



ViewPoints



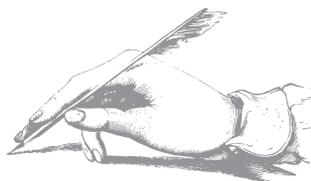
Fall, 2002

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www.ghmchs.org

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Fellow Historians,

Fall has officially arrived, with its glorious colors and Halloween treaters. I hope you are enjoying the change of season as we approach Thanksgiving (my favorite holiday) and the bustle and bustle of Christmas!

I was happy to see all of you who attended our annual meeting, which featured Dick Barrett with his wonderful historical postcard collection. Mr. Barrett has recently published a book entitled: Columbus, Ohio 1898-1950 in Vintage Postcards. Be sure to look for it in your favorite bookstore. At the meeting, we announced that our technology expert and Board member, Dr. Wayne Carlson, has received an award of excellence for his creation and maintenance of our website. Please visit it often - Dr. Carlson is constantly updating!

Recently, the City of Grandview Heights donated to the Society several boxes of early documents, which we are reviewing. We continue to seek donated items, including our ongoing property abstract project (see article in this issue).

Our founder and friend, Win Keller, has become a Trustee Emerita. This month we welcome a new Board member, Second Avenue resident, Joe Miller. Mr. Miller has been an active volunteer with the Society, and is an attorney with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. Welcome, Joe!

With the Ohio Bicentennial coming up in spring 2003, we would very much like the involvement of the general membership in planning our commemorative activity. Please call or email me if any of you could volunteer your time and energy. I can be reached at 488-0425, or by email at TPENN@AOL.COM.

As always, I welcome any comments or questions. If any member would like to attend a Board meeting, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President

GH/MCHS Webmaster Receives OAHSM* AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

At the Annual Meeting of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums on November 2, 2002 in Dublin, Ohio, Dr. Wayne Carlson, Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society Board member, received an Educational Excellence Award from the Association. Educational Achievement awards recognize outstanding educational projects, including programs, exhibits, audio-visual projects, and publications that have educational content. Award winning projects must meet the following criteria:

- excellence in providing educational information to an intended audience
- originality or uniqueness in presentation
- creativity and imagination
- solid historical research

Wayne Carlson was nominated for this award by the GH/MCHS Board for his work in designing, developing and maintaining the GH/MCHS webpage from its beginning in early 1999. He has led the way in digitizing historic photographs and documents, continuously adds data to the website, and answers all the correspondence and queries that the



L-R: GH/MCHS Board Members: JoAnn Curry, Tom DeMaria, Mary Burkey, Wayne Carlson, Terry Smith, Tracy Liberatore, Patrick Mooney

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



This issue sponsored by

Grandview Heights City Council



NEW DISCOVERIES: An Evening with the



*A recent photograph of
Frances Nesbitt Winegarner*

The strikingly beautiful photo from our archives (shown above left) has charmed viewers for years. No one knew for certain until recently who the lovely girl was or what she was portraying. The assumption was that she was some long-forgotten Field Day Queen. She is, in fact, Frances Nesbitt Winegarner, and in late August, fellow Board member Wayne Carlson and I had the distinct privilege and pleasure of talking with Frances and her son, Bill. The photo is from the June 1924 Field Day celebration, when she was a sophomore in Grandview High School, and she is portraying the “Goddess of Peace”. She was pulled in a chariot by other student “muses”, extolling the virtue of cooperation. The photo below was taken at the corner of Lincoln Road and West First Avenue at the start of the parade route.

