

The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

April, 2020

2019 Brought Many Challenges - But We Won!

We always have fun looking back at the pictures from the previous year when we get ready to send you this update of what we accomplished. It gives us an opportunity to remember everything we did as we often just don't remember what all that was accomplished. But I don't think we will have trouble remembering 2019 for a while.

The year started with one of our very large maple trees being blown over by a storm in late March and then the rains came. In the midst of all that this was also our first year mowing the cemetery after having a service for a number of years. Ardmore Tree Service was again a huge help to us and we can't thank them enough. Lake View Cemetery also had to come rescue the tractor as I got it stuck in a sink hole (more to that story later).

One of the more exciting things is that we have know for a long time that Buffalo Bill Cody's grandparents were buried in the cemetery and we know where they are buried but the headstone was missing. Late fall a gentleman in Washington State wrote an article about a law suit that Buffalo Bill brought in Cuyahoga County in the 1800's regarding his grandparents land and referenced they were buried in our cemetery. Someone reached out to this author and told him they were buried in Lake View Cemetery. After some research we did find the grandparents headstone in Lake View Cemetery. After coordinate with Lake View Cemetery and the family arrangements are being made to bring the headstone back to East Cleveland Township Cemetery. Our plan is to build a proper base for the headstone and get it back up right along with Buffalo Bill's Aunt and Cousin's headstones which are in the same lot as his grandparents, Philip and Lydia Cody.

Wayne, Amy and I did take a little break over the winter months. We can't thank each of you enough for your on-going support and words of encouragement. Please keep coming back for visits. We enjoy seeing that you have been there even when we are not there.

Thank you again! Be Safe & Stay Healthy!

Warmest Regards ~ Nancy



*Theta Chi Fraternity
Thank you!*



*Spring clean up
included picking up
branches, clearing
leaves from around
the headstones and
helped us clean up
the leaves from the
fall.*



The Maple Tree that Kept on Giving

We mentioned in last year's newsletter how a maple tree had been blown over in a Spring storm. Well it took us all summer to get rid of the wood that Ardmore Tree Service cut for us. But we did it ~ roots and all. To give you a perspective on the size of this tree take a look at the pictures below. We definitely found muscle groups we didn't know we had and got ourselves quite a work out.



This is where we started from.



Ardmore cut it all into pieces and hauled the majority of it away including the pieces to the right.

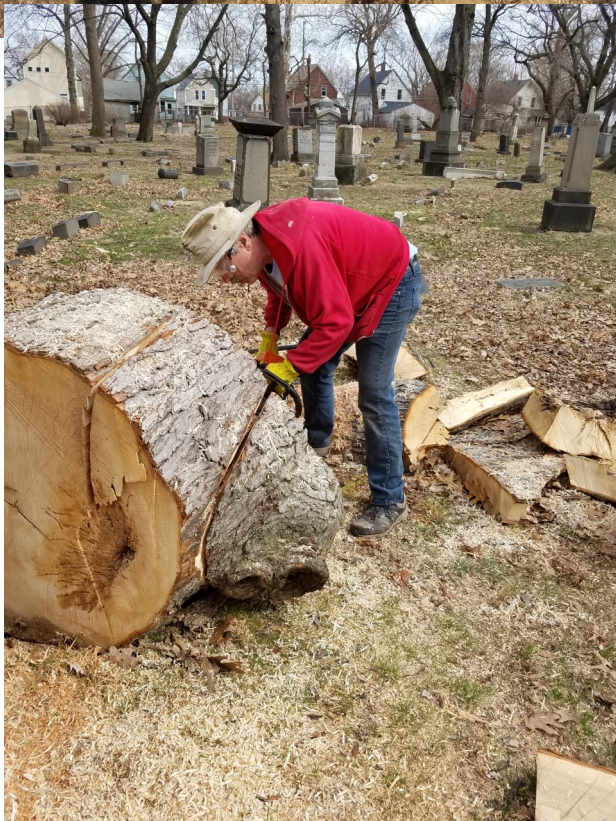


The picture to the left is of the base of the tree. Nancy is 5'2" and the base was basically as tall as she is.

The Maple Tree that Kept on Giving (Continued)



We started on the roots. You always start with the hardest part right???



We found a headstone buried within the roots of the tree that we carefully removed.

Once the roots were all removed which by the way we did with axes—chainsaws don't do well in the dirt. We began cutting the large trunk pieces into smaller more manageable pieces and moving them out of the middle of the cemetery. I can't recall how many chains we went through but it seemed like we were having chains sharpened weekly.

