



AD 1896

Nationally Registered



AD 1876

THE TRADITION

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY AND FOUNDATION

3607 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109

FALL 2005

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4071

OUR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

Next year, Riverside Cemetery will recognize the 130th Anniversary of its founding within the historic Brooklyn Centre neighborhood of Cleveland and due south of Ohio City.

The intent of our founders was to find a place for a major sized new cemetery which would be in the tranquil country, away from the faster pace of the City. The 20 member search committee set up in October 1875 was able to obtain a commitment of 102-1/2 acres of the sixty-year-old, 140 acre, Asa Brainard farm which was then owned by his grandson, Titus. The Brainard offer was accepted in a note by the Committee on November 15, 1875. At that time, the Cuyahoga River was apparently tangent to the southeastern border of the property, and we can only assume that it suggested our name of RIVERSIDE.

An accomplished and nationally known Landscape Architect and Engineer named Edward O. Schwagerl was commissioned to prepare a topographical survey and design, and the layout of the first sections began as soon as he finished. Ground was broken on April 18 for the needed buildings and improvements, except the Chapel. It was started after plans were approved on August 4th.

The first interment was that of Margaret Taylor, a young 29 year-old mother who had passed away the previous December and was interred in Monroe St. Cemetery. When a section was readied for burial, her husband arranged for her disinterment and transfer here where she became the first entry in our Register of Interments on April 14, 1876. We are now approaching our 51,000th recorded interment.

When we opened officially to the public on July 8th, six burials had taken place. The formal dedication ceremonies were held on Saturday, November 11 on the cul-de-sac circle at the eastern end of the straight roadway which also showcases our treasured Victorian Stone Chapel as its western access. Among our speakers were Jephtha Wade (Western Union Founder) and Governor/President-Elect Rutherford B. Hayes. Payment for the land came from portions of early grave sale revenues together with the issuing of some coupon bonds. Records show all mortgage indebtedness was concluded by 1889. Purchasing the property in this manner created our legal entity as an Association of Lot Owners which has perpetuated as such ever since.

Riverside was the first major-sized, non-sectarian, garden-type Cemetery established west of the Cuyahoga River. While other Cemeteries of similar, or even larger, size have come into existence since our founding, none can embrace the historical heritage we are privileged to have accumulated. And, most newer Cemeteries are Memorial Parks where headstones are all flat while here, all types of traditional memorialization, including above ground and ground level headstones and monuments, have been permitted since our beginning.

We became the primary resting place for many prominent community activists who were involved significantly in the development of the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of Cleveland, particularly on the west side. We are very proud of our legacy and you who have family or friends here should also share in that pride.

“RIVERSIDE’S SPECIAL CHARACTER”

Riverside Cemetery has always enjoyed the valued distinction of being genuinely caring and having a very personal character in the handling of our many responsibilities serving the sacred memorial interests of our vast number of families and visitors. And, we are very proud of this hard earned reputation.

Those needing office assistance are always greeted by a knowledgeable and experienced staff which often doubles as a “sounding board” for persons needing to vent emotions about personal matters as well as needing counsel on cemetery concerns or family research missions. All burial rights purchases and/or arrangements are always made with one of our three Administrative Professionals, Bill Halley, Val Craig, or Marijane Halley. Bill and Val personally escort and supervise your funeral procession, committal service, and eventual interment which is always performed with very meticulous care. And, whenever you return for any assistance, you will again be served by these same persons which fosters the special Riverside continuity of personal bonding character which has come to be very appreciated among our families and friends.

Our longtime General and Assistant General Foremen, Shirley Bill and Ken Langley, are among the finest and most conscientious professional Cemetery grounds maintenance managers, which is definitely to our collective blessing and benefit. They truly care about how they and their staff perform, and always strive to serve the best interests of the general majority and not the special agendas of a few. They are very personable and outgoing persons, always trying to communicate and interact pleasantly with our many visitors within the parameters of their leadership responsibilities and our Cemetery rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Riverside has earned one of the finest cemetery reputations among Greater Cleveland Funeral Professionals, support service providers, and the great number of persons we have been, and continue to be, privileged to serve. Those currently not among our Association families are encouraged to seek opinions of us by consulting their Funeral Director and/or the families we presently represent, and hopefully the response you receive might give us a chance to serve you also at some future time.

