

Riverside Cemetery Office

AD 1896

Nationally Registered



Riverside Cemetery Chapel

AD 1876



THE TRADITION

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY AND FOUNDATION

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3607 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109

SPRING 2008

Web Site: www.riversidecemeterycleveland.org
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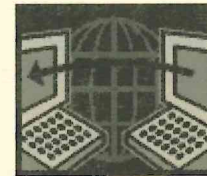
CEMETERY FENCE

In the fall Tradition, we discussed our need to replace the Victorian style fencing and gates bordering the front of the Cemetery along Pearl Rd. Since then, we have contracted with the long established, Borchert Fence Co. of Cleveland to provide this new look for us.

The replacement fence will be a duplication of the present one in overall appearance except that a fleur-de-lis finial on the pickets will replace the present acorn design tops. Our signature green color will be continued with deep woodland green which should provide a very soft, harmonizing blend with our strongly wooded, park like environment. We feel this fresh new frontage dimension will provide a welcome complimentary enhancement to our gateway location at the north entrance/exit of the historic Brooklyn Centre neighborhood.

Some generous gifts from a local Foundation and thoughtful friends enabled us to consummate this important endeavor. We now hope others among our valued families and friends will want to participate in this challenging endeavor with added personal or memorial gifts to our Foundation. Your thoughtful good faith support of our Chapel restoration a decade ago returned a real jewel to our heritage crown. Our once

beautiful fence is another precious gem that needs our help replacing and restoring, and I am confident you will be there for us again. Our remaining fund goal is \$27,000.



HAVE YOU VIEWED OUR WEB SITE YET?

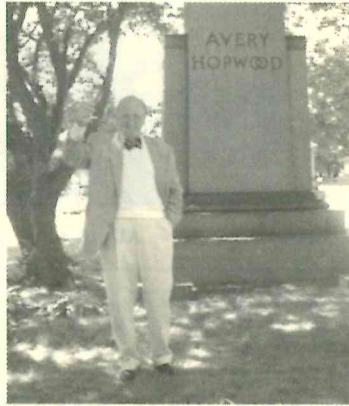
www.riversidecemeterycleveland.org

In our fall issue, we told you about our recently posted web site which culminated two years of preparatory research and development to create. It tells the early history of Riverside, shows several interesting pictures of the past and present, and provides a detailed discussion with many pictures of Riverside accommodations including some prices. If you haven't seen it yet, we would encourage your doing so soon.

We feel you will definitely acquire a greater appreciation for our beautiful and historic Cemetery, and hopefully share our pride in the heritage and valued reputation we have accumulated and earned during the 132 years since our founding.



*No matter where you wander,
however far you roam,
the footprints on the path you take,
will lead you back to home.*



TOURS

Because of the tremendous response to the Brooklyn Centre Community Association's third Annual Garden event here last year, where costumed narrators portrayed notable interments at or near their respective gravesites, they have decided to repeat that successful program again this year. With only a couple of popular site repeats, they will feature different persons on this year's tour titled 'Industry & Innovation'.

The date for this special event is Sunday, June 22 from 1-5 p.m. Advance admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for Seniors (65+) or \$10/\$7 on day of tour. Tickets can be reserved by calling chairperson Gloria Ferris at (216) 351-0254 or e-mailing her at gloria.ferris@gmail.com. Ongoing walking tours will start periodically between 1-4 p.m.

Also, the Old Brooklyn Historical Society has recently acquired a collection of nameless vintage photos for which they are hoping to obtain identification. Facsimiles will be on display to challenge local historians and others to identify and help the Society to upgrade their heritage records.



On Saturday, July 19th, Cleveland Metroparks Education Division representative, Doug Kusak, will team with Riverside's Bill Halley to again present our ever popular Brewers & Notables tour. Doug will discuss some of the eight 19th & early 20th Century Brewers buried here, and Bill will introduce tourists to

some of the notable interments along the way. We will start at 9:00 a.m. in our Nationally Registered Chapel where Bill will review the early history and administrative character of the Cemetery. This tour is part of our Foundation's educational outreach, and is given without charge. Voluntary, tax-deductible gifts to our Foundation, however, are welcome and appreciated throughout the year.

Reservations in advance would be appreciated but are not required.



