



ViewPoints



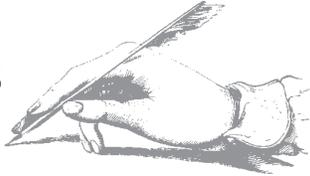
September 2012

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A N OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members:

It is my honor and privilege to write to all of you again. What a miserable and hot summer it was! Some like this hot weather; but indeed, I think it was overly so. All of my tomato plants failed! So disappointing...I do love home grown tomatoes. I hope you have all been keeping cool and enjoying your families.

Your Society Board has been very busy with all of our usual duties: the Archives committee is a regular presence at the library. Gracious volunteers, Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynowski have been working to continue to add to our digital collection. Also, they have helped Win Keller with the Moment in Time column for ThisWeek Grandview. We do appreciate their time and efforts. A round of applause!

We have been a presence at Music on the Lawn this summer, and at the Lazy Daze Festival. We had several requests for membership forms, always a promising sign. By the way, we have one of the largest memberships of private historical societies in Ohio! All members should be proud! Check out our website: ghmchs.org. We are also on Facebook!

We will soon begin to plan for our next Home Tour: May 2013.

We would love to hear from you if you have an interest in helping us with this project. It takes many a hand to accomplish, but is truly one of the most rewarding and fun projects to participate in. Please let us know if you can help! There are several different areas in which your talents could be applied!

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to Brian Kuyper, our newest board member. We are so happy to have him join us, and we hope you will greet him personally at our annual meeting, Thursday, October 25. (see page right)

This hot and dry summer will be followed by cheers for the Fall sports program and hopefully,, cooler weather. I wish you all well, and hope to see many of you at a GHHS football game soon!

As always, please contact me with questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Tracy Liberatore, President

Society Annual Meeting to Feature French History

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society will be Thursday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of Grandview Heights Public Library.

Open to the public as always, this year's meeting will double as an offering in the Grandview Heights Public Library's June-November 2012 programs. A short society business meeting will precede the program.



"Nostradamus and Notre Dame" presented by Miss Josie Gonot, will discuss the impact of the publication in 1555 of a book of supernatural prophecies by French court physician Michel de Nostradamus, who risked his reputation and his life by his publication. His family name, translated from Provençal, means "Our Lady." His predictions and prophecies are still studied today, with even an internet society devoted to him. Some claim that his predictions include "9/11" and other modern events.

Miss Gonot's talk will focus on French historical events influenced by Nostradamus, including court intrigues, and the death of a king. Did the influence of Nostradamus lead to the bloody St.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Membership Renewal Time!

Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Annual memberships are renewable now. For your membership status see the mailing label on this newsletter. Life memberships are a convenience for members, and significant support for the Society. May we hear from you soon?

This issue sponsored by

ANONYMOUS DONORS





Family Ties: *The Ricketts Family*

Part One; James S. Ricketts and Early development of the Area

*J*ames Spencer Ricketts (1844-1918): clergyman, real estate developer, public servant. Born in Perry County, Ohio, one of 16 children of Rev. Daniel Ricketts and Lucy Wickiser. J. S. Ricketts fought in the Civil War, as did a number of his brothers. After the war he was a carpenter before becoming a Methodist minister.

He married Helen Goodspeed of Athens County and they had four children, born in Fairfield, Hocking, Athens, and Vinton Counties, Ohio, evidence of his position as an itinerant minister.

In 1888, citing ill health, he retired from active ministry and was designated superannuated (retired). He and his wife settled in Columbus, where he had many interests.

"The Reverend James S. Ricketts was instrumental in the King Avenue Methodist Church. On December 30, 1888 Rev. Ricketts called to order the first meeting for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School. The 127 people present were organized into 7 classes. In May, 1889 he was appointed by the Columbus District to act as pastor for the newly organized church. He served in this capacity until annual conference, when the position could be filled." (from History of King Avenue Methodist Church.)

"Mr. Ricketts was the founder and organizer of the West Fifth Avenue Church. He did everything from teaching Sunday School to donating for \$1 the two lots on which the church was built." (from 90th Anniversary History of Trinity Methodist Church).