SUMMER TOUR

On the beautiful Sunday afternoon of July 17, Manager Bill Halley and Cleveland Metroparks Outdoor Educational Division Manager, Nancy Desmond, conducted a tour of some Riverside sites. Bill discussed a number of our notable interments while Nancy enlightened us about the several German brewers who rest eternally with us. This event was a part of our Foundation Educational Program.

Close to forty persons participated in this historic trip into the heritage of our proud Cemetery which has now existed during three centuries. We opened with an orientation in our Nationally Registered Chapel which focused on the history of the farm selected for Riverside, its development, and its administrative character and philosophy. We then walked a scenic route which included the persons’ gravesites that were discussed. The above picture, which includes about half of the tourists who were able to stay with us throughout the entire afternoon, was taken at our conclusion in front of the Leonard Schlather Mausoleum.

Watch our Spring 2006 Tradition for any information about another such summer tour.

“SPECIAL ATTENTION”

Please note that our Cemetery Gates will observe winter hours starting on Sunday, **October 30**. From this date through Saturday, **April 1, 2006**, the closing hour will be 5:00 p.m.

We now have an E-MAIL address. It is:
riversidecemeterycleveland@netzero.net

Brief genealogy requests which you would send normally by mail can also be delivered now electronically.

We also have a dedicated fax number. It is: **(216)658-4071** and is available 24/7 for your convenience if needed.

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

THOMAS H. LAMSON (1827-1882)

ISAAC P. LAMSON (1832-1912)

SAMUEL W. SESSIONS (1824-1902)

In October of 1866, three cousins, Thomas H. Lamson, Isaac P. Lamson and Samuel W. Sessions, formed a company, Lamson & Sessions, to run a small Connecticut plant to make carriage bolts. Three years later they moved their company to Cleveland. In 1872, another joint venture established the Cleveland Nut Company which provided the partnership with a full line of fasteners. By 1900, the company began to service Cleveland's growing automotive industry. The company continued to grow, and during World War I military orders helped it to surpass the \$2,000,000 mark in sales. By 1930, Lamson & Sessions had grown from one plant to eight plants nationwide, with combined sales of over \$11,000,000. It consolidated its Cleveland plants into one location in the Brooklyn area in 1950. In 1976, the character of the company began to change as it moved away from fasteners into the capital goods industries. It acquired Youngstown Steel Door Co., Medso Inc., Midland Steel Products Co. and Forest City Foundries. In 1980, the company divested itself of the fastener business. The recession in the early 1980's caused large net losses that resulted in the sale of several acquired companies including Forest City Foundries. During the time these gentlemen lived in the Cleveland area, they were all very active in Community affairs. Samuel Sessions was a founding Trustee of Riverside Cemetery and was later joined on our Board by Isaac and Thomas Lamson. Samuel Sessions and Isaac Lamson also helped organize the Jones Home for Children with another of our early Trustees, Carlos Jones.

This lot has a very large and beautiful monument which was placed in 1877. It was often referred to as the canopy monument with its distinctive cap over an open platform containing a marble statue. The tourist books of the time indicated it cost \$10,000, and stated that persons come from as far away as Lorain Ohio to see this monument. Remember, all travel then was by horse drawn carriage, so such a trip probably took more than a day to make.

All three of these persons now rest eternally on the expansive Lamson & Sessions Monument Lot 12 in Section 28 of our grounds.

DANIEL P. RHODES (1814-1875)

Daniel P. Rhodes was born in Sudbury, Vermont, in 1814. When he was five years old, his father died, and he was eventually forced to help earn his own living. When he was fifteen, his mother remarried and he lived with them for six years.

