



ViewPoints



August 2018

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Society Members,

Summer greetings to everyone and I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Goodness it's been unusually hot this year! I see a clear climate change from what I remember years ago. Take care of yourselves, and also of your pets. They need to stay comfortable too!

We have been working on some new ideas for additional events and hope to come up with something soon. We have the annual meeting and the triennial home tour, but members have been conveying that they would like another event during the year. We listened and we're working on it.

Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynowski have been on top of the usual processing of documents, but have also been helpful to new area businesses, such as Harvest Pizzeria on First. Many businesses ask us for help in displaying historical photos and the Archives Committee is always ready and willing to help. We are hopeful that the Stew Harrison's wood slats we've been storing (with all sorts of memories carved within) will be of use in the very near future. The ultimate recycling!

The Avenue Breezeway has been updated. Please stop by and take a look at it. Thank you Ruthanne James and Jane Harris.

Wayne Carlson continues to monitor our website and provide updates. He also recently had to do a "fix", as our website was hacked and needed some repairs. Wonder what this world is coming to when a not-for-profit Society website is invaded?! Wayne also does a wonderful job with our weekly column in *This Week*, "Moment in Time". This has been a long time contribution! Also please check our Facebook page, which is monitored continuously by Trustee Emeritus Tom DeMaria. Tom also updates our showcase in the High School.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions or comments.

Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President

2019 TOUR OF HOMES

Seeking Chair Persons for Tour of Homes

The Society is busy planning our triennial historical Tour of Homes expected to be held in October 2019. We are looking for GH/MC residents to volunteer to lead the following roles for the tour:

- Publicity Chair
- Docent Chair
- Sponsor Chair
- House Captain(s)
- Tour Program Editor

Your strong interest in preserving and promoting our historically significant and beautiful homes is the most important qualification. Prior experience is a plus but not necessary. Please contact Karen Riggs, 2019 Tour of Homes Coordinator, at karriggs@sbcglobal.net or 614-315-1770 for more information about the 2019 Tour of Homes, the responsibilities associated with these roles, or to volunteer for a chair position. Chair persons will receive a complimentary ticket to the Tour of Homes and a complimentary one-year membership to the Society.



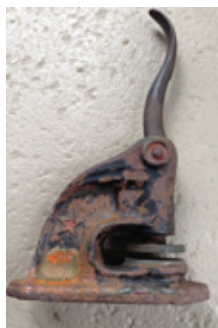


STAMP OF HISTORY

While going through her late grandfather's home, Linda Westfall found an old cast iron seal press that she remembered was always sitting on his desk. She and other grandchildren often used the lever press to emboss paper with a "The Arlington Country Club Co." stamp. Curious to know more about the origins of the press, she found information on the club on our Society's webpage (see <http://www.ghmchs.org/tour-pages/aladdin.html>, <http://www.ghmchs.org/PDFs/VIEWPOINTS-SP02.pdf>). The Arlington Country Club opened in 1896 in now Marble Cliff for horseback riding (not golf!) and was Central Ohio's first country club.

Westfall's grandfather, Durward Woodard (1908 – 2006) lived in Columbus for a time on Harmon Avenue next door to Gally's Dairy. The owner of Gally's Dairy, Clarence A. Gall (1901 – 1954), lived at 1122 Cambridge Ave. (the former Tarpy house) in Marble Cliff. Gall's home was located very near the Arlington Country Club. Woodard worked for Gally (as he called him) for many years; he told great stories of their escapades to his family, including Westfall. Westfall's mother remembers visits to Gally's home on Cambridge Ave.

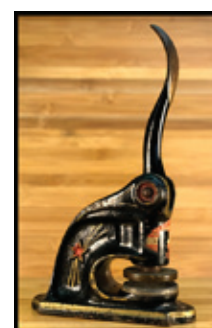
Seal presses became popular in the 1840s and by the 1860s nearly every business entity, government agency, and fraternal organization had a seal embossing press.