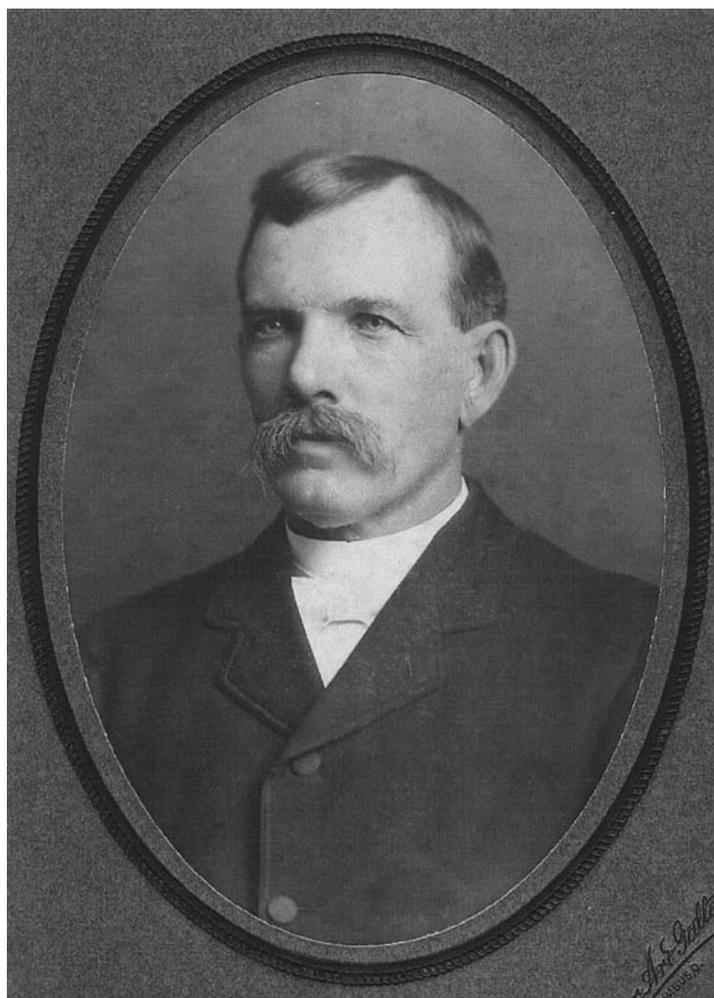
This church was built at the corner of West Fifth Avenue and Northstar Road, where it remained until 1913, when a larger church was built at First and Ashland Avenue in Grandview Heights.

In the 1950s the Grandview church was sold, and was replaced by the new Trinity Methodist Church at Cambridge Boulevard and West Fifth Avenue.



A rush to develop what we know today as Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff began Feb. 23, 1889 with Price's Arlington Place, followed by Ricketts and Addis Fairday on March 25, 1890. In quick succession came Chester Heights (Aug. 29, 1890), Ricketts and Walcutt's Runnymede (Aug. 30, 1890), Ricketts and Miller's Summit Plain (Sept. 3, 1890), Urlin's Grand View (Oct. 3, 1890), Croughten, Denmead, and Pope (Oct. 11, 1890). These were followed by Tilton's and Wagenhals

Gladdington Heights (Jan. 16, 1891), Ricketts Meridian (Oct. 21, 1891), Miller's Marble Cliff Farm (Dec. 2, 1891), Ricketts' White Rose



(Mar. 10, 1891), and finally the Thompson brothers' Northwest Boulevard plat (July 18, 1916).

As can be seen, J. S. Ricketts was among the earliest to pursue development of this area. The locations of his additions are as follows:

- **Fairday:** Haines Avenue north to Fourth Avenue (now Thornwood) and Walcutt Road (now Grandview Avenue) east to Sunrise (now Avondale). When Ricketts first purchased this land Third Avenue did not yet run west to Grandview Avenue.
- **Runnymede:** the alley just north of third avenue north to Fifth, and Ashland east to Oakland (now North Star).
- **Summit Plain:** Fifth Avenue north to King Avenue and Procyon (now Andover) east to Northstar (now North Star).
- **Meridian:** King Avenue north to Flenniken Pike (now Chambers) and Nectar (now Kenny) east to Concord.



- **White Rose:** Sixth Avenue north to Clinton Avenue, and Boella (now Meadow) east to Queen (now Virginia).

As a realtor, Ricketts operated from offices in the Short North and lived on Third Avenue near Neil. For several years in the early 1900s the company name was J. S. Ricketts & Son (Ernest O.)

Columbus Citizen, Aug. 9, 1901:

“The result of the Arlington-Grand View election yesterday afternoon was a complete victory for the party favoring the incorporation of those outlying suburbs into a hamlet, the proposition to incorporate carrying an almost unanimous vote. The ballots when counted showed 82 in favor of incorporation and 3 against. It is given out that the name of the hamlet incorporated will be Marble Cliff.”

