

# *The Legacy*

**East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation**

April, 2008

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## **Cleveland Institute of Art Students Come to ECTC**

Beginning on January 31, 2008 Cleveland Institute of Art interior design/fabric and textile students visited East Cleveland Township Cemetery chapel with their instructor Sherri Appleton. Ms. Appleton contacted the Foundation regarding her students completing a project this semester for the cemetery.

The project will include proposed interior design of the chapel that will reflect and highlight the historical significance of the chapel and our permanent residents.

The students are working in teams and will present the Foundation with their reports by the end of the semester.

There is one fabric and textile student who is working on a fabric wall hanging that will be large enough to be displayed over the fireplace mantel in the main chapel area.

The Foundation is excited and very grateful for the students technical expertise to assist with completing the chapel renovations.

### **Special points of interest:**

- Cemetery Renovations
- New Board Member and Election of New Officers
- 150th Anniversary Celebration
- Memorial Day Celebration



# Railroad: We Take Responsibility

By: Lee Batdorff



In last year's newsletter we ran the article below. We are pleased to report that CSX has completed preliminary repairs to stop the wall from crumbling on the headstones that are near the retraining wall.

The article below appeared on [www.clevelandcircle.org](http://www.clevelandcircle.org) on February 8, 2007:

"The East Cleveland Township Cemetery, on E. 118th Street between Euclid Ave. and Wade Park Ave., is an under appreciated gem in University Circle. It is making a comeback!

The newly formed East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation took over the deteriorating cemetery in 2003. Prior, most of the cemetery fell into disrepair. Next door neighbor Marlin Wiley mowed the lawn visible from E. 118th Street and paid to have a damaged tree taken down.

While the 12 acre cemetery is amidst a several hundred thousand dollar renovation by the new owners, there has been one glaring problem that seemed out of control. Many spots on the outer cement layer of the long railroad embankment wall that defines one side of the graveyard were crumbling due to water seepage.

Piles of rubble lay at the bottom of the wall just about on top of several gravestones. Many observers were fearful that pieces of cement crumbling from high on

the wall might hit the grave markers including that of a cousin or aunt of the 1936 gold metal Olympian Jesse Owens, Eunice C. Lester. Her family visited the cemetery, saw the rubble from the wall piling up close to their marker and requested the wall be repaired before the tomb stone is damaged.

In October 2004, Nancy West, the Foundation vice president and assistant secretary, wrote a letter to Norfolk Southern railroad. Not much came of this effort and other concerns took precedence until autumn 2006 when the Norfolk Southern corporate office in Philadelphia was contacted. First a message came back: 'that wall is structurally sound.' A couple days later the railroad also wrote, 'we don't own the wall and we don't know who owns the wall.'

In 1999, after the northeastern U.S. railroads were brought out of bankruptcy through the federally-backed Conrail, the railroad property was split up. Ms. West dug up two public documents that made the ownership of the wall look unclear. Once the holidays had passed, the new evidence was taken to CSX Transportation, the other railroad that came out of Conrail in 1999. First she was told to look for a numbered thoroughfare crossing sign.

The cemetery volunteers were considering sending a band of explorers to look for the marker amidst the vast spread of railroad tracks on the embankment behind the wall when the matter was sent

to CSX's Strongsville office.

'I apologized for her running into a lot of run around to find a responsible party,' said Marty Ludwig a staff engineer. 'The outer cement shell on the wall is spalling. Otherwise, the wall is sound,' he said. Within a day of receiving the complaint at the Strongsville office, a bridge supervisor was sent to the cemetery and documented the problem. 'As weather improves and workload allows, we'll repair the wall,' he said. Appearances are that this is likely to be in time for the planned completion of the cemetery renovation in 2008."



After two years, a railroad claimed this wall. Wyane and son Jeffrey Rhine, of the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation, with crumbling railroad embankment wall near gravestones.

## **ECTCF Welcomes New Board Member** **ECTCF Change in Leadership**

Nancy Slocum Callahan joined the Board of East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation in April, 2008.

Nancy has a life-long love for cemeteries, having grown up across the street from Mount Peace Cemetery in Akron, Ohio. She sees them as not only sacred places, but also as arboretums; green spaces that offer a place to appreciate nature, stone craftsmanship, and learn about local history. She also has an appreciation for the cultural richness of the University Circle neighborhood, having earned a Master's degree in Public Health at Case Western Reserve University. In addition to the East Cleveland Cemetery Foundation, she volunteers for the Cleveland Film Society and cares for her family and two Brittanies.

