

The Legacy

East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

March, 2026

2025 - What a Year!

The year started out with help from Theta Chi coming to help with Spring clean up. So we had a great start to get the cemetery in good shape by Memorial Day which is always our goal. We were awarded a grant from The Gund Foundation for additional repairs on the chapel/office and those have been completed. The fact that the building was built in 1910 there is no wonder there is some maintenance required from time to time.

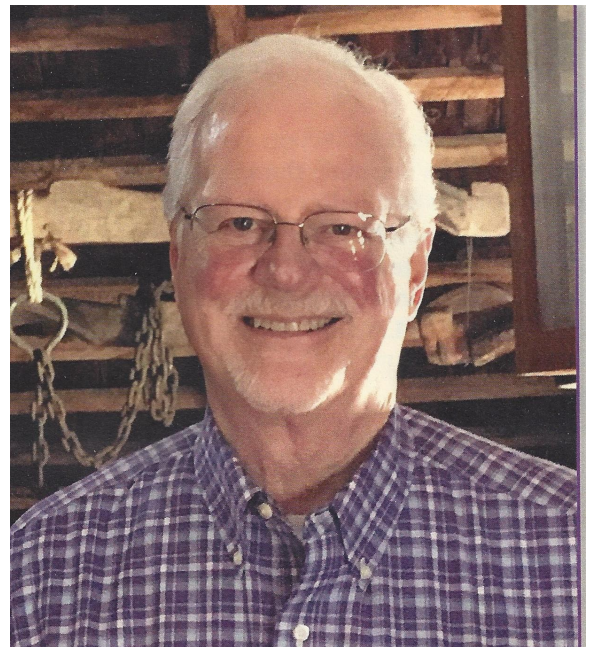
We did have some very sad news at the passing of Bill Garrison who was the founder of the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation. In addition to his involvement with the cemetery, Bill served in numerous roles with the Boy Scouts of American, both locally and nationally. Because his lifelong concern was for the young people on the margins of society, he spent many years as Cubmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for an inner-city Cub pack and Boy Scout troop. One of his greatest joys was seeing his young Scouts earn their Eagle and go on to lead productive lives.

Bill was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Lifetime Humanitarian Award from the Rotary Club of Cleveland, the Cliff Dochterman Rotary & Scouting Service Award, the Whitney M. Young Service Award, the Silver Beaver Award, the Silver Antelope Award and the prestigious Silver Buffalo awarded by the Boy Scouts of America for extraordinary volunteer service on the national level. Bill's input for cemetery will be missed but we will carry on his mission.

Wayne, Amy and I will formally start back on Saturday, April 4th with Theta Chi, hopefully the weather cooperates. 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



Headstone Placement and Revitalization

For a number of years we have been able to assist families with getting headstones for unmarked graves. This year we set two new headstones for previously unmarked graves. It takes both Wayne and I to lift and place the stones after we identify the exact location of the grave. Amy drives the tractor for us.



We told you a few years ago about finally recovering the headstone of Buffalo Bill Cody's grandparents, Philip and Lydia Cody, headstone. We brought it back to the cemetery and this year we built a cedar frame for it to protect it along with the headstones of Buffalo Bill's Aunt and cousin.

Replacement Benches

For the past 15 years or so we have had four park benches in the front yard at the entrance of the cemetery. They were falling apart and were unsafe for our neighbors and guests to utilize. So this year we removed the old benches and replaced with benches that are made of recycled plastic. There are additional benches within the cemetery that a Boy Scout placed a number of years ago as part of his Eagle Scout project.



The picture to the left is of Wayne and his daughter Irene carrying and placing the final bench to its location. The picture below is of the grounds at the gate with two of the benches.



The picture to the left is one of our neighbors who comes down brings all her own equipment and garbage bags and cleans up the front yard of the cemetery. Her name is Faye and all her hard work makes it easier for us to focus on the cemetery grounds.

She was very excited about the new benches as she was previously carrying her own chair from home to take a rest from her work.

Grounds Maintenance

If you thought perhaps we weren't staying busy we kept up with the mowing, string trimming, etc. and there is always a lot of work created by storms and our trees.



Theta Chi—Fall 2025

We have had Theta Chi do all kinds of yard work for us when they visit in the Spring and Fall, but this Fall we decided to do something different. One of the things we love to do is raise and level headstones that have sunken due to the sandy soil in the cemetery. So we thought why not let these 40 fraternity brothers help us out. So we got a yard of 411 gravel to use to build a base and see how it goes. We also contacted Ardmore Tree Service who volunteered to send two of their employees with a fork lift to help with the big headstones that we can't physically lift.

We created two groups, Wayne took the group of four guys with Ardmore to work on the big headstones and Nancy took the rest of the group to work on the smaller headstones. Wayne's group was spread out around the cemetery and Nancy's group was focused on Section 10 South which is just to your right as you enter the cemetery. We gave the group training on what to do and how to do it and the small headstones were marked with flags.

They leveled over 30 headstones in the time they were there and were having so much fun and were able to see the results of their work. They were even finding more headstones that hadn't seen the light of day in years. They were so very excited and left tired but inspired!

