March 23, rain that didn't want to let up. Between 6 and 11 inches of rain fell in Ohio. Rivers were running high from earlier rains and the ground was still wet.

Rivers quickly overflowed their banks and into the streets of many towns. By Tuesday, March 25, water in Franklinton just west of the Scioto River was in the second floor of homes, and residents were being rescued in row boats.

This area had several frame, two-story houses that toppled like dominoes. Levees at both Broad Street and Sandusky Street broke and like nearly every bridge spanning the Olentangy and Scioto rivers were swept away into the roaring flood waters.

Evacuated people swarmed City Hall. Information was compiled so their families would know how to locate them. These people were also given food and clothing.

Green Lawn Cemetery was not spared. Flood waters covered the grounds and as they receded, left tree debris behind – tree debris much like that left behind by Hurricane Ike's high winds of September 2008.

By the time all the flood waters went down, 93 residents of Columbus were dead, and five thousand buildings were destroyed. The death toll surpassed 450 throughout Ohio.

A dam built a few years before was 35 feet high and held back 1.2 million gallons of water. Rumors flourished that the dam broke, but this dam held. In later years, this dam bore the name of the city engineer in the early 1900s, Julian Griggs (Section 82, Lot 314) who died in 1922.

Columbus received federal aid – one million rations, 20,000 cots, 4,000 tents, 30,000 blankets, 100 hospital tents, 5,000 cans of milk for children, 5,000 wound dressings, 10,000 syringe needles and 5,000 doses of typhoid vaccine.

Continued on page 7 with photos of then and now



Puzzle

Many monuments and markers at Green Lawn Cemetery show off some ornamentation. The photo at the left shows the elegance of one of the large monuments. Have you seen it? Do you know where it is? Check on page 7 to see if you were right.

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President's Message

Spring is in the air at Green Lawn, and I hope to see you at one of our educational events or simply enjoying a walk through this Very Special Park. More than 2,000 friends and family members will visit Green Lawn over Memorial Day, always the busiest and one of the most beautiful weekends of the year. Special thanks to the volunteers and staff who will be working to keep up with Mother Nature in the coming weeks.

Our Board of Directors is delighted to welcome three new members — Peter Halliday, John O'Meara and Joe Sugar — who together bring a wealth of financial, environmental and community relations experience to the Board along with their personal commitments to the cemetery. Our leadership is energized to fulfill Green Lawn's mission of caring for our families and friends while preserving the heritage and natural environment of the cemetery with an eye always on the future.

Green Lawn staff members are currently copying cemetery records to a state-of-the-art Webcemeteries database. The Webcemeteries project will keep 165 years of Columbus history alive and safely stored to meet the community's research and educational needs in this century. The new technology has the capacity to enhance the experience of all visitors, particularly grade-school students touring Green Lawn to learn about our Founders Society members and other notables who transformed the City of Columbus from a frontier town to a modern metropolis. Look for more information about Webcemeteries in upcoming newsletters.

Please note the list of Fall 2012 Annual Campaign donors in this issue. My personal thanks to each of you for your generosity! Sadly, we have lost some of our most generous, unforgettable and devoted donors, so I ask that you encourage friends and family members to help us continue the legacy of giving at Green Lawn.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication. These are exciting days, especially for the migrating birds!

Christina Brown
President

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

March — Green Lawn Photo contest entries on display at Whetstone Community Center, 3923 N. High St.

April — Photos on display at Dodge Recreation Center, 667 Sullivant Ave.

April 6 — First Saturday at Green Lawn.

May — Photos on display at Reynoldsburg Senior Center, 1520 Davidson Dr.

May 4 — First Saturday at Green Lawn.. Early Franklin County history.

May 25 — Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War program, 11 a.m. Circle M.

May 27 — Memorial Day program, 11 a.m. Section 104.

June 1 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Ferdinand Howald and his role in the development of the Columbus Museum of Art.

June 2 — Quarterly Sunday tour. Green Lawn Bingo

July — Photos on display at Westerville Public Library, 126 S. State St.

July 6 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Phil Stichter will speak on one of his ancestors, William B. Thrall, a founder of Green Lawn Cemetery.

Aug. 3 — First Saturday at Green Lawn celebrates the cemetery's anniversary with its annual Treasure Hunt.

IT'S DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.
GATES ARE OPEN UNTIL 7 P.M.
DAILY

GreenLawn 2012-13 Annual Campaign

We gratefully acknowledge the Fall 2012 donors to the 2012-2013 Annual Campaign, and want you to know that we appreciate each of you for your generous support! If your name is not among the following list of donations (as of March 1, 2013), we will be writing to you during the spring portion of the annual campaign and thank you in advance for your commitment to Green Lawn. Wherever you are in the seasonal giving cycle, we want you to know that we really do count on your investment in this Very Special Park!

