

# The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

April, 2024

## *2023 - The year of the wood!*

The year definitely went well for the cemetery and us, 2023 will go down as the year of the wood. We made a serious effort to get rid of the wood that we could not give away despite a sign at the street stating free fire wood. We had been trying to hide it for years as some of the pieces were too big for our chipper. But more on that in a bit. We started out 2024 with a bit of bang so to speak with a significant structural repair required on the chapel, additional details are contained later in our newsletter.

Theta Chi came to help us with Spring and Fall clean up—those young men are so appreciated for all their hard work. They never cease to amaze us on what they accomplish.

We had the grounds ready for Memorial Day as has consistently been our goal. Nancy has taken off a week from work the week prior to Memorial Day to get the grounds mowed and Wayne string trimmed.

The Halloween tour was a big success again and it was a beautiful night to be out in the cemetery sharing the stories of some of our permanent residents. We had a great turnout and ended up completing two full tours as folks kept coming for the fun and the history.

In the fall the majority of the cemetery had the leaves mulched before the weather got really cold and wet.

Wayne, Amy and I started back on April 14th this year and will be back at the cemetery every Sunday until the snow flies again. Nancy is retiring from her day job early this summer so you will likely find her at the cemetery a bit more often. She has a list of things she wants to get done.

We can't thank all of you enough for your on-going support of the cemetery. It truly means so much to us that you care as much as we do!

Warmest Regards ~ Nancy

•P.S.—If you want to see color photos included in the newsletters, please visit our website: [www.ectcf.org](http://www.ectcf.org)



# The Story of the Disappearance of the Wood

The trees in the cemetery have been providing us surprise gifts for years. But each time something came down, we got out the chain saws, cut it up and removed it from the grounds. Some we chipped into mulch and some had to moved to its hiding spot. Late 2022 we started talking about what we could do to get rid of it as even though we were offering free fire wood and folks would come take truck loads we were running out of hiding spaces.



One of our hiding spaces is shown to the left after some had been removed by one of Wayne and Amy's friends came in with his pickup truck and removed a couple loads but that only put a dent in what was still "hiding".

So we decided to get a dumpster that would take the wood to be recycled. A plan was born!

The first dumpster we got was a 20 yard dumpster and some of our neighbors came and helped us load the 1st dumpster. It was filled to capacity within a few hours.

So we called the dumpster company and requested a pick up of the first dumpster and had a second one delivered for the following weekend.

## Disappearing Wood—Part Two

We then proceeded to fill the second dumpster and to say we were exhausted would be an understatement. But progress we was made in eliminating the amount of wood we had “hiding” in the cemetery. But there was still more, but we needed to get back to the normal grounds maintenance so we took a break even though we knew we would need to finish the project.



# Disappearing Wood—Part Three—Enter Theta Chi

For the past ten years or so Theta Chi has been helping us with clean up in the Spring and Fall. They are a lot of fun to work with and they work so hard when they come. This year was no different. We got our third dumpster for the year to get what we hoped would be the last. But we decided to trim a couple trees that had been needing some attention in preparation for the dumpster and Theta Chi. Because maybe we did not have enough to fill the third dumpster ????



# Disappearing Wood—Part Three—Enter Theta Chi

But we kept hauling in more branches, etc from out in the cemetery and that third dumpster filled up faster than we could have imagined.