Woodard press donated to Society by Linda Westfall.



Stamp from the Woodard seal press.

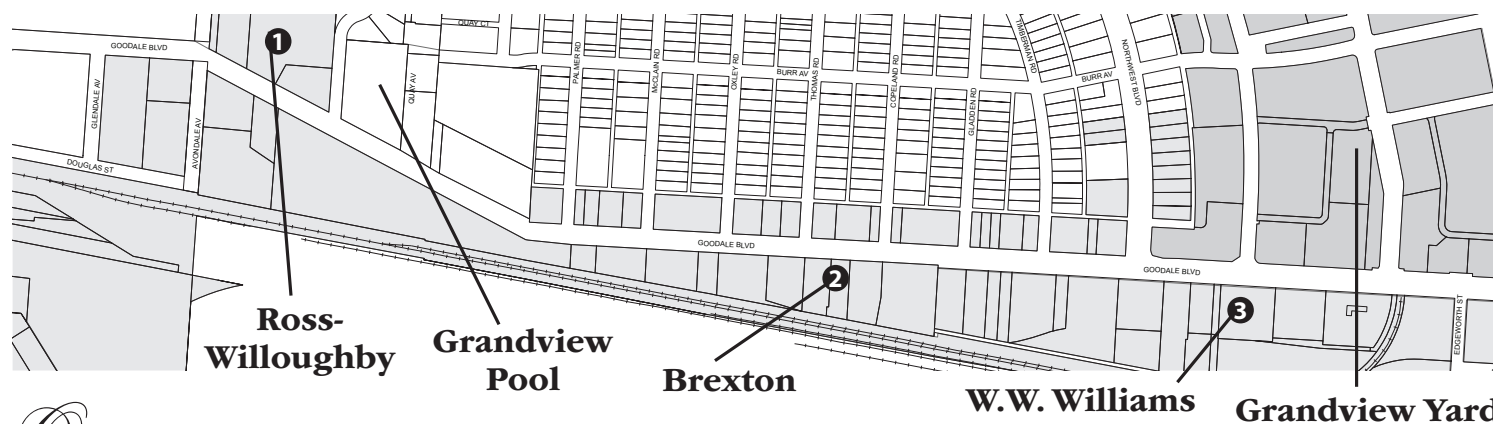


Similar red star press, circa 1880 – 1920; triple beams coming out of the top and bottom of the star can be faintly seen on the Woodard press (www.swrubberstamp.com/products/antique-b005-4/)

The Woodard press has a five-point red star in the indented side body.

Westfall believes her grandfather Woodard may have acquired the seal press as a gift from Gally or at an antique auction which he enjoyed attending. Nonetheless Woodard kept the press for many years. In his memory, Westfall has donated the press to the Society's archives. Stop by and see the press and other interesting artifacts at our Founder's Room in the Grandview Heights Public Library (open 9 – 10 a.m., most Mondays).

Goodale Boulevard: A Bastion for Businesses (Part II)



Our October 2017 newsletter (<http://www.ghmchs.org/PDFs/VIEWPOINTSOct17.pdf>) recognized the importance of Goodale Boulevard as an entrance to the GH/MC area and the great changes ongoing to the street's business establishments. Three businesses that held long-standing operations on Goodale were featured. As Part II to that article, three additional Goodale businesses – two that are no longer there and one newcomer – are described here. Change is always good and the new and improved businesses on the Boulevard are certain to establish their own historic footprint.

1. Goodale Business Highlight

Ross-Willoughby

1400 Goodale

The now-defunct Ross-Willoughby Company (R-W), founded in 1912 and once a business stalwart on Goodale Blvd, had long-standing connections with GH/MC.

Its original operations were located on Spring and Third Streets in Columbus. In 1921 R-W President was W. W. Ross; Vice President was Horace Willoughby; the company had \$100,000 in capital and a sales force of six. It offered mill, steam, mine, and contractor supplies.