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.

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Wreaths Across America



On a cold and blustery December day, Green Lawn staff, board members, volunteers and community members gathered at Section 51 to pay tribute to our veterans. After a short but moving ceremony that included accomplishments of Spanish-American War veterans, those in attendance placed wreaths at 600 graves, including the five Medal of Honor recipients buried at Green Lawn.

Green Lawn was pleased to work with the Franklin County Veterans Services Commission to participate in this annual event for the third time.

The major accomplishment of the Spanish-American War veterans was the formation of what is now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, founded in Columbus.



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At Green-Lawn-Cemetery

Photo Contest Winners

A Cincinnati couple who are regular visitors to Green Lawn took the top prizes in the annual Green Lawn photo contest.

Robert Wells won the \$300 first prize and his wife Karen second place of \$200. Third place of \$100 went to Joy Rector of the Westgate area near Green Lawn.

Photos are being displayed throughout Franklin County throughout the year, primarily in community centers and libraries. If you would like the photos in your neighborhood, please let us know.

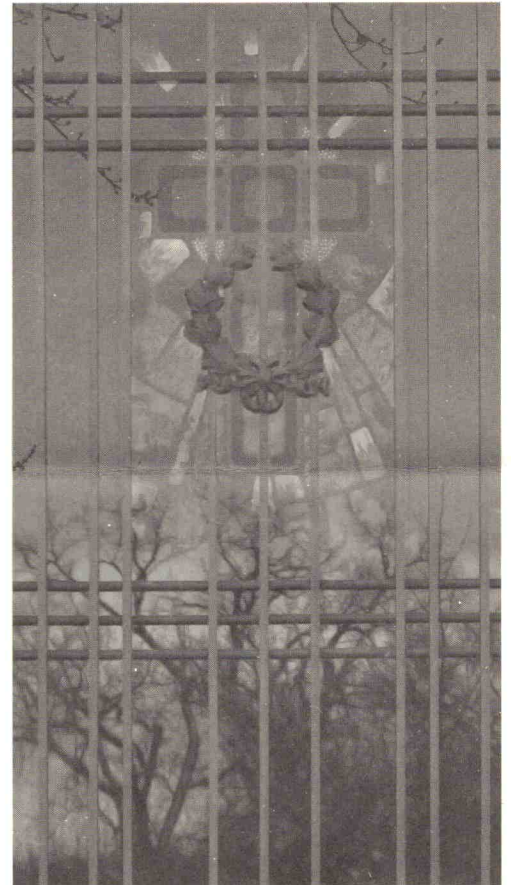
Meanwhile, work has begun on the 2014 calendar featuring those photos. And visitors are already taking photos for the 2013 contest that closes Dec. 31.



Robert Wells



Joy Rector



Karen Wells



Flood of 1913. Photo from the collection of Rose Frazier, Green Lawn Volunteer

The same view 100 years later.

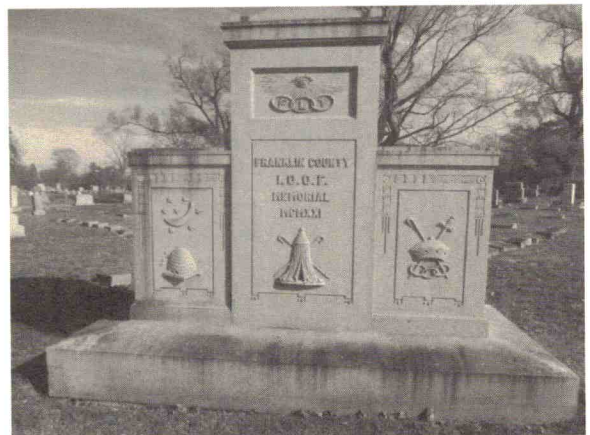
More on Columbus Flood of 1913

Columbus got a lot of other assistance that is still with us today – flood-control methods. The O’Shaughnessy Dam and Reservoir were built in 1925 to augment what is now known as Griggs Dam and Reservoir. Although much of the state has been hit with flooding on several occasions since, it has not been as severe as 100 years ago. The area along the low part of the Scioto River – and that includes Green Lawn – is now protected from high water with the completion of the Franklinton floodwall in 2004.

Volunteers help out

Volunteer Pat Marie, below left, tells a visitor about the Huntington Chapel during Green Lawn’s first quarterly Sunday tours.

The quarterly Sunday tours continued in March with information about influential women in Columbus. The program for the first Sunday in June is Green Lawn Bingo, where visitors will learn about well-known people buried in Sections B, I, N, G and O. These tours are free. In inclement weather the tours are turned into programs that are offered in the Huntington Chapel.



Answer to the Puzzle

The photo above is the marker that honors local members of the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). You can find this marker at Section 68.



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