

# *The Legacy*

## East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation

March, 2010

### *2009—150 Years Strong*

As I sat down to start pulling together this year's newsletter I wondered what I was going to have to report. We were busy at the cemetery from April 1st through December 20th, but I wondered what did we actually accomplish. Once I started going through all the pictures that Trustee Wayne Rhine took throughout the year, my concern was more about how could I share everything that we did accomplish in one newsletter.

It was a wonderful year for the Foundation, we added two new Trustees namely, David Onderdonk and Marlin Wiley. Both of whom have been great supporters of the cemetery and wonderful assets to the team. We celebrated the cemetery's 150th anniversary in August with a party with our donors and followed by a historical walk free to the public.

On February 23rd, 2010 we became a member of University Circle, Inc. and there are plans to house a University Circle Police mini-station in the chapel. We believe this a win-win situation for UCI, the residents in the neighborhood and the Foundation.

We have entered into a collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The cemetery grounds are located on an ancient beach ridge. The seeds of the native plants that were in existence back during that time period can lay dormant for hundreds of years. In the Spring you will see several areas throughout the cemetery where staff from the Natural

History museum will turn the soil so that we can determine what native plants will grow. The areas will be marked and we will not mow those sections of ground. This is an exciting opportunity to look at another aspect of the history of Cleveland and the Western Reserve that the cemetery can share.

The Foundation received two grants in 2009 the first was from Neighborhood Connections, a small grant program through the Cleveland Foundation; the second from The National Society of the Colonial Dames. More details on these grants is contained later in

the newsletter.

We have many plans for additional projects and work to be completed in 2010. Stop by any Sunday and say hello. We are at the cemetery every Sunday from April 11th until the weather turns in the fall/winter

We thank all of you for your continued support of the cemetery and Foundation and look forward to another exciting year.

Regards ~ Nancy Adams



**Winter Wonderland—January 2009**

# Memorial Day—2009

We continued our tradition at East Cleveland Township Cemetery, that began in 2004, of placing flags on the graves of each of our 435 Veteran graves. When we began in 2004 the group consisted of two Trustees and a Boy Scout Troup. It took us nearly all day that first year to get the graves all marked but we accomplished our goal.

That same Boy Scout Troop continues to come out each year to assist and we have been joined by many other people as well. There are generally between 25 and 35 people placing flags on the Veteran's graves and it only takes us a couple hours now.

After placing the flags, we spend time remembering our Veterans, what they did for us and celebrating their lives. Each year we follow the placement of the flags on the Veteran graves with a cookout hosted by the Foundation. This year the Boy Scout Troop also assisted with raising a new flag on the flag pole in the cemetery.

If you would like to join us this year, we will again be placing flags on the Veteran graves followed by a cookout on Saturday, May 29th starting at 10 AM.

We look forward to seeing you then.



## *Chapel Patio and Walkway—Finished!*

The patio and walkway behind the chapel that is utilized for all our special events at the cemetery was completed this past summer prior to the 150th anniversary celebration. Dave and Steve Adams worked hard on this project all last summer. Even President Bracy Lewis who does not like to be caught in the act of performing physical labor assisted in the project.

In addition to making the patio area larger than before, a flower box was added as can be seen in the picture below.



*Special thanks to Dave for his dedication to completing this project!!!!*

The patio was constructed in such a way that if you still want to buy a brick in remembrance of your family, you can still do so and your family brick can replace one of the existing bricks.

An order form is contained with this newsletter. All proceeds go to support the Foundation.



## *Garden Project—Completed!*

The 350 daffodil bulbs that were planted in the fall of 2008 bloomed in the Spring of 2009 for the first time. It was a beautiful sight to see !

It was then time to finish the gardens with a total 35 square yards of mulch. We added two flowering dogwoods and an oak tree and everything is looking wonderful.



Neighborhood Connections, a small grant program through the Cleveland Foundation continued its support of the cemetery by awarding us a grant to purchase the park benches for the garden.

The benches will be installed before Memorial Day for visitors of the cemetery and residents of East 118th Street to enjoy.

