

The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

January, 2006

Volume 1, Issue 1

2005—An Extraordinary Year



A new flag was raised for Memorial Day 2004 just inside the entrance to the cemetery.

Renovations began in the cemetery with the clean-up weekends in September, 2004. We never expected that 2005 would end up being the extraordinary year it did. This first issue of what we anticipate will be a semi-annual newsletter will focus on the events and stories that made 2005 the cemetery's come-back year.

There have been so many people and organizations that assisted in our 2005 successes. We will highlight the major events and keep you informed as we move forward.

Many of you supported our efforts with personal financial contributions and they were much appreciated. Some contributed time and talents that also helped put the cemetery back on the map.

Much was accomplished in 2005, yet there is still much to do. We are working on undoing at least 50 years of neglect. There are many changes planned for 2006. Plans for 2006 will also be outlined so you can continue to watch the transformation of a community blight into a community light.

Special points of interest:

- Veteran Markers Replaced
- Honoring Our Veterans
- Renovation of the Chapel
- The Longest Serving Volunteer
- 2006 Renovations Planned
- 2006 Calendar of Events



Demolition Starts The Ball Rolling



Bob Deskins
Lightning Demolition &
Excavating Company

It was the caring of Bob Deskins of Lightning Demolition & Excavating that started the major changes that would occur at the cemetery in March, 2005. Bob donated his services in the demolition of the former caretakers house on the property just outside the gates of the cemetery.

The home was beyond repair and was an eye sore to the neighborhood. Plans were then set into motion for a garden on the now vacant lot.

In the meantime grass was planted and maintained.

Grounds Maintenance in 2005

In September, 2004 two weekends were spent cleaning-up the debris in the cemetery. Many volunteers helped over those two weekends and a dent was put in the neglect that had been accumulating for many years. But there was still much to be done.

In April, 2005 another two weekends were spent pruning trees, raking leaves, and general grounds maintenance. We also started leveling some of the sunken markers and filling sink holes. The one marker that had all our attention was the marker for

Willie B. Hunter who was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. There was a large sink hole and the marker was sinking at an angle. The sink hole was filled and the marker reset.

The City of Cleveland Heights has supported all of our clean-up efforts with picking up all the debris we collect and drag to the drive. Without this assistance the clean up effort would have been a much more challenging endeavor.

The clean-up in the cemetery did not

stop there, we were also assisted in September during Case Western Reserve Community Days.



Memorial Day Celebration

For Memorial Day in 2004 we re-established the practice of honoring our Veterans. With a Boy Scout troop we placed markers on the over 400 veteran graves in the cemetery, with a new flag raised on the flag pole inside the cemetery.

This now annual event at the cemetery was no different in 2005 except that the Boy Scout troop was assisted by the USO, Early Settlers Association, Girl Scout troop, African American Genealogy Soci-

ety and many other interested parties in honoring our Veterans.

East Cleveland Township Cemetery is the final resting place of five Veterans from the American Revolutionary War. There are many Veterans of the Civil War; to identify a few there is Alonzo Silsby who died at Gettysburg, Charles Dille who died at Andersonville Prison in Georgia along with several black civil war veterans.

Once all of the Veteran graves were properly marked with flags we grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and celebrated the memory of the Veterans.

East Cleveland Township Cemetery is the final resting place of Veterans from the American Revolution through the Vietnam War.



Chapel Renovations

We started renovations on the chapel at the entrance to the cemetery in January, 2005. The chapel was built in 1910 and was designed by local architect Frank B. Meade. It had been neglected for years and was the home of squatters.



Technical assistance was sought from the Cleveland Restoration Society with volunteers working on the chapel every Sunday.

Water damaged has been repaired, woodwork that was painted white has been stripped down to the beautiful oak that was being hidden, windows have been repaired and the fire-

place that had been plastered over has been uncovered.

After volunteers scraped and patched the stucco exterior of the chapel, Case Western Reserve University donated the painters to paint the exterior of the chapel.

We plan to complete the renovations by June, 2006 and to utilize the chapel as a home for the Foundation.

Veteran Markers Replaced

As part of our renovations of the cemetery we began to inventory and document those Veteran markers that were no longer readable. In an effort to properly document our Veterans final resting place and their service to our Country, replacement markers were ordered and set.