SILK FLOWER BOUQUETS

We are still offering a nice selection of beautiful silk flower bouquets for our families and friends to purchase for gravesites. Total cost for the bouquet, tax and placement, if desired, is \$25. They are all on display in the office.

Each bouquet comes with a small green plastic self-standing vase which is inserted directly into the ground. They are very appropriate at anytime of the year, but are especially nice for birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's and Father's Day, and Memorial Day.

Other than our **3/01** and **10/15 clearing times**, we will not remove these items. And, we cannot assume responsibility for them after they are placed.



WOODEN CROSSES NOW AVAILABLE

Wooden identification crosses are permitted from November 1 through March 31 in grass level headstone sections to assist in locating gravesites during the non-growing season. The Cemetery now offers these memorials for sale in two different sizes and wood types.

The smaller size, especially appropriate for children but also for adults, is 23 1/2" tall. It comes in Pine for \$50 or oak for \$60. The larger size is 35 1/2" high; it also comes in Pine for \$55 or oak \$75. Lettering is \$.50 per letter and the total is plus tax. Either natural or varnished finish is available. Payment is due when your cross is ordered. The delivery time is from 10-14 days after an order is submitted.

"CEMETERY SIGNS"

⊙ NO PARKING ON GRASS ⊙

Nearly all major Cemeteries have signage inside their entrances which give important information about some Cemetery regulations. Visitors should always take a few moments to read them and thereby avoid being in conflict with their instructions.

At our entrance, we too have prominently placed signs, and we are surprised when visitors tell us they have never read them, or better, didn't even see them. A couple items which are most often overlooked include our semi-annual total clearing of graves dates of March 1 and October 15 and our 3 item limit of memorial tributes on a single gravesite.

We clear all grave decorations only twice each year, and we're confident you'll find very few other Cemeteries that offer this much latitude. We permit artificial/live tributes year-round, but we must impose some quantity guidelines to better facilitate grounds maintenance and overall appearance. If you want to save an item, remove it before clean-off and return it afterwards if you wish. And remember, we have over eighty acres of burials to clear in a small window of time; we can not stop and analyze the serviceability of each individual memorial, but rather need to do a 'without exception' grounds clearing each time.

Your cooperation with us in respecting our rules will help us to better serve all of your best memorial interests at our Cemetery.



IN-GROUND FLOWER VASE

We have two types of fold-in vases available for sale. One is made of aluminum and costs \$26 installed. The other is zinc and costs \$41 installed. Please stop by the Office and check them out.

Priorities

By Mother Theresa

*People are often unreasonable,
illogical, and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.*

*People may accuse you of
selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some
false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank,
people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you spend years building,
someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today,
people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough;
Give the world
the best you've got anyway*

*You see, in the final analysis,
it is between you and God;
It was never between
you and them anyway.*

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

HERMAN J. RUETENIK

1826-1914

MARTIN RUETENIK

1868-1947

Herman J. Ruetenik came to America from Germany during the 1848 uprising. Dr. Ruetenik was ordained a Minister in 1853 and later that year came to Ohio as a Missionary. He also taught school in a two-room schoolhouse. He organized the Central Publishing House, and helped to organize many of the Reformed Churches in the area. He was a Professor at Heidelberg University, Professor of Theology at Mission House in Franklin, Wisc., and founded Calvin College in 1866 located at Scranton & W. 25th. This German College was to prepare young boys for the ministry. Dr. Ruetenik was a scholar and an author of seven published works.

Married to Amelia Martin in 1853, they had five sons. Of their five sons, Martin continued his father's interests in gardening and became a pioneer in greenhouse gardening.

The original log cabin which was the Ruetenik homestead on Schaaf Road was purchased by Frank and Herman Ruetenik. The cabin and ten acres were located on the property of 826 East Schaaf Road.

The innovation of greenhouse gardening was introduced to Old Brooklyn by Martin Ruetenik who grew vegetables of many kinds. Celery from the Ruetenik gardens was so popular that a Cleveland newspaper dubbed him "the celery king".

The Ruetenik design for greenhouses became almost the standard. It was 30 feet wide with pipe supports and steam heat. As the market for fresh vegetables grew, greenhouses were built on many Old Brooklyn farms.

