



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Winter 2012

The Veiled Lady of Camp Chase rests at Green Lawn

Continuing the 150th observance of the Civil War people buried at Green Lawn, we look at early caretakers of Camp Chase Cemetery

In late 1849, a little girl born in Missouri was given the name of her mother's home state – Louisiana.

By the time this little girl was a young teenager, her father decided that the territory where Union soldiers were plundering during the Civil War was not a suitable place for his daughter. He sent the 14-year-old Louisiana Ransburgh to Ohio where there was no fighting.

She studied at Ohio Wesleyan University. At the age of 17, she met Joseph Briggs, 16 years her senior, fell in love and married him. Although she became a transplanted Northerner, she never lost her Southern memories. She was a Southern sympathizer for the rest of her life.

Several years after the War, Louisiana Ransburgh Briggs recognized the poor conditions in the cemetery on the west side of Columbus where Confederate soldiers who died at Camp Chase were buried.

Not wanting to damage her husband's reputation – Joseph Briggs served as a Franklin County Commissioner – she slipped out to the cemetery in the dead of night. She wore dark clothing and a dark veil and traveled in a dark carriage. She worked hard to clean up a cemetery forgotten by most Columbus residents. Overgrown with weeds, it had become a home for animals.

She was soon joined in her efforts by former Union soldier Col. William Knauss, who had been wounded in the War. During a business trip to Tennessee, he met and befriended a Confederate veteran who had lost a leg in the War. The two agreed that if they ever could help the other, he would. Knauss joined the effort to clean up Camp Chase.

Today white marble markers grace the more than 2,000 graves at Camp Chase and its preservation efforts are carried out by the Hilltop Historical Society.

Joseph Briggs died in 1913 after fracturing ribs in an accident and is buried in Section O, Lot 71. Knauss died in January 1917 and is buried just across the bridge in Section 55, Lot 1.

In early 1950, at age of 100, Louisiana became ill and was hospitalized at Mount Carmel. Although suffering from bronchial pneumonia, she persuaded her niece to bring her some brandy. She choked on it. She is buried beside her husband.

Puzzle

In 1868, after the Civil War,
she saw that many children
were needy and poor.

She asked the government
for a surplus building and
started a children's home.
Located at East Main for 109
years, it remains the same.

Her legacy lives on today
joined with another name.

-Betty Bleen-Montgomery
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President's Message

This year has been an exciting celebration of partnerships at Green Lawn!

The *Columbus Milestone* articles about the 200th anniversary of Columbus that have been running daily in the *Columbus Dispatch* have often featured Green Lawn while keeping the city's past alive. From special events including the Bicentennial program of Green Lawn with Columbus Landmarks Foundation to the Little Garden Club 50th Anniversary Award to the outstanding First Saturday programs at the Huntington Chapel, our volunteers and staff collaborated with organizations and individuals from all over Columbus in 2012. And stay tuned for more.

I want to assure you that Green Lawn's Board of Trustees will continue to work with our partners and community leaders in 2013 to positively influence the long-term environmental impact of the redevelopment of Cooper Stadium. We take seriously our responsibility to represent thousands of families holding burial services and visiting loved ones, and we will be vigilant in encouraging the cooperation and accountability necessary to insure the least possible amount of disruption as we carry on with our daily activities at Green Lawn.

Again this year, we gratefully acknowledge the gift of hospitality provided by Green Lawn volunteers to our families and guests. We were so sorry to lose several of our most unforgettable and generous Friends of Green Lawn in 2012, but we encourage everyone to remember them by keeping the legacy of giving alive at Green Lawn. With your support, we will maintain and repair treasured historical monuments, and enhance and preserve the arboreal, horticultural and birding significance of Green Lawn Cemetery for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

On behalf of the board and staff, thank you for your partnership!

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year,

Christina Brown
Board President

Your Donations At Work

During the past several years, many of our friends have made donations to Green Lawn Cemetery. Regardless of the size, please be assured that your contributions mean a lot to Ohio's second-largest cemetery.

A couple of projects are beginning. One will be visible, the other not quite so.

The not so visible project is a move to a webcemeteries database. In this project, Green Lawn is preserving records and will be better able to meet the public's requests in their genealogical searches.

Webcemeteries also allows GPS finds of spaces for those who have iPhone and Android phones. People will be able to view burial cards and maps online or phones. It will allow memorialization online. Family members and or the public will be able to post pictures, stories, comments, about those buried here at Green Lawn.

The other project is the much-needed repairs on the roof of the historical Huntington Chapel. This will stop the rain from leaking in and making paste out of the plaster in the rotunda. After the roof is repaired, then the plaster columns can be restored.

With your help, Green Lawn is making improvements. Again, thank you very much.



WE ARE NOW ON STANDARD TIME. OUR
GATES CLOSE AT 5 P.M. DAILY

Heritage

Trees As Important as Markers

I once heard someone refer to cemeteries without trees as “parking lots for tombstones.” Green Lawn fortunately enjoys a beautiful treescape that makes an impression on our visitors and in many ways defines our park.

From early times humans have marked burials with stone markers or earthen mounds. It seems in some way we think that these durable monuments will somehow fortify our memory against time’s decay.

I think it is interesting that apart from a stone marker for eternity, we also want our final resting place to have trees – living monuments attesting to a continued presence.