The wood was eventually taken by one of the Boy Scouts' fathers for fire wood.

The Spring Rains Came ~ In a Big Way

In old cemeteries many of the people buried were buried in wooden caskets without a vault. Over the years we have back filled graves that have collapsed as the wood rots eventually the casket breaks down and the ground above them collapses inward.

This year with the amount of rain we received in the Spring we had a lot of graves either completely collapsing or partially so. To the point one day when Nancy was mowing the back wheel of the mower got stuck in one such hole. She was mowing by herself and she went over to Lake View Cemetery to see if the grounds crew there could help her get the wheel out which they willingly got in their trucks with some straps and came over to get the mower out of the hole ~ **thank you Lake View Cemetery!**

Once we discovered the breath of the issue we ordered 18 yards of topsoil and in between working the Maple Tree started moving the dirt to back fill all the sunken areas of the cemetery. If you have never seen 18 yards of top soil—it is impressive and was delivered in a semi.

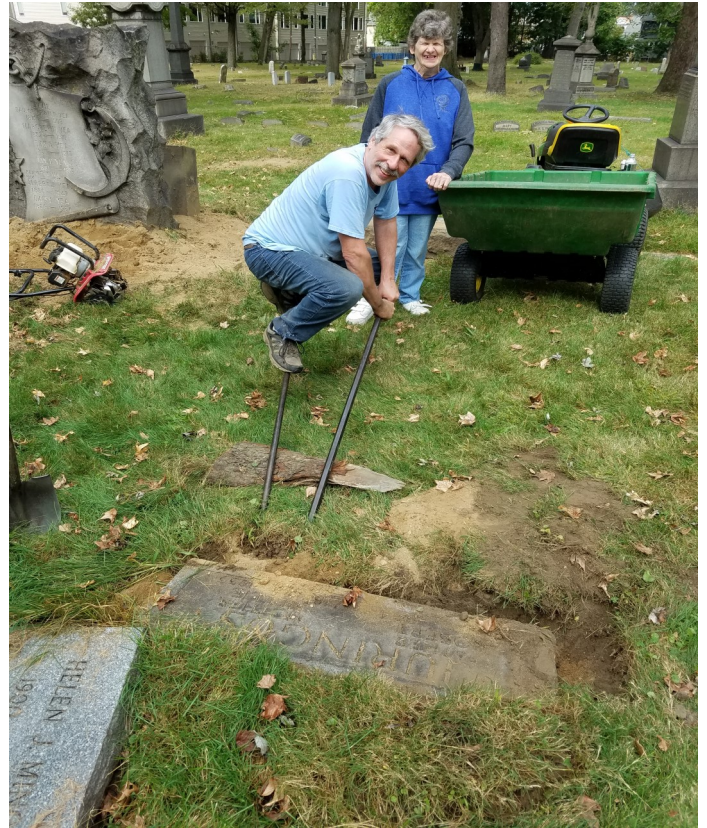
One weekend Wayne and Amy's daughter Irene was in town with her wife Kerri and they came to help move dirt. They were a great help! **Thanks Ladies!**



Headstone Leveling

As we were moving the top soil around in the cemetery we took the opportunity address some headstones that needed to be leveled. We also have had a ground hog issue for a number of years and have been addressing that as well. But the ground hogs create major holes in the ground and create a mess.

The Yea family monument was one that ground hogs had created a mess around the monument and we took this opportunity to address the issue along with some of the headstones around the Yea monument. You can see in the pictures below we don't have equipment to do the lifting but we don't let that stop us.



What Happens to the Brush?

Did you ever wonder what happens to all the branches that fall from the 187 trees at the cemetery? We burn it. Wayne and Amy's youngest son, Jeff, comes to the cemetery on the Sundays he has off from work and clears our brush piles for us. *Thanks Jeff!*



Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Our Neighbors

Ken and Louise Vinciguera (one of our neighbors) had a vision and saw a need to make certain that the cemetery was lined with trees well into the future. They reached out to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and a plan was created.

In early fall with the assistance from University School and International Newscomers Academy with over two dozen trees being planted. You may have seen the story on the Channel 5 News:

<https://www.news5cleveland.com/a-better-land/northeast-ohio-teens-create-organization-to-bond-with-international-students>

The trees themselves were donated through Western Reserve Land Conservancy and they were on-site to teach the High Schoolers how to properly plant the trees and brought a tank filled with water so that the trees could be properly watered after planting.

Ken, Louise and all the staff at Western Reserve Land Conservancy—thank you so much!