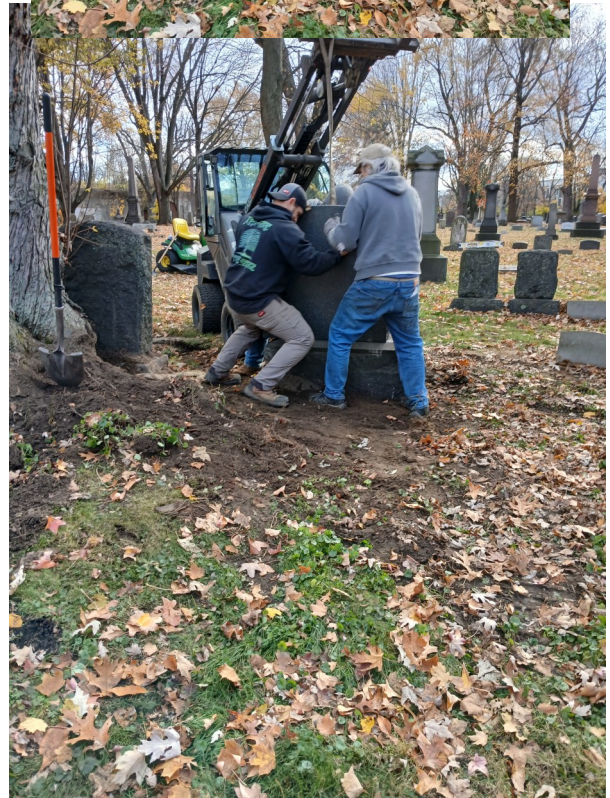


Theta Chi—Fall 2025 Continued



The headstone above was more than it seemed. You could only see the top but under the ground several feet down was the base for the marker. We will get this one placed securely in the base once the weather breaks this year.

Theta Chi—Fall 2025 Continued



These pictures are of one of the large headstones being reset. The base of the headstone was next to a tree and as the tree grew the roots from the tree pushed the base that caused the top to fall off. They had to remove the base from the roots and move the base slightly to set the base level and then replace the top back onto the base.

Ardmore Tree Service and their equipment was the only way we could have accomplished this type of work.

Theta Chi—Fall 2025 Continued



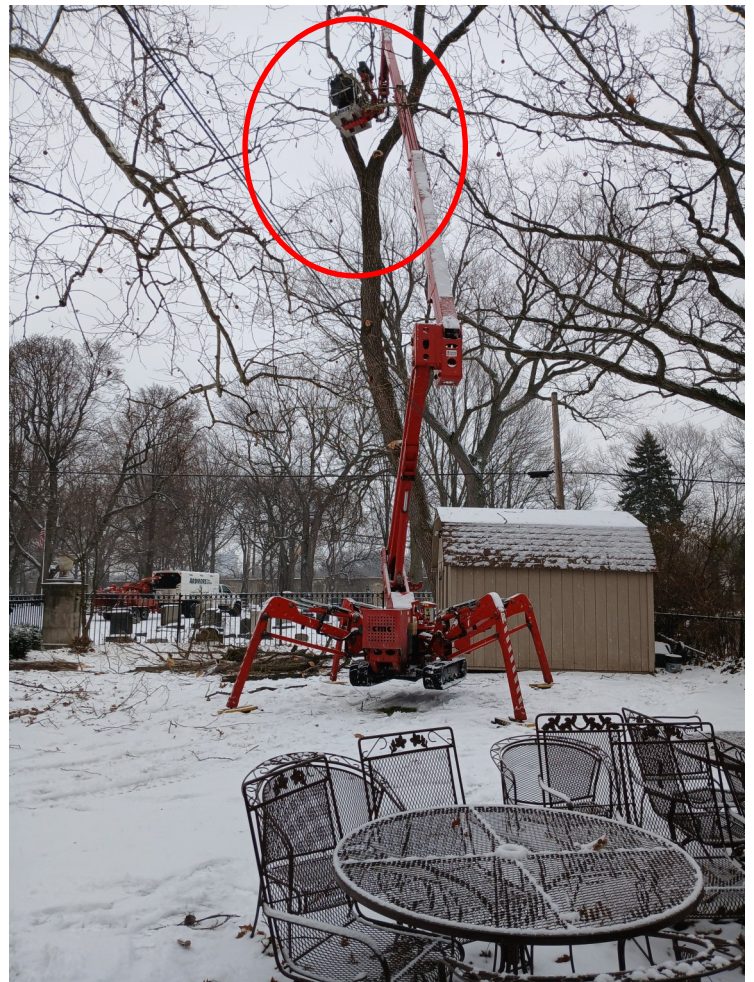
These are all the young men who made this day so special and productive.

Thank you Theta Chi!

Ardmore Tree Service—New Years Eve

We have over 200 trees in the cemetery ranging in age from a couple years old to over 100 years old. The trees need to be pruned on a regular basis to keep them healthy and the newer trees we have planted need to be trained to grow into big beautiful trees. While we do fundraising to pay for the professional work needed on 40 plus trees that we identified with Ardmore Tree Service, Ardmore Tree Service have generously agreed to do the work pro bono so that the work can be completed while we search for the funding. We need to raise \$35,000 to compensate Ardmore for the work.

They started on December 31st and the pictures below show the work that they did on that day where three Sycamores in the front yard were pruned, a willow tree that was dead was brought down. They came back on January 2nd and completed more work. After that due to the amount of severe cold and snow over the last couple months the work has stopped. We hope that we can count on you for additional funding support in addition to your membership to help us compensate Ardmore for the tree work.



Ardmore Tree Service—New Years Eve Continued



2026 Calendar of Events

Halloween Tours

ECTCF will be hosting our annual Halloween Tours after dark on Saturday, October 24th. The first tour will start at 7:00 PM and the second at 8:30 PM. Costumes are optional, no reservations are required and this is kid friendly. Please bring a flash light as we do walk the grounds.



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 2026 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

Capital Donation for Tree Maintenance

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 & Treasurer
J. Wayne Rhine
Vice President, Operations
Mark Derrickson
Trustee
Hunter Havens
Trustee
Kenny Kremm
Trustee
Joy Jordan
Trustee
Marilyn Brandt
Trustee
Tracy Blake
Trustee
Eric Butler
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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