Ohio State Journal, Aug. 9, 1901:

“The residents of Arlington, Marble Cliff, Grand View, Sellsville, and the immediate vicinity decided by a practically unanimous vote to incorporate as a hamlet.”

Columbus Press, Aug. 9, 1901:

“In order to avoid absorption into the city of Columbus and escape a higher tax rate, the residents of Arlington, Marble Cliff, Grand View, and Sellsville held an election...”

[Editor’s Note: At this time the community names listed above were common designations for areas or neighborhoods. None were political entities.]

The designation ‘hamlet’ meant there was no mayor: rather there were three trustees, a clerk, a treasurer, a marshal, and a supervisor. Several years later the State of Ohio changed the law, Marble Cliff became a village, and James S. Ricketts was elected mayor. This led to a very turbulent time.

As a Methodist minister and ardent anti-liquor advocate Ricketts attempted to make the entire area “dry.” The July 21, 1904 Columbus Press headline read: “Mayor Ricketts Sent to Jail in Default of Bail”; July 24, 1904. “Ricketts Acquitted”; Aug. 1, 1904 “Quiet Day in Marble Cliff”; “The first day under Mayor James S. Ricketts’ new edition of the blue laws at Marble Cliff was devoid of excitement Sunday. The mayor recently issued an ukase forbidding labor of any kind on Sunday.” Columbus Press, Feb. 3, 1905: “Mayor Ricketts Resigns” “Marble Cliff’s Strenuous Chief Executive Quits Politics to Sell Books.”

Note: The Grandview Heights Public Library owns a copy of a booklet prepared for Marble Cliff’s 100th Anniversary in 2001 containing upwards of 90 news articles spanning 1888 to 1936. Plats of the early developments can be viewed at the Franklin County Engineer’s Office on Dublin Road.

**Watch future *ViewPoints* for more
“Family Ties: The Ricketts Family”**



Ernest O. Ricketts, son of James S. Ricketts, and his business partner. With daughter Helen. (1929)

Society Annual Meeting to Feature French History CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bartholmew’s Massacre, and years of Protestant backlash against the Crown?

Miss Josie Gonot is a French historian, language teacher, vocalist, and public speaker. She holds a B.A. in French and has completed graduate courses at Ohio State and Ashland Universities. “Nostradamus” is a selection from her extensive French Music & Lecture Series, which explores all aspects of French history and culture. The series has been presented in various venues throughout Central Ohio. We are pleased to offer this short selection.

An exhibit of items related to this program will be featured during October in the lower level display case in the Grandview Heights Public Library.

Society publications and membership applications will be available at the meeting.

Join us to enjoy the program, meet a new board member, applaud our most recent dedicated volunteers, and support Central Ohio’s largest-membership local historical society!



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 Public Library,**
1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212

NAME _____

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1–SEPT. 30)

- Single \$10.00
- Couple \$15.00
- Organization \$25.00

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

- Single \$100.00
- Couple \$150.00
- Organization \$500.00
- Benefactor \$1000.00



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ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

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SOCIETY TRUSTEE NAMED TO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

One of our Society's trustees, Jeri Diehl Cusack, has been very busy over the past year and a half organizing a Midwest chapter of Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt, a national organization which until recently had been based in NYC, Boston, and Washington, DC. In June Jeri was named to HER's executive committee. Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt is a project to preserve Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage in Hyde Park NY. It is associated with Save America's Treasures, a National Trust for Historic Preservation program which is "the driving force in the effort to protect the places that tell our nation's story."



Jeri, a retired librarian, is eager to share her interest in and knowledge about both Eleanor and FDR. Perhaps you will remember her presentation at the October 2009 annual meeting on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth. She now has a personal collection of over 200 books, as well as a wide variety of Roosevelt memorabilia.

Jeri's horizons broadened this year when she began accepting invitations from public libraries all over the state of Ohio to speak about the Roosevelts and other presidential history topics, such as "Ohio's First Ladies." Jeri's new programs for 2013 will include "Inauguration Trivia" & "White House Weddings." She has several speaking engagements this upcoming holiday season on "White House Christmas Traditions," including public programs at the Dawes Arboretum in Newark on November 18 and another at the Griswold Center in Worthington on December 17.

Anyone interested in learning more about Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt or in setting up a speaking engagement is welcome to contact Jeri at jdc@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org or 614-488-5376. Feel free to share this information with others, too.

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The Grandview
Heights/Marble Cliff
Historical Society

