

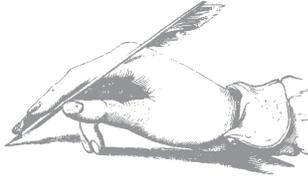


ViewPoints

Spring, 2002

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends,

I certainly hope all of you have been enjoying the beautiful colors of spring and the bustling of people emerging from their homes. It is good to see our Historic Grandview Avenue once again filled with outside diners.

Your society board has been busy working toward our goals, old and new. We continue to digitize materials and post new items on our website:

www.gbmchs.org New donations have been made, and we continue to welcome contributions to the documentation of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff history. Quite a few connections have been made through our website, proving its importance.

We have recently been extending our relationships with other historical societies in order to exchange ideas and continue expanding our goals. For instance, we were represented at the Region 5 Meeting of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, have been participating in the Central Ohio Local History Forum, and are working with the Franklin County Bicentennial Association to become the first to showcase the Franklin County Bicentennial Float in this year's Memorial Day Parade. Be sure to attend!

Have you noticed that our last few newsletters have carried a sponsorship banner on page one? This program is making continued publication possible through the generosity of local individuals and groups. The society would welcome your participation! Please contact me if you are interested.

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society has been working with Grandview Heights City Hall and the Parks and Recreation Department on the fourth and final phase of the Ohio Bicentennial Project. This will result in Grandview being declared a "Bicentennial Community." Anyone interested in helping to plan and carry out this event, please contact me either by phone (488-0425) or through our website. As always, I will welcome any other comments or questions.

Sincerely,
Tracy P. Liberatore
President

FRANKLIN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL

GHMCHS Will Help Kick Off Year-long Celebration



On Tuesday, April 30, 2002, Franklin County Commissioners Mary Jo Kilroy, Arlene Shoemaker and Dewey Stokes were presented with a birthday cake by members of the Franklin County Bicentennial Association to mark the 199th birthday of the establishment of Franklin County on April 30, 1803. One of the first counties to be established after Ohio's admission to the union a few weeks earlier, Franklin's original boundaries stretched from Ross County northward to Lake Erie, and from Fairfield County on the east to Greene County on the west. Franklinton, settled in 1797 on the west side of the Scioto River, became the first county seat.

The Franklin County Bicentennial Association, chartered as a non-profit entity in 2001, was organized beginning in 2000, at the recommendation of the Franklin County Commissioners, to plan and implement the celebration activities of Franklin County's 200th birthday, April 30,

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This issue sponsored by

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FRANKLIN COUNTY BICENTENNIAL ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2003. The FCBA is staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to preserving the history of the county and celebrating its creation and achievements over the past 200 years. The FCBA is committed to celebrating the multi-cultural heritage of the entire community and welcomes input from the community. Visit the association's website at: www.fcb2003.org

Major projects of the FCBA include:

- Franklin County Homecoming Days from April 30 through May 4, 2003
- the publication of elementary school educational materials
- a bicentennial book of township and local community history articles
- the FCBA website
- a mobile exhibit of local and county history for schools
- traveling exhibits for festivals and public buildings
- reissue of the original 1980s "Cornerstones" series of local history videos with a new bicentennial segment
- the creation of a parade float to be used in various community parades, fairs and festivals from May, 2002 to October, 2003.

A number of organizations and individuals have contributed cash, materials or services to the Franklin County Bicentennial Association in support of its plans. Volunteers include teachers, city and county employees, historians, business persons, and many others. Several of the Franklin County Bicentennial projects are progressing well: some are nearing completion and some are in need of additional funding.

A Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society First

On Saturday, May 25, in the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Memorial Day Parade, GHMCHS will be the first organization in Franklin County to showcase the Franklin County Bicentennial Parade Float, the first of the FCBA projects to reach completion. The float



Tri-Village residents have never been hesitant about involving themselves whole-heartedly in community events. These unidentified villagers portrayed Ohio historical characters in a Field Day Parade circa 1923. Field Day was our major annual celebration from 1915 to 1925.

will carry a log cabin replica and wigwam on a 30-foot mobile home base. Baker Lumber, Inc. of Linworth, a major donor, has been heavily involved in design and construction of the float, and will provide a truck and driver. Grandview and Marble Cliff residents in appropriate costume will staff the float. GHMCHS President Tracy Liberatore and board member Terry Smith are working with the float committee, local residents and Ohio Historical Society sources to bring this event to the community. Our society became a participant in FCBA activities through our representation at meetings of the Local History Forum, organized in 2001 by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Columbus Historical Society. The objective of the Local History Forum is to build a network of Central Ohio historical societies and museums in order to promote history, heritage and tourism in Central Ohio.

