



THE TRADITION

Fall 2021



A Publication of the Riverside Cemetery Association and Foundation

ISSUE NUMBER 54

Greetings and Introduction

The *Tradition* newsletter is a publication designed to introduce families new to Riverside Cemetery and to keep members informed of the current happenings around the grounds. Riverside Cemetery is a non-profit association of lot owners. Revenues from sales and services are used to fund day-to-day operations of this active and historic Cemetery. If you wish to be added or removed from the newsletter mailing or emailing list, or have any questions regarding Riverside Cemetery, please let us know.

See **page 6** for Contact Information and Cemetery Hours.

Holiday Wreaths & Bouquets

NOW AVAILABLE

See Announcement
on Page 6



Cleveland Landmark Turns 125

The History Behind the Office of Riverside Cemetery

On December 9th, 1895, during the final moments of a Riverside Cemetery Trustee Meeting, the subject of a new office building was formally introduced. Our original office was a cottage style structure built 20 years earlier which served well but with a need for larger quarters becoming increasingly apparent, and considerably favorable comments on this day were shared, a motion was made to give our Executive Committee full support to begin plan development.

Many of those who visit our cemetery today will stroll by and see our beautiful 19th century office building which stands proudly just within the main front gate entrance. A wonderful example of Romanesque design, this massive castle-like structure has served as our administrative building for 125 years and counting.

The location of where to build the new office building was discussed during an Executive Committee Meeting held in May of 1896. In attendance was President James M. Curtiss (Superintendent and Clerk), and members Samuel W. Sessions, Jacob S. Hartzell, and Frederick Pelton (Cleveland Mayor 1871-1873), along with appointed architect Charles W. Hopkinson with designs in hand. The spot chosen was the ornamental garden which parted roads about 275 feet after entering from then named Pearl Street. Mr. Hopkinson's revised plans were enthusiastically approved, along with his requested fee of 5% of the total construction cost.

The next meeting of Executive Committee was held at Citizens Savings Bank at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, June 30th, 1896. The purpose of this meeting was to consider the bids received from 11 sub-contractors and award contracts to each who were selected. One of the more important and costly decisions to make was deciding material for the building's exterior. Granite was deemed far too expensive, and figures from multiple companies were considered. Vice President Sessions presented samples of stone from the quarries of East Longmeadow (sample stone seen on page 2). Ultimately Longmeadow's red colored brownstone was chosen. Contractors in the industry of masonry, carpentry, iron work along with others were selected. The sum of accepted bids was \$17,360 which would have allowed Mr. Hopkinson about \$868 for his supervisory services (*continued Pg. 2*).

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Left:
The town seal of East Longmeadow. The seal shows the train station on Maple St. where all the stone was shipped from, along with other items relating to the quarry industry. Both the Riverside office and Leisy mausoleum used the quarry from this town

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Contracts were prepared quickly to be sure that work could begin at once. While most work, including the major outside structure of the building, were on their way to completion, the careful choice of heating system was not decided until a meeting on November 3rd of 1896. After weighing out advantages and disadvantages of each option the Pease Hot Air & Steam system was selected, and William A. Eckerman was awarded that contract. The masonry contractor became financially insolvent during construction and Riverside covered his indebtedness to 6 different creditors. Finishing touches to the new office were done during early 1897.

As you walk up the outer steps and pass through the building's wrap-around porch you can see that at one time there were quite a few entry doors. Today we utilize only one of those entrances towards the west end closest to Pearl Road. Imagine during the summertimes of long ago, having every entryway open allowing a cooling breeze to enter before the time of electric air conditioning. The first thing you see as you walk in from outside is a magnificent two-story high Great Room with an inlaid oak wood ceiling above walls of 1 ½ inch thick yellow roman bricks. For those seeking assistance from office staff we have our main office space right off that Great Room just to your right as you entered. There is a wooded spiral staircase leading to a meeting room with windows facing south, and on that same level, a record storage room with windows facing west on curved walls directly below the circular corner tower. Take a few more steps up, and you either have the option to go straight into the attic directly above the Great Room with windows that face west, north, and east, or you can head to the highest point with access to the tower itself while getting a closer look of the clay tiled roof. The public doesn't typically see above the first floor, mainly because the space is used to hold office records which accumulate when operating steadily through 3 separate centuries. If you are one of the few who have seen upstairs, you would be in rare company. If you happen to have spent any time in our 125-year-old basement, or any 125-year-old basement for that matter, consider yourself one of the brave ones!

