



A VERY SPECIAL PARK

Heritage

The Newsletter of Green Lawn Cemetery
Spring 2021

Green Lawn Cemetery Receives Ohio Humanities Grant

By Doreen Uhas-Sauer

Green Lawn Cemetery, in partnership with Columbus Landmarks Foundation and the Columbus Metropolitan Library, recently received a generous grant from Ohio Humanities for an exciting new project: **“Facing History and Ourselves: The Rural Cemetery Movement in Green Lawn.”** The project will feature three virtual panel discussions of scholars that focus on Columbus and Ohio history as reflected at Green Lawn.

The series, which will be free and open to the public, will be launched in April. Angela O’Neil, the Library’s Manager of Local History and Genealogy, will moderate the panels, and attendees will be encouraged to share their own comments and questions online.

To further the discussions, Green Lawn and Columbus Landmarks will lead a series of guided tours in late summer/fall, and a discussion guide will be developed for educators and community groups to use with the recorded videos. Programs and panelists are as follows:

The Rural Cemetery Movement Takes Root in Green Lawn: April 8, 6:30-8:30pm

- Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Senior Professor of History, Lindenwood University and author of *The Rural Cemetery Movement—Places of Paradox in 19th Century America* (2017). He has published extensively on segregated cemeteries, the cemetery industry, and 19th century “celebrity corpses”. He has been an award recipient twelve times for his work.
- Dr. Kami Fletcher, Professor of History, Albright College, co-edited *Till Death Do Us Part: American Ethnic Cemeteries as Borders Uncrossed* (2020). She is currently editing *Greave History: Death, Race, & Gender in Southern Cemeteries from the Antebellum to the Post-Civil Rights Era* (coming 2022).
- Dr. Susan Ritchie, Director, House of Unitarian Universalist Studies at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, is a prolific writer and presenter. Her works include *Children of the Same God: Unitarian Universalism in Historical Relationship to Islam and Judaism* (2014). She recently presented *The Victorian Culture of Death* at Green Lawn Cemetery.

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President's Message

Spring Greetings to the Green Lawn Family!



*Randy Rogers, President and
Executive Director
Green Lawn Cemetery Association*

As I write this the weather is finally turning to spring, but it has been a busy winter and we are leaning into spring even as the first buds and blooms appear.

Perhaps the biggest news is that we have purchased the former Columbus Art Memorial just down the street. Our ultimate use of the property is to be determined, but in the short term its acquisition will bolster monument sales.

Speaking of neighbors, local readers will know that Greenlawn Abbey has re-opened to sell its remaining crypts and some new glass fronted niches. This is great for the Abbey as it will provide an endowment to provide for its preservation, but is it good for the cemetery? I believe it is, primarily because both properties are being operated by Memorial Properties, allowing for complimentary rather than competitive price points to be established. So far this has benefited both properties.

Spring also ushers in a new season of restoration, and thanks to a monumental 2020 Annual Campaign supported by all of you, we have again set an aggressive agenda. Two of last years' projects are slowly working towards completion (replacing the vandalized bust of Gustavus Swan and rehabilitating the Huntington Chapel restrooms), and the board has approved some exciting new work. Funds from your donations will restore the first of four large murals from the Hayden mausoleum,

restore the WWII anti-tank guns in veterans' garden 104, replace the vases in front of the chapel (3 of 4 have been lost over the years and the last one is in bad shape), and restore the zinc Beal obelisk which is in danger of collapse. We are also on the home stretch of adding a bronze "Muggs, The Dog Who Bit People" on the James Thurber lot and planning the next step in our phased improvement of the pond.

Later in this Heritage we thank all of you for supporting these efforts, but our thanks go beyond a list of names to the lasting joy these projects create for our families and visitors – appreciation that will transcend generations.

Wildlife Stories



Snow drops blooming in section A - traditionally a sign of hope as one of the first blooms of spring.



A hooded merganser at the pond, photo by Mike Gibson

Green Lawn Cemetery Receives Ohio Humanities Grant (continued from page 1)

- Ryan J. Weller, Weller and Associates, Inc., archaeologist and physical anthropologist, has conducted literature surveys, mapping, and archaeological work in Ohio, including at the North Market/North Graveyard in Columbus and the reburials at Green Lawn.

Accepting or Redlining the Dead? Green Lawn as Crossroads: April 15, 6:30-8:30pm

- Toby Brief, Executive Director, Columbus Jewish Historical Society and Board member of the Jewish Cemetery Association, has curated numerous exhibits on Jewish life and culture.
- Nettie Ferguson, Franklin County Genealogical Society-African American Interest Group, is currently researching African American burials at Green Lawn.
- Leticia Vazquez-Smith, President of the Latino Arts for Humanities, oral historian and researcher, founded Columbus' Day of the Dead celebration.

Art, Artifice, and the Natural World in Green Lawn Cemetery: April 22, 6:30-8:30pm

- Barbara Powers, Department Head, State Preservation Office, is an expert on architect Frank Packard, whose contributions to Green Lawn include the Huntington Chapel and the Hayden Mausoleum.
- Hearcel Craig, Ohio State Senator, District 15, veteran of the United States Army, has served on boards for Veterans Affairs and the Board of Military Veterans Resource Center. As former City Council member, he led efforts to connect veterans to community resources.
- Randy Rogers, President, Green Lawn Cemetery Association, naturalist and historian, retired U.S. Army officer who published *Al Asad au Natural*, a newsletter on nature and wildlife in Iraq. He volunteers with the Cedar Bog Association, Ohio Ornithological Society, and Franklin County Metroparks.
- Doreen Uhas-Sauer, historian and author, board member of Green Lawn Cemetery and past president of Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

We hope you will join us for some or all of the presentations—
<https://events.columbuslibrary.org/events?t=local+history+%26+genealogy&r=nextmonth>.