Frances is 93 and one of three children born to Louise Howell and Frederick C. Nesbitt. She is a descendant of the Howell family whose homesteads dominated the landscape between Broadview and Grandview Avenues circa 1905-1922. Frances’ grandfather, Frank Byers Howell, built his Tudor-style home at 1082 Broadview Avenue and subsequently gave houses and land as wedding gifts to each of his three sons and his only daughter, Louise. Frances mentioned her grandfather’s generosity several times during our visit, and is still slightly overwhelmed that anyone’s grandfather could give houses as wedding presents. The Howell estate included most of the land that encompasses the middle area of the East side of Broadview Avenue and the West side of Grandview Avenue. (A photo of Frank Byers Howell in his carriage

appeared in Viewpoints, Summer 2002) The photo to the right shows Frances, her sister Betty, and their brother Fred in front of Frank Howell’s rose pergola circa 1913-14. Fred is the father of GH/MCHS life member, Connie Brody. The Frank Howell Tudor-style house has undergone two major renovations, and no longer retains any elements of its original design. Today it is a contemporary A-frame owned by the Campbell family.

Frances Nesbitt Winegarner’s childhood home was 1049 Grandview Avenue, just across from the entrance to the Grandview Municipal Building. (photo bottom page 3)

During our conversation with her, Frances related that she was none too pleased when the knoll and meadow which had been her secret retreat and reading place was chosen as the site of the Municipal Building. She recalled being able to hide there where no one could find her. She also spoke of an Indian mound on the site of the Municipal Building. We are trying to establish the possibility of a mound in this location and are asking for help from our readers.

Frances’ role as “Goddess of Peace” was the culmination of a long and illustrious Field Day career. Frances and her older sister, Betty, were active participants in the Field Day celebrations from the age of 9 or 10. They were frequently mentioned in the newspapers as being members of the Blanche Field dance troupes, playing parts in numerous tableaux, and riding on various floats in various roles. Frances was popular in high school and in the 1926 Highlander willed her skills as an accomplished “vamp” to an underclassman. She pointed out a young man in the yearbook and said, with a twinkle, “He was my boyfriend but did not know it!” Sledding down Grandview Hill was popular during the pre-TV and radio era, but Frances’ parents would not let their children participate, citing the frequent accidents that occurred. Frances graduated from Grandview High School in 1926 and enrolled in The Ohio State University. In December 1930 she received a degree in Social Administration (Social Work). Her son, Bill Winegarner, says the diploma is bona fide sheepskin.



Goddess of Peace

by Tom DeMaria



Frances married Barr Gailard Winegarner of Bexley. Initially, her husband joined his family's business and operated the Winegarner Funeral Home on East Main Street until a fire destroyed the building in 1934. The family barely escaped the burning building in the sub-zero night with only the clothes on their backs. Opportunity presented itself to the young couple when a college friend of Barr's asked him to manage his soap company while he attended to family business out-of-state. Barr Winegarner acquired the business, named Powdered Products, and with World War II looming the company became a key local player in the soap market. After the fire, the family moved to 48 acres of land northwest of Wilson Bridge Road in Worthington. Today Interstate 270 and a developed commercial area bisect what was the Winegarner homestead. Bill recalled that he is most proud and grateful that his parents provided an opportunity for him and all his four brothers to attend Columbus Academy, a considerable sacrifice for them in early post-Depression Columbus.

Frances Nesbitt Winegarner lives today in quiet seclusion in a retirement facility, and 78 years after she rode in the chariot in that 1924 Field Day Parade she is still every bit a "Goddess of Peace". She possesses a refined dignity and presence and it is easy to understand how she got the part.

Some of the photographs used in this article were donated to GH/MCHS 25 years ago by Frances' sister, Betty Nesbitt Aschinger, who resides today at First Community Village. For more information on the Howells' residences and Field Days, visit www.ghmchs.org for Viewpoints - Fall 2002.



THE CONCRETE IN THE ABSTRACT

"Abstracts of Title" were once used routinely to document the details of real estate transactions. The advent of electronic record keeping has rendered their use obsolete, but many still exist for older properties, often in the possession of the current owners. It usually goes unnoticed that abstracts contain significant historical documents, some of which are otherwise inaccessible. For example, abstracts recently loaned to Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society for copying included such documents as: James Walcutt's Will, Articles of Incorporation of Columbus Stone Company (S. Casparis et al), Articles of Incorporation of Hoster Columbus Associated Breweries, L. Hoster Brewing Company, the King Thompson Company, the Upper Arlington Company, and the Ohio Realty Company, along with Grandview ordinances having to do with street widening and paving, etc.