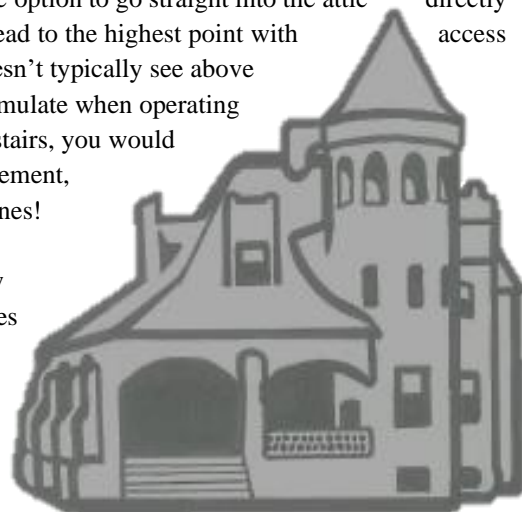
The office was opened by Spring of 1897, and the first Trustee Meeting in the new building was held on a Monday, June 28th, of that year. At that meeting the Trustees spoke about their two great accomplishments of the past year, which was the completion of not only the office, but also the giant steel bridge. This bridge no longer stands today and is a story for another time.

In 1977, Riverside Cemetery's office building was named a Cleveland Landmark and became a part of the National Register of Historic Buildings and Places in 1987.

Beyond the visual aspects of its beauty when visiting this wonderful piece of local history, you feel a sense that you are in the presence of so many past moments that must have occurred throughout its existence. The world is definitely a much different place than the year 1896, but when you are standing inside a building like this, it's a little easier to image what it may have been like.



Above:
An example of Meadowbrook stone salesman would show to offer color and texture. On display at the Springfield Natural History Museum In Massachusetts



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Robert Lockwood

Section **25**

Many Fun Facts are shared about the fascinating life of this well-known guitarist and blues legend who started his professional career at the age of 15. A mentor to generations of blues musicians, including B.B. King, Robert “Jr.” Lockwood was inducted into both the Blues Hall of Fame in 1989, and the Delta Blues Hall of Fame in 1998. He was an inspiration to many, and even has a street named after him in the Flats.

Avery Hopwood

Section **22**

The legacy of this notable figure at Riverside is touched upon with interesting backstory, and tales of accomplishments. A career which began in journalism, became a life as a controversial writer and co-writer of plays featured on Broadway, earning him the title of “The Playboy Playwright”

Judge James Coffinberry

Section **23**

The life of this Founding Trustee of our Riverside Cemetery is impressive, and full of fun facts! Learn more about how he came to be considered one of the most eminent lawyers in Ohio, president of the Cleveland City Council, and due to a freight train accident that took his foot, the reason Cleveland received its first railroad crossing safety gates.

Join us on Facebook and enjoy **FUN FACT FRIDAY** posts that tell stories of those here at Riverside Cemetery. If you had missed any of these captivating, full of fun fact tales throughout the first year, you could always scroll back and enjoy the read. Administrative Assistant Jamie Spinelli will find information through obituaries, historic newspapers, magazines, and as she states, “rabbit holes”. Also be sure to check out this year's **Photo Contest** already underway! Here are some very short summaries of FUN FACT FRIDAYS we hope you check out and keep our fan base growing!

