



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Fall 2022

Green Lawn Pioneers New Restoration Technique!

When the Smithsonian visited Green Lawn as a part of the “Save Our Sculptures” survey in 1998, one of the ten monuments they labeled significant was the Reese statue in section S. A mother embracing a young girl whose arm is reaching upwards (to an absent father?), the monument is a moving piece.

Alas some of its impact has been missing for decades due to damage to the outstretched arm. Whether from tree or vandal no one remembers, but the girl’s hand has long been missing. Without it, something is lost in the girl’s pose – and we lack even a photo to tell us more. A close examination does lead one to imagine her open hand extended into emptiness, but the damage makes this a visualization and not a vision.

In 2021 the cemetery consulted with local artist Renata Feckler to explore options for replacing the hand. One solution was to simply carve a new hand from marble and re-attach it to the statue. Carving in marble is expensive, and there was also concern that the weight of the new hand might be an issue if the forearm had been weakened by the original damage.

A decision was made to try a new approach. Renata would mold a hand in clay, which could then be scanned and local company, Fieldwerks, would then print the hand in color matched outdoor resin using a 3D printer.

This new hand would be durable, congruent in appearance, light weight, and would cost 20-25% the cost of a marble replacement. Furthermore, if it ever needed replaced it could simply be re-printed at a very low cost!

The project launched with a careful cleaning of the statue while the artists and technicians worked on the new hand. While cleaning, I wondered about the origin of the statue and the story behind it.

Research has not answered all of my questions, but has provided some insight and revealed a surprising twist to the story!

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President's Message



Kelly Casto, President GLCA

Hello!

I hope everyone thoroughly enjoyed this beautiful Fall season! It is such a pleasure to see the Cemetery so active this time of year, with the plethora of wildlife & many of our signature events in full swing. While many may associate the fall and cemeteries with Halloween, in partnership with Latino Arts for the Humanities we have also created a new tradition celebrating a cultural event of our community - The Day of the Dead.

Many think El Día de los Muertos is a Mexican version of Halloween, but the holiday is actually two days spent honoring deceased friends and family. It is believed the gates of Heaven open at midnight on October 31, dissolving the border between the spirit realm & our world. The souls of our ancestors awaken, returning to the living world to feast, drink, dance, & play music with their loved ones. In turn, the living family members treat the deceased as honored guests, leaving favorite foods and other offerings at gravesites.

During contemporary Day of the Dead festivities, people wear skull masks and eat the sugar candies molded into the shape of skulls, that people

associate with the holiday. The Aztec concept that death is an ever-present part of life that should be embraced is not unlike the ideas that resulted in the Rural Cemetery Movement that created Green Lawn, and the variety of Mexican food offerings & vendors, and the immersive experiences created for all ages to enjoy & learn about these timeless traditions.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank all of the donors who have already supported our Annual Campaign with spring donations, and since the fall letter for the rest of our annual friends just went out, thank you in advance for your continued generous support!

Wildlife Stories



(left) We recently installed cutting edge artificial bark on two dead trunks and two unused utility poles. The bark is open at the bottom, simulating naturally exfoliating bark. Roosting and migrating bats use peeling bark for shelter, and this bark simulates the appearance, texture, and insulating properties of real bark. We look forward to seeing which species of bats move in! This project was in partnership with Cedar Bog Nature Preserve in Urbana.

(right) While giving a tour around the pond, we saw this migrating juvenile black-crowned night heron fly in. It immediately tucked its head under a wing and went to sleep. The next morning it was at the pond edge stalking minnows, building energy for the next leg of its pilgrimage south.



Green Lawn Pioneers New Restoration Technique!

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The lot is owned by Elizabeth J. Reese, 1817-1897. Buried there are Elizabeth, her daughter Margaret, and her son-in-law.

From the cemetery records we know Elizabeth died of a heart attack and her daughter's father is listed as John Reese, possibly of Lancaster, PA.

Elizabeth's obituary states that she served as a Union nurse during the Civil War, and that her estate would provide for headstones for her and Margaret, and for \$1000 to be invested with the returns supporting her daughter for the rest of her life, after which the balance would go to Green Lawn to maintain the lot.



The new hand restores the aesthetic impact

We also know that Elizabeth lived on Mound Street and that at various times purchased and sold lots downtown, in at least one case making a nice profit.

More surprising were the newspaper accounts of her run-ins with the law!

In 1895 (she would have been 75 years old), at the prodding of the Anti-Saloon League, a local detective filed a number of civil suits resulting in modest fines against several local citizens under the Winn Act. Elizabeth was named in two of these filings.

The Winn Act made it illegal for the owners of brothels to sell alcohol on their premises. Yes, Elizabeth was apparently an infamous madame and bootlegger!

Two questions remain unanswered—what happened to John Reese, and who was the artist for the monument?

Perhaps future research will turn up these answers, for now all we know is that John is not buried at Green Lawn and that the statue appears to be one of a kind.



A successful repair would establish a new method that might be used to repair other monuments that otherwise would be too expensive and go unrestored.

In June the new hand was fitted and attached, restoring the visual impact of the art and the poignancy of the story of a family missing a father but not a hand!