A total of 38 replacement markers were ordered and 24 markers were received and set before the snow started falling. The balance of the markers are still being received and will be set in the Spring.

The inventory process also found a number of Veterans whose graves were not marked or identified and markers were ordered through Veteran Affairs with the assistance of the Cleveland Veteran Service Commission.

Lake View Cemetery assisted us by accepting delivery of these markers and unloading the markers at East Cleveland Township Cemetery.



Raising and Resetting Markers

The families resting in East Cleveland Township Cemetery are many of the early settlers and founders of the Western Reserve/Cuyahoga County.

The markers documenting these family's final resting place have been sinking due to the soil in the cemetery which is mostly sand. The project of raising and resetting these markers began in 2005 as well. We are using compacted gravel to build a base for the markers and to slow the settling

process. During the course of 2005 we went through 3 tons of gravel. There were a number of markers that were reset throughout the cemetery and then we focused on the section of the cemetery immediately to your right as you enter the cemetery.

This project is time consuming and hard labor. Many of these markers weigh several hundred pounds and have sunk several feet. This requires the marker to be completely raised so that the text on the marker is readable.

Three tons of gravel were utilized to rebuild bases for markers that were sunken and unreadable.



The Longest Serving Volunteer

Before the Foundation obtained ownership of the cemetery there was one individual who took it upon himself to do what he could to honor the residents of the cemetery. He mowed the lawn around the chapel and former caretakers home. He paid to have trees pruned and taken down when they



were about to fall. He boarded the windows of the chapel to prevent vandalism when everyone else had forgotten about the cemetery. And generally he watched over the final resting place of our City' founders. This person is our neighbor and we want to take this opportunity to

thank Marlin Wiley for his time, effort and caring for our city's founders.

It is in this first issue of the ECTCF News that we want to extend a special **Thank You** and honor Mr. Wiley for his commitment to the cemetery and its residents.

Footsteps of the Past

On September 10 and 17, 2005, East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation hosted its first event to share the history of it's permanent residents.

Over the two days approximately 100 people toured the cemetery (even when it rained on the 17th) and heard the stories of some of the original settlers of the Western Reserve. They were introduced to Rodolphus Edwards who was elected Chairman (now what we would refer to as the Mayor) of Cleveland at the first town meeting held on April 5, 1802.

Ebenezer Duty was also highlighted for his contributions to the Western Reserve as the manufacturer of the first bricks in the area. Mr. Duty's bricks were used to build the Jefferson courthouse and the first Ohio penitentiary in 1812.

The families of Elias Cozad, Hezekiah Ford and Timothy Doane were reintroduced to the participants. Elijah Burton, MD and his wife Abby who arrived in Cleveland in approximately 1820 and 1827 respectively were shared with participants. Dr. Burton, his son and grandson continued to treat and care for the residents of Cleveland for nearly 99 years.

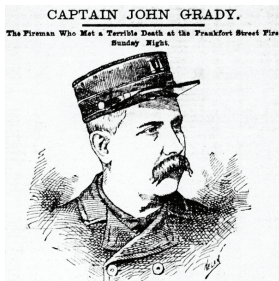
Every cemetery can also tell the stories of some of the City's tragedies. We shared the stories of the Central Viaduct Disaster

of 1895 by telling the story of the it's conductor Edward Hoffman. The Collinwood School fire of 1908 was told by sharing the story of two of its victims, namely, Alvin Sprung and Florence Ewald who both lost their young lives in that fire.

There are also local heroes whose stories were told. One in particular was that of Captain John Grady who died on November 15, 1891 as he was fighting a fire that involved every piece of fire fighting equipment available in the City on Frankfort Street.

We also highlighted the service of several of our Veterans, including Revolutionary War veterans Seth Cogswell Baldwin, along with Civil War veterans Alonzo Silsby, Charles Dille, Alexander Swain and the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Participants enjoyed cake and apple cider at the conclusion of the tour which was donated by Corbo's Dolceria and Heinen's Fine Foods. Polo shirts with the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation logo were offered to guests at a cost of \$25 per shirt.



Volunteer Appreciation

The last event we had in 2005 was on Friday, December 9 when all the people and organizations who donated their time and talents during the year were invited to attend an appreciation dinner. The dinner was hosted by ECTCF President Bill Garrison at the Boy Scout Service Center.

A slide show of some of the happenings at the cemetery where shared and volunteers were thanked for their service to the

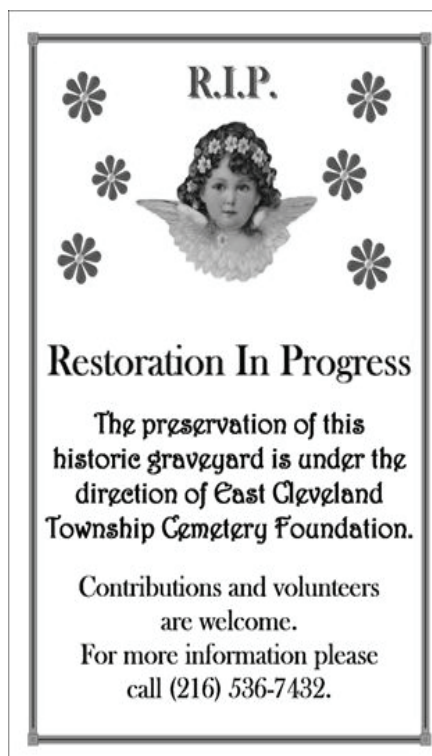


cemetery. You can view the slide show on our website at:

www.rootsweb.com/~ohcuycem. Follow the link for 2006 Calendar of Events and the instructions on the page.



2006—Another Exciting Year



Another exciting year is on the horizon for East Cleveland Township Cemetery.

We have been honored with a grant from The Abington Foundation that will focus on Safety and Security in the cemetery. You will see a new fence going up around the cemetery, the cast iron entrance fence and gate will be repaired and refinished, and the Moses mausoleum will be repaired along with the Moses monument to name a few projects.

A sculpture garden will begin in 2006 on the now vacant lot at the entrance of the cemetery. The Men's Garden Club of Greater Cleveland has donated the talents of member Ron Hartmiller to design the garden. The Sculpture Center is also working with us to establish a rotating sculpture exhibit.

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation received a \$5,000 grant from the Neighborhood Connections program, a small grants program of The Cleveland Foundation. The grant will be utilized for the initial phase of the project to establish the foundation to support the garden.

University Circle Inc. also provided ECTCF with a \$600 donation to support the creation of the garden.

Watch our website and future newsletters for updates on what is planned at the cemetery.



2006—Calendar of Events

- ◆ Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 and May 6 - It's been a long cold winter and it will be great to get back outdoors. We all had a lot of fun last Spring and much was accomplished, hope to see you there.
- ◆ Saturday, May 27 beginning at 10:00 AM we will be placing flags on the Veteran graves for Memorial Day. There are nearly 400 Veterans that have been laid to rest in East Cleveland Township Cemetery. These veterans served this country from the American Revolution thru the Vietnam War. Come help us honor their service to our Country. For more information, please call 216-536-7432.
- ◆ Monday, May 29 beginning at 1:30 PM join us to honor the Veterans who rest in the cemetery and who served us and our Country. More information to follow so watch as this could be the event of the year!



Trustees/Officers

William L. Garrison
President
Allen H. Ford
Vice President & Secretary
Nancy L. West
Vice President & Asst.
Secretary
Roy G. Harley
Vice President & Treasurer
Michelle A. Day
Vice President & Asst.
Treasurer
William J. Culbertson
Trustee
Murray M. Davidson
Trustee
Bracy E. Lewis
Trustee

The mission of the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation is to own and maintain the East Cleveland Township Cemetery as a historic landmark, to restore, preserve and share the cemetery's pioneer Victorian heritage and to build a solid financial foundation for the cemetery's future.

It's vision is to own, renovate and maintain an abandoned historic pioneer cemetery and to relieve the previous public owners of their need to use public resources critically needed for the general welfare of its people. The East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation will strive to set an exemplary example of community leadership and responsibility to turn a community blight into a community light.

**East Cleveland
Township Cemetery
Foundation**

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We're On the Web!

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