



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Summer 2023

James Russell’s Magnificent Orrery

Prior to the modern planetarium there was the orrery. An orrery was a mechanical model of the sun, earth, and moon. The first known orrery was built and presented to Charles Boyle, 4th Earl of Orrery in 1704—hence the name.

A *grand* orrery included the outer planets and their respective movements known at that time. A series of gears drove the planets and moons to the delight of observers. Certainly a thorough knowledge of astronomy, mathematics, and machinery was required to construct such a complex device.

Perhaps the most impressive orrery of all was designed and built by a man named James Russell. Born in New Hampshire, a young James Russell had moved to rural Worthington, Ohio by 1808. Early city directories listed Russell’s occupation as cabinet maker. But he clearly had another passion.

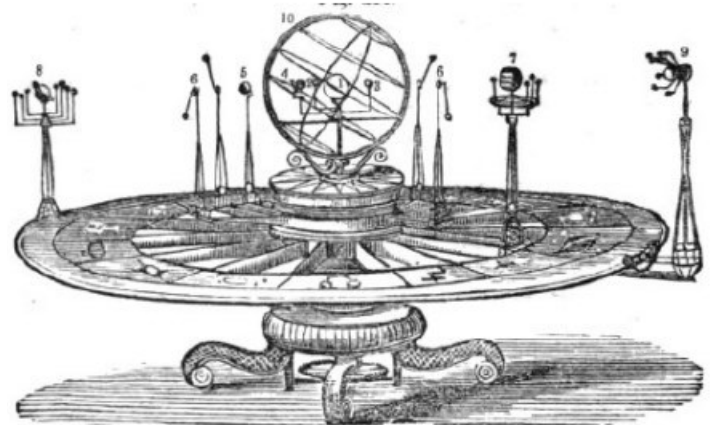
By 1836 Russell had completed what was widely described as a “stupendous and magnificent Columbian orrery.” While most orreries were table-top sized, Russell’s orrery was of an entirely different scale.

A large circular wooden table some 36 feet in circumference served as the base. A portion of it intended to represent the zodiac had twelve signs upon it, months of the year, days of the month, and the degrees of celestial longitude. The sun was at the center represented by a gilt globe 14 inches in diameter. The planets were represented by beautiful painted opaque-glass globes, while the planetary moons were made of ivory.

A nearly effortless crank put the entire device into motion with planets and moons propelled into their respective revolutions. It contained 500 metal cog wheels and weighed over one ton. Spectators were amazed. A small child could reportedly turn the crank with ease.

Russell’s Orrery was widely exhibited to the public and went on tour dazzling audiences in Washington DC and other Eastern U.S. cities. Partnering with Irish scientific writer Dr. Dionysius Ladner, Russell provided science lectures to a public hungry for knowledge. Eventually the orrery was purchased by Wesleyan University in Hartford, Connecticut as a teaching tool.

Russell quickly embarked on building an even larger orrery with a circumference of 48 feet & 81 separate



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President's Message



Kelly Casto, President GLCA

It has been quite an eventful spring at the cemetery!

We have set the stage for this year's renovations and projects across the cemetery. As our investment in the Huntington Chapel continues, the modernization of the restrooms is almost complete, and the addition of new sound system that will provide new & enhanced opportunities for the Chapel's use. The restoration of the doors and murals from the Hayden mausoleum are on the homestretch. Also, in partnership with Sons of Union Veterans, we have installed 163 markers over unmarked Union soldiers, with many more to come. Tribute to bird watching at Green Lawn is at the foundry and should be installed this fall.

Many of you have heard the buzz surrounding the North Market construction project, and the remains from the North Cemetery archeologists have been exhuming. Green Lawn is a proud partner in this process and is creating a memorial and section of the cemetery to provide a final resting spot for these latest remains of our pioneer families.

Lastly, a big shout out to our team & volunteers who helped remove dozens of bags of trash and collected over 250 dumped tires from the neighborhood on Earth Day!