*Special thanks to  
Neighborhood Connections,  
a small grant program through the  
Cleveland Foundation for its  
on-going support of the  
garden project!!!*

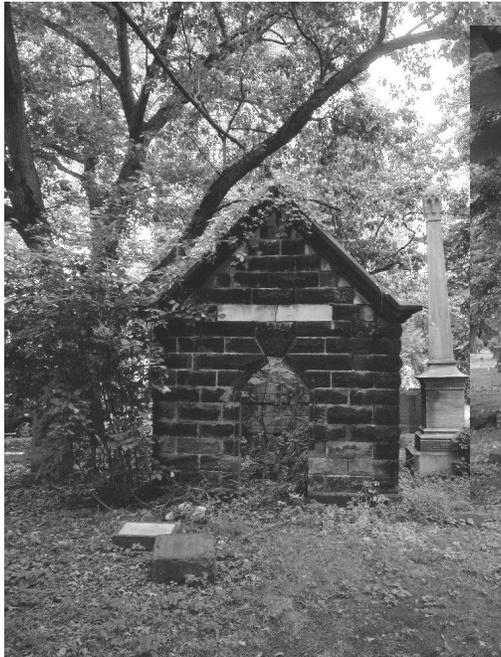


## *Moses Mausoleum—Finished!*

For many of you who remember the cemetery prior to the Foundation getting ownership and beginning its renovation, you will probably remember the condition of the Moses Mausoleum.

The roof had caved in decades earlier and vegetation had taken over the structure. Our first clean-up in 2005 we removed all the vegetation. The Abington Foundation provided us with a grant in 2006 for safety and security and the Moses mausoleum was structurally stabilized.

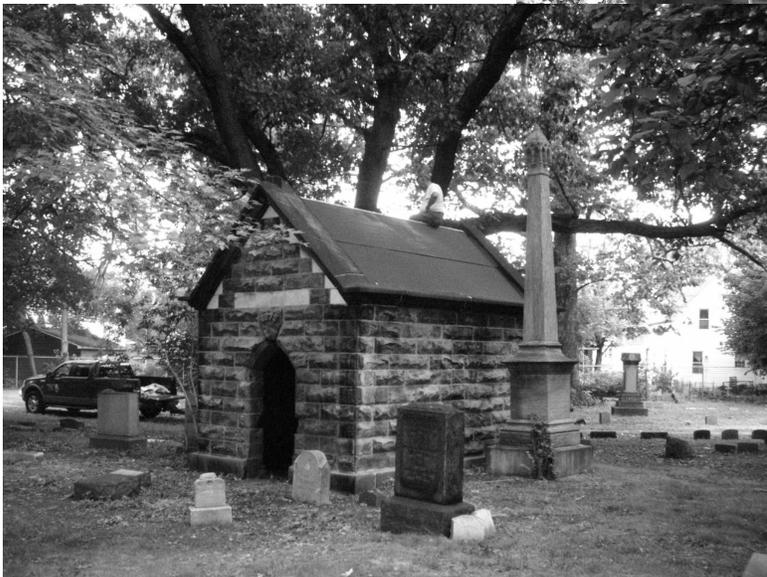
But it still needed a roof. This past summer, under the supervision, of Trustee Dave Onderdonk (Onderdonk Roofing) the Moses Mausoleum roof was rebuilt.



*Pictures to the left and above are of the Moses Mausoleum before any renovations and/or clean-up.*



*Special thanks to Dave and all his sons for their expertise with the completion of the Moses Mausoleum's roof.*



## *Monument Repairs Continue*

Trustees Wayne Rhine and Dave Onderdonk continue their work of resetting monuments that have sunken over the years.

One of the larger projects that was started last year was resetting the bumpers around the Barney lot along the road in the center of the cemetery. These large pieces of carved sandstone shown in the pictures were removed, the ground leveled and then reset. Once completing this project Dave and Wayne decided to start in one section and complete all the monument setting in that section before moving on to the next. This project will continue for some time.



