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Colonial Dames Adopt Local Historical Landmark

Cleveland, Ohio – January 23, 2010 – The historic East Cleveland Township Cemetery is approximately 12 acres of land situated in University Circle on East 118th Street having been forgotten by some Clevelanders and unknown to the majority. It has been surrounded by urban legend for decades and embroiled in litigation since its founding on August 31, 1859. Today there are over 17,000 people that have been laid to rest within its gates, many of whom were instrumental in creating the Cleveland we know today and who followed Moses Cleaveland to the Western Reserve. There have never been any racial, ethnic nor religious lines drawn in the cemetery, despite its date of origin. On August 31, 2009 East Cleveland Township Cemetery celebrated its 150th anniversary. The Foundation obtained ownership of the cemetery in June 2003 from the Cities of Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland and has turned a previously neglected historical Cleveland landmark into its most up and coming shining star.

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).

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 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 is being placed in the Foundation's endowment fund at the Cleveland Foundation.

The cemetery is located at 1621 East 118th Street, which is just North of Euclid Avenue. For more information please contact Nancy Adams at 216.536.7432 or adamsnancy@ectcf.org

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