The society is grateful to the following for loans of abstracts: Sue Benton, Steve and Gail Burigana, Ted Celeste, Jenny Klitch, Charles and Marcia Mason, Kevin and Judith Readey, and Shan Williams.

Residents who have abstracts and wish to participate in this ongoing effort to document the history of our community may contact mrtsmith@msn.com.

RESEARCH THE GENEALOGY OF YOUR HOUSE

Wednesday 29 January - 7:00 p.m.
Grandview Heights Public Library

Take the mystery out of your house history! Steve Gordon of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office will show you how to use clues from building materials and construction techniques as well as library resources to research the history of your house.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Wayne Carlson moved to Oxley Road in Grandview Heights in 1977 when he was a graduate student at Ohio State. He stayed for all of the reasons that we hear so much about — excellent schools, beautiful homes with architectural significance, proximity to downtown, close-knit neighborhoods with a strong community feel, etc. He and his wife Pam moved from an apartment to a Grandview "fixer-upper" and once it was renovated, moved to their current home on Wyandotte Road. Wayne became interested in the Grandview Heights/ Marble Cliff Historical Society about six years ago, and saw an opportunity to connect his knowledge of technology information to the board's efforts toward archiving and disseminating the historical documents in the Society's collections. This led to a proposal to use the World Wide Web as a way to showcase the wonderful homes and associated stories which are the fabric of the community. He designed, developed, and continues to maintain the site at www.ghmchs.org. Wayne is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Industrial, Interior and Visual Communication Design at Ohio State, and teaches computer animation and web design. He participates in volunteer activities with Grandview Schools, the city, and his professional organizations. Pam and Wayne have two children, Tim (a freshman in engineering at Ohio State) and Katie (a sophomore at Grandview High School), and a Springer Spaniel, Abby.



BECOME A MEMBER

of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!

Please complete the information below and send with your check made out to: **GH/MC Historical Society** Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Library, 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

NAME _____

SPOUSE
(IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP
YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1–SEPT. 30)	ONE-TIME PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00



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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney (279-6665) for any interesting article ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

SPECIAL THANKS
to Galen Gonser for
his recent gift of a
collection of historic
photographs of
local scenes.

OAHSM* AWARD OF EXCELLENCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

webpage generates. He is primarily responsible for leading GH/MCHS in its mission of making archived material available to the public at large through the use of the Internet, as well as preserving historic materials in digitized form. He has also helped the society present historical programs to the public. The webpage has received more than 12,000 'hits' and has seen significant use as an extension of the local history curriculum in Edison and Stevenson Elementary Schools. Dr. Carlson is technology advisor to the Board and the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society liaison to the Grandview Heights City Schools. He was previously GH/MCHS liaison to the City of Grandview Heights.

The historical society and Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff citizens benefit greatly from Wayne Carlson's volunteer commitments to his community. A few quotations from letters supporting his nomination help to document some of his contributions:

"Wayne Carlson devoted countless hours, incredible expertise, and outstanding talent in digitizing the photographs, newspaper stories, and a variety of other source documents that were valuable in telling the Village of Marble Cliff history."

"We have been using the website for several years and it has added a new dimension to my teaching. We now have a wealth of information readily available."

"Wayne has been tireless in his efforts to bring the past into the minds of today. His computer expertise, combined with his understanding of human interests has made him the perfect person to enchant today's population with details of yesterday."

"I created a tutorial that students could easily follow based on the GH/MCHS webpage. They are also given time to explore other parts of the webpage on their own. It is wonderful and inspiring to see the intense interest that this experience creates in students."

"The volunteer efforts of Dr. Wayne Carlson on behalf of the City of Grandview Heights have greatly improved the quality of life we often take for granted."

Congratulations, Wayne!
(May your energies never grow less!)

**The acronym, OAHSM, is pronounced, "Oh, awesome!"*

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The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