Willoughby (1871 – 1929) was a well-respected MidWest business executive with strong GH/MC ties; he eventually became R-W President. In 1915, he was appointed by Grandview's City Council to organize a city fire department. He built and lived in a GH home on Westwood Ave from 1915 to ~1923. He was a member of the Arlington Country Club, a riding club located in Marble Cliff, and enjoyed the sport of horse racing.

The R-W company's slogan in 1937 was "A necessary adjunct to the industrial life of Central Ohio"; and at the time its advertised products included pipe, boiler tubes, steel, nails, wire rope, etc.



H. Willoughby, R-W President, often golfed with U.S. President Warren Harding.



R-W Headquarters on Goodale Boulevard opened in 1955.

In 1955, the company built and moved operations to a new 35,600 sq. ft. building in Grandview at the corner of Goodale Blvd. and Kramer Ave., just to the west of the Grandview Heights swimming pool. That year, company officers included James B. Ross, Vice President and Treasurer, who had been with the company 22 years, and whose father was the original

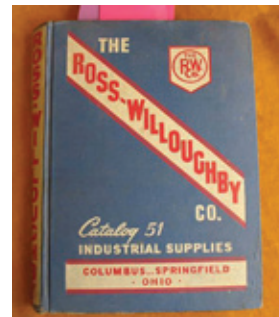
President of R-W. The new building featured Cunard-Lang Concrete Co. (Columbus, OH) masonry block – which was also being used to build St. John's Arena at Ohio State University around the same time.

In 1960, R-W offered an inventory supply of over 30,000 items and same day delivery service (well before Federal Express!). A new R-W product line added in 1960 was the Starrett Co. hand measuring tools and precision instruments.

Former R-W President Ron Cory, who joined the firm in 1978, notes "The company...had a sterling reputation, representing the very best manufacturers of industrial supplies and machine tools... Early on, a decision was made to computerize the inventory and order entry segments.... It was a forgone conclusion that ...growth and profitability could not be met without a computer conversion.... On-site stores located within the customer's plant, integrated supply strategies, customer specific inventory management programs propelled the company to be among the top 100 distributors in the United States."

In 1999, R-W was bought by Integra; at the time it had sales of \$90 million with 12 locations in Ohio and North Carolina. Integra filed for bankruptcy and sought buyers for R-W in 2002.

The former R-W headquarters and warehouse building at 1400 Goodale was extensively renovated into a commercial office building in 2007. Two other commercial office buildings were also built on the former R-W property in 2007 (1404 and 1385 Goodale). Current businesses residing in these buildings include Navigator Management Partners, King Business Interiors, and Healthlinx.



Former R-W Salespersons Still Gather Regularly (7/20/18 photo provided by Jon DiSabato, second from left).



2. Goodale Business Highlight

Brexton Construction, LLC (Brexton)

1123 Goodale Boulevard

A new business hoping to establish a long-standing history on Goodale is Brexton. Brexton offers commercial development, construction, development, renovation, and property management. Their primary focus is projects ranging from \$1 to \$25 million in central Ohio; past projects have included development of the main campus for Nationwide Children's Orthopedic Center; and construction of a TJ Maxx store on East Broad St., the Shoppes at East Broad, and King Avenue Apartments.

Brexton constructed a new building on Goodale for a Tri-Village self storage and their company headquarters. The original building at this site formerly housed a reTAGit resale store, a U-Haul rental center, and the Hubman Supply Co. janitorial supply business. Brexton had planned to simply remodel the existing building, however prohibitive renovation costs eliminated that plan. Most of the architectural features of the existing building had unfortunately been erased in previous remodeling efforts. Arched metal trusses and the original pine floor did remain however could not be salvaged.