← *Our next project is replacing two missing heads in the cemetery. This statue was damaged by a falling tree in 2012. It was a standard catalog item, so we were able to find a 1920's catalog image to base the replacement on. As shown, the clay replacement has been finished and we are awaiting the printed resin version and hoping for results similar to the success of the Reese project.*

A Promise Made... Columbus Rotary Remembers Baby Jim

The morning of July 7th, 1919, two men walking by the west bank of the Olentangy River just south of Goodale Street were surprised to find a baby in a basket. Included was a change of clothes but no note, so the baby was taken to the Franklin County Orphans' Home.

Nurses there named him "Baby Jim", and the story was closely followed in the newspaper.

Columbus Rotary took an early interest in his well-being, "adopting" him by providing for his care until parents could be found.

The community followed as Baby Jim attended that summer's "Baby Camp" - an annual experience for orphaned children at the orphanage, and when prospective parents took temporary custody of the little tyke.

Unfortunately in September Baby Jim was back at the home, where he sickened and died of gastroenteritis on September 15, 1919.

Columbus Rotary purchased a casket and a space



Columbus Rotary raised funds for a discounted monument from Green Lawn to mark Baby Jim's grave 103 years after the founding captured Columbus headlines and hearts.

at the cemetery where Baby Jim was laid to rest with his tiny casket adorned with asters.

The paper mentioned plans for a headstone, but after reading these accounts this spring we visited the grave and found it had never been marked.

"A promise made is a debt unpaid," and when we shared this story with our friends at Columbus Rotary the baby's story again touched hearts and plans were made for a headstone.

Rotarians and cemetery staff gathered on September 29th to dedicate the new marker and remember how Baby Jim's story is a reminder of the importance of helping others in our community.

Rotarian Amanda Bowen laid asters on the new marker just as were used in 1919.



Pictured in the Columbus Evening Dispatch, Baby Jim was Columbus' cause celebre thru the summer of 1919

News from Memorial Properties

Operating Green Lawn Since 2019!



Welcome Heather!

Memorial Properties is pleased to welcome our new Family Service Director, Heather Gilham.

Heather comes to us from Fairfax, Virginia, where she was Family Service Manager at a cemetery.

After experiencing the loss of both her father and grandmother in 2007, Heather embarked on a career as a Family Service advisor in northeast Ohio. Throughout her career, she has enjoyed serving families and helping them talk about and plan for the most difficult day of their lives.

Over the years she has learned a lot and continues to seek as much knowledge as possible in the death care profession. Heather is a Certified Funeral Celebrant, Ordained Minister, Certified Cremation Arranger, Certified Cremation Operator, Certified Senior Advisor, and Death Doula.

She loves spending time with her three adult daughters, their families, and two little chihuahuas Junior and Milo.



David Whittington (right) was a prize winner at Day of the Dead festival and received a fall gift basket full of goodies and treats.



This lucky festival goer at Day of the Dead festival won a new fire pit. Congratulations Jennifer Adjun (left), - may your outside gatherings be a little bit cozier!

Flavors of Fall Events in Green Lawn

Right: Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Festival on October 8th drew several thousand festival goers to Green Lawn Cemetery. Music, authentic Mexican food, art, and traditional offerings to remember those we've lost made for a spectacular festival. To the right, traditional Mexican dancers entertain festival goers.

Bottom right: A traditional *ofrenda* to recognize those who have passed before us.

Bottom Left: Runners and walkers begin and then return for the thrilling Walking With The Dead 5K & 1 mile run/walk presented by Columbus Rotary on Saturday, October 22nd. Several hundred race goers enjoyed a picture perfect fall evening in Green Lawn Cemetery. This is the main fundraiser for Columbus Rotary, one of the oldest and largest Rotary Clubs.

Green Lawn is proud to host both community events each year.



Upcoming Green Lawn Cemetery Events

November 11, 6:00pm: Veterans Day Civil War Music Concert. Steve and Lisa Ball will perform a Veterans Day Civil War Music Concert in the Huntington Chapel. The concert is free and open to the public (donations gratefully accepted). Steve Ball is a musician specializing in the music of the American Civil War and has done programs for the Ohio Statehouse, the National Civil War Museum, the American Civil War Museum of Ohio, and countless historical societies, genealogical societies, libraries, and museums. Steve also has built a collection of Civil War era Martin guitars and he uses these guitars in all of his performances.

December 17, 11:00am: Wreaths Across America. “Remember the Fallen, Honor Those Who Serve, Teach Our Children the Value of Freedom.” Wreaths Across America will be at Green Lawn Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country’s fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each veteran aloud. This year we will decorate Section 104. To sponsor a wreath visit: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OHGLNC>

December 17, 5:00pm: Holiday Remembrance Service. Our annual Holiday Remembrance Service, held in Huntington Chapel, provides the opportunity to remember recently departed loved ones. Please join us for an evening of reflection, music, and fellowship. You will have the opportunity to hang an ornament in memory of someone you wish to remember. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome, including those remembering a loved one that departed prior to 2022.

Latest Events and Updates

Website: <https://www.greenlawncemetery.org/events/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus>



In October the cemetery staff participated in the FAN (Franklinton Area Neighbors) tire drive, collecting 85 tires from the area around the cemetery and delivering them to the drop off. Our Community Outreach Coordinator helped staff one of the drop off points for the day where nearly 800 tires were collected for proper disposal.

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Columbus, Ohio 43223

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7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
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CHAPEL

Visit Office for access



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Volunteers**

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