For more information please contact project director Doreen Uhas Sauer at doreencolumbus@icloud.com.



More Grant News!

Green Lawn Cemetery has also received a generous grant from the Ohio History Fund for "Separate But Equal? Policies and Practices of African American Burials at Green Lawn." The funds will support research and documentation of African American burials at Green Lawn and explore changes in societal attitudes and policies over time.

Researcher Nettie Ferguson will be delving into library collections, cemetery records, interviews with funeral directors, and family histories.

Watch future issues for more information on this exciting project!

Thank You!

Dear Friends of Green Lawn,

Spring is the most beautiful time of the year at Green Lawn, and I hope that you will have the opportunity to walk or drive through the cemetery in the coming weeks. The migrating birds and flowering trees will be too lovely to miss!

Thank you for your contributions to the annual campaign. Your generous giving in 2020—coupled with the time and talent of our volunteers and partners—will fund the following projects approved for Green Lawn in the coming year. These restoration projects are both significant and very visible to the public:

- ❖ Restoration of the WWII anti-tank guns in military section 104
- ❖ Restoration of the first of four murals saved from the Hayden Mausoleum
- ❖ Replacement of the concrete vases at the entrance to the Huntington Chapel
- ❖ Completion of the replacement bust on the Gustavus Swan monument

In addition, we continue to virtually welcome hundreds of old and new friends to the Huntington Chapel for our First Saturday Programs and the Seasonal Walking Tours co-hosted by Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

The Development Committee members— Trip Lazarus, Susy Meiling, Jane Mykrantz, Anne Wright and Tanya Yepsen—join me in thanking you for your commitment. This spring, we are recognizing our most devoted Friends of Green Lawn and welcoming a new generation of donors. We depend on you and truly appreciate your partnership!

Like you, my family members and many dear friends are buried at Green Lawn. It is a privilege to join you in honoring those we love by taking good care of this very special park.

Lynne M. Jeffrey
President
Green Lawn Cemetery Foundation



For more information about making an Annual Campaign donation, a gift to the Endowment Fund, or a Planned Gift for Green Lawn Cemetery, please contact Randel Rogers, Executive Director, at 614-271-8600 or at greenlawncemeteryassoc@gmail.com.

Green Lawn 2020 Fall Campaign Donors

We gratefully acknowledge donors to the 2020 Annual Campaign. We appreciate each of you for your partnership in maintaining the architectural treasures and natural environment at Green Lawn. Thank you for your investment in this Very Special Park!

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Upcoming 2021 Green Lawn Cemetery Programs

Most Events are Free, and All are Family-Friendly

Due to COVID-19, First Saturday programming has been discontinued until further notice. However, Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is hosting two outdoor fundraisers to help support our preservation efforts. We will continue to provide educational programming and our quarterly tour virtually.

April 17: 1:00pm-3:00pm: “Green Lawn Cemetery Bike Tour”: Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is partnering with Green Lawn to offer a guided tour narrated by historian and naturalist Randy Rogers. Tours begin and end at Green Lawn Abbey at 700 Greenlawn Ave. Tickets limited to 10 participants. Tickets may be purchased at app.donorview.com/JyjWK

April 25: 1:00pm-3:00pm: “Spring Walk Through Green Lawn”: Columbus Landmarks Foundation is partnering with Green Lawn Cemetery to present an interactive virtual tour, which will be shown on Columbus Landmarks’ Facebook page. Participants will have the opportunity to donate to Green Lawn’s preservation efforts.

May 15: 1:00pm-3:00pm: “Guided Tree Tour Hike”: Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is offering a guided tour by arborist Rick Frantz. Come inspect some of Green Lawn’s 112 species of trees and learn more about their historical context and medicinal uses. Tour begins at Huntington Chapel and is limited to 10 participants. To register, visit <https://app.donorview.com/6KVVN>.

Cemetery News

News from Memorial Properties continues to be good. Year to Year sales grew during 2020, and several areas are trending to include glass fronted cremation niches in Huntington Chapel, pre-sale crypts in the New Garden addition, monuments, and reclaimed lots in the historical sections of the cemetery.

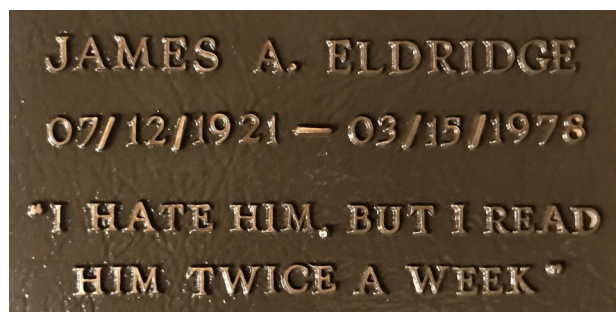


Example of a Glass-Front Niche



While sales have been good, there has also been time for community.

Closing a sad chapter of Columbus history, we facilitated providing a dignified final resting place for murder victim James A. Eldridge, who had been in our permanent holding vault for over 40 years. A FB fundraiser covered the cost of a niche in the chapel and Memorial Properties waived all fees.



Eldridge was memorialized with his byline from the Chillicothe Gazette

Recent news told of an abuse victim permanently handicapped as an infant who lived beyond expectations until his recent death at 25. The family couldn’t afford a marker and their Ohio Victims’ Relief Funds had expired. To highlight our relaunch of Columbus Art Memorial, we reached out to the family and are providing a marker free of charge.



More on these stories can be found on our FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/GreenLawnCemeteryColumbus>

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