



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Winter 2021

Return of an Old Friend

When a vandal repeatedly damaged Green Lawn in 2015, the most significant damage he did was to the bust of Ohio Supreme Court Justice Gustavus Swan (1787-1860).

The original bust was carved by prominent sculptor Robert Launitz, sometimes referred to as “The Father of American Monumental Art.” Its destruction meant that a work of Launitz art was lost forever.

Compounding this loss, we could not find photos that went back far enough to show the bust before it had been significantly degraded by weather and then smashed. This made it impossible to make a true copy.

Fortunately, an estate gift from Dorothy Howard-Flynn in 2019 allowed us to pursue having Gustavus re-carved as a new bust.

Artist Nina Menduni was commissioned for the work. She had only an oil painting of Gustavus from the 1850’s, a few blurry photos of the damaged original, and photos of his grandson who was said to bear a resemblance. With this scant guidance, Nina had to carve a new bust that would in some ways imitate Launitz (known for delicate work) but also strengthen the design against future damage.

She created a clay model at her studio in upstate New York, revising it several times, then had the model scanned and sent to a workshop in Italy. In Italy a rough carving was cut in marble, allowing Nina to make efficient trips to do the final shaping and detail work.

This arrangement allowed her to work with local artists who have a deep knowledge of the classic techniques that the original would have incorporated.

The project was significantly delayed when the Covid-19 pandemic hit Italy especially hard and closed the borders, preventing Nina from travel for over a year.

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Gustavus Swan was a Columbus lawyer and banker who served as an Associate Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court from 1829-1830. He also served in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812, was elected to the Ohio House in 1812 and 1817 for one year terms, and was Franklin County prosecuting attorney 1821-1823. He later organized Ohio’s banking system and served as the first president of the State Bank of Ohio.

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President's Message

It has been an honor and a pleasure...



Randy Rogers, President and Executive Director

This will be my final column as president of the association, and in our next issue Kevin Schoedinger will introduce himself as our new president.

Most of you know that I am not going anywhere, as I will continue as a trustee and the board's executive director, but it is still a moment for me to reflect on the last four years that I have served as president.

Looking back over the officers who have served the board for over 170 years, it has always left me awed that I have had the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of folks who by any measure were leaders of our community. I am proud to have been given the opportunity to contribute to their legacy.

I have served on several boards over the years and will say categorically the Green Lawn board is the most pleasurable. We exhibit unity of effort, we are supported by a Friends group that is a rare gem among such organizations, and the challenges of our mission are equaled only by the satisfaction of its accomplishment.

We have accomplished much, and are on a path leading to a future of security, growth, and the preservation of our family, natural, and community heritage.

I am excited to continue that journey, and look forward to supporting Kevin as he leads us down the next mile.

As always, thank you so much for your support of our "Very Special Park"!

Wildlife Stories



When the pond dried out completely in 2016 (mostly due to dry weather, but we let it go so we could do some maintenance), the turtles that had been living there migrated to better homes, and we haven't had a turtle sighting since.

Until now!

This distant pic shows that clearly at least one turtle has returned, and it appears to be a native snapping turtle.

The pond is also home to native bullhead minnows, bullfrogs and leopard frogs.

We manage the pond to try and exclude non-native creatures and larger fish that might tempt fishing, which is prohibited in the cemetery in part because it often generates litter.

Return of an Old Friend

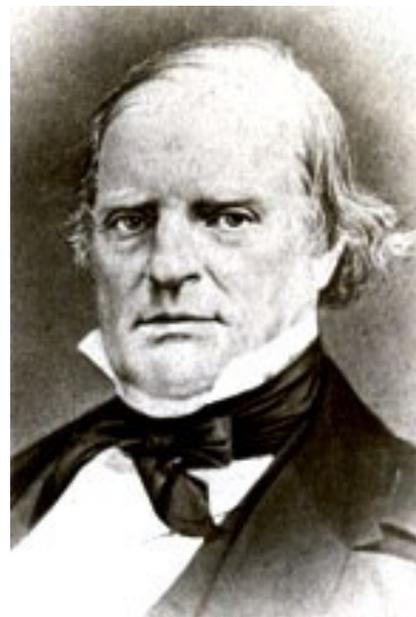
(Continued from page 1)

Once travel was possible, Gustavus was finished and shipped to Green Lawn where the cemetery staff installed the bust on November 5th.

The Swan monument is one of the nine monuments at Green Lawn on the Smithsonian Register of Significant Sculpture, and the original bust was probably the most valuable artwork in the cemetery.

Although the original bust is lost, Nina's work has restored the integrity of the monument and added a beautiful new work of art to the grounds.

Gustavus can be visited along the road on the west side of Section O, and with his more secure installation he should be around for a very long time!



Gustavus Swan

The replacement bust with shipping ended up costing \$21,000, available through an estate donation to the Friends of Green Lawn. It's installation essentially completes the repairs that can be made from the vandalism in 2015. The Field mausoleum stained glass was repaired, over 650 markers repaired or reset, a large marble bowl replaced, and various plain glass and smaller repairs made - almost all of this made possible by donations to Friends of Green Lawn.