At twenty-one, he decided to go "West" and make a home for himself. His closely attached step-father offered him a farm of his own if he would stay in Vermont, but the motivation to explore the relatively undeveloped mid-west was too great, and he politely declined. On a return visit to Vermont, his step-father offered him half of his property if he would just remain, but he decided not to accept. He returned to Ohio where he now had a fiancé who was the granddaughter of Josiah Barber, Sr., the first Ohio City Mayor. She was also the niece of Josiah, Jr., the first President of this Cemetery.

That same energy, independence, and pioneerism are what prompted him to enter into the coal trade of Cleveland, which later grew to magnificent proportions.

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FROM THE FOREMEN



BY SHIRLEY & KEN

The fall is upon us again. We would like to thank everybody who planted their lots and kept them weeded. This helps make our Cemetery look much nicer.

This year we would like to thank the many people who did keep their items per grave down to 3; but there were still many who didn't. This makes it much harder for us to do our job, plus we have to take a critical time out to walk through and clear off the extras. Please keep your items to **three per grave!** This doesn't mean per person buried in the grave, but only the grave itself.

We also ask that when parking to visit, please stay on the road. The roads are wide enough for two

lanes and you don't have to pull off the road and park on the grass. **Please no parking allowed on any sections.**

We would also like to remind you that Fall clean-off begins on October 15th and Winter on March 1st. The Shepherd's hooks will stay, but everything on them will be removed. If there is anything you wish to keep, please take it off before the 15th or the 1st as applicable.

Your cooperation in these matters will be greatly appreciated by your conscientious grounds maintenance staff.

Have a warm and safe Holiday season.

Daniel P. Rhodes continued from page 3

His first enterprise was known as the old Brier Hill mines. As wood was the universal fuel for domestic use, he turned toward the lake steamers for business. Even there, any departures from the beaten track had to be overcome. By his steady perseverance, he succeeded in introducing coal instead of wood for use on the lake boats. The coal business grew rapidly, and in 1857 he opened mines in Tuscarawas and Wayne counties in a joint venture with J.F. Card.

In 1860 his attention was attracted to the mineral resources of Stark County. In that year, Rhodes & Co. opened the famous Willowbank mine which proved to be one of the most extensive and profitable coal mines ever opened in Ohio. He took an active part in the construction of the Northern division of the Cleveland & Toledo railroad, and one of the Massillon & Cleveland and Lake Shore and Tuscarawas Valley Railways.

It is said Daniel Rhodes did more than any other person to build up the west side of the Cuyahoga where he resided. He, along with H.S. Stevens, constructed the West Side Street Railroad. He was a zealous promoter of the building of the West Side Gas Works, and the founder of the People's Savings and Loan Assn. of which he was President until the time of his death. He was one of the builders and main stockholders in the Rocky River railroad. He was also a large real estate owner on Cleveland's west side.

Rhodes & Co. eventually became the forerunner of the Hanna Mining Co. after Daniel's son, James Ford Rhodes, sold it to his brother-in-law, Marcus Hanna, in 1885. Mr. Rhodes died August 5, 1875, and was buried in the Monroe Street Cemetery. In April of 1878, he was moved to the Rhodes Family Monument lot 70 in Section 20 of Riverside Cemetery.

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.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q-Upon a recent visit to the Cemetery Office, I observed a picture of the late Rutherford B. Hayes on your inner-office mantel. Can you explain the significance of his recognition in this manner?

A-We are proud to claim that our 1876 Ohio Governor, and President-Elect of the U.S. for only one week, honored the occasion of our Dedication with his presence and participation. He was personal friends with several Brooklyn Centre community and business leaders who arranged his visit as a surprise to the many assembled guests.

Our records reveal that he came from Columbus by train to the Cleveland Union terminal and then by carriage to Riverside. While the main ceremonies were taking place, Gov. Hayes toured the grounds before appearing among the assembly. He spoke briefly about his impressions of the new burial park, and wished us much success in our future. A reception followed in the small wooden office where everyone had a chance to greet their new President-Elect.