**The bases on the headstones above were completely underground before being raised and reset.**

**Headstones are reset upon request when family comes to visit—picture to the right.**



## *Cemetery Recognized by Historical/Genealogy Groups*

In July 2009, Trustee Nancy Adams (Nancy Fogel West), who authored *To Dwell with Fellow Clay: The Story of East Cleveland Township Cemetery* was asked by the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and African American Genealogy Society to speak to their groups about the history of the cemetery and how the permanent residents of the cemetery played an important part of the history related to the members of both of these organizations. Both presentations were well attended.



## *Chapel Donor Wall—Finished!*

For the past several years one of the items we had on our list of things to get completed was to create a donor wall in the chapel. The wall was meant to acknowledge those individuals and/or organizations who have supported the Foundation.

After investigating the cost of commercial donor recognition wall systems, we decided to do what we have done with almost all the projects we have accomplished over the past 7 years — we did it ourselves.

The plaques on the left in the picture have gold plates and represent donors who have contributed \$5,000 or more to the Foundation. The plaques on the right have silver plates and represent donors who have contributed between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to the Foundation.

Each person that supports the on-going work of the Foundation is greatly appreciated, but we wanted to be able to acknowledge publicly those who have supported the Foundation in a significant manner.



# *Foundation Hosts 150th Celebration*

On August 31, 1859 the cemetery had its first burial a Mr. Duncan. Not much else is known about Mr. Duncan from Pennsylvania, however, it is this date that the Foundation chose to celebrate the anniversary of the cemetery's existence. The actual date the cemetery came into existence is unclear.

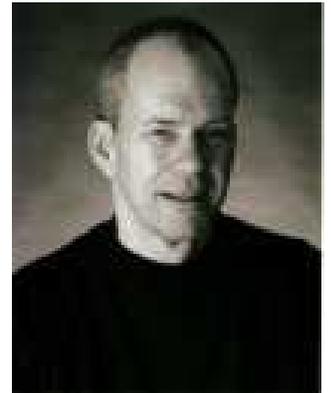
On Friday, August 28th the Foundation hosted a wine and hors d'oeuvres party for all donors to the cemetery. Despite the rain, our supporters turned out and some even



donned their umbrellas when Trustee Wayne Rhine offered a historical tour of the cemetery. Several of the more recognizable people who attended were Tom O'Brien representing Neighborhood Connections a small grant program of the Cleveland Foundation; Randell Scott, Commissioner of the Department of Public Service with the City of Cleveland; and Chief John Pavelich with University Circle Police.

University Circle, Inc. presented East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation with a Proclamation acknowledging the cemetery's historical significance to the area and its work to renovate and maintain the cemetery.

On Saturday, August 29th the Foundation hosted a free historical walking tour of the cemetery to the public. Approximately 150 people turned out for the event. Local actor Robert Keefe, portrayed one of the cemetery's permanent residents George Watkins. Mr. Watkins was a well known resident of the City of Cleveland having arrived with his parents Timothy and Louisa Watkins arrived in Cleveland in 1818. He was but 6 years of age at that time. The family lived in a three sided log cabin on Euclid Avenue that first winter in Cleveland. Mr. Watkins told of his life in Cleveland to the Early Settlers Association in 1885. Mr. Watkins played an important role in the history of the cemetery and in early Cleveland history.



We had visitors that travelled all the way from Texas to be present at the event. A good time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who attended, for your interest in the cemetery and your support of the Foundation's efforts.

*Special Thanks to  
Bob Keefe for his portrayal  
of George Watkins !*

# *Northeast Ohio GeoCachers Return to Rake Leaves*

Maggie and Michael Weiner rallied the Northeast Ohio GeoCachers again this fall to assist with the leaf raking at the cemetery. The event that all the Trustees of the Foundation look forward to took place on Sunday, November 8th. The GeoCachers came to rake leaves and they again out did themselves and we had fun along the way.



*Sarge caught in the act of a little practical joke.  
(above)*

*Thanks Everyone!*

*We really appreciate all your work!*



# *The Never Ending Leaf Story*

Normally the working season at the cemetery ends the Sunday before Thanksgiving. However, this year after the kick start with leaf raking by the GeoCachers, we continued the raking effort. Bryan West, son of Nancy (West) Adams, started coming to the cemetery while off work for a few weeks. Bryan donned two leaf blowers and went to town day after day.