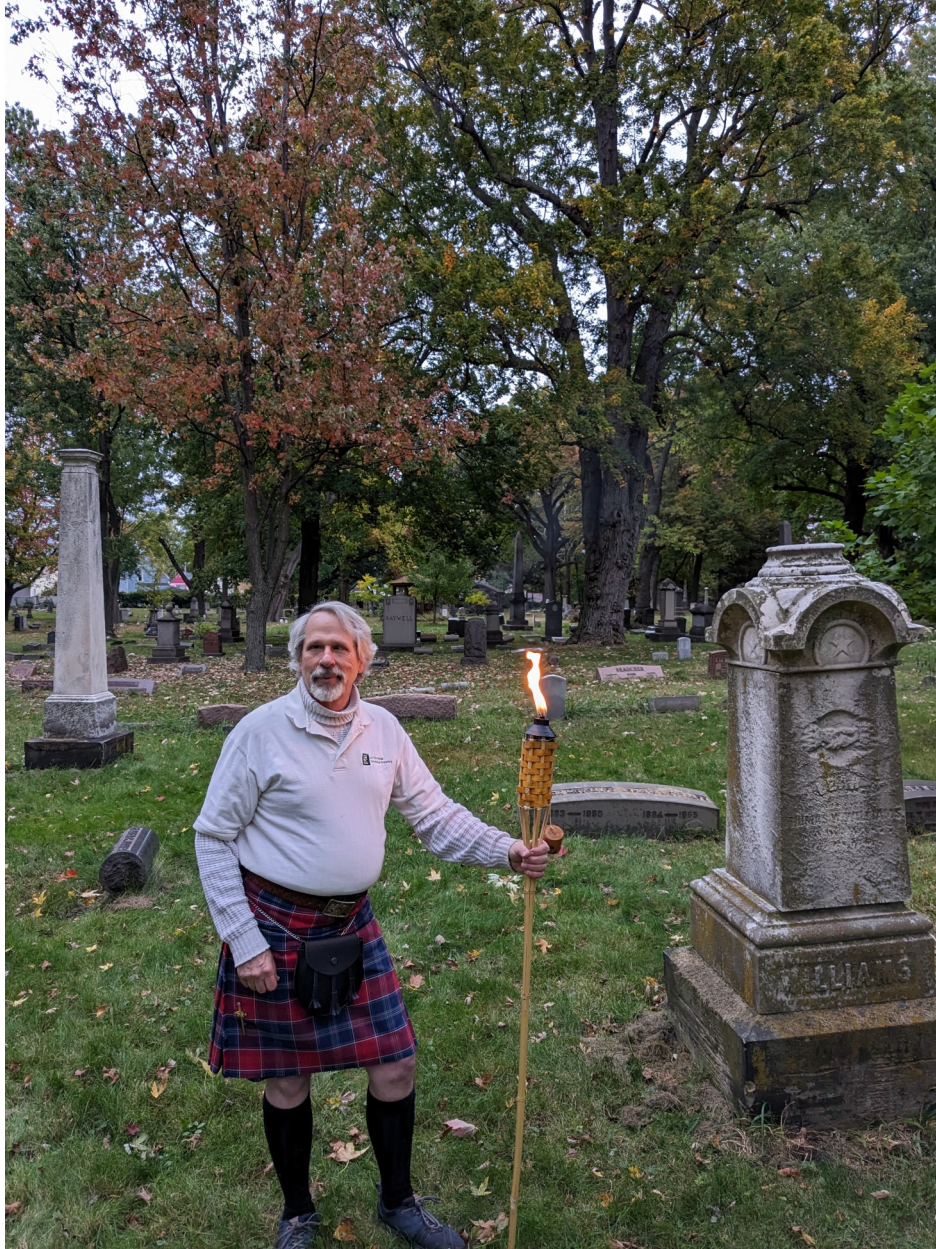
*Thank you so much  
Theta Chi!*



**Oh—by the way the three  
dumpsters totaled in excess of 10  
tons of wood.**

# Halloween Tour

We did have our annual Halloween Tour after dark. We had so many people come out for the tour again this year we didn't have time to take any pictures. Both tours took place with so many guests, we had a great time and they did as well. Wayne decided to dress in costume this year.



## Chapel/Office Repairs

In January 2024 we requested a quote from a contractor we used previously to repair/restore several of the mausoleums many years ago to repair a pillar holding up the portico of the chapel/office. The chapel was built in 1910 and was one of the last structures Frank Meade did prior to his partnership Hamilton. They went on to design and build many of the structures that were on what was known as Millionaire's row in Cleveland.

What they found upon inspection was that the brick under the stucco finish was severely compromised and needed to be replaced. So if you have been in the cemetery over the past month you have watched the deconstruction of this pillar and the rebuilding of same. It has been amazing to watch what has happened and we will share some pictures below so you can get an appreciation of



The picture to the left is what the pillar looked like under the stucco.

## Chapel/Office Repairs



First they had to support the portico using angle iron and then they removed all the old brick.

They dug down below the frost line and poured a concrete footer before beginning the process of rebuilding.

A cement block base was added on that with rebar and then backfilled with more cement along with the steel support in the middle.





## Chapel/Office Repairs



The brick work was then added and wrapped and the stucco has also been added. The project is still in process as of this writing.



# *2024 Calendar of Events*

## **Underground Railroad Tour**

We will be doing an underground railroad discussion and tour on Saturday, September 21st at 2 PM. This is a free walking tour where we will be sharing the stories of some of our permanent residents but also stories about how many escaped slavery and arrived in Cleveland. Please join us rain or shine. Reservations are not required.

## **Halloween Tours**

ECTCF will be hosting our annual Halloween Tours after dark on Saturday, October 19th. The first tour will start at 7:00 PM and the second at 8:30 PM. Costumes are optional and this is kid friendly. Please bring a flash light as we do walk the grounds. Costumes are optional and no reservations are required.



# *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 2024 Membership Application/Donation Form

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 shirt. Designate size for shirt: \_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ Extra-Large

### 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  
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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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