Martin was very inventive and further improved his farm by developing a special water system of a dam in the gully, a wind powered pump and two water storage tanks. He sterilized the soil on sheet metal pans and rid the lettuce crop of lice and aphids by burning fresh tobacco leaves in the closed greenhouses. His Model T Ford trucks delivered fresh produce from Canton to Pittsburgh to Southbend.

He also was an innovator in his concern for his staff. In 1901 he worked out a profit sharing plan so his employees could invest their money and share in the business. Many inquiries concerning this plan came from other businesses, two of which were Fels Naptha Co. and the U.S. Steel Company.

He was President of Lincoln Savings & Banking Company and the first Mayor of Brooklyn Hts. after its incorporation. He was also influential in establishing several industry organizations and other enterprises.

IN EPILOGUE

Martin Ruetenik was the President of Riverside Cemetery in 1930 when he hired the late Heber Halley, father of our present Manager, to be our Executive Secretary and start the now 78 continuous years of leadership service to Riverside from himself (41 years) and son Bill (37 years). During 47 of these years, our longest serving Superintendent (1924-1977), Robert Andrews, was also on the Administrative team with them.



QUESTION & ANSWERS

Q. What makes the purchase of burial rights experience at Riverside different from some other Cemetery considerations?

A. First of all, we do not have commissioned Memorial Counselors whose primary responsibility is to sell burial rights and whose primary income is predicated on the extent of those sales. All sales here are handled personally by our present two-person, salaried, office Administrative staff, and it is only one part of their multi-tasked responsibilities.

When you meet in our office to discuss burial arrangements, which either includes the need for immediate burial space or is totally for future use, we begin by determining how many burial accommodations you are interested in having together. Secondly, we ascertain the type of granite memorial-single ground level, single above-ground, double wide single (flat or high), or upright monument you desire so we're sure any location you're shown will permit your preference. After these two issues are decided, we review prices, payment plans for reserved space, and the floral/landscaping guidelines which apply to the respective areas we will be seeing if we tour the grounds.

Serving your best interests with caring compassion in the *extended family* atmosphere, which has become a signature dimension of our 132-year-old reputation, is always the primary objective of Riverside Cemetery. We feel our prices are very reasonable and competitive compared to other Greater Cleveland Cemeteries, and we will always present and explain our available accommodations without any sales hype and/or decision pressure.

Seasonal Gate Closing Hours

During the early spring, summer and early fall, we will again resume a later closing of our gates. The gates will remain open until 7:00 p.m. during the week and on weekends. We feel this later accommodation will better serve our working families. This time change will start with April and continue through September. In October, we'll adjust the extended closing time with the dwindling daylight hours until Eastern Standard Time returns. Then, the winter close of 5:00 p.m. will prevail everyday. As usual, the gates will open at 7:30 a.m. every day.



FROM THE FOREMEN

BY SHIRLEY & KEN

Summer is on its way. To keep the Cemetery a safe place to visit, and pleasant to the eyes for everyone, here are just a few friendly reminders for the growing season.

- Please limit the portable tributes to 3 per grave; any more than 3 will be removed and disposed of. ***Do not*** use Styrofoam items. They will break apart.
- We ask that no glass or porcelain items be put out. They break too easily and our staff and visitors can get hurt.
- Also, do not put rocks or pebbles around headstones, plantings or decorations. They do not stop the grass from growing and they become dangerous projectiles when trimming and cutting the grass.
- For the families that plant flowers on their lots, please remember it is **your responsibility** to keep them weeded. The plants make the cemetery look very nice, but when the weeds take over, they become very unsightly. When this situation occurs, we will have no alternative but to cut them down.
- Always check with the office first to see if your section allows in-ground planting. If the section does not, annuals must be put in a pot which can be moved comfortably.
- "Keep off the grass" signs refer to cars, not walking visitors.

- We have sturdy steel stands available at the office without charge for your artificial tributes. Don't use the flimsy wire ones included in your box.

Your co-operation in these guidelines will be greatly appreciated by your Cemetery's administrative and grounds maintenance staff as well as our valued families and many welcomed visitors.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

William Halley.....General Manager
Valere CraigAdm. Asst.
Marijane Halley.....Adm. Asst.
Shirley BillGeneral Foreman
Kenneth Langley.....Asst. General Foreman

Cemetery gates April-September 7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
October-March 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday – Saturday
(except holidays)

**CEMETERY GRAVE CLEAN-OFF DATES
MARCH 1 & OCTOBER 15**

PLEASE NO GLASS OR PORCELAIN ITEMS AT ANYTIME.