“Heritage” News

Columbus Evening Dispatch, January 21, 1925

Report of the Trustees of Green Lawn Cemetery Association for the Year 1924

To the Members of Green Lawn Cemetery Association:

Your Association was incorporated under the laws of Ohio on August 2, 1848, as a purely mutual organization. There are no stockholders and no dividends; the Trustees receive no compensation, and no salaries are paid except to officers and employes who devote their entire time to the business of the Association. The Association is free from debt of any kind; its only obligation is the perpetual care of the cemetery. That obligation, however, is not a light one. It is perpetual; and every new grave and every lot sold, adds a perpetual charge for maintenance. To meet this, it is essential that as large a reserve fund be built up as possible, no cemetery under Ohio laws can long survive without such a fund commensurate with the size of its business. Therefore all receipts remaining from time to time over and above the cost of proper maintenance, are invested and re-invested by your Trustees for the future care of the cemetery and all lots therein. On December 31, 1924, this general reserve fund amounted to \$335,124.53.

In addition there have been donated from time to time, trust funds for the special care of certain lots and mausoleums to the amount of \$69,375.47, making the total reserve funds on December 31, 1924, \$405,500.00, invested as follows:

U. S. Govt. 1st Liberty Loan Bonds, par value.....	\$138,000.00
U. S. Govt. 2nd Liberty Loan Bonds, par value..	15,000.00
U. S. Govt. 3rd Liberty Loan Bonds, par value.....	11,000.00
U. S. Govt. 4th Liberty Loan Bonds, par value.....	169,000.00
U. S. Treasury 4 1/2 per cent Bonds (1947-52), par value.....	55,000.00
U. S. Treasury 4 per cent Bonds (1944-54), par value.....	5,000.00
U. S. Treasury 4 1/2 per cent Notes, par value.....	2,000.00
Federal Land Bank 4 1/2 per cent Bonds, par value.....	5,000.00
State of Ohio 4 1/2 per cent Soldier Bonus Bonds, par value..	3,000.00
Columbus & Xenia R. R. Co. Stock, 50 shares at \$50	2,500.00

Total Invested funds, December 31, 1924..... \$405,500.00

The assets of your Association on December 31, 1924, with no indebtedness of any kind, were as follows.

Invested funds as above	\$405,500.00
Buildings ..	68,000.00
Chattel property	6,213.00
Gates, fences, etc.	6,000.00
Unimproved land, for future use	95,335.00
Proprietary lots and grave spaces for sale at prices fixed by trustees ..	674,941.55
Cash on hand, December 31, 1924	115.18

\$1,156,104.73

Less Perpetual care Trust Funds

69,375.47

Total net assets

\$1,086,729.26

The number of interments in the cemetery during the year was.....1,323
The total number of interments in the cemetery to December 31, 1924, was .69,572

During the year 1924, the cost of operating the cemetery was \$124,352.16. In accordance with the policy of maintaining the driveways and grounds in good condition, something over a mile of roadway was surfaced with Tarvia, 610 feet of new roadway was constructed, and 3773 feet of sewer pipe and drain tile was laid. In addition to maintenance charges, about five acres of additional land were bought, and a new receiving vault of 72 crypts, finished in Tennessee marble and bronze, beautiful and dignified in its appearance, was constructed.

The total land now owned by your Association is 281 acres, of which 186 acres have been platted and fully developed, leaving 95 acres for development in future years.

The Trustees record with deepest regret the death during the year of Mr. John Siebert, for many years a valued member of your Board, and the President of this Association from 1918 to 1923.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore S. Huntington,
Simon Lazarus,
Peter D. McDonald,
Lowry F. Sater,
F. Oscar Schoedinger,
Frederick W. Schueller,
James B. Wilcox,

Trustees

Columbus Evening Dispatch, April 8, 1927

CEMETERY HIKE.

The Columbus Hiking club will meet at the end of the Cemetery and Leonard car line at Green Lawn cemetery, Sunday afternoon at 2:15. The hike is scheduled in a southwesterly direction. There will be no hike April 17.

Editor's note: We have hundreds of these stories - some of which are amusing, some informative, some macabre. Some use language or express sentiments of an earlier time. Some are not clear scans and harder to read. They all tell us something about our past and we will occasionally share them unedited and both the good and bad trusting they will be accepted in that view and found of interest.

Columbus Evening Dispatch, April 17, 1927



Greystone

The ideal outdoor pottery, resembles Barre Granite. Made entirely of clay, hard fired, waterproof.



We are showing an unusually large assortment of Bird Baths, Lawn and Porch Vases, Oil Jars, Porch Jars, Cemetery Vases, etc., all at prices that are much lower than you would expect. Our spot cash buying and selling saves you 1-3 to 1-2.