The new 115,000 sq. ft. building includes parking on the first floor (necessitated by flood plain requirements). Reflective glass covers three sides of the first floor so parking is not visible from the



1123 Goodale after demolition of original 1940 building; Goodale Boulevard is at the bottom right, and the City of Columbus Dublin Road Water Plant is at the top left.

exterior. The building is set back from the sidewalk to improve walkability; Brexton plans to install a patio and landscaping in the front for improved aesthetics. The siding is metal for durability however designed to look like brick to better fit with GH/MC building architecture. The corners at the top of the 5-story building are bumped out for added interest. Brexton moved their headquarters into the new building in 2018.

CEO Tim Galvin, a Society Life Member, is committed to the GH/MC area and plans for Brexton to match the longevity of his Goodale business neighbors at their new headquarters.



Construction of Tri-Village Self Storage and Brexton headquarters building.



Former 24,000 sq. ft. building at 1123 Goodale was constructed in 1940 (photo circa 2010).



3. Goodale Business Highlight

W.W. Williams

835 Goodale Blvd.

The W.W. Williams Co. (WWW) resided on Goodale Blvd from 1920 to 2017, almost 100 years. The company was founded by William Wallace Williams, Sr., in 1912.

Their original building on Goodale Blvd was intended to serve as a service station and warehouse; it included a special heating system which readily dispersed fumes from the running gasoline motors in the repair room. The location included a “private railroad switch (which) makes loading and unloading at the plant possible” (Columbus Citizen Journal, Nov. 6, 1920).



Original WWW building on Goodale in 1920.



Headquarters for the company has been on Goodale Boulevard since 1924.

W.W. Williams headquarters on Goodale Blvd circa 1924; the building was apparently expanded at some time after 1920 (<http://www.gbmchs.org/biggs.html>).

In 1949, executive personnel included J.C. Williams, President, and W.W. Williams, Jr., Vice President and General Manager. Definitely a family business! At that time, the company advertised facilities for the service and maintenance and rebuilding of machinery used in the construction and industrial fields. The main shop of the operations included six re-building bays each equipped with 2-ton overhead cranes. A 10-ton crane ran the entire length of the shop and extended outside. The re-building shop employed 35 mechanics who were

The W. W. Williams Co.

Contractors Machinery and Supplies

987-1001 W. Goodale St.,

Columbus, Ohio

Sterling & Hug Trucks—Koebring Pavers, Cranes and Mixers
Blaw Knox Bins Batchers and Forms— C. H. & E. Saw
Rigs and Pumps—Flory Gasoline and Electric
Hoists—Ord Finishing Machines

The House of Quality

— BRANCHES —

Cleveland

Toledo

Dayton

Lima Cincinnati

1927 Advertisement for W.W. Williams from Columbus This Week.



Crane support in back of WWW building; the crane extended to a private railroad spur.

sent to equipment manufacturers for training on the different equipment handled by WWW. The company also operated a fleet of service trucks that offered OH-wide field service.

A January 3, 2013 Tri-Village News article noted “In the 1960s, highway projects and coal mining propelled (WWW) into significant growth. Then, in the 1970s and ‘80s, the company shifted its focus to diesel engines and automatic transmissions...” The company donated \$100,000 to Grandview Heights for renovation of the shelter house at Grandview Heights’ Wyman Woods. W.W. Williams was renamed the Tri-W Group, Inc. in 2016; in 2017, the company announced a headquarters move to Dublin, OH. Interesting enough, despite all the changes, the family roots are still maintained; Bill Williams, great-grandson of founder William Wallace Williams, Sr. is Chairman Emeritus of the Tri-W Group. Preliminary plans are underway by the Tri-W Group and Elford to develop the 10-acre former WWW’s site and adjacent property (across from the Grandview Yard) for a mix of retail, restaurant, office, and residential use.



The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

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/MCHS**

Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY DUES (SEPT. 1 – AUG. 31)

- Single \$20
- Couple \$30
- Organization \$50

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

- Single \$100
- Couple \$150
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

Save the Date Society Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 21,
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Grandview Theater & Draffhouse

*Featured Speaker:
Leslie Blankenship,
Ohio Local History Alliance*

A REQUEST

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