Status of FCBA Projects

Franklin County Homecoming Days, April 30-May 4, 2003 will include numerous activities at COSI and the Franklin County Fairgrounds. GHMCHS expects to participate. The Bicentennial Book of Franklin County will include chapters on each township. In addition, articles on the history of county communities are being sought. We expect to submit an article for possible publication. Plans are well along for a mobile exhibit of local history for schools, but finding a donor of a handicap-accessible bus is critical to its completion. The last textbook of local history was published nearly forty years ago. The Elementary School Educational Materials Update includes issuing a series of current lesson plans and an updated student book for third grade level, workshops for teachers, and illustrative materials on CD-Rom. This project has been adopted by the Columbus Historical Society and several local teachers, and is currently awaiting the results of grant applications. It is expected that the first fifteen lesson plans will be available this fall.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Franklin County Bicentennial Association, exploring the benefits of sponsorship, or volunteering in any way, contact FCBA at 699 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43206, call 614-445-8247, or contact Webmaster@fcb2003.org. All contributions are needed and welcome. All staff are volunteers, and voluntary gifts of cash, materials and services will bring FCBA plans to fruition.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Board member JoAnn Curry and her husband Ron chose their home in Grandview Heights more than thirty years ago. They have found it a wonderful community in which to raise their four children, each of whom attended Grandview Heights Public Schools for all twelve years. JoAnn is grateful for her years in the Tri-Village community, which include twenty successful years as a realtor, and a number of years as a staff member at First Community Church and Grandview Heights Public Library. She has found her terms as a Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society board member a rewarding experience. Currently vice-president, JoAnn has also served as treasurer of the Society.

NEW DISCOVERIES: THE FIRST COUNTRY CLUB IN CENTRAL OHIO

by Tom DeMaria

Most GHMCHS members, as well as the community at large, are well aware that the 17-acre area south of Third Avenue and west of Cambridge Boulevard comprised the Aladdin Country Club until 1925. Its predecessor, the Arlington Country Club, opened there in 1896. The only remnant of this once vibrant recreational center for Columbus's elite is the Aladdin Woods cul-de-sac off Arlington Avenue.



Frank Byers Howell (driving) and family, with their pair of matched horses (date unknown, but prior to 1900). Frank Howell resided at 1082 Broadview and was extremely proud of these horses according to Judith Uhl, a family descendant, who provided the photo. Competition required a stylish carriage as well as impeccably groomed horses and occupants.

What most people do not realize is that the instigation of this first country club had nothing to do with golf, but was prompted by another popular social activity of the period: horseback riding in various forms. Society member Court Hall recently provided GHMCHS with excerpts from a book in his personal library: *Horse-Riding in and Around Columbus 1775-1924*, edited by Frank Tallmadge and published by the Columbus Riding Club in 1925.



Sketch of the Urlin cabin, circa 1892, the first home of the Riding and Driving Club. From *Horseback Riding in and Around Columbus 1775-1924*.

This book cites the founding on October 12, 1892 of the first country club in this part of the state in George Urlin's cabin, a temporary structure on his estate. Urlin used the cabin while his mansion was being built on the present site of the Summit Chase high-rise.

A group of riding enthusiasts, formerly known as "The Bit and Bridle Club", rechristened themselves as "The Riding and Driving Club". A sketch of their first meeting place is shown above. Club activities included horse racing, fox chases on the 1000-acre Miller Farm (now Upper Arlington south of Lane Avenue), steeplechasing, carriage driving, and other forms of showmanship. Yearly dues were five dollars, which is roughly equivalent to \$95 today. Categories mentioned in early newspaper columns included prizes for "Best Canter Horse Ridden by a Lady", "Riding School Drill", "Highest Jump", "Best Gaited Mare", and even "Ugliest Horse". As many as 15 different prizes were awarded in a single day. These events were huge social gatherings, often by invitation only, and typically culminated in a feast prepared by the wives. Mention is made that these meals were wonderful but not pretentious, and "there were no servants or bells". In the early years meals were cooked over an open campfire by these "pioneer" Columbus socialites.