Love these old stories! 😍 - Anne

Henry Hagert

Section **14**

Inspired by the growing trend of crime podcasts and popular true crime documentaries, on this particular week the post’s name was changed to Freaky Fact Friday, and the very first *****TRIGGER WARNING***** was given before sharing the chilling story of a 17-year-old from Lakewood who ultimately was sentenced to the electric chair at the age of 20 for his heinous acts.

Linda Eastman

Section **9**

A well-known librarian, the first woman ever to head a metropolitan library system in the country and founding member/ later president of the Ohio Library Association is featured on this post with enough Fun Facts to earn her a branch library and a Main Library reading garden named in her honor.

Claud Foster

Section **22**

In this post we learn about the incredible story of a man who made his fortune through the automobile industry and gave back most of his wealth to charities within the Cleveland area. Almost immediately after his passing in 1965, both TIME and NEWSWEEK noted Claud’s desire to live modestly.

James Banwell

Section **23**

The catch basins and coverings in storm drains we see everywhere had to have an inventor, and that person is James Banwell. Sketches of his original patents which created convenience and advantage for cleaning out the basins are pictured in the Fun Fact Friday post.

Love reading these – Teresa Burkhardt

Richard Revelt

Section **39**

In this Fun Fact Friday, we learn about a Cleveland born resident who lost his hearing at a very early age. His life as a photographer, along with his many other accolades and ways he raised awareness in the fight for equal rights for the deaf community, are highlighted with great appreciation!

Axworthy Mausoleum

Section **26**

As part of the Fun Fact Friday mausoleum series, this post references the highlights, and not so highlights of the life of Thomas Axworthy during a time in Cleveland's rapidly growing industrial era.

Schlather Mausoleum

Section **5**

Leonard Schlather who came to America from Germany at the age of 19, went on to begin his own brewing company here in Cleveland in 1857. Schlather's career and generous contributions to the community are featured in our Fun Fact Friday mausoleum series.

Charles Hopkinson

Section **10**

A graduate from Cornell University in 1887 that went on to be well known for his accomplishments in architecture. Many of his designs and buildings are mentioned on this Fun Fact Friday post, including the 1896 Riverside office he is credited for in this newsletter's front-page article.

Albert Davis Taylor

Section **3**

A prominent figure in landscape architecture who went on to publish books, hold lectures, and become a highly influential figure in his industry. Published books of his include Complete Garden (1920), viewed in multiple magazine articles, and a contributing editor of Landscape Architecture (1922-1936)

D.S. Brainard Mausoleum

Section **25**

Another name as part our mausoleum series of posts, David S. Brainard, Nephew of Titus Brainard, the man who sold us the majority of farmland used to create Riverside Cemetery, has continued his family's legacy throughout Cleveland's history during a time of development and expansion.

Very interesting gentleman. Thanks for sharing - Deborah

Dr. William Thomas Corlett

Section **25**

In one of the more detailed Fun Facts shared, we learn how this doctor's life lead him to become a skin specialists and the impact he made throughout his very interesting life full of Fun Facts and accomplishments in the Cleveland area. Dr. Corlett was married to Amanda Marie Leisy and his burial was within Riverside's Leisy Mausoleum.

Leisy Mausoleum

Section **25**

Around the time an expanding America reached 100-year anniversary, Cleveland's westside had become well known for its brewing companies. This Fun Fact Friday dives into the once standing Leisy Mausoleum, and the story behind Isaac Leisy, founder of the Leisy Brewing Company on Train Avenue.

Again, thanks for the great fun fact Friday's, You guys always post some really good fun facts 😁 -Jennifer Bowser Rechnitzer

Donations Received 3/1/2021 to 9/1/2021

Kamilia A. Abadier

Dennis Coughlin

Rev. David L. Enzman

In memory of Maghale & Willete Gamble

John & Betty H. Franklin

In memory of Lamson & Sessions Families

Beatrice Glover

*In memory of Beloved Husband
& Loving Father Bernard Glover*

Don & Deloris Hamilton

*In memory of Paul Ehlert, Danny
& Thomas Chappell, Joshua Borden*

Marla Heideloff

*In memory of William R. Heideloff
& Todd W. Heideloff*

Richard & Sally Hollington Jr.