The lineage of Green Lawn’s trees can be traced to the earliest settlers, who brought traditions of planting yews or spruces in cemeteries to the New World. Perhaps this says something of our cultural character – while the thought of immortality in stone appeals to us, we do not want to be wholly defined by such a cold, hard medium.

We want trees and plants that will not only mark our place, but also live and grow and flourish. Trees that will bloom in spring and blaze with fall color. Trees that will bask in the warmth of summer sun and creak under the weight of winter ice. Trees that will feed and house other living creatures. Trees that will preserve not so much our memory, but our vitality. Trees that suggest the immortality of our life energy or soul.

The trees of Green Lawn testify not so much to the presence or accomplishments of our deceased friends and relatives, but to their hopes and dreams, their passions, and that for a time they were a part of the biotic community. They lived! It is the self-renewing generations of living monuments in our park that will ultimately last and preserve the best of each of us.

Submitted by Randel Rogers, member, Green Lawn Board of Trustees

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

December 15 — Wreaths Across America. 12 noon. Section 51.

December 31 — Entries due in the 2012 Green Lawn photo contest.

January 5 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Jennie McCormick of the Worthington Historical Society shares stories of early Worthington residents buried at Green Lawn. Announcement of the photo contest winners.

January — Photo contest winners on display at Green Lawn Cemetery office.

February — Green Lawn Photo contest entries on display at Westland Area Library, 4840 W. Broad St.

February 2 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann of the Ohio National Guard talks about the ONG and its work, including two who were killed in Cincinnati riots in 1884.

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

March 2 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Retired OSU Band Director Paul Droste, now the band historian, introduces us to Gustav Bruden, the first director of the band.

March 3 — Quarterly Sunday tour, starting from the Huntington Chapel, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

April 6 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. The Vorys Family. Green Lawn Board member Yolanda Vorys talks about the role her family has played in Columbus history.

Calendar is a Tribute to Women

The 2013 Green Lawn calendar that features outstanding photos from the annual photo contest is now available. This edition focuses on prominent women of Columbus who are buried at Green Lawn. Each page contains some information about a woman. Eleven of the 12 photos were taken by women. (The lone male featured in this calendar is the photo contest winner.) The calendars are available at the Green Lawn office or through the Green Lawn Volunteers for \$10. If you wish to order a calendar through the mail or through the mail, the cost is \$12, which includes postage to mail it to you. All proceeds go to the Green Lawn Volunteers.

Remembering Revolutionary War Soldiers

Volunteers Helped Out



Green Lawn Volunteers joined in the fun of the Oct. 6 First Saturday at Green Lawn program by modeling hats. One of the volunteers was Meg Scott, above, who modeling one of several hats presented by the OSU Ladybugs and Buckeyes in their Hats of History program. The moderator told the history of hats from 1860 to the present, with Volunteer Coordinator Sandi Latimer adding information about women buried at Green Lawn who were likely to have worn such a hat.



From left, Stephanie Wynai, Laurel Waller, Timothy Wynai, and Sgt. George Waggoner (a.k.a. Bob Davis) at a wreath-laying ceremony Oct. 14 at the grave of Revolutionary War soldier David Nelson in Section O. The teens, members of the Children and the American Revolution, paid tribute to three soldiers from that war. Others were Col. Alfred Lord and Capt. Stanton Sholes who was a boy soldier. Both lie in Section C. A fourth soldier from our nation's first war, Isaiah Vorys, lies in Section G.

Answer to the Puzzle

Did you figure out the answer to the puzzle from the front page? The answer is Hannah Neil, founder of the Hannah Neil Society which today is run by Starr Commonwealth. The photo at the right is the William and Hannah Neil marker on Section O, Lot 18. Thanks to our readers for their ideas. If you have a submission, please contact us.



'Like' Us on Facebook



The Public Relations and Marketing Committee of the Board of Trustees has created a Green Lawn Cemetery Facebook page. We encourage you to support Green Lawn Cemetery by “liking” the Facebook page and recommending it to your friends and family.

Staying connected with us through Facebook will allow you to learn fascinating information about the history, nature and architecture at Green Lawn Cemetery, and to stay informed regarding all of the exciting upcoming events at Green Lawn Cemetery. A link to the Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Green-Lawn-Cemetery/381128311903707?fref=ts>

If you have any questions regarding the page, please contact Denise Clark at dclark@frazierheiby.com or Yolanda Vorys at yvorys@vorys.com.

House Bill 481

Green Lawn Cemetery General Manager Jack Lee-Harris will be testifying before the Ohio Senate on a bill pertaining to cremations.

He will give proponent testimony, representing the Ohio Cemetery Association of which he serves as president.

The Senate will be hearing testimony in late November on House Bill 481, sponsored by Rep. Robert Hackett.

This bill authorizes alkaline hydrolysis as a means of final disposition; safeguard cremation in reliance on coroner's identification; provide “courtesy” license for funeral directors for declared emergency; add ability to “inactivate” funeral director license; and clarify rules regarding license transfer for funeral homes that are sold.

Look for further information on this bill in later issues of *The Heritage*.



Members of the Little Garden Club took a tour of Green Lawn and viewed the native shrubs and oaks planted with their generous contribution. The group had held their luncheon and annual meeting at the Huntington Chapel.

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