On Sundays we continued to try and keep up with Bryan's piles of leaves that needed to be transported by tarp to the road. In the end Bryan won out and ended up having to assist with moving the leaves to the side of the road.

With the leaves finally piled along the side of the road, we reached out to the City of Cleveland for possible assistance with leaf removal. Due to budget restraints the City was less than certain they would be able to assist us this year with removal of the leaves. Calls were made to multiple company's attempting to determine how we might be able to remove the leaves from the cemetery.



One such call was made to Lake View Cemetery. After talking with Lake View President Gerald Wantz we were able to coordinate the use of one of their leaf vacuums. So work continued at the cemetery until December 20th! After 14 truck loads of leaves we are now, for the first time since we obtained ownership of the cemetery, ahead of the Spring clean up process.



*Thank you  
Lake View Cemetery!!!  
We could not have done  
this without you.*

*Special thanks to Greg Brack for your  
supervision and patience while we  
figured out how to get this done!*

# *National Society of Colonial Dames Adopt Cemetery*

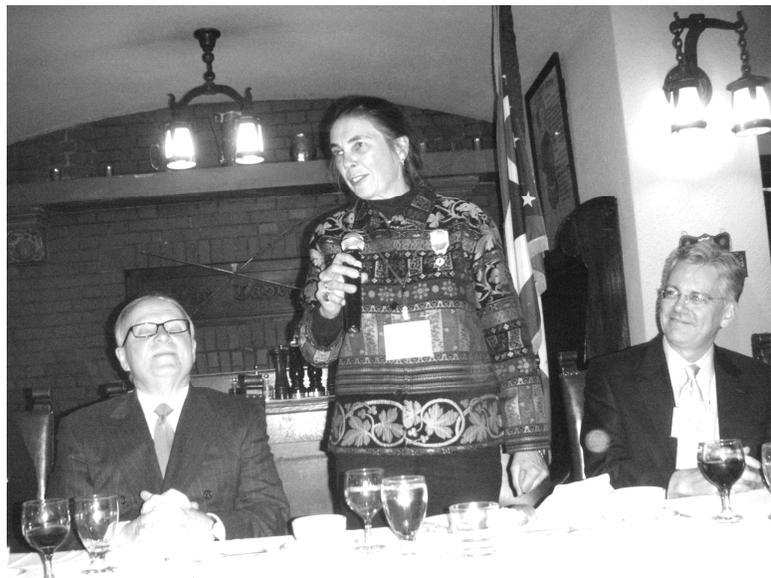
Three years ago The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) in Ohio launched a campaign to raise \$10,000 for the East Cleveland Township Cemetery's endowment fund. The Colonial Dames are known across the country for promoting our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. The NSCDA was founded in 1891, is an unincorporated association of 45 Corporate Societies with over 15,000 members. The Society's corporate headquarters is located at Dumbarton House, a Federal period museum in Washington, D.C. ([www.nscda.org](http://www.nscda.org)).

On November 6, 2009 East Cleveland Township Cemetery Trustee Nancy Adams presented an update on the status of the renovation and preservation process at the cemetery. After the presentation the Colonial Dames

***Thank you so much to all  
the Dames for their support  
and trust in East Cleveland  
Township Cemetery Foundation!***

local chapter President Lucy (Grosvie) Cooley and State President, Sally Connelly announced to the East Cleveland Township Cemetery Foundation Trustees at

the Tavern Club on Prospect that they had successfully raised the \$10,000 donation. The donation from the Colonial Dames has been received and has placed in the Foundation's endowment fund at the Cleveland Foundation. The endowment fund is designed to provide financial stability for the cemetery/foundation in the long term. You can make special donations to this fund by contacting the Cleveland Foundation.