I hope you all have an opportunity to visit the cemetery and see some of these exciting projects, as well as the natural beauty of the property in the summer.

Cheers!

Wildlife Stories



This swarm of honey bees was found near the pond and moved into one of the hives our local beekeeper maintains in the cemetery.



A migrating blackburnian warbler pauses near the waterfall at the pond. (Mike Gibbons)

James Russell's Magnificent Orrery (Continued from page 1)

motions, having an orbit of an astounding 66 feet. When it arrived New York City in 1842, the orrery was accompanied by French astronomy Professor Gouraud, who considered it superior to any he had seen in Europe. For the next couple years two lecturers exhibited Russell's magnificent orrery, including the future president of Harvard University—Dr. Thomas Hill.

In October 1844 Russell's larger orrery was destroyed by fire while on tour in Providence, Rhode Island.

The earlier model of Russell's orrery was long thought to be lost, but portions of it were discovered in a wood cabinet in the Van Vleck Observatory's library in 2015. Several hand-painted glass globes, ivory moons, and brass fittings were packed in a box that probably had not been opened in decades.

Russell went on to run unsuccessfully for Mayor of Columbus in 1844. He died in 1855 and was buried with Masonic Honors at Green Lawn Cemetery. While Russell never appeared to make much money from his incredible talents, the *Ohio State Journal* eulogized him as an "early and much respected citizen of this county."



James Russell's grave. Section J. Green Lawn Cemetery



A special Civil War Memorial Service was held in Huntington Chapel over Memorial Day weekend. Lt Colonel Glenn A. Hickman from Franklin American Legion Post 1 was the guest speaker. A picnic lunch followed outside the chapel. Boy Scout Troop 123 decorated Veterans' graves in Section 104—Green Lawn's largest military section.



Boy Scout Troop 123 decorated Veterans' graves in Section 104—Green Lawn's largest military section. Green Lawn is the final resting place of over 6000 Veterans in seven different military sections from the Revolutionary War through the Global War on Terror.

OSU Study Completed at Green Lawn

During the summers of 2021 and 2022, OSU grad student Iliana Moore from the Department of Entomology made regular visits to Green Lawn collecting DNA samples from bumble bees.

There are several varieties of bumble bees in Ohio, and as with most insects their numbers are declining for most species. This study was to determine the types found in urban areas, their relative numbers, and other information from their DNA which might indicate the health of each species.

We even made a short video of the DNA collection process!

Iliana found four species at Green Lawn, perhaps the most notable being the Yellow bumble bee which is declining across its range and likely present specifically because of our 4 acre prairie. It is listed as a vulnerable species by the IUCN.

Each of these species are unique and important pollinators, and the information from this study will add to our knowledge of their abundance and health.



Common Eastern Bumble Bee



Brown-belted Bumble Bee

	Common Eastern bumble bee (<i>Bombus impatiens</i>)	Brown-belted bumble bee (<i>Bombus griseocollis</i>)	Two-spotted bumble bee (<i>Bombus bimaculatus</i>)	Yellow bumble bee (<i>Bombus fervidus</i>)
2021	57	10	6	3
2022	43	35	13	0



Two-spotted Bumble Bee



Yellow Bumble Bee



News from Memorial Properties

Operating Green Lawn Since 2019!

An Incredible Memorial Day at Green Lawn

Thank you to all the families and organizations that helped Green Lawn Cemetery honor all our veterans. The holiday weekend would have not been possible without the hundreds of volunteers. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. A special thank you to all of the Green Lawn family for helping this historic and beautiful park proudly support our country's heroes.