When one of our staff visited his home and museum in Fremont about a year ago, she referenced this occasion with one of their historians. They didn't know that he had come to Cleveland on 11/11/1876; they knew what he had done on the 10th, but there was no record of the 11th. They asked us to send them some information about his visit for their records. We are naturally very proud that Pres.-Elect Hayes participated in our dedication ceremonies, and are pleased to tell everyone who asks about our office portrait of him.

Q-When we have attended funeral services or been visiting gravesites at Riverside, we often hear organ and chime music. Does this offering have to be requested by someone?

A-Recorded pipe organ and chime music is played when each new funeral enters the Cemetery. Depending on the gravesite location in proximity to the speaker on the highest point of the Administration Building, the music can generally be heard as background for the committal service as well. The response of our families to this offering here has always been very positive. Most agree that it offers a much appreciated and reassuring added dimension to the peaceful serenity provided by the general Cemetery landscape which seeks to offer comfort and consolation to families and friends coming sadly to the final resting place for the special person who they must now leave behind in God's eternal care.

We also play this sacred music on special occasions when larger numbers of visitors visit our grounds.

Christmas Wreaths

We are again offering a nice selection of artificial circular Christmas Wreaths at a cost of \$37. Our cross-style wreaths are available at a charge of \$42. A sample of each wreath will be on display in the Office in early October. We will also offer a poinsettia arrangement in a plastic vase for \$25. All costs are inclusive of sales tax.

Enclosed with this Newsletter are pictures of our more popular styles attached to an Order Form. If your selection is no longer available when received by us, a similarly designed substitute will be selected

Wreaths purchased before Thanksgiving will be placed at your designated grave(s) on a sturdy stand during the first week of December.

"THE PATIENCE PRAYER"
God grant me patience.....
And I want it right now!!!

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

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

Shirley Yonkers

Carol Wisniewski
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Nace

Elizabeth Brown
In memory of Anna Easterly

Fred Brunner
In memory of Jimmy Joe Gibson

Dolores Valachovic
*In memory of Sophia Stepanik
& Paul Valachovic Jr.*

Safoniy Kovalsky

Jody & Scott Halley

David Bishara

Richard Barney
In memory of Joan Barney

Barbara Stewart
In memory of James Stewart Sr.

Thomas Baran

James Michael

Mary Benyo
In memory of Michael Benyo

Vienna & George Cain
In memory of Raymond Griffin

Mihaela Bozso

In memory of Emeric Bozso

Grace Green
In memory of Baby Green

Lorna Schroeder
*In memory of Allen Schroeder
& the Reutener Family*

Felix Moran
In memory of Inocensia Garcia

Joseph Haven
In memory of William Dee Haven

Sarah Porter
In memory of John & Phyllis Porter & Helen Kari

LaVerne & Edgar Buesch
In memory of Buesch & Rasor Families

Normand E. Thomas
*In memory of the Tallman & Reif 'Clans'
Within Riverside Cemetery*

Emmajean Ramsey
In memory of Melton & Melvin Fox

Pearl Burrows
In memory of Ben Burrows

Shirlie Wozniak
In memory of Will Glatz & Ted Wozniak

Karin & Hans Ruus
In memory of Marcus, Ilme, & Juhan Kurdlaid

Zorida Rosario
In memory of Theresa & Luis Rosario

Fortuna Funeral Home
*In memory of all those deceased
that we have served at Riverside Cemetery*

A.E. Lancaster Jr.
*In memory of Anne, William Sr.,
& William Lancaster Jr.*

Patricia Penn
In memory of Edna & Gail Russell

Rosemary Barta
In memory of Mathilda & Stanley Barta

Amanda Ford Morris

Foster Family Foundation

Mariana & Tudor Spiridonica
In memory of Maria Spiridonica

Mike & George Kanyok
In memory of Barbara & John Kanyok

Earl Williams
In memory of Irene & Walter Lehder

Carey Funeral Home
In memory of Rev. Charles Campbell

Geneva Cummings
In memory of Kenneth Cummings

Natalja & Rev. Michael Strapko
In memory of our deceased Parishoners

Nancy & Martin Sellers

John Jennings