**Local Dames President Lucy (Grosvie) Cooley  
addresses the group at the Tavern Club.**

## *2010—The Year for the Trees*

The trees have been one of our concerns since we took ownership of the property in 2003 as they too are a living artifact of the Western Reserve. We have been pruning the trees with an extension chain saw; however, due to the size of the trees it has been impossible for us to reach the heights necessary to properly prune the trees. A number of the trees have decayed at the bases and require removal. Remarkably only one of the trees has been identified as being diseased. The original inventory of the trees that was conducted in October 2009 documented 191 trees in the cemetery.

Since the inventory was completed one of the Foundation's trustees donated the funds necessary to have two of the decayed trees removed.

During the removal of these two trees on two separate days, two other trees fell over. What is absolutely amazing is when these trees fell over they did not damage a single headstone. If you remember the big willow tree along the road (picture to the right) you can see that when it fell it landed between the monuments.

We have undertaken a capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to complete the pruning and tree removal required which is \$79,700.

Of all the trees in the cemetery there are only 17 that need to be removed.



While writing this newsletter we have received word that we will receive \$15,000 of the needed monies from The Kent H. Smith Charitable Trust if we can raise the balance of the monies by December 31, 2010.

If you are interested in receiving more information on this capital campaign, please contact Nancy Adams at 216.536.7432 or [adamsnancy@ectcf.org](mailto:adamsnancy@ectcf.org)

## *Additional Goals for 2010*

The goals for 2010 are to do some additional repairs to the Gray and Hale Mausoleums. The Gray Mausoleum requires some repairs to the doorway and to re-tuck point the structure. We will be cleaning the debris from inside the mausoleum, refinishing the inside of the steel door to stabilize the deterioration. On the Hale Mausoleum we need to remove the concrete, re-tuck point the structure and replace the door .

Repairs are currently underway to the front gate which had started to pull away from the pillar. That will be completed as soon as the weather warms.

The garden that was started in the center of the cemetery will continue to expand and be finalized. Wayne Rhine and Dave Onderdonk will continue their work on resetting the monuments and headstones.

# *2010 Calendar of Events*

## *Memorial Day, Saturday, May 29 at 10:00 AM*

ECTCF will host our 6th annual tradition of placing flags on the graves of the 435 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. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 216-536-7432 otherwise we look forward to seeing you again!

## *Civil War—150, Saturday, June 19th—Noon to 4 PM*

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we will be presenting a walking tour of the cemetery on Saturday, June 19th to share the story of the Civil War through our veterans. The tours will start at Noon at the cemetery chapel and continue through 4 PM. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 216.536.7432.

## *Urban Botany Trek: East Cleveland Township Cemetery - Wednesday, August 11th - 11:30 AM to 2 PM*

Join the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Natural Areas and Botany staff for a mid-day hike through a local cemetery steeped in history and botanical interest. The East Cleveland Township Cemetery is just a short walk from the Museum and is located in an area that was historically sand barren habitat and supported many of the same rare species that are found at the Museum's North Kingsville Sand Barrens Preserve. We will search for some of these remnant plants and look at some of the magnificent trees that are scattered throughout the cemetery. We will meet at the Museum and then walk to the cemetery. **Limit 35. Naturalist Certificate**  
**Hours: 2. Difficulty 1** (1-4 scale)

For more information follow this link to register:

<http://www.cmnh.org/product/EDAFT236/UrbanBotanyTrekEastClevelandTownshipCemetery.aspx>

**Trustees/Officers**

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Chairman
- Bracy E. Lewis  
President
- Nancy L. Adams  
Vice President & Secretary
- William L. Garrison  
Vice President & Treasurer
- Nancy Slocum Callahan  
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- William J. Culbertson  
Trustee
- Murray M. Davidson  
Trustee
- Roy G. Harley  
Trustee
- Kathleen M. Lambacher  
Trustee
- David Onderdonk  
Trustee
- J. Wayne Rhine  
Trustee
- Marlin Wiley  
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..*

Website: [www.eectcf.org](http://www.eectcf.org)  
 Fax: 216.731.1060  
 Phone: 216.536.7432

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***East Cleveland  
 Township Cemetery  
 Foundation***

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