**NAME CROSSES IN FLAT STONE AREAS PERMITTED
NOV. 1 – APR. 1 ONLY**

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY IS A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION OF LOT OWNERS WHOSE REVENUES FROM SALES & SERVICES ARE USED TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE OUR GROUNDS.

In Grateful Appreciation

New Contributors and Additional Gifts To Our Foundation Since the Fall Issue

Douglas Jones

Alan Steffen
In memory of H.C. & Ruth Steffen

Margaret Welen
In memory of Elaine Welen & Lydia Obermiller

Grace Green
In memory of Baby Boy Green

Elizabeth Brown
In memory of Anna Easterly

Michael Sosenko
In memory of John & Mike Sosenko Sr.

Felix Moran
In memory of Inocencia Garcia

Dave Zarbock
In memory of the Zarbock Family

Alex Lancaster
In memory of Anna & William Lancaster & William Lancaster Jr.

Karen Brandt Lucas
In memory of Ann & Warren Brandt

Steve McQuillin

Fred Brunner
In memory of Jimmy Gibson

Jocelyn Schweitzer
In memory of John Schweitzer

June Travis
In memory of Emilia & Oscar Barth & Catherine & John Joplin

Shirley Spehar
In memory of Thomas Spehar

Lorna Schroeder
In memory of Allen Schroeder & The Reutener Family

Mara Schmidt Mathy
In memory of Schmidt & Hering Families

Janice & Tony Fletcher
In memory of Gordon, Frances & Roberta Baster & The Baster Family

Charles Pyatt
In memory of William Pyatt

Rev. Michael Strapko

William Svec
In memory of Donald Svec

Eric Townsend
In memory of Townsend & Beach Families

Caroline Muniz
In memory of Damian Muniz

Cora D'Amore
In memory of Schoellkopf Family

Debra Valachovic-Skender
In memory of Delores & Paul Valachovic & Sophia Stepanik

Lenore Fiening
In memory of Harold Fiening

Mihaela Bozso
In memory of Emeric Bozso

Vienna & George Cain
In memory of Raymond J. Griffin

Thomas G. Smith Funeral Home
In memory of "The Families We Serve"

Ron Leszkowicz
In memory of Erna Leszkowicz

Barbara & Robert Oldenburg

Carolyn & Rick Vigneulle
In memory of Margaret & John Koelges

Jacob Yee
In memory of Toy Har & Que Yee & Margery Holdstein Ross

Walda Otankis

Leslie Forbes
In memory of Carol & James Forbes

Janet Edel
In memory of Erwin Edel Jr.

Eoe & Ralph Spencer
In memory of Agnes & John Schmotzer

Dennis Andrews Jr.
In memory of Walter Andrews

Frederick Hauret
In memory of N. Grace Pierce

Herbert Leisy Jr.

Marilyn Pyatt
In memory of William Pyatt Sr.

Mary Benyo
In memory of Michael Benyo

Betty Wells
In memory of Arthur Wells

Jean & Robert Glatz
In memory of the Glatz Family

Jean Barnes
In memory of My Ancestors

Sally & Paul Hiller
In memory of Paul Hiller

Richard Wright
In memory of Mary & Eugene Bauman

Mary Ann & Donald Obert
In memory of Our Riverside Family Members

Charles & Helen Brown
Memorial Foundation
In memory of Wilma & Chester Pianka

Shirley & Peter Henderson
In memory of Viola & Hubert Schneider

Amanda Ford Morris
Charitable Lead Annuity

Joel Ager
In memory of Elizabeth Ager

Ingrid Nagy
In memory of Ilse Nagy & Hilda Briggs

Linda & Gary Spiros
In memory of Olivia Augustus Spiros & Maimu & August Alber

Foster Family Foundation

Zoraida L. Rosario
In memory of Teresa, Luis, & Juan Rosario

Valere & Bill Craig
Grace Green
William Manthey
Ken & Carol Jordan Horak
Linda & Jim Dettmer
American Vault Company
The Lubrizol Corporation
Mary Ann & Donald Obert
In memory of Hilda Hiller