Cemetery Renovations Continue

Renovations in the cemetery got a jump start this spring due to the generosity of The Abington Foundation. ECTC was honored with a grant from The Abington Foundation that was designated to focus on security and safety in the cemetery.

The renovations began with the replacement of the chain link fence mesh. Court Community Service provided the manpower to remove the old mesh and to scrape and paint the existing posts and rails. The cast iron fence at the entrance to the cemetery is also being repaired, sanded and repainted.

The three mausoleums have also received some long needed attention. The Moses mausoleum that has been the subject of many newspaper articles over the years, was stabilized by removing all the interior and exterior mortar and replacing the mortar with restoration mortar. The arch keystone over the doorway was jacked back into place and grouted to regain the structural integrity. Missing marble trim stones were fabricated and installed. The final step was to clean the exterior sandstone and a protection material was applied to all the exterior sandstone.

Because of the money we saved on the chain link mesh removal, some of the required repairs were completed on the Gray and Hale mausoleums as well. The arch keystone on the Gray mausoleum was jacked back into place. Both of these mausoleums required repair of theirs roofs which was completed and they both received new window grates.

A shed has been purchased as a place to store the grounds maintenance equipment needed to continue to maintain the cemetery in the future. The shed will be erected shortly.
Chapel Renovations

Chapel renovations continued through the winter months. In the process we found another fireplace in the office area that had been completely bricked in and plastered over. The fireplace itself required some replacement of the mortar and we were fortunate to have a Court Community Service worker who provided that expertise. We are in the process of obtaining a mantel to finish the renovations of the office fireplace. The drywall in the office was completed and the walls have been primed.

The chapel area’s ceiling beams and woodwork refinishing was completed. The walls were patched and the area has its final coat of paint. A new light fixture matching the mission style of the chapel was installed. Once the ceiling work was complete the scaffolding that Absolute Roofing had provided to the Foundation free of charge in August, 2005 was finally able to leave the chapel. We appreciated the donation but were all very glad when we were able to remove it from the chapel. Thanks Absolute Roofing!

A new fireplace mantel in the chapel was installed in the past few weeks. And the rebuilt and/or refinished windows were reinstalled.

With Abington Foundation funds the chapel received a new basement door and security lighting on the exterior.

We began work on repairing the hardwood floor when Spring arrived. We put the renovations of the chapel on hold for the Spring and Summer to focus our attention on the cemetery grounds.

We are anticipating completion of the chapel in the Spring of 2007 and plans are underway for an Open House.

ECTCF Welcomes New Board Member

Wayne Rhine and his family started coming to the cemetery at our first clean-up weekend in September, 2004. Since that time Wayne, his wife Amy, and children Jeff, Irene and Matt have continued to assisted with the renovations of the chapel and the cemetery every Sunday since approximately February, 2005.

Wayne is an engineer by trade and recently completed re-drawing all the cemetery section maps which can be found on our website.

ECTCF is proud and excited to have Wayne join the Board. Thanks Wayne!
Raising and Resetting Markers

Last year we began the process of raising and resetting markers. This Spring we continued the process with the assistance of Court Community Service workers. The change has been dramatic and with the additional manpower we started raising some of the family monuments that had toppled. With the engineering expertise of Wayne Rhine, the bases of these family monuments were leveled and the spires raised and reset. Wayne summarized a day at the cemetery resetting the family monuments as follows:

**How to Fix a Family Monument.**

First find an old cemetery that needs fixing up. We have one of those.<grin>

Then get several strong helpers.

In this instance the stone to be lifted was on the ground for many years and had sunk in. The stone was freed from the ground and lifted enough to get boards and steel bars under. The boards and bars are tied to the stone for stability. Four of us lift the stone up to the monument base. One more helper to stabilize the stone on the base.

The 2 lifters holding the top of the stone plus 2 more raise the 5½ solid marble stone all the way up! A little fine adjustment and we are done!

Best of all there were no injuries.

Two more monuments like this were lifted today plus several more large family monuments repaired by a large crew.

All in all a very rewarding day.

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**So far this year eleven tons of gravel have been utilized to rebuild bases for markers that were sunken and unreadable.**

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Community Sculpture Garden Project Begins

After ECTC Trustee Michelle A. Day worked attentively to obtain the City of Cleveland permits necessary to have the plumbing and electrical installed for the Community Sculpture Garden, ground was broken in late Summer 2006 in the old caretaker’s lot. The infrastructure supporting the garden will be installed prior to any plantings.

Since the East Cleveland Township Cemetery is part of the revitalization district that borders Euclid Avenue, East 118th Street, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and University Circle Inc. (UCI), we are working hard to fit our garden concept into the scope of the neighborhood plans.