*In memory of Robert & Florence Stecher
& Robert Stecher Jr.*

John W. Hornsey III

In memory of Hornsey & Hadow Family

George & Mary Hruby

In memory of Boepple & Luther Family

Don Hultzmann

In memory of the Hultzmann & Kroehle Families

Karen Lucas

In memory of Warren & Ann Brandt

Gail D. Malcolm

*In memory of Willie Mae Rucker & Jacqueline
B. Rucket*

Everett L. Odell

In memory of Oda Odell

Walda Otankis

*In memory of Andrejs & Ina Otankis Rudolf &
Milda Lemke*

Teresa D. & Robert Polk

Mary Lou Prager

*In memory of Thomas Prager & Virginia
Gobel*

Joyce Rohde

In memory of Corinne Ruth Rhode

Ray Ruhlman

In memory of Seelbach Family

June E. Travis

In memory of John E. & Catherine A. Joplin

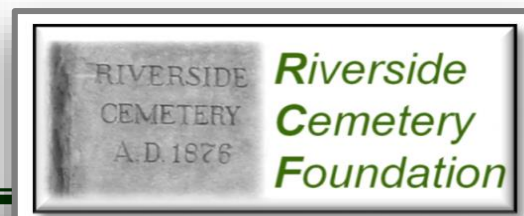
Raymond & Betty White

In memory of Troy Christopher White

Marquitta White

In memory of Cora White

THANK YOU for your generous contributions! With your support, we have been able to accomplish great things! Your donations have been specifically assigned to help, and continue to help us preserve our historic buildings, repair roadways, contribute to beatification projects, and participate in community events!



Holiday Wreaths & Bouquets

NOW AVAILABLE

Wreaths – **\$45**

5 styles available. Price includes tax, easel-stand & installation

Poinsettia Bouquet – **\$30**

Price includes tax, cone-shaped vase & installation

Placement in early December. Items will remain on graves until the spring clean-off which starts March 1st.

WHILE THEY LAST!

SEE ORDER FORM FOR SELECTION AND DETAILS



Hours & Contact Info

Cemetery Gates

October – March 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

April – September 7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday (Closed Holidays)

Grave Clean-off Dates

March 1st & October 15th

(Weather permitting)

3607 Pearl Road
Cleveland, OH 44109

(216) 351-4800

Website

www.riversidecemeterycleveland.org

Email

riverside.cemetery@att.net



facebook.com/riversidecleveland

HEADSTONE DO'S AND DON'T'S

Finding the perfect memorialization for a loved one can be a daunting task that requires time and consideration. It is because of the investment that one must endure that we have chosen to review our headstone policy.

DOs:

DO check with the office for section guidelines/restrictions

DO fill out and have notarized the "Headstone Affidavit"

DO ask online dealers to send us a sketch to be approved

DO be sure graves are paid in full, with no pending balances

DO know that you have the option to pay ahead the foundation/installation charges

DON'Ts:

DON'T make your own stone, plaque, sign with dates of birth or passing

DON'T leave stones, plaques, or signs on the grave during clean off

DON'T forget to do your research... Ordering a stone without approval will cause the stone to be removed and discarded.

DON'T place a stone (even with prior approval) without making the office aware of placement

Should you have any questions please refer to the office team and someone would be glad to clarify before you place your investment in a memorialization for your family.

Administrative Staff & Grounds Keepers

Mark Craig	Gen. Manager
Jamie Spinelli	Admin
Shirley Bill	Foreman
Bill Halley	Treasurer
Kenneth Langley	Asst. Foreman
Scott Halley	President