Coming Soon, Prairie View Mausoleum #6

Green Lawn Cemetery is pleased to announce that a new community mausoleum will be built near the current Prairie View Mausoleums. A community mausoleum provides families an above ground disposition option. The Prairie Mausoleums offer families a serene and peaceful area to honor a loved one. The new mausoleum provides single and tandem crypts. In addition, granite-front cremation niches will be available. To learn more about Green Lawn's newest above ground addition and special opportunities on how to celebrate a life, please call 614-444-1123 to schedule a time to meet with one of our family service advisors. You may also email us at info@greenlawncemetery.org



Recent Gatherings at Green Lawn

Right: A mighty team of volunteers from JP Morgan Chase turned out to help clean veterans' markers on May 6th. The weather was glorious and this impressive group cleaned over 450 markers in just a few hours. Green Lawn Cemetery uses an environmentally friendly cleaner preferred by the National Park Service that gently removes mold, mildew, algae and air pollutants without damaging the markers. We are grateful to the Chase volunteers for the ongoing service commitment to the veterans in Green Lawn.



Left: Green Lawn hosted a birding tour on May 13th with NPR & WOSU Public Media. We were joined by Ann Fisher, Executive Producer of *All Sides with Ann Fisher*. Renowned birder and conservationist Dr. Bernard Masters (ball cap to the left) speaks to a group of birders heading into the cemetery. Over 66 species of birds were observed that morning. A delicious catered brunch followed in the Huntington Chapel. By deliberating preserving and enhancing the natural habitat at Green Lawn, we thrive as far more than a cemetery.

Upcoming Green Lawn Cemetery Events

Sunday, June 25, 1:00-3:00pm, Veterans of Green Lawn Bike Tour: Join Randy Rogers for a special guided bicycle tour of our Veterans from the Revolutionary War through the Global War on Terror. You will hear stories about their inspiring lives, accomplishments, and the historic units they represent. Bring your own bicycle or you can reserve one. \$35/rider. Register at: <https://app.donorview.com/Vy6Dy>

Tuesday, July 25, 10:00am-6:00pm, Day Out of Time Festival: Presented by *Latino Arts for Humanity*. Day Out of Time is a day to celebrate peace through culture, and is the last day of the a 13 moon indigenous calendar and is celebrated in more than 80 countries worldwide. It is called the Day Out of Time because it is the last day of the year and is not part of any week or month in that calendar. Mediation, yoga, music, talks, movement workshop, food, and more.

Sunday, July 30, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Green Lawn Cemetery Summer Walk: Join us on the path less traveled as Executive Director Randy Rogers and author Doreen Uhas Sauer lead us on a narrated tour of unique sculptures, graves with fascinating stories about residents of yesteryear. Starts in the historic Huntington Chapel. \$25/person. Register at: www.greenlawncemetery.org/events

Sunday, August 6, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Green Lawn Cemetery Bike Tour: Join us for a fully guided bike tour narrated by Randy Rogers and Matt Wolf. The tour starts at Green Lawn Abbey then rides deep into the cemetery to explore notable graves, sculptures, interesting history, and the Huntington chapel. Bring your bike or you can provide one when you register online. This is a fundraiser. \$35/rider.

Saturday, August 12, 4:00pm-6:00pm, Green Lawn LGBTQ+ Open House: Join us for an LGBTQ+ community Open House. Adult refreshments and hors d'oeuvres at Green Lawn Abbey. Enjoy the timeless beauty and architecture of Green Lawn Abbey, followed by a guided bus tour through the majestic grounds of Green Lawn Cemetery. Held in partnership with *Stonewall Columbus*, *Club Diversity*, and *Ohio History Connection*.

Saturday, October 7, 10:00am-6:00pm, El Dia de los Muertos / Day of the Dead Festival: A family friendly cultural festival to remember and celebrate loved ones that are no longer with us, Ofrendas, authentic Mexican food, live music, Aztec dancers, educational presentations, art exhibition, and activities for the kids. Presented by *Latino Arts for Humanity*. Free and open to the public.

Latest Events and Updates

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

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



Note: We missed thanking a donor in our last issue - thank you Mr. Andrew Miller for your continued support!

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OFFICE

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sunday

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



CHAPEL

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

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