Within a few months of the 1892 founding the club moved for a single season to what we believe may have been the Frick-McKay home at 1600 Roxbury Road. In 1893 membership increased rapidly and the headquarters moved south a few hundred yards to a larger home, called

"The Inn" (pictured and described in *Viewpoints*, Fall 2001). Both these temporary quarters were rental properties owned by John F. Miller, a prominent railroad executive and club member. The name was changed to "Arlington Country Club", but golf was still not part of the program. The emphasis was on horse-related activities and social interaction.

In 1896 the Arlington Country Club moved into quarters designed for them by noted Columbus architect Frank Packard. The new two-story clubhouse was on four acres of land, and included a track and stable facilities. It was due south of present-day No. 10 Arlington Place, and the clubhouse sat on the edge of the bluff facing the valley below. An additional 12 acres was acquired after 1896, largely to accommodate the arrival of golf on the Columbus scene. Horse shows and races were still held regularly at the club until 1905. By that year development had begun to encroach on the riding paths and meadows. The streetcar had arrived in the area in 1901 and streets were being laid out and houses built. By this time riding was giving way to golf as a primary recreational activity at the Arlington Country Club. The 4-hole course was expanded to 9 holes in 1907. After 1905 riding enthusiasts moved east to the 250 acres of the Columbus Country Club.

Arlington Country Club retained its pre-eminence as the premier Columbus club for its 200 members until 1916 when the new, 18-hole Scioto Country Club opened in Upper Arlington. "Scioto" traces its beginning to a conversation among four men in May, 1913 at the 18-hole National Golf Links of America in Southampton, New York. At the time, Columbus had only two golf courses, Arlington and Columbus CC, each a nine-hole. These "founding fathers" of Scioto Country Club were Samuel P. Bush, Butler E. Sheldon, W. K. Lanman, and James L.

Hamill. Bush, Sheldon and Lanman were members of Arlington Country Club and residents of Marble Cliff. In 1914 Arlington Country Club members/stockholders were asked to cooperate in organization of the new club, and were offered \$125 per share for their stock and made first in line for membership in Scioto Country Club.

The Arlington Country Club property was purchased by the Shriners, remodeled, and renamed Aladdin Country Club, which remained in existence until 1925. In the 1920s Arlington Avenue was extended south to connect with First Avenue, which was extended west of Cambridge Boulevard. The clubhouse survived for some years, sometimes vacant, sometimes as a private residence.

The cycle was completed in recent memory when late Marble Cliff Mayor Paul Falco developed the original clubhouse site and named it Aladdin Woods.

Today country clubs abound, and we think of them primarily as places for golfing, as well as swimming and luncheon and dinner venues. The concept of the country club is not new to us. Grandview/Marble Cliff is the birthplace of Central Ohio's first country club, but it had nothing to do with golf, and everything to do with horses.

(For more information and views of Arlington/Aladdin Country Club, Frick-McKay House, and "The Inn", visit our website: www.gbmchs.org)



The race track at the Arlington Country Club. The building to the left is the dance hall, which was located south east of the main clubhouse. The original caption reads, "Helen Brown chaperoned by Paul Loving shows 'Midnight' at the Arlington Country Club." We will never know whether the caption is correct and that this white horse was indeed named "Midnight." From "Soundings" a publication of the Columbus Junior League, 1929.

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:

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

Visit Our Web Site!

www.ghmchs.org

*If you are not on-line at home, the
reference librarians at Grandview
Heights Public Library will show you
how to access us at the library.*

“IF WALLS COULD TALK”

In mid-April a production crew from HGTV (Home and Garden Television) filmed a segment for their “If Walls Could Talk” series, featuring the Lindenberg-Voelker house. Current owners, Steve and Lori Valachovic, shared discoveries they have made of long-unknown original details of their historic Grandview Heights home. The weekly series explores homes across the country, looking for interesting stories of their past. The Valachovic home was the only location filmed in Central Ohio. Producers learned about the house from the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society. The five-to-seven-minute segment will air sometime during the next year.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET

The annual meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 15, 2002. Program planning is underway. Calendar this event now, and watch for further information in our August Viewpoints, and in local media.

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

