



Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Fall 2012

Isabelle Ridgway -- a pioneer in care for the elderly and needy

Isabelle Ridgway was born in 1860 during one of the most turbulent periods in our country's history. In spite of the conditions of the day, Mrs. Ridgway became a pioneer in the field of humanity – by caring for her fellow man. Throughout her life, she was devoted to her faith and service.

Undeterred by the inhumanity of her era, ultimately her passion for those without the resources to care for themselves resulted in the establishment of the Isabelle Ridgway Care Center which celebrates its 100-year anniversary in October 2012.

In her early years, she brought individuals in need a place of safety and refuge into her home. They slept on chairs, beds or anything that was available. She also prepared food and other caring items, and members of her family took them to those in need. This sometimes meant hoisting necessary items by rope through windows when those in need could not walk down the stairs. Eventually other sites were used as facilities for what became her “old age home” – as the number of people she cared for continued to increase. There is now a beautiful facility on Hawthorne Avenue on Columbus' eastside.

Mrs. Ridgway was the wife of John Ridgway (Section 51, Lot B, Grave 35) and the mother of four daughters and one son — Ada Ridgway Method-Finch, Lula Ridgway Locklear, Clara Ridgway Bransom, Alice Ridgway Broady and Stanley Ridgway.

The Isabelle Ridgway Care Center stands as a monument to the city of Columbus reflecting a life's work — and a legacy for her ever-growing family. She was a devout member of St. Paul A.M.E. Church. She involved the churches, cars from funeral homes and many individuals in providing care for those who were destitute. Whether it was those running from the bondage of the South to find a better life or those who found themselves in dire circumstances because of the lack of employment and other opportunities, she was a pillar of strength for those who desperately needed her unconditional care and concern.

She was a trailblazer, leading the way in caring for others, when women were often treated as second-class citizens. This diminutive lady, small in stature but huge in the impact that she had on the disenfranchised citizens of Columbus, Ohio, continues to remind us – through the Isabelle Ridgway Care Center – that we must never forget or neglect those less fortunate than ourselves.

She died in 1955 and is buried in Section 61, Lot 162

Warmly remembered by her great granddaughter Nikki Shearer-Tilford.

Puzzle

Whose reach lives still
from Ohio's soil
influencing other's searches?

Men and women follow his will.
Metal's monies help
fund a campus where they toil.

Your search leads you to page 5
to know whose dream is kept alive.

—Peg Hanna

What's Inside

President's Message	Page 2
Pat Strouse Retires	Page 2
Civil War Vets Get Markers	Page 3
Calendar of Events	Page 3
Calendars have arrived	Page 4
First Saturday photo	Page 4
Tour photo	Page 4
Green Lawn poem	Page 5
Answer to the Puzzle	Page 5



President's Message

Welcome Jack Lee-Harris

It is my pleasure to introduce Jack Lee-Harris as the new General Manager of the Green Lawn Cemetery Association.

Jack is already at work with the Green Lawn Board of Trustees on a smooth transition in balancing the strategies and goals of the cemetery with Stonemor Partners' management policies and business practices. He is supervising the dedicated administrative staff who are glad to see him back at Green Lawn where he was the administrative/office manager from 2006-2009, working with now retired General Manager Linda Burkey. From 2009 until his appointment at Green Lawn, Jack was the administrator at Kingwood Memorial Park and has been serving as president and chairman of the Ohio Cemetery Association since January 2012.

Before entering the cemetery business, Jack was in executive management of nonprofit child welfare agencies in Columbus and Ohio. He worked for two and a half years as a senior government consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers where he installed accounting and inventory systems at naval and air force bases across the United States, acquiring a thorough knowledge of change management. He became a senior government consultant with his broad-based knowledge of federal, state and local processes of business and accounting along with a strong knowledge of computer systems. These skills were acquired during his ten-year tenure as the finance officer of the Franklin County Department of Human Services.

Jack completed his bachelor's degree in Public Management from Franklin University and five years later, his Masters in Business Administration. Both degrees were completed in evening sessions while he worked and enjoyed family life with Jana, his wife of 29 years, and their two now grown sons, Tristan and Patrick.

We are so fortunate to welcome Jack back in a leadership position at our Very Special Park. He brings the expertise needed to position Green Lawn for the future and the thoughtfulness to care for Green Lawn's families every day. Jack encourages you to contact him at anytime to discuss cemetery life, business, or just life in general!

Christina Brown
President



Jack Lee-Harris

Pat Strouse Retired



Pat Strouse, who had been with Green Lawn for 21 years, retired in late September. What more can be said? For starters, she had been in charge of payroll all those years and we can't thank her enough for that! She had been a loyal, dedicated employee that we depended on for help with insurance, taxes, putting in contracts in Burrowes, HMIS and now Stonemor. She had organized contracts from many years past. Her accounting abilities were amazing. She would stop whatever she was in the "middle" of to help anyone with question's when they sought her out. Her list of duties goes on and on. Will she be missed? We can only shout YES!! She'll be enjoying retirement with husband, Larry. They are campers now and will spend winter months in Florida. ENJOY! BEST WISHES!