At the ECTCF Board meeting held on April 10, 2008 new officers were elected. President Bill Garrison reported that due to personal commitments he was finding he was unable to devote the time necessary to continue to lead the Foundation forward.

The Board elected Allen H. Ford, Chairman of the Board; Bracy Lewis, President; Bill Garrison, Vice President & Treasurer; and Nancy West, Vice President & Secretary. Roy (Dutch) Harley requested to step down as Treasurer but will remain a Trustee of the Foundation.

We are all very excited about these changes and thank Bill for his leadership over the past five years as President. We are also very grateful to have Dutch continue as an active member of the Board.

## **East Cleveland Township Cemetery's 150th Year Anniversary**



East Cleveland Township Cemetery will be 150 years old on August 31, 2009. We have started discussing plans to celebrate this milestone in the cemetery's history. If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see as part of this celebration please either e-mail Nancy West at [westnancy@att.net](mailto:westnancy@att.net) and/or call us at 216-536-7432.

## **East Cleveland Township Cemetery and University Circle, Inc.**



University Circle, Inc. (UCI) has expanded its borders to include the portion of East 118th Street where the cemetery is located. This expansion in its borders has provided the cemetery with additional security through the UCI police department. The police are assisting the Foundation with patrolling the cemetery but also maintains a key to the cemetery's gate.



## Cemetery Renovations •

Wayne Rhine and Nancy West continue to coordinate the services of Court Community Service every Sunday starting at 9:00 AM. We began our Spring clean-up on Sunday, April 6 by picking up branches, raking leaves and general grounds maintenance.

We have three very large piles of dirt in the middle the cemetery that will be utilized through the Spring and Summer to level the grounds and re-set sunken markers.

There are also plans underway to relay the patio behind the chapel. There are some minor renovations still to be completed on chapel, however, at this time we are looking for funding. We had the furnace serviced in the Fall in anticipation of the winter months and found that the heat exchanger is cracked. We have been obtaining estimates on replacement of the furnace.

The Cities of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights have notified the Foundation that effective May 8, 2008 they will cease providing ground maintenance assistance. We are currently in the process of purchasing and/or locating donated grounds maintenance equipment. The shed to store the equipment will be erected on May 2, 2008.

Anyone desiring to provide additional assistance is welcome to come join us.



## Memorial Park Bench Project •

You can provide a lasting memory of a loved one or honor a special person by purchasing a bench for the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Community Sculpture Garden.

This heavy duty park bench is constructed of solid plastic for durability, has 3 inch high computer carved letters of your personal message, up to 25 characters a line (including spaces). A corporate logo can be added to the bench. Call Wayne Rhine at 216.780.5530 for additional information or visit our website for a color brochure and picture at [www.ectcf.org](http://www.ectcf.org) (follow the link to Foundation information).



## 2008 Calendar of Events •

Saturday, May 24 at 10:00 AM

ECTCF will continue our annual (5th Year) tradition of placing flags on the graves of the 431 veterans in the cemetery. The activity begins at 10:00 AM and takes only a couple hours to complete. We invite those assisting to join us for hamburgers and hot dogs after we complete the placement of the flags. This time is used to remember and honor our veterans. For those who have assisted in the past, we added one more veteran to the list this year. If you have questions or want to participate, please do not hesitate to contact us at 216-536-7432.

## ECTC Has A New Website •

ECTCF has a new website. Trustee Wayne Rhine has coordinated moving the website that was on roots-web to a website that is much easier to remember and find. The link to the new site is [www.ectcf.org](http://www.ectcf.org). We have not yet removed the information from the previous site, but ask that if you have bookmarked the old site that you update your link to [www.ectcf.org](http://www.ectcf.org).

## ECTCF Needs Your Help! •

It's hard to believe that the first and the last time we came to you requesting assistance was in July, 2006. ECTCF continues to make 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.

So we are hoping we can count on you again to assist us in continuing on with the restoration project by assisting with general support. We have included with this newsletter a donation form and hope that we count on your continued support. No donation is too small. Thanks for your on-going support!





#### **Trustees/Officers**

Allen H. Ford  
Chairman  
Bracy E. Lewis  
President  
Nancy L. West  
Vice President & Secretary  
William L. Garrison  
Vice President & Treasurer  
Michelle A. Day  
Vice President & Asst.  
Treasurer  
Nancy Slocum Callahan  
Trustee  
William J. Culbertson  
Trustee  
Murray M. Davidson  
Trustee  
Roy G. Harley  
Trustee  
Kathleen M. Lambacher  
Trustee  
J. Wayne Rhine  
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!**

**[www.ectcf.org](http://www.ectcf.org)**

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