The team that made this happen!
Louise was hiding.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Our Neighbors



**Learning how
to properly
plant a tree.**



**Team work
makes the
dream work.**



2019 Graveyard Charge - The Scouts and their families work hard!

Thank you!

The Scouts came in November and moved all the leaves that had fallen by mid November to the side of the road. We couldn't do this without them! You are all so appreciated!



**Sometimes you just
need to take a break.**



Thank you all so very much!!!

2019 Leave Clean Up Continues Theta Chia Fraternity Returns!

The fraternity came back in early December to get the second round of leaves.



Great job guys!!! You are so appreciated!

Grounds Maintenance News

In April we bought a commercial grade mower and Nancy spent the summer mowing the grounds. She has mastered the new piece of equipment that was purchased with money from the cemetery's endowment and a gift from one of the trustees.

If you ever wondered how we get the leaves out of the cemetery after the Scouts and Fraternity get the to the side of the road, we have a commercial vacuum that we purchased used a number of years ago. We installed a new hose on it this year and we vacuum and dump at Lake View's compost pile. This year we took out 30 truck load of leaves before Christmas.



2020 Calendar of Events

Memorial Day

ECTCF will not be hosting our traditional Memorial Day event this year due to COVID-19. We will resume this event next year. But we still all need to keep the Memory in Memorial Day.



Halloween Tours, Tentatively Set for Saturday, October 24th at 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM

ECTCF will host the 11th annual Halloween tour on Saturday, October 24th with tours starting at 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM. The walking tour will begin at the cemetery chapel, please bring a flash

ECTCF—Memberships/Donations

The on-going maintenance of the cemetery grounds including the office/chapel and gardens generates on-going expense that include utilities, equipment maintenance, supplies, etc. None of the Board members are paid for the hours of work we put into the foundation/cemetery every year. We donate our time and resources.

We count on donations from the families of our permanent residents and others who enjoy the urban park we have created and those that participate in our tours. We are excited about our annual newsletter that lets us share with you everything that has occurred over the past year, however, there are costs associated with the newsletter as well. With a mailing of nearly 500 newsletters this cost is substantial. We want to continue to share our successes with you and are therefore initiating an annual membership to the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation that includes the receipt of the annual newsletter and continued notification of our annual events. We have several levels of membership:

Individual—\$25.00—Includes annual newsletter that includes advance notification of all events.

Sustaining—\$50.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events and helps to support the on-going preservation of this historical site.

Patron—\$75.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* .

Lifetime—\$250.00—Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* along with a new updated East Cleveland Township Cemetery t-shirt.

Because of the Foundation's non-profit status (501(c)3) status your membership is tax-deductible and allows you to continue support to preserve the pioneer Victorian legacy for your children and grandchildren. Please utilize the enclosed form to submit your membership application.

We thank you for your on-going support of us and the East Cleveland Township Cemetery!



East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

2020 Membership Application

Information (please print or type)

Name	
Street Address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Telephone (home)	
Telephone (business)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Both the membership fees and donations are completely tax deductible.

Membership Levels

☐

Individual Membership - \$25.00

Includes annual newsletter and advance notification of all events.

☐

Sustaining Membership - \$50.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events and helps to support the on-going preservation of this historical site.

☐

Patron Membership - \$100.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery*.

☐

Lifetime Membership - \$250.00

Includes annual newsletter, advance notification of all events, supports the on-going preservation of this historical site and includes a free copy of the book: *To Dwell With Fellow Clay, The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* and an East Cleveland Township Cemetery polo shirt.

Donations Greatly Appreciated

In addition to the membership fee any and all donations to continue to support the on-going work are greatly appreciated. Donation included: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

Mail to: P.O. Box 1874, Cleveland, OH 44106-0074

Trustees/Officers

Allen H. Ford
Honorary Chairman
Bracy E. Lewis
President
Nancy L. West
Vice President & Secretary
William L. Garrison
Vice President & Treasurer
J. Wayne Rhine
Vice President, Operations
William J. Culbertson
Trustee
Murray M. Davidson, Deceased
Trustee
Mark Derrickson
Trustee
Roy G. Harley, Deceased
Trustee
Hunter S. Havens
Trustee



The mission of East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation is to provide educational and patriotic events for the community in an urban park setting that demonstrates the honor and respect due the early pioneer settlers of the Western Reserve.

The East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation's vision is to restore and maintain the East Cleveland Township Cemetery as a historic landmark, creating an urban park where the community can relax, reflect, and discover the historical significance of the area, and to build a solid financial foundation for its future.

***East Cleveland
Township Cemetery
Foundation***
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