Heritage

Civil War Veterans Remembered



One of the many activities this past summer at Green Lawn Cemetery was the placing of markers on graves of Civil War Veterans. This was done in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

The markers were set on Sections 33 and 51. After the markers had been set, a special military ceremony was held to honor those veterans. Thanks to Cathy and Amanda Nelson, the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio History project the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Linda Burkey and Scott Hughes for their diligence in his project.

Volunteers Begin Tours

Green Lawn Volunteers are embarking on a new adventure — offering quarterly tours on a Sunday afternoon. Each tour will be on a different topic.

The first one will be December 2 and focus on the historic Huntington Chapel. Tours are free and open to the public. Tours will be offered every 30 minutes between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., with the last tour beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, area residents with an interest in history are being sought help out with the tours and programs that are held at both the cemetery and in the community. If you can help, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 614-266-5218 or at sandlot17@juno.com.

STANDARD TIME RETURNS NOVEMBER 4.
GATES CLOSE AT 5 P.M.

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 27 — Columbus Audubon Bird Walk at Green Lawn. 8:30 a.m. Meet in parking lot.

October 27 — Make a Difference Day, a day volunteerism. Help out at Green Lawn. Visit www.greenlawncolumbus.org to register.

November 3 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. The Rev. Henry Johnson talks about one of his congregants, the well-known local community activist Rev. Phale D. Hale.

November 17 — Columbus Audubon Bird Walk at Green Lawn. 8:30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot.

December — Photo contest entries on display at third-floor gallery of the Columbus Cultural Arts Center, 139 W. Main St.

December 1 — First Saturday at Green Lawn. Christmas Bird Count. Our neighbors from the Grange Insurance Audubon Center will talk about the Christmas Bird Count.

December 2 — Sunday afternoon tour. Tour of the historic Huntington Chapel. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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

December 8 — Columbus Audubon Bird Walk at Green Lawn. 8:30 a.m. Meet in the parking lot.

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

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

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.



First Saturday Swings

Steve Ball from the William Dennison Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War performs for the September First Saturday at Green Lawn program. He told the story of the Civil War in song. First Saturday at Green Lawn is a program that delves into the life of people buried at the cemetery. It is held at 11 a.m. in the Huntington Chapel.

Visitors Enjoy Green Lawn

Green Lawn visitors find many interesting activities in our Very Special Park, including grave rubbings. Have you visited Green Lawn lately, or taken a tour with the Green Lawn Volunteers who tailor the tour to your interests? Tours have been scheduled for a birthday party, or as a way to entertain out-of-town guests, or even to visit graves of loved ones during a family reunion. Scheduling tours is easy— visit www.greenlawncolumbus.org.



Answer to the Puzzle

Were you able to figure out the answer to the puzzle from the front page? The answer is John Gordon Battelle. The photo at the right is the Battelle family mausoleum



Green Lawn

By Doug Montgomery

Does the spring come sooner at Green Lawn
Where ivy creeps up the stones
Do doves still coo in the morn
To calm those sleepy old bones?
Is the grass as green down at Green Lawn?
And flowers as bright in the dew?
Sunrise as pink on a frosty morn
Or the sky a deeper shade of blue?
Do willows still hula down at Green Lawn
Dipping in the old mill stream
That flows to the goldfish pond
Where the red tail fox are seen?

Are the summers as warm at Green Lawn?
Do the lilacs bloom as before?
Does rain fall softly in the glen?
Do lilies grow there anymore?
Is the shade any cooler down at Green Lawn
Under spreading pin oak and beech
Where the purple spearmint fronds
And periwinkles bloom for bees?
Are the markers still straight at Green Lawn
Where the old patriots were laid?
Did you pray for Dad and Mom
And put wreaths upon their graves?

Are the autumn leaves down at Green Lawn
As blazon and gold as they were
When we laid the blankets on
Those resting places out there?
Are the nights still as black above Green Lawn...
More stars than sand in the sea
In the stillness before dawn
When they came to lower me?
Are the days more peaceful at Green Lawn?
Do squirrels scurry and play
When color paints gentle mounds
And sunsets close every day?

Have winters grown colder at Green Lawn
When north winds blow and wail
Through lonely gray old headstones
'neath full moon creamy and pale?
Are the drifts lying deep over Green Lawn
As they did in days gone past,
With snow as white as goose down
Draped o'r the epitaphs?
Rabbit and deer trek o'r me at Green Lawn.
Have you come to visit me?
You do not need to stay long;
Just an hour from eternity.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43223

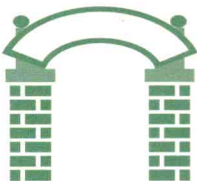
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