ART POTTERY SHOP
16 E. Rich St., Columbus, O.

Tree Burials - A New Option!

Green Lawn Cemetery has long been recognized as an important remnant of native mixed oak forest and urban bird and wildlife oasis, but the cemetery industry has struggled with providing “green” burial options.

Responsible businesses look for opportunities to be environmentally friendly, especially if those opportunities also give a competitive advantage. When your business operates in an arboretum and Audubon Important Bird Area, the pressure to be “green” is even greater!

The greenest burial option is often considered to be a “natural” burial in which the body is interred without embalming and wrapped in linen or other natural fiber container. This type of interment presents two challenges. The first is that specially designed gardens are required from both from a practical and a legal standpoint. The other is that there is simply not enough demand to make it feasible to create these special gardens (space, after all, is a cemetery’s most valuable asset).

Two years ago Green Lawn offered it’s first option for an environmentally-friendly, final disposition with packages that allowed cremated remains to be spread in our prairie or from a deck over our pond. While these options were only marginally “green,” they did provide a business reason to keep part of the property planted in prairie!

Now the cemetery has a more environmentally-friendly option – a tree burial!

(continued next page)



Tree Burials (cont.)

In this option, the family chooses from a selection of native trees and the staff assist in identifying an appropriate space. The deceased is cremated and the ashes placed in a special biodegradable urn that is planted with the root ball of the tree. Depending on the space chosen, a full range of options for markers are available, and the tree is watered and warranted for two years. The cost is similar to a traditional burial and can be less, especially if arranged for in advance of need.

Cremation is not as environmentally friendly as a natural burial, but the environmental and wildlife value the tree will provide perhaps more than mitigates the impact of the interment. Plus, who doesn't want to become a tree?

Trees and cemeteries can have an uneasy relationship; while they provide beauty, trees also take up space and require maintenance. As a historic rural cemetery where the treescape is part of its identity, Green Lawn is uniquely suited to provide tree burials, and these trees will help our efforts to preserve and improve the canopy.

The first two tree burial packages were sold in October. The first was a pre-arranged reservation that will eventually plant an Ohio buckeye, and the second for a burial that planted a white oak. That particular oak is just outside the dripline of a much older tree that for years has provided a nest cavity for wood ducks. Could this tree, 200 years from now, provide a similar cavity after the older tree is gone? We can't know, but it is safe to say that the more ways we can find to get trees planted, the more likely there will be future homes for wood ducks and other creatures at Green Lawn. Tree burials are a way to continue both family heritage and natural heritage in our "very special park".

For more information, call the cemetery office, 614.444.1123, or use the online contact form at www.greenlawncemetery.org



In this case, the marker will match existing beveled markers on the family lot.



Photos of a white oak tree burial on a family lot and a biodegradable urn.

Columbus Rotary Walks With The Dead!



For the 3rd year Green Lawn hosted Columbus Rotary for one of their major fundraisers - the 5K “Walk With The Dead” Halloween race.

I spoke to the Rotarians at their regular meeting the week before to express how important these community events were to the cemetery. In addition to directly raising funds for restoration and beautification (we get a percentage of the event revenue), it also keeps Green Lawn relevant and introduces new people to the cemetery.

This year about 150 people signed up for the event, and nearly 50 of them stayed for the historical tour. Everyone enjoyed the route through Green Lawn and supporting these worthy causes.



Keith Woods and Doreen Whitley Rogers supported Green Lawn and Columbus Rotary in costume for the 5K event.

Upcoming Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

November 16, 6:30 pm: “Lost Church Found - Results of Geophysical Surveys at Franklinton Cemetery.” Franklinton Historical Society will host archaeologist Jarrod Burks, Ph.D., Director of Archaeological Geophysics, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. Dr. Burks will discuss his work using GPR and other techniques to establish the footprint of the former 1811 church at Franklinton Cemetery.

December 14, 5:30 pm: Green Lawn Holiday Program. Join us for our annual event in Huntington Chapel where we will remember loved ones interred during the year with a tree ornament ceremony.

December 18, noon: “Wreaths Across America.” Join us for our annual event placing wreaths on military graves. This year we will be decorating Soldiers Circle, located at the north end of Section M. Following a short ceremony, volunteers will spread the wreaths among the markers. Once again the Grove City Elks and Franklin County Veterans Services have donated wreaths. The event is free, and no registration is required. Please dress for the weather.

January 30, 2:00-4:00 pm: “Columbus Landmarks Walk.” Come explore the cemetery with us on our quarterly walk with the Columbus Landmarks Foundation! Listen to stories of history and nature and any number of other oddball things that Randy and Doreen will at times supply! Dress warm and register in advance at www.columbuslandmarks.org

1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43223

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CEMETERY GATES

Open 7 Days/Week
During Daylight Saving Time:
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Starting October 23rd:
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



OFFICE

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday
By appointment



CHAPEL

Visit Office for access



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**Special Thanks to our Green Lawn Trustees and
Volunteers**

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