The garden is starting to take shape as a result of funding from a $5,000 Neighborhood Connections Grant, a small grant program through the Cleveland Foundation, as well as through the efforts of our talented landscape designer Ron Hartmiller of the Men’s Garden Club of Greater Cleveland and architect Harlan Eberhardt (Tribe Architects), who offered his architectural talents for the permit drawings. We anticipate that by Spring 2007 the brick walking paths will be installed. (Picture on right shows the future walkways.)

The Community Sculpture Garden would not have been realized were it not for the involvement and cooperation from the following civic-minded companies: Active Plumbing Supply (hydrant faucets and plumbing supplies), Advance Federated Protection Services (AFP [security video cable]), Cuyahoga County Concrete (concrete), DRS (electrical and water line boring), Electrical Workers/BEW Local No. 38 (electrician), Global Glass (flag pole), Lightning Demolition and Excavating (excavating, gravel and sand), Mars Electric (sculpture lighting), Mentor Lumber (pergola), Plumbers Local 55 Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee (plumber), Rexel USA (electrical supplies), and Wheeler and Sons (excavating and masonry). We are very grateful for all of their dedicated work.

Yet, there is still work to be done. Funding and supplies are still needed to support the garden. For information on how you can help, please contact Michelle at 216.319.2091 or email: michelleann@ameritech.net
Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day Weekend dawned bright and beautiful at East Cleveland Township Cemetery this year. We began our remembrance of the 430 veterans buried in the cemetery on Saturday, May 27 with placement of flags on each of the veteran graves. The flag placement was followed by much talk about the sacrifices these veterans made for us, over hamburgers and hot dogs.

On Monday, May 29 a ceremony was held in conjunction with the Western Reserve Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) to honor all the veterans in East Cleveland Township Cemetery. In this first Memorial Day Ceremony in many decades the Foundation chose to pay special tribute to its five Revolutionary War veterans, namely, Seth Cogswell Baldwin, Timothy Doane, Adonijah Edwards, Hezekiah Ford and Elias Lee. Brent Morgan of the SAR spoke to an audience of about 100 people about the meaning of Memorial Day as follows:

“Last week Martha Stewart appeared on the TODAY show – She’s a regular contributor.

She prepared a delicious looking pastry, filling 1/3 with red raspberries, another 1/3 raspberries covered in white confectioner’s sugar, and the final 1/3 in blueberries

The cast – Katie, Matt, Al and Ann ooed and awed over this beautiful, tasty-looking creation

One of Martha’s retorts was something like “this is what Memorial Day is all About”

Well, Is this really what Memorial Day is all About?

Several places around town are advertising bar-b-que dinners and rib cook offs

Is this what Memorial Day is all About?

Several local automobile agencies have special pricing, special deals and special hours all weekend long

Is this what Memorial Day is all About?

Many furniture dealers have special sales with 3 year free financing and extended hours

Is this what Memorial Day is all About? Or what it has BECOME?

I suppose that there is nothing really wrong with these things BUT as much as Christ has been taken out of Christmas, Memory has been taken out of Memorial Day. I can sense that there is a movement to return it as well it should be.”

We were also honored to have descendents of Timothy Doane and Hezekiah Ford present for the ceremony to help us remember what these men did not just during the Revolutionary War but their contributions to the building of Cleveland.

The ceremony concluded with Paul Ferroni on trumpet playing taps and leading the group back to the chapel.

Obie Shelton with WKYC, Channel 3 News began coverage of the event bright and early on Monday morning. Tom Beres, reporter with WKYC covered the entire ceremony with us. The photos above were taken by a WKYC photographer.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make this ceremony possible.
Doane Descendent Makes Discovery

After the Memorial Day Ceremony, Melissa Danielsson, a descendent of Timothy Doane, and her son Eric went back to the grave of Timothy to visit and pay their own private respect. While walking around and visiting the graves of all the Doane descendents, Eric found something interesting. He picked up a stick and started trying to determine what was on the ground, covered by at least an inch of dirt. He kept trying to clear away the dirt and in the process uncovered a headstone that had toppled over.

Only portions of the name remain, but it was located on the Stafford lot just next to the Doane lots.

ECTCF Needs Your Help!

ECTCF has made great strides in the past couple years in renovating and bringing back to life one of Cleveland’s historic cemeteries. Many of you have helped in the past with your fully tax deductible contribution to the Foundation and those contributions have been greatly appreciated.

We have received several grants to help in the process but these funds are for the major aspects of the restoration project. No one on the Board of the Foundation is paid for their time or talents. We are all volunteers and have given freely of our time and resources.

This is the first time we are coming to you as our supporters and asking for assistance. Any support would be greatly appreciated, we have included a donation form with this newsletter in the hope that you will be able to help us continue our efforts.
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.

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East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

P.O. Box 1874
Cleveland, OH 44106-0074